

Editorial

Nigeria's Worsening Financial Crisis: Whither the Health of the Nation

Nigeria's financial standing, locally and internationally, is still not so good. The new government of Major-General Muhammadu Buhari, the former military ruler [1983-1985] came into office after a sweeping 2015 electoral victory, and started by complaining that it inherited an empty vault. The preceding government of Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, former university lecturer, was accused of looting the national treasury with his team. Since then, the business of government has apparently ground to a halt as it appears like all that the new government wishes to do is to just fight corruption, with barely a few other things, else.

Nigeria, a mono-cultural economy, depending mostly on petroleum resources, has been dealt a deadly economic blow by the crashed prices of oil in the international market. And, garnishing the ugly scenario further, and expectedly so, is the consequent precipitous fall in the value of the naira. Health care financing and delivery have, more than ever, become a daunting challenge. Yet, in the midst of this scary situation was, perhaps, one nice glimmer of hope.

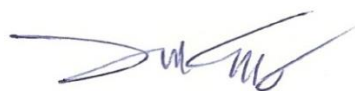
Isaac Folorunso Adewole, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, was appointed the Minister of Health of Nigeria. Those who know him well attest to his sterling qualities as a leader of men and manager of resources. The Orient Journal of Medicine wishes Adewole well in his new office, and hopes that his tenure will mark a departure from the hypocrisies and prevarications of our recent past.

In this edition [Issues 3-4, Volume 27] of the Journal, Nwosu, *et al*, discuss blood transfusion in spine surgeries, Jamil and group evaluate the interventions against antimicrobial resistance among physicians, while the overexpression of the p53 protein in breast cancers in Nigeria, was critically assessed by Taiwo, *et al*.

Ndukuba and co-workers reported the perceptions of substance abuse by Nigerian healthcare professionals, and Manafa, *et al*, investigated the serum levels of trace elements like cobalt, selenium, etc. in post-menopausal women. Complications arising from total laryngectomy for carcinoma of the larynx by Aliyu and Iseh, non-communicable diseases among prison inmates by Sabir's team, and chronic subdural haematoma by Jimoh, *et al*, made up the span of our original articles.

We have two case reports as well, viz. tibio-fibular synostosis by Ndukwu and his group, and primary vaginismus by Hassan, *et al*.

It is our belief that scholars will find this spread of research reports very fascinating and quite refreshing.



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