



Sugar News

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Benue Govt, NSDC partner on Sugar Master Plan delivery



National Council on Industry Trade and Investment
moves to engender Economic Diversification

★ **Sugar Industry can generate 400MW of
Electricity for Nigeria - Samuel Kwabe**

Industry Minister Lauds NSDC'S Participation
In Lagos Trade Fair

NSDC.... We sweeten your world

Editorial

Regardless of the not too pleasant socio economic situation in the last few months, a situation that government is tackling head on, the National Sugar Development Council remains optimistic that the sugar industry offers ample opportunities to diversify Nigeria's economy.

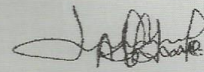
NSDC's Acting Executive Secretary, Mr Samuel Kwabe gave this thought recently when he drummed support for the establishment of an integrated Sugar project in Benue State; the Sugar industry can generate 400mw of electricity for Nigeria. What a cheering news you would say.

Also, the National Council on Industry Trade and Investment at its meeting in Abeokuta, the Ogun state capital expressed its resolve to initiate moves

that will engender economic diversification in the country. The NSDC equally sought the support and cooperation of the Benue state government in its efforts to achieve its 10-year sugar sector road map tagged the Nigerian Sugar Master Plan (NSMP).

Stakeholders in the sugar sector at a forum in Ogun state also drummed support for Council's determination to achieve its set goals as contained in the NSMP. They stressed the need for players in the sugar sector to show more commitment with regards to investing more in the sector.

As usual, in this edition are other newsworthy happenings within the Sugar House. Happy reading.



Abdullahi W. Yunusa
Editor-In-Chief

Industry Minister lauds NSDC'S participation in Lagos Trade Fair

The Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Okechukwu Enelamah has applauded the leadership of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) for the critical role it played in the recently concluded Lagos International Trade Fair, noting that the agency is without doubt trying its best to showcase Nigeria's huge endowments in the sugar sector.

The Minister who said this while inspecting variety of items displayed at the NSDC Stand at the 2016 Lagos International Trade Fair organized by the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), said the NSDC is truly committed to efforts aimed growing the nation's economy.

Mr. Enelamah who particularly commended Council's resolve to create awareness on the huge potentials in the sugar sub-sector, urged other industry-related establishments in the country to emulate NSDC's exemplary and patriotic conducts as seen in its participation at the LCCI Trade Fair in Lagos.

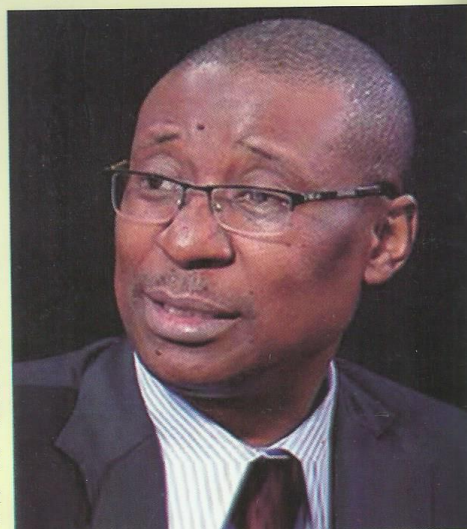
While thanking the organizers of the event, Mr. Enelamah equally

reiterated President Muhammadu Buhari's resolve to evolve homegrown policies that would turnaround the socio economic fortunes of all Nigerians.

He urged Nigerians to inculcate the habit of patronizing locally made products and services, stressing that the country is committed to providing the enabling environment that will attract both local and foreign investors.

The Lagos International Trade fair with the theme "Positioning the Nigerian Economy for Diversification and Sustainable Growth" held between Friday, 4th November to Sunday, 13th November 2016 at the Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos.

The NSDC was represented at the event by the duo of Hajia Fatima Dahiru Bobbo (Chief Planning Officer- INVESTMENT) and Suleiman Mohammed Kabir (Planning Officer II- PRICE) of the Planning, Policy, Research and Statistics Department of the NSDC.



Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah
Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment

Sugar stakeholders advocate increased funding for sector

Participants at a recently concluded Sugar Sensitization forum for critical stakeholders in the nation's sugar sector held in Abeokuta, the Ogun state capital have stressed the need for government to increase yearly budgetary allocation to the sector considering its importance in our quest to revamp Nigeria's economy.

