

PART ONE.

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

THE BEGINNING - 1995.

1.0 BACKGROUND

The development of Human Rights has been a continuous quest by the United Nations since its inception. The first recorded discussion on the subject of National Human Rights Institutions took place in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946 when the council invited member states to consider the desirability of establishing information groups or local Human Rights Committee within their respective countries to collaborate with them in furthering the work of the commission on human rights.

Indeed only a very small number of independent NHRIs had been established in any region before 1990, when the Commission on human rights decided to hold a meeting on the subject of National Human Rights Institutions. This conference which convened in Paris in 1991, prepared a set of “Principles relating to the status of National Institutions” - “Paris principles”.

In 1993, the world conference on human rights held in Vienna, reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by National Institutions for the promotion and protection of Human Rights, in particular their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, their role in remedying human rights violation, the dissemination of Human Rights information and education in human rights.

The world conference on human rights encouraged the establishment and strengthening of National Institutions, having regard to the “principles relating to the status of National Institution” and recognizing that it is the right of each state to choose the frame work which is best suited to its particular need at the national level.

Ever since the world conference, human rights institutions have played active roles at the regional, national and international human rights arena. They provide support and encourage democratic processes in different parts of the world as well

as support basic democratic institutions such as the legislature, the executive and the judiciary.

1.1 NIGERIAN NHRC - ORIGIN:-

The NHRC was born during the Military Regime of General Sani Abacha, when the human rights situation in Nigeria could be described as distressing. In October 1995, in reaction to international and local pressures, particularly that of the UN, the Abacha regime quickly established the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) through Decree No. 22 of 6th October 1995. The Governing Council of the Commission was inaugurated eight months later, on 17th of June 1996. The establishment of the Commission at that time was described by renown critics, including Chief Gani Fawehinmi SAN as a “toothless bulldog set up to serve the interest of its master”.

The Commission on establishment, had no office of its own and no budget, and therefore, started skeletal operations from the 2 rooms office at the premises of the National Assembly in 1996, assisted by a few ‘borrowed’ NASS staff. The first set of substantive staff were employed in 1997, after a 3 day interview in July 1997, by the Governing Council. On 10th December 1997, International Human Rights Day, the Commission's rented office, situated at Plot 800, Blantyre Street, Wuse 2, Abuja was commissioned.

The Governing Council went on to establish six offices in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria. In 1998, the Commission established the first two zonal offices at Lagos and Kano. This was followed in 1999 by the establishment of zonal offices in Port - Harcourt, Enugu, Jos and Maiduguri.

1.2 FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION IN THE 1995 DECREE.

Functions

The functions of the Commission as contained in the Law are as follows:

“Deal with all matters relating to the protection of human rights as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, United Nations Charter on Human Rights, the Universal

Declaration on Human Rights and other International treaties on human rights to which Nigeria is a signatory.

- i Monitor and investigate all alleged cases of human rights violation in Nigeria and make appropriate recommendations to the Federal Government for the prosecution and such other actions, as it may deem expedient in each circumstance.
- ii Assist victims of Human rights violations and seek appropriate redress and remedies on their behalf:
- iii Undertake studies on all matters relating to human rights and assist the Federal Government in the formulation of appropriate policies on the guarantee of human rights
- iv Publish regularly reports on the state of human rights protection in Nigeria
- v Organize local and international seminars, workshops and conferences on human rights issues for public enlightenment
- vi Liaise and cooperate with local and international organizations on human rights for the purpose of advancing the promotion and protection of human rights
- vii Participate in all international activities relating to the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Viii Maintain a library, collect data, and disseminate information and materials on human rights generally and;
- Ix Carry out all such other functions as are necessary or expedient for the performance of these functions under the Act”.

1.3 POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

The Commission has powers to:

- i “Do all things which shall by the Act or any other enactment are required or permitted to be done by the Commission; and
- ii Do such other things as are necessary or expedient for the performance of its functions under the Act”.

1.4 GOVERNING COUNCIL:

The National Human Rights Commission 1st Governing Council was officially inaugurated on June 17, 1996 in Abuja.

The First Governing Council of the Commission was made up of the following 16 members:-

S/N	NAMES	AFFILIATION	DESIGNATION
1.	Hon.Justice P. K Nwokedi	Rtd Supreme Court Justice	Chairman
2	Dr Mohammed Tabiu	Fmr A.G Jigawa State	Executive Secretary
3	Mr Bukhari Bello	Ministry of Justice	Member
4.	Dr I N Sada	President, Network for Justice	Member
5.	Alhaji Mohammed Bah	Ministry of Internal Affairs	Member
6.	Mr Obafemi Adewale	Legal Practitioner	Member
7.	Dr Valerie J. Azinge	Legal Practitioner	Member
8.	Mr Ray Ekpu	Publisher, Newswatch	Member
9.	Mr Tom Jackson Orage.	Legal Practitioner	Member
10	Hajiya Fatima Kwaku	Legal Practitioner	Member
11	Mr Danso Sodangi	Legal Practitioner	Member
12	Mr Kunle Fadipe	Legal Practitioner	Member
13	Mr Garba Shehu	President, Nigerian Guild of Editors	Member
14	Mr H.O Suleiman	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Member
15	Prof. Oji Umozurike	Law Professor /Member ACHPR	Member
16	Senator Adamu Augie	Fmr Senator	Member

1.5 CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SOME OF THE 1ST SET OF 1996 GOVERNING COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE BEGINNING OF NHRC.

Some former governing council members were contacted to enrich this document with their first hand experiences as first governing council members, who worked tirelessly to develop the Commission from nought in 1996. The experiences as shared by them, in their own words, are enclosed hereunder.

1.5.1- PROF. MOHAMMED TABIU - 1ST EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

- SOME EARLY CHALLENGES AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY PROF MUHAMMED TABIU. FACULTY OF LAW, BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

Introduction :- As the first Executive Secretary of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), it is my pleasure to take the opportunity of the anniversary of 20 years of the Commission's enabling Law to make some remarks about the Commission's early development. Although the Military Government of General Sani Abacha promulgated the National Human Rights Commission Decree in September 1995, my appointment and inauguration of the first Governing Council of the NHRC was done only a year later in June 1996. Chaired by the Hon Justice PK Nwokedi, a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, the Council had me and fourteen other members representing a variety of interests and coming from a wide spectrum of backgrounds as members.

I recall that some of those who called to congratulate me as the Executive Secretary were unsurprisingly compelled to say how daunting the challenge before the Commission was. The point simply was how could a Military regime that was perceived as infringing human rights establish a body to protect human rights? Put simply, our biggest and earliest challenge as a Commission was that of establishing a national human rights institution that was credible and effective under widely acknowledged difficult prevailing circumstances.

Four years after the inauguration of the first Governing Council, the then outgoing Chairman, Justice PK Nwokedi, while addressing a Presidential Forum on Human rights, had the confidence to express satisfaction that 'the Commission has been solidly established, enjoying respect and acceptance'. 'It also enjoys international

trust and cooperation', he confidently added. To buttress his assessment, Justice Nwokedi referred to the progress that the Commission had made, citing in particular its efforts at addressing complaints of human rights abuse and in its promotional activities. After referring to the very difficult conditions under which the Commission had been working with limited resources, the Chairman said:

'Nonetheless the Commission has become well-established as a full-fledged national institution, operating a complaint mechanism which offers Nigerians a simple, inexpensive and non-technical procedure for redress of complaints of human rights violations....The work of the Commission in the area of human rights promotion and education has been extensive, covering both public enlightenment and specialized training for target groups...'

The Chairman's mention of international trust and cooperation could not have been unrelated to the favourable assessment of the Commission's performance that had been conveyed in the 1999 report of Mr Sorabjee, the United Nations Rapporteur for Nigeria following his visit to Nigeria. In the report he had commended the Commission's achievements in improving the enjoyment of human rights in the country and expressed confidence in its future, referring particularly to its work on prisons. Indeed the very fact that Mr Sorabjee visited Nigeria before issuing his report was an achievement of the Commission, considering that he had been issuing earlier reports without the benefit of an in-country visit. Not long after the visit, the Commission was accredited and certified as an independent national institution by the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions working under the auspices of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Against the background of the doubts and skepticism both within and outside Nigeria that accompanied the setting up of the Commission, and the favourable assessment of its progress four years later, I wish to highlight in these remarks some of the challenges that the Commission faced at the early stage and how it was able to overcome those challenges to get to the level of sustainability and strength where it was when I left in 2000.

Challenges:- The initial challenges were of course numerous. How the Commission met and addressed the initial challenges answers the question I posed earlier on how the Commission moved rapidly to conquer the early fears and skepticism and become a stable and credible institution for the protection and promotion of human rights in Nigeria. Surely the primary challenge at the very start was that of building credibility. Other challenges were merely different facets of this primary challenge. Let me come back to the issue of building credibility later.

Capacity to Perform:- Among the most immediate of the early challenges was that of acquiring the capacity for the Commission to discharge its mandate as a number of obstacles appeared on the way. On inauguration, for example, no funds were available for the Commission to start operating nor were any office rooms allocated. On being contacted by the Commission for a take-off fund, the Ministry of Finance simply said, we can't help because you are not in the budget! After an initial delay, and with the intervention of the Federal Attorney General Chief Agbamuche and the Special Adviser to the Head of State on Justice Matters, Prof Auwalu Yadudu, the Head of State General Sani Abacha approved a modest take off fund, pending the next year's budget. With this initial fund at its disposal the Commission borrowed some offices from the National Assembly Commission and began operating. It was included in the Federal budget from the following year 1997.

Within the first four years of operation the Commission made considerable progress in capacity building, in spite of the well-known constraints of funding and resources that was common across the justice institutions. By the end of this period, the Commission had recruited high caliber staff through two recruitment exercises for which we had to seek a waiver from the Government due the existing embargo on recruitment by Federal Government institutions. It is worth noting that the Federal Character Commission certified the Commission's recruitments as being fully compliant with its rules and regulations, a feat that most government institutions failed to achieve.

The Commission then initiated a robust staff capacity building programme that included trainings both within and outside Nigeria, staff exchange with other

institutions and participation in human rights events in various parts of the world. The international events gave both Council members and staff the required exposure to international human rights standards and practices and opportunity to build relationship with other human rights institutions and activists. The process of building the Commission's Abuja Headquarters office was started ahead of many other peer justice institutions that had been established decades before the NHRC and had not been able to acquire a befitting headquarters building. This was accompanied by an initiative of setting up zonal offices. In this way the Commission was able to build sufficient capacity to operate as an effective institution.

Accessibility of the Commission:- Once the Commission started operating, additional challenges arose. There was the challenge of accessibility. Considering the notoriously high level of human rights infringements in Nigeria that was then perceived as peculiar to military rule, how could the Commission reach or make itself reachable by those who most needed its services? The challenge of accessibility probably remains to-date. It was however largely addressed in those early times and within the constraints of resources, through the practice of rotating the Governing Council's monthly meeting around the States, during which the Commission engaged in human rights advocacy and promotional activities, and by assigning Council members and staff to investigate complaints in all parts of the country. Later on, accessibility to the Commission was improved through establishing zonal offices with the aspiration that this would extend in the future to setting up state and even LG offices.

Needs and Prioritization:- Another challenge was that of prioritization. In the midst of so much need and, as we immediately discovered, limited resources, one important concern was how the Commission should prioritize its activities and resources so as to do what was most necessary and effective. In the circumstances, the Commission took up a number of both short and long term human rights issues for its primary attention. Inevitably under Military rule, the problem of detentions without trial, review of laws that legitimized the practice, respect for court orders, hostage taking practices by security agencies and denials of fair trials became a primary focus of the Commission's attention. Sometimes on

its own initiative, and other times in response to complaints by victims, the Commission sought a solution to these problems through numerous visits to prisons and detention centers to know who were detained and inspect conditions of detention, interaction with the detention authorities, direct discussion with the Head of State, and recommendations to the Government on particular laws, policies and practices that violated human rights and specific cases of victims. Human rights education and sensitization was also prioritized, covering both public enlightenment and specialized training for target groups such as police, prisons officers, students, women, journalists and judges.

On return to civilian rule in 1999, the needs surprisingly did not change, but the priorities did. At this stage one of the priorities was demanding that human rights were taken into account in the process of legislation and in formulating policies. From time to time the Commission submitted its recommendations to the National Assembly during the debates on bills such as the anti-corruption bills and Niger Delta Development bill. Also some specific human rights issues arose at this time that called for the Commission's intervention. For example the Commission, in the early period of the return to civilian rule, investigated and submitted its advice to the Federal Government on the human rights situation that arose from the incidents at Odi and Choba, where the Nigerian Military embarked on virtual massacre of civilian populations, and on the incidence of floods that in 1999 caused extensive destruction of life and property in Niger State and displaced hundreds of thousands people.

In the midst of all the needs and challenges, we also had to make all effort to ensure that we developed an effective leadership and management culture that suitably aligned the strategic leadership of the Chairman and the Governing council with the managerial and operational roles of the Executive Secretary, Heads of Departments and staff of the Commission. This was necessary in order not to avoid leadership frictions that could frustrate the Commission's work and undermine its effectiveness. The sagacity and forbearance of Justice Nwokedi, the Chairman of the Governing Council, and commitment from all sides to creating an effective and credible human rights institution prevailed and guided relationships

within the Commission, giving everyone, Council members and staff alike, a sense of mission, relevance and belonging.

