



**MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE COUNCIL OF NIGERIA**

*...Labs help save lives*



# MLSCN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 No. 7 December, 2023



## National Blood Service Commission Seeks Collaboration With **MLSCN**

**Nigerian Medical Laboratory Science Students  
Association Leaders Seek Way Forward on Visit to MLSCN**

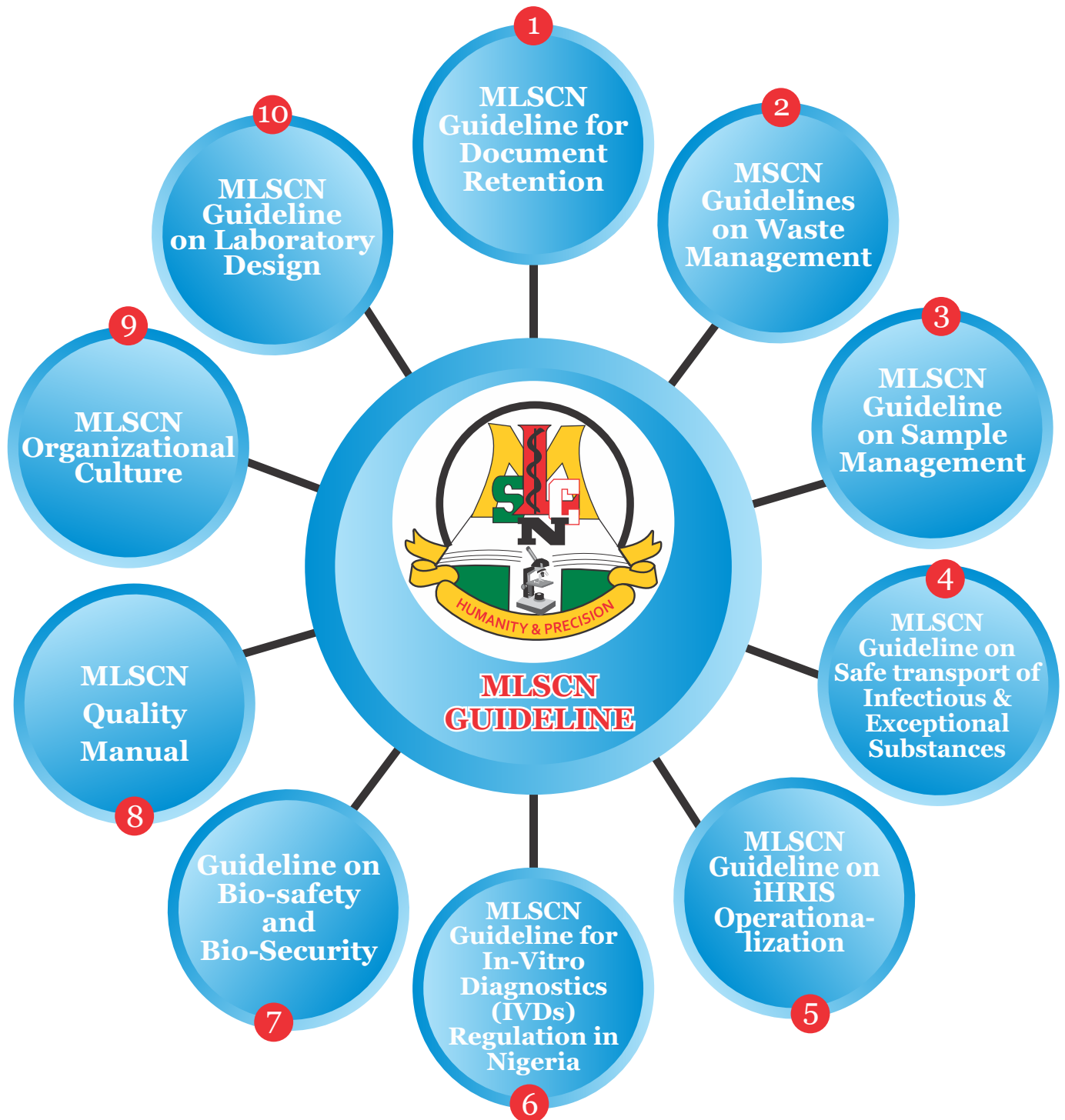
**CIFFIN Registrar Seeks MLSCN Partnership on  
Forensic Investigation**