The stakeholders are of the view that the only way to sustain the modest gains so far recorded with regards to the implementation of the Nigerian Sugar Master Plan (NSMP) is for government to redouble its efforts, especially in the area of funding.

In a communiqué made available to newsmen after the well-attended forum, participants noted that "there is a wide gap in terms of funding investment, land acquisition, sugar production and consumption since the commencement of NSMP implementation and called for more investment in the sugar sector as well as political will by the Federal Government for the sustainability of the implementation of NSMP by the NSDC".

The stakeholders noted that the risk associated with investment in the sugarcane to sugar value-chain is very challenging and requires a conscious partnership with Nigeria Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC) to reduce the loss due to natural disasters such as fire, flood.

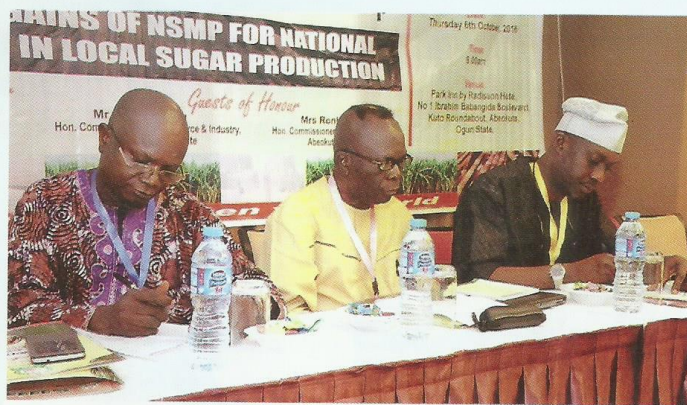
The communiqué further called on "all Governments of the Southern States to partner with NSDC in the area of

sensitization and enlightenment with regards to the potential sites identified in the NSMP and facilitate the release of the available land to genuine investors for the establishment of sugar projects/mills"

"Participants also expressed the need to involve all stakeholders in the region (Government, Investors, Farmers, Community and Land Owners) to ensure that land-bank is

create friendly financial support schemes that would address the challenges being faced by investors in terms of high interest rate, untimely release of funds and other associated bottlenecks that slow down farm and factory operations which are time specific;

While commending the efforts of the NSDC for its commitment towards the realization of the NSMP,



LR: Pastor Owo Odeyemi Representative of Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Airiohudson Moses Representative Permanent Secretary FMITI, Abuja and Mr. Segun Ajayi Kadir Acting DG, Manufacturer Association of Nigeria (MAN) at the Abeokuta workshop.

established to ease the problem associated with release of land to investors and incessant dispute between investors and land owners".

"Participants called on the indigenous lending institutions (BOI/BOA/Commercial Banks) to

participants expressed confidence that with the establishment of NSDC Sugarcane Bio-factory at Samaru, Zaria and at Unilorin as well as the existing private initiative-Bio-Crops- there is adequate capacity to meet the seed cane requirement of the local sugar industry in Nigeria.

National Council on Industry Trade and Investment moves to engender Economic Diversification

The National Council on Industry, Trade and Investment (NCITI) has approved the establishment of an Export Training Institute by Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) to host the zero-to-export capacity building programme.

This is even as the Council said urgent passage of relevant Bills by National Assembly will create effective legal framework to drive

diversification and rapid recovery of Nigeria's economy.

Rising from its 8th council meeting held at the June 12th Cultural Centre, Kuto, Abeokuta, Ogun State from October 24th – 27th, 2016, the NCITI said strategic focus of the Ministry's master plan for diversification and growth of the Nigerian economy is to work with private and development capital firms to leverage resources towards achieving set target.

In a communiqué issued at the end of the three-day summit with them "Diversification of the Nigerian Economy from Over Dependence on Oil Exports", the Council however acknowledged the array of challenges facing MSMEs in the Country and the need to tackle them headlong.

For the Council, it is imperative for all relevant MDAs, financial institutions and Research Institutions as well as

Development partners to give priority attention to MSMEs development while also investing in skills, technology and innovation in addition to providing a conducive and stable export policy for the sector.

