NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

nganigeria

Newsletter

Quarterly Publication

JUNE EDITION 2026



> "Homeownership remains one of the most valuable forms of social security"
>
> **- Ahmed B. Sodangi**
> Director-General, NGA

NGA COMMISSIONS PHASE IV OF RATTAWU NGA CHAPTER LAND



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Editorial

Welcome to the Quarterly Newsletter, 2nd Edition 2026 of the National Gallery of Art (NGA) .

This edition reflects the Gallery's continued commitment to preserving Nigeria's artistic heritage, advancing the creative economy, and promoting excellence through innovation, collaboration, and cultural diplomacy. Within these pages, we present highlights of key institutional activities, strategic partnerships, policy engagements, and programmes that continue to strengthen the visual arts sector and expand opportunities for artists and creative professionals.

You will also find stories celebrating staff welfare, workforce engagement, cultural exchange, exhibitions, and community outreach, alongside reports from our outstation offices that showcase the Gallery's nationwide impact. These achievements reaffirm our belief that the arts remain a powerful driver of education, national identity, economic growth, and social cohesion.

This edition further honours colleagues whose dedication has strengthened the institution over the years, while paying tribute to those whose legacies continue to inspire us. Their service reflects the values of professionalism, creativity, and excellence that define the National Gallery of Art.

We sincerely appreciate the unwavering support of our staff, artists, partners, stakeholders, and readers. Together, we will continue to preserve, promote, and project Nigeria's rich artistic and cultural heritage.

Emeka Odiari
Editor-in-chief

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Director-General's CORNER

MAY

FOREIGN CULTURAL RELATIONS

Bilateral Art Relations: The D-G was received by Mr. Yang Jianxing, the Cultural Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy in Nigeria, for a courtesy visit. Discussions focused on renewing the working relationship between the National Gallery of Art (NGA) and the Chinese Embassy, with an emphasis on strengthening bilateral ties through the visual arts.

MINISTRY & SISTER AGENCIES ACTIVITIES

Inter-Agency Collaboration: The D-G welcomed Dr. Shaibu Husseini, the Director General of the National Film and Video Censors Board (NFVCB), during a courtesy visit aimed at fostering institutional collaboration.

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Ministerial Representation: The D-G attended and represented the Honorable Minister of the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism, and the Creative Economy, Barr. Hannatu Musa Musawa, at the Society of Nigerian Artists (SNA) 2026 National Art Exhibition.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS / IN-HOUSE FOCUS

Labor Relations: In commemoration of International Workers' Day, the D-G received executive members of the Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU), NGA Chapter, for a special solidarity visit.

JUNE

FOREIGN CULTURAL RELATIONS

Panda Painting Event: The D-G participated in the Panda painting event at the China Cultural Centre, where he delivered an official goodwill message.



D-G of NGA, Mr. Sodangi with the D-G of NFVCB Dr. Husseini



D-G, Sodangi representing the Hon. Minister at the SNA National Exhibition



D-G, NGA Ahmed Bashir Sodangi and SNA National Executives



The D-G in a group photograph with the Participants of the Senior Executive Course (SEC) 48 2026 of The National Institute For Policy And Strategic Studies(NIPSS) Kuru and Management Staff of National Gallery of Art, Abuja.



D-G delivering a lecture during the visit of members of the 2026 NIPSS to the FMACT&CE



D-G of NGA, Mr. Sodangi with the D-G of NFVCB Dr. Husseini



D-G of NGA Mr. Sodangi with Permanent Secretary, FMACTCE, Abdulkarim Ozi Ibrahim, at the 2026 Panda Painting Interactive Experience held at the Chinese cultural centre in Abuja recently



D-G, NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi delivering his remarks at the 2026 Panda Painting



D-G of NGA Mr. Sodangi with renowned Ceramist, Dr. Yakubu O'bem Levi



Nigerian Copyright Commission training with NGA



Renowned Ceramist, Dr. Yakubu O'bem Levi and Mr. Atsen J. Ahua during a courtesy visit to D-G in his office



D-G, NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi receiving the NIPPS prestigious award from Prof. Haruna Dabin mni



Professor Ahmed Adamu, Vice Chancellor Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Mr Yang Jiangxin, Cultural Counsellor Embassy of the People's Republic of China; The Honourable Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism & Creative Economy, Barrister Hannatu Musa Musawa, Represented by the Director-General National Gallery of Art, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, at the SNA 2026 exhibition held at the pavilion, Abuja.