Credibility and Effectiveness:- Let me now turn to the question of how the Commission established and achieved credible and effective working relationship with its various stakeholders. Without such relationship very little could be achieved of human rights promotion and protection. At the time of inauguration of the Commission, there was concern, perhaps even skepticism, about what some people referred to as the 'real motives and intentions' of the Military Government in setting up the Commission. Many of such people wondered aloud if the Commission was not a mere smokescreen to cover up the regime's human rights abuses. The worst of the skeptics even expected to see a Commission that would seek ways and means to justify the Government's human rights violations and carry out propaganda on its behalf. Our primary challenge was how to generate confidence that the Commission would function and serve the purpose of human rights protection and promotion clearly spelt out in its law.

Although the more obvious issue here might appear to be a straightforward one of building confidence with the prominent doubting Thomases who were mainly civil society activists based in Lagos, there were in fact many facets to this challenge. Among the 'stakeholders' of the Commission was the international community, represented by the United Nations Human Rights system that had indicted Nigerian and even appointed a UN rapporteur to monitor the situation of human rights in the country. There was also the generality of Nigerians who knew nothing about the nature of a national human rights commission, and generally had mixed feelings about human rights. Extreme view and expectations ran from those who nurtured suspicions about human rights on the whole and saw it as merely a means of Western cultural domination and interference on the one hand and those who saw the Commission as a welcome development and expected it to serve as a super-powerful court for judging and compelling the government to respect and uphold human rights. We saw it as our duty to try to earn the confidence of all these stakeholders, adjust wrong perceptions and seek partners and collaborators, if we were to operate effectively in promoting respect for human rights.

Relevance of Government Cooperation:- Equally important to us, as members of the Commission, was securing the cooperation of the government that appointed us to promote and protect human rights. As is well known, there is always within government suspicion about human rights and the 'intentions and motives' of its promoters and defenders. In Nigeria in particular at that time a siege mentality characterized the attitude of people in government who were threatened with sanctions for what the international community saw as lack of adequate respect for human rights. No national human rights institution can hope to function effectively if it does not attract cooperation and support from the various sectors of government whose activities are the subject of its investigation and monitoring activities, and who would be a key target for human rights education and promotion. The challenge to build credibility and effectiveness before the Commission was therefore multifaceted. How was the Commission to generate and enjoy confidence and the necessary cooperation of the government while at the same time earning the respect and confidence of the general public, or more particularly the vocal civil society activists, some of whom saw themselves and were indeed seen by the government as adversaries?

It was obvious that if all sides were to be taken on board the Commission must adopt a principled and equally practical stand in discharging its mandate. On the one hand, the Commission would not be the government's human rights propaganda outfit; in any case the government in those days had sufficient outfits at its beck and call that were better suited to perform that role. On the other hand the Commission would not be the mouthpiece for a political opposition to the Government either. In any case there were enough activists around in those days performing that role.

Standing strictly by the Mandate of the Commission:- How did the Commission respond to this early challenge? In the end the solution turned out to be a straightforward one, if not necessarily simple. The Commission should take seriously its mandate of being an investigative, promotional and advisory body on human rights and proceed to discharge that mandate diligently. That is exactly the position that came to be dominant within the Commission, and in my opinion the

basis of its early strength and achievements. It did not take long after the inauguration of the Commission's Governing Council for us leaders of the Commission to realize that our credibility lies in diligently standing by the Commission's clear and unambiguous mandate as spelt out in the Commission's law. This role required examining the Government's human rights practices objectively and pronouncing on them, while advising the government on what it should do to address any abuses; of making the Commission's services available to any members of the public who felt their rights were abused and standing by them in seeking redress; of spreading human rights knowledge and addressing doubts and misgivings; and of extending a hand of friendship and cooperation as a willing partner to the UN and other human rights bodies and all civil society groups who wanted to work for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria.

How did the Commission put this principle into practice? One of the early steps that the Commission took was asking the government to pass a clear message of the imperative of cooperation with the Commission to the various security and law enforcement agencies. This was duly done shortly after the inauguration of the Commission, by convening a meeting between the Commission and the heads of these agencies where the Commission had a good opportunity to convey its expectations for cooperation. The Inspector General of Police became the principal contact person, with whom the Commission continued to relate on almost day to day basis.

Building Partnerships: - Another step taken by the Commission was to freely seek or accept offers of partnership and working relationship with institutions and elements within the government and among civil society organizations and development partners that could contribute to its work. No sooner did the Commission begin to take these steps than it realized that there were indeed certain essential roles of human rights promotion and protection to play – roles for which the Commission was well suited and which no other institution in the past was able to or in a position to perform.

Some of these roles were quite obvious. For example many people whose rights were abused would not be able to seek redress in the courts because of a variety of reasons including access difficulties, paucity of resources and even awareness. The Commission tried to fill this vacuum by offering itself as a venue for addressing such human rights grievances through a user friendly and non-technical complaints system.

But there was one important role which was not so obvious. This was the role of being an intermediary, a bridge, between government agencies and the civil society groups that were genuinely seeking to promote human rights. Although for a long time the human rights groups had expended considerable expertise and resources for human rights promotion, the negative perception of their 'motives and intentions' by the government had made it impossible for them to translate their commitment, expertise and resources into tangible human rights benefits. No leadership of any government institutions had the confidence to open its doors to and establish the necessary rapport with such non-governmental human rights groups and benefit from their human rights ideas and resources without risking being suspected by the government as its adversaries' collaborator. The intervention of the Commission cleared those risks and suspensions and created a platform for partnership to improve human rights education among government functionaries and enhance respect for human rights in their practices. In this manner a tripartite partnership emerged between the Commission, government agencies and non-governmental human rights organizations that made it possible to jointly engage in major human rights promotional activities.

One of such early interventions of the Commission through this partnership was the human rights training for lower court judges that is Magistrates, Area and Customary court judges, that the Commission organized in collaboration with the Civil Liberties Organisation (CLO) and with funding from the Danish Centre for Human Rights. Without the mediatory participation of the Commission no government agency would be willing to hand over its staff to be trained by the CLO, which was an organization seen as opposed to the Military government and whose offices had been raided by the security agencies from time to time. I recall how

operatives of the Department of State Security were taken aback when they learned that CLO was organizing a training programme in Kaduna and besiege the venue only to back off when they discovered on arrival at the venue that the event was organized in partnership with the Commission.

As a result of the Commission's intervention opportunity was created for various workshops, trainings and consultation that brought human rights groups closer to and improved their relationship and influence over public authorities. In addition to the judiciary, other targets for collaboration were the Nigeria Prison service, the police and other law enforcement agencies, which were done in partnership with such organizations as PRAWA, Constitutional Rights Project and HURILAWS, with support from development partners. Through these partnerships and interventions, the staff of the government agencies acquired a better appreciation of human rights, which influenced their practices. The partnership also generated a dialogue that led to better mutual understanding, as both sides began to appreciate each other. Human rights activists additionally benefitted from such dialogues and engagement by acquiring a better understanding of the human rights situation and improved insight into how changes could be effected. Another product of this tripartite engagement was the initiation of consensus on reform agendas, particularly in the areas of administration of criminal justice, policing and prison reforms. This formed the roots of many of the reform initiatives being introduced or advocated today. For instance a number of legislative reforms being pursued today about improving the speed of criminal trials, addressing overcrowding in prisons, adopting a more human and correctional regime, expanding legal aid, and review of the Commission's law by strengthening its investigative powers and establishing a human rights fund were forged in those forums of human rights sensitization and dialogue that the Commission made possible. It was also through such partnership with NGOs that the Commission participated in successfully organizing and hosting the first meeting of West African Human Rights organisations, which was held in Abuja aimed at placing human rights on the agenda of ECOWAS. It also embarked on formulating a Nigerian National Action Plan on Human Rights through similar collaboration.

Prison Reform Initiative: - A major area of the Commission's operation that has had significant impact was the initiative on prisons. Let me mention two major achievements of the Commission in this area. The first relates to strengthening the role of human rights NGOs. Previously NGOs concerned with prisons such as CLO could research and publish reports on human rights abuses in the prisons, but had only very limited access to the prisons and even less access to the prison administration. The emergence of the Commission changed the situation dramatically. Not only did the prisons now become open to the direct scrutiny by human rights activists, but more importantly the prison authorities became receptive and accommodating to human rights ideas. In addition to its own prisons inspection programme which began in early 1997, the Commission partnered with NGOs in a good number of collaborative prison programmes, principally with ICCR, Penal Reform International, PRAWA and HURILAWS. Through this programme extensive trainings were conducted on the UN Minimum Standards that benefitted hundreds of prison officers, and by extension resulted in better treatment of thousands of prisoners. The Commission has produced and published a standard training manual which has remained available as resource for the training.

The second is in relation to the Commission's own intervention for monitoring of prisons conditions. In early 1999, when General Abdussalam Abubakar succeeded General Sani Abacha as Head of the Military Government, the Commission made a comprehensive presentation to him on issues of human rights it had earlier submitted from time to time to the Military Government. Among these, the issue of prison condition and detention of persons without trial and under stalled trials was prioritized. On the basis of the Commission's advice, in addition to release of numerous high profile persons who were in detention for political reasons, the Prisons Reform Committee headed by the Attorney General was formed on which the Commission and NGOs were represented. The Committee embarked on a massive exercise of prisons decongestion. As a result over ten thousand persons were released from Nigerian prisons and detention centres, including pardoned convicts and persons awaiting trial. In addition the government, on the basis of the Commission's advice embarked on a massive rehabilitation of prisons and

improvement of prison medical and training facilities costing hundreds of Millions of Naira.

Conclusion:-The Commission, on inauguration, faced a number of initial challenges and grappled with the inevitable teething problems. I have tried here to give an account of how it faced and addressed some of those challenges and how it was able to score some successes. I hope the brief account I have given here may provide not only historical information but also point to some useful lessons that may be relevant in the present and the future.

1.5.2 THE NHRC IN THE BEGINNING - BY TOM JACKSON ORAGE, - MEMBER, 1ST GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

The National Human Rights Commission was established by Decree No. 22 of 1995. Instructively, the Governing Council was inaugurated and the Commission started operation in June 1996. At the time of its establishment, Nigerian government was under national and international condemnation for gross human right abuses.

The Commission therefore found it very challenging at inception because of negative perceptions about the Commission. Many thought the establishment of the Commission was an image laundering effort for the government.

The Governing Council consisting of sixteen members commenced work with dogged determination to prove the critics wrong. Confronted with resource and logistic challenges, the Governing Council set out to recruit initial staff and secure office accommodation. Prior to this, council meetings were held in conference halls of hotels due to lack of office accommodation.

A Robust programme of training and retraining of both staff and council members in the work of Human Rights was put in place. The Commission also began engaging civil society organizations, NGOs, International, National, Public and private institutions in a collaborative effort to evolve an acceptable frame work and action plan for the actualization of the mandate of the Commission.

The mandate of the Commission at the inception was promotional, protectional and advisory. Far more time and resources were required to fulfill the promotional and protectional jurisdiction of the Commission.

The Commission in carrying out its mandate resolved to take in all human rights cases except such that bothered on the jurisdiction of the public complaint Commission. The Commission adopted the complaint procedure system which allowed individuals, corporate bodies and governments to lodge complaint with the Commission.

The response of the public to the work of the Commission at that time was slow and discouraging as it can be seen in the following table of cases received in comparative basis of the first three years of its formation.

DESCRIPTION	1996	1997	1998
Complaint Received	41	114	221
Admissible	29	85	133
Inadmissible	12	29	88
Concluded	28	73	89
Pending	1	12	44

In the beginning, the nature of the Human Rights Commission was largely advisory. It had no judicial, enforceable or coercive powers and jurisdictions. Therefore, in assessing the performance of the commission at that time, the actual litmus test was whether or not the Commission investigated an alleged violation and made a recommendation which was advisory.

It is however gratifying that despite the initial skepticisms about the Commission, the Commission was fully embraced by the NGOs, foreign governments and international human rights organizations. This was evidenced by the many partnership programmes the Commission organized with some of the NGOs, prominent amongst which were Civil Liberties, Constitutional Rights Project, Prisoners, Rehabilitation and Welfare Action etc, and other bodies such as the Danish centre for Human Rights, the Governments of Norway and Australia.

A great deal of promotional activities was undertaken by the Commission though it was still far from its target.

In the area of production and dissemination of information materials the Commission produced and distributed several thousand copies of its Newsletters, Rules of Admissibility of Complaints, Annual Reports and Information Booklets about the Commission and its activities. Also, through its annual calendar, the Commission informed the public on their basic rights and provided information on how to seek redress in the case of violation of those rights.

The Commission took out adverts and jingles on television, radio, newspapers and bill – boards promoting the need for the respect of the rights of citizens. Talk – shop programmes and personality interview programmes were organized by the Commission in the electronic and print media on contemporary human rights issues.

