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NMA Rivers Chairman

Dr. Ebbi Robinson

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April 2023

Seventh Edition

www.nmarivers.org

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From the Chairman



Dr. Ebbi Robinson Chairman

The chairman of NMA Rivers State - Dr Ebbi Robinson on behalf of the SOC and the SEC is proud to present the April Edition of our newsletter to you!

As this captures our events for March, we are pleased to announce that our welfare desk has come to stay. NMA Rivers restates its commitment to celebrate with and commiserate with all her members who have their birthdays, anniversaries, child birth, etc. We also condole with our members who lost a loved one or the families of our members who have unfortunately passed away.

The NMA Rivers Elders' Forum has also been active in this period and we are especially pleased to see our senior members live fulfilled and happy.

We also use this opportunity to restate our commitment to provide unbridled leadership to NMA Rivers.

Long live NMA Rivers!

Dr. Ebbi Robinson Chairman

From the Public Relations Officer



Dr. Ogechukwu Isokariari Public Relations Officer

It has indeed been a fruitful first quarter of the year and we are glad that it has come to end in a grand style. Our monthly newsletter has also seen some evolution with richer content available on a monthly basis.

The publicity team is proud to say that our newsletters are a highpoint of our month and its reach is beyond the shores of Rivers state.

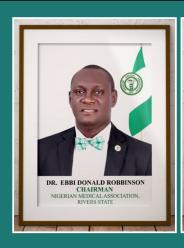
We welcome all committees of NMA Rivers to showcase their activities in our newsletters for a wider reach.

NMA Rivers Elders' Forum is showcased in this edition for their huge contributions to the enhanced reach to the elders in NMA Rivers.

On behalf of the Publicity Committee, I present the April edition containing March activities of our noble association for your reading pleasure. Your comments and feedback is important to us.

Thank you.

Dr Ogechukwu Isokariari Public Relations Officer For the Publicity Committee





Meet the Executives



















Media Enlightenment Campaigns

International Womens' Day

- 8th March 2023



The NMA Chairman - Dr Ebbi Robinson on behalf of the SOC and SEC, celebrated all female medical doctors practicing in Rivers on the 8th of March as the World commemorated the International Women's Day.

We deeply recall on this special day the first woman to practice medicine in Nigeria Chief Elizabeth Abimbola Awoliyi and how this gave rise to more and more women in our noble profession.

We encourage all female doctors to rise up to the challenge of their careers and aim for the top.

Our felicitation is also with the Medical Women Association of Nigeria, an affilliate of NMA and the umbrella body of all female doctors in Nigeria.

Happy International Women's Day and keep soaring!

Thank you!

World Kidney Day

- 9th March 2023

Theme: Kidney Health for All

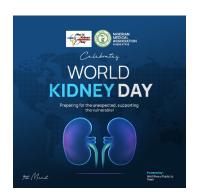
More than 20 million Nigerians are living with kidney disease and no fewer than 20,000 of the number are coming down with End Stage Kidney Disease (ESKD) yearly requiring dialysis or/and transplant to stay alive.

On second Thursday of March, people across the globe celebrate WKD to raise awareness regarding Kidney diseases. The main aim of the day is to sensitise people about the increasing number of kidney-related diseases across the world. The day also emphasises the need for different strategies to prevent kidney diseases.

Health Tips for healthy kidneys

- Drink 3L of water daily
- Reduce the intake of red meat
- Increase fruit and vegetable intake
- Check your Blood pressure and sugar level regularly
- Exercise daily
- Avoid unprescribed medication

Protect your KIDNEYS!



Mothers' Day

- 19th March 2023

The NMA Rivers Chairman - Dr Ebbi Robinson on behalf of the SOC and SEC wishes every woman in NMA Rivers a happy Mother's day.

Mothers are nurturing and loving beings, ever giving of themselves and ever prioritising others over themselves!

You are appreciated! Happy Mother's Day!



World Oral Health Day

- 20th March 2023

Theme: Be Proud of your mouth!

