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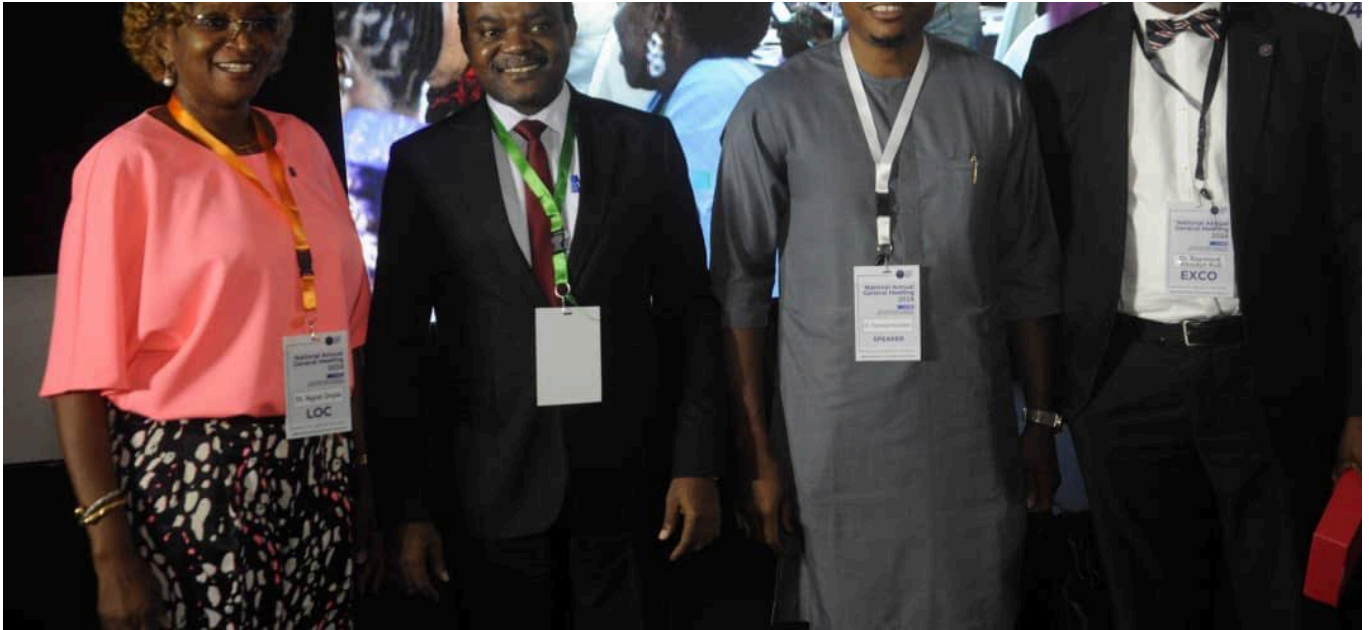
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# PSHAN Conference Calls for Private Sector-led Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria

**HEALTH & WELLBEING** | □ 1 day ago



## Victoria Ojiako

Healthcare leaders at the Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PSHAN) annual conference have emphasised the critical role of private sector engagement in achieving universal health coverage (UHC) in Nigeria.

Dr. Tinuola Akinbolagbe, CEO of PSHAN, alongside other key speakers, highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts, data-driven strategies, and technological innovations to transform the nation's evolving health insurance landscape and ensure equitable access to quality healthcare for all Nigerians.

Speaking during the alliance's annual conference held yesterday at Access Towers, Victoria Island, Lagos, Dr. Akinbolagbe, the convener, underscored the imperative of integrating the private sector into achieving UHC.

The conference, themed "Harnessing Private Sector Solutions for Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria's Evolving Health Insurance Landscape," gathered key stakeholders including academic leaders, private sector representatives, financiers of private health insurance, and regulatory bodies such as the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA).



adopting an enhanced National Health Insurance Accreditation (ENHIA) model by year-end, potentially revolutionizing Nigeria's healthcare sector.

Drawing parallels with the Netherlands, where private entities manage most hospitals while the government focuses on regulation, Dr. Akinbolagbe suggested Nigeria could adopt a similar approach to alleviate the burden on government infrastructure investments. "Healthcare should be treated as an affordable market, crucial amid competing national priorities like education and defense," she added.

