

PRSEIDENT'S SPEECH AT EKO 2012.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK.

PROTOCOLS:

On behalf of LOC of this Conference/AGM tagged EKO 2012 with the slogan "**LAGOS IS WORKING, AGPMPN IS WORKING**", I heartily and warmly welcome you all to our 34th Annual International Scientific Conference/AGM holding at Airport Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos State.

I must commend Lagos State leadership, LOC and other members in ensuring the success of this year Conference/AGM.

Our Association's model of Annual Conference/AGM witness a change in pattern when we hosted the AGM in August 2009 with the introduction of Pre-Conference activities to keep the body and soul together through health walk and workshops to build capacity amongst members.

Our choice of theme and sub-themes this year were specially chosen in view of the current health challenges facing our country.

The theme "**Clinical Governance and Quality Health Care Delivery**" which are tied together s very timely at this period when our health care delivery is declining.

To refresh our memory, clinical governance is a term used to describe a systematic approach to maintaining and improving the quality of patient care within a health system and addresses those structures, systems, and processes that assure the quality, accountability and proper management of health organization's operation and delivery of health care to patients and their carers.

This term became widely used in healthcare following the **BRISTOL HEART SCANDAL in 1995**, during which an anesthetists, **Dr Stephen Bolsin** exposed the high mortality rate for pediatric cardiac surgery at the **Bristol Royal infirmary U.K**

Other sub-themes including Medical Ethics and Jurisprudence, Medical Tourism: Implication on National Health, screening for cancer in the middle aged persons etc, will build capacity among members.

Let me use this opportunity to appeal to government at all levels, that the time is overdue for them to demonstrate in clear terms, their political will to fight the monster in the health sector: Very poor health indices, severe disease burden and poor life expectancy of 47years in Nigeria.

While other countries are talking about Geriatric Medicine, we are still battling and talking about Infant Mortality! One of the fundamental ways of stemming this trend is for Government to refocus and deploy her resources on Primary Care, including developing and equipping frontline physicians: Generalists/Family Physicians.

In view of the above, permit me to congratulate our Association and the Faculty of Family Medicine of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria for starting a postgraduate Diploma Program in

Family Medicine. This will start producing the needed critical mass of frontline physicians in line with global trend, which will obviously help in improving our health indices in Nigeria. This program needs the full financial support of Federal and State Government to accomplish its objectives.

May I, at the same time appeal to Federal Government to support Nigerian Private Medical Practitioners who provide about 60% of the clinical health care delivery with grants and, in accessing loan at a reasonable rate of one digit over a ten to fifteen years repayment schedule, thereby improving quality and efficiency outcomes in health care delivery.