

## **Ivara, NGA DG calls for Amendment of Establishment Act, Gallery Edifice**

The Director-General, National Gallery of Art (NGA), Ebeten Ivara has said that the amendment of the agency's establishment Act is long overdue for it to tap its full potentials. Speaking to journalists recently in his office in Abuja, he said this is because the current Act guiding the operation of NGA envisages it to be service oriented and not revenue driven.

"I am convinced that Amending that Act will be a starting point in making NGA contribute meaningfully to the general well-being of artists in the country as well as generate revenue for the Federal government. Efforts made by NGA in the past in this direction will be fast tracked under my leadership to ensure the Amendment sails through. I intend to carry along all stakeholders especially the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA), Association of Gallery Owners of Nigeria (AGAN), Art Collectors, Art teachers and even students".

Reeling out the benefits of the amended NGA Act, he said all public buildings and bridges will be required statutorily to be embellished with works of art and a particular percentage of the construction cost set aside for that purpose. This he said will translate to: "Engaging visual artists in urban and rural areas productively almost all the year round to produce art works; Explosion in studio practice; Increase in visual art practice, entrepreneurship and mentoring; Release of the much needed fund to reposition visual art as a viable discipline for young people to embrace and Visual art will now contribute broadly to Nigeria's GDP".

He also said NGA needs an edifice as a matter of urgency for it to carry out its mandate with ease. "I am determined to ensure that NGA gets a befitting edifice at the shortest possible time. Besides having a conducive environment to display our art works, visual artists will now have alternative spaces to exhibit their works. In the same vein, government will begin to earn revenue as fees will be charged visitors who come to view the art works on permanent and temporary exhibitions".

Ebeten Ivara, who resumed as Director-General, NGA on September 1, 2020 is a graduate of Public Administration from the University of Calabar. He is a thorough bred public servant who started his career in Cross River Broadcasting Corporation where he worked for 13 years in various cadres: Studio Manager; Producer, Commercial Officer and Chief Commercial Officer. Thereafter he took a lateral transfer to the Cross River Civil Service, specifically, the Department of Information, Governor's Office where he was at various times: Chief Commercial Officer and Assistant Director. He was later deployed the State Education Board and later the Ministry of Education before moving to the State Planning Commission, where he rose to the position of Director, Planning, Research and Statistics on posting to the Ministry of Environment and also the Ministry of Works where he retired in 2017. He hails from Itigidi in Cross River State.

