

National Centre for Cancer and Treatment (Est. etc) Bill 2015 (SB 10) passed into Law by the 8th Senate, Sponsored by Senator Mao Oluwabunwa.

RE: Setting the record straight on the birthing of the Act (National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment).

Dear Prof Ifeoma Joy Okoye:

It is my pleasure to publicly acknowledge your immense contributions in the birthing of the Act and Nigerian Law that frontally and formally address the growing menace of Cancer ailments in Nigeria. That Law is now referred to as “ The National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment Act, 2015”.

I was the Senior Legislative Aide to Senator Mao Oluwabunwa who served in the 8th Senate and was also the Chairman Senate Committee on Primary Health Care and Communicable Diseases. He was the Sponsor of this Bill and as his Aide, was in charge of drafting the bill and the lead debates and the follow ups through-out the legislative processes and had the privilege of enjoying your full knowledge and expertise in this endeavor.

I recall how Senator Mao had an encounter with you in a Television interview where you discussed cancer menace in Nigeria and the absence of institutional approach in dealing with the matter. He made the commitments there as a Senator and Chairman of the Senate Committee on Primary Health Care and Communicable Diseases, to lend his legislative weight to the passing of a law that will give legislative boost in the research and treatment of cancer matters in Nigeria.

Senator Mao directed me to commence the drafting of a bill on cancer research and treatment in Nigeria and to seek your support and involvement in giving it the seriousness it deserves. You indeed gave me the first major input and direction I needed to research and draft the bill and you continued till the end. The other major input I received in this endeavor was from my daughter Dr Ndiya Ogba, a research fellow with the American Cancer Network, who provided data on global cancer matters and the institutional framework required in establishing a National Institute for Cancer Research in Nigeria. I acknowledge the influence of both of you in the birthing of the final Act.

Initially the Bill for this Act was christened as “The National Centre for Cancer and Treatment (Est. etc) Bill 2015 (SB 10), and the bill went through the various levels of legislative reading, public hearing, passage in the Senate and the concurrence of the House and was sent for the assent of the President slightly restructured as ‘The National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment’ Act.

The passage of this Act was acknowledged as one of Senator Mao Oluwabunwa’s major achievements in the 8th Senate, including his three other bills that were passed and assented

into law. We sincerely acknowledge your support in the Cancer treatment and research Act, and you deserve the public accolade and recognition,

Thank you,

Leo Oko Ogba, PhD (Senior Legislative Aide, National Assembly).