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***Welcome!***

**THE GLOBAL DYNAMICS THAT NECESSITATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AMBASSADOR BULUS LOLO CENTRE FOR DIPLOMACY, CONFLICT, PEACE AND PLURAL STUDIES**

The transition of African countries to liberal democracy after the Cold War commenced with the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Soviet Union's balkanization which marked the end of authoritarian rule, leading to a shift towards democratic governance in Africa. However, the Challenges of Liberal Democracy in many African countries which struggle with prioritizing elections over good governance are evident in the disempowerment of the masses and increased conﬂicts. This has resulted in rising insecurity, conﬂicts, and inequality, with some countries experiencing violent resistance and revolutionary pressures.

The interplay between cultural diversity and political stability is complex, with many African nations grappling with identity-based conﬂicts and power struggles that impede national unity. In response to these challenges, Bingham University has established the ***Ambassador Bulus Lolo Centre for Diplomacy Conﬂict Peace and Plural Studies*** to promote international diplomacy, conﬂict mediation, and resolution, and provide solutions to Africa's contentious political, social, and economic challenges. This Centre aims to among others:

* Foster Research and Collaboration: Conduct cutting-edge research in peace and conﬂict studies and collaborate with national and international organizations.
* Develop Capacity: Oﬀer academic programmes, training, and workshops to build capacity in conﬂict resolution, peace building, and diplomacy.
* Promote Community Engagement: Engage with local communities, governments, and stakeholders to promote peace and understanding.

By addressing the root causes of conﬂicts and promoting inclusive governance, the Ambassador Bulus Lolo Centre for Diplomacy, Conﬂict, Peace and Plural Studies hopes to contribute to Africa's development and stability.

# Rationale for the establishment of the Centre

As a Research, Training and Advocacy Centre, it will address the pressing need for innovative solutions to the complex conﬂicts, terrorism, and insecurity in Africa that have characterized the post-Cold War era. It will provide a platform for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to come together and explore new approaches to diplomacy, conﬂict resolution, and peace building. By fostering interdisciplinary research and collaboration, the Centre would be able to:

1. *Advance our understanding of conﬂict dynamics:* The Centre will conduct research on the root causes of conﬂicts, including the role of globalization, inequality, and cultural diﬀerences.
2. *Develop eﬀective diplomacy and negotiation strategies:* The Centre will explore new approaches to diplomacy and negotiation, including the use of technology and innovative communication strategies.
3. *Promote pluralism and diversity:* The Centre will study the importance of pluralism and diversity in promoting peace and stability, and develop strategies to promote inclusive and equitable societies.
4. *Support peace building and conﬂict resolution:* The Centre will provide training and capacity-building programmes for policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders to promote peace building and conﬂict resolution.

# Anticipated beneﬁts of the Centre's work

The beneﬁts of the Centre's work will be far-reaching, including:

1. *Informing policy decisions:* The Centre's research will provide policymakers with evidence-based solutions to address complex conﬂicts and security challenges.
2. *Promoting peace and stability:* The Centre's work will contribute to promoting peace and stability in regions aﬀected by conﬂict, and will help to build more resilient and inclusive societies.
3. *Fostering global cooperation:* The Centre will facilitate international collaboration and knowledge sharing, promoting a more nuanced understanding of global challenges and opportunities.

