



**JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONFERRAL OF THE
DISTINGUISHED LEGACY LAUREATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE
(DLLPS) – SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER
INCLUSION DIVISION
UPON SCHOLASTICA TERNGU BEN-SOR**

**by the
Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research,
Documentation, & Legacy (IHS-BiRD & L)**

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SCHOLASTICA TERNGU BEN-SOR

**COORDINATOR, OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY, BENUE STATE
& THE RENEWED HOPE INITIATIVE STATE COORDINATOR**

I. PREAMBLE: THE STANDARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED LEGACY LAUREATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE

The Distinguished Legacy Laureate of Public Service (DLLPS), within the Social Development and Gender Inclusion Division, is conferred upon individuals whose public service demonstrates exceptional leadership in advancing social welfare, gender inclusion, community empowerment, and the protection of vulnerable populations.

This Division recognises public servants whose work strengthens the social fabric of society through programmes and interventions that expand opportunity, restore dignity, and improve the quality of life of citizens. It honours individuals whose contributions transform public policy into measurable human impact and whose service creates enduring value beyond the tenure of office.

The Institute's evaluation framework is guided by its core principles:

- **Truth First** – documentation grounded in verifiable public service activity and measurable outcomes;
- **Guardians of Memory** – preservation of legacies that contribute to the social development history of Nigeria;
- **Justice Through Legacy** – recognition of impactful service regardless of the visibility or prominence of the office occupied;
- **History for Growth** – identification of public service models that provide lessons for future generations.

The conferral of the Distinguished Legacy Laureate of Public Service upon Scholastica Terngu Ben-Sor is based on her documented record of leadership in social welfare administration, women empowerment, vulnerable group support, public health mobilisation, and the coordination of development-oriented programmes through the Office of the First Lady framework and the Renewed Hope Initiative in Benue State.

II. A DISTINCTIVE PUBLIC SERVICE MANDATE

The public service record of Scholastica Terngu Ben-Sor is inseparable from the unique governance circumstances under which she was called to serve.

The administration of the Executive Governor of Benue State, Rev. Fr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia, created an uncommon but not unseen institutional reality. As an ordained Catholic priest, the Governor does not operate within the conventional framework of a First Lady's office. Yet the social responsibilities traditionally associated with that office remained essential to the welfare of the people and the development aspirations of the state.

To ensure continuity of those responsibilities, Scholastica Terngu Ben-Sor was entrusted with a significant public mandate. In addition to serving as Special Adviser on Women Affairs and

Social Welfare, she was appointed Coordinator of the Office of the First Lady and Coordinator of the Renewed Hope Initiative in Benue State.

Her appointment represented an expression of confidence in her capacity to coordinate programmes that directly impact women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, and other vulnerable groups.

Through this role, she assumed responsibility not merely for administering programmes, but for sustaining an entire institutional framework dedicated to social intervention, inclusion, and community welfare.

III. SERVICE TO THE ELDERLY, THE VULNERABLE, AND PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

One of the defining features of her public service has been her commitment to ensuring that governance reaches those who are often most vulnerable to exclusion.

Under her coordination, the programme titled Finding Joy in Old Age provided financial grants of ₦250,000 each to two hundred elderly citizens, accompanied by free medical services. The initiative addressed both the economic and healthcare needs of senior citizens while affirming their dignity and continuing relevance within society.

Her commitment to inclusion extended equally to persons living with disabilities. Through interventions organised in commemoration of World Disability Day, two hundred beneficiaries received financial support of ₦200,000 each, while free medical services were made available to participants.

These interventions demonstrated a practical commitment to social protection and reflected a public service philosophy rooted in compassion, inclusion, and human dignity.

IV. ADVANCING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER INCLUSION

Since she was appointed, Scholastica Terngu Ben-Sor has remained a consistent advocate for the advancement of women through empowerment, participation, and opportunity.

A notable example is the Enhancing Gender Space Programme, under which women from across Benue State received grants exceeding ₦500,000 each alongside welfare support packages. The programme was designed to strengthen economic self-reliance and expand opportunities for women within their communities.

Her commitment to women's advancement extended beyond economic empowerment to civic participation and leadership development. Through sensitisation workshops organised for female political contestants, she helped create platforms for increased participation of women in governance and democratic processes.

Similarly, her coordination of Benue State's participation in the National Women Mega Empowerment and Rally held in Abuja under the theme The Power of 10 Million ensured that women from the state benefitted from national empowerment opportunities. More than one hundred women received financial grants through the initiative.

Collectively, these efforts represent a sustained contribution toward expanding the social, economic, and political space available to women in Benue State.

