



# MLSCN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 5 March - May, 2023

## Inside Stories

**MLSCN  
COMMENDED  
FOR ROLE IN  
QUALITY  
MEDICAL  
LABORATORY  
SERVICES**



**NATIONAL LABORATORY EQUIPMENT  
CALIBRATION CENTRE  
RECEIVES ISO CERTIFICATION**



**CARITAS FOUNDATION TO  
PARTNER MLSCN ON  
MEDICAL LABORATORY  
ACCREDITATION**

## Contents

Buhari Reappoints Erhabor as Registrar/CEO **Pg3**

National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Center Receives Iso Certification **Pg4**

MLSCN commended for role in quality Medical Laboratory Services

MLSCN commences e-registration for Medical Laboratories in Nigeria **Pg6**

MLSCN to collaborate with CAC on digitalization **Pg6**

Embrace continuous learning to stay ahead **Pg7**

Caritas Foundation to partner MLSCN on Medical Laboratory accreditation **Pg10**

MLSCN hosts joint medical and health Workers in celebration of International Workers Day **Pg11**

Develop strategies to deliver MLSCN of our dreams Registrar/ CEO urges participants **Pg12**

Examiners converge for Medical Laboratory Technicians Examination **Pg13**

Guild to join the fight against quackery **Pg14**

Human Rights Radio/Television to partner with MLSCN on public enlightenment **Pg15**



## From the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to bring you the latest issue of the MLSCN Newsletter. As you may have noticed, the newsletter is now a quarterly instead of bi-monthly publication. The aim is to make it more comprehensive instrument of engagement between MLSCN and the stakeholders.

Although we continue to give regular updates through our digital platforms, the newsletter is a larger compilation of the highlights of the activities within the preceding quarter.

Meanwhile, we have continued to sustain the push for full digitalization of MLSCN's activities and processes. Such activities as students indexing, examination, medical laboratory accreditation service and the registration of medical laboratories etc. have moved from to the digital platform. Highlights of the recent digitalization of the medical laboratories registration portal are included in this edition. Registering a facility has never been easier! The edition also has other highlights including my re-appointment as Registrar/CEO, which is the outcome of the collective efforts of the staff and management of the Council, our partnerships with Caritas Foundation, Human Rights Radio/TV as well as the Guild of Private Medical Laboratory Directors, FCT branch.

Also, within the last quarter, the National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre (NaLECC) earned international accreditation from the Kenya Accreditation Service (KeNAS) and the then



Minister of State for Health, Hon. Joseph Ekumankama was on hand to receive the certificate on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria. NaLECC's accomplishment completes the accreditation of the three facilities that make up the MLSCN Quality Tripod. The details are also reported in this edition. The National External Quality Assessment Laboratory (NEQAL) in Zaria, and the Public Health In-Vitro Diagnostics (IVDs) Laboratory, Lagos, had earlier earned accreditation. Our desire to bequeath a culture of accurate and reliable medical laboratory test results to our people – a desire I believe; every Medical Laboratory Practitioner also shares- remains unshaken.

Thus, I implore you all to continue to support MLSCN and its activities to enable us build a health laboratory system of our dreams. Where there are questions about any of the Council's policies or programs, our usual communication channels are still open.

Thank you for the usual support.



**Dr Tosan Erhabor**  
Registrar/CEO

# BUHARI REAPPOINTS ERHABOR AS REGISTRAR/CEO



the minister's office. In his remarks, Ekumankama commended Erhabor for the gains and achievements recorded during his previous term and charged him to continue to strive for excellence in his work.

The minister urged Erhabor to view his reappointment as a privilege to serve, and not as a gateway to slumber, as it is his final tenure in office. He reminded Erhabor that with great power comes great responsibility, and he should continue to build on his previous achievements.

Ekumankama advised Erhabor to work in harmony and cordiality with all stakeholders, despite any challenges that may arise. He reminded Erhabor of the enormous responsibilities and expectations

**D**r. Tosan Erhabor has been reappointed as the Registrar/Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) by President Muhammadu Buhari. Erhabor's second and final term, which is set to last for four years, will take effect from June 9, 2023.

The minister of State for Health, Hon. Joseph Ekumankama, conveyed the President's approval of Erhabor's reappointment during a brief ceremony at

of the office and expressed confidence that he would justify the confidence reposed in him by the ministry of Health and the President by leaving his mark of progress at the Council.

Erhabor, while assuring the minister that he would continue to improve on his previous achievements and what he met on ground, pledged to work earnestly to justify the confidence reposed in him by the Ministry and the Presidency.