Other areas of promotional activities of the Commission included:

- i) A workshop on the criminal justice system in Nigeria with NGOs, the Police, Ministry of Justice, the Judiciary and the Prison Officers as participants.
- ii) Workshop on “Human Rights and Administration of Justice for lower court judges” organized in collaboration with civil liberties organization and the Danish centre with the objective of sensitizing judges on the applicability of human rights standard and instruments in our administration of justice system.
- iii) Seminar on the “Rights/ Duties/Police Powers and Responsibilities” was organized in collaboration with the Nigeria Police Force and Constitutional Rights Project as a prelude to the Commission’s programme of human rights training for police officers held in Abuja.
- iv) Training workshop on “Human Rights and Prison system in Nigeria” for senior prison officials in collaboration with the Nigeria Prison Service and the International Committee of the Red Cross to inculcate in prison officials

the respect for human rights standards in the discharge of their statutory duties.

- v) Seminar on “Media, Good Governance and Human Rights” was held in collaboration with Nigerian Union of Journalists and the Danish Centre with the aim of highlighting the treatment of journalists.
- vi) Seminar on “Economic Rights, Women and National Development” held in collaboration with the defunct Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP) aimed at analyzing all poverty alleviation programmes of the Federal Government particularly as they affect the economic rights of the Nigerian Family.
- vii) Lectures for students of Universities and tertiary institutions to sensitize them on the need to respect each other’s rights.
- viii) Establishing of human rights clubs in secondary schools and other tertiary institutions for the purpose of imbibing the norms of human rights among future generations of Nigeria. A human rights club manual was produced and distributed to the schools.
- ix) A workshop organized with Media Law Reform in collaboration with Media Rights Agenda examined the Media Laws in Nigeria and made proposals for enhanced effectiveness of the Media in the emerging democracy.
- x) The Commission hosted the 3rd West African Human Rights Forum, which brought together human rights NGOs, and national institutions from all parts of the West African sub-region in the spirit of ECOWAS.
- xi) The Commission organized debate on the draft 1999 constitution in collaboration with the Civil Liberties Organisation.
- xii) A seminar on “The Role of Law Enforcement Agencies in the Post Military Era” was held in collaboration with the Centre for Law Enforcement

Education in Nigeria to prepare the law enforcement agencies for the challenges of democracy.

- xiii) A National Conference on Alternatives to Imprisonment
- xiv) A review of the syllabi of Nigerian Police colleges to include International standards for law enforcement.
- xv) National conference on Juvenile Justice Administration in Kano and Ibadan.
- xvi) Orientation workshop for Legal Professional Bodies and Law Enforcement Agencies on their roles in the protection of the rights of women and children held in Kaduna.

The turning point of the work of the Commission in the formative years was the development of the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria and the establishment of thematic areas of focus by the appointment of special rapporteurs in the following rapporteurial themes:

- i) Women and Gender Related Matters
- ii) Police, Prison and other Detention Centres
- iii) Communal Conflicts and Other Related Violence
- iv) Environment and the Niger Delta
- v) Independence of the Judiciary
- vi) Extra-Judicial Killings
- vii) The Rights of the Child
- viii) Corruption and Good Governance
- ix) Food, Shelter, Protection and Assistance to the Family
- x) Education
- xi) Health
- xii) Law Revision and Reform

From the above, it can be seen that one area that requires attention by the Commission was the development of community initiative projects as promotional activities. One of such projects is to encourage the communities to establish Human Rights Watch groups and clinics and reading centers through the

sensitization of the educated elites in the community. These groups, reading centers and clinics will serve as sources of channeling of materials and information on human right issues to the communities and the collection and receipt of complaints on human rights violation from the communities.

For the National Human Rights Commission, the beginning was indeed challenging but inspired us to blaze the trail in a totally new line of work in our country as a National Institution.

I am indeed proud to be amongst the great men and women that laid the foundation for a unique and dynamic institution. My best wishes to the men and women who are now saddled with the task of building on the foundation that we laid. Congratulations to all Council Members, Management and staff of the Commission for almost two decades of dedicated service to our nation.

PART TWO
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2000 - 2005 .

2.0 BACKGROUND:-

The year 2000 marked a significant milestone in the history of the NHRC. It marked the end of the tenure of the 1st Governing Council of the Commission and the commencement of an ambitious expansion programme that included the review of the strategic work plan of the Commission.

The pioneer Governing Council of the Commission inaugurated in 1996 had been making efforts to establish zonal offices in each of the six (6) Geo Political Zones of the country. These efforts came to fruition the year 2000, when four (4) zonal offices were established in Lagos, Port-Harcourt, Enugu and Maiduguri.

This was a remarkable achievement which made the Commissions services accessible to a considerable number of Nigerians, particularly victims of human rights violations.

As part of this expansion programme, a general recruitment exercise was conducted which brought in experienced senior officers to fill the vacancies created by the new offices and enhance the overall performance of the Commission. Senior Legal/investigation officers were recruited to reinvigorate the complaint treatment mechanism at both the headquarters and zonal offices.

2.1 THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS

Realizing that human rights practice is a dynamic and proactive process, the Commission in the year 2000 identified Thematic Areas of focus to constitute its strategic work plan. These include Rights of Women and Gender Related Matters, Rights of the Children, Police, Prison and other Detention Centres, Environment and Niger Delta and Corruption and Good Governance, others were Torture, Extra-judicial, summary and Arbitrary Executions, Independence of the Judiciary and Communal Conflicts and Other Related Violence.

Through collaborative efforts with NGO's and other development partners like UNDP, NORAD, OSIWA, CIDA, UNICEF, in-depth research and enlightenment activities were carried out on these important human rights issues. The aim of this approach was to empower Nigerians through education and enlightenment to uphold and respect human rights and also seek redress when their rights are violated. These areas of the Commissions work have continued to be expanded and today the Commission has 15 areas of thematic focus.

2.2 PRISON REFORM

The prison reform initiated in 1999 following the recommendation by the Commission commenced in earnest in the year 2000. Since its establishment, the NHRC observed that Nigerian prisons were overcrowded, dilapidated and deplorable. Poor feeding, inadequate health and recreational facilities had become permanent features of our prisons. These conditions were particularly frustrating to Awaiting Trial Inmates who constituted more than 60% of the prison population. They experienced undue delays in their trials and had no adequate legal representation. Some of them had stayed in prison longer than they would have served if convicted for the offence they were alleged to have committed. These were far below the minimum standard for the treatment of prisoners and totally unacceptable.

The poor condition of prison was blamed on several factors including poor funding, mismanagement and a weak criminal justice system. There is no doubt that solving these problems requires strong political will towards prison reform programme and the strengthening of the entire criminal justice system.

The Commission therefore embarked on aggressive advocacy to promote the establishment of modern prison system that will uphold the dignity of the inmates as human beings, provide them with basic amenities and self-development opportunities.

In this regard, the Commission made to government, its prison monitoring reports and several recommendations.

One of the recommendations made by the Commission was for the speedy disposal of cases of Awaiting Trial Inmates and the release of persons detained without trial. This led to the release of over 7000 prisoners in 1999 and set the tone for general reforms of the Nigerian Prison System.

2.3 COMPLAINT TREATMENT

The advent of democracy in 1999 created a new opportunity for victims of human rights violations to enforce their fundamental rights and freedoms. Complaint treatment which is one of the most important functions of the Commission received a boost during this period as agencies and officials reputed to be the worst violations of human rights came under public scrutiny in the new democratic dispensation. Between 2000 – 2005 the Commission received 2,807 complaints were received.

2.4 CHALLENGES

Funding – The history of NHRC is replete with challenges. During the early years, the NGOs and International Communities perceived the Commission as an organization established to lauder the image of the defunct military administration and this affected robust interaction with stakeholders and development partners that was required for successful human rights advocacy. The Commission was therefore faced with the huge challenges of dispelling this perception through bold initiatives that would facilitate the attainment of its mandate as a National Human Rights Institutions. Unfortunately adequate funds required to achieve this were not made available. Funding has been has been a major challenge to the Commission since its inception.

2.5 SECURITY OF TENURE

The reconstitution of the first Governing Council created a major erosion in the independence of the Commission and security of tenure of the members of its Governing Council. The Governing Council has a tenure of four (4) years, but the

Executive Secretary has a five (5) year tenure. This provision of the NHRC Act was disregarded when the Governing Council was reconstituted after four (4) years and Dr. Muhammed. Tabiu was replaced as Executive Secretary even though his five year tenure had not expired. This created an administrative tension/deadlock at the secretariat of the Commission. The outgoing Chairman Justice P K. Nwokedi, and the Executive Secretary drew the attention of the Government to the mistake made in replacing the Executive Secretary before the end of the five (5) year tenure. The government however insisted that the appointment of the new Executive Secretary was irreversible as it had already been made public. This sowed the seed of arbitrary removal of the subsequent Executive Secretary which eventually led to the downgrading of the Commission from A to B status by the ICC of Human Rights Institutions. The Executive Secretary, Mr. Bukhari Bello was also removed arbitrarily by the Government as a result of comments he allegedly made on the activities of the Government.

PART THREE
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2005 - 2010 .

3.0 BACKGROUND

This report captures some key activities of the Commission implemented in 2005-2010. The activities are as follows:-

3.1 In 2005, some of the key activities carried out included the following:-

- **Establishment of NHRC Critical Mass on HIV/AIDS**

The Critical Mass Team (CMT) was established at the behest of National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) which requested all MDAs to have such team in their organisations. A 2 day training was organized by NACA in collaboration with UNDP. This was attended by staff of the Commission. The main objective of the activity was to mainstream HIV/AIDS into the activities of the Commission. The CMT was made up of representatives from all the Departments and Units of the Commission cutting across both Senior and Junior staff. Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS was to enable the Commission address the causes of HIV/AIDS, as well as map out intervention strategies in an effective and sustained manner, in line with the mandate of the Commission.

- **Human Rights Quiz Competition for Primary And Secondary Schools.**

The Commission in collaboration with Child Rights Brigade International (CRiB) organized a quiz competition on Human Rights for pupils and students of primary and secondary schools. The quiz competition for the year 2005 was limited only to students from the FCT and Nassarawa state, unlike the preceding year where participants were drawn from different schools across the six geo-political zones of the nation and FCT. This was due to funds constraints but it nevertheless created awareness on human rights at that level.

- **Collaboration With International Organizations**

The Commission also collaborated with some international organizations in its pursuit of Human Rights protection and promotion. Some of these organizations include UNICEF, UNDP and CIDA.

- **Training Of Trainers (TOT) On The Establishment Of National Pro-bono System For Provision Of Legal Services To Children In Conflict With The Law**

The Commission with the support of UNICEF and in collaboration with the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) under the Juvenile Justice Administration Program, enhanced and accelerated the juvenile justice system by promoting a nation-wide Pro bono legal representation program. This TOT was the first pilot training for the pro bono project to crystallize the institutionalization of pro bono services in the NBA branches that benefited from the training. This initiative was monitored by the National Secretariat of the NBA through its 88 branches in the 36 states (including the Federal Capital Territory) of Nigeria.

The TOT achieved the following:

- i) Sensitized members of the NBA on Pro-bono legal representation specially for children in conflict with the law,
- ii) Trained trainers who impacted on other members across the 88 branches of the NBA
- iii) Institutionalized and ensured active participation of all members of the NBA on Pro bono legal representation project.

The program enabled lawyers to offer free legal services to children in conflict with the law. Other stakeholders were: - Nigeria Bar Association, Legal Aid Council, Nigeria Prisons Service, Nigeria Police Force, Representatives from State ministries of social welfare and Federal Ministry of women affairs, NGOs and the academia.

- **Diversion Schemes Program:-**

The National Human Rights Commission in collaboration with Constitutional Rights Project (CRP), Penal Reform International (PRI) and United Nations Children's

Fund came up with Diversion Scheme program to re-examine the juvenile justice system in Nigeria. This scheme ensured that child offenders passed through a justice system that would focus on their innocence and take their vulnerability into consideration.

The programme was designed for children in conflict with the law and in need of forms of correction to prevent re-occurrence. Such children, as required by legislation, are not to be taken to prisons where they would be exposed to conditions that could elicit negative instincts in them rather than being reformed. Children in conflict with the law are kept in remand homes or juvenile detention centers as required by the law.

The scheme aimed at giving mild forms of punishment to children in conflict with the law (such as keeping the offender in the custody of community leaders or duty bearers) rather than taking them to prisons as may be prescribed in the legislation.

- **Development of Guidelines For The Implementation Of Child Rights Act**

The Commission drew up the guidelines for the implementation of the Child Rights Act within the Federal Capital Territory and at the State level. The CRA was slowly being accepted into some states by 2005.

- **Development And Dissemination Of Information**

The commission with the support of UNDP developed and disseminated materials on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) for use by prison officials, the police and other security agencies. The event took place in Abuja from 22ND–25TH May 2005.

- **Development of Guidelines for Submission and Simplification of Complaints**

In order to further strengthen the complaint treatment mechanism, the Commission with the support of UNDP organized a stakeholders meeting that developed and validate guidelines for the submission and simplification of complaints. The meetings were held in Jos in September and Calabar in November, 2005 respectively. The stakeholders in these meetings were Civil Liberty Organization, Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA), Legal Resources Consortium and the Commission.