D-G of NGA Mr. Sodangi with Colombia Honorary Consul, Maricel Romero Cantillo



Signing of Red Book

A PLACE TO CALL HOME:
D-G, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi Commissions NGA, RATTAWU Staff Housing Estate



On Tuesday, 30th June, 2026, the Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers' Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU), National Gallery of Art (NGA) Chapter, turned a visionary dream into a concrete reality. Under the dynamic leadership of Comrade Timothy Gideon Kpiri, the Union officially commissioned the RATTAWU National Gallery of Art Staff Welfare Land and Housing Scheme at Tudun-Wada, along the Abuja–Keffi Expressway.

More than just a standard real estate development, the event marked a historic milestone in industrial harmony and a profound investment in the socioeconomic security of the NGA workforce.

Every great achievement requires an enabler at the helm, and this milestone stands as a glowing testament to the progressive and staff-centric leadership of the Director-General, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi. Since assuming leadership, the Director-General has consistently demonstrated that staff welfare is not just a policy obligation, but a core priority.

By actively backing this housing scheme, the D-G has once again proven to be a listening leader and a pillar of support for the Union. His administrative foresight and willingness to champion initiatives that guarantee long-term security for employees have earned him widespread admiration and praise across the entire Gallery.

The ceremony commenced in an atmosphere of optimism at 12:50 p.m., with opening prayers led by Mrs. Okoye Geraldine and Mr. Mahmud, setting a collaborative tone for the day.

As the Special Guest of Honour, Director-General Ahmed Bashir Sodangi officially



RATTAWU Land - Investing in the foundation today so we can build the future tomorrow

performed the commissioning. In his address, he lauded the Union's initiative, characterizing it as a landmark achievement that perfectly mirrors RATTAWU's commitment to its members.

"Homeownership remains one of the most valuable forms of social security," the D-G remarked, urging staff members to eagerly embrace the scheme. He praised the Union leadership for looking ahead, while the Union, in turn, celebrated the D-G's transformative approach to labor relations.

The event underscored a strong, unified partnership between the agency's leadership and the staff union. High-ranking members of the NGA Management team were present to show their solidarity, reflecting the DG's culture of inclusive governance:



D-G of NGA Mr. Sodangi with Mr. Alabi Adewale (Director, Human Resources) & Mr. Olaitan Onamusi (Director, Procurement)

Mr. Alabí Adewale (Dírector, Human Resources)
Barr. Voncír Ramjul (Dírector, Legal Servíces)
Mr. Olaítan Onamusí (Dírector, Procurement)
Varíous Heads of Departments & senior offícials.

Their presence spoke volumes, reinforcing the idea that under the current administration, staff welfare is a shared objective between management and the workforce.

A pivotal moment of the ceremony was the briefing by the Chairman of the Land Committee, Comrade Agbor Ojo Idabi. He introduced the dedicated committee members and walked attendees through the rigorous journey, mandate, and execution strategy that brought the housing project to fruition.

Following the briefing, the RATTAWU NGA Chapter Chairman, Comrade Timothy Gideon Kpiri, took the stage to express his deep appreciation to the Director-General and Management. He noted that the project's success was accelerated by the DG's continuous encouragement and open-door policy. Comrade Kpiri reaffirmed that the Union remains doggedly committed to people-oriented programs designed to uplift lives, foster workplace unity, and champion sustainable development for all members.

Key Highlights of the Initiative:

- Affordable land & housing pathways for NGA staff
- Enhanced socioeconomic security & retirement peace of mind
- Strengthened management-union synergy championed by the DG

The event concluded with a formal unveiling and a guided inspection of the project site, allowing attendees to visualize the community soon to rise along the Abuja-Keffi corridor. Commemorative group photographs captured the smiles, handshakes, and shared pride of management, union executives, and staff alike.



Chairman Rattawu NGA land committee (Mr. Agbor) at the commissioning of the land

The commissioning of this housing scheme sets a new standard for staff welfare within the sector. It stands as a brilliant testament to what can be achieved when proactive union leadership aligns with a supportive, forward-thinking Director-General—proving that when leadership invests in its people, it builds a foundation that lasts for generations



A cross-section of staff members and subscribers of the RATTAWU National Gallery of Art Staff Welfare Land and Housing Scheme during the official site inspection and commissioning ceremony at Tudun-Wada, Abuja–Keffi Expressway.



