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CEDAHA to fight Drug Abuse, HIV Scourge in Imo state

By Declan Ahaele

A Non Government Organization CEDAHA that is centre for Alcohol, Drugs and HIV Awareness has concluded plans and arrangements needed to fight against Drug abuse/addicts and HIV virus across the 36 States of Nigeria and its environ.

This however followed the signing of MOU by the organization and two United States based NGOs of Transworld Development Initiative Inc, (TWDI) and the Global Health and Educational Projects, Inc (GHEP) which are in Washington D.C.

In a recent press briefing organized by the program Director of the said organization in Nigeria, Mr. Joe Nwoken, he noted that CEDAHA as an organization that centers on the well being of humanity and its society is aimed at enlighten educating sensitizing people through workshops, seminars on the devastating effect of alcohol, drug abuse as well as measures to treat and rehabilitate those already affected by such.

Speaking further, the Director described as unfortunate and uncalled for situations where addicts are imprisoned without recourse to diagnosis to ascertain the actual cause or causes of their problems hence he averred, that by method of CEDAHA, it undertakes the use of facilities which are used in diagnosing their problems and subsequently rehabilitate those affected who according to him would become still useful to the society and not the other way round.

On the area of finance, he stated that under the articles of the MOU, the three organizations have agreed to pool their resources together to expand the reach of their programs which aimed at addressing the health, social and economic consequences of drugs, alcohol not only in the cities but amongst rural dwellers adding that the organization will work in collaboration with agencies like NDLEA and Road Safety Corp in actualizing the goal of CEDAHA.

Describing much intake of alcohol as one of the factors necessitating the spread of HIV

and AIDs, the Director said that those under the influence of alcohol always forget the use of protective measures while having sexual intercourse and such he said is capable of increasing the spread of the virus.

On the benefits of CEDAHA programs, he maintained that pregnant women, youths, the aged would benefit adding that CEDAHA would ensure a cleaner society. Present at the briefing include Mr. Chuks Ajacgbu and Ijeoma Agbarakwe.