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News

September 5, 2024 by [Our Reporter](#)

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PSHAN's new podcast captures experts views on COVID battle, public health wins



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Their views were captured in Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria's (PSHAN's) second season of its "Leadership Series" podcast.

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Hosted by Managing Director of PSHAN, Dr. Tinuola Akinbolagbe, the episode is an enlightening discussion with Ihekweazu and Ihekweazu on "Leading Nigeria Through Infectious Diseases Outbreaks: Challenges and Triumphs."

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The host and guests stressed importance of establishing and strengthening Nigeria's health infrastructure. Ihekweazu noted data and diagnostic capabilities are crucial to building public health agencies, and the health system.

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"The most important currency of a national health public health agency is its data and diagnostic capabilities. Without these, you have no foundation for your existence," he said.

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As a result, he said he prioritised development of National Reference Laboratory and other critical structures during his tenure. Referring to these achievements, Dr. Ihekweazu noted: "Building these structures was essential in managCOVID and laying groundwork for future challenges."

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In addition to reflecting on the challenges faced by Nigerians, the guests touched on their book: An Imperfect Storm, which explores Nigeria's battle against COVID-19.

Describing the book's approach, Mrs. Ihekweazu said: "Most books on infectious outbreaks focus on clinical aspects. We present the story in a way that resonates with people, incorporating personal experiences." It captures the strategic and human elements of the response of NCDC, showcasing resilience and the power of public service.

Commenting on its perspective, Ihekweazu noted: "We live in a country overwhelmed by negative narratives. But this book reminds us of progress made at a time of adversity."

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