

The Pensioner



A Newsletter of the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD)

Improving the welfare of pensioners

PTAD TACKLES PENSION FRAUD WITH ANTI-CORRUPTION AND TRANSPARENCY UNIT

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Chaired by Balewa Ndayako, the ACTU has Amina Katune-Abdullahi as Secretary, Augustine Anosike as Auditor and Ademola Akinto, Chuka Odiachi and Amanele Vincent as Members.

Speaking during the inauguration ceremony for the ACTU members, the Executive Secretary (ES) of PTAD, Sharon Ikeazor, said the unit is being set up with the ultimate aim of ending corruption in pension management.

"It is in furtherance of this determination to institute best practice in pension administration in PTAD and prevent corrupt practices, that we today inaugurate the PTAD Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) in collaboration with the ICPC. It is a bold, action-backed statement that PTAD will not allow the activities of pension fraudsters to continue under any guise," she said.

Noting the history of fraud and mismanagement of funds in the administration of the pension under the DBS, the ES said PTAD has been strategizing ways to tackle the menace of corruption.

She expressed confidence in the effectiveness of the ACTU in furthering the Directorate's mission to institute best practice in pension administration and prevent corrupt practices.

"I have the utmost confidence in the ability of the members of the ACTU to spearhead the building of a culture of accountability, transparency and professionalism.

"Pension Management is indeed in need of change, and that change will begin with us here at PTAD, as we continue to improve the welfare of all pensioners under the defined benefit scheme."



ES PTAD, Sharon Ikeazor (3rd from left), Mr. Justin Kuatea, the representative of the Chairman of the ICPC, Ekpo Nta, (3rd from right), the ACTU Chairman, Balewa Ndayako (middle) and members of the Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit.

corruption instrument meant to "promote in-house check mechanisms within the MDAs to monitor, identify and address the lapses which have the capacity of engendering corruption and sundry unethical practices which may thrive within organizations."

He added that the ICPC is optimistic that the ACTU will be a success, given the ES's undiluted support.

"The ICPC indeed looks forward to the attainment of total success by the ACTU of this Directorate, and a better management of pension matters in the country as a whole.

Speaking shortly after the oath taking, the Chairman of the ACTU said the unit will work diligently towards building a culture of ethics and compliance at PTAD.

"The committee intends to hit the ground running and will map out an action plan that will facilitate the institution of an effective ethics and compliance program which will be in consonance with the mandates of the Federal Government of Nigeria and international best practice," Balewa said.

Present at the induction ceremony were the members of the PTAD senior management team, a dele-

In his goodwill message, the Chairman of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Ekpo Nta, who was represented by the Commission's Assistant Commissioner and Head Anti-Corruption Unit, Justin Kuatea, noted that the ACTU is an ethics and anti-

FRAUD ALERT

BEWARE OF anyone calling out of the blues offering assistance for pension payment. It is probably a scam. The best thing to do is to hang up.

BEWARE OF companies or persons offering early access to your entitlements. They are fraudsters.

BEWARE OF companies offering to help you trace lost pensions or obtain a pension statement for a fee. PTAD does not charge any fee for processing pension, gratuity and other benefits. Fraudsters often demand money for these services and use them as a way to gain your confidence and then steal your cash.

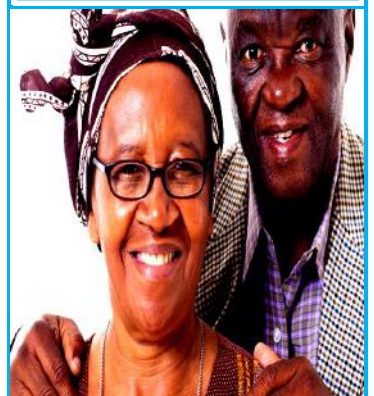
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Smile, because with PTAD, **OLD** age is **GOLD** age...

'PTAD IS THE BEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED TO PENSIONERS' – NUP

The creation of Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate is the best thing to have happened to pensioners under the defined benefits scheme (DBS), according to the National President Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP), Dr. Abel O. Afolayan.

Dr. Afolayan stated this last Friday when he led other executive members of the apex pensioners union on a courtesy visit to the Executive Secretary (ES) of PTAD, Barrister Sharon Ikeazor.

"The best thing that has happened to Pensioners is the creation of PTAD," he said.

"It has led to a great turnaround in the fortunes of our pensioners. We are grateful for our monthly pension which is up to date, and we have received 24 months of 33% arrears."

The union boss lauded barrister Ikeazor for her leadership style since assuming duty as the head of the agency.

"You have started well and you will succeed well and at the end of your tenure, you will have your name written in gold."

"We have no doubt in our mind that as a mother, sister and a barrister, you will succeed."

Responding, the ES thanked the NUP for supporting PTAD over the years, adding that the agency is dedicated to improving the fortune of the pensioners it was created to serve.