**Kenyan Accreditation Service Conduct Post-Accreditation Surveillance  
Assessment at MLSCN National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre"**

*Produced by the Corporate Affairs Department, MLSCN*

# MLSCN GUIDELINES

The following carefully developed documents were approved by MLSCN to help practitioners to upscale quality standards and hasten the preponderance of accurate and reliable medical test results across the country. The soft copies of the are available for download from our website: [www.mlscn.gov.ng](http://www.mlscn.gov.ng)



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## From the Editor-in-Chief

Dear Stakeholder,  
We're pleased to reach out to you once again through this medium. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the MLSCN Quarterly Newsletter, and it could not have come at a better time. More than ever, existential realities are reminding us of our common destiny as medical laboratory scientists and health professionals. What affects one affects the other.

The health sector, including medical laboratory services, faced unprecedented challenges throughout Year 2023. In addition to many of our colleagues moving to other climes, and hyperinflation leading to high cost of Medicare and increasing out-of-pocket expenses, other challenges have impacted the health outcomes of citizens. Regulatory agencies are not immune to these challenges.

Thus, the case for unity among medical laboratory practitioners has never been stronger. We need to work more closely to overcome the challenges as they may impede the growth of our profession, and the quality of services available to the patients, who are at the center of our practice.

Furthermore, the recent visit of the 15<sup>th</sup> President of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists (AMLSN), Dr Ifeanyi Casmir and his team to MLSCN was an encouraging gesture. According to the president, the visit was aimed at normalizing relations with MLSCN in the interest of the profession, and we concur. Highlights of the visit are included in this edition.

Also included are highlights of other MLSCN activities of the last quarter, including the visits of several like-minded organizations seeking collaboration with the Council. The National Blood Service Commission, West African Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science, and Bloom Public Health are among them.

As we sign for the Year 2023, this is to reiterate our desire to continue to work with you to build a robust health laboratory system that future generations can be proud of. Meanwhile, if you need clarifications on any aspect of our activities or policies concerning practicing license, students indexing, professional examinations, medical laboratory registration or inspection, and so on, please do hesitate to ask questions. We would oblige you with the desired response, and we think that is better than drawing the wrong conclusions.

We'll continue to update every practitioner in good standing on the activities of the Council. If you're not receiving your copy of the quarterly newsletter, it could be that the email address in your records with us is incorrect. We hope that can be corrected before the next edition.

Let me conclude by wishing you a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year. Whatever you do, please find time to rest and enjoy season the season. Things can only get better!

**Dr Tosan Erhabor**  
Registrar/CEO



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## AMLSN EXCO Visits MLSCN To Normalize Relations

The new executive officers of the Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN) led by the president, Dr. Ifeanyi Casmir, on December 12, 2023, paid a courtesy visit to the Registrar, Dr. Tosan Erhabor at the MLSCN headquarters, in Abuja. The president said the purpose of the visit was to normalize the relations with the Council for the good of the profession, as AMLSN and MLSCN are members of the same family.

According to him, "We need to work with the Council as the profession's eye in government. Whatever misgivings you had with the Association in the past and whatever wrong was done, please consider it as

He said it had become imperative for the Council and the Association to stand together and fight vices such as quackery which, he noted, is now like corruption and drug trafficking in the country. "Quackery has become institutionalized, so we need to fight it with you to free up the space occupied by quacks for the licensed professionals to step in," he said.

Congratulating the officers on their election, the Registrar promised to work with them provided they

house in order. He said the management appreciated their visit as an expression of goodwill, but added that they should first resolve issues bedeviling the Association before seeking to work with MLSCN.