NMA Rivers celebrated World Oral Heath Day 2023 in collaboration with Nigerian Dental Association (NDA) Rivers state branch.

Oral diseases are a major health concern for many countries and negatively impact people throughout their lives. Oral diseases lead to pain and discomfort, social isolation and loss of self-confidence, and they are often linked to other serious health issues. And yet, there is no reason to suffer: most oral health conditions are largely preventable and can be treated in their early stages.

There were several media enlightenment campaigns across several radio stations!

Be Proud of your mouth!



World Tuberculosis Day

- 24th March 2023

Theme: Yes! We can end TB!

The Nigerian Medical Association, Rivers State branch Celebrated World Tuberculosis Day in Collaboration with Community Medicine Department, University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital.

The DAY aims to inspire hope and encourage high-level leadership, increased investments, faster uptake of new WHO recommendations, adoption of innovations, accelerated action and multisectoral collaboration to combat the TB epidemic.

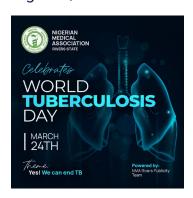
Tuberculosis (TB) is a contagious infection caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis that usually attacks the lungs. It can also spread to other parts of your body, like the brain and spine.

A person with TB can die if they do not get treatment.

TB is Curable!

We went on several Media Enlightenment Campaigns across several radio stations to learn more about TB.

Together, we can end TB!



Felicitations

Prof Hakeem Fawehinmi

The chairman of NMA Rivers – Dr Ebbi Robinson on behalf of the SOC, SEC and entire members of NMA Rivers heartily felicitate with our dear medical elder – Professor Hakeem Fawehinmi (a professor of Clinical Anatomy and Biochemical Anthropology at the University of Port Harcourt) on his appointment as the pioneer Vice Chancellor of the Nigerian British University



LEADERSHIP

Emi Membere-Otaji's 'velocity in leadership' shows young people how to get ahead

By Ignatius Chukwu

SELECTED youths and young adults in over 100 countries of the world sat glued to their laptops and other devices for hours on a day last month (March, 2023) to listen to a Nigerian expert, mega-investor, medical doctor, and top business leader. They listened to know how

They listened to know how to remain in control even in a volatile, unstable, complex, or ambiguous environment. They were introduced to a new concept in top management known as 'velocity in leadership'.

The Nigerian resource person who held the young world spell-bound is Kalabari-born (Rivers State) Emi Membere-Otaji. He is founder and chairman, Princess Medical Centre (including a world-class medical high-tech facility in the Garden City, The Princess Signature) as well as founder and chairman of Elschon Nigeria Limited, a marine services company that is into shipping and maritime services.

Membere-Otaji, a Unilagtrained medical doctor who twice was chairman, West Africa Glass Industry (WAGI), was once special adviser on investments to a governor of Rivers State and later a commissioner of health, talked to the global but virtual audience of the 9th edition of the 'Global Leadership Excellence Attainment Programme (LEAP) conference mounted for global and social impact by the Redeem Christian Church of God.

The globe-trotting former president of the PH City Chamber, (PHCCIMA), commended the Redeem Christian Church for recognizing that leadership is applicable to every form of human endeavours; family, community, organizations, battles, etc, but that it involves the head of a team to provide direction, implement plans, motivate, and constantly make team members be improved versions of themselves, all to achieve desirable goals.

He said due to volatility and instability in every sphere of life especially in business, investment, and political order, this is the best time to drill upcoming leaders to be prepared by institutions in every given society or nation to weather storms and get ahead.

Criticality of 'Velocity in Leadership'

The multiple award-winner who is National Vice President of NACCIMA said 'Velocity in Leadership' is the ability to learn fast, adapt and respond to changes and uncertainties, thus always adding value no matter what comes along. "More so, it is leadership that will encompass speed, agility and also timely processing and execution of ideas. Turbulent times call for correspondingly dynamic change in strategy



plans."

