



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja

Press Release

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MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS TASKS NIGERIA TECHNICAL AID CORPS ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Amb. Sola Enikanolaiye has called for a deliberate media push to inform Nigerians about the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Nigeria Technical Aid Corps, (NTAC), as part of a new grand strategy to reposition Nigeria's foreign policy around the 4-Ds Foreign Policy doctrine.

The call was made during a courtesy visit by Hon Yusuf Buba Yakub, the Director-General of NTAC, who led a delegation of the agency's management to the Minister in Abuja. Amb. Enikanolaiye opened by appreciating the DG for a long-standing relationship and for sustaining the agency despite funding challenges. "TAC and MFA is like son and father. 4D," he said. "We must see ourselves as partners and family. I appreciate the goodwill message from you personally on my appointment."

The Minister said visibility is now as important as delivery. "We need to create more announcements for Nigerians to know what we are doing in the Ministry and NTAC," he said. "Nigerians have not been fully aware of the work of TAC and MFA. We must up our game in the media. I know it costs money but we must do it." He commended the Ministry's Spokesperson for ongoing efforts in publicizing timely the activities and programmes of the Ministry, but stressed that a deliberate, well-funded communications plan was now non-negotiable.

He noted that under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, the Ministry is undertaking a "grand strategic" realignment — rearranging the entire system around Nigerian national interest. The Minister said NTAC's work is centered on the 4Ds Foreign Policy: Demography, Democracy, Development, and Diaspora. He commended the DG for achieving "much with little" resources.

The Minister added that presently, the whole Ministry is going through comprehensive reforms to reposition it for a better and more efficient service delivery in line with its constitutional mandate.

On policy direction, Amb. Enikanolaiye stated that despite the enormous job done by the Agency and the Ministry in general, Nigerians have not been fully aware of the work of NTAC and the Ministry, hence the urgent call for robust public diplomacy.

Earlier in his address, the Director-General said that the Nigerian Technical Aid Corps (NTAC) was established in 1987 as an instrument of Nigeria's soft power diplomacy, designed to provide technical assistance and professional expertise to developing nations, particularly within Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Regions (ACP).

According to him, the creation of NTAC reflects a deliberate shift from direct financial aid towards the deployment of human capital as a more sustainable form of development cooperation. This policy direction underscored Nigeria's commitment to South-South Cooperation and capacity building in States facing developmental challenges.

NTAC operates under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its major mandate is to promote South-South Cooperation through the deployment of skilled Nigerian professionals, who serve as Volunteers in partner countries for a period of twenty-four months (2 years). The operational framework of the Corps is governed by bilateral agreements between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and recipient countries. These agreements outline the obligations and responsibilities of both parties. The deployments of the selected volunteers are tailored to meet the specific needs of recipient countries, ensuring that the assistance provided aligns with their developmental priorities. The agreements also establish the legal and administrative structure for the presence of Volunteers in the host country, covering privileges, immunities and welfare arrangements.

Accordingly, the areas of intervention of the Scheme include Education, Health, Engineering, Agriculture, as well as Information and Communications Technology, Public Administration, among others. Volunteers are drawn from Nigeria's pool of qualified graduates who typically possess a minimum of three (3) years of post-NYSC professional experience, ensuring that only personnel

with proven competence are deployed, strictly based on specific requests from the recipient country.

Speaking on achievement of the Agency, the DG asserted that since its inception, NTAC has deployed over ten thousand (10,000) professionals to more than forty (40) countries, notably Jamaica, The Gambia, Namibia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Grenada, Equatorial Guinea, St. Kitts and Nevis, Zanzibar (Tanzania), Uganda, Seychelles, Guinea-Bissau, as well as Benin Republic and several other countries within the ACP.

The TAC scheme has facilitated the transfer of knowledge in critical sectors and has contributed to human capacity development in recipient countries. This is evident, as many of these countries have acknowledged the impact of the NTAC Volunteers Scheme in strengthening their local institutions and improving service delivery. It is noteworthy that serving and former NTAC Volunteers have advanced to senior academic and administrative positions, including vice chancellors and deputy vice chancellors, at foreign universities in countries such as The Gambia and Uganda, amongst others.

Another notable achievement is the appointment of an NTAC volunteer by the Sierra Leonean government to chair the country's COVID-19 management. This reflects the Scheme's long-term impact and credibility, which have attracted commendation from African countries, the United Nations and other multilateral institutions.

He further noted that under his leadership, the agency has witnessed unprecedented transformation, having aligned its programmes with the 4D foreign policy objectives of Mr President. The administration has made efforts to expand its scope of cooperation in the Caribbean region, following the recent visit of Mr President to St. Lucia, where an NTAC country agreement was signed between the two countries. Furthermore, several other Caribbean countries have been incorporated into the NTAC list of active countries, including Grenada and St. Kitts & Nevis, while previous moribund partnerships with countries such as Zanzibar, Rwanda, Jamaica and Seychelles have been resuscitated.

He also stated that the current expansion is in response to growing international demand for Nigerian professionals to enhance the economic value of the scheme while sustaining its core diplomatic objectives. Countries such as Jamaica are

having advanced discussions about engaging the services of a large number of Nigerian health professionals to be fully paid for by the government of Jamaica.

Currently, a total of 274 volunteers are serving in 13 countries within the ACP countries, and the breakdown is as follows:

COUNTRIES	NUMBER	PROFESSIONS
JAMAICA	6	NURSES
BENIN REPUBLIC	15	TEACHERS
RWANDA	28	LECTURERS
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	2	TEACHERS
ZANZIBAR (TANZANIA)	34	MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL
GRENADA	3	MEDICAL DOCTORS
THE GAMBIA	69	NURSES AND LECTURERS
LIBERIA	26	LECTURERS AND TEACHERS
UGANDA	30	LECTURERS
SIERRALEONE	23	NURSES AND MEDICAL DOCTORS
GUINEA BISSAU	17	MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
SEYCHELLES	5	MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS
ST KITTS AND NEVIS	16	MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

The Director General informed the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs that NTAC is actively pursuing the conclusion and formalisation of TAC agreements with Zambia, Ethiopia, Angola, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados. The process has reached an advanced stage, with continuous exchanges of official correspondence between the respective authorities. It is anticipated that

these engagements will be concluded and sealed in the near future, thereby expanding NTAC's operational footprint and strengthening bilateral cooperation across the recipient countries.

He reiterated the fact that the Nigerian Technical Aid Corps remains committed to advancing Nigeria's foreign policy goals by promoting technical cooperation and sustainable development. As a key instrument of Nigeria's foreign policy, NTAC will continue to strengthen bilateral relations and foster mutually beneficial partnerships with ACP countries and other developing nations.

And that, beyond technical assistance, NTAC will sustain its contributions to capacity building, knowledge transfer and institutional strengthening in beneficiary countries. By deepening South-South Cooperation, NTAC will continue to project Nigeria's values, expertise and leadership in international fora while ensuring that the impact of Nigeria's soft power diplomacy remains long-lasting and transformative.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Dunoma Umar Ahmed, in his contribution, dwelt on the need to consider Digital Volunteer Management, a digital database of Nigerian experts available for international assignments, virtual technical assistance through remote technical support, alongside physical deployments, Diaspora integration, results-based monitoring and evaluation, Youth-focused technical diplomacy, and encouraging joint innovation projects with host countries, Regional and South-South cooperation, etc. to reposition the agency to achieve more tangible and sustainable results in furtherance of our foreign policy goals.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, anipr
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Saturday 1st August 2026**