R-L: Registrar/CEO, Dr. Tosan Erhabor in a warm handshake with the AMLSN president, Dr. Ifeanyi Casmir during the latter's courtesy visit to MLSCN

## Handle Sensitive Data With Care, Registrar Urges Staff

The MLSCN Registrar, Dr. Tosan Erhabor, has urged Council staff to be more responsible in the handling of client's data entrusted to them during their official assignments. He made the remark at the start of a three-day training organized by the management to equip staff with the relevant knowledge and skills to better manage sensitive data.

According to him, the training had become imperative given the digitalization of the Council's processes, which could expose sensitive data to cyber criminals and other unscrupulous elements online. "MLSCN, as a regulatory body, handles and controls various forms of data such as indexing, e-licensing, e-registration of schools and medical laboratories. All of these are personal information shared with us in trust. Therefore, it is our duty to safeguard them in the interest of our clients," he noted.



Data protection trainers with select-staff of MLSCN

Dr. Tosan Erhabor Registrar/CEO

## National Blood Service Commission Seeks Collaboration With MLSCN

The Acting Director General of the National Blood Service Commission (NBSC), Dr. E.J. Suberu, and his team visited the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) to explore collaboration. Dr. Suberu praised MLSCN's contributions, introduced the NBSC Act, and proposed mutual registration of medical laboratory facilities and blood service components. Emphasizing unity among health professionals, Dr. Suberu underscored the importance of patient care. MLSCN Registrar/CEO, Dr. Tosan Erhabor, welcomed the collaboration, proposing a framework. The meeting, attended by MLSCN's Top Management Committee, signifies a joint commitment to advancing healthcare services



Registrar, TMC, and staff of National Blood Service Commission

## MLSCN To Consider College Request For Collaboration

**D**r. Tosan Erhabor, MLSCN's Registrar, welcomed the Regional President of WAPCMLS, Prof Eugene Ikeh, and discussed potential collaboration during their recent meeting. Dr. Erhabor expressed MLSCN's willingness to explore areas of mutual interest and emphasized the Council's supportive role in enhancing professional standards.

Prof Ikeh highlighted the College's interest in collaborating with MLSCN for the registration of Fellows and suggested that such recognition would elevate their professional status. The discussion also touched upon accrediting the College as a training institution, with further encouragement from the President of the Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria.

The meeting underscores the commitment to fostering partnerships that contribute to the advancement of medical laboratory science



*On the Left: Dr. Tosan Erhabor, Registrar/CEO addressing the visitors  
On the Right: L-R: Prof Eugene Ikeh, MrManasonRubainu, and Dr (Mrs) Stella Uдох*

## US CDC and IHVN Delegation Applauds MLSCN's National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre Accreditation

**A** delegation from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) recently visited the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN). Led by Dr. Clement Zeh, the delegation toured the National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre alongside Dr. Donald Ofili, Deputy Registrar, Lab Accreditation, representing the Registrar.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the capabilities and standards of the Calibration Centre, and the delegation expressed their commendation for the Centre's accreditation under MLSCN.



*Dr Donald Ofili, Deputy Registrar, Accreditation Service, with delegates from US CDC, & IHVN*

# MLSCN

## Leads Collaboration To Build Capacity For Biotech Engineers



*Registrar and the trainees during an interactive session*

**A** tripartite collaboration involving the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN), the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) and the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) has resulted in the launch of a comprehensive training program tailored specifically for Biotech Engineers in Nigeria. The five-day intensive training regimen, characterized by hands-on experiential learning, was specifically designed to culminate in the attainment of NSF's Basic Biosafety Cabinet Certification.

Dr. Erhabor, MLSCN's Registrar/CEO, emphasized the Council's commitment to the highest standards of quality, safety, and sustainability. The training seeks to establish locally certified biosafety cabinets, reducing the need for professionals to seek certification abroad and mitigating associated costs.

The Registrar highlighted the program's goal to elevate participants' professional proficiency, with a broader aim to enhance biosafety standards not only in Nigeria but across the West African sub-region.

# Visit of AMLSN Leadership to MLSCN

S p e a k s  
P h o t o



# Visit of AMLSN Leadership to MLSCN



Photosparks

## MLSCN, Bloom Public Health Seal Pact To Boost Primary Healthcare Labs

The Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) and Bloom Public Health have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to upscale the capacity and service delivery of laboratories at the primary healthcare (PHC) level.