**Centre's Broad Strategies**

The Centre will harness the power of research and collaboration to address the complex challenges of our time and build a more peaceful and stable world. The Centre, being a research and advocacy platform on Diplomacy, Plural Studies, and Peace has a critical role to play in addressing the challenges of liberal democracy in Africa, particularly in multi-ethnic societies. Given the historical background of its establishment, the Centre will operate in a useful way by:

# Vision

1. *Conducting context-speciﬁc research:* The Centre will conduct research on the speciﬁc challenges of liberal democracy in African countries, including the role of ethnicity, communalism, and identity politics in shaping conﬂict dynamics.
2. *Developing inclusive and context-speciﬁc peace building strategies:* The Centre will develop peace building strategies that take into account the unique cultural, historical, and social contexts of African countries.
3. *Promoting dialogue and negotiation:* The Centre will facilitate dialogue and negotiation between diﬀerent ethnic and communal groups, promoting understanding, tolerance, and cooperation.
4. *Capacity building for peace building:* The Centre will provide training and capacity-building programmes for policymakers, practitioners, and community leaders to promote peace building and conﬂict resolution.
5. *Informing policy decisions:* The Centre's research will inform policy decisions on issues related to conﬂict prevention, peace building, and post-conﬂict reconstruction.
6. *Promoting inclusive governance:* The Centre can promote inclusive governance structures that recognize and respect the diversity of diﬀerent ethnic and communal groups.
7. *Addressing structural inequalities:* The Centre can identify and address structural inequalities that contribute to conﬂict, such as economic and social disparities.
8. *Fostering a culture of peace:* The Centre can promote a culture of peace by encouraging values such as tolerance, empathy, and understanding.
9. *Supporting community-led peace initiatives:* The Centre can support community-led peace initiatives that promote peace building and conﬂict resolution at the grassroots level.

A Centre of excellence for cutting-edge research, capacity building, advocacy on inclusiveness, development, diplomacy, peace building and plural studies.

# Mission

The mission is to provide a platform for scholars, policymakers, experts and practitioners to come together and explore new approaches to diplomacy, conﬂict resolution, and peace building.

# Core Values

Excellence, Innovativeness, Thoroughness, Eﬀectiveness, Eﬃciency and Inclusivity,

# Objectives

The objectives of the Centre include to, among others:

1. Conduct multi-disciplinary research on diplomacy, conﬂict, identity politics, and pluralism, focusing on Nigeria, Africa and the global south.
2. Provide capacity building in conferencing and conference diplomacy.
3. Provide capacity in protocol and etiquettes.
4. Research and knowledge.
5. Advocacy and Policy Engagement.
6. Capacity Building and Training.
7. Collaboration and Partnership Development.
8. Study the nature and character of ethnic cooperation and discord in the way they impact nation building in Africa.
9. Examine how diplomacy can address conﬂict, crisis of integration and development in Africa.
10. Develop mechanism for an in-depth understanding of cultural pluralism, political instability and crisis of governance and development in Africa.
11. Provide intellectual forum for debates and intervention in addressing diﬀerences, conﬂicts; and managing peace process.
12. Organize a yearly international conference (on political instability, and crises of development in Africa –PICDA) and seminars, roundtables, meetings, conferences and workshops, among others.
13. Engage in joint projects, programmes and activities with other tertiary institutions and development partners, and donor agencies across Africa and beyond.
14. Source funding from local and international institutions to sustain its various projects, programmes and activities.
15. Provide consultancy services to governments, organizations and institutions in and around Africa.
16. Publish proceedings of activities in books, journals and other and periodicals.
17. Advance research in areas of the Centre's focus.
18. Capacity Building: Design and deliver capacity building programmes for diplomats, conﬂict resolution practitioners, scholars and civil society.
19. Create Platforms for Dialogue: Foster a culture of dialogue and exchange among scholars, policy makers and practitioners.
20. Evidence-Based Policy: Produce and disseminate evidence-based policy recommendations for governments, international organizations, civil society and other stakeholders.

