

Nigerian albinos urge gov't to provide them free cancer treatment

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APA, Abuja (Nigeria) The more than two million albinos in Nigeria have appealed to the government to make the treatment of cancer free for its members, a former Minister of State for Health, Mr Silas Ilo, spoke on their behalf in Sokoto on Friday.

Ilo, an albino himself and chairman of the governing council of the Albino Foundation, said such support would go a long way to assist members of the group.

Ilo called on wealthy Nigerians and corporate organisations to come to the aid of the albinos.

He also called for the resuscitation of the task force set up by the Federal Government to prepare a database on albinos in Nigeria.

"It will provide a sufficient database on all albinos in the country and will help the government in formulating a national policy on them," Ilo said.

According to him, the foundation is also collaborating with the Inspector-General of Police to come up with formidable strategies to checkmate the cases of some alleged killings of albinos for ritual purposes.

Also speaking, the foundation's Chief Executive, Mr Mike Epelle, explained that "Albinism is not a disease or a curse but just a skin condition."

"You are an albino when you lack melanin in your eyes, skin and hair. It is simply skin colouration," he added.

Epelle further said that albinism, which is hereditary was a global phenomenon and that the foundation was committed to seeing to the plight of the Nigerian albinos.

[http://www.afriqueavenir.org/en/2010/07/10/nigerian-albinos-urge-gov%E2%80%99t-to-
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