- **Sensitization of Healthcare Institutions, Community Leaders and People Living With HIV/AIDS on the Linkages Between Human Rights and HIV/AIDS.**

This project reduced the discrimination and stigmatization of People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and people affected by HIV/AIDS (PABAs) in health institutions and communities in the NARF focal areas - (Itam - Akwa-Ibom/ Cross Rivers States, Gombe - Gombe State and Lokoja - Kogi State /FCT.

The project achieved the following outcomes

- i) HIV/AIDS activities mainstreamed into thirty healthcare institutions in respect of human rights and gender issues in healthcare service delivery,
- ii) Discovery of local advocates and community based organizations (CBOs) in each focal area responsible for promoting respect for human rights of the PLWHAS & PABAS in their respective communities,
- iii) Empowerment of PLWHAS & PABAS in the focal states at utilizing NHRC legal facilities to defend their rights.

- **Promotion of Human Rights in Electronic and Print Media**

A number of activities and programmes were carried out in the electronic media in order to enlighten the public about activities of the Commission as well as discuss human rights issues through the electronic media. These programmes discussed human rights issues like right to education, crimes against humanity, mandate of the Commission, state of the prisons, assistance of victims of human rights violations etc. Publications on similar human rights issues were also made in the Commissions Newsletter, Annual and other reports of the Commission and a number of National Newspapers. Press interviews and conferences were also held in order to enlighten the people on the activities of the Commission as well as promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria.

- **Staff Training**

The Commission provided training for its staff at both local and international levels. The training exercise was aimed at improving the capacities of staff to cope with

the dynamics and contemporary human rights issues. The following are some of the training provided:

- i) Training workshop for legal and investigation officers on complaint handling
- ii) Training of special rapporteurs and program officers on their various thematic areas of focus.
- iii) Training on manpower budgeting
- iv) Training for administrative/personnel officers
- v) Trainings on Public sector audit practice and management, Accounts reconciliation: issues, procedures and technique, Research instrument, design and administration, Micro computing and office management, Management of public records, Financial management, Corporate affairs function and Middle level management development.

- **Inspection of Prisons and Detention Centres**

The Commission visited prisons and other detention centers during its monthly statutory meetings. Findings and recommendations from such visits were forwarded to the Government for implementation and these resulted in the improvement in the feeding, abolition food rationing and construction of new prisons.

- **Complaints Treated in 2005**

A total number of five hundred and fifty one (551) complaints were received in the year 2005. Four hundred and seventy-six (476), representing 86.4% of the cases were admissible while seventy-five (75) cases or 13.6% were found to be inadmissible for various reasons.

Admitted cases are usually treated during the monthly Council Meetings. Out of four hundred and seventy-six (476) admissible cases in the year 2005, three hundred and nineteen (319) cases were concluded. This represented 67% of all the cases admitted, while the remaining 157 or 33% cases were pending at various stages of investigation at the end of the year. Some old cases that were not concluded in the preceding years were also treated and disposed of in the following year.

- **Monitoring Of Human Rights Violations**

The Commission followed up cases of human rights violations across the country including those that were reported by the mass media. It sensitized the populace on the impact of human rights violations with a view to educating both the violators and the victims. One of the reports by the media monitored and followed up by the Commission with the authorities was the infamous killings of six traders in Apo, Abuja by the Nigeria Police. As a result of the efforts of the Commission, an open inquiry was instituted by the government to hold accountable the violators.

3.2 SOME OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT WERE AS FOLLOWS:-

- i) Facilitation of the finalization and adoption of the draft (i)Profile on Existing Diversion programmes in Nigeria (ii) Guidelines for setting up a One-Stop – Justice Centre and (iii) Guidelines for setting up Family Courts in Nigeria**
- ii) Establishment of Human Rights Violations Monitoring Forum 2006.** The Forum was a meeting of human rights NGOs and Civil Society Groups working in collaboration with the Commission to produce a state of human rights report 2006 for Nigeria. The activities of the forum facilitated the compilation of the 2006 state of human rights report for Nigeria as well as subsequent reports.
- iii) Human Rights Summit on National Action Plan.** This summit was a meeting of stakeholders to make further input to the National Action Plan for the promotion and protection of Human Rights in Nigeria as well as discuss strategies and best practices for its implementation.
- iv) Roundtable on the NHRC Act Amendment Bill.** Following the removal of the former Executive Secretary of the Commission (Mr. Bukhari Bello), in June 2006, the Commission organized this roundtable with stakeholders in the civil society and Government to further entrench the procedure for the appointment and removal of the Executive Secretary and members of the

Council, improved funding of the Commission and increased powers to investigate, search and compel response to investigations of human rights violations.

- v) **Harmonization of the 2006 state of human rights report for publication.** Meetings were organized to harmonize reports on human rights violations monitored by the network of civil society groups and the Commission for the purpose of publishing the state of human rights report for 2006. This further deepened the collaboration between civil society and the Commission in organizing joint human rights activities.
- vi) **Capacity Building Workshop for the Police on Gender Based Violence and Women's Human Rights.** This meeting addressed the gaps existing in the training of law enforcement officers and exposed them to local and international human rights standards and skills for the protection of women and children from all forms of violence.
- vii) **Monitoring the state of detention center across the country.** The Commission carried out an audit of the detention centers of the security agencies like the police, Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Nigeria Customs Service and immigration, SSS etc.
- viii) **Consultative Meeting Of The National Technical Committee On Pro-bono Services And The Setting Up Of Family Courts In Nigeria** during which a Work plan for Child justice administration in Nigeria was developed.

3.3 ESTABLISHMENT OF NHRC CRITICAL MASS (HIV/AIDS)

This was to comply with a Presidential Directive to all Ministries & Parastatals Nationwide. The Critical Mass had the challenge and responsibility of designing activities/projects that addressed HIV/AIDS concerns within and outside the Commission. It also

- i) provided a set of guidelines to redress HIV-based Stigmatization & Discrimination in the Commission.

- ii) Prevented Spread of HIV/AIDS within the Commission
- iii) Managed and Mitigated the impact of HIV/AIDS on staff of NHRC and their dependents.
- iv) Cared and Supported workers infected or affected by HIV/AIDS

3.4 CAPACITY BUILDING

Workshops, seminars and various training programmes were held towards enhancing sustainable capacity building drive of the Commission. Some of these programmes held include:

- i) Legal Professionals '**Paralegal Training on Enhancing Capacities for Women's Human Rights**. This was to enhance the capacity of staff of two focal NGOs. WACOL and WARDC as well as other organizations, to offer paralegal as well as legal services to women in the communities. The project resulted in 40 staff of two NGOs and NHRC being trained to offer paralegal and legal services to women in communities.
- ii) **Training on Human Rights Education Methods, Techniques & Skills for Police College Instructors** was held to enhance the capacity of the training officers of the police force to undertake Human Rights Education (HRE) and to promote and protect human rights through education.
- iii) **Workshop on Monitoring, Evaluation and Review of the Implementation of the National Action plan (NAP)** for the Promotion & Protection of Human Rights in Nigeria. This sought further input from the Civil society, Government ministries & Agencies on the NAP and examined strategies for the implementation, monitoring & Evaluation of the NAP
- iv) **Training workshop for Human Rights Desk Officers in the Nigerian Police Force and Nigerian Prison Service** was held for the establishment of effective human rights desks in the Zonal Commands of the Nigeria Police Force and the Nigerian Prisons Service (as a prelude to establishing same in the prisons and police stations throughout the country). The desks

handled family matters among other human rights issues in the police station and within the prisons. This also exposed law enforcement officers to techniques involved in handling human rights related matters including domestic and other gender based violence.

- v) **Training for Prison and Police law enforcement Officers.** Following the lapses observed in the conduct of law enforcement agents, the Commission in collaboration with civil society groups organized training for prison and police officers. Human Rights friendly Training curriculum was developed for police and prison training colleges in collaboration with both police and prison college instructors. This mainstreamed human rights into the training of these law enforcement agents arising from the observed lapses in the audit of police and prison detention centers in 2008.

- vi) **Public Tribunal on Police Abuse of Human Rights.** The Commission, in collaboration with the Network on Police Reforms in Nigeria (NOPRIN) organized public tribunal in Enugu and Ibadan on Police abuse of human rights. The public tribunals were avenues for victims of human rights abuse by the police to voice their pains and request for appropriate remedies. Other activities of the Commission aimed at improving the services of law enforcement officers include, **Training of Police Officers from SCID Panti:** This was a collaborative project between the Commission and CLEEN Foundation. The training covered areas such as Human Rights in Policing; Alternative Dispute Resolution Skills including mediation, conflict resolution, forensic/crime scene management and; Information Communication Technology and website design.

- vii) **National Conference on Safety and Security:** In collaboration with the Network on Police Reforms in Nigeria (NOPRIN), the Commission **organized a National Conference on Safety and Security** to x-ray police violation of human rights in Nigeria.

- viii) **Workshop On Human Rights Treaty Reporting Process** to map out strategies for ensuring compliance with reporting obligations under international and regional human rights instruments to which Nigeria is party.
- ix) **Training on Informal Policing (IP) Groups members:** This training program was a joint collaboration between the Commission and CLEEN Foundation where a total of 200 members of several informal policing groups were trained on human rights and non-lethal policing skills.
- x) **Promotion of the Right to Health / Education** Workshops on Sensitization of Health Institutions, Community Leaders, PLWHAS on linkages between HIV/AIDS and Human Rights were held in Uyo, Gombe and Lokoja junction towns. The workshops facilitated the establishment of a network of healthcare institutions, community leaders and Persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA's) in Lokoja, Uyo and Gombe to enhance access to treatment, care and support as well as fight discrimination and stigma related to HIV/AIDS in line with the MDGs. The results achieved at the outcome level were as follows:
 - a. Sensitization workshops were successfully carried out in the three focal areas for 28 health care institutions on the linkages between HIV/AIDS and human rights
 - b. 70 Community Leaders & community representatives / CBOs etc were sensitized on the linkages between human rights & HIV/AIDS and the role NHRC could play in promoting and protecting rights.
 - c. 52 PLWHAs cutting across 19 support groups in 3 focal states were sensitized on the linkages between human rights & HIV/AIDS and the role NHRC could play in promoting and protecting their rights.

3.5 ELECTION MONITORING

With support from the United Nations Fund for Development (UNDEF) and the UNDP, the Commission monitored the conduct of security personnel during the

2007 general elections in Nigeria. The report of the exercise was published with the support of UNDP. The report provided a platform for improving the conduct of security personnel in future elections in Nigeria. This project also strengthened the capacity of security personnel for a successful electoral process during the 2007 general elections. This intervention made the 2007 general elections freer and fairer and deepened our democracy.

- i) NHRC/UNICEF organized an advocacy visit to the Chief Justice of the Federation on scaling up of Probono Services and establishment of Family Courts in Nigeria.
- ii) Hosting of a 2-Day Consultative Meeting of the National Technical Committee on Probono Services on the Development of Practice Directives for the setting up of Family Courts in Nigeria.
- iii) Training workshop for Police and Prisons Human Rights Desk Officers for the Northern and Southern parts of Nigeria.
- iv) Printed and published the State of Human Rights Report 2007 (electronic and hard copies)
- v) Printed and published the Prison Audit Report 2007 (electronic and hard copies)
- vi) Organized sensitization workshop for staff on linkages between Human Rights and HIV/AIDS at Abuja and six zonal offices.
- vii) Conducted training on Results Based Management (RBM) for 20 Management staff and 15 Program Officers of NHRC and 6 NHRC Zonal Coordinators.
- viii) Organized workshops on Development of HIV/AIDS Workplace Policies as well as the Mandate of the Commission in handling complaints on discrimination and stigma.
- ix) Organized RBM Training for network of NHRC focal rights persons in health institutions, community representatives and PLWHA support groups partners in the field.
- x) Organized a 2-Day Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Development Workshop for NHRC – HIV/AIDS Critical Mass and NHRC/NARF Network in Junction Areas – Itam, Lokoja and Gombe.

3.6 PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS BUILDING

Construction of the Commission's Headquarters building on Plot 19 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama commenced in 2002 and completed in 2006 under the Chairmanship of Late Justice Uche Omo with Bukhari Bello as Executive Secretary. The building was commissioned by President Olusegun Obasanjo in July 2007. The headquarters building has provision for over 60 offices in 5 floors, a pent house, an auditorium with capacity of 500 guests at the ground floor and a Council Chambers. The building was commissioned during the tenure of Mrs K.F. Ajoni as the Executive Secretary of the Commission then.

3.7 AUDIT OF POLICE DETENTION CENTRES

In 2008, the Commission carried out a nationwide audit of police detention centers to ensure their compliance with minimum standards of International Law. The outcome showed that most of the police detention centers visited did not meet either the national or international standards. Appropriate recommendations to government the panel set up on police reforms. The current police reforms had a component for improving the existing state of detention centers in the country.

3.8 NATIONWIDE PRISON AUDIT

The Commission in line with its mandate to monitor human rights situations in the country carried out prison audits in collaboration with some civil society groups 2007 and 2008. The report which contains detailed information on the state of human rights situations in the prisons visited. The audit report which had been published made elaborate recommendations to the government and the parliament and these recommendations were highlighted during the public hearing in parliament on the amendment to the Prisons Act in 2008.

