

Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 : Sensitisation Initiatives in Nigeria

Time: 5.23 – 5.27 pm

Good day everyone. I feel good to be back in DC. This is becoming my annual pilgrimage.

I make this presentation on behalf of my self and two BRECAN Advocates here present, Julie and Stella. We feel encouraged that our poster was selected among many others to show case what we have been doing since last year we were here.

(Slide) This is where we come from , for the benefit of those who are not familiar with Nigeria.

Without sounding immodest, I feel proud to say that our organization, BRECAN, is the flag bearer of Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 in Nigeria, where neither the people nor government knew what it was all about until we came along.

(Slide) Now look at the landscape on the road to 2020. Those barriers look like Mt. Kilmanjaro! What are we going to do, we asked our selves? With the situation on ground, we have been called dreamers! Yes we are! Now given that our people didn't have a clue about 2020, we knew that we had a lot of explaining to do. That's exactly what we did and still doing.

(Slide) The first ever mention of 2020 in Nigeria was at the 2nd BRECAN Breast Cancer Symposium held at Ibadan in October 2012. We had in attendance, a distinguished panel of speakers, among them were Prof Durosinmi-Etti (standing), Chairman Nigerian Consultative Forum on Cancer, Prof. Ifeoma Okoye, Consultant Radiologist, University Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Senator Oluremi Tinubu who was the key note speaker, a former first lady of Lagos State and a woman of repute known for advancing women issues. And my friend Linda Dias, all the way from Canada to lend her support.

Other events where 2020 was highlighted were:

(Slide) Sing for Life Christmas Musical Concert by Brecan Choir,

(Slide) 1st ever World cancer day in partnership with Oyo State Ministry of Health

(Slide) Stella's awareness session with her students in Owerri, Imo State

(Slide) Julie's awareness session with her students in Ibadan, Oyo State AND

(Slide) My interactive session on breast cancer with female students of Federal College of Education in Lagos

Without doubt, BRECAN is succeeding in introducing Breast Cancer Deadline 2020 in Nigeria as well as identifying partners with the capacity to demolish the mountain of barriers on the road to 2020.

We may not be on the same page as most of you are with NBCC priorities, however, we remain stubbornly committed to 2020 despite our challenges back home. Nigerians can draw strength from American experience when President Kennedy challenged them to put a man on the moon within a decade, a task that was accomplished because a deadline was set, making something that seemed impossible, possible.

(Slide) Now here are our partners as at now. Many more will definitely join. Nigerians are good followers when they see exemplary leadership. BRECAN Advocates are determined more than you can imagine to provide that quality leadership .

With the caliber of partners in our coalition, each representing a constituency critical in changing the conversation, I see progress in the horizon. Yes I see acceleration in our stride towards 2020.

Please stay tuned.

May I seize this opportunity to thank well-meaning Nigerians who donated to our funds thereby making our participation in this summit possible.

Thank you

Now here is Jerry Worden of the Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation.

Jerry Worden to stage, Betty Anyanwu-Akeredolu exits