# Research Focus

* 1. **Foreign policy and Diplomacy**: Examination of the theory and practice of diplomacy, Consular and diplomatic history, negotiation, arbitration and mediation, defence and foreign policies of nation states, Statecraft, , Strategic Studies, Protocol Studies (*Protocology)*, International law and diplomacy, Science and technology , climate change and international security , politics of arms race and nuclear weapons , Workings of United Nations, WTO, the Bretton woods institutions and Global South , the EU, AU, and other regional organizations, among others
  2. **Peace, Security and Conﬂict Studies**: Investigation of the causes and consequences of conﬂict as well as strategies for conﬂict resolution and peace building. The focus here includes peace studies, peace keeping, humanitarian studies; terrorism, security and intelligence studies (TSI), National Security and Terrorism, Counterterrorism and Counterinsurgency, Extremism and De- radicalization.
  3. **Identity Politics, Diversity and Plural Studies**: Unraveling the complexities of plural societies, identity politics and exclusion, marginalization, religion, ethnicity ,multiculturalism; politics of integration, social formation and cohesion, politics of citizenship and indigene-ship
  4. **Governance, Development and Policy Analysis**: Interrogating the critical underpinnings and processes of public policy formulation and dynamics of policy implementation, the private sectors and the international organizations as they impact on economic development, political governance and Institution-building in Africa. Critical issues of election, democracy, governance and development, Rule of Law, Human rights, Security, Law and Politics (SLP), and industrial relations and disputes will engage the attention of researchers in the Centre.

# Programmes and Activities

1. Research Projects: carry out independent and collaborative research with local and international partners.
2. Training: Oﬀer short courses and degree programmes on diplomacy, conferencing, Protocol and etiquette, conﬂict resolution and plural studies.
3. Seminars and Conferences: Organize conferences, seminars and workshops on topical issues related to diplomacy, conﬂicts, and pluralism, including PICDA annual conference.
4. Policy Briefs and Publications: Produce and disseminate policy briefs, research papers, journals, working papers, monographs and books on the Centre's research areas of focus.

# Collaborations

1. Academic Institutions: Collaborate with universities and research institutions and Think-Tanks globally.
2. Government Agencies: Collaborate with government Ministries, Extra- Ministerial Departments, and Agencies in Nigeria and abroad.
3. International Organizations: Work with International organizations such as the United Nations, African Union, ECOWAS, donor agencies, international NGOs, and others.
4. Non-governmental Organizations: Engage with CSOs; Think-Tanks, Community and Faith-Based Organizations. Some of which include, Institute for Security Studies (ISS), AMANI Africa, United Religion Initiative (URI), Centre for Democracy and Development, Electoral Hub, Association of Retired Career Ambassadors of Nigeria (ARCAN), Council of Retired Federal Permanent Secretaries (CORFEPS) among others
5. Local Communities.

# Key Deliverables

1. Advanced Knowledge: Contribute to the expansion of knowledge and understanding in diplomacy, conﬂict resolution, and plural studies.
2. Enhanced Practice: Inform and improve the practice of diplomacy, conﬂict resolution and plural studies in Nigeria, Africa and the Global South.
3. Improved Capacity: Increase the capacity of scholars, policy-makers and practitioners, and other stakeholders in addressing complex challenges in diplomacy, conﬂict and pluralism.
4. Impact and Beneﬁts: Proposing and recommending evidence-based policies and solutions to governments, international organizations and civil society.

The following Units exist at the ABLC:

# Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Studies Unit

This Unit focuses on International relations with particular emphasis on the underlying assumptions of foreign policies of some key countries around the world that have critical inﬂuence on Nigeria and Africa's diplomatic relations. Geopolitics, foreign and defence policies, global resource governance, Statecraft and strategic studies, challenges of the Global South in the international system, politics of international trade, WTO, ACFTA, AU, EU, ECOWAS, politics of regionalism and integration, are other important areas of focus. The following are the cluster areas of research and studies:

1. Asian Programme,
2. Euro-American Programme,
3. African Programme
4. Nigeria and ECOWAS Programme and;
5. Conferencing and Conference Diplomacy
6. the Latin American – Caribbean Programme,
7. Others

Apart from the foregoing, this Unit is responsible for organizing quarterly *Ambassadorial Conversation or Seminar* where an Ambassador features in a seminar on a subject of topical international concern. The Unit hosts Ambassadors in Residence programme in which Ambassadors are welcomed to spend at least one month to three or six months in the Centre. This will enable them to reﬂect on their careers as they engage with faculty members of the Centre to share their knowledge, and possibly publish their research papers.