The conference also addressed ongoing collaborations with Lagos State, which recently committed to digitalization efforts in healthcare. Dr. Akinbolagbe praised Lagos State's leadership role, noting its potential to set benchmarks for other states to follow.

The virtual segment of the conference scheduled for today aims to consolidate today's discussions into actionable strategies. PSHAN intends to leverage its platform to ensure sustained engagement and implementation of agreed-upon initiatives.

Special guest speaker Ms. Nicole Spieker, CEO of PharmAccess Foundation, emphasized the critical role of the private sector in Nigeria's healthcare ecosystem.

"Sixty percent of Nigerians, regardless of socio-economic status, seek healthcare services from the private sector," Ms. Spieker revealed, while stressing the importance of integrating private healthcare providers into health insurance frameworks to enhance service accessibility and quality.

Ms. Spieker also highlighted the transformative potential of digital technology in healthcare delivery. "We need partnerships to harness the power of digital technology, essential for leapfrogging healthcare advancements in Africa," she asserted.

Her remarks resonated with attendees, underscoring the urgency of integrating technology into healthcare systems to meet burgeoning demands effectively.

Dr. Tayo Aduloju, CEO of the Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG), delivered a keynote address underscoring the urgency of establishing a national health financing



In a goodwill message, Mrs. Omobolanle Victor-Laniyan, Head of Sustainability at Access Corporation, underscored the essential role of the organized private sector in advancing universal health coverage (UHC) through health insurance.

“This conference marks a transformative milestone in our health sector, aligning with the Nigerian Health Insurance Scheme’s commitment to expanding coverage and equitable access to healthcare,” Mrs. Victor-Laniyan affirmed.

Highlighting the conference’s objectives, she emphasized the focus on enhancing the supply side of healthcare delivery. Discussions delved into how private sector providers, healthcare facilities, and insurance companies can collaborate to optimize service delivery, build capacity, improve quality, and integrate innovative technologies to streamline operations and reduce costs.

In a notable address, Dr. Leke Oshunniyi, Chairman of the Health & Managed Care Association of Nigeria (HMCAN) and CEO of AIICO-Multishield HMO, underscored the profound impact of PSHAN in Nigeria’s healthcare landscape.

“Founded by leaders of the economy like Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Mr. Jim Ovia of Senate Bank, and Mr. Herbert Wigwe, Chairman of the Access Group, PSHAN aims to lead Nigeria towards achieving universal health coverage,” Dr. Oshunniyi remarked.

He highlighted PSHAN’s significant contributions, including substantial financial support and collaborative efforts with international organizations during critical periods such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Addressing healthcare challenges in Nigeria, Dr. Oshunniyi emphasized malaria as a predominant health concern, affecting a substantial portion of the population. He advocated for comprehensive strategies, including the use of insecticide-treated nets and advancements in vaccine research, to combat the disease effectively.



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**ONE YEAR OF THE TINUBU ADMINISTRATION: Building a Safer, Stronger and Prosperous Nigeria**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

President Bola Tinubu's historic victory and assumption of office on May 29, 2023, marked a significant turning point in Nigeria's democratic journey. His commitment to democracy and visionary leadership, encapsulated in the 8-point Renewed Hope Agenda, have inspired confidence and trust among Nigerians, paving the way for economic and social progress.

**Economic Resilience:** Facing economic turmoil, widespread poverty, and rising unemployment, President Tinubu implemented bold reforms to stabilize the economy. The revitalization of the credit market, including the launch of the FOREX market, was pivotal in restoring investor confidence and boosting investor confidence, making the Nigerian Stock Exchange the top-performing bourse globally.

**Strengthening National Security:** President Tinubu has prioritized national security, launching investments in modernizing and equipping the national security forces. Over 400,000 new police recruits and 10,000 soldiers recruited, and 100,000 new police personnel further underscore the administration's commitment to a safer Nigeria.

**Boosting Agriculture and Food Security:** To tackle food insecurity, the administration declared a state of emergency and launched the National Agricultural Development Fund with ₦100 billion in allocated funds to support small-scale farmers and provide farmers with access to modern equipment and best practices, ensuring a stable food supply.