The land committee members

SHADES OF ORANGE: NIGERIA'S CREATIVE AWAKENING AT THE PINNACLE OF POLICY

On a bright sunny day recently in Abuja, a quiet revolution in thinking unfolded within the walls of Nigeria's foremost policy forge. Senior government officials, policymakers, and executives; the men and women who shape the destiny of Africa's most populous nation gathered for the Senior Executive Course 48. The theme was: Economic Diversification and National Development: Leveraging the Orange Economy and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth in Nigeria.

At the heart of this high-level conversation stood the National Gallery of Art, led by its Director General, Ahmed Sodangi. What began as one interactive session quickly became a compelling showcase of culture as economic prowess

The Orange Economy: More Than Colour

The Director General stepped forward to deliver a session titled "Opportunities and Policy Options for the Orange Economy and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Growth in Nigeria." For the next several hours, the room was alive with ideas that blended heritage with hard economics.

He painted a clear picture: the Orange Economy is the dynamic intersection where culture, creativity, and commerce meet. It is Nollywood, the world's second-largest film industry by volume, exporting Nigerian stories and soft power across continents. It is the pulsating rhythms of Afrobeats, now a global export earning foreign exchange and creating stars. It is indigenous fashion reimagined for international runways, digital animation studios in Lagos, and the timeless custodianship of ancient bronzes, textiles, and oral traditions.

Participants leaned in as success stories from Nigeria and peer African nations illustrated the point. Youth employment. Rural-urban economic bridges. Tourism revenue from festivals, galleries, and heritage sites. Intellectual property that could be properly protected and monetised. The message was unmistakable: creativity is not a side pursuit, it is a strategic national asset.



Prof. Haruna Dabin mni, presenting the NIPPS prestigious award to the Director-General, National Gallery of Art, Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, at the event



Air Cmdr Ray C. Nwankwo congratulates D-G NGA, Mr. Ahmed Bashir Sodangi on the receipt of the award.

Mandate and Mission: The NGA's Role

The session placed the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy at the centre of coordination, while shining a spotlight on the National Gallery of alongside other sectorial agencies.

Preserving visual art heritage, mounting exhibitions that educate and inspire, nurturing talent, and advancing cultural diplomacy – was presented not as a cultural luxury but as a development imperative.

Yet the conversation was unflinching about reality. Inadequate funding, Infrastructural gaps, Rampant piracy, Skills mismatches, Limited access to finance for creative entrepreneurs, Policy implementation that too often stalls between vision and execution. These challenges were laid bare, not to discourage, but to confront.

A Roadmap Forward

From this honest diagnosis emerged practical, forward-looking recommendations: Regulatory reforms, Innovative funding models, Stronger public-private partnerships, Investment in digital infrastructure, Robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

Central among the policy options was a clear call: the National Gallery of Art must retain its autonomy and specialised focus even as it deepens collaboration across the creative ecosystem: Strengthening inter-agency synergy; Improving coordination from federal to local levels; Protecting clear institutional mandates; Safeguarding specialised expertise through autonomy.

These were not abstract ideals, they were actionable pathways designed to translate Nigeria's abundant creative talent into measurable contributions to GDP, job creation, and inclusive growth.

Measuring Impact

By the close of the session, participant engagement was high. The recommendations carried clarity and adoption potential. The KPI was not only met but exemplified: strategic contribution to national policy dialogue on the Orange Economy. Participants carried forward something powerful: a renewed recognition that the creative and cultural sectors are indispensable to the nation's economic diversification agenda.

The participation of the National Gallery of Art in SEC 48 was more than an institutional obligation. It was a declaration: Nigeria's story will no longer be told solely through oil wells and balance sheets. It will be painted, performed, filmed, woven, and composed by a new generation of creatives empowered by enlightened policy. The Orange Economy Is ripening. The question now is how boldly Nigeria will harvest it.



The Director-General in a group photograph with the Participants of the Senior Executive Course (SEC) 48 2026 of The National Institute For Policy And Strategic Studies(NIPSS) Kuru and Management Staff of National Gallery of Art, Abuja.

NGA D-G COMMENDS CHINA-NIGERIA CULTURAL TIES AT INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE

The Director-General of the National Gallery of Art, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, has extended warm goodwill and congratulations to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China on the successful hosting of the Panda Painting Interactive Experience at the Chinese Cultural Centre, Abuja.

