



# THE ADVOCACY BULLETIN

*The Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group*

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## Six Years of Advocacy: Reflecting on Our Past, Shaping the Future

Shola Odulele

This year marks six impactful years of the Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group (NPAG). A movement that began as a small coalition of passionate Nigerian physicians and has grown into a respected voice in healthcare advocacy and civic engagement. Since its founding, NPAG has stayed true to its mission: to positively shape the Nigerian healthcare landscape through education, advocacy, and policy influence. Guided by the conviction that good governance is essential to good health, NPAG has bridged the gap between medicine, civic participation, and community development.

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### Milestones and Growth

Over six years, NPAG has evolved from grassroots mobilization into a well-recognized advocacy network with active members in Nigeria and the diaspora. Through consistent engagement, policy discussions, and partnerships, NPAG has become a key player in national conversations about healthcare equity and public accountability. NPAG's impact is reflected in its numerous community projects, educational drives, and civic initiatives, all aimed at strengthening Nigerians' health and democratic well-being. From releasing policy statements and position papers to organizing high-level dialogues and virtual conferences, NPAG continues to set the tone for physician-led advocacy in the US and Africa.



### Grassroot Projects and Initiatives

#### 1. Clean Water Initiative

Recognizing that clean water is fundamental to public health, NPAG launched the Clean Water Initiative to improve access to clean water in rural communities in Nigeria.

- In *Ogbona, Edo State*, NPAG supported the local primary health centre with a reliable water source for patients and staff.
- In *Aliade, Benue State*, the group pledged multiple boreholes and waste management systems, alongside hygiene education for thousands of residents.

These interventions have directly improved community health, reduced disease burden, and demonstrated the practical link between advocacy and action. Through this initiative, NPAG has also strengthened partnerships with local communities, including through grassroots events that empower residents to advocate for themselves and demand good governance.



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## 2. Civic and Voter Engagement

Recognizing that policy affects health, NPAG expanded its focus to voter education and civic participation. Through campaigns like Ready to Vote Abia and through partnership with the National Voters Drive Coalition, NPAG has empowered citizens to make their voices heard through voting.

Across several states, these drives have helped register and mobilize tens of thousands of new voters, while pairing civic outreach with free health screenings, a unique integration of public health and democracy.



## 3. Advocacy, Conferences, and Partnerships

Over the years, NPAG has convened multiple Virtual Benefit Galas, advocacy webinars, and public health forums. These events have amplified physician voices on critical national issues, from healthcare financing and medical brain drain to national security and public policy.

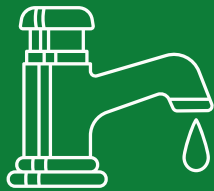
Through its Inside Nigerian Healthcare series and policy bulletins, NPAG committed to providing a platform for has also provided a platform for experts and stakeholders to share insight, fostering a community of thought leadership and reform-minded physicians.



In addition to these initiatives, NPAG held its first inaugural Lobby Day in the United States, strengthening its advocacy footprint beyond digital platforms. This milestone event brought NPAG leaders directly into conversations with policymakers, reinforcing the organization's commitment to shaping policies that affect Nigerians at home and abroad. Through this effort, NPAG continues to build relationships with U.S. legislators and Nigerian leaders, expanding its influence and advancing collaborative solutions.

# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

A snapshot of our reach and community impact



**4000+**

people reached with  
community water projects



**70,000+**

new voter registrations  
supported through NPAG-led  
drives



**5 MILLION+**

reached via media voter  
sensitization across multiple  
states



**50,000+**

individuals reached through  
free health screenings and  
education

These figures reflect our ongoing commitment to health equity, civic responsibility, and national development.





# NPAG's First-Ever Advocacy & Lobby Day Washington D.C., June 2025

In June 2025, NPAG marked a significant milestone with its first-ever Advocacy & Lobby Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The two-day event brought together Nigerian-American physicians, health leaders, and policy advocates for direct engagement with U.S. lawmakers and federal agencies.

Discussions focused on pressing issues:

- Expanding pathways to licensure and permanent residency for international medical graduates, supporting the Doctors in Our Borders Act (H.R. 1201)
- Strengthening U.S.-Nigeria medical partnerships.
- Addressing the growing number of J-1 visa denials, which prevents qualified Nigerian physicians from beginning U.S. residency programs. An issue that NPAG continues to raise with policymakers as part of its workforce equity agenda

Beyond Washington, NPAG remains active in advocacy across Nigeria through its voter sensitization programs, collaborations with the National Voters' Drive Coalition (NVDC), and community initiatives that connect civic participation with improved public health outcomes.

# NPAG in Action

Lobby Day 2025





# Policy Statement on Nigeria's CPC Designation: A Call for Partnership Over Punishment

## Why the CPC Designation Matters

- Influences Nigeria's global standing and diplomatic relationships
- Impacts economic confidence and institutional trust
- Shapes international perceptions of internal security and governance
- Influences international collaboration and aid opportunities

## What NPAG Recommends

### To the United States Government:

- Reinstate the 54 canceled foreign assistance programs proven to address conflict at its roots.
- Maintain and expand humanitarian aid for communities affected by violence, ensuring support reaches all in need, regardless of religion.