# Peace, Security and Conﬂict Studies Unit

This Unit provides a multi-disciplinary and multidimensional platform for research, training, mediation and arbitration in the area of conﬂict management. It examines the fundamental causes of conﬂict and insecurity, and ﬁnds solution to them. As a multi-disciplinary Unit, it incorporates ideas from Political Science, Sociology, Economics, History and International Relations in researching into violence, conﬂicts, insecurity, Artiﬁcial Intelligence, Cyber insecurity, Cybercrime, Criminalities and vulnerable individuals (women and children), Gender studies and factors that trigger conﬂicts.

The major areas of concentration are conﬂict analysis, conﬂict resolution, security studies, Human security, Security Education, Development Economics, Conﬂict, Peace Support Operations and Humanitarian Studies, Peace-building, security and intelligence, Rule of Law, civil-military Relations, Security and Law Enforcement, Security Sector Reform and governance, Democracy and Electoral Security , Terrorism and Counter-terrorism, violent extremism and counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency.

# Governance, Development and Policy Studies Unit

This is equally a multi-disciplinary Unit which focuses on eﬀective governance and impact on development. It promotes good governance in leadership and resource management. The eﬃciency of governance depends on leadership that provides relevant policies that drive development process. Apart from research, it also provides professional capstone courses that address issues such as procurement, democracy and electoral management, the legislature, judiciary and corporate governance, private and public management, Human Rights and International Human Rights Law.

# Identity Politics, Diversity and Plural Studies Unit

This is a multi-disciplinary Unit. The key analytical concepts here are political, sociological, sociobiological, philosophical, historical, psychological and political economy. Identity politics deﬁnes relationship between individuals and groups in the society that are either functional or dysfunctional. Where too much attention is given to its dysfunctional construct, it could lead to individuals and group preferences that are based on prejudice, racism, marginalization, oppression and discrimination. Cultural pluralism based on ethnic nationalities will be x-rayed and presented as a non-conﬂictive diversity, which could be explored for national development. In other words pluralism;

1. Is not only a fact of diversity, but gives opportunity for individual and groups for active engagement in the management of diversity in the society
2. Provides tolerance of diﬀerences without necessarily accepting each other's diﬀerence
3. Builds on each other's strength without really ignoring the distinction / tradition of the individuals and groups in the society
4. Applies what in Latin is '*E Pluribus Unum'*, meaning 'out of many, one'; a commonsense of civic culture, that is not necessarily '*Unum*' (conformity, or the same) but each in the society 'give and take'.
5. Constructs a climate of dialogue and commitment to build unity in diversity to maintain communal dialogue’

The programme focuses on examining the intersection of identity by addressing the theoretical context, methodology and social movement in the society that deal with race, gender, religion and ethnic diﬀerences, immigration, marginalization, exclusivity and those factors that shape identities, the political process and social structure of the society. Some of the ancient African civilizations like the Nok Culture, among others with a heritage of collaboration and development across Africa are the focal points of research to galvanize cultural identity and integration on the continent.

The postgraduate programmes, seminar and workshops in this Unit address:

* 1. Theoretical approaches that focus on post-colonial inter- sectionality, complexities of identity and power dynamics.
  2. The research methodology for analyzing both qualitative and quantitative dimensions of identity politics and diversities of identity politics and diversity in general
  3. Diversity and pluralism
  4. Social movement and political actions
  5. Political educatio**n**
  6. Peace education

