



# Sugar News

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

## Sugar Council is on Track, Says Former NSDC Executive Secretary



**FG Reappoints NSDC's  
Chief Executive  
Officer for Second Term**

**NSDC Organizes Retreat  
for Management Staff**

**Health Corner:  
Amazing Health Benefits Of  
Alkaline Water (kangen Water)**



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## Editorial

**F**or us at the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), 2017, especially the first quarter, was a period for serious stock-taking and review of our activities in the year gone by.

While we remain upbeat with regards to actualising Council's core mandates as well as meaningful implementation of the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSPM), our doors, as always remain opened to willing investors and partners in the quest to build a productive sugar sector for Nigeria.

Also, within the first quarter of 2017, the Federal Government announced the reappointment of Dr. Latif D. Busari as the Executive Secretary of the National Sugar

Development Council. In a letter of appointment signed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Engineer Babachir David Lawal, confirmed that the appointment takes effect from Wednesday 22nd February 2017 and is for a period of four years.

During the period under review, Council also held its annual Staff Merit Award Ceremony where some members of staff who exhibited rare dedication and excellence in the discharge of their duties were conferred with awards. As usual, we have loads of other activities we tracked for your reading delight. Welcome.

Abdullahi W. Yunusa  
Editor-In-Chief

## FG Reappoints NSDC's Chief Executive Officer for Second Term

**T**he Federal Government has approved the reappointment of Dr. Latif Demola Busari as the Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Abuja for a second term.

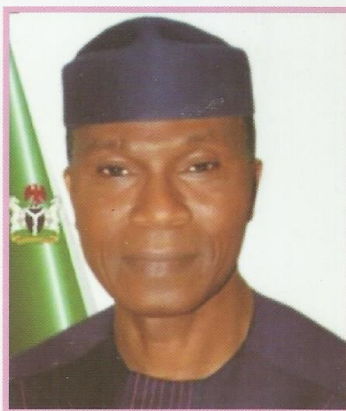
A letter of appointment signed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Engineer Babachir David Lawal, confirmed that the appointment takes effect from Wednesday, February 22, 2017 and it is for a period of four years. Dr. Busari hails from Ilorin, Kwara State and holds a PhD in Agronomy from the University of Ibadan. He spent decades on

research of sugarcane as a crop and policy formulation of the sugar sector.

A one time Chief Research Officer and Head, Sugarcane Research Programme of NCRI, Badegi, former Assistant Director, Agriculture and Natural Sciences of the

Federal Ministry of Science and Technology and former Director, Policy, Planning Research and Statistics of the National Sugar Development Council, Dr. Busari, was first appointed as Executive Secretary of the NSDC in 2012 for a four year term.

He is a member/fellow of several professional bodies in agriculture and management. He is widely travelled and has authored several technical reports and publications including his definitive book on the sugar industry in Nigeria titled, "The Nigerian Sugar Industry: Bitter-Sweet Lessons".



Dr. Latif D. Busari  
Executive Secretary, NSDC

## Reward for Hardwork is more Work, Mr Kwabe

The Director, Human Resource Management of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Mr Samuel Ali Kwabe says NSDC staff should see any award or recognition conferred on them as a call for them to redouble efforts in the discharge of their duties.

Mr Kwabe who stated this at the recently held NSDC Annual Staff Merit Award in Abuja, said, the Council, in line with its core mandates requires the ingenuity, dedication and commitment of all its staff. In its quest to carry out its statutory function of building a world class sugar sector that would accelerate Nigeria's march to economic prosperity.

While commending the awardees for exhibiting excellence, dedication, hardwork and honesty as attested to by their colleagues, Mr Kwabe charged them to be more humble and see the recognition accorded them as reward for hardwork and exemplary conducts.



Mr. Samuel Ali Kwabe  
Director, HRM NSDC

While stressing the need for NSDC staff to be more committed in the discharge of official functions, Mr Kwabe said the NSDC being one of the leading government agencies championing the move for the diversification of Nigeria's economy is racing against time to deliver on its core mandates, hence the need for members of staff to redouble their efforts.

Mr Kwabe who thanked the organisers of the event for the time and energy invested into making the programme a reality, urged them to think of more innovative ways of making the annual event colourful.