# NATIONAL LABORATORY EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION CENTRE RECEIVES ISO CERTIFICATION



L to R: Hon. Minister of State for Health, Barr. Joseph Ekumankama, CDC Country Director, Dr Mary Boyd, and the Registrar/CEO, MLSCN, Dr. Tosan Erhabor unveiling the certificate

The National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre (NaLECC) has received the ISO 17025:2017 certificate from the Kenya Accreditation Services (KENAS). The Minister of State for Health, Hon Joseph Ekumankama, presented the certificate and praised the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) for implementing reforms in the health sector, which is in line with the Federal Government's efforts to improve healthcare services. Ekumankama reiterated the government's commitment to providing affordable, quality, and accessible healthcare services to Nigerians.

Dr Tosan Erhabor, the Registrar of MLSCN, said that the council would continue to support facilities

in accessing services and mentioned that the MLSCN Quality Tripod have been established to support effective medical laboratory regulation for quality laboratory care. These facilities are the first of their kind in West Africa and have attained international accreditation.

Dr Mary Boyd, the Country Director of the U.S. CDC, commended the accreditation of NaLECC, describing it as a major step towards the mission of public health excellence for healthy Nigerians. She stated that the accreditation would positively impact the region, as it allows international accredited laboratories across West Africa to have their equipment calibrated in the region.

# MLSCN COMMENDED FOR ROLE IN QUALITY MEDICAL LABORATORY SERVICES



The efforts of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria towards transforming the health laboratory system in the country has been commended. This was contained in the remarks of the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Isiaka Oladayo Amao during the formal presentation of the ISO 15189:2012 Certificate of Accreditation to 061 Nigerian Air Force Hospital Laboratory to the Nigerian Air Force recently, in Abuja. He also expressed appreciation for the support of the Council, which culminated in the accreditation of the 661 Nigerian Air Force Hospital Laboratory Ikeja, Lagos in 2016, and its re-accreditation in 2021.

“I appreciate the role your Council is playing to ensure standardization and improved quality in medical laboratory services in Nigeria. The Nigerian Air Force is therefore happy and always ready to collaborate with your Council,” he said, adding: “This is why today’s presentation of ISO 15189:20 accreditation certificate of 061 Nigerian Air Force Hospital Laboratory Abuja is very important.”

On his part, the Registrar/CEO, MLSCN, Dr Tosan Erhabor also extolled the role of the Nigerian Air Force and the entire Armed Forces in the health sector. While recalling the accreditation of the 661 Nigerian Air Force Hospital Laboratory Ikeja, Lagos, in 2016, he noted that the facility had remained a reference in the adoption of the quality management system (QMS) which helps to upscale medical laboratory service delivery. “The accreditation of the 061 Nigerian Air Force Hospital Laboratory today has shown that the accomplishment of the Nigerian Air Force in the area of quality and safety is not a fluke...the Force has lived up to its motto: “Quality and Safety”, he said.

While paying tribute to the top echelon of the Nigerian Air Force and indeed the entire Armed Forces for placing the issue of quality, safety and excellent service delivery at the front burner, Erhabor added: “MLSCN is proud to be associated with you, and proud of all your sacrifices to uphold the peace, security, and sovereignty of our dear country. The Council would be willing to further partner with you to build the health laboratory system of our dreams.”

The Registrar/CEO, Dr. Tosan Erhabor, has reaffirmed the commitment of the Council to the full implementation of the digital registration framework for medical laboratories. He gave the assurance during a meeting with stakeholders and the project consultants in Abuja recently, the purpose of which, he said, was showcase the platform and gather feedback from stakeholders.

Erhabor highlighted the benefits of the new framework, emphasizing its potential to enhance service delivery by improving efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, and the speed of data collation and management. He encouraged stakeholders to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the digital platform.

The Registrar acknowledged that the council had successfully transformed various processes, including Licensure, Examination, Indexing, Accreditation Service, External Quality Assurance (EQA), and now the registration of medical laboratories. Despite limited resources, the council has consistently pursued digitalization efforts.

Erhabor urged medical laboratory proprietors to collaborate with the council to further enhance service delivery. The new digital registration process will allow proprietors to seamlessly register their laboratories from their preferred locations, eliminating the need to visit the council's headquarters in Abuja.

Expressing his satisfaction with the progress, Erhabor acknowledged that the automation had raised the council's profile among stakeholders. He commended the consultants for their excellent work in implementing the digitalization process.

