

PRESS RELEASE

Dated: 6 October, 2026

STOP THE HARASSMENT OF SCIENCE LABORATORY TECHNOLOGY GRADUATES AND PRACTITIONERS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR

NASLTSa CALLS FOR URGENT INTERVENTION BY FMIST, NISLT AND ASLTON

The National Association of Science Laboratory Technologists Alumni (NASLTSa) expresses serious concern over reports of alleged intimidation, harassment, threats and regulatory conflicts involving Science Laboratory Technology (SLT) graduates and practitioners working in clinical and healthcare laboratory environments.

We are particularly concerned by reports from Cross River State, where an SLT laboratory is alleged to have been sealed following regulatory action involving the Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN) and the Ministry of Health, and by reports that an SLT practitioner in Edo State is currently receiving threats allegedly connected with the same professional jurisdictional dispute.

These reports are disturbing and require immediate attention by the appropriate authorities.

SLT IS A STATUTORY PROFESSION UNDER NISLT ACT NO. 12 OF 2003

The Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology Act No. 12 of 2003 establishes NISLT and gives the Institute responsibility for advancing the Science Laboratory Technology profession, determining professional standards, promoting competence and professional conduct, maintaining a register of members, conducting examinations and certification, ensuring laboratory safety, managing and inspecting science laboratories, and promoting the profession in the public and private sectors.

The Act therefore provides a statutory foundation for the recognition and regulation of qualified SLT professionals.

NISLT's own published mandate further states that the Institute regulates registered and certified laboratory technologists/scientists, conducts laboratory inspection and accreditation, issues practising licences and promotes laboratory standards and safety.

Accordingly, the existence of another statutory professional regulator must not be interpreted as a licence to intimidate, threaten or unlawfully discriminate against qualified SLT professionals.

At the same time, NASLTSA recognizes that Medical Laboratory Science is separately regulated under MLSCN Act No. 11 of 2003, and that MLSCN has statutory responsibilities over the practice of Medical Laboratory Science and medical laboratories.

The solution to the overlap and professional-interface questions must therefore be clear legal delineation, dialogue and collaboration, not harassment or confrontation.

THE 2023 FEDERAL HIGH COURT, CALABAR MATTER

NASLTSA also draws attention to the proceedings involving SLT practitioners before the Federal High Court, Calabar Judicial Division, in Charge No. FHC/CA/19C/2020, Federal Republic of Nigeria v. Orim Augustine Ilah & Andiabu Dennis. Held at Calabar on Tuesday, the 25th day of April, 2023 before His Lordship Hon. Justice S.A Amobeda Judge which MLS & MOH Calabar fail to obey the Federal High court judgement.

The matter concerned allegations of personation, unlawful practice and quackery. The proceedings and subsequent judgment generated substantial discussion concerning the relationship between SLT practice and medical laboratory practice. MLSCN subsequently issued its own interpretation of the judgment, maintaining that the decision was specific to the defendants and did not create a general right for SLT practitioners to practise Medical Laboratory Science.

NASLTSA therefore calls for the actual judgment, the NISLT Act, the MLSCN Act and all other relevant legal instruments to be considered together by competent legal authorities, rather than relying on competing interpretations circulated among professionals.

Currently there's Case on going in industrial Court Benin with Suit no NICN/BEN/28/2025

Between

1. MR. JEREMOTH OSASEMWENGA IGBINWEKA AISLT. For himself and on behalf of members of the Nigeria Institute of Science Laboratory Technology in Nigeria.
2. OSASEMWENGA SCIENCE LABORATORIES SERVICES LIMITED. In Benin City, Edo State which restrain MLS & MOH from carrying out any form of trace pass until the determination of the court case in Benin City Edo State.

NISLT'S OWN RECORDS SHOW THAT THE DISPUTE IS NOT NEW

This issue cannot be dismissed as a recent disagreement.

Published NISLT records have previously documented complaints concerning the harassment of NISLT members, including members working in clinical laboratories in Cross River and Delta States. NISLT records also refer to legal proceedings arising from these disputes and calls for collaboration between NISLT/ASLTON and MLSCN to prevent further harassment.

