



# WAPCNM PRESIDENT VISIT TO THE SECRETARIAT, LAGOS- NIGERIA

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@ WEST-AFRICAN-POSTGRADUATE-COLLEGE-OF-NURSES-AND-MIDWIVES-WAPCNM

## Activity 1 – Embracing a visionary approach towards strengthening the College Excellence.



On January 15, 2026, Dr. Joan H. Shepherd, President of WAPCNM, paid a working visit to the Secretariat in Yaba, Lagos.

A general meeting was held with the staff of the secretariat. A warm hand of thanks was extended to the executive secretary and staff for their great contributions towards keeping the College up and running.



### Improved records and archiving:

The College will enhance both electronic and physical archives and maintain an updated asset register. Fellows and Fellowship Candidates may be invited to support the Secretariat on short rotations as part of their exposure to WAPCNM's wider work.

### Wellbeing of Fellows and staff:

Reflecting on the recent loss of some Fellows, the President encouraged everyone to take their health seriously and to support one another as a professional family.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

#### Strong support for the Fellowship Programme:

The President reaffirmed that the Fellowship remains central to the College's mission. The Secretariat's processes, record-keeping, and communication will be strengthened to serve Fellows and Fellowship Candidates better.



### Teamwork at the Secretariat:

Staff were encouraged to work more closely together so that services to Fellows – from registration to examinations and communication – are timely and professional. The President also held individual conversations with staff to hear their views and expectations.



**"WAPCNM is strengthening Fellowship support, records, and well-being for accountability."**



## Activity 2 – Stakeholder Dialogue: Building a Stronger College for the Future of Nursing and Midwifery Profession



### President's Spotlight

During her recent visit to Nigeria, she met with the outgoing and incoming Executive Secretaries, Secretariat staff, and key stakeholders to understand firsthand the realities of day-to-day operations and the expectations of Fellows and partners across the region.



### Visit Spotlight

## Leading WAPCNM into a New Season of Growth and Accountability

During Day 2 of her visit to Nigeria, our President, Dr Joan H. Shepherd, met with the incoming Executive Secretary, outgoing Executive Secretary, and Senior Stakeholders of the WAPCNM Nigerian Chapter to discuss how WAPCNM can better serve Fellows, Residents, and partners.

Key Highlights include:

1. **renewed commitment** to the Abuja project as a permanent home for the College;
2. **Plans to renovate and rebrand the Lagos Secretariat**, so that our administrative base truly reflects the image of the College;

3. Focus on **financial sustainability**, including budgeting, maintaining College vehicles, exploring investments (such as hostels), and raising funds;
4. Efforts to strengthen recognition and visibility of the Fellowship programme at national and regional levels;
5. **Improvements in administrative systems**, including procurement, internal audit, and clearer policies for staff; and
6. **Steps to expand the College journal's reach**, including digital and online sales options.

***President Dr Joan H. Shepherd is leading a listening-driven reform agenda to strengthen WAPCNM's Fellowship, finances and future home in Abuja.***



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### \*ABUJA LAND FUNDRAISING

JAN , 2026

Fellow to help raise funds for the development of the building Project.

#### \* FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM CURRICULUM REVIEW CONFIRMATION

FEB , 2026

The resident will be joining the faculty by specialisation.

#### \* Mandatory Update program for All Fellows

MAY , 2026

All Fellows will be required to participate in a Mandatory Program.

#### \* BGM 2027 - GHANA

MARCH , 2027

Anticipate and start planning.



***"If Fellowship candidates can feel the past, they'll remember it forever."***

Fellows can be assured that these discussions are aimed at making the College more responsive, visible, and sustainable, so that our qualifications, research, and contributions continue to be highly valued across West Africa and beyond.