Effiong Akpan, the consultant from the University of Calabar, praised the council's management for their commitment to improving service delivery through digital transformation. He expressed pride in being associated with the council and encouraged other agencies to follow suit.

Akpan expressed confidence that stakeholders would be proud of the Council's efforts in implementing the digital registration framework.

It is worth noting that in September 2022, the federal government had issued a warning of potential shutdowns for unregistered medical laboratories in the country, further emphasizing the importance of the newly implemented digital registration system.

During a visit to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) headquarters in Abuja, the Registrar-General of CAC, Alhaji Garba Abubakar, reiterated the commission's commitment to adhering to due process in all registration processes. He made this statement while receiving the Registrar/Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN), Dr Tosan Erhabor.

Abubakar noted that the commission had repeatedly declined flawed applications due to regulatory concerns. Such applications are referred to the Medical Laboratory Services Council of Nigeria to obtain a no-objection. He emphasized that the commission would continue to collaborate with sister regulatory agencies to ensure due process is followed in all registration processes, which will ultimately ensure sanity and overall growth of the Nigerian health system.

The CAC chief executive further stated that the commission had granted several regulators access to its database for the purposes of due diligence. This was in line with the commission's resolve to ensure that regulatory compliance is enforced across all sectors.

Dr Tosan Erhabor, in his remarks, described the CAC as a veritable partner in the realization of MLSCN's objectives. He stated that the purpose of his visit was to seek collaboration with the CAC as MLSCN made efforts to digitalize its processes.

Erhabor highlighted that MLSCN was established by Act 11 of 2003, to regulate the practice of Medical Laboratory Science in Nigeria. The council also determines the standard of knowledge and skills required by persons seeking to become medical laboratory scientists, technicians, or assistants. Furthermore, MLSCN regulates the training of scientists, technicians, and assistants in any institution in Nigeria and gives periodic accreditation to institutions.

Erhabor commended the reform initiatives of the commission under the dynamic leadership of Abubakar. The Registrar-General, in turn, reaffirmed the commission's commitment to collaborate with the MLSCN and other regulatory agencies in promoting best practices in their respective fields.





## EMBRACE CONTINUOUS LEARNING TO STAY AHEAD

### – REGISTRAR URGES INDUCTEES

The Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN), Dr. Tosan Erhabor, has urged new inductees into the Medical Laboratory Science profession to embrace continuous learning to stay ahead in the profession. He made the remark at the 9th Induction ceremony of foreign graduates of Medical Laboratory Science in Abuja, recently. The event, marked a milestone for both the Council and the inductees as 421 of them were inducted – the largest number ever inducted by MLSCN – at the same time.

Erhabor further enjoined the inductees to explore the array of specialties and advancement within the profession to remain at the forefront of knowledge and expertise. According to him, "As medical laboratory scientists, I want you to remain deliberate in skills acquisition in the diverse areas of the Medical Laboratory Science profession, far beyond the routine of laboratory practices, while leveraging the opportunities inherent in this noble profession".

Earlier in his remarks, Prof. Monday F. Useh, former National President, Association of Medical Laboratory Scientist of Nigeria (AMLSN), who chaired the occasion, underscored the essence of professionalism and ethics in the profession, adding that it was important for the inductees to acquire a high level of knowledge and expertise to practice effectively and efficiently. He assured that those, who committed to the ideals of the profession would do well in it.

"In the world of Medical Laboratory Science, you're embarking on a rewarding and impactful career. I welcome each of you and encourage you to embrace this noble profession with enthusiasm, dedication, and a commitment to continuous growth," he said.

The Special Guest of Honor, Prof. Adamu Abubakar Gwarzo, President of Maryam Abacha American University, while also congratulating the inductees, announced the award of fully-funded scholarships for Master's degree to inductees from his institution.







## INDUCTION OF FOREIGN GRADUATES OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE







## CARITAS FOUNDATION TO PARTNER MLSCN ON MEDICAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

The Caritas Foundation Nigeria has expressed the desire to work with the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) to scale up the quality of services rendered by the various medical laboratories under the Foundation. This was conveyed by a team of Medical Laboratory Scientists from the Foundation who paid a courtesy visit to the Registrar/CEO, Dr Tosan Erhabor to congratulate him on his re-appointment recently.

Geoffrey Onyenike, the team lead, who represented the Executive Secretary/CEO of the Foundation, Rev. Fr. Dr Uchechukwu Obodoechina, while noting the Council's transformation under the current administration, added that CCFN-managed laboratories were involved in MLSCN's External Quality Assurance (EQA) and Quality Management System(QMS) programs and ready to key into its accreditation process. "We see the great achievements under you, especially with respect to the External Quality Assurance program, In-Vitro Diagnostic Laboratory, and the Quality Management System, which gives us confidence in our practice," he said.

