

Fellow Compatriots,

### **Commencement of Rotational Consular Tours for the Issuance of Nigerian E-Passports**

Following the installation of equipment (one fixed and the other portable) the Consulate – General of Nigeria, New York, wishes to announce the commencement of the issuance of the new Nigerian e-passports, with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2008. These equipment are so far the only ones of their type available to serve Nigerians throughout the Western Hemisphere.

2. Taking into consideration the inconveniences and hardships that Nigerians would otherwise be subjected to, were they to be compelled to travel to our offices in New York just to obtain the e-passports since (i) the new equipment can only process and issue them on physically acquiring the bio- metrics of the passport applicant; while (ii) they had hitherto been used to obtaining the (older) Machine Readable Passports (MRPs) by “proxy” (i.e. without having to be physically present at the issuing centres); and (iii) taking into account the risks and cost implications (passages and hotel expenses, loss of pay for time off – work, etc.) that compatriots will be compelled to bear, in order to be issued with the new travel document, this Consulate – General has decided to commence regular monthly consular tours, preferably on holiday, or extended, weekends, in the twenty North-Eastern and Mid-Western States of the USA that it has jurisdiction over, with effect from December, 2008. On special occasions, such as the period around Nigeria’s national Independence anniversary, all centres may forward their requests for supplementary consular visits for appropriate consideration. The following schedule will serve as a guide:

#### **PERMANENT CENTRES**

- CHICAGO , ILLINOIS - DECEMBER OF EACH YEAR
- DETROIT, MICHIGAN - MARCH OF EACH YEAR
- BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS - MAY OF EACH YEAR
- STATE OF OHIO - JANUARY OF EACH YEAR
- 

#### **ALTERNATE CENTRES**

- STATES OF WISCONSIN/MINNESOTA - FEBRUARY OF EACH YEAR
- UP STATE NEW YORK/SOUTHERN NJ - NOVEMBE OF EACH YEAR
- STATES OF PENNSYLVANIA/  
DELAWARE - SEPTEMBER OF EACH YEAR
- STATES OF COFNNECTICUT/  
RHODE ISLAND - OCTOBER OF EACH YEAR
- STATE OF INDIANA AND, ON  
REQUEST, A CARIBBEAN LOCATION - APRIL OF EACH YEAR

- STATES OF IOWA/NEBRASKA - AUGUST OF EACH YEAR
- STATES OF MAINE/NEW HAMPSHIRE/  
VERMONT - JULY OF EACH YEAR
- STATES OF NORTH DAKOTA/  
SOUTH DAKOTA - JUNE OF EACH YEAR

3. In order to be more empirical while institutionalizing this exercise, a complimentary team, also from the Consulate, shall always accompany the e-passport/Immigration team on each tour. The sole mission of this (Registration) team will be to **REGISTER** Nigerians, their Associations and Businesses, as well as volunteer Attorneys. The Consulate shall, at all times, be solely responsible for the payment of rental of space that will serve as venue for these exercises. Rendition of these services shall therefore always be free, except for the mandatory payment of official documents themselves, which (payment) will at all times be duly receipted.

4. Since the number of States under the Consulate's jurisdiction (20), is more than the twelve months in a year (12), only the Permanent Centres can be visited once each year, in the respective months indicated against their names. The Alternate Centres may expect a Consular visit in rotating years until a team visits each of them in a full circle, i.e. every two or three years, depending on the number of Alternate Centres grouped together. The siting of a location to host a Consular exercise in each State should always be centrally accessible to the target beneficiaries from neighbouring cities and States.

5. In order to encourage Nigerians to further unite, this Consulate shall deal only with the most pan - Nigerian Association, such as State chapters of the Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO). We therefore call on the NIDO leaderships in each of the above twenty States, where available, to contact the Consulate to work out modalities of implementing our foregoing programmes, well in advance of the visit to their States. We also hereby encourage Nigerians in those States where NIDO is not yet in existence, to endeavour and form its chapter, so as to facilitate our ability to effectively extend our service coverage in them.

6. Pending when other Nigerian Missions and posts, both within the U.S. and throughout North and South America and the Caribbean, will acquire their own e-passport equipment, this Consulate is willing to consider and honour invitations for the rendition of the foregoing Service(s) outside its Consular District. The invitations must, however, be routed through, and endorsed and supported by, the Nigerian mission/post responsible for covering their respective areas/states/countries.

Consulate – General of Nigeria  
828 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
19<sup>th</sup> November, 2008