The Director, HRM, was later conferred with a Special Recognition award by the Management Team of the NSDC.

## Sugar Council Holds Annual Merit Award, Honours Outstanding Staff

In line with its tradition to recognise and encourage hardwork among its members of staff, the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) recently organised a well-attended Staff Merit Award ceremony where it honoured a few of its staff who exhibited excellence, professionalism, transparency and astuteness while carrying out their assigned official responsibilities.

The event which had the NSDC Management team, Council staff and their family members as well as friends of the agency in attendance was a period for them to dine and wine as a family. Council staffers, dressed in unofficial attires took time off work to relate, interact and dine in a less charged atmosphere.

In his welcome speech at the ceremony, Director Human

Resource Management, Mr Samuel Ali Kwabe said the ceremony wasn't an occasion for presentation of speeches but a time to have fun as a family.

Mr Kwabe said the award ceremony is basically put together to reward hardwork and to also encourage all members of staff to be dedicated to their work.

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## 1st Quarter 2017 Newsletter

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"Today's event is quite unique for a number of reasons.

The award is part of our drive to entrench the culture of hardwork, excellence and

Malam Mohammed Kawuyo of the Technical Departmental had this to say when he chatted with our reporter: "Well, I feel the award is for the department not to me as an

On her part, Secretary to the Director of Procurement, Mrs Temitayo Ogurinde said, though the award came as a surprise considering the fact that she's still new in the Council, but thanked the organisers for finding her worthy of being awarded.



Special recognition award jointly presented to the Director, (HRM) Mr. Samuel Kwabe by the duo of Malam Auwal Abubakar and Mr. Hezekiah Kolawole

She pledged to be more committed and dedicated to her job, adding that hardwork is undoubtedly the shortest way to success in life.

Assistant Director, Human Resource Management, Mr. Sampson Ikechukwu who clinched the best Management staff award spoke on behalf of the awardees. He thanked the NSDC management for the honour bestowed on them and pledged to

professionalism in the system. Those who constituted the award committee were quite thorough and very honest in arriving at the names we have as final awardees. Let us feel free to mingle and enjoy ourselves".

To give the occasion cultural bent, members of a cultural troupe from Akwa-Ibom state, adorned in colourful costumes were on ground to treat guests to serenading songs and unique dance steps. Call the event an A-List event as you won't be faulted.

Sugar News spoke with a few of the visibly elated awardees and sought to know what the awards meant to them.

individual. It is a collective effort of the department as a whole.

On his advice for other members of staff, he said "my advice is for all of us to show more commitment to our work. If you have a responsibility, ensure you always deliver on any task assigned to you. Try to look at your shortcomings and strive for the best in all you do".

Another awardee, Mr Isua Amos who got the Best Junior Staff award in the Finance and Account Department said "for me, it was a pleasant surprise. I thank the management of the NSDC for finding me worthy of being conferred with the award".

contribute more to the overall success of the NSDC.

**Mr Kwabe said the award ceremony is basically put together to reward hardwork and to also encourage all members of staff to be dedicated to their work. "Today's event is quite unique for a number of reasons.**



## STAR INTERVIEW

National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) from January 2000 to December 2006 after which I decided to resign voluntarily.

Well, I attended the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna state where I obtained a degree in Agriculture. I graduated in 1978/79, did my NYSC and later went back to Zaria for a Master degree in Agronomy. I began my working career at the Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority. Then I left in 1985 and joined a private firm established by the former Vice President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar. I had tremendous interest in farming not because of my academic background, but for the fact that the sector had and still has plenty potentials to be harnessed. We were not concerned about financial fulfilment, but more of the satisfaction we derived from seeing our efforts being appreciated.

At some point we sold a bag of maize for 50kobo. There were periods we had excess production and had to transport them to places like Jos, Lafia and other big cities for them to be sold. After a while, I took a break from farming and ventured into partisan politics. Politics has been part and parcel of my existence. I see it as an opportunity to right societal wrongs. My idea of politics is simply to serve and nothing more. My foray into politics dates back to my

## Sugar Council is on Track, Says Former NSDC Executive Secretary

- Mr Yakubu Tsala

**M**r Yakubu Tsala, Shettiman Mubi, was one time Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC). He presided over the activities of the NSDC between the year 2000 to 2006. He recently hosted members of the NSDC Editorial board in his house where he spoke on a wide range of issues including the

current state of the Nigerian sugar industry, challenges, prospects among other germane issues.