According to him, the Caritas Foundation currently manages four medical laboratories in

Imo, Abia, Enugu etc. with funding from the US-CDC, which are already working towards accreditation. "But the issue of sustainability," he further noted, "is always at the front burner given that funding could sometimes dry up. So, we have to always keep sustainability in mind."

Responding, the Registrar assured the team of the Council's support to enable laboratories under the Caritas Foundation to leverage the MLSCN Quality Tripod, including NEQAL, NaLECC, and the IVD Laboratory all of which are accredited to international standards. He urged the Foundation to work closely with MLSCN-National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre to optimize the performance of their equipment, assuring them that laboratories supported by CDC, including those under Caritas would go through the MLSCN accreditation process at a rebate.



*The Registrar, Dr. Erhabor and the team from Caritas University*



# MLSCN HOSTS JOINT MEDICAL AND HEALTH WORKERS IN CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY



*Dr. Erhabor and the Management team*

In celebration of International Workers' Day, the Registrar/CEO, Dr. Tosan Erhabor has reaffirmed his administration's commitment to promoting the welfare of MLSCN staff. He, however, urged the staff to reciprocate by rededicating themselves to excellent service delivery. The event was hosted at the MLSCN headquarters by the various chapters of the Medical and Health Workers Union in Nigeria.

Addressing workers on the occasion, Dr. Tosan Erhabor acknowledge the challenges faced by medical laboratory workers. He emphasized the

need for governments and healthcare institutions to prioritize the safety and well-being of these workers, by providing them with necessary welfare.

The registrar also highlighted the importance of continuous professional development for medical laboratory personnel, stating that it is crucial for them to stay up-to-date with the latest technological advancements and best practices in the field.

While urging the public to support and appreciate the vital role that the workers play in healthcare delivery, he also called on all medical laboratory workers in Nigeria to uphold the highest ethical and professional standards in their practice.

# DEVELOP STRATEGIES FOR MLSCN OF OUR DREAMS, REGISTRAR URGES PARTICIPANTS



*Staff of MLSCN during the strategic plan development retreat*

The Registrar/CEO MLSCN has urged participants at MLSCN 2023 -2027 Strategic Plan Development retreat to help develop strategies that will deliver MLSCN of our dreams. The Registrar made this call while declaring open a 3-day MLSCN 2023-2027 Strategic plan development retreat in Nasarawa.

Appraise the performance of the 2018 – 2022 Strategic Plan while develop new strategies for 2023-2027, Erhabor noted that the retreat will afford the participants the opportunity to contribute to the development of a template to improve on the existing performance of his administration. “If this is done,” he added, “it will help us re-dedicate ourselves to the cause of delivering the core mandates of the Council”.

Reiterating the importance of the brainstorming programme, he stated that “it will allow every staff to

impact the growth of the Council by setting up certain priorities, goals and corresponding action plans that MLSCN will pursue in the next five years.

Furthermore, he stated that “Strategic planning is crucial to any organizational success and overall achievement of statutory goals as it creates a map for an institution to follow and reflects opportunity to make necessary corrections where it is most needed”.

The 3-day retreat organized by the Department of Health Laboratory Planning Research and Statistics in conjunction with Microbits Consultancy Ltd. had seasoned trainers that took the participants through the rudiments of strategic planning. These include Mr. Francis Binuyo, Director of Accreditation, Centre for Management Development (CMD); and Dr. Victor Oshadare, renowned public speaker. In all, nine topics were covered, while the participants were divided into four syndicate groups for brainstorming sessions and presentations.



# EXAMINERS CONVERGE FOR MEDICAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS EXAMINATION



*The team of examination markers*

A team of carefully selected examiners recently gathered at the MLSCN Headquarters to commence the grading process for the Medical Laboratory Technicians April examinations conducted by the Council. Addressing the examiners drawn from the various geopolitical zones, the Registrar, Dr. Tosan Erhabor, emphasized the need for the examiners to set exemplary track records, urging them to meet the high expectations of the council and its stakeholders.

Dr. Erhabor emphasized the significance of their role in ensuring a reliable and credible examination grading process. As representatives of the Council, the markers were entrusted with the responsibility of accurately assessing the

knowledge and skills demonstrated by the candidates.

“It is expected that the markers will approach their task with utmost professionalism, adhering to the established marking scheme and maintaining a fair and unbiased approach. Their expertise and dedication will contribute to the overall integrity and validity of the examination results,” he said.