Based on the insistence of the Commission in its reports and follow up with the authorities, the access to prisoners and detainees by legal representatives and family members improved but access to human rights activists continued to be a challenge. There was need to give power of access and inspection to key human rights institutions and civil society groups to facilitate reforms in the prison sector.

The Commission had recommended unfettered prison access to human rights activists and civil society practitioners in addition to an independent prison inspector during the public hearings on the Prison Act Amendment Bill

Other outcomes of the prison audits of 2008:

- i) Increased accommodation for prisoners though not enough to significantly reduce the level of prison congestion. Some new prisons had been built but the accommodation for prisoners still fell below minimum international standards due to overcrowding and congestion, poor sanitary and living facilities and conditions.
- ii) Feeding allowance payable per prisoner had increased more than twice due to the reports of the Commission and the efforts of civil society stakeholders. However there was still need for improvement in this area.
- iii) Hand cuffs were sparingly used for prisoners except when absolutely necessary
- iv) The visit to police detention centers in 2008 showed that Conditions in police detention cells were worse than that of other law enforcement agencies, all of which needed serious improvement to meet the minimum standards. Before 2008 report of NHRC on the state of detention facilities of various law enforcement agencies, It was a known fact that most detainees preferred detention in prison cells than that of Police. Following the improvement in detention facilities of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), State Security Services) SSS etc, some detainees started preferring these facilities to those of the police.
- v) The 2008 visits to detention centers further confirmed the denial of the use of Torture as the official investigation tool by security and law enforcement agencies. But it remained prevalent in the practice of law enforcement agencies. This resulted in the establishment of Torture documentation centers by the Commission in collaboration with Legal Research Initiative located at the headquarters and 5 out of the 6 zonal offices of the Commission in Lagos, Enugu, Port Harcourt, Kano and Jos.

- vi) Arising from the 2008 visit to detention centers, the Commission further mounted advocacy for the criminalization of torture and domestication of the CAT and ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

3.9 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

In collaboration with networks of civil society groups, the Commission commenced documentation and publication of human rights violations by law enforcement agents in its annual state of human rights violations report in the country. The *name and shame* approach of affected law enforcement agents was adopted in the report to discourage further violations. This report which was widely circulated amongst law enforcement agents was expected to reduce the attraction to violate human rights by law enforcement agents in the near future. The Commission would evaluate the impact of this report within some period of its sustained publication to measure the effect.

3.10 SENSITIZATION PROGRAMMES

The Commission undertook some sensitization and advocacy programmes in creating awareness for the promotion, protection and respect for human rights. In doing this, the following programmes were carried out:

- i) Sensitization of 60 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA'S) on the National Action Plan. All the ministries and parastatals of government at the federal level were sensitized on their roles in the implementation of the NAP document. Advocacy was carried to the doorsteps of all these government agencies as key implementers of the plan and about 30 management staff of each MDA were trained on how to mainstream the implementation of the NAP into their operations. A work plan was drawn up to carry the sensitization to the state ministries, local government councils and civil society groups in the subsequent period.

- ii) Dialogue with the Parliament on the Amendment of the NHRC Establishment Act. The Commission in collaboration with the parliament, the Nigerian Bar Association and other stakeholders held a public hearing on the amendment of the National Human Rights Commission Act which was before the Senate. The hearing brought out the need for independence, proper funding, security of tenure and adequate powers of the Commission to enable it achieve its mandate. It also proposed entrenchment of the Commission as a constitutional body. This proposed that the Commission should be included as one of the bodies established under the Constitution and not just by Act of parliament as proffered under the Paris Principles.
- iii) Sensitization workshops were held for designated desk officers of MDAs and CSOs on treaty reporting mechanisms and styles. The participants were sensitized on new reporting guidelines and data collection mechanisms for treaty reporting process.
- iv) One Day High Level Consultative Forum on the National Action Plan (NAP) aimed at examining the NAP document with a view to updating same before the formal presentation and deposit of the document at the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva.
- v) Awareness walk in commemoration of the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture which is observed every year by all members of the United Nations as the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.
- vi) The Commission organized press conferences and issued press releases on issues bordering on Government's responsibility to respect, protect and fulfill human rights in Nigeria. Some of the releases included: issues on extra-judicial killings by law enforcement agents, discriminatory labour practices against graduates of Polytechnics, jail breaks, arrest of journalists, illegal eviction and demolition of houses, etc. Several public enlightenment programmes were also held in the electronic media.
- vii) In the quest for the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill, a Public Statement was issued by the Commission urging the National Assembly to fast track the passage of the Bill.

3.11 COURTESY CALLS/ ADVOCACY VISITS

In addition to the several sensitization programmes of the Commission, the Executive Secretary paid a number of Courtesy calls/ Advocacy visits to various organizations in order to create human rights awareness and enlightenment towards the promotion and protection of human rights. On the other hand, similar visits were made to the Commission by individuals and organizations in order to develop a synergy with the Commission on the promotion and protection of human rights. The following were some of these visits:

- i) The Executive Secretary led a team of some members of staff of the Commission to the Federal House of Representatives, Abuja. The visit was aimed at seeking the co-operation of the House in facilitating the passage of the Freedom of Information Bill.
- ii) The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Country Review Team (CRT) while in Nigeria met with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the 28th February, 2008 at the Commission's headquarter, Abuja and shared experiences with the Executive Secretary and the Management of the Commission.
- iii) The Executive Secretary visited the site of a collapsed building which killed scores of Nigerians at Utako District in the FCT. The issue of poor supervision of buildings by appropriate authorities was taken up thereafter by the commission.
- iv) Amnesty International (A.I) paid an Advocacy visit to the Commission at its headquarters in Abuja with the aim of soliciting cooperation with the Commission on the areas of access to Justice for awaiting trial inmates, holden charges, adjournments and legal Representation in the prisons.
- v) The Executive Secretary and UNICEF child protection specialist paid an advocacy visit to the Director General of The Nigerian Law School, Bwari on the introduction of Child justice Administration in the Child Rights Act (CRA) 2003 and Probono services into the Law School curriculum.
- vi) The Commission paid a courtesy visit to the Commissioner of Police, Anambra state; Mr. Mohammed Murtala Abass on 15th July 2008. The visit acquainted

- the Police in the state with the functions of the Commission and the need for the police to respect human rights in their operations in the state.
- vii) On the 22nd July 2008, the Commission visited the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) zone 9, Umuahia, Abia state, Mr. O. Efundayo. The meeting created human rights awareness and enlightenment among the police in the state.
- viii) The NHRC paid an Advocacy visit to the office of the Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice of Borno state and the state Director of Public Prosecution. The meeting provided a forum to discuss human rights issues such as the Child Rights Act, prisons and the justice administration system. A similar visit was also made to the state CID to further enlighten the police on the activities of the Commission. She further expressed the importance of collaboration between the two organizations towards the promotion and protection of human rights.
- ix) Advocacy visit to the Nigerian Law School on introduction of Pro Bono & Aspects of the Family Court into the School Curricula. The National Technical Committee on Pro Bono services visited the Director General of the Nigeria Law School. The visit was aimed at soliciting the support of the school for the inclusion of the CRA, child justice administration system in the law school curriculum and the introduction of the pro bono service requirement in the school's general paper module. In his response, the Director General of the school remarked that the visit was timely especially as the school was considering the updating of the school's curriculum.

3.12 THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN NIGERIA

The Commission in partnership with a network of NGOs successfully monitored human rights violations in different parts of the country and came up with a report on the state of human rights in Nigeria. Details of the findings were contained in the publication which the Commission distributed freely to NGOs, Stakeholders and the general public. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided the support for this project.

3.13 HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

In a bid to promote Human Rights Education and impact human rights culture among young persons in institutions of learning, various human rights programmes were encouraged. In some cases students paid educational visits to the headquarters and zonal offices, while others were encouraged to establish human rights clubs.

3.14 COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

The Commission worked in partnership with some local and international organizations for the purpose of promoting and protecting Human Rights in Nigeria and other parts of the world. Funds and supports provided through these organizations were directed towards the execution of specific projects and programs.

i) African Conference On Sexual Health And Rights

The Commission partnered with National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) and participated in the 3rd African conference held in Abuja .The theme of the conference was Sexuality, Poverty and Accountability in Africa. The programme was supported by Ford Foundation, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Society for Family Health and National Agency for the Control of AIDS.

ii) Media Launch - 1 Day of Action against Sexual Harassment. The objective of the programme was to highlight the importance of the media in advocating and publicizing the urgent need to address the problem of sexual harassment through policy intervention. This was expected to bring relief and justice to numerous women subjected to unwelcomed and unwanted sexual advances particularly at the workplaces and higher institutions of learning. The enlightenment campaign championed by the Commission and Women Aid Collective (WACOL) was supported by Henrich Bols Foundation. The event took place at the NHRC auditorium.

iii) National Judicial Institute Refresher Course for Judges and Khadis

The Commission and UNICEF made presentations on institutionalizing the Child Rights Act and Family Courts at a refresher Course organized for Judges and Khadis by the National Judicial Institute. The programme was held at FCT High Court, FCT Abuja and it aimed at sensitizing the Judges and Khadis on the provisions of the CRA as well as the role of the judiciary in the implementation of the law.

iv) Stakeholders Conference on Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ESCR) & Constitutional Reform

The meeting was jointly organized by the Commission and Coalition for Change (C4C) in the context of renewed effort at constitutional amendment by the National Assembly. Participants were drawn from the National Assembly, civil society organizations, the academia and the media. The meeting identified a number of problems in the implementation and realization of ECOSOC rights and proffered strategies for addressing the challenges.

v) Partnership on Young Professional internship Programme

The Commission in partnership with West African Health Organisation (WAHO) mentored an intern from Benin Republic for 9 months internship program. The intern was exposed to different legislation, policies and practices in the areas of Human Rights and Health, with emphasis on human rights and HIV/AIDS. The intern also got involved in the Commission's human rights and HIV/AIDS activities.

vi) Workshop on Monitoring the Implementation of the National Action Plan For The Promotion & Protection Of Human Rights (NAP)

The commission in collaboration with the Mac Arthur Foundation organized the 2008 monitoring and evaluation workshop in Minna, Niger state for the implementation of the NAP. NAP programme officers participating at the workshop gave reports of implementation by their organizations, other stakeholders and civil society organizations. The NAP document was also updated by the participants at the workshop

vii) Child Justice Administration in Nigeria

The commission in partnership with UNICEF Organized one (1) day Session on Child Justice Administration in Nigeria at the 2008 Annual Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association. The session achieved the following

- a) Created awareness on Child protection issues among lawyers, magistrates, judges and other law enforcement officers to catalyze action for children
- b) Got NBA Members committed to investing more on the realization of rights for Children and on implementation of Child justice provisions in the CRA.

viii) State Of Human Rights In Nigeria Report

The Commission had monitoring teams which visited the prisons and other detention centers on a regular basis. Members of the team included representatives of NGOs and civil society organizations that had been trained specifically for this purpose. The findings of the team formed the basis for the human rights situation reports for the country.

The outcome of these exercises were collated, subjected to several critiques at different meetings, finalized and published as the 2008 state of human rights in Nigeria report. The exercise was done in collaboration with UNDP.

ix) Training of Trainers project on Stigmatization & Discrimination – Human Rights Perspectives

This was an HIV/AIDS Training of Trainers project on Stigmatization & Discrimination –Human Rights Perspectives.

It was done in collaboration with Legal Research Initiative (LRI).

The training achieved the following:

- a) Strengthened the network for addressing cases of human rights violations in the context of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria.
- b) Enhanced effective monitoring, investigation and follow –up on allegations of HIV related human rights abuses across the country.

- c) Drew attention to the linkages between HIV/AIDS & Human Rights
- x) **National Conference on Public Safety and Security in Nigeria**
The Commission in partnership with Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN) organized a National conference on Public Safety and Security in Nigeria. The conference achieved the following:
 - a) Gave voice to what victims of Police abuses and violations were going through.
 - b) Afforded the Police (either an indicted police personnel and/or the institution) the opportunity to clarify some of the issues raised against them.
 - c) Highlighted some of the challenges of policing in Nigeria.
 - d) Came up with appropriate recommendations to relevant government institutions and other stakeholders

xi) **Meeting on Rejuvenating the Human Rights Treaty Reporting Process in Nigeria**

The Commission in collaboration with UNDP held a stakeholders meeting on rejuvenating the human rights treaty reporting process at its National Headquarters Auditorium in October 2008. The meeting was aimed at bringing together all relevant stakeholders to discuss Nigeria's challenges in meeting treaty reporting obligations which included the following:-

- a) Late or delayed presentation of reports to various treaty bodies;
- b) Under- developed primary data collection mechanism;
- c) Lack of systematic follow-up actions to treaty bodies recommendations and concluding observations;
- d) Poor coordination of the various government bodies responsible for treaty reporting;
- e) Lack of awareness of new treaty-bodies' reporting guidelines by the state officials regarding reporting procedures, collection of data for reporting and other relevant issues relating to the reporting process;
- f) Lack of adequate information on the part of members of state and national assemblies on treaty reporting process, ratification,

domestication and the imperatives of law reform for compliance with international standards.