# Capstone Courses in ABLC

The Centre's capstone courses are courses that are appealing to the public and professional bodies. These courses are customized for organisations, institutions and groups that are either non-governmental or governmental (such as Ministries, Departments and Agencies). Capstone courses are short courses that can take up to two to three weeks or as the case may be, depending on the demands of the clients. The duration can be extended for the advanced programmes, with extra cost for Certiﬁcate, Diploma, PGD and Degree levels where it becomes necessary. Readily available Capstone Courses are the following:

1. Protocol and Security Management
2. Project Monitoring and Evaluation
3. Election Monitoring and Observation
4. Globalization and Geopolitics
5. Defence and Foreign Relations Studies
6. Industrial Disputes and Management of Trade Unions
7. Conferencing and Conference Diplomacy
8. Political and Security Advisors Course
9. Security Sector Reform Governance and Development
10. Comparative Religious Studies
11. Project (and Contract) Management
12. Human Rights Security and Rule of Law
13. Alternative dispute resolution
14. Retributive justice
15. Rule of law Security and Law Enforcement
16. Conﬂict and Security Management
17. Religion Security and Conﬂict Management
18. Traditional Institution Religion and National Security
19. Public Health and National Security
20. Terrorism Financing and Counter-Measures
21. Terrorism Security and Intelligence Management
22. Report Writing Skills
23. Grants Writing Proposals
24. Procurement and Logistic management
25. Logic and Research Methodology
26. Critical and Strategic Thinking
27. Human Resource Management
28. Risk Management and Resilience
29. Industrial Relations, disputes mediation and arbitration
30. Climate change and Environmental Security
31. Peace building and Sustainable Development
32. Conﬂict Security and Democratic Studies
33. Artiﬁcial Intelligence and Future of Humanity
34. Regional Integration and Economic Development
35. Development Administration and Policy Analysis
36. Political Parties and Campaign Management
37. History and Development Studies
38. Biblical Economics (*Biblinomics*)
39. Biblical Banking and Finance

**xi.** Ecclesiastical Jurisprudence and Canon Law **xii.** Medical Science and Biblical Ethics

**xiii.** Christian Psychology

**xiiii.** Psychology and Christian Ethics

**xiiv.** People and Culture in Nigeria /Africa

**xiv.** International Law and Diplomacy

**xivi.** Local Government Administration and Rural Development

**xivii.** Local Community and Rural Development

**xiviii.** Others

All training programmes at the Centre are credit courses. Certiﬁcates will be awarded by and in the name of the University, and by the approval of the Senate and the University Council.

# Funding and Sustainability of ABLC

The Centre is self-sustaining in mobilization of funds, construction, furnishing, equipping of its facility, including payment of honoraria to staﬀ and resource persons. The ABLC is authorized, in line with the University's regulations, to receive grants and ﬁnancial support from donors. It is free to source for endowments from credible individuals, organizations and institutions within and outside the country for its programmes and activities.

**Visiting Programmes**

The ABLC oﬀers opportunities for visiting programmes to individuals who have interest in coming to contribute to the academic programmes of the Centre through participation in lectures, seminars and collaborative research with faculty members. The visiting programmes include *visiting scholars programme, postgraduate fellowship programme, visiting Professors, resident and non-resident scholars, and visiting or resident diplomatic scholars' programmes*, among others.

Any scholar or policy researcher with grants could apply to come to the Centre to conduct research for a period of one year or less. During the stay of the visiting scholar, he/she is expected to participate in teaching, research and seminars, and other academic engagements in the University. The Centre will provide oﬃce space and necessary facilities for the visiting scholar to enhance his /her research undertakings at the Centre, which could span over three to six months or a year, depending on the duration of the programme. In due course, the Centre would be able to provide accommodation for international scholars within the university in order to make their stay comfortable.

# ABLC Fellows

The Centre will confer on those who attended its programmes satisfactorily such distinguished alumnus awards as: *Associate, Fellow, ablc-BU,* based on established criteria anchored on the Centre's core values.

***CONTACT ADDRESS OF ABLC***

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