The Registrar further noted that the Council places great importance on the selection of markers who possess the necessary competence and integrity. By ensuring a rigorous and meticulous marking process, the Council aims to uphold the credibility and standards of the Medical Laboratory Science profession in Nigeria.

# GUILD TO JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST QUACKERY

The Guild of Private Medical Laboratory Directors, FCT branch, has expressed willingness to work with the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria to combat quackery and unwholesome practices in medical laboratories within the FCT. This was contained in a message of goodwill delivered by the group during a recent congratulatory visit to the Registrar/CEO, Dr Tosan Erhabor, in Abuja.

The Chairman of the group, Kalu Godwin, while congratulating the Registrar/CEO on his reappointment, also commended the management of the Council for the success of the Registrar's first term in office. He, therefore, reiterated the Guild's unwavering willingness to work with the MLSCN to identify and eliminate quackery within the medical laboratory sector.

Responding, the Registrar thanked members of the group for finding time to come and felicitate with him despite their busy schedules. He, however, attributed the success of his first term to teamwork and dedication of the members of the Top Management Committee, he said described as crucial. He also expressed the readiness of the Council to work with the Guild

to scale up service delivery and eradicate quackery within the FCT.

Furthermore, the Registrar used the opportunity to introduce the Online Registration Application (APP) developed by MLSCN for medical laboratories, which facilitates the registration of new laboratories in addition to locating Council-registered laboratories within any location in the country. "These innovations", the Registrar noted, "are crucial in curbing quackery and ensuring the delivery of quality services. I, therefore, call on the Guild and all well-meaning stakeholders to join hands with MLSCN to ensure the success of the innovations."

Corroborating the Registrar's view, the Assistant Director, Mentorship, Inspection, Molecular Laboratories (MIM), James Ogbeche noted that the MLSCN online registration portal streamlines the registration process for laboratories, thus eliminating the need for physical visits to the Council. "Laboratory owners can submit their documents online, and the Council will review and approve them accordingly. The application also enables people to easily locate the nearest approved laboratory in their vicinity, thereby promoting accessibility and convenience for patients," he said.



## HUMAN RIGHTS RADIO/TELEVISION TO PARTNER WITH MLSCN ON PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT

**T**he President and Founder, Human Rights Radio/Television, Dr Ahmad Isah has indicated the willingness of his media group to partner with the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) on public enlightenment. Giving the indication at the 9th Induction ceremony of foreign graduates of Medical Laboratory Science in Abuja recently, he said the gesture was in support of the Council's drive for quality service delivery within the health laboratory system.

While extolling the efforts the Council towards entrenching the culture of quality in the sector, the renowned philanthropist also known as “Ordinary President” urged the 421 inductees to reflect on their attitude, which he said was everything, adding that, “Your attitude to work and to everything else you come across in life matters a lot. For you to have a

successful career as a medical laboratory scientist, you must have the right attitude.”

Responding, the Registrar/CEO, MLSCN, Dr Tosan Erhabor expressed profound appreciation to the “Ordinary President” and the entire Berekete Family, for the gesture, assuring that the Council would leverage the Family's radio, television, and other platforms to further drive its mandate to entrench a culture of accurate, reliable and timely medical laboratory test results in the country. “Partnering with Human Rights Radio/Television will surely add fillip to our public enlightenment efforts, as more people will become familiar with our activities and receive the message of accurate and reliable medical laboratory test results that we have been preaching. We appreciate your gesture,” Erhabor said.

Interestingly, one of the inductees on the occasion was Dr Ahmad's daughter, Hussaina Mainasara.

### TOP MEDICAL LAB SCIENTIST NOW ROYAL FATHER

**T**he Deputy Director, Medical Laboratory Services, Hospital Management Board Jos, Moses Yilsu Dimlong has become the Ngolong Pankshin in Plateau State where his official coronation has successfully taken place. We at MLSCN would like to congratulate and wish HRH a long, healthy and prosperous reign.



### ANOTHER PROMOTED TO RANK OF PROFESSOR

**M**LSCN also felicitate with Prof Bernard O. Oluboyo, who was recently elevated to the exalted rank of Professor of Medical Microbiology in the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, Afe Babalola University Ado-Ekiti (ABUAD). MLSCN wishes him many more fruitful years in the academia as well as the Medical Laboratory Science profession.

## Equipment and Activity in NaLECC



Inside the ISO Accredited National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre (NaLECC). The facility is the first of its kind in West Africa.

*A trial will convince you!*