- g) Lack of awareness of new treaty-bodies' reporting guidelines by the state officials regarding reporting procedures, collection of data for reporting and other relevant issues relating to the reporting process;
- h) Lack of adequate information on the part of members of state and national assemblies on treaty reporting process, ratification, domestication and the imperatives of law reform for compliance with international standards.

At the end of the meeting a roadmap was developed which was followed up with capacity building workshop for Desk Officers from MDAs.

xii) Meeting of members of NHRIs in Africa and CSO

The Commission in collaboration with Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) organized a meeting of all African National Human Rights Institutions in Abuja.

The meeting achieved the following:-

- a) Promoted dialogue among National Human Rights Institutions at the sub-regional and regional levels with regard to human rights and good governance
- b) Facilitated the adoption of common strategies and best practices in the promotion and protection of human rights in the region.
- c) Sensitized National Human Rights Institutions on their responsibilities on treaty obligations and the universal peer review mechanisms.
- d) Adoption of Guidelines for improving collaboration between NHRIs and CSOs in the continent.

xiii) International Human Rights Day Commemoration.

2008 year was a significant year in the human rights community or arena as the year was the 60th anniversary of UDHR. Although it was supposed to be a high class celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights and the yearly celebration of the international human rights day but the celebration turned out to be low key due to inadequate resources. However, at the headquarters, the Executive Secretary made media appearances on AIT where the discussion was focused on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A public lecture was also organized to mark the occasion. The guest lecturer was Justice C.C. Nweze of the Court of Appeal Ilorin (As he then was). The topic of the lecture was “Indivisibility of Human Rights, Road Map towards Dignity, Justice and Development”.

xiv) Public tribunals on Police abuse of human rights.

The Commission in collaboration with Network on Police reforms in Nigeria (NOPRIN) organised public tribunals on Police abuse of human rights in the various zones of the country. So far the tribunals held in Enugu, Ibadan, Owerri and Abuja. The public tribunals provided avenues for victims of human rights abuse by the police to voice out their pains and request for appropriate remedies. It is noteworthy that the tribunals were well attended by members of the Police Force. The tribunals highlighted police violations of human rights and created more avenues of redress for victims.

xv) Passage Of Administration Of Criminal Justice Bill

In collaboration with the federal ministry of justice, csos and other stakeholders, the Commission was the secretariat of the Justice Sector Reforms Committee which was championing advocacy in the National Assembly for the passage of several bills aimed at introducing reforms in the justice sector to improve administration of justice. The bills advocated for in the parliament included the following.

- a) NHRC Act Amendment Bill,
- b) Legal Aid Council Act Amendment Bill,
- c) Administration of Justice Bill,
- d) Evidence Act Amendment Bill,

- e) Electronic Evidence Bill,
- f) Legal Practitioner Act Amendment Bill,
- g) Victims Compensation Bill
- h) Prisons Act Amendment Bill.
- i) The police Act Amendment Bill.
- j) The Prison Act Amendment Bill.

The amendment of the above legislations were for the overall improvement in the administration of Justice in line with the Nairobi Declaration of 2008 On Administration of Justice. Most of the bills have now been passed into law and assented by the President.

xvi) Torture Documentation Centres

In collaboration with Legal Research Initiative (LRI), the Commission established Torture Documentation Centres in four focal states. Designated officers from both the Commission and selected NGOs were trained in Abuja on their roles. The centres were designed to document all incidents of torture on a uniform template collated and harmonised regularly. The project ensured that perpetrators of torture were made accountable. The centre has recently expanded to incorporate other specialized human rights violations such as extra – judicial and summary execution, kidnapping and abduction.

xvii) Rights Nigeria Call Center:

The Commission in partnership with the Nigeria Bar Association, Legal Resources Consortium with the support of MacArthur Foundation established the Rights Nigeria Call Centre. The Centre is open 24/7 and receives complaints on human rights concerns and provides prompt remedies. The Commission as the foremost body statutorily empowered with the mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights in Nigeria acknowledged that it would no doubt broaden the Commission's work as human rights defenders in the country.

3.15 DEPOSIT OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP)

As required by the extant practice at the international level, the National Action Plan (NAP) for the Promotion and Protection of human rights in Nigeria was formally deposited at the office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva on 24 July 2009. The NAP Document as submitted to the UN served as the ultimate yardstick to audit and measure Nigeria's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. The essence of the presentation was itself an indication of the government's determination to live up to its domestic and international human rights obligations.

3.16 OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The National Human Rights Commission had established the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Persons with Disabilities, as well as the desk of Program Officer on Persons with Disabilities. This was in a bid to mainstream disability matters into NHRC's work and to have a Desk responsible for Disability concerns especially after the coming into force of the Convention on Persons with disabilities in 2006. In order to monitor the right to education of persons with disabilities, the NHRC conducted a survey of support facilities in tertiary institutions aimed at assisting person with disabilities to enjoy equal access to education like others. It was found out that few Tertiary institutions in Nigeria have no basic facilities like ramps, lifts with sound and brailled floor numbering to assist persons with disabilities. Also most public institutions monitored showed that few had facilities for improved access to persons with disabilities. Workshops and advocacy visits were carried out for public institutions to improve access for persons with disabilities in line with the law on Disabilities passed by the parliament. To take the lead for public Institutions, the NHRC had provided ramps and lifts with brailled floor numbering and sound in its head office building in Abuja. Without education, persons with disabilities are further incapacitated to access justice.

3.17 SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AND OTHER GENDER RELATED MATTERS

The following efforts in support of women and gender related matters were made,

- i) Establishment of gender desk for programme on the rights of women and other gender related matters. The strategic work plan of the Commission provided for a special rapporteur and a program officer on women and other gender related matters.
- ii) Establishment of a unit in the legal/investigation department of the Commission to address complaints on gender discrimination.
- iii) Establishment of a gender critical mass made up of staff from all departments and the zonal offices to raise awareness on gender issues in all aspects of the Commissions operations. Presently all advertorials for employment and award of contracts must boldly indicate that the NHRC is an equal opportunities Commission and that women were encouraged to apply. Training programs/workshops and other capacity programs of the Commission must reflect gender considerations.
- iv) Championing Advocacy for CEDAW domestication in collaboration with CSOs and other national partners.
- v) Commission served as secretariat for development of the draft Bill on Discriminatory Practices Against Women.
- vi) Commission collaborated with Federal Ministry of Women Affairs(FMWA) to compile compendium on good practices in gender mainstreaming in Nigeria
- vii) In collaboration with the UNDP Nigeria and the International league for Human Rights, the Commission facilitated a project for enhancing women human rights which entailed improving the capacity of some women NGOS to conduct paralegal service for women in need of legal assistance .

3.18 PASSAGE OF NHRC ACT AMENDMENT BILL 2010.

The NHRC Act 1995 that provided the legal basis for the Commission had been found to contain a lot of inadequacies that impeded effective realization of the mandate of the Commission. A review of the Act had therefore been proposed and submitted to the National Assembly for consideration. The Bill was passed by both Houses of the National Assembly as NHRC Act Amendment Bill 2010 and was assented to by Mr. President. The new Act will strengthen the NHRC to discharge

its mandate in line with the Paris Principles, provided additional powers to investigate human rights violations and compel evidence as well as secure the tenure of members of the governing council through the involvement of the parliament in the appointment and removal of members of the council.

PART FOUR
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2010 - 2015

4.0 AMENDMENT TO THE COMMISSION'S ACT

The Commission's enabling Act was amended within the period under review. The National Human Rights Commission's Amended Act which expanded the mandate and powers of the Commission was signed into law by the then President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan in 2011. This amendment conferred expanded powers on the Commission for efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out its mandate.

4.1 RESTORATION TO CATEGORY 'A' STATUS

On 17th August, 2011, the Commission was informed by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC), that the ICC Bureau had finally approved its restoration back to 'A' status in the comity of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI'S). This restoration meant that the Commission is fully in compliance with the Paris Principles on the establishment of NHRIs.

4.2 ELECTION MONITORING

The Commission, with the support of UNDP was able to monitor the 2011 General Election in the Country. Reports of the Commission's observation of the election were published.

In continuation of its monitoring of elections, the Commission monitored Kogi State Gubernatorial election in November, 2011, the Edo and Ondo States Gubernatorial Elections held on July 14, and October 20, 2012 respectively. This was aimed toward ensuring free, fair and credible elections. It also served to measure the level of compliance with human rights standards in elections.

The elections held in the 6 Area Councils of the FCT on 16th March 2013 was observed by the Commission to ascertain the level of compliance of the conduct of security agencies with human rights standards

4.3 PUBLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS JOURNAL

The Maiden Edition of the Human Rights Journal of the Commission was published by the Human Rights Institute in 2011 was aimed at enlightening the public with scholarly articles on contemporary human rights issues.

4.4 NATIONWIDE FUEL SUBSIDY STRIKE

The Commission monitored the January 9 – 13, 2012 nationwide fuel subsidy strike embarked upon by the Nigeria Labour unions and CSOs. The Commission issued its first Advisory titled “Right to peaceful Protest” and it was disseminated to all stakeholders including law enforcement agencies and the public as a guide to peaceful protest.

4.5 OPENING OF STATE OFFICES

The Commission was able to open of offices in 16 states of the federation thus taking the human rights campaign closer to the people by increasing their accessibility to the activities of the Commission. The state offices that were opened during the year were located in the following States:

- i) Benue
- ii) Nassarawa
- iii) Kaduna
- iv) Niger
- v) Imo
- vi) Edo
- vii) Anambra
- viii) Gombe
- ix) Katsina
- x) Sokoto
- xi) Adamawa

- xii) Kwara
- xiii) Osun
- xiv) Ekiti
- xv) Cross River
- xvi) Akwa Ibom

General recruitment of personnel to take charge of the newly created state offices and the existing zonal offices were also carried out during the period.

4.6 COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

The Commission recorded continuous increase in the number of complaints received during the period. There was equally an increase the number of complaints treated within the period. This increase in the number of complaints received and treated during this period was attributed to increased awareness through campaigns and collaboration with other agencies as well as the opening of more field offices with increased accessibility. See Appendix 'F' on status of complaints from inception to 2014

4.7 RETREAT

In accessing the Commission's performance for the purpose for discussing identified challenges, a retreat between the Governing Council Members and Management Staff of the Commission was successfully convened in Minna, Niger State in March, 2013. At the retreat, the Commission's activities were reviewed with focus on the areas of challenges and suggestions in respect of the way forward.

4.8 PUBLIC INQUIRY/HEARING INTO KILLING OF SOME SQUATTERS IN APO DISTRICT OF ABUJA

The Commission held a public inquiry on a complaints received on the killing of 8 squatters and wounding of others in an uncompleted building in Apo, Gudu District of Abuja in September, 2013. The Governing Council Enquiry Panel was to consider the following 3 principal issues:

- i) whether the victims were indeed operatives of Boko Haram;

- ii) whether taking account of all the circumstances the force applied in the operation was proportionate to any threat identified or directed at the security operatives or the general public; and
- iii) whether in the circumstances the killings were lawful or unlawful.

The Commission issued a report and decision on 7th April, 2014, where it concluded that the killings were unlawful violations of the right to life of the deceased victims. Ten million Naira compensation for each of the deceased persons was awarded.

The Department of State Security appealed the Commission's ruling and the matter is before the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court.

4.8.1 PUBLIC HEARINGS

Following series of complaints received from across the country on various issues of human rights violations, conducted the following Public Hearings:

- i) **Public Hearing on Forced Eviction**

The Commission convened public enquiry to look into complaints of forced eviction and illegal demolitions of residential houses and places of business. The Commission identified the South West, South South, South East, North Central and North West as places where the inquiries were to be held. The Public Hearing was held in Lagos for complaints from across the South West. Other Public Hearings were held in Port Harcourt for South South Zone, Abuja for North Central Zone and Enugu for South East Zone. The Public Hearing for the North West Zone was not held during the year. Complainants from these zones proffered evidence in proof of their petitions. While some are still ongoing, others are awaiting the Commission's findings.

- ii) **Public Hearings On Electoral Accountability**

Two day Public Hearings On the Commission's Electoral Accountability Project were held in Port Harcourt and Abuja respectively. The Hearings

were held to receive testimonies from the general public on their experiences from the General Election of 2003 - 2004.