## DAY 2 in Pictures



**From left, Prof Mercy Onwuama (External Examiner), Prof Fatai Badu (Immediate Past Editor-in-Chief of WAPCNM Journal), Ifeoma Okere (Snr Conf Secretary), and Mrs Akoti Olushola (Director of Nursing, LSMOH)**



**From left, Ps Mrs Esther Olowokwe (IP Chairman Lagos/Ogun branch), Chief Mrs Ekwo Antario (Chairman Lagos/Ogun Branch), Mrs Olajumoke Olufidipe (Signatory), and Chief Mrs Elizabeth Akinde (Chairman, South West Zone)**



The President and the team travelled to Abuja to complete the rest of the objectives of the Visit. Ten entourage was received by a representative of the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria, National Association of Nigerian Nurses & Midwives (NANNM), and WAPCNM, Nigeria Chapter.



The registrar of the NMC (Alhaji Ndagi Alhassan paid a courtesy call on the Mad President, and the entourage had a meeting to outline the plan for the days in Abuja.

### Get Involved!

**ALL FELLOWS AND RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO GET INVOLVED IN COLLEGE ACTIVITIES**



## Activity 3 – Abuja Stakeholder Engagement: Deepening Partnerships for Nursing and Midwifery Excellence in West Africa

### Visit Spotlight

The mission of the delegation was to:

- Introduce the WAPCNM President and the incoming Executive Secretary;
- Express appreciation for the immense support already given to the College, especially towards the Nurse Consultant cadre and the Abuja land;
- Explore areas for stronger collaboration to advance postgraduate nursing and midwifery in Nigeria and the wider West African region.

The leadership of the West African Postgraduate College of Nurses and Midwives (WAPCNM) paid a series of courtesy and stakeholder engagement visits in Abuja, meeting with the Registrar of the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), the President and leadership of the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANM), and the Director of Nursing at the Federal Ministry of Health.

### STRENGTHENING TIES WITH THE NURSING AND MIDWIFERY COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

At the NMCN, the Registrar warmly welcomed the delegation and described the visit as historic, noting that it was the first time a WAPCNM President had visited the Council. He congratulated the President on her appointment and highlighted the strong contribution of Nigerian Fellows to the College.

The delegation, led by the Immediate Past President and the outgoing Executive Secretary, expressed profound gratitude for the Council's continued support—particularly in relation to the Abuja land, the Nurse Consultancy work, and broader regulatory backing for WAPCNM programmes.



The President reaffirmed that regulatory bodies such as NMCN are pillars of the College and praised their role in nurturing the Nurse Consultant cadre. She emphasised the need to continue attracting senior nurses and midwives into WAPCNM programmes and welcomed NMCN's ongoing collaboration.



Key discussion points included:

- Support for the Abuja land and plans to visit the site;
- Recognition of WAPCNM's growing institutional structure and leadership;
- The importance of harmonised curricula across the region, building on work already done by WAHO;
- The need for a clear strategic plan for the College, increased sensitisation, and stronger publicity.
- Staff suggestions around waivers for Fellowship programmes, scholarships, nurse-led approaches, and increased visibility of WAPCNM's work.

**The Registrar encouraged the College to continue building on its progress and reaffirmed his readiness to strengthen collaboration and support WAPCNM's mission.**



#### **VISIT TO NANNM HEADQUARTERS: PARTNERSHIP FOR PROFESSIONALISM AND ADVOCACY**

At the headquarters of the National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM), the delegation was warmly received by the Association's President. He underscored NANNM's shared commitment with WAPCNM to uphold nursing and midwifery excellence and professionalism in Nigeria.



**NANNM reaffirmed its commitment to supporting WAPCNM**

The outgoing Executive Secretary explained that the visit aimed to introduce the WAPCNM President and incoming Executive Secretary to NANNM and to formally acknowledge the Association's vital contributions, particularly in helping to establish the Nurse Consultant cadre. NANNM leadership pledged that the Association would not relent in supporting this important reform.



The WAPCNM President expressed appreciation for NANNM's steadfast partnership and called for continued advocacy for nursing and midwifery at national and regional levels. She highlighted the need for a strong membership drive to increase engagement with the College and encouraged NANNM to intensify sensitisation among its members.



