



THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY
— SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION —



Two days that joined a nation to the world's oldest humanitarian movement

A Sure Sign of Hope

The investiture of Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, CON, as Grand Matron of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, and the commissioning of the Society's new National Headquarters.

ABUJA · 25 & 26 JUNE 2026

A Welcome, and a Beginning

Over two mornings in June, the Nigerian Red Cross Society opened a new chapter in its long service to the nation. On Thursday, the twenty fifth of June, in the State House at Abuja, the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, was decorated Grand Matron of the Society.

The following day she crossed the capital to commission the Society’s new National Headquarters, a lasting home for the work of humanity and a base for the volunteers who carry the emblem into every corner of the federation.

This edition gathers both days into a single record, for our volunteers, for our partners across the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and for friends of the Society around the world. It is a story of welcome, of service freely given, and of hope held out to those who need it most.



Prince Oluyemisi Adetayo Adeaga

National President, Nigerian Red Cross Society

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Part One



The Investiture

STATE HOUSE, ABUJA · 25 JUNE 2026

Before the leaders of the Nigerian Red Cross Society and its movement partners, the First Lady of Nigeria accepted a call to greater service.



Doris El-Doueihy, Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, places the sash of office on the new Grand Matron.

STATE HOUSE, ABUJA · 25 JUNE 2026

Decorated Grand Matron of the Red Cross

In the wood panelled hall of the State House, beneath the portrait of the President, the First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, was invested as Grand Matron of the Nigerian Red Cross Society.

The sash of office was placed by Doris El-Doueihy, Head of Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross, as the leadership of the Society and partners from across the Movement looked on.

Mrs Tinubu received the honour as a call to greater service, describing the Red Cross as a path for ordinary people to care for one another and a way to shape the spirit of the young.

Today is far more than an investiture. It is a celebration of compassion, service and humility.

A Sash, a Plaque, and a Pledge

Beyond the sash came the tokens of a partnership now sealed. The National President of the Society, Prince Oluyemisi Adeaga, presented a plaque of recognition naming Her Excellency as Grand Matron, and a commemorative First Aid Kit, the small box that stands for the readiness the Red Cross carries into every emergency.



The National President, Prince Oluyemisi Adeaga, presents the plaque of recognition, as partners of the Movement look on.



A commemorative First Aid Kit, the everyday tool of the volunteer, changes hands at the State House.



Beneath the national coat of arms, the new Grand Matron takes her seat at the State House.

A Call to Greater Service

If they learn to help from an early age, it would not be hard on them to do it when they are old.

The Grand Matron urged greater participation of young people in voluntary organisations, calling service a habit best learned early. She encouraged every Nigerian with the means to help a neighbour to do so, in whatever way they could.

She spoke too of the National Food Bank Programme initiated by her office across the six geopolitical zones, a drive to reduce child malnutrition, and voiced confidence that the nation would surmount its challenges with the right will and a steady hand.

Welcomed by the Movement

Welcoming Her Excellency, the National President recalled a Society established by Act of Parliament in 1960 as the nation's sole public humanitarian provider, and sustained today by more than one and a half million volunteers.

For more than six decades, he noted, the Society has served as Nigeria's voluntary aid society and statutory auxiliary to the public authorities. He disclosed that a Nigeria Academy for Humanitarian Studies is in the offing, dedicated to humanitarian education, research and professional development.



Heads of delegation and partners listen as the Grand Matron speaks.

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Behind every statistic is a family in distress, a child deprived of security, and a community yearning.



The Grand Matron with the leadership of the Society and the heads of the international delegations.

IN ATTENDANCE

ICRC

Doris El-Doueihy, Head of Delegation

IFRC

Dr Awan Muhammad, Head of Cluster — Nigeria, Ghana, Benin and Togo

Norwegian Red Cross

Morris Monson, Country Director

British Red Cross

Karshen Voigt, Regional Manager

Part Two



The Commissioning

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA · 26 JUNE 2026

*The morning after the investiture, the Grand Matron opened the doors of the Society's
new national home.*

A HOME FOR HUMANITY

The New National Headquarters

Rising in the red and white of the emblem, the Society's new National Headquarters in Abuja is more than a building. It is a permanent base for coordination, training and rapid response, and a visible promise that help now has a home of its own.