4.9 CAPACITY BUILDING

Series of training workshops, seminars and interactive sessions were organized by the Commission to enhance its staff capacity building toward efficient execution of its mandate. Some of such training programmes were as follows:

- i) March 18th, 2014: Practical Workshop for Judicial Stakeholders
- ii) April 13th – 15th, 2014: Training of Human Rights Monitors in the North East.
- iii) April 29th, 2014: Interactive Session to Discuss and Collate Views on the Rights and Welfare of Senior Citizens in Nigeria.
- iv) 26th – 28th May, 2014: Training on the Convention Against Torture and Inhuman Degrading Treatment (CAT) and Protocol on Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).
- v) June 18th, 2014: One Day Stakeholders Meeting of Political Parties on Electoral Accountability Project.
- vi) June 25th – 26th, 2014: Meeting on Sensitization, Evaluation and Validation of ECOWAS Human Rights Reporting Manual & Executive Committee/General Assembly Meeting.
- vii) August 14th – 15th, 2014: Validation Workshop on Complaints Treatment Procedure Manual.
- viii) September 5th, 2014: Meeting on Formal Presentation of the Draft Complaints Treatment Procedure Manual (CTPM) to NHRC.
- ix) A One-Day Human Rights Violations and Armed Violence Reporting Training for Journalists was held on 19th February, 2014 in Uyo
- x) On October 16th, 2014, a Workshop: 'Enhancing Professionalism in the Investigation and Prosecution of Cases' was held in Uyo
- xi) The Commission held a Police Community Relations Committee meeting in Akwa Ibom State on 2nd November, 2014.
- xii) November 11th, 2014 – A Stakeholders meeting towards a Violence Free 2015 Election was also held in the state on 11th November, 2014

- xiii) January 2nd, 2014 – Establishment of Child Friendly Spaces (CFSs) in Borno State.
- xiv) July 3rd – 8th, 14th – 18th, 2014 – Training on Psychosocial Support (PSS) was held in Borno
- xv) August 3rd – 8th, 2014 – Training of Fifty-four Community Volunteers from three selected Local Government Areas (LGAs) of Borno State to Support the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- xvi) November 17th – 21st, 2014 – Training of Twenty Master Trainers on Psychosocial Support (PSS) was also held in the State

PART FIVE
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2012-2015

5.0 HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

5.1 STANDING ORDERS AND RULES OF PROCEDURES (STORP)

Pursuant to Section 1(1) of the Schedule to the NHRC Act. 1995, as amended, the Governing Council of the Commission developed and adopted Standing Orders and Rules of Procedures(STORP) of the Commission on 12th June, 2013.

Flowing from the above, the following main arteries for complaints treatment now exist in the Commission:

- i. Mediation- **S.5q and Rule 78 (1-14) STORP** empowers the Commission to act as conciliator between parties to a complaint.
- ii. Oral Hearings; **S. 6(1) and Rule 80(1-19) STORP**
- iii. Tribunal/public inquiry-**S.6(1); Rule 79, STORP**
- iv. Civil actions/Amicus curiae-**S.6(l)(b) and S. 5(r); Rule 86(1-3) STORP**
- v. Referral of human rights violation requiring criminal prosecution to the HAGF and Attorneys General of States. **S. 6(p) STORP**

5.2 AUDIT OF PRISONS AND OTHER PLACES OF DETENTION

The Commission undertook audit of detention facilities of the following agencies throughout the Country in 2012, 2013 and 2014. The 2015 audit exercise is on- going. This is in addition to routine daily monitoring exercise being undertaken by officers of the Commission at the headquarters and at the state offices all over the federation.

- i. Nigerian Police Force
- ii. The department of the State Services (DSS).

- iii. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC
- iv. Nigerian Customs Service (NCS)
- v. Nigerian Army(NA)
- vi. National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)
- vii. Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps(NSCDC)

Part of the Commission's findings were the worsening conditions of detention facilities at the various offices of the Special Anti- robbery Squad (SARS) and the rising cases of ungazetted places of detention. This has been brought to the attention of the Law Enforcement Agencies and the Commission is monitoring the situation.

5.3 ENFORCEMENT OF THE RIGHTS OF AWAITING TRIAL INMATES

As a follow up from the audit of prisons, the Commission is in receipt of over fifteen thousand remand warrants for awaiting trial inmates from prisons all over the Federation. The Commission, under its Public Interest Litigation Programme and in partnership with the Nigerian Bar Association has assigned Five Hundred and Eighty Eight cases to legal practitioners to file class action suits pro bono in various courts across the country. The Commission is responsible for the cost of filing the suits and other related logistics made available to the participating legal practitioners.

The cases under the first phase of the program were instituted between 2013 to 2014 which led to the discharge/release of many of the inmates from prison custody. The second phase of the programme commenced in January 2015 and is still on- going.

The programme has so far yielded desired results as many Courts across the Country released many of the awaiting Trial Inmates and awarded damages in their favour.

5.4 BAGA INCIDENT AND REPORT

Between 15th and 21st April 2013, an encounter reportedly took place between uniformed personnel and alleged insurgents in Baga, Borno State. At the end of this encounter, many people were reportedly killed, houses were burnt, and many more people were reportedly displaced.

The Governing Council of the National Human Rights Commission at its Extra Ordinary Meeting held on 3rd May, 2013 authorized an independent investigation into the incident and with a mandate also to assess the wider humanitarian situation in parts of north-eastern Nigeria, especially in Borno and Yobe States.

In the course of the assignment, the Commission reviewed several relevant reports issued by various security agencies, government commissions and international non-governmental Organizations. The Commission also had fruitful collaboration with the National Space Research Development Agency, NARSDA which enabled it to obtain aerial surveys of Baga at the time of the incident; also interacted with some affected people; collected data from hospitals and mortuaries.

The Commission, based on the above, issued an interim report and recommendations on 30th June 2013. The main issues in the report /recommendations included-

- The need for improved commitment to Rules of Engagement (RoEs) and preparedness to acknowledge as well as offering redress for violations of these Rules;
- Addressing the practice of enforced disappearance and prolonged detention of persons in un-gazetted places of detention including lack of access to the legal process. The report further recommended that the Detainees should be properly documented and enumerated and government should regularly publish information on the numbers of persons detained in connection with the situation in north-east Nigeria.
- Guarantee of access for humanitarian deliveries and workers to the States and communities in north-east Nigeria and provision of safe corridor for humanitarian deliveries including provision for the protection and security of humanitarian workers should equally be safeguarded and guaranteed.
- Ensuring adequate records of forced displacement and guarantee of protection and assistance to affected persons not implicated in the insurgency.
- Leadership of the armed forces to ensure periodic rotation and renewal of the troops deployed in the north-east.

5.5 MONITORING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE NORTH EAST

The Commission has been undertaken special monitoring of human rights situation in the North East and parts of North West and North central of Nigeria since the escalation of insurgency in 2011. The Commission in collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNCHR) trained and deployed 310 human rights IDPs protection Monitors for Adamawa, Borno, Yobe, Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba, Nasarawa and Benue States.

In collaboration with the UNDP, the Commission has trained and deployed sixty human rights monitors to the states ravaged by insurgency, i.e. Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States.

Also, the Commission has convened several Stakeholders Meetings involving the NEMA, DSS, and Immigration Service, Police, Office of the National security Adviser and coordinators of State Emergency Management Agencies on the conditions of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

The Commission also found that the deteriorating security situation had led to serious and massive violations of human rights, including loss of many lives, mass casualty violence, exponential growth in forced displacement, abduction of girls and women, and resulting food insecurity and humanitarian crises. As a result of the foregoing, the Commission had called for:

- The development and urgent deployment of a comprehensive humanitarian plan for the North East particularly those aimed at addressing food security crisis, access to trauma care and support, and forced displacement.
- Deepening and sustaining regional and international cooperation for the amelioration of the situation and sufferings of the victims in North Eastern Nigeria and accountability by the perpetrators.
- Urgent need to guarantee access to education and safe schooling of children affected by displacement.

5.6 2015 GENERAL ELECTIONS:-

During the 2015 general elections, the Commission organized series of activities involving all stakeholders to put mechanisms in place to ensure accountability for perpetrators of electoral violence; and to sensitize members of public on the need and legal imperatives to shun hate speeches in political campaigns. The Commission issued an Advisory dated 13thFebruary, 2015 on the above. The Commission also deployed election monitors to 28 States of the Federation during the presidential/National Assembly Elections as well as Governorship /House of Assembly elections. The Commission issued a report at the conclusion of the elections.

5.7 TRAINING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES & THE MILITARY ON HUMAN RIGHTS:

The Commission has undertaken a number of training activities for different organizations including the Nigerian Police Force, the Nigerian Army and other security services involved in the fight against insurgency. The officers were trained on basic principle of human rights in internal armed conflict situation; adherence to Rules of Engagement amongst others.

The Commission also in collaboration with the UNHCR organized a training workshop for the military and security Agencies taking part in counter-insurgency. The training session was held in Yola, Adamawa State with 294 participants drawn from the Army, Air force, Police and DSS. This training programme was aimed at mainstreaming human rights into the counter-terrorism activities of the military. The programme was held in August, 2015.

Also, a team from the Commission participated in Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) Convention, 2015 which was held in Maiduguri between 7th -9th September, 2015 where officers and men of the Nigerian Army were trained on the imperatives of mainstreaming human rights standards and international human rights law principles into counter insurgency operations in Nigeria.

5.8 RESEARCH & TRAINING PROGRAMS - 2015:-

The Commission has undertaken some key research activities and training programmes in 2015. Some are as follows:-

- i. Human Rights and Maternal Mortality- Pilot Research on women's Access to Health care Facilities in Six Area Councils of FCT
- ii. Pilot survey on the Level of Awareness of Human Rights in Nigeria.
- iii. Survey on Female Detainees/ Convicts and Children living with their mothers in Prison.
- iv. Training of Police Officers across the country on Human Rights and the need to respect human rights of Nigerians in their operations.
- v. Training for Keke Napep Owners & Riders Association as Human Rights Advocates in Uyo, Akwa - Ibom State.

5.9 NHRC INTERVENTION IN INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) SITUATION IN FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY.

Due to the crisis in North East Nigeria, IDPs steadily moved into the FCT and lived at various settlements within the Capital. Due to the absence of camps in the FCT, IDPs have not received adequate attention as their counterparts in the North East, where the government and other partners provide facilities and relief materials. In view of the attendant security threats, inhuman and degrading treatment experienced by them, the National Human Rights Commission in partnership with National Emergency Management Agency convened a stakeholders meeting in August 2015, wherein a National Inter - Agency Committee was established to implement resolutions of Stakeholders. Membership of the Committee includes the following:

- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).
- Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)
- Nigeria Police Force (NPF).
- Nigeria Population Commission (NPC)
- FCT Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

- Red Cross Society of Nigeria.
- Department of State Service (DSS)
- Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).

Interface meetings with State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA), of Borno, Adamawa, Yobe, Bauchi and Nassarawa states, resulted in the latter confirming that they had enough facilities in the designated camps in their states to accommodate the IDP's within the FCT. The modalities for the evacuation of the IDPs to officially designated camps or their homes in the North East is presently underway.

5.10 PARTICIPATION AND RECOGNITION AT DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS FORA

The Commission participates in the activities of the major international and regional human rights bodies. Presently, the Commission holds the chair of the Network of Human Rights Institution in West Africa. The Commission is also a member of the Steering Committee of the Network of Human Rights Institution in Africa and a member of the 16 member Bureau (Governing Council) of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) the highest human rights body of the National Human Rights Institutions.

5.11 LAW REVIEW OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS IN CONFLICT WITH HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS:-

The National Human Rights Commission has been confronted with the challenges of conflict of laws (Some Federal and State laws in conflict with human rights standards) in the areas of promotion and protection of human rights standards as contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, as amended; the International Bill of Rights (The UN Charter, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights(ICESCR) and other specialized international and regional human rights instruments to which Nigeria is a party.

The Commission has assembled a team of experts to start addressing this challenge. The Committee of Experts are to:-

- Examine existing legislation- both at Federal and State levels in the light of human rights provisions contained in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; international and regional human rights treaties to which Nigeria is a party.
- Identify and collate federal and state laws in conflict with human rights instruments to which Nigeria is a party.
- Make recommendations to the Commission for the facilitation of amendment of such laws in conflict with human rights standards.

PART SIX
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 CONCLUSION

The work of the Commission, from inception to date, as captured in this report, portrays that the Human Rights Promotion, protection and enforcement is tasking and capital intensive. There is therefore the need for continuous capacity building of staff and steady increase in the funding available to the Commission.

From a 2 room office at the National Assembly Complex in 1996, to its own headquarters building, as well as ownership of some zonal office buildings, the Commission has expanded its territory in line with the Paris Principles.

With the growth, came increase in staffing and expanded activities in line with the NHRC Act 1995 as amended in 2010. Also came expanded powers as enunciated in the Amended Act. These also threw up challenges, which the Commission is tackling successfully.

The past chairmen of the Governing Council of the Commission namely: Justice P. K. Nwokedi (1996 – 2000), Justice Uche Omo (2000 – 2005), Justice Yinka Ayoola (2005), Justice A. I. Iguh (2005 – 2006) and Prof. Chidi Odinkalu (2011 - 2015) as well as the six Executive Secretaries from inception to date – Prof. Mohammad Tabi’u (1996 – 2000), Mr. Bukhari Bello (2000 – 2006), Mrs. K. F. Ajoni (2006 – 2009), Mr. Roland Ewubare (2009 – 2011) and Prof. Bem Angwe (2011 – date), must always be recognized and celebrated for their determination and resolve to propel the Commission amidst challenges to what it is today.

The Commission hopes for more technical and funding support in the forthcoming years to enable it fully meet the objectives in the statute establishing it.

