



My Dear Friend,

## **THE INTERNATIONAL CANCER CENTER, ABUJA**

We wish to intimate you of the above initiative which is a brainchild of the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Her Excellency, Hajia Turai Umaru Yar'Adua.

In recent years, reported cases of people afflicted with cancer in Nigeria have been on a steady rise with incidences reported both among the young and old alike. It is an ailment that can afflict anybody regardless of age, sex or social status. These increasing cases of cancer occurrence among Nigerians have brought to the fore the urgent need to address this malaise. With a few notable Nigerians falling victim quite recently, time has indeed come to bring specialized care to the doorsteps of Nigerians in order to provide easy access to prompt attention.

It is bad enough that the scourge is a terminal disease; it is however made worse by the fact that most Nigerian hospitals and medical centres lack the diagnostic capacity to quickly detect and treat cancer infections. This has greatly compounded the problem, forcing several Nigerians to travel to foreign countries like India, Dubai, United States, United Kingdom and other European countries in search of cure for the disease.

Cancer survival rates in poor countries are often less than half those in industrialized nations. In Africa, cancer is a sentence to a painful and distressing death, because treatment and care are lacking. By 2020, it is projected there will be 15 million new cases of cancer every year and 70 percent of these will be in the developing world. In Africa by 2020, we expect there to be more than 1 million new cases of cancer every year. Cancer killed more than 7 million people around the world in 2005, more than AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria combined. That number is expected to rise to more than 11 million each year by 2030.

It is with all this in mind that the First Lady, Hajia Turai Yar'Adua was stirred up to initiate the International Cancer Centre, Abuja. The centre, when in place will offer patients in Nigeria and Africa as a whole, an integrated, whole-person treatment that would include the most sophisticated forms of surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy as well as complimentary therapies including nutrition therapy, naturopathic medicine, mind-body and spiritual support. This centre would undoubtedly be one of the greatest services to humanity, Africa and Nigeria as it would actively engage in cancer research and provide access to quality treatment for Nigerians.

Achieving this objective would require enormous resources and it is in view of this that Her Excellency is inviting you to partner with her in making this dream a reality by donating generously to its actualization.

**Sen Mohammed Adamu Aliero**  
Chairman Planning Committee