**SUGAR NEWS:** Sir, can we meet you?

**TSALA:**

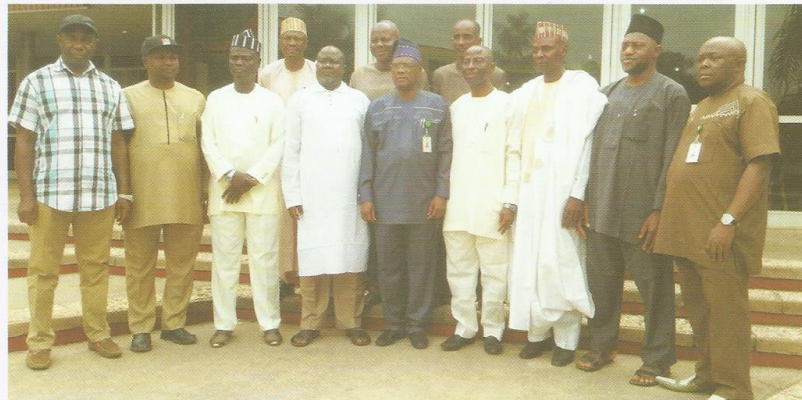
Good morning and welcome to my humble home. Well, my name is Yakubu Tsala, Shettiman Mubi. I was the Executive Secretary of the

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# Photo Speaks



Director, (HRM),  
Mr. Samuel Kwabe  
delivering  
the welcome address  
at the award ceremony



NSDC Management team in a group photograph during its annual retreat held in Enugu State



Truly, all work and no play makes NSDC Staff..  
NSDC staff during a dancing competition at the event

# Photo Speaks



All award recipients in a group photograph with the Director, (HRM) Mr. Samuel Kwabe



Special recognition award jointly presented to the Director, (HRM) Mr. Samuel Kwabe by the duo of Malam Auwal Abubakar and Mr. Hezekiah Kolawole



A cross section of NSDC staff at the award ceremony

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undergraduate days in ABU Zaria.

**SUGAR NEWS:** Let's take a look at your constituency, sugar sector. How would you assess the nation's sugar industry given the strategic role of the sector in the economic diversification agenda of this present administration? Do you think the sector is on the right path?



- Mr Yakubu Tsala

**TSALA:** Regardless of the pocket of challenges confronting the sector, I think the sector is on the right track. Even though we are not where we ought to be yet, I am optimistic that if we accord the sector the priority it deserves, we are sure of recording meaningful success. *I'm pleased with the efforts so far put in by the current*

**leadership of the NSDC** towards putting Nigeria on the map of big sugar producing nations across the globe. I must commend their efforts. I learnt the Council is currently implementing a master plan for the sugar sector. It should be vigorously pursued. We have the natural resources to achieve self-sufficiency in sugar production. Policy inconsistency remains our major bane in the industrial sector. I hope and pray that the NSDC is given the necessary support and encouragement to achieve its set goals and objectives.

If you look at Nigeria, we are not supposed to import any agricultural product. We are very lucky. You can grow cane from Taraba down to Benue, Niger, Kwara. All these states are sugarcane producing areas. There is land for it and the facilities and amenities are there. Like I stated earlier, we are on the right track. I have confidence in the ability of the current NSDC leadership to make Nigeria proud as far as the sugar sector is concerned. Regardless of the challenges, I see light at the end of the tunnel.

**SUGAR NEWS:** Sir, having highlighted what the core issues are, what do you think are the solutions to these challenges?

**TSALA:**

I think one great mistake the government made was to allow those that are supposed to invest in Nigeria sugar production build sugar refineries. So, I think the investors have found it cheaper to bring in raw sugar and then refine it. So, government also needs to give certain concessions because sugar production is quite expensive. Definitely, there is no crop that I know that is as costly to produce as sugar. It is labour intensive, capital intensive, also of all agricultural products; I think it is the one that brings the highest employment. Regardless of certain pitfalls, I think, whatever decision government took was in the best interest of the nation at that time.