In his goodwill message delivered on the occasion, Mr. Sodangi highlighted the power of the arts as a universal instrument for fostering understanding, strengthening friendships, and building bridges across cultures. He described the interactive event as a shining example of cultural exchange and creative collaboration between Nigeria and China.

"The arts remain one of humanity's most powerful instruments for fostering understanding, strengthening friendships, and building bridges across cultures," said the Director-General. "This event exemplifies the enduring value of cultural exchange and the important role that creativity plays in bringing people together in a spirit of mutual respect and appreciation."

Mr. Sodangi praised the giant panda, China's national treasure and a globally recognised symbol of peace, friendship, and ecological conservation. He noted that the panda embodies the harmony between humanity and nature deeply rooted in Chinese culture and serves as an international icon that inspires joy and promotes cross-border friendship.

The Director-General emphasised that the themes of friendship, harmony, and cultural understanding provided perfect inspiration for the painting programme, offering participants a unique opportunity to explore artistic creativity while appreciating values of unity, environmental stewardship, and cultural diversity.



D-G, NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi delivering his remarks at the 2026 Panda Painting Interactive Experience held at the Chinese cultural centre in Abuja recently

He particularly commended the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for its consistent commitment to cultural diplomacy and people-to-people engagement through the arts.
"The National Gallery of Art commends the Embassy of the People's Republic of China for its continued commitment to promoting cultural diplomacy and people-to-people engagement through the arts," Mr. Sodangi stated. "Such initiatives contribute significantly to strengthening our longstanding bilateral relations and reaffirm the transformative role of culture as a catalyst for international cooperation, dialogue, and peace."

The D-G encouraged all participants; diplomats, artists, students, and guests to fully embrace the spirit of creativity, friendship, and learning that the programme represents. He expressed confidence that the Panda Painting Interactive Experience would inspire greater artistic collaboration and further enrich the cultural ties between Nigeria and China.

The event brought together distinguished representatives of the Chinese Embassy, members of the diplomatic corps, artists, students, and other stakeholders in a celebration of shared artistic heritage and bilateral friendship.



D-G of NGA Mr. Sodangi with Permanent Secretary, FMACTCE, Abdulkarim Ozi Ibrahim, at the 2026 Panda Painting Interactive Experience held at the Chinese cultural centre in Abuja recently



D-G, NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi painting the panda supported by the permanent secretary, FMACT&CE Abdulkarim Ozi Ibrahim and the Minister of Chinese Embassy, H.E. Zhou Hongyou

Sector News

OJUDE OBA GOES GLOBAL: HERITAGE DRIVING ECONOMIC GROWTH



The Minister of Art, Culture, Tourism, and Creative Economy, Barrister Hannatu Musa Musawa, has reaffirmed the Federal Government's commitment to leveraging the historic Ojude Oba Festival as a cornerstone for national tourism growth and economic diversification.

Speaking on the strategic importance of the event, which is celebrated annually on the third day after Eid-el-Adha, Minister Musawa highlighted the globally renowned Ijebu cultural showcase as a premier vehicle for projecting Nigeria's rich heritage onto the international stage.

As part of a broader mission to elevate the nation's cultural landmarks, the Minister announced advanced plans to secure official endorsement and listing for the Ojude Oba Festival with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

"The Ojude Oba Festival is not just a celebration of heritage, but a powerful catalyst for economic transformation," Musawa stated, noting that the initiative aligns directly with the administration's "Renewed Hope" mandate to significantly boost tourism-driven revenue.

By positioning the festival as a globally recognized cultural asset, the Ministry aims to stimulate local economies, attract international tourism, and establish a sustainable framework for cultural preservation and economic resilience.



The Hon. Minister, FMACT&CE, Bar. Hannatu Musa Musawa at the event

Sector News

CBAAC BOSS AISHA AUGIE OUTLINES VISION FOR FESTAC '77 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Aisha Augie, the Director-General of the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation (CBAAC), says the agency is targeting the participation of about 100 countries in activities marking the 50th anniversary of the historic Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture (FESTAC '77) in 2027.

She said the anniversary was part of efforts to strengthen cultural diplomacy and reconnect Africa with the global Black community.

Augie disclosed this during the inauguration of the Goge Africa Cultural Dialogue and Diplomacy Series 2026 on Thursday in Lagos.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the event was organised by Goge Africa in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) and Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilisation (CBAAC).

The dialogue was with the theme: "Eyo, Culture and Soft Power: Driving Diplomacy, Integration and Economic Growth."



