

Kaduna Health ministry gets support against HIV/AIDS

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE fight against HIV/AIDS received a boost in Kaduna yesterday as the International Centre for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs (ICAP) donated 47 motorcycles to the Ministry of Health for distribution to various hospitals and Primary Health Care Centre across the state.

According to the Country Director of ICAP Dr. Bola Oyeledun the motorcycles could be used to provide immediate services to HIV/AIDS patients in the state. She noted that one of the challenges facing HIV/AIDS patients was the ability to reach them at the right time.

"Where there are patients that are HIV positive, it is necessary to reach them at the early stage with the drugs. But where there is no access to mobility, it becomes

difficult. For that reason we have identified mobility as one of the necessities to reach out to HIV/AIDS patients", Dr. Oyeledun said. The country director noted that ICAP had provided medical facilities, including food items to over 30,000 HIV/AIDS patients since it first started operation in Kafachan in 1986.

Earlier in his address, Kaduna State Commissioner for Health Dr. Peter Yari Everton thanked ICAP for the good gesture, promising that the motorcycles would be used for the purpose meant.

He advised the benefitting hospitals and Primary Health Care Centres to maintain the motorcycles, adding that the best maintenance was to prevent them from damage. Six hospitals and health care centres benefited from the donation including the Yusuf Dantshoho Hospital, Barau Dikko, Gawon Foundation, Youth Challenge, Jere and Babbandodo Primary Health Care Centers.