It is also the Council's view that States should make adequate provision for critical infrastructure that can enhance the growth and performance of MSMEs sub-sector in Nigeria even as it insisted on early resuscitation of the National Council on MSMEs and establishment of State Councils on MSMEs to drive

overall MSMEs' development in Nigeria.

Furthermore, States are expected to partner with NEPC in mobilizing more women Entrepreneurs to join the ITC-She Trades Initiatives and to support NEPC in its bid to secure Nigeria the right to host the 2017 ITC-Women Vendor Exhibition & Forum.

On creating Enabling Business Environment, Council noted that previous attempts at improving Ease of doing business ranking have been unsuccessful mainly due to internal

governance roadblocks despite having prioritized initiatives and Nigeria currently ranks 169th out of 189 position the World ranking on Ease of Doing Business.

It however acknowledged Federal Government's efforts at increasing Nigeria's ranking to not more than 100th position in 3-4 years, noting that a Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBC) chaired by the Vice President has been established to drive the process.

Why Nigeria Participates in International Sugar Organisation meetings, NSDC

The Director, Policy, Planning, Research and Statistics of the National Sugar Development Council(NSDC), Mr Hezekiah Kolawole, says Nigeria has recorded immense gains for being an active member of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO), stressing that the gains are both tangible and intangible.

Mr Kolawole who participated in the 2016 edition of the body's gathering in London, said the ISO serves as a veritable platform that offers member-nations the opportunity to relate and establish mutually beneficial partnership for the growth of their respective countries' sugar industries.

The Director who expressed optimism that Nigeria is on the right path with regards to the implementation of the 10-year Master Plan for the Sugar sector code-named the Nigerian Sugar Master Plan (NSMP), said, the ISO remains its major international supporter in achieving the NSMP goals before or within the target year.

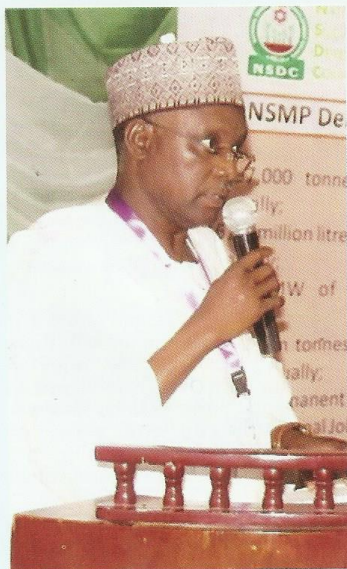
"Nigeria has benefited a lot from the ISO. The gains are both tangible and intangible. A lot of our officers who have participated in different ISO events have attested to the fact that the knowledge garnered from such events has made their assignments a lot easier. I personally see ISO meetings as opportunities to enrich my knowledge base and improve on my capacity with regards to my job schedule as a management staff. Apart from injecting my ISO

experiences into my job, I also try as much as possible to share such experiences with my subordinates.

"We rely strongly on the ISO to have access to important information about the global sugar sector. Member nations are always advised to compare and share notes on their respective activities in their countries. We are leveraging the numerous opportunities provided by the ISO to grow our manpower and attract investments into the sugar sector in Nigeria" he said.

Mr Kolawole who called on stakeholders in the nation's sugar industry to see themselves as active players in Nigeria's quest to become a major sugar-producing nation in the world, said Nigeria has all it takes to realize its aspirations as far as the sugar sector is concerned.

The International Sugar Organization is an inter-governmental body devoted to improving conditions on the world's sugar market through Debate, Analysis, Special Studies, Transparent Statistics, Seminars, Conferences and Workshops.



Mr Samuel Kwabe

Benue Govt, NSDC partner on Sugar Master Plan delivery

Unrelenting and focused on effective implementation of the 10-year Road Map towards Nigeria's self-sufficiency in sugar production, the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) has recorded another milestone with assurances of viable and thriving partnership from the Governor of Benue State, Mr. Samuel Ortom.

Governor Ortom's pledge came on the heels of NSDC's Management team sites visitation to spread the Nigerian Sugar Master Plan (NSMP)'s message in Benue State.

He noted that NSMP was conceived during his time as the Minister of State for Industries and congratulated Council for making headway in going round the Country to identify sites for proposed sugar plantations.

According to Governor Ortom, given the State huge potential, his administration is ready to forge valuable partnership with the NSDC in driving the Master Plan to achieve the much-desired self-sufficiency in sugar production in the Country.