D-G, NGA, Ahmed Bashir Sodangi, D-G CBAAC, Hon. Aisha Adamu Augie, and Honorary Consul of Columbia to Nigeria, Maricel Romero Cantillo

Sector News

RETURN OF CULTURAL VALUES: A VIABLE SOLUTION TO SOCIETAL DECAY IN NIGERIA - NICO BOSS



Otunba Biodun Ajiboye, FCIA, Frpa
The Executive Secretary/CEO NICO

The Executive Secretary/CEO of the National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO), Otunba Biodun Ajiboye, has called for the restoration of Nigeria's cultural values as a strategic response to the growing challenges of insecurity, corruption, kidnapping, banditry and moral decadence across the country.

According to him, "If Nigerians as a people can bring back their cultural values, regardless of ethnic nationality, many of the crimes and societal maladies plaguing the nation today can be cured or considerably reduced."

While stressing that traditional Nigerian cultures place a high premium on honesty, self-respect, dignity, hard work and respect for others, Otunba Ajiboye explained that in many Nigerian societies, criminality and unexplained wealth were strongly frowned upon with communities serving as moral watchdogs, questioning sudden affluence and encouraging integrity, accountability and responsible living.

Using Yoruba cultural practices as an example, Ajiboye said respect for elders was deeply ingrained in the social fabric and helped to shape responsible behaviour among young people. "When a young person bows or prostrates before an elder, it is more than a greeting; it is a demonstration of humility, respect and submission to societal values," he stated.

The NICO Boss observed that the erosion of these values has contributed significantly to the social challenges confronting the nation. He stressed that cultural orientation remains a subtle but effective tool for addressing moral decline and reducing criminal tendencies among young people.

He therefore advocated deliberate efforts to teach and internalise cultural values from childhood. "One effective way of addressing the problems facing our society is to consciously teach and ingrain cultural values in our children so that they grow up appreciating and living by them," he said.

Otunba Ajiboye further urged the mass media, schools, community leaders, religious institutions and cultural stakeholders to champion campaigns that promote the values and traditions that historically held communities together and fostered peaceful coexistence.

Recalling earlier times when trust and communal responsibility were stronger, he noted that society was once safer and more orderly because cultural values were widely respected. He emphasized that rebuilding those values can contribute significantly to restoring social harmony and national.

Artist Spotlight

Culled from Kanye Tagbo



Hon. Minister FMCT&CE, Bar. Hannatu Musa Musawa and Tagbo Kanyeluchukwu

The ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy continues to empower young talents, promote creativity, and showcase Nigeria's rich cultural identity to the world. Kanye is proud to be beneficiary of this process as his journey and artistic expression reflects the impact of a thriving creative economy and the importance it puts on giving every child a platform to shine.

Training

NGA PARTNERS WITH NIGERIA COPYRIGHT COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN COPYRIGHT AWARENESS

The National Gallery of Art (NGA), in collaboration with the Nigeria Copyright Commission (NCC), held a capacity-building workshop on 29 April 2026 at the Head of Service Complex, Abuja, to strengthen staff understanding of copyright and intellectual property rights in the creative sector.



Director Human Resources Management, Mr Alabi Adewale; Director Curatorial Services Department, Dr. Mufu Onifade; and Director Nigerian Copyright Academy, Olufunmilayo Adewale at the Training

The workshop attracted participants from the NGA Headquarters and outstations, with additional staff joining virtually to ensure broad participation. The Director-General of the NGA was represented by the Director of Curatorial Services, Dr. Mufu Onifade, while the Director-General of the NCC was represented by Mrs. Adewale.

In his welcome remarks, the Director of Human Resource Management, Mr. Alabi Adewale, underscored the importance of copyright knowledge in safeguarding artistic works and promoting innovation within Nigeria's creative industry.

Facilitators from the NCC delivered practical presentations on copyright protection, creators' rights, intellectual property registration, copyright infringement, and the role of regulatory institutions in enforcing copyright laws. Participants engaged actively during the interactive session, asking questions and discussing the application of copyright principles to their professional responsibilities.

The workshop was widely commended for its relevance, practical insights, and high level of participation. It reinforced the importance of protecting intellectual property and highlighted the value of sustained collaboration between the National Gallery of Art and the Nigeria Copyright Commission in advancing copyright awareness across the creative and cultural sectors.