NANNM shared information on the upcoming Commonwealth Federation of Nurses and Midwives meeting scheduled for 20–24 April 2026, with an invitation for this to be circulated among Fellows and advertised through WAPCNM channels.

## ENGAGEMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF NURSING, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

In a separate engagement, the delegation met with the Director of Nursing at the Federal Ministry of Health. The outgoing Executive Secretary outlined the mission of the visit—to introduce the WAPCNM President and incoming Executive Secretary, and to express appreciation for the Ministry's longstanding cooperation and support.



The WAPCNM President noted that the visit offered an important opportunity to meet with Nursing and Midwifery in Abuja and to demonstrate, through Fellows' contributions, what the College can achieve for the nursing and midwifery profession. The discussion focused on how WAPCNM and the Ministry can continue to work together to move the College forward, ensuring it stands on equal footing with sister postgraduate colleges in the sub-region.



## Key Outcomes and Next Steps

Across all three meetings, there was a strong, shared commitment to:

- Sustain and deepen collaboration between WAPCNM, NMCN, NANNM, and the Federal Ministry of Health;
- Support the development and utilisation of the Nurse Consultant cadre, and advance work on the Abuja land;
- Promote WAPCNM programmes more widely, through increased sensitisation, membership drives, and targeted communication to nurses and midwives;
- Align curricula and programmes with regional efforts led by WAHO and other partners;
- Explore scholarships, waivers, and nurse-led initiatives that will expand access to WAPCNM's Fellowship programmes.



**The Abuja visit reaffirmed that Nigerian nursing leadership at regulatory, professional, and ministerial levels views WAPCNM as a key partner in advancing specialist nursing and midwifery practice. The College will now work with these stakeholders to translate the discussions into specific joint activities, including follow-up on the Abuja land, collaborative advocacy, and enhanced support for Fellows and fellowship candidates.**



## Activity 4 – From Vision to Land: WAPCNM Leadership Inspects Abuja Site for Future College Headquarters



The Leadership of WAPCNM, led by Dr. Joan H. Shepherd, arrived at Orozo, Abuja, to inspect the land acquired under the leadership of Immediate Past President Prof. Saleh and outgoing ES Dr. Mohammed Yakutun.



There was a tree planting ceremony to confirm the visit to the Land.



### Visit Spotlight



The team was excited to visit the land and also requested support from the community to prevent encroachment.



Mad President highlighted that when constructed, The college will have;

1. Office spaces
2. Conference Halls
3. Hotels
4. Business centres
5. Accommodation for staff.





## Activity 5 Formal Handover to Incoming Executive Secretary (ES) By Outgoing ES



The outgoing ES, Dr. Yakatun, held a handover ceremony in the presence of Madam President Dr. Jaoon .H. Shepherd and staff of the Secretariat.



Handover done at West African college of Pharmacy (WACP)



### Visit Spotlight





## Activity 6 Send off Ceremony for Outgoing ES – DR MOHAMMED YAKATUN



Madam President, on behalf of Council members, ELLOWS, and the staff of the Secretariat, organised a send-off party for the outgoing ES, Dr. Mohammed Yakatun.

The President commended Dr Yakatun for his work and achievement during his tenure.



The Chairperson of WAPCNM, Nigeria Chapter, in her address described the Outgoing ES as Calm, collected, Calculated, perseverant and committed.



### Visit Spotlight



Dr Yakatun outlined some of his achievements, which included:

1. Decentralised fellowship program
2. Purchase of the Abuja Land
3. Improved administrative process
4. Improved payment processes
5. Initiated the Nurse Consultant Cadre in Nigeria
6. Improved stakeholder collaboration





## Gallery from Send off ceremony



## Gallery from Send off ceremony



The President of West African College of Nurses and Midwives (WAPCNM), Dr. Joan H. Shepherd, returned home safely on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026. On behalf of the College, she wishes to express profound gratitude to everyone who made her working visit to Nigeria a Success.