

Five years after, NSSF affirms commitment to health equity ...with 31 million stories on solution-driven advocacy

By Moyosore Olaore



Chairman Global Citizen and NSSF Board Member, Mr Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede Vice (left); CEO NSSF: Dr Fejro Chinye-Nwoko and Board Chairman/ Chairman Global Citizen, Mr Tunde Folawiyo NSSF.

Focused on health-equity as an organisation with a clear mandate to address Nigeria's most pressing health issues through youth advocacy and policy development, The Nigeria Solidarity Support Fund (NSSF) marked its fifth anniversary in Lagos.

With the theme, 'Five Years, Thirty-One Million Stories', the event celebrated the Fund's impact on more than 31 million Nigerians while also unveiling a sharpened focus on health equity and youth-led solutions for the years ahead.

Board Chairman, Mr. Tunde Folawiyo, opened the gathering with words that brought the theme to life. "Our anniversary theme, Five Years, Thirty-One Million Stories, reminds us that every data point is a mother, a child, a family, a future. This moment is both a celebration and a recommitment."

The anniversary was not only about reflection but also about numbers

that speak to measurable change. Vice Chairman of Global Citizen and NSSF Board Member, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, detailed the Fund's achievements over the past five years. He said more than 22.56 million Nigerians have been educated on preventive health measures, while 12,000 frontline health workers have been trained. In addition, 4.98 million people were vaccinated against COVID-19; 156,125 children under five were immunised, and 20,651 pregnant women received tetanus-diphtheria vaccines. Beyond clinical interventions, he noted that 562 young Nigerians were trained as advocates through the WeNaija Youth Programme, and a further 1,855 were mobilised nationwide.

For Aig-Imoukhuede, the story of the Fund's next phase lies in its commitment to health equity. "Health equity, as the name suggests, is about ensuring that healthcare and the impact of health

investment goes to not just everybody, but especially to those who, for whatever reason, or maybe just because of social causes, are constrained benefiting from healthcare," he explained.

He also highlighted how women often face the deepest inequities when it comes to access. "In Nigeria, less than seven percent of our population has access to health insurance. So, 70 percent of healthcare comes from out-of-pocket expenditure. Now think about who manages the budget of the household. I can tell you; I am married and can tell you it is my wife. So, who is the last person to get the benefit of the out-of-pocket expenditure? It is the wife, it is the woman, who is also the mother," he observed.

"It just gives you an idea of how you just take things for granted and therefore, when you think about health equity is simply about correcting the disparities that life has unfortunately thrown up in terms of those who get access to healthcare versus those who don't."

As part of the milestone celebration, NSSF also announced a rebrand. Managing Director and CEO, Dr. Fejro Chinye-Nwoko said, "Going forward, the organisation will simply be known as NSSF across all its communications. For the decision represents clarity of vision and a stronger posture. Five years ago, we began as an emergency response. Today, we stand as a health-equity organisation with a clear mandate to address Nigeria's most

pressing health issues through youth advocacy and policy development. Our work is about turning voices into evidence, and evidence into decisions that expand access to care, especially for those historically left behind," she said.

She further explained that NSSF's new strategy will be guided by two major strands. The first will focus on policy engagement, evidence generation, and system-level advocacy. The second, through the WeNaija programme, will mobilise young Nigerians to champion health issues, raise awareness, and contribute directly to solutions in their communities.

FCCPC boss donates state-of-the-art auditorium to LASU

By Jessica Nwosu

Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Competition & Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC) and former Secretary to the Lagos State Government, Mr. Tunji Bello, has donated a state-of-the-art auditorium to the Lagos State University (LASU), describing it as a legacy project to advance education and support public institutions.

Bello explained that his journey of giving back started at his 50th birthday in 2011 when he instituted annual scholarships in five disciplines for brilliant but indigent students from Lagos State. As his 60th birthday approached, he decided to do more and embraced the idea, first suggested by his wife, Prof. Ibiyemi Olatunji-Bello, to build an auditorium for LASU.

He recalled that the project initially seemed impossible due to high construction costs, but friends and well-wishers rallied to support him, with some converting birthday gifts into financial contributions. One notable supporter, he said, opted to donate cash instead of presenting him a luxury vehicle.

Construction began in 2021 but was later threatened by inflation and the sharp fall of the naira in 2023, which nearly tripled material costs. To keep the project alive, Bello disclosed that he sold his Magodo property to ensure the work was not abandoned.

Despite the hurdles, the facility was successfully completed after three years. Bello said the auditorium represents faith, resilience, and his belief that investment in education offers the best returns.

He announced additional support measures, including free WiFi access for students courtesy of VDT Communications, and a one-year private maintenance arrangement to ensure the facility is properly managed before LASU takes full control.

Bello urged students to make the best use of the new facility, quoting the words of Benjamin Franklin inscribed at the entrance: "Investment in education pays the best interest." He encouraged them to embrace technology and strive for academic excellence.

The Multi-Purpose Auditorium featuring a fully furnished 500-seater hall was commissioned on Wednesday by the Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu at the Lagos State University (LASU), Epe Campus. The construction of the complex began in 2021, when Tunji Bello turned 60. Instead of celebrating the milestone with a traditional party, he opted to channel resources into the meaningful project, encouraging friends and well-wishers to contribute funds towards the construction.

Olatunji Bello Auditorium is situated at the Faculty of Environmental Sciences, LASU Epe Campus.

Institute equip corp members with people management skills

By Goodness Amadi

To equip fresh graduates with essential people management skills, enhancing their employability and leadership potential across sectors, The Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM) inaugurated its flagship capacity development programme for National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members at the Sagamu Orientation Camp in Ogun State.

The programme was officially flagged off by Chairman of CIPM's Young Professionals Committee and elected Council Member, Sean Olabode Badiru, on behalf of the President and Chairman of the Governing Council, Mallam Ahmed Ladan Gobir. Addressing the corps members, Badiru shared the sentiments of the President, emphasising CIPM's commitment to the professional development of young graduates.

"The Institute believes that building your people management capability at this stage of your journey is a strategic career investment. Whether you are an engineer, economist, or social scientist, the skills you acquire here will help you manage relationships, expectations, and outcomes effectively," Badiru said.

"This programme is entirely free, but its value is immense: from strengthening your reputation as a reliable team member

to accelerating your career, improving workplace adaptability, and positioning you as someone employers and colleagues trust to deliver results."

Following the flag-off, Badiru delivered an engaging lecture on Essential People Management Skills, guiding corps members through the four pillars of effective leadership: managing oneself, managing up, managing across, and managing down.

On the first pillar, self-management, Badiru stressed the importance of self-awareness. He explained that understanding one's reactions under pressure is critical to building trust and credibility. "Before you can lead others, you must first demonstrate mastery over yourself," he told the corps members. "In moments of pressure—when deadlines tighten or situations become uncomfortable—people are watching. Your emotional discipline, your ability to remain composed, becomes the bedrock

of your professional reputation."

He also highlighted the value of personal accountability. "In business, ownership is everything," Badiru advised. "When outcomes fall short, the instinct may be to shift blame. But maturity and indeed leadership shows when you step forward, accept responsibility, and focus on solutions. That kind of integrity earns you lasting trust."

Time and task management was another key point: corps members were encouraged to plan their tasks, prioritise effectively, and learn to respectfully decline additional responsibilities when overextended.

Shifting to managing supervisors, Badiru illustrated how proactive communication can set corps members apart. "Managing up is about making your boss's job easier. Anticipate what they need, communicate solutions not just problems and understand their priorities."