**Unlocking Energy and Natural Resources:** The Renewed Hope

**"The of the unsustainable fuel subsidy and the unification of the FOREX market were pivotal steps, reflecting funds to critical sectors like healthcare, education, and infrastructure. These measures have reduced petrol importation by 50% and boosted investor confidence..."**

Agenda focuses on developing renewable energy sources and enhancing the efficiency of the oil and gas sector. Policy directives have improved the investment climate, increased crude oil and NGL production, and initiated major oil projects, including the Apolka-Abaja-Koro Gas Pipeline. Transforming infrastructure and transportation: Significant investments in infrastructure are underway, including upgrading the Port Harcourt-Abuja line and constructing the Lagos-Calabar Seaport Highway. The Renewed Hope Infrastructure Development Fund aims to raise ₦20 trillion to drive critical projects and create jobs and attract foreign investment, creating an enabling environment for businesses. Improving Education, Health, and Social Investment: The administration is expanding primary health centres and upgrading tertiary hospitals, ensuring better access to healthcare. The Student Loan Act 2024 and the establishment of the Nigerian Education Loan Fund highlight a commitment to broadening access to education. Social welfare schemes, including cash transfer and microcredit programmes, aim to uplift vulnerable households and support small businesses. Accelerated Digitalisation: Through Youth-Driven Industrialisation, Digitalisation, and Innovation, recognising the youth as invaluable assets, the administration has launched



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**LIES HAVE SHORT LEGS, THEY DO NOT RUN FAR.  
The Fake News from Bayo Onanuga and Dele Alake**

**W**e read with dismay Messrs Dele Alake and Bayo Onanuga's continued vehement personal attacks, supposedly on behalf of the APC PCC Media Communication Directorate (many APC PCC members have called us to dissociate themselves), on the Chairman/Editor-in-Chief THISDAY & ARISE News Channel, Nduka Obaigbena, and his media group.

Every day the media calls on public officials and those who seek public office to account. Since the media is a public trust, we will respond to the duo's allegations in a comprehensive manner, even if we are not bound to do so, as we do not seek public office. But we believe we owe it a duty to our audiences who may have read the lies and fake news reminiscent of the Nazi Party's chief propagandist Joseph Goebbels, or the incorrigible Iraqi Ali Hassan al-Majeed, otherwise known as Chemical Ali, who was still propagating his country's successes in the 1990 Gulf War long after the allied forces had taken over the capital, Baghdad.

**WE CATEGORISE THE LIES AND FAKE NEWS INTO FOUR:**

**1) M.K.O. Abiola and June 12:**

When the late Chief M.K.O Abiola was the flag bearer of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) for the 1993 presidential election, Obaigbena was a senatorial candidate on the platform of the National Republican Convention (NRC). And Abiola supported SDP's Candidate, the late Chris Okolie, leading to a strain in their relationship. Obaigbena was also Special Adviser to the NRC National Chairman Tom Ikimi in 1991, and later Hameed Kusamotu. Before and after the annulment of the 1993 presidential election, Abiola and Obaigbena

were friends and remained friends till the end. Abiola was broad-minded enough to understand that Obaigbena, like his other friends in NRC, were competitors for power. But that competition ended when Abacha took power and all true democrats moved against military rule. Indeed, Abiola's last public appearance was an Obaigbena event at the Nigeria Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) on June 8, 1994 where he took the Abacha government to the cleaners while demanding his mandate. After his speech against the Abacha junta, he went underground only to reappear in Epetedo, Lagos Island, on June 12, 1994 to declare himself president. The rest, as they say, is history.

Some weeks before the Epetedo Declaration on May 9, 1994, Abiola and Obaigbena had met on a South African flight from London to Johannesburg for Nelson Mandela's presidential inauguration. Obaigbena sat on one side of an aisle seat, while Abiola sat on the other side of that aisle seat with his wife Kudirat taking the window seat next to him. On the Abiola delegation was the late Chief Ralph Uweche, and Cameron Daodu, the Ghanaian-born London Observer journalist and writer. Abiola and Obaigbena spoke throughout the 12-hour flight on the events leading to June 12 and thereafter made peace. Abiola reminded Obaigbena that he had driven all the way from Ikorin to Lagos City Hall to attend his wedding in 1987. I then invited him to my event of June 8, 1994. As we arrived Johannesburg International Airport as guests of the Mandelas, Obaigbena was witness to his claim of being the elected Nigerian President and his delegation was driven in official motorcade while Obaigbena made his way to the Carlton Hotel, downtown Johannesburg (the same hotel most invited guests lodged), and later bussed to Union Building in Pretoria, venue of the inauguration where he ran into Dele Olojede who was covering the event for a



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