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

Though the Commission has undeniably made some notable progress in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, the recommendations set out below would further enhance its capacity to effectively actualize its mandate:

i) **Funding**

The Commission has twenty-three (23) field offices in addition to the headquarters. There is need for proper and adequate funding to meet the operational activities of these offices. The expanded responsibility bestowed on it by the Amendment Act required huge funding for effective implementation.

ii) **Operational Vehicles**

The expansion in the operational base of the Commission by the opening of more state offices has triggered the need for more operational vehicles. Field officers go on the field across the country daily and need effective vehicles for efficient operation of the mandate.

iii) **Capacity Building**

The Commission has the duty to educate the citizenry on their rights, privileges and obligations. This calls for specialized training and exposure in the complex work of human rights promotion and protection. Thus provision for more funds for trainings is required and also technical support from other agencies and key stakeholders will be appreciated;

iv) **State Offices**

There is need for the Commission to open offices in the remaining states of the federation in order to increase its accessibility throughout all the states. This would involve increased funding, offices acquisition and recruitment of new staff.

PART SEVEN

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

APPENDIX A

COMMITTEE ON THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION @ 20

Membership of the Committee includes:

- | | | | |
|------|------------------------------|---|-------------|
| i) | AUGUSTINA NWODO, D(CEGG) | - | CHAIRPERSON |
| ii) | VICTORIA OKOROANYANWU, D(FA) | - | MEMBER |
| iii) | BALARABE SABO H(HRM) | - | “ |
| iv) | IFEOMA NWAKAMA, H(CA&MR) | - | “ |
| v) | LAMBER OPARA, DD(HRE) | - | “ |
| vi) | HARRY OBE, DD (OES) | - | “ |
| vii) | GLADYS BABA, H (PIL&HRD) | - | SECRETARY |

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To plan, organize and execute activities for the celebration of the National Human Rights at 20 anniversary;
2. To undertake any other ancillary terms that the Committee may deem relevant to the attainment of the above.

APPENDIX B

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FIRST GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE COMMISSION

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. HON. JUSTICE P.K NWOKEDI | - | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. MR. BUKHARI BELLO | - | MEMBER |
| 3. MR. H.O. SULEIMAN | - | “ |
| 4. MR. MOHAMMED BAH | - | “ |
| 5. A.D. SODANGI ESQ. | - | “ |
| 6. BARRISTER (MRS.) V.J.O. AZINGE | - | “ |
| 7. MR. KUNLE FADIPE | - | “ |
| 8. DR. IBRAHIM N. SADA | - | “ |
| 9. PROF. U.O. UMOZURIKE | - | “ |
| 10. SENATOR ADAMU AUGIE | - | “ |
| 11. MR. GARBA SHEHU | - | “ |
| 12. MR. RAY EKPU | - | “ |
| 13. MR. TOM J. ORAGE | - | “ |
| 14. MRS. FATIMA KWAKU | - | “ |
| 15. MR. OBAFEMI ADEWALE | - | “ |
| 16. MOHAMMAD TAB'IU | - | EXECUTIVE SECRETARY |

APPENDIX C

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION SECOND GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE COMMISSION

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. JUSTICE UCHE OMO | - | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. MR.USMAN MAGAWATA | - | MEMBER |
| 3. MR. RAY EKPU | - | “ |
| 4. DR. I.N SADA | - | “ |
| 5. MR. TOM ORAGE | - | “ |
| 6. PROF. U.O. UMOZURIKE | - | “ |
| 7. ALH. MOHAMMED BAH | - | “ |
| 8. MR. TONY IJI | - | “ |
| 9. MRS. V.J. AZINGE | - | “ |
| 10. MS. UJU AGOMOH | - | “ |
| 11. MRS. K.F. AJONI | - | “ |
| 12. MS MARIAM UWAI | - | “ |
| 13. MRS. CHRISTY MBONU | - | “ |
| 14. MRS. FATIMA KWAKU | - | “ |
| 15. MR. BUKHARI BELLO | - | EXECUTIVE SECRETARY |

APPENDIX D

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION THIRD GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE COMMISSION

1. JUSTICE A. I. IGUH	-	CHAIRMAN
2. MR. H. O. SULAIMAN	-	MEMBER
3. MRS. DUPE ATOKI	-	“
4. MR. EMMANUEL ONWUBIKO	-	“
5. MRS. AMINA IBRAHIM	-	“
6. MR. ANTHONY IJI	-	“
7. DR. ABUBAKAR MU’AZU	-	“
8. IMONI MAC AMARERE	-	“
9. ALH. USMAN MAGAWATA	-	“
10.MR. BERNARD HOM, SAN	-	“
11.DR. UJU AGOMOH	-	“
12.MR. OLAWALE FAPOHUNDA	-	“
13.MR. P. C. NZEREM	-	“
14.MRS. K. F. AJONI	-	EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

APPENDIX E

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION FOURTH GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE COMMISSION

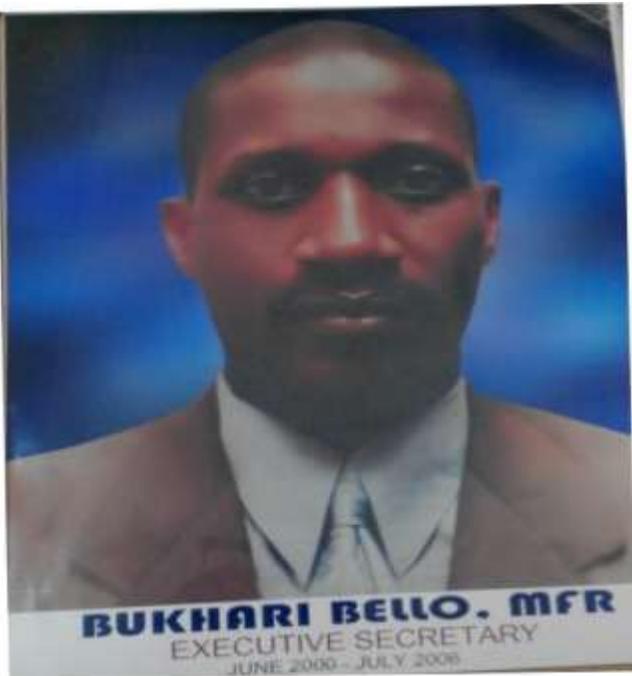
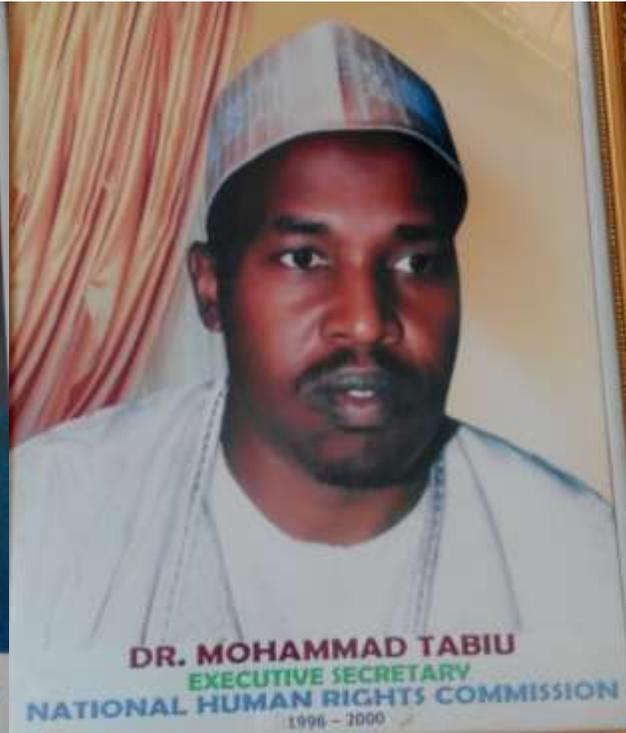
- | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1. | PROF. CHIDI ODINKALU | - | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. | MRS. EUGENIA ABU | - | MEMBER |
| 3. | MRS. RANTI B. DAUDU | - | “ |
| 4. | MRS. FUNMI FALANA | - | “ |
| 5. | EVANG.(BARR) D. O. C. EZEIGWE | - | “ |
| 6. | MR. KAYODE KOMOLAFE | - | “ |
| 7. | MR. OLAWALE FAPOHUNDA | - | “ |
| 8. | HAJIA SAUDATU MAHDI, MFR | - | “ |
| 9. | MR. PIUS OTTEH | - | “ |
| 10. | MR. IBRAHIM NIKAU | - | “ |
| 11. | PROF. BEM ANGWE | - | EXECUTIVE SECRETARY |

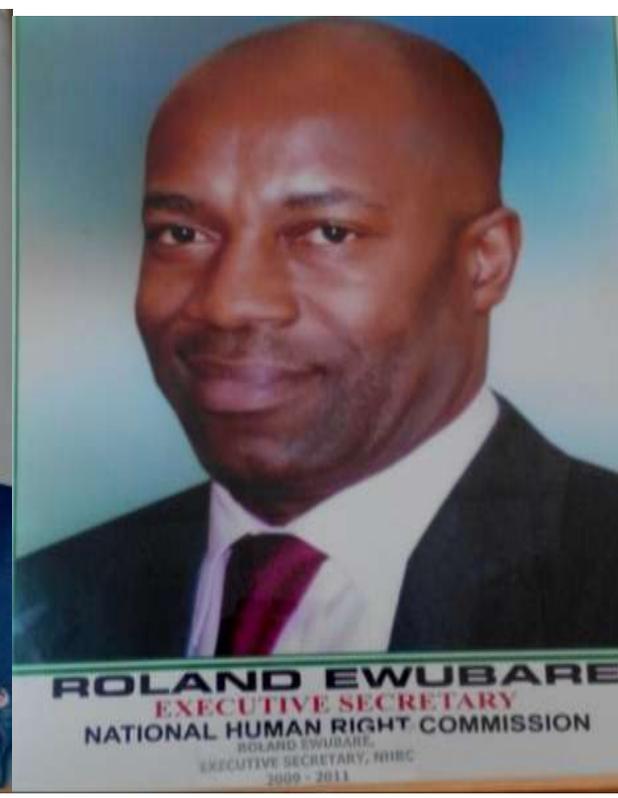
APPENDIX F**STATUS OF COMPLAINTS (INCEPTION TO 2014)**

YEAR	COMPLAINTS MANAGEMENT					REMARKS
	Received	Admissible	Inadmissible	Concluded	Pending	
1996	41	29	12	28	1	
1997	114	85	29	73	12	
1998	221	133	88	89	44	
1999	343	135	208	100	35	
2000	559	286	273	95	191	
2001	557	377	180	143	234	
2002	421	356	65	114	242	
2003	432	388	44	122	266	
2004	287	271	16	92	179	
2005	551	476	75	319	157	
2006	514	416	98	258	158	
2007	574	235	31	151	84	
2008	1,300	1,115	185	1,133	290	
2009	1,061	1,040	21	750	290	
2010	6,967	6,700	267	4,000	2,700	
2011	19,210	18,060	1,150	15,403	2,657	
2012	22,542	21,373	3,187	18,188	3,185	
2013	26,067	24,198	1,869	19,806	4,392	
2014	31,847	28,974	2,686	24,339	4,635	
TOTAL	113,608	104,955	8,648	85,203	19,752	

APPENDIX G

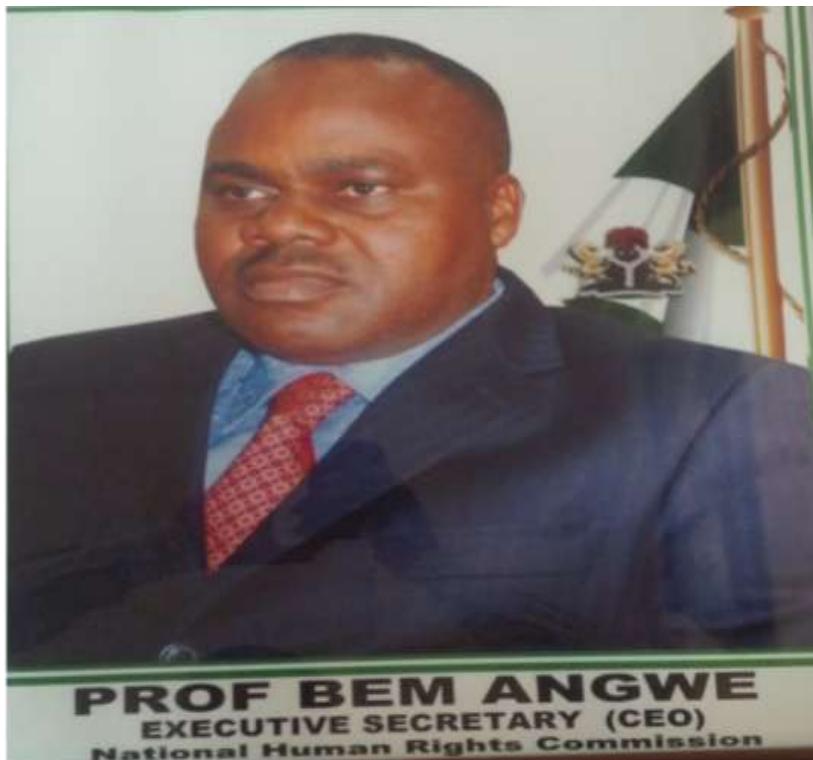
**GOVERNING COUNCIL CHAIRMEN & EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES FROM
1995 TO DATE**







Prof Chidi Anselm Odinkalu
Chairman
National Human Rights Commission
2011-2015



2012 to Date