"We have great potentials; we have the land here and we will work with you for the overall benefits of our people and the Country. With availability of River Benue and KatsinaAla, the water is here, so our Communities will be willing to work with you as a body to achieve sugar development in Nigeria. As we await the coming of your technical people, we will engage and talk to the Communities to fully prepare their minds for the guaranteed partnership", the Governor assured.

In his remarks, the Acting Executive Secretary of NSDC, Mr. Samuel Ali

Kwabe said the Council remains committed to executing various fiscal and industrial specific incentives to attract and sustain private sector investments to make them competitive and profitable.

He explained that the advent of NSMP, flagged off on January 1, 2013, has positioned the NSDC to reinvigorate the Sugar Industry, stressing that if Brazil can lead the World, Nigeria with its huge potential in human and material resources can successfully make waves by producing sugar on a self-sufficient basis.

He told the Governor that drawing strength from the Master Plan, Sunti Golden Sugar Estate Limited (SGSEL) as the pilot project will soon commence production on a large

sugar cane to commence.

According to Kwabe, the Council has been duly identifying new sites across the Country and also undertaking pre-feasibility studies to unearth their suitability for the various sugar projects being proposed by the NSDC.

He said already the visit to Benue State, which was informed by the need to discover new sites, has yielded positive results with the identification of about five new sites located in Agashe, Atashe, Gboko, KatsinaAla and surrounding areas to Agashe.

Mr. Kwabe said with the present administration placing high priority on agriculture, NSDC, as the focal agency for regulating the sugar sub-



Group Photograph of stakeholders, NSDC Management Staff and members, House of Reps. Committee on Industry during their oversight visit to some of the Sugar Project sites across the country.

scale. Sunti Golden Sugar Estate Limited (SGSEL), a Backward Integration Project (BIP) site of Golden Sugar Refinery, Apapa, Lagos, is an offshoot of Flour Mills Nigeria Limited.

The NSDC boss also hinted that other notable strides include the resumption of production by Savannah Sugar Company Limited (SSCL) in Numan; and resolution of all outstanding issues by BUA in Lafiagi to set stage for its planting of

sector, would not renege in offering needed support and helping hands to State governments, groups, Companies and individuals that are ready to drive sustainable growth in the industry.

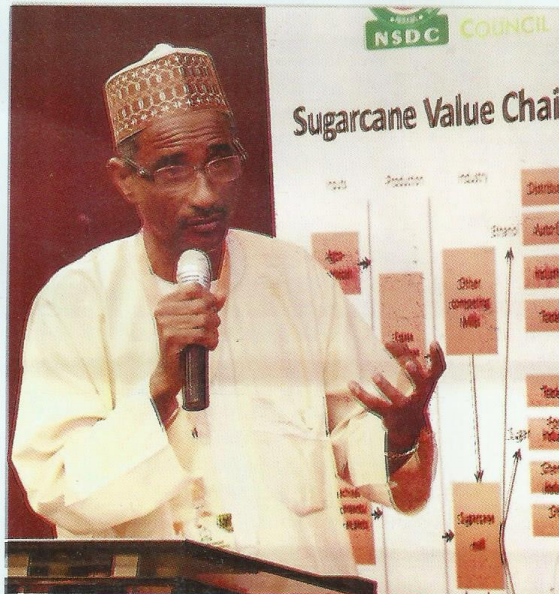


Nigerian delegation to the 50th session of the International Sugar Council held recently in London .
L-R, Ms. Omololu Ope-ewe(Dir. Commodities FMITI), Mr. H. Kolawole (Dir. PPRS NSDC),
Jose Orive (Exec. Dir. ISO), Hajia Aisha Abubakar (Hon. Minister of State FMITI) and
Mr. Samuel Kwabe (Ag. ES NSDC)



Acting Executive Director NSDC, Mr. Samuel Kwabe in a handshake with the Executive Governor of Benue State,
Mr. Samuel Ortom during a courtesy visit by NSDC Management to the Governor.

Photo News



Mal. Mohammed Jika
Director Technical
Services (NSDC):
delivering the
lead paper titled:
An Overview
of Three Years of
implementation of
Nigeria Sugar
Master Plan
(NSMP)
at the Sugar Forum
in Abeokuta .