NGA staff at the training

UNVEILING THE POWER OF STRATEGY: NGA'S 2026 WORLD CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION DAY EXHIBITION

World Creativity and Innovation Day Exhibition Themed 'Power of Strategy', Organised by National Gallery of Art (NGA) in Collaboration with School of Creativity, which took place on the 21st April, 2026 at the Exhibition Pavilion, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

The atworks were successfully mounted by members of the Curatorial Services Department on Monday 20th April, 2026, across two sections of the Exhibition Pavilion. The exhibition was dismantled on Wednesday 23rd April, 2026.



Mrs. Pilaku Lilian Chizoba leading a tour of the exhibition

Objectives of the Art Fair/ Exhibition

The Objectives of the Exhibition are as follows:

1. To showcase the visual arts sub sector as an avenue for achieving rapid economic development in the country.
2. To project Nigerian art and portray it in good light.
3. To beam light on art as an agent of economic growth and diversification.
4. To provide a platform for artists to exchange ideas and network with patrons and stakeholders
5. To create an avenue for the empowerment of Nigerian artists and the creative industry as a whole

Highlights of the Art Fair:

1. The exhibition was declared open at 4pm on Tuesday 21st April, 2026 by the Director-General represented by Mrs. Ekene Okoroma, Director, General Services, NGA.
2. Subsequently, guests were taken on a tour round the exhibition by the AD/CS, Mrs. Lilian Pilaku.
3. Printed materials (programmes and exhibition catalogues) were made available to guests.
4. Guests comprising of government officials, members of the diplomatic community, Military and Para-military outfits, as well as members of the creative community, were treated to a reception afterwards.
5. Several media houses including Voice of Nigeria (VON) and Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) among others, were present to cover the event and grant interviews to selected guests.



Chairman of the Occasion, Hon. Taiwo Adeleke, Chairman Osun State Tourism Board; Director Curatorial Services Department, Dr. Mufu Onifade; and Director, Human Resources Management, Mr. Alabi Adewale at the event

RATTAWU MARKS 2026 WORKERS' DAY WITH CALL FOR UNITY, DECENT WORK, AND IMPROVED WELFARE

Members of the Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU) joined millions of workers across the country to commemorate the 2026 International Workers' Day, celebrated annually on May 1.

The occasion provided an opportunity for workers to reflect on their contributions to national development while reaffirming their commitment to the principles of solidarity, dignity of labour, and social justice.

As part of the activities marking the celebration, the Director-General of the National Gallery of Art, Ahmed B. Sodangi, extended warm felicitations to RATTAWU members nationwide, commending their resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to duty despite the prevailing socio-economic challenges confronting the nation.

In his Workers' Day message, the Director-General paid tribute to artists, cultural practitioners, and staff of the National Gallery of Art, describing them as the driving force behind the institution's successes. He emphasized that art is not merely a form of expression but a profession that demands sacrifice, discipline, and creativity in preserving Nigeria's rich cultural heritage.

He further applauded RATTAWU members for their steadfastness in the face of growing insecurity and economic hardship, noting that their contributions remain indispensable to the sustenance and growth of Nigeria's creative, media, and communication industries.

Aligning with the 2026 May Day theme adopted by the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and the Trade Union Congress (TUC), "Insecurity and Poverty: The Bane of Decent Work," the Director-General called for renewed solidarity among workers and urged members to remain united in advocating for improved welfare, safer working environments, and policies that promote decent work.

According to him, "As we mark this year's Workers' Day, we must draw strength from our unity and remain committed to the ideals of our great Union. Together, we can overcome the challenges before us and build a more secure and prosperous future for all workers."

The celebration served as a reminder of the critical role workers play in nation-building and underscored the need for sustained efforts toward creating a more secure, equitable, and productive work environment for all Nigerians.

RATTAWU members used the occasion to reaffirm their commitment to the Union's objectives and to continue championing the rights and welfare of workers across the media, arts, and cultural sectors.



Chairman, RATTAWU NGA Chapter, Mr. Gideon Kpiri, Former RATTAWU Chairperson, Mr. Musa Balogun, and Secretary, Charity Onyeachonam at the 2026 workers day celebration

Outstation Report

NGA LAGOS PARTICIPATES IN "PAINT YOUR COAST" MARITIME ART INITIATIVE

Event: African Maritime Art Exhibition (AMAE) – "Paint Your Coast"
Date: Friday, 26th June, 2026

Activity: Day 1 of the Maritime Art Training Programme & Launch of the Coastal Communities Art Competition

The National Gallery of Art (NGA), Lagos, participated live in the African Maritime Art Exhibition (AMAE) themed "Paint Your Coast." The event marked the successful rollout of Day 1 of a two-day Maritime Art Training Programme and the official launch of the Coastal Communities Art Competition, organized in partnership with key maritime stakeholders.