NISLT records further indicate that the Institute had previously considered collaboration with MLSCN and the development of an MoU as a possible mechanism for resolving the recurring disputes.

This demonstrates that the professional community has already recognized that continued confrontation is not a sustainable solution.

OUR DEMANDS

NASLTSA respectfully calls on:

1. Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (FMIST)

The Ministry should urgently intervene as the supervising Ministry responsible for NISLT and ensure that the statutory interests and professional rights of qualified SLT practitioners are adequately protected.

2. Nigerian Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (NISLT)

NISLT must take decisive institutional action whenever duly registered members report intimidation, threats, harassment or professional discrimination.

The Institute should also provide members with clear guidance on the lawful scope of SLT practice, particularly where SLT professionals work in healthcare institutions.

3. Association of Science Laboratory Technologists of Nigeria (ASLTON)

ASLTON should strengthen its advocacy, legal support and professional representation for affected members and work closely with NISLT to establish a permanent mechanism for resolving disputes involving other health and laboratory regulatory bodies.

4. Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria (MLSCN)

We call upon MLSCN to respect the existence and statutory responsibilities of NISLT and to distinguish between:

- impersonation of a Medical Laboratory Scientist;
- unauthorized practice of Medical Laboratory Science;
- legitimate SLT professional activities;
- laboratory technology, research and technical services;
- and areas where professional responsibilities legitimately overlap.

Where an individual is suspected of exceeding the lawful scope of practice, the appropriate response should be investigation, due process and lawful regulatory action, not threats or intimidation.

5. Federal and State Ministries of Health

The Ministries of Health should facilitate a structured dialogue between NISLT, ASLTON, MLSCN and other relevant professional bodies to clearly define professional boundaries and prevent recurring conflicts in hospitals, diagnostic facilities, research institutions and other healthcare environments.

WE DO NOT WANT A PROFESSIONAL WAR

NASLTSA does not support confrontation between SLT and MLS professionals.

We do not want SLT graduates and alumni pushed into a situation where they feel compelled to confront MLSCN or Ministries of Health because of unresolved professional disputes.

We want law, dialogue, due process and professional collaboration.

There is room for qualified professionals from different laboratory disciplines to work together while each professional body maintains its lawful regulatory mandate.

Healthcare laboratories require quality assurance, competent personnel, standard operating procedures, biosafety, equipment management, research, quality control and reliable laboratory services. These objectives are better achieved through cooperation than professional hostility.

OUR CALL TO GOVERNMENT

We therefore call upon the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology, NISLT and ASLTON to urgently:

STOP THE HARASSMENT.

PROTECT QUALIFIED SLT PROFESSIONALS.

CLARIFY THE PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES.

ESTABLISH A FORMAL NISLT–MLSCN COLLABORATION FRAMEWORK.

DEVELOP AN MoU FOR AREAS OF PROFESSIONAL INTERFACE.

PROVIDE DUE PROCESS FOR ALL ALLEGED SCOPE-OF-PRACTICE VIOLATIONS.

END THE RECURRENT CYCLE OF SEALING, THREATS, COUNTER-ACTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL CONFRONTATION.

NASLTSA believes that the future of laboratory practice in Nigeria should be built on professional respect, statutory compliance, collaboration, competence, patient safety and the rule of law.

ENOUGH OF THE CONFRONTATION, LET THE LAW, DIALOGUE AND PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION PREVAIL.

Signed:



Comr. Modozie Benjamin
AISLT, HND, BSC, PGD, MSC, PHD IN VIEW



Comr. Nelson Godbless Rlighthand
AISLT, NIPE, HND, PGD, MSC IN VIEW



Comr. Mohammed Idris Ruma
NASLTSA North Central



Comr. Dr. Onyima Chibuike Sylvester
AISLT, FCSN



Comr. Ezekiel Chris
(AISLT) NASLTSA South West



Comr. Chigbata Osaletin Emmanuel
AISLT, AAIPHP, HND, PGD, MSC IN VIEW

National Association of Science Laboratory Technologists Alumni (NASLTSA)

For: SLT Graduates, Alumni and Practitioners