

Premium Times write up for the 2020 World Cancer Day

Cancer is an emerging public health problem in Nigeria, Africa and the world at large. Cancer is responsible for over 70,327 deaths annually in Nigeria and set to increase in the nearest future. Over thirty-one (31) Nigerian women die every day from breast cancer. Death from prostate cancer is easily preventable if detected early; and yet it kills over 14 Nigerian men every day; 1 in 4 men will have prostate cancer in their lifetime. These deaths occur because most cancers are detected at late stages and these late stages are as a result of low awareness and no access to good care. These indices suggest that more action is needed to mitigate this cancer burden. It is predicted that by 2030, cancer will be the leading cause of death in low and medium income countries causing over 10 million deaths, simply due to the aging and growth of the population, with the potential to be even higher because of the adoption of behaviours and lifestyles associated with economic development, such as smoking, unhealthy diet, and physical inactivity.

Despite this growing burden, cancer continues to receive low public health priority in Nigeria budget. It may also be in part due to a lack of awareness about the magnitude of the current and future cancer burden among policy makers, the general public, and international private or public health agencies.

In a bid to raise public awareness about Cancer, World Cancer Day is celebrated annually on 4th February and is an initiative of the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) under which the world unites to raise the profile of cancer in a positive and inspiring way. This year Project Pink Blue (a cancer non-profit organisation), recipient of the World Cancer Day Spirit Award in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at the 2018 World Cancer Congress is, ahead of the world cancer Day commemoration creating awareness about cancer through the World Cancer Day Walk in Abuja with the theme, 'I AM AND I WILL' choke cancer which features 5km Walk, 5km Stake, Dance, 20km Cycle, 20km Ride, 10km Race, 30 km Marathon among other fun activities.

Date: Saturday, 1st February, 2020

Time: 7:00am GMT+1

Venue: Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Maitama, Abuja. Nigeria.

To be a part of this walk you can sign up for free at <http://bit.ly/WorldCancerDay2020walk>

Come Join us as we Walk, Race, Cycle, Ride and Skate against Cancer in Nigeria