The NSDC is not without a few challenges here and there. We experienced a number of challenges even in my days as the head of the place. But we were determined to give in our best to ensure that the sugar industry is not relegated to the background. We made painful sacrifices as staff of the Council. My greatest joy is that our effort is paying off.

**SUGAR NEWS:** Sir, kindly share a few unforgettable experiences in your days as the Executive Secretary of the NSDC. Do you have any to share with our readers?

**TSALA:**

I had a very wonderful stay in sugar council and up till now I still relate with some of the staff. We were more or less like one big family. All staff, regardless of your position, had unfettered



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access to my office. There was nothing like discrimination amongst staff. I courted friendship with virtually all my staff. Everybody was my friend, my driver was my friend, everybody was always with me and I enjoyed my stay there. I have never taken any decision without consulting my management despite the difficult situation we were in at that time. In consultation with members of my management team, I was able to buy houses for Council staff.

I realized that welfare of staff is very important in any organisation. The most important thing to do is to please your staff and if the staff are happy you will achieve a lot. Junior officer and all my directors were very cooperative even now some of them that have retired do come here to

greet me. They call me because of the relationship I had with them, that is what life is all about. In all, it was a wonderful experience all together.

**SUGAR NEWS:** Sir, finally, how do you relax?

**TSALA:**

I relax very well. Actually, I hardly go out of my house. I spend time holding regular meetings with fellow politicians. Consultation is very important as far as politics is concerned. Some usually come around to consult me on different political developments. In the evening, friends come here we discuss on a number of issues. I usually wake up around 9:am so I go around to greet friends, relations, my senior friends, including my juniors. We discuss economic problems,

political problems, and others because this was not how we met Nigeria. I went to the university free of charge. Ahmadu Bello University was the only university in the north at that time. I got married with my scholarship allowance. Immediately I graduated, I started work in August got paid 8,000 and I bought a Peugeot. I was given a brand new land cruiser to work in a farm. I had a house, generator, and everything.

Everywhere I go; we will discuss and encourage the young ones to work hard. I paid my school fees even when I was in primary school. I had to do some labour work to pay my school fees because I went to a missionary school. It was challenging but we were determined to succeed and make the best out of life.

## HEALTH CORNER

## AMAZING HEALTH BENEFITS OF ALKALINE WATER (KANGEN WATER)



**F**or most of us, how to reach our very best level of health is a bit of a mystery. We can manage to eat right, exercise regularly, even take expensive supplements, and still lack that sense of vitality that should come with good health

There is something so simple and yet so effective that you will be amazed that it can create profound changes in your health. It's called alkaline water; the

Japanese call it Kangen water. Ionized alkaline water starts out as ordinary tap water, but it is transformed through water ionization to something only found in nature- it becomes water that is super hydrating and loaded with anti-aging antioxidants, water that detoxifies, flushing toxins and acidic wastes out of our cells like true nature's water was intended to do. According to Experts on

Alkaline water benefits, Dr. Sherry Rodgers, author of "Detox or Die" highlights some benefits derivable from drinking of Alkaline water;

\*Alkaline water is antioxidant water that strengthens the body's immune system. It delivers a massive amount of negatively charged electron, to cling to and neutralise the free radicals causing daily damage and premature aging within our

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bodies. (\*Free radicals are the result of poor diet, stress, pollution, chemicals, medications and more)

\*Alkaline water is High pH water. In our modern world, many of us are too acidic physically which is the cause of many major and many minor diseases that thrive within an acidic body. Alkalinized water restores alkalinity and flushes acidic toxins out from the body, leaving your blood clean and able to transport critical nutrients to the cells.

\*Gaining fat is a result of an acidic body, it stores the excess waste in the form of fat. As the body alkalizes, excess body weight may naturally melt away as acids are gradually and naturally removed from the body.

\*Alkaline water is a super nutrient. According to Nobel prize winner Otto Heinrich Warburg, cells in the body deficient of oxygen run the risk of turning cancerous because the body is acidic. As mentioned above, ionized alkaline water

helps deliver nutrients to your body cells more efficiently, hence giving you more energy throughout the day.

\*Alkaline water easily penetrates your body at cellular level, bringing a continual flood of better hydration and renewal. Cells begin to function as they should for optimum health and peak performance.