L-R: Mr. Segun Ajayi Kadir Acting DG. Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) and Mr. Hezekiah Kolawole Director PPRS National Sugar Dev. Council Abuja at the Abeokuta Sugar Forum.



Group Photograph of participants at the NSDC Sugar Forum held in Abeokuta, Ogun State

STAR INTERVIEW

Sugar Industry can generate 400MW of Electricity for Nigeria - Samuel Kwabe

Mr Samuel Kwabe is the acting executive secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC). In this interview he said the sugar industry is playing a key role in President MuhammaduBuhari's efforts at diversifying the economy. He also revealed what the industry is doing to create jobs and generate electricity, among other things.

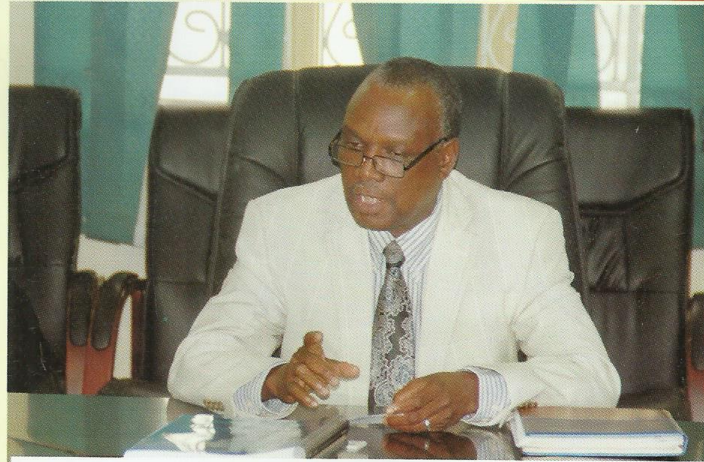
In view of the dwindling oil prices, what role is the sugar industry playing in the efforts to diversify the economy?

It is no longer a secret that the mono-economic system hinged on oil has failed, especially with the slumping prices of crude oil globally. But the sugar industry can make significant impact in terms of job creation.

President MuhammaduBuhari's administration has vowed to diversify the economy, with particular preference to agriculture and solid minerals.

To create jobs, we are implementing a master plan known as the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP). It is a 10-year plan document, and we are in the third year of the implementation. It is believed that at the end of 2023, the sugar industry should be able to create over 100,000 jobs for Nigerians. I can tell you that presently, the two functional sugar industries we have - the Golden Sugar Company in Niger State and the Savanna Sugar Company in Adamawa State - have provided jobs for about 13,000 Nigerians. This tells you that the industry has huge potentials for job creation.

Apart from sugar, the sugarcane has potential to produce ethanol and electricity through coal generation. If our plan is faithfully executed, by the end of the period, the sugar industry should be able to produce over 160 million litres of ethanol. Also, in the area of electricity generation, the industry should be able to generate over 400 megawatts of electricity.



Mr Samuel Kwabe, the Acting Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC).

In a country like Brazil, it is very hard to find vehicles purely relying on petrol. Most of their fuel requirement is a blend of petrol and ethanol. These are the few areas the sugar industry can make huge impact in the present diversification efforts of the present administration.

How much revenue can it generate for the country?

In revenue generation, the NSMP states that at the end of the 10-year plan period, we should be able to produce over 1.7million metric tons of sugar. That would be more than enough to meet our domestic requirements. By this, it can even earn Nigeria foreign exchange. Presently, we are spending huge amounts of money to import raw sugar because the bulk of our sugar requirement is imported.

What is the projected capacity of the Golden Sugar Company when it starts full production?

The capacity is about 4500 tons per day, and that can probably give you about 60,000 metric tons of sugar

per annum. I am happy to tell Nigerians that the Savannah Sugar, owned by the Dangote Group, has been able to produce about 13,000 metric tons of sugar this year. The company is undergoing expansion. As a matter of fact, they are in the process of acquiring a brand new mill, which is about three times the size of the present one.

Just recently, 20 Brazilians, who were representatives of mill producers in their country, came to Nigeria on the invitation of the Dangote Group. They visited Savannah with a view to accessing and identifying where the mill would be installed.