The Registrar and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Council, Dr. Tosan Erhabor, expressed optimism about the positive impact of this partnership on medical laboratory practices and diagnostics, stating that it will contribute to accurate diagnoses and improved healthcare outcomes in Nigeria.

He said: "The immediate focus of the partnership is on upscaling the capacity of laboratories at the primary health care level. We strongly believe that the PHC level is the foundation of any health care system. Therefore, if we get the capacity and service delivery at that level right, the health sector will eventually be transformed.

"Based on the successes achieved at the level of the PHC, the partnership will move to the higher tiers of the health sector. This is when we will start deploying other indispensable tools for excellence in the medical laboratories such as accreditation. As

we embark on this courageous and potentially rewarding journey, by signing the MoU today, lets us be mindful of the huge responsibility it places on our shoulders."

The CEO of Bloom Public Health, Prof Chimezie Anyakora, acknowledged the contribution of MLSCN to laboratory science practice for the last decade, noting that the partnership will further enhance quality healthcare delivery nationwide.

He said Bloom Public Health will bring its non-governmental agility combined with the MLSCN's expertise and convening power to put together a strong force for the Nigerian health sector.

"Bloom Public Health will bring that non-governmental agility combined with the MLSCN- rich expertise and convening power to put together a strong force for the Nigerian health sector," Anyakora said.



*Prof Chimezie Anyakora, staff*



*Prof Chimezie Anyakora, and the Registrar*

## "Registrar Commends Examination Assessors"



*The Assessors, Mrs Edeh and The Registrar*

Dr. Tosan Erhabor, Registrar and CEO of the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN), voiced unwavering confidence in the assessors engaged for the recently concluded September/October 2023 Medical Laboratory Technicians National Examinations.

Speaking in Abuja, Dr. Erhabor praised the proficiency and diligence of the assessors involved in the examination process. He emphasized the critical role

these professionals play in maintaining the credibility and standard of the examinations.

"The competency and dedication exhibited by the assessors in the September/October 2023 Medical Laboratory Technicians National Examinations have been commendable. Their expertise and commitment ensure the integrity and quality of the examination process," stated Dr. Erhabor.



## Registrar Decorates Malaria Ambassador

The MLSCN Malaria Microscopy Ambassador, Ms. Ndidiamaka Okafor, was today, at the MLSCN headquarters officially decorated as such by the Registrar, Dr. Tosan Erhabor, who urged her to be a worthy champion against the scourge of malaria through her work as a microscopist. More work needs to be done to free the country from the scourge of malaria and we're committed to working with you to change the narrative," he said.



Registrar/CEO, Dr. Tosan Erhabor presenting items to Ms. Ndidiamaka Okafor as Mr Greg Uchuno, Dir. SRD (L) and Dr Osaretin Agbonlahor, A.D, Public Health Laboratory (R) look on.

## Young MLSCN Delegation Visits Registrar Dr. Tosan Erhabor to Discuss Challenges and Propose Solutions

A delegation from the Young Medical Laboratory Scientists Forum, today, paid a courtesy visit to the Registrar, Dr. Tosan Erhabor. They said they came to intimate the Registrar of their challenges and concerns, and proffer ideas to advance the profession. The Registrar, while reminding them of their importance as future leaders, urged them to always uphold the profession's standards and integrity.



Young Medical Laboratory Scientists, staff and the Registrar

# Thanksgiving Galore

It was an archetypal MLSCN praise and worship program on Thursday, December 14, 2023 as management and staff gathered at the Golden Arena for the usual end-of-year thanksgiving program. The event, which has become a norm at the Council also had the popular MLSCN Choir at its best, setting the tone in appreciation of the numerous blessings bestowed on the Council and its employees throughout the outgoing year.

The Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Tosan Erhabor, while thanking God for all the successes recorded by MLSCN on various fronts, also thanked the staff for their dedication to duty despite the prevailing challenges in the country. He, however, reminded them that there was more work to be done. "Your contributions are well noted and would spur the management to continue to place staff welfare on the front burner. Although we recorded some giant strides in the outgoing year, there is a lot more that we can do to justify the confidence of the citizens in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of the President Bola Ahmed Tinubu-led administration," he said.