Highlights of young participants engaging in the painting activity during the event



Highlights of young participants engaging in the painting activity during the event

Key Highlights

Empowerment through Art: The initiative utilized creative expression to engage young participants, fostering a deeper connection to their coastal identity and heritage.

Hands-on Mentorship: Through practical training sessions and direct mentorship, the youth explored vital themes, including maritime heritage, environmental stewardship, and community identity.



Cross-Section of NGA Lagos Staffs and Mentors on a cruise experience

Stakeholder Collaboration: Organized alongside maritime stakeholders, the program successfully demonstrates the value of collaborative partnerships in driving community development and youth engagement through art.



Cross-Section of NGA Lagos Staffs, Mentors and participants on a cruise experience

Outstation Report

The Power of Imagination: Creativity in the Eyes of a Nigerian Child

By: Arike Obadimeji
Deputy Director, Information Services Department

Children possess an extraordinary capacity to imagine, innovate, and create. Their imagination transcends limitations, giving expression to ideas, aspirations, and possibilities that inspire positive change and shape the future. Recognising the immense value of nurturing this creative potential, the theme of the 2026 Children's Day Talent Hunt and Exhibition, "The Power of Imagination: Creativity in the Eyes of a Nigerian Child," challenged young participants to explore the limitless possibilities of their minds through artistic expression.



Father of the day, Dr. Kehinde Adewale Badaru presenting certificate to a prize winner at NGA Abeokuta 2026 Children Day's celebration

The response was both inspiring and remarkable. The artworks presented by the participating children reflected originality, technical ability, cultural consciousness, and a profound understanding of the world around them. Through diverse artistic interpretations, the young artists communicated their dreams, celebrated their heritage, and envisioned a society founded on hope, innovation, peace, and sustainable development.

This publication presents a carefully curated collection of the winning entries from the 2026 Children's Day Talent Hunt and Exhibition. Beyond recognising artistic excellence, it serves as a lasting testament to the creativity, imagination, and promise inherent in Nigerian children. The collection affirms that when children are provided with opportunities to express themselves creatively, they develop confidence, critical thinking skills, and a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

As you journey through these pages, we invite you to appreciate not only the aesthetic quality of the artworks but also the powerful stories, ideas, and aspirations they embody. May this publication reinforce our collective commitment to promoting creativity, encouraging artistic development, and investing in the talents of our young people, whose imagination today will undoubtedly shape the Nigeria of tomorrow.



Guest on a tour of the Exhibition at NGA Igbo-Ukwu 2026 Children Day's celebration



Presentation of gift to a prize winner at NGA Abakaliki 2026 Children Day's celebration



Director HRM, Mr. Adewale Alabi with a prize winner at NGA Osogbo 2026 Children Day's celebration

Social Diary

HAPPY RETIREMENT



Dr. Mrs. Peace Odogwu
former Director Monitoring and Documentation

Following more than a quarter-century of meritorious public service, Deputy Director Dr. Peace Nwaolili Odogwu has officially retired from the National Gallery of Art (NGA), effective June 10, 2026.

Dr. Odogwu's distinguished tenure with the apex art institution began on October 17, 2001, when she joined the agency as a Senior Education Officer. Over the next 25 years, she steadily rose through the ranks, driving key institutional mandates across both the Lagos and Abuja offices.

Throughout her landmark career, Dr. Odogwu transitioned through several critical leadership roles within the NGA. Notably, she served as the Head of the Education Department in Lagos, Curator, and Zonal Coordinator for the Southwest region. Her administrative expertise later elevated her to the apex of departmental leadership, where she served as the Acting Director for both the Monitoring and Documentation Department and the Education Services Department.

Colleagues and stakeholders have widely praised Dr. Odogwu for her immense contributions to the promotion of art education and the advancement of cultural development across Nigeria. Her retirement marks the conclusion of a highly impactful chapter in the preservation and administration of Nigerian art.

Alhaji Buhari Hussaini

Background: An Associate National Accountant, Alhaji Buhari Hussaini joined the National Gallery of Art (NGA) in 2009, bringing a wealth of financial and administrative expertise.

