MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

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TRAVEL ADVISORY

The Federal Government of Nigeria wishes to advise Nigerians, particularly those with pre-existing medical conditions, to exercise caution and seek appropriate medical advice when planning journeys involving transit through Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in view of the potential health risks associated with the city's high-altitude terrain.

Addis Ababa is situated approximately 2,355 metres (7,726 feet) above sea level, where lower atmospheric pressure results in reduced oxygen availability. This year, Nigeria's Diplomatic Mission in Addis Ababa has recorded 16 deaths involving Nigerians transiting through the city, reportedly linked to health complications associated with high-altitudes.

While healthy individuals are generally able to adapt to reduced oxygen levels in high-altitude environments, persons with certain pre-existing medical ailments, particularly cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, may experience increased health risks in such conditions.

In view of the foregoing, Nigerians with pre-existing health conditions that can be exacerbated by high-altitudes are strongly advised to exercise caution when planning journeys that involve transit through Addis Ababa. Travellers with underlying medical conditions are also urged to obtain appropriate medical guidance before undertaking such journeys.

The Federal Government wishes to emphasise that **this advisory is not intended to discourage Nigerians from transiting through or travelling to Addis Ababa.** Rather, it aims to ensure that persons who may be medically vulnerable to the physiological effects of high altitudes are adequately informed and encouraged to take necessary precautions before embarking on their journeys.

The Federal Government places high premium on the health, safety and wellbeing of Nigerians and therefore urges all travellers to make informed decisions and take appropriate precautions, particularly where existing medical conditions may increase their vulnerability during travels.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs remains committed to providing timely information and guidance to Nigerians travelling abroad as part of its ongoing efforts to safeguard their welfare and promote their safety.

Signed:

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