"Our focus is to make sure that pensioners, who have earned their pensions and gratuities by working hard in their active years, get all due entitlements without delay," she said.

The ES also reiterated her desire to work closely with the NUP and other pension unions in order to make the administration of pensions under the Defined Benefits Scheme (DBS) a pleasurable experience.

"With your permission, I would like to be the grand matron of all pension unions under the Defined Benefit Scheme (DBS)," she said.

It will be recalled that the ES had last week called on all pension unions to work with the agency as one big family

while speaking with the principal officers of the Association of NTA Pensioners (ANTAP) who paid her a courtesy visit.

Other issues discussed at the meeting include the resumption of the nationwide Civil Service verification exercise which started in the last quarter of 2015, the balance of the 33% pension increase as well as the due increase in pensions.

Members of the NUP delegation included the General Secretary Elder Actor Zal, the National Treasurer Comrade Godwin Abumisi, Alu Audi Moh'd, Comrade Bunmi Ogunkolari and Alhaji A. I. Gazali.



ES PTAD, Sharon Ikeazor (right) and the National President of the NUP, Dr. Abel O. Afolayan.

Ag. EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Magu, presenting a plaque to PTAD ES, Sharon Ikeazor



PTAD ES, Sharon Ikeazor, the ICPC Chairman Ekpo Nta and management of both Agencies



PTAD ES, Sharon Ikeazor, Ag. Auditor General of the Fed. Mrs. Florence Anyanwu, and some senior management members.



PTAD ES, Sharon Ikeazor, and the DG NOA, Dr. Garba Abari

PTAD RESTATES COMMITMENT TO NORTH-EAST PENSIONERS' VERIFICATION

The Executive Secretary (ES) of the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD) Sharon Ikeazor, has restated the Agency's commitment to verifying pensioners in the North-East region of the country as a way of keying into the Federal Government's plan to rehabilitate the insurgency-ravaged area.

Ikeazor said this while briefing the House of Representative Committee on Pension on the 2016 Pension Budget Implementation and Performance.

Responding to issues raised by Chairman of the Committee, Hon. Adamu Shekarau, the ES noted that the issue of verification is important to the sanitization of the database of pensioners under the Defined benefits Scheme (DBS).

She stated that PTAD had from 2015 conducted the verification of the Police, Customs, Immigration and Prison Pensioners and commenced the verification of Civil Service Pensioners, beginning with the North-West Zone (Jigawa, Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto, Katsina, Kaduna and Zamfara) and followed by the South-East Zone (Enugu, Anambra, Imo, Abia and Ebonyi), adding that plans are ongoing for the verification of the remaining Zones, starting with the North East.

"We are already planning for the remaining zones which are the North-East, South-South, South-West and North Central," she said.

"We are starting with the North-East, before the end of this year, as we want to key into the federal Government's vision of rebuilding the North-East."

The ES also reiterated her vision of making access to pensions and other entitlements a dignifying experience for pensioners under the DBS.

"No pensioner must suffer to get their pension. We must treat them with dignity and empathy and that is what we have been doing at PTAD."

"Under my watch, we will improve on that."

It will be recalled that Ikeazor had last Tuesday unveiled the plans to commence verification in the North-East when she led members of her management team on a courtesy visit to Director General of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Dr. Garba Abari.



ES PTAD, Sharon Ikeazor (right) briefing the House Committee on Pension on the 2016 Pension Budget Implementation and Performance.

PTAD STATE LIASON OFFICES LOCATIONS AND ADDRESSES

KADUNA	PTAD Liaison Office, Federal Secretariat Complex, Kawo Quarters, Kaduna
SOKOTO	Federal Secretariat Complex, Kaduna Road, Sokoto
EDO	PTAD Liaison Office, Federal Secretariat Complex, Auchu Expressway, Aduduwa, Benin
KANO	Kano State Pension Fund Trustees Complex, No 9 Sokoto Road, Kano
LAGOS	PTAD Liaison Office, Old National Assembly Complex, High Court Building, TBS, Lagos
ENUGU	PTAD Liaison Office, the Federal Secretariat Complex, Independence Layout, Enugu
ABUJA	22 Katsina Ala Crescent, Off Yedseram Street, Maitama, Abuja

7 WAYS TO CONTACT US FOR COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION

1. Send us an email on complaints@ptad.gov.ng
2. Fill and submit complaints form on our website www.ptad.gov.ng
3. Call our toll free telephone number **0800-2255-7823**
4. Send us a message on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PTADNigeria
5. Tweet at us on Twitter: **@PTADNigeria**
6. Visit our Head Office: **22, Katsina-Ala street, Maitama, Abuja**
7. Visit one of the 6 PTAD state offices nearest to you (Kano, kaduna, Sokoto, Benin, Lagos, Enugu)