The Dangote Group has a plan to start their project in Taraba State. All issues concerning the land have been resolved, so they will start their field preparation for sugarcane planting this year.

The third site where significant progress is being made is Bua Sugar at Lafiaji. This year, they have the plan to develop 500 hectares of land for their seed cane. So far, I was informed that they had developed about 230 hectares.

Apart from the Backward Integration Programme, what other incentives do you have for potential investors in the industry?

The Backward Integration Programme is not an incentive per se; it is a policy of government to make the existing players in the industry look inward for their raw materials. These players are Dangote Sugar, Bua Sugar, and the Golden Sugar owned by the Flour Mill. They were made to sign the programme with the government. It is a kind of import substitution strategy put in place by the government.

The government has put specific incentives in place to attract investments into the sugar industry. First, the government has put in place, zero per cent duty on machinery import. Government has also put in place, five years tax holidays for sugarcane value chain. It has also come up with the out-grower programme as an incentive. The idea is that since the mill will

actually be too busy to grow the sugar, farmers should be encouraged. We are expecting that at the end of the day, about 50 per cent of the sugarcane requirement would be produced by out-growers. And we are working hand-in-hand with the Bank of Agriculture.

We have established a pool of funds with the Bank of Agriculture so that out-growers can access loans at a single digit interest rate. This is a very big incentive. The loan covers farm input like fertiliser, agrochemicals and so on.

The government has also taken it upon itself to prepare a feasibility report on identifying sugarcane

growing areas. We have already prepared the feasibility report for 10 sites. By this, the burden of preparing feasibility report has been taken off the investors.

We are also liaising with relevant government agencies to do extension services to sugarcane growers at no cost to them. This is another area of incentive. Also, government is always ready to provide infrastructure like access roads between the farms and the mills, especially where there are out-growers. We have also provided transformers as incentives to smaller sugar mills.

Again, Savannah Sugar's water requirement during the dry season is provided by the Kiri Dam, which is

prepare report and market such lands to investors. That was the process we used in acquiring the 10 areas where we have done feasibility studies.

Still on investment, is there any relationship between you and other relevant government agencies like the Export Promotion Council?

Yes, the President Muhammadu Buhari administration, and indeed, our mother ministry, the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, have been in the forefront of trying to establish a kind of synergy among the parastatals under it. The idea is to work with a common goal. Just recently, the management of the Nigeria Investment Promotion Council visited me, with a view to synergising so that we can achieve the overall objective of the ministry. As you know, the council's major mandate is to attract investment into Nigeria. What we are doing is to produce more sugar for Nigeria, so we identify areas where they can be of assistance.

We have committees that will help us monitor the implementation of the sugar master plan. One of them is the Sugar Industry Implementation Committee. This is an inter-ministerial committee. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Federal Ministry of Water Resources, Federal Ministry of Power and the Federal Ministry of Transport, are represented in this committee. These ministries are also stakeholders in the sugar industry, so we have been working with them to achieve the master plan.

The interview is culled from Daily Trust Newspaper.



Mr Samuel Kwabe

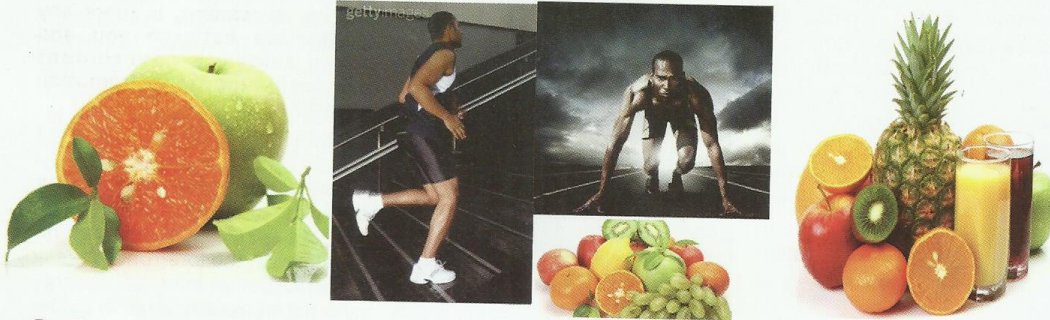
100 per cent owned by the federal government. This is also another area of infrastructural incentives.