The father of six pointed to different leadership styles in existence such as democratic, autocratic, delegative, transformational, transactional, visionary, strategic, bureaucratic, but cautioned on different environ-

Leaders establish trust with candour and transparency; and also have the courage to make unpopular decisions and gut calls

ments.

He used major personalities familiar to the youth of the world such as Bill Gates, Aliko Dangote, Enoch Adeboye, Jose Mourinho, the late Benson Idahosa and one-time British Prime Minister of Britain, Winston Churchill to illustrate characters such as calmness, introverts, extroverts, boisterous.

Key leadership behaviours Membere-Otaji drilled the youth on leadership behaviours saving leaders relentlessly organize and upgrade their team. using every encounter as an opportunity to evaluate, coach, and build the self-confidence of team members. Leaders always strike a balance of realism and optimism when in dire situations by brutally confronting the reality of a challenge on one hand while also maintaining strong faith that the situation will be conquered triumphantly successfully (the Stockdale Paradox.)

He made it clear that leaders establish trust with candour and transparency; and also have the courage to make unpopular decisions and gut calls. The youth of the world thus were made to understand why CEOs, executives and political leaders appear to be unpopular sometimes.

He lectured them on delegation of duties, risk-taking, etc. They credit and celebrate positive outcomes of team members. Leaders build a culture of agility in their system. "They are themselves, visible and agile especially in times of crisis."

Thinking through decisions is important for leaders, Membere-Otaji, who was member of the first set of the now famous Lagos Business School, said the brain is not a depository but a producer of ideas. "Good leaders often reflect to look inwards to pick lessons before starting new projects. Successful leaders seem to get into everyone's skin to push through what is regarded as a 'pass through the wall' or 'no excuse' strategy, till desired outcome is achieved.'

He however admitted that successful leaders also have their own mentors to improve. "High velocity leaders always keep all together, with speed and agility to navigate through turbulent times."

He harped on a critical factor on group work motivation, saying, if a leader is not motivated enough and involved with his work, the team members will not be very productive. "A leader who is always striving to be better, to improve the quality of their work, will impress their team and encourage them to set higher goals.

"Occasional humor tends

to lighten the mood in a group thus increasing productivity. Also, occasional non-workplace interactions of team members increase bonding and staff productivity. Commitment doesn't just include doing actual work—it also means keeping your word about anything and everything else. Thus, when a leader rolls up his sleeves, team members will likely take off their shirts."

He also said a good leader at any point in time puts in razor focus in the organization he/she leads, its external and internal operating environment, developing competitive edge and noting the associated risks and the ways to hedge or navigate through them. "Above all, good leaders make integrity and other positive values define them."

The Membere-Otaji models:
The resource person used secaratios and situations in his almost 65-years to illustrate most of the principles he enumerated to show how he handled some of the stones nature hauled at him. He told them how he still made Grade One in his West African School Certificate Examination in 1976 despite falling severely ill and loss of his father, still functioning as a school prefect. "Lesson: Challenges are yours to surmount as there is no mountain high

He said despite many distractions at the University of Lagos, especially to a young medical student leaving home for the first time ever, he still remained focused and determined for success. "I kept my eyes on the crown to achieve my ultimate goal graduating as one of the less than 10 per cent of the class that had no re-sit in the medical school examinations. Lesson: Leaders remain focused on the goal no matter the distractions, to achieve desirable results."

enough.

He told them how he always went to mentors in any new area of challenge to seek upfront counsel, saying it helped him when he was attracted to stay back in Lagos after national youth service but rather agreed to go to Port Harcourt, a step that opened new vistas and opportunities to him beyond medical practice.

He also disclosed how he became a highly sought-after public speaker worldwide. He caused laughter by telling his audeince he lost an election for the post of public relations officer of the students' union government because of stage fright, a defeat he said spurred him to fight back to kill what wanted to kill him.