### To the Nigerian Government:

- Appoint a Nigerian ambassador to the U.S. to ensure strong diplomatic engagement on CPC-related matters.
- Take decisive action on insecurity and economic challenges that fuel tension and violence across Nigeria.

[READ FULL STATEMENT BELOW](#)





# Urgent Call to Action

## Doctors' Strike & Health Worker Welfare

The recent nationwide strike by resident doctors once again highlights the challenges in Nigeria's healthcare system and the urgent need to prioritize the welfare of those who sustain it. Across several states, physicians and other health workers protested over unpaid salaries, inadequate working conditions, and a lack of essential supplies, issues that continue to erode morale and compromise patient care.

When healthcare workers are forced to withdraw their services, the impact extends far beyond hospital walls. Emergency cases are delayed, chronic disease management is interrupted, and preventable deaths rise. The crisis reflects a deeper systemic problem: a mismatch between the expectations placed on medical professionals and the support provided to enable their work.

NPAG believes that strengthening healthcare delivery begins with protecting and valuing its workforce. Our advocacy supports the timely payment of salaries, improved working environments, and the enforcement of fair labor policies across public health institutions. Through engagement with policymakers and health associations, NPAG continues to push for reforms that ensure healthcare workers can serve with dignity, safety, and adequate compensation.

When those who care for others are cared for, the entire system grows stronger, and every Nigerian benefits.



# A CELEBRATION OF IMPACT



## UBUNTU GALA 2025: TOGETHER FOR CHANGE

The Ubuntu Gala was more than a celebration; it was a night of purpose and impact. Co-hosted by the Nigerian Physicians Advocacy Group (NPAG) and the Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA), Florida Chapter. This special event brought two missions together: celebrating a decade of service and raising support for a project that changes lives.

As NPAG expands its Clean Water Campaign, providing safe and sustainable water access to underserved communities across Nigeria, ANPA Florida commemorates ten years of advancing healthcare, education, and service across the United States and beyond. Together, they represent a shared legacy of leadership and impact, driven by the belief that effective governance, civic responsibility, and equitable policies are essential for healthier and thriving communities.

Guests experienced an inspiring evening of culture, connection, and purpose, celebrating the people and partnerships that embody the spirit of Ubuntu, the idea that *"I am because we are."*

Whether you attended the celebration, generously sponsored the event, or contributed as a donor, your commitment made the night an overwhelming success and, more importantly, a powerful reaffirmation of our shared purpose.

# UBUNTU GALA GALLERY

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported the Ubuntu Gala.





# The Road Ahead

## Expanding Impact & Driving Sustainable Change



Looking ahead, NPAG is focusing on projects that advance civic education, community health, and sustainable development.

Our upcoming Good Governance for Kids Project will launch across primary schools in Northern Nigeria, introducing children to the fundamentals of civic responsibility, honesty, leadership, and nation-building. The program aims to cultivate informed, responsible young citizens who understand how good governance shapes their daily lives. By investing in early education, NPAG is planting the seeds for a more accountable and participatory future.

At the same time, the Clean Water Initiative is expanding beyond Edo State following the success of the Ogbona pilot, which provided safe water access to thousands of residents and improved services at the local primary healthcare center. The next phase will target additional rural communities where unsafe water continues to drive preventable diseases. This project remains central to NPAG's mission of improving health through sustainable, community-based solutions.

To keep fueling these initiatives, NPAG is strengthening its fundraising and donor engagement strategy, combining multiple avenues, including the Annual Benefit Gala. Funds raised will directly support the expansion of the Clean Water Initiative and other community programs.



# OUR SPONSORS

We greatly appreciate the generous support from the following sponsors

- ANPA National

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- Supersync Workforce Management

- Vein Health Clinics

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we approach the close of 2025 and reflect on our journey since NPAG first took shape in 2019, I am proud to say that we have traveled far, and the road ahead grows clearer with each passing year. What began as a vision has become a movement, and what started as a small collective has evolved into a respected voice in national and diaspora conversations. This year has been especially significant.

In 2025, NPAG has been deeply engaged in advocacy at the highest levels, standing in rooms with Nigerian federal government leaders, partnering with fellow Nigerian diaspora organizations, participating in televised interviews, and strengthening our unique voice as Nigerian physicians shaping policy and narrative. We have shown, unequivocally, that our demographic is not only relevant but essential. We are being sought after, listened to, and included, because the expertise and lived experiences of Nigerian physicians matter.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to build on this momentum. The path forward is clearer than ever, and NPAG is poised to chart an even stronger course for meaningful, sustained advocacy for Nigerians in the United States, across the diaspora, and back home.

But this work is only possible with **you**.

We need your engagement. We need your voice. We need your support to continue advancing the issues that impact our community. To all who have stood with us, we say thank you—your commitment fuels our progress. To those who are newly discovering our work or watching from afar, we invite you to join us.

If you are not yet a member, please visit our website and become one. Your membership dues and contributions directly power the impactful work we are doing and will continue to do.

Here's to an even more successful, transformative, and unified 2026.

**Together**, we rise.

*Susan Edionwe, MD, FACS, DipABLM*

*President, NPAG*



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