

## Awareness and Free Cancer Screening Programme for Women in Kwara State

The Kwara WellBeing Trust, a non governmental organization run by the First Lady of Kwara State, Mrs. Toyin Saraki will as from today commence an awareness and free cancer screening programme for women in Kwara State. The programme, which is part of activities to mark the 2009 edition of the World Cancer Day, will see hundreds of women screened at the University Teaching Hospital, Ilorin. According to a statement issued by Mrs. Gloria Ekpo, Programmes Director of the NGO, which is also known as Alaafia Kwara among the rural populace in the state said that the women would be screened of breast and cervical cancer and that treatment will be promptly given to those at the risk of the ailment. The statement noted that the awareness and screening programme was part of the organization's effort at raising awareness among women about the need to examine themselves regularly and seek preventive medical care where necessary as a way of increasing the survival rate of women. Ekpo said that the awareness and screening exercise is in collaboration with the University of Ilorin chapter of the Medical Women Association and that women come in for the screening, there will be counselling sessions where they will be enlightened on the importance and procedure for self-examination and possible ways of prevention. "Her Excellency has noticed an increase in the number of women with cancer cases in the people under our health scheme and she has come to the conclusion that we must make more women realise the need for them to screen and take vaccination against cervical cancer for instance." Ekpo said. She noted that atleast 40 percent of all cancer infections were preventable and that the wife of the governor was desirous of providing as much information as is available to assist women in the state.

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