Is there any relationship between the NSDC and various state governments to encourage them to key into sugar production?

We have been having a kind of synergy with state governments in the area of land acquisition. You know the sugar industry requires vast expanses of land. And these lands are available in the states. Once such lands are identified, we will approach the various state governments to see if we can convince them to release them to us. And once the lands are released, we will do feasibility studies,

HEALTH CORNER

Exercise: 7 benefits of regular physical activity



You know exercise is good for you, but do you know how good? From boosting your mood to improving your sex life, find out how exercise can improve your life.

Want to feel better, have more energy and even add years to your life? Just exercise.

The health benefits of regular exercise and physical activity are hard to ignore. Everyone benefits from exercise, regardless of age, sex or physical ability.

Need more convincing to get moving? Check out these seven ways exercise can lead to a happier, healthier you.

1. Exercise controls weight

Exercise can help prevent excess weight gain or help maintain weight loss. When you engage in physical activity, you burn calories. The more intense the activity, the more calories you burn.

Regular trips to the gym are great, but don't worry if you can't find a large chunk of time to exercise every day. To reap the benefits of exercise, just get more active throughout your day — take the stairs instead of the elevator or rev up your household chores. Consistency is key.

2. Exercise combats health conditions and diseases

Worried about heart disease? Hoping to prevent high blood pressure? No matter what your

current weight, being active boosts high-density lipoprotein (HDL), or "good," cholesterol and decreases unhealthy triglycerides. This one-two punch keeps your blood flowing smoothly, which decreases your risk of cardiovascular diseases.

Regular exercise helps prevent or manage a wide range of health problems and concerns, including stroke, metabolic syndrome, type 2 diabetes, depression, a number of types of cancer, arthritis and falls.

3. Exercise improves mood

Need an emotional lift? Or need to blow off some steam after a stressful day? A gym session or brisk 30-minute walk can help. Physical activity stimulates various brain chemicals that may leave you feeling happier and more relaxed.

You may also feel better about your appearance and yourself when you exercise regularly, which can boost your confidence and improve your self-esteem.

4. Exercise boosts energy

Winded by grocery shopping or household chores? Regular physical activity can improve your muscle strength and boost your endurance.

Exercise delivers oxygen and nutrients to your tissues and helps your cardiovascular system work more efficiently. And when your heart and lung health improve, you have more energy to tackle daily chores.

5. Exercise promotes better sleep

Struggling to snooze? Regular physical activity can help you fall asleep faster and deepen your sleep. Just don't exercise too close to bedtime, or you may be too energized to hit the hay.

6. Exercise puts the spark back into your sex life

Do you feel too tired or too out of shape to enjoy physical intimacy? Regular physical activity can improve energy levels and physical appearance, which may boost your sex life.

But there's even more to it than that. Regular physical activity may enhance arousal for women. And men who exercise regularly are less likely to have problems with erectile dysfunction than are men who don't exercise.

7. Exercise can be fun ... and social!

Exercise and physical activity can be enjoyable. It gives you a chance to unwind, enjoy the outdoors or simply engage in activities that make you happy. Physical activity can also help you connect with family or friends in a fun social setting.

So, take a dance class, hit the hiking trails or join a soccer team. Find a physical activity you enjoy, and just do it. Bored? Try something new, or do something with friends.

Source: www.dailyhealth.org

STAFF MATTERS

Staff Promotion

Within the period under review, a total of 22 staff of the NSDC across various departments were assessed and promoted in line with the public service rules.

Of the entire number of those promoted, 21 belong to the Senior Officers cadre, while one is a junior officer.

The promotion exercise was held between the 1st and 2nd of November, 2016.

NSDC Organizes Retreat For Senior Officers

Poised to arm its officers with necessary skills and knowledge needed to deliver on their daily job schedules, the NSDC recently organized a three-day retreat for its Principal Officers on grade levels 12-14.

A total of 19 officers participated in the retreat which was held between the 10th and 12th of September 2016 in Minna, the Niger state capital.

The retreat had "Value Re-orientation as a Panacea for Achieving the Core Values of NSDC" as its theme.

While declaring the retreat opened, the Acting Executive Secretary of the NSDC, Mr Samuel Kwabe urged participants to maximize the opportunities that the workshop provided.