V. CHAMPIONING CHILD WELFARE, HEALTH, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The legacy of public service is often measured by the investments made in future generations.

Recognising this responsibility, Terngu Ben-Sor has supported programmes aimed at improving the health and welfare of children and young people across Benue State.

In collaboration with the Renewed Hope Initiative and relevant health authorities, she coordinated mobilisation efforts for the state-wide Measles-Rubella vaccination campaign. The initiative targeted more than 1.8 million children, helping protect them from preventable diseases and contributing to broader public health outcomes.

Her commitment to adolescent welfare was further demonstrated through the Flow with Confidence campaign. Through this initiative, approximately 10,000 school girls received sanitary materials alongside education and sensitisation on menstrual hygiene management.

The programme promoted dignity, confidence, health awareness, and educational participation among adolescent girls while addressing an often-overlooked aspect of girl-child welfare.

These interventions underscore her belief that sustainable development begins with healthy, informed, and empowered young people.

VI. PROMOTING ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

Beyond welfare interventions, she has demonstrated a commitment to empowering citizens with the tools necessary for sustainable livelihoods.

Under programmes coordinated through her office, beneficiaries have received productive assets including deep freezers, industrial grinding machines, wheelbarrows, gas cookers, and other enterprise-support tools intended to strengthen small-scale businesses and household income generation.

These initiatives reflect a development philosophy that recognises economic empowerment as an essential pathway to dignity, resilience, and social stability.

By supporting entrepreneurship at the grassroots level, particularly among women and vulnerable populations, she has contributed to expanding economic participation and strengthening community livelihoods across the state.

VII. SUSTAINING THE SOCIAL MISSION OF THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST LADY

Perhaps the most distinctive aspect of Scholastica Terngu Ben-Sor's public service is her stewardship of an office that required both innovation and dedication.

In the absence of a conventional First Lady structure, she assumed responsibility for ensuring that the social mission traditionally associated with that office remained active, effective, and impactful.

From programmes supporting women and youth to interventions benefiting senior citizens, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, orphans, and the girl-child, her office has become a focal point for social outreach and human-centred governance.

Through this stewardship, she has demonstrated that institutions derive their value not merely from tradition or title, but from the quality of service delivered to the people.

VIII. PUBLIC VALUE AND ENDURING LEGACY

The significance of Scholastica Terngu Ben-Sor's contributions lies not only in the programmes she has coordinated, but in the institutional example she has established.

Her record reflects a model of public service grounded in responsiveness, inclusion, accountability, and measurable impact. It demonstrates how administrative leadership can translate policy objectives into meaningful benefits for citizens and how governance can remain effective even within unconventional institutional circumstances.

Through her coordination of social welfare programmes, empowerment initiatives, public health campaigns, and inclusion-focused interventions, she has contributed to strengthening the social development architecture of Benue State.

IX. ALIGNMENT WITH IHS-BIRD & L CORE VALUES

Truth First

This conferral is grounded in documented public service activities, programme implementation records, and verifiable intervention outcomes.

Guardians of Memory

Her work reflects an important chapter in the evolving history of social welfare administration and gender inclusion within contemporary Nigerian governance.

Justice Through Legacy

The award recognises the often-unseen administrative leadership required to translate policy into direct benefits for citizens.

History for Growth

Her stewardship provides a model of adaptive governance and social intervention that offers valuable lessons for future public administrators.

X. CONCLUSION: A RECORD OF SERVICE, COMPASSION, AND SOCIAL IMPACT

The conferral of the **Distinguished Legacy Laureate of Public Service (DLLPS) – Social Development and Gender Inclusion Division** upon **Scholastica Terngu Ben-Sor** is justified on the basis of her contributions to social welfare administration and coordinated public service delivery, including:

- Sustaining the functions of the Office of the First Lady within a unique governance framework;
- Coordinating programmes that provided financial and medical support for senior citizens and persons living with disabilities;
- Advancing women's empowerment through grants, capacity-building initiatives, and inclusion programmes;
- Supporting child welfare and public health through large-scale vaccination mobilisation efforts;
- Promoting menstrual health awareness and dignity among adolescent girls;
- Facilitating the distribution of livelihood-support tools to vulnerable beneficiaries and small-scale entrepreneurs;
- Strengthening the implementation of the Renewed Hope Initiative in Benue State;
- Expanding opportunities for inclusion, participation, and empowerment across multiple segments of society.

These contributions reflect a sustained record of public service distinguished by compassion, innovation, inclusion, and measurable social impact.

It is therefore the considered judgment of the Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy that the record of Scholastica Terngu Ben-Sor satisfies the threshold for the conferment of the Distinguished Legacy Laureate of Public Service (DLLPS) – Social Development and Gender Inclusion Division.