Clockwise from top: the headquarters' landmark facade on commissioning day; the solar roof that keeps the building running through any emergency; and the completed complex standing ready in the heart of the capital.



A Nigerian Red Cross young cadet steps forward with an armful of red roses, and the Grand Matron bends to meet her, hand to hand.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA · 26 JUNE 2026

A Welcome in Red and White

She arrived to a corridor of young, proud faces. Boys and girls in the crisp white and navy of the Red Cross cadets lined the walkway, red balloons cradled in their hands, and for a few minutes the morning belonged to them as much as to anyone.

The National President and the leadership of the Society escorted the Grand Matron into the grounds of the new National Headquarters, the building she had come to commission, among volunteers, partners and friends of the movement.





The youngest hands of the movement

Cadets of the Nigerian Red Cross form a corridor of welcome, balloons in hand, as the day begins. They are the volunteers of tomorrow, learning early what it means to stand ready for a neighbour in need.

Words of Welcome and Goodwill

Beneath the emblem that has stood for protection for more than a century, the proceedings began in the new headquarters. The National President opened with remarks of welcome, and partners from across the Red Cross and Red Crescent family rose in turn to offer their goodwill. The room listened, and the warmth in it was real.



The National President opens the proceedings with remarks of welcome.



A goodwill message from the wider Movement, delivered in good company.



A delegate of the international family shares words of solidarity.



The Secretary General sets out the road ahead for the Society.



The Grand Matron takes the floor

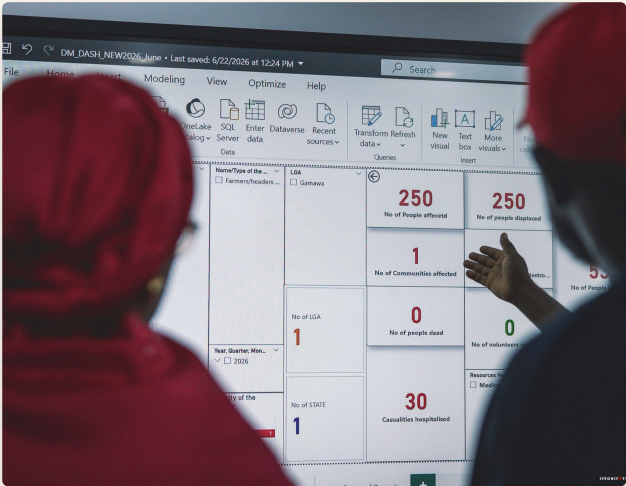
Compassion in action.

From the lectern bearing the seal of her office, the Grand Matron addressed the gathering, pledging her voice and her stature to a network of volunteers who stand ready, in every state, as a sure sign of hope.

A movement that reaches every state

Behind the ceremony lies the daily work of a Society present in all thirty six states and the Federal Capital Territory, carried by more than one and a half million volunteers who give their time, and often their safety, to others.

In the past year alone they reached flood affected communities with warnings, boats and relief, registered thousands of households for emergency cash before disaster struck, and turned data into faster, fairer response.



Acting before the water rises: a live disaster dashboard guides the response.

180k+

PEOPLE REACHED IN
FLOOD RESPONSE

36+1

STATES AND THE FCT
COVERED

71k+

WOMEN AND GIRLS
GIVEN CARE

1.5m+

VOLUNTEERS
NATIONWIDE

With the Grand Matron beside it, the Society can reach further, respond faster, and protect more Nigerians.



A shared purpose: the Grand Matron and the National President at the new National Headquarters.



A ribbon, and a promise

Scissors in hand, and a young cadet at her side, the Grand Matron commissioned the new National Headquarters of the Society. A ribbon falls in a moment. The home it opens, and the promise it carries of readiness, shelter and care, is meant to last.





WITH GRATITUDE

To every volunteer, a sure sign of hope



Across two days, this honour belonged to the children who lined the walkway, the volunteers who serve in places few will ever see, and the partners who stand with Nigeria in its hardest hours. The Society welcomes its Grand Matron with open arms, and turns back to the work that never waits.



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