He urged them to interact freely and come up with useful suggestions on how best to achieve the core mandates of the NSDC.

Some of the officers who spoke with SUGAR NEWS on the experiences garnered at the retreat, pledged to put to use knowledge acquired in the course of the retreat.

WEDDINGS:

It was wedding galore for a number of families in the NSDC. A total of four staff members gave out their daughters' hands in marriage in separate occasions.

Mr. Kawu Mohammed of the Procurement Department in an elaborate wedding ceremony gave out his daughter on 19th November, 2016 in Lafiagi, Kwara state.

Also, Mal. Hamza Kila's daughter wedding Fatiah was held at Kaduna Road, Suleja on the 17th December, 2016. Mr. Samuel Orhena of PPRS and Alhaji Salihu Bkeke-Deputy Director Technical Services Department gave out their daughters in marriage in separate occasions on 10th December, 2016 at Takum Local Government in Taraba State and on 23rd December, 2016 at AL-Nur Mosque, wuse 2, Abuja respectively. Here is wishing all the newly married couples a happy and blissful union.

CONDOLENCES

The Council on the 30th September, 2016 received news of the death of the mother of Mrs. Chinelo Maduka, a staff of the Finance and Accounts Department at Ndi-Abo village, Ojoto in Anambra state. Two staff of the Council were at the family house of the bereaved to condole with them. May the soul of the departed rest in perfect peace.

The Council also received the news of the death of the wife of Mallam Alhassan Ibrahim of the DHRM. She passed on after a brief illness on the 6th November, 2016 in Abuja. The Council prays that God grants the bereaved family fortitude to bear the irreparable loss and may the soul of the deceased rest in perfect peace.

Also, Saidu Mohammed of DHRM lost his father on the 24th December, 2016. The late Saidu Abubakar Garba who retired from the Public Service as a Director died at the age of 62 after a brief illness. The Council was represented during the burial and equally paid condolence visit to the bereaved family members in their home in Abuja. May his soul rest in perfect peace.

DATA ON SUGAR IMPORTATION IN THE LAST QUARTER OF 2016 - OCTOBER - DECEMBER

Month	Importer	Qty (MT) (NPA)	Qty (MT) (NCS)	Country of Origin	Discharging Port	Type of Sugar
October	Dangote Sugar	-	167,023	Brazil	Apapa Port	Bulk Sugar
	BUA Sugar	35,005	36,545	Brazil	Tincan Port	Bulk Sugar
	Golden Sugar	-	-	-	-	-
November	Dangote Sugar	135,614	92,630	Brazil	Apapa Port	Bulk Sugar
	BUA Sugar	32,010	-	-	-	-
	Golden Sugar	-	39,998	Brazil	Apapa Port	Bulk Sugar
December	Dangote Sugar	92,761	55,120	Brazil	Apapa Port	Bulk Sugar
	BUA Sugar	-	43,206	Brazil	Tincan Port	Bulk Sugar
	Golden Sugar	40,008	-	Brazil	Apapa Port	Bulk Sugar
Total		335,398	434,522			

Source: Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)

SUMMARY OF AVERAGE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL RAW AND REFINED SUGAR PRICE: OCTOBER - DECEMBER

MONTHS	STATE/CITY	SUGAR TYPE	WHOLESALE N/50KG	WHOLESALE E N/MT	RETAIL N/50KG	RETAIL E N/MT
OCTOBER	ABUJA, KANO, LAGOS	REFINED DANGOTE BUA	18490	369800	18895	377900
NOVEMBER	ABUJA, KANO, LAGOS	REFINED DANGOTE BUA	19160	383200	19445	388900
DECEMBER	ABUJA, KANO, LAGOS	REFINED DANGOTE BUA	18060	361200	18540	370800
AVERAGE			18570	371400	18960	379200

*NOTE: MT=Metric Tons (50kgx20), kg=kilogram, N=Nigerian currency naira, \$=USD, Weight conversion: 1000kg=1 Metric tonne, \$/MT= c/lb x 22.04
Country and State are NOT applicable to International raw and white sugar price.
Source: International Sugar Organization Market Report & Local Market Survey

Editorial Team

Chairman Editorial Board: Ahmed M. Waziri; **Editor-in-Chief:** Abdullahi W. Yunusa;
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