

Lt. Col. Anele Onyinyechi Appolonia, Nigeria's first female army spokesperson- a unique blend with a master stroke



knowledge in Strategic Studies, she is well-equipped to manage media relations, social media, and public engagement. Her experience in public engagement in the Department of Civil-Military Relations and as a Public Relations Officer in the Office of the Chief of Army Staff positions her to deepen the Army's connection with civilian populations. Her elevation symbolizes a significant step forward for gender representation in the Nigerian military, potentially encouraging more women to pursue careers in defense communication as this is promoting gender inclusion. Having completed an elite strategic leadership course at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre, she is poised to bring long-term vision and strategic depth to her responsibilities.

A graduate of the prestigious Direct Regular Course 15, Lt. Col. Anele's military foundation has been marked by discipline and strategic thinking. Her communication credentials are further reinforced by her membership in the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), underscoring her dual strength in operations and media strategy. Rising through the ranks, her professional journey has seen her take on numerous leadership roles within the Army's public affairs and civil-

In a historic move that underscores the Nigerian Army's evolving commitment to gender inclusion and professionalism, Lieutenant Colonel Anele Onyinyechi Appolonia has been appointed as the Acting Director of Army Public Relations — the first woman ever to hold the position. Her appointment, announced on April 22, 2025, marks a major milestone in the Army's history, and her leadership is already generating widespread optimism for improved military-civil relations and strategic communication. Lt. Col. Anele brings a unique combination of military discipline and communication expertise to her new role. She is expected to lead reforms that will strengthen the Army's public image and foster trust through Enhanced communication. She has pledged to uphold core Army values while ensuring greater openness in communication with the public. With a background in Mass Communication and effective communication skills coupled with her

military interface, earning her a reputation for excellence and commitment. She notably served as Public Relations Officer under the former Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai (Rtd), where she managed high-level media engagements and official communications.

Following this historic appointment and the redeployment of her predecessor, Major General Onyema Nwachukwu, to the Nigerian Army Heritage and Future Centre, Lt. Col. Anele was tapped for the prestigious spokesperson role — a testament to her capabilities and the growing recognition of merit over gender in military leadership. It is widely believed that this historic appointment of Lt. Col. Anele will not only boost the fortunes of the Nigeria Army because of the experience and expertise she is bringing to the job but will also reposition the image of the Organization globally.