"Resigning from the University of Port-Harcourt Teaching Hospital in 1990 was a risk. By the grace of God, I became a multidimensional leader. Lesson: Calculated risk is a positive attribute of a leader. "Not made Commissioner in 1993 but a "lower" Board Chairman of WAGI Plc, even after the state Governor's promise. I bore no hard feelings, but used it as a stepping stone to the corporate world and knowledge beyond medical practice. There was a clear lesson learnt."

His reappointment at WAGI from 1995 to 1999 showed him that indeed a dancer does not see his back, which means that others were taking note of his performance. He said he exhibited positive energy (cando spirit) and virtue of integrity, thus attracting the Rivers State Government attestation of 'Exemplary Tour of Duty' in 2003. "Lessons learnt from then Rivers State Government Exemplary Tour of Duty attesta-tion were: Again, no challenge is insurmountable. No amount of immediate gains should sway one away from positive virtues. That integrity is everything

The important point then was stated thus: "Today, WAGI Plc has re-commenced production of bottles etc, and your contribution has been invaluable especially in the Shareholders Agreement you facilitated with the core investor. Your protection of the interest of the Rivers State Government in the Agreement is exemplary." He said the lesson is that leaders see opportunities in every situation, good or bad, to make a positive statement for themselves.

He told the youth of the world to note that there is always a solution to every challenge, if only, one would remain persistently focused on the goal.

He told them his experience as the Rivers State Commissioner of Health and Chairman Committee of Commissioners of Health Nigeria (1999 – 2003) with barely enough annual budget ary allocations to his ministry. "This gave me the opportunity to prove that the 'Hood Does Not Make a Monk', with 'Pass Through the Wall, 'No Excuse' strategy, with many achievements, and accolades, to match. "Lesson: Leaders try to make lemonade out of every lemon."

He explained how he left the public sector as Special Advisor on Investments and Privatization after two years to rejuvenate his then struggling businesses. Again, new vistas and opportunities exploded that brought him to where he is today. "Lesson: Every mistake in life is a stepping stone to your success tomorrow. In life, it is not how many times you fall, but how many times you rise up, to persistently go for the crown.

"Moreover, in life, don't deviate from your focus, values and dreams, sooner or later, the rewards will flow in – two National honours and the highest State honour Awards was bestowed on me in one-year, 2022."

From the Welfare Desk



Dr. Vetty AgalaVice Chairman 1

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to April, the beginning of the second quarter of the year. May this month bring loads of blessings and progress to us all.

Meanwhile, how are you faring my Hippocratic brother? This month we appreciate all health workers for their role in providing healthcare and in celebration of the 75th Anniversary of World Health Day! NMA Rivers facilitated an event with the theme "HEALTH WORKFORCE HARMONY TOWARDS HEALTH FOR ALL". This event was well attended and germane discussions had with the Pharmacists, Nurses, Lab Scientist and other allied associations pledging to work with NMA for the singular goal of quality patient care.

Have you made any progress on the goals you set for yourself and family at the beginning of the year? I want to encourage you to take time to evaluate your progress, do a reassessment and determine in your heart to meet your set targets. Give yourself a pat on the back for how much you have achieved so far.

Continue to practice gratitude and prioritize self-care!

NMA Rivers celebrates you, we value you, we appreciate all you do as doctors for the health of the population. We are proud of your resilience!

You are Loved!

God bless and keep you!!

Vetty Agala
Vice Chairman 1
#For your mental health sake
#Here2Care



Welfare Visit to Prof Nimi Briggs

The Chairman and SOC visited our revered Prof of O&G before he was taken out of the country for further medical treatment. We are pained by his eventual demise and commiserate with the family and indeed everyone in the medical community. May his gentle soul find eternal rest. Amen



Welfare Visit to Chief Dr Tonye Batubo

In the quest to leave no one behind, the SOC led by the Chairman, Dr Ebbi Robinson visited the revered 81 year old veteran doctor who graciously received the team and was very willing to allow the younger doctors glean from his wealth of experience practicing medicine for almost 50 years. Chairman gifted him some NMA Souvenirs and invited him to participate in the upcoming Elders Forum events.