Key Roles at NGA: He served the Gallery in several critical leadership capacities, notably as Head of Salaries, Head of Expenditures, and Head of External Relationships under the Office of the Director-General.

Contributions: Known for transparency and accountability, he played a vital role in strengthening the NGA's financial management and mentoring younger officers.

Retirement: On 18 June 2026, he officially retired as an Assistant Director, concluding a distinguished career marked by integrity and selfless service.

The management and staff of the NGA celebrate his legacy and wish him a blissful retirement.



Alhaji Buhari Hussaini
former Head of External Relationships

Social Diary

ART COMMUNITY GATHERS IN ABUJA AS NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART HONORS PIONEER D-G, DR. PAUL CHIKE DIKE (OON)

It was an evening bathed in both deep sorrow and immense celebration as the National Gallery of Art (NGA) hosted a magnificent Night of Tribute and Service of Songs for its pioneer Director-General, the late Dr. Paul Chike Dike, OON.

The solemn yet beautiful event took place on Tuesday, May 12, at the Novare Hall in Zone 5, Abuja. Attended by a massive crowd of family, friends, and heavyweights from the cultural sector, the gathering served as a powerful testament to a man whose life was entirely woven into the fabric of Nigerian art.

Dr. Dike passed away in February 2026, throwing the art community into mourning. Taking it entirely upon themselves to ensure their foundational leader received a well-befitting send-off, the management and staff of the NGA successfully organized the four-hour service, which ran from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

The atmosphere inside Novare Hall was deeply emotional, described by attendees as a "cool and heart-touching" tribute. Heavenly choral renditions and moving hymns filled the room, setting a reflective tone for an evening dedicated to remembrance.



L-R: Former Directors NGA, Dr. Mrs Evelyn Otaigbe; Mrs Ngozi John Uyah; and former D-G NGA, Abdullahi Muku, at the service of songs.

As the night progressed, a steady stream of colleagues, close friends, and prominent art lovers took turns sharing emotional testimonies. Former government ministers and past officials sat alongside current NGA directors and staff who had turned out en masse to pay their final respects. Speaker after speaker praised Dr. Dike's fierce commitment to the arts, his towering intellect, and the structural legacy he left behind as the gallery's first leader.

For the family—including the late Director-General's wife and children—the overwhelming show of love provided a comforting anchor ahead of his final journey home.

Following the Abuja tributes, the pioneer Director-General was laid to rest on May 22nd in his hometown of Enugwu-Ukwu, located in Anambra State, Nigeria.

In a statement, the management of the National Gallery of Art expressed their profound appreciation to everyone who attended the Abuja service, noting that the successful outing was a vital, final duty of respect to a man who gave so much to the nation's cultural landscape.

As the curtain falls on a remarkable life of service and artistic vision, the community continues to pray that his soul rests in peace, and continues to rest in the bosom of the Lord.

Amen.



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In loving memory



REST IN PEACE

Mrs. Oladokun Bolanle

National Gallery of Art
Abeokuta Station, Ogun State



REST IN PEACE

Mr. Momoh Sheidu

National Gallery of Art
Lagos Station

Repository of Nigeria's Creative Spirit!

The National Gallery of Art is the custodian of Nigeria's rich artistic heritage. It is a home of wide range of treasures from the best of painting, sculptures, drawings, Photography, Textiles Designs, Jewelry, Architectural Designs, Pottery/Ceramics, communication designs and other works of Art. It is the repository of Nigeria's creative spirit.

We are poised to become Art treasure Island in Africa and global destination for Visual Art. With 25 offices across Nigeria, the welcome is warm, the education enduring and the experience awesome.

OUR PROGRAMMES

- NGA Mast Festival and Awards
- International Art Fair Abuja
- International Art Fair Lagos
- Rainbow Art: Unlocking Creativity
- Art Workshop Benin
- Art Fair Enugu
- Art Fair Jos
- Annual Children's Day Art Competition/Exhibition
- Annual Distinguished Lecture/ Symposium
- Stakeholders Forum
- Special Exhibition (Local and International)
- Art Fair



NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART HQTRS
Ministry of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy
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OUT STATIONS
Abakaliki, Abeokuta, Bauchi, Benin, Calabar, Enugu, FCT, Gombe, Gusau, Igbo-Ukwu, Ilorin, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Lafia, Lagos, Lokoja, Maiduguri, Makurdi, Minna, Osogbo, Port Harcourt, Sokoto, Umuahia and Uyo.

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