The sermon was delivered by Pastor James Ogbeche, who encouraged staff to always give thanks to God no



The Registrar/CEO, Dr. Tosan Erhabor and Members of the Top Management Committee bowing to God in prayer



Members of the MLSCN Choir with the Registrar, Dr. Tosan Erhabor, after the soul-lifting performance

matter their circumstance as such encourages God to do more. He said God had placed MLSCN on the hilltop and it would never be hidden, but would accomplish its mandate in the interest of the citizens and to the glory of God.

## Kenyan Accreditation Service Conduct Post-Accreditation Surveillance Assessment at MLSCN National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre”

Experts from the Kenyan Accreditation Service recently visited the MLSCN National Laboratory Equipment Calibration Centre for post-accreditation Surveillance Assessment. The team lead, Carey Ochogo said the visit was to assess if NaLECC still observes the high standards that earned it accreditation (ISO 17025:2017). The Registrar, Dr Tosan Erhabor attributed NaLECC's drive for quality, safety, and sustainability to KeNAS' support, and promised that the facility would soon increase its scopes.



Kenyan Accreditation Service team, staff of MLSCN and Registrar

## Registrar Dr. Tosan Erhabor and CIFFIN Registrar Olutola Akinosi Explore Collaboration for Forensic Investigation Advancements”



Olutola Akinosi and the Registrar

The Registrar, Dr Tosan Erhabor, hosted the Registrar of the Chartered Institute of Forensic and Fraud Investigators of Nigeria (CIFFIN), Olutola Akinosi, who came to seek collaboration with the MLSCN in the areas of include capacity building, training of persons in forensic investigation, maintaining accreditation standards and quality etc. Dr Erhabor expressed MLSCN's willingness to partner with CIFFIN subject to the modalities being worked out by a technical committee.

## Nigerian Medical Laboratory Science Students Association Leaders Seek Way Forward on Visit to MLSCN

The Registrar, Dr Tosan Erhabor, today in Abuja, hosted the National Executives of the Nigerian Medical Laboratory Science Students Association who drew his attention to some of their challenges including delays in indexing of some of their members due to alleged breaches of guidelines by their training institutions. Dr Erhabor clarified the Council's policy and reiterated that his administration would not encourage anything that makes a mockery of standards in the training of Medical Lab Science.



# MLSCN Receives Certificate of Re-accreditation to ISO 17025:2017

The Registrar, Dr Tosan Erhabor has assured that MLSCN would, in addition to Quality, and Safety, focus on Sustainability as one of the three pillars of its regulatory function. He said this while receiving the certificate of re-accreditation to ISO 17025:2017 recently awarded to the IVD Lab, in Lagos. According to him, sustainability would ensure that current innovations continue to add long term value.



Type: Re-Accreditation



## Certificate of Accreditation

This is to certify that

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**PUBLIC HEALTH IN-VITRO DIAGNOSTICS CONTROL  
LABORATORY**

MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE COUNCIL OF NIGERIA  
NO. 8 HARVEY ROAD, YABA, LAGOS, NIGERIA

Has been assessed by the Nigeria National Accreditation System and  
meets the requirements of the International Standard

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**ISO/IEC 17025:2017**

with demonstrated technical competence in the field of

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**Testing**

for the specific services listed on the approved Scope of Accreditation.

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On behalf of the Nigeria National Accreditation System:



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Issue date: July 19, 2023  
Valid through: July 18, 2025



# Accreditation Certificate

This is to certify that

**MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE COUNCIL OF NIGERIA NATIONAL  
LABORATORY EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION CENTRE**

is accredited as a Calibration Laboratory  
upon satisfying the requirements of

**ISO/IEC 17025: 2017**

General requirements for the competence  
of testing and calibration laboratories in respect of the  
attached schedule

Effective from: **26<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Expiry on: **25<sup>th</sup> January 2027**



Chief Executive Officer / Authorised Officer  
Kenya Accreditation Service