Welfare Visit to Doctors in the Primary Healthcare Setting

In a bid to get closer to her members, the NMA Chairman and SOC visited some of her members working in the Rivers State Primary Healthcare centres to observe their working conditions and applaud them for the work they do as primary care providers. Orogbum and Elekahia Model Primary Health Centres were visited and the doctors gave a tour of the facility, shared the services they provide as well as challenges. Discussions centered around access to BHCPF, work environment, interprofessional relations, funding etc. NMA Chairman and SOC promised to provide curtains for the doctors consulting rooms to boost the aesthesis. Dr Blessing of Orogbum and Dr Silvia Amgbara of Elekahia health centres thanked the NMA for looking out for the welfare of younger doctors.



Attendance at Members Events

SOC members attended various events to felicitate with her members



Dr lyke Odo Thanksgiving

Birthday Felicitations to our Stars of the Month

April

Dr Lilian Ozumba	2nd	Prof. Nwadiuto Akani	16th
Dr Chioma Ibe	3rd	Dr Chisa Neriton-Prefa	16th
Dr Amuduaghan Ada Elliott	4th	Dr Amarachi John	16th
Dr Smith Woji-Nyeche	4th	Dr Eze Chinyere Eunice	18th
Dr Rahul Mongia	4th	Dr Bruce Jessica	19th
Dr Prelador Fakrogha	5th	Dr Nimi Harrison Douglas Dr Chioma	20th
Dr Onyi Ukegbu	6th	Echichechi Nnah	22nd
Dr Temple Akagbue	6th	Dr Kingsley Nnamah	22nd
Dr. Chisom Onwuegbuna	6th	Dr John John Ogan	22nd
Dr Bello Kamilu A.	7th	Dr Imaobong Nonju	23rd
Dr MaryJane Amadi	8th	Dr Tonye Lawson Jack	23rd
Dr Gracia Eke	9th	Dr Azi, Esther Ibinabo	24th
Dr Cecilia Nwibubasa	11th	Dr Didia Monday	26th
Dr Julian Darlington-Nwoke	11th	Dr Kalio Tonye Allen	28th
Dr Ureh Oparaodu	12th	Dr Steven Victor	30th
Dr Okpani Mary Theresa	12th	Dr Ifeoma Oyeleye	30th
Dr Ufuoma Edewor	15th	Dr Margaret Ime Akpan	30th
Dr Chinwe Okengwu	16th		

The Chairman, NMA Rivers state - Dr Ebbi Robinson on behalf of the State Officers Committee, the State Executive Council and the entire NMA Rivers community heartily celebrate our distinguished colleagues on the occasion of their birthdays.

As you celebrate your birthdays, we pray for long life, progress and good health for you.

You are appreciated and valued

NMA Rivers celebrates you! We wish you the very best always! Happy birthday!

Congratulations

It is not good for a man or woman to be alone! Our dear colleague, Dr Boma Orlando George found her heartthrob!

Heart congratulations and marital bliss to Dr Boma George, NMA Rivers wishes you a happy married life!!



NMA Chairman and SOC attended the wedding of Dr Boma George to felicitate with her.

The Chairman, NMA Rivers state - Dr Ebbi Robinson on behalf of the State Officers Committee, the State Executive Council and the entire NMA Rivers community heartily congratulate our distinguished colleague, Dr Ifeoma Chikezie on the arrival and dedication of their babies.

We join you to thank God for the gift of children to your family and pray for their coming will be a constant source of joy to your homes.

NMA Rivers is happy for you and pray for resources to bring up the children the best way possible.

Best wishes and Congratulations!

Necrology

The death of a doctor devastates the family and further widens the huge Doctor patient gap!

NMA Rivers regrets to announce the death of Emeretus Prof. Nimi D. Briggs who served the State and nation diligently during his lifetime. We condole with his family and pray for the repose of his soul.

