

## Open Letter to the Nigerian President

The Nigerian Dental Association (NDA) congratulates Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR on assuming office as the 16<sup>th</sup> President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The NDA is the authoritative national voice of dentistry in Nigeria. It is a non-governmental, non-profit oriented organization dedicated to the representation and advancement of the profession, nationally and internationally, and to the achievement of optimal oral health for all Nigerians.

As representatives of the dental community in Nigeria, we extend our warmest wishes and pledge our commitment to the nation's oral healthcare sector.

As you are well aware sir, oral health is an integral part of overall well-being. Nigeria has highly-trained and skilled dentists. Unfortunately, oral and dental healthcare in Nigeria still faces numerous challenges that hinder our ability to provide adequate care to the population.

The Nigerian Dental Association believes in the renewed hope which your esteemed leadership promises.

The NDA looks forward to renewed hope in the following areas as it relates to dentistry:

1. Universal Oral Healthcare Services for all Nigerians through:
  - i. Implementation of the National Oral Health Policy.
  - ii. Integration of oral health into all Primary Healthcare services
2. Recategorization of some dental services in the National Health Insurance Authority from secondary to primary care; and increase in the number of oral health services covered by the NHIA.
3. Improved funding for dental education and services in Nigeria especially in the areas of infrastructure, equipment of dental clinics, recruitment of dentists and allied dental practitioners. All these will alleviate the issue of inadequate dental services across the country to reduce the burden of oral diseases.
4. Improvement in the welfare package of health workers to stem the tide of brain drain.
5. Access to low interest loans for the set-up of quality dental clinics which will provide employment, decrease quackery and reduce the burden of oral diseases.
6. Upgrade of dentistry to a directorate status in the Federal Ministry of Health.
7. Support in strengthening dental research and innovation in Nigeria.

While we heartily congratulate you, please be rest assured that the Nigerian Dental Association looks forward to working with you in improving all sectors especially the health sector to guarantee a better and healthier oral health for all Nigerians.

Please accept the assurances of our warmest and highest regards as we wish you a successful tenure in office.

**Dr. Adeyemi, Tope Emmanuel**

*President, Nigerian Dental Association*

**Dr. Ukachi Nnawuihe**

*Secretary General, Nigerian Dental Association*

