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Red Cross, minister launch N160m Ibadan, Abuja health facilities

By Chinedu Uwaejbulam

A CONTRACTOR has been picked for the construction of pilot schemes for two proposed clinics and a vocational centre in Oyo State and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). About six of the clinics are planned for each of the geo political zones in the country. Construction works are to commence on the facilities this month.

The projects, according to a statement issued last week, are being built by the Minister of State for Finance, Remi Babalola, in conjunction with the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

Picked as contractor for the projects is Messrs Footsteps Projects Limited, while Landmark Turnkey and Allied Company is the project architect. The site for both the Ibadan and FCT projects have been procured.

The clinics, reportedly worth over N160 million are to be built on the New Ibadan-Ife Express Road at the Temidire area of Oyo State, as well as on Airport Road in the Federal Capital Territory. The construction period for the projects has been put at five months.

The design of the clinics comprises three major entities each, namely the administrative units, consulting units and allied services, while the units have been categorised into theatre and laboratories, emergency and treatment units, private and general wards, consulting rooms, pharmacy and accounting units, and nurses station/staff changing and lounge, among others.

Each of the clinics is to cover approximately 1,000 square meters situated on 4,000 square meters inclusive of parking and landscaping.

"The President of the NRC, Owelle Rochas Okorocho had last year appointed Remi Babalola and other prominent Nigerians as Ambassadorial Volunteers, under renewed efforts to rely on the network of numerous volunteers to carry out its humanitarian mandate," the statement said.

Besides, it added, "As part of his ambassadorial responsibilities, the minister is undertaking the task of providing accessible clinics in identified areas of the country as well as the construction of a professional centre for reskilling, retooling and retraining of Nigerians," the statement disclosed.



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The wife of the President, Mrs. Turai Yar'Adua, is to perform the groundbreaking ceremony for the proposed Clinic in Ibadan on Monday, March 16, while the groundbreaking ceremony for the Abuja Clinic is scheduled for April.

The Technical Assistant (Special Duties) to the Minister, Mr. Laide Agboola, disclosed in Abuja that the two clinics would comprise basic amenities and facilities for dispensing such rural and urban healthcare requirements.

He disclosed that NRC would equip the two clinics to facilitate effective medical services and reduce instances of rural-urban referrals. "Due to the combined effort with the Nigeria Red Cross, about US\$1 million has been raised by Babalola," he stated.

The minister's aide explained that the clinics would provide services ranging from emergency interventions during outbreaks of violence and disasters to provision of first aid as well as assistance to displaced and vulnerable individuals.

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