Condolences

The NMA Chairman - Dr Ebbi Robinson was present at the burial of the father of our colleague Dr GOC Nwosu at Elele Alimini in Rivers state.

Also in attendance to give Dr Nwosu's dear Late Father the final respect were Prof Echem, Dr Sofri Peterside and Dr Alex Woke among others.

May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen.

NMA Rivers condoles with Dr and Dr Mrs Sunny Ajie on the death of Dr Uche Ajie.

NMA Rivers also condoles with Dr Shola Olanrewaju who lost his daughter in the USA.

May their gentle souls rest in peace. Amen.

Elders' Forum Activities

Representatives of Medical Elders' Forum – led by Ma (Dr) Bernadette Korubo paid a condolence visit to Dr and Dr Mrs Sunny Ajie on the death of Dr Uche Ajie.



Elders' forum visit to Dr Sunny Ajie

Celerity doctors from Association of Nigerian Private Medical Practitioners paid a condolence visit to Dr Shola Olanrewaju who lost his daughter in the USA.



Elders' forum condolence visit to Dr Olarewaju

Representatives of NMA Rivers Elders Forum - led by Dr Bernadette Korubo paid a condolence visit to Dr (Mrs) Nengi Idariah (3rd from the right), immediate Junior sister of Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs and her husband, Prof Felix Idariah at their home.

Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs, until his death, was a prominent medical elder and mentor to many Doctors in Rivers state.

We pray that his gentle soul rests in perfect peace.



Elders' forum visit to Dr (Mrs) Nengi Idariah

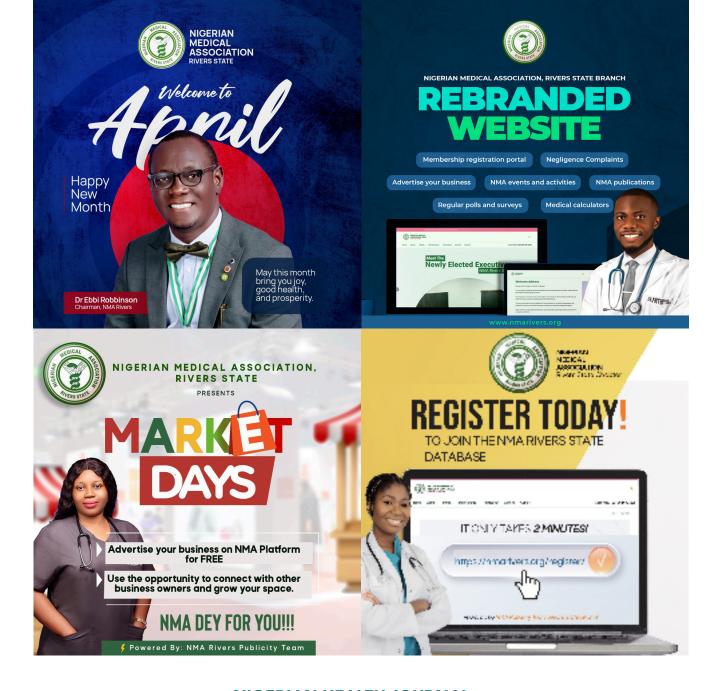
Representatives of NMA Rivers Elders Forum - led by Dr Bernadette Korubo paid a condolence visit to Mrs Data Briggs (4th from the right), wife of our late Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs.

Emeritus Prof Nimi Briggs, until his death, was a prominent medical elder and mentor to many Doctors in Rivers state.

We pray that his gentle soul rests in perfect peace.



Elders' forum visit to Mrs Data Briggs



NIGERIAN HEALTH JOURNAL

(A PUBLICATION OF THE NIGERIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, RIVERS STATE)

There have been several issues published of The Nigerian Health Journal. We are all advised to visit the journal website to view recent publication which are rich and diverse.

Link: https://www.tnhjph.com/index.php/tnhj/issue/current

Daprim Samuel Ogaji Editor-in-Chief On behalf of the Editorial Team

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