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## STAFF MATTERS

### LIST OF AWARDEES FOR THE 2016 NSDC MERIT AWARD

Below are the names of officers conferred with different awards in recognition of their dedication to duties.

- |                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Mr. Samuel Kwabe   | Special Recognition Award              |
| 2. Sampson Orji       | Best Management Staff                  |
| 3. Fatima D. Bobbo    | Best Female Staff                      |
| 4. Kawuyo G. Muhammed | Best Senior Staff in Technical Service |
| 5. Samuel T. Orhena   | Best Senior Staff in PPRS              |
| 6. Subair O. Fatai    | Best Senior Staff in HRM               |
| 7. Lawal Aliyu Bichi  | Best Senior Staff in F&A               |
| 8. Umar Bala Umar     | Best Senior Staff in Procurement       |
| 9. Ogunrinde T. Grace | Best Secretarial Staff                 |
| 10. Babayi Chado      | Best Driver                            |
| 11. Kabiru Magaji     | Best Junior Staff in HRM               |
| 12. Isua Boh          | Best Junior Staff in F&A               |

### NSDC Organizes Retreat for Management Staff

To ensure that management staff of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) are in tune with efforts geared towards realizing the Council's core mandates and other targets, the NSDC recently held a well-attended retreat exercise for members of its management team.

The Management retreat is an annual event organized by the NSDC through the Human Resource Management department to reflect on key

issues affecting the Council, foster harmonious relationship as well as rub minds on other relevant issues.

The exercise is also seen as a veritable platform for members to get broader perspective on its challenges and come up with creative ways to overcome them in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in carrying out the activities of the Council.

The 2016 edition was held at Nike Lake Resort, Enugu, in Enugu state from Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2017 to Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

The theme of the 3-day event was; Diversity and Inclusiveness in Workplace.

Those who attended the retreat also took time off to visit some notable tourist centres in Enugu State like Michael Okpara Square in the heart of Enugu, Nike Lake Resort, Ezeagu Waterfalls located in Ihuezi village in Ezeagu Local Government Area of Enugu State as well as a visit to the Ogba Cave in another part of Ihuezi village.

## SUGAR SECTOR IN THE NEWS: JANUARY – MARCH 2017

- 36 Jigawa Communities lose farms to Chinese plantation, Daily Trust Thursday February 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 page 21
- Nigeria may produce 1.7m MT of sugar by 2023 – Sugar Council Boss, Nigerian Tribune Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2017 page 28
- FG reappoints Dr. Busari as NSDC Helmsman, Leadership Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 page 38
- Sugar Council CEO Appointed for Second Term, Thisday Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 page 48
- Busari gets 2<sup>nd</sup> term as Sugar Council CEO, Daily Trust Friday March 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 page 23
- FG re-appoints Sugar Council Executive Secretary, New Telegraph Monday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 page 24



### BIRTH

Mr. Israel Chinonyerem of the Executive Secretary's office announced the arrival of his bouncing baby boy in January, 2017.

In the same vein, the family of Mr Samad Amusat of the Executive Secretary's Office also announced the arrival of a bouncing baby boy into their home on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2017.

Congratulations to both families. May God keep, guide and protect these precious gifts. Amen.

### WEDDING

Mr Pojo Adeyemi of the Finance and Account Department bided farewell to bachelorhood on 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 when he took his longtime friend, lady Ehika Christiana to the alter in the ancient city of Benin, Edo State. Here is wishing the newly wedded couple a blissful marital life.

### CONDOLENCE

The Director (PPRS), Mr Hezekiah Kolawole on a sad note notified the Council of the death of his father, Prophet Kolawole Amos. The sad event which took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, 2017 at Ode-Omu in Osun State. The burial has been fixed for 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2017.

We pray God to grant Pa Kolawole eternal rest and grant the family the fortitude to bear the loss.

## DATA ON SUGAR IMPORTATION IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2017 - JANUARY - MARCH

Month	Importer	Qty (MT) (NPA)	Qty (MT) (NCS)	Levy Paid (N)	Country of Origin	Discharging Port	Type of Sugar
January	Dangote Sugar	85,743	45,600	328,556,215	Brazil	Apapa	Bulk (Raw)
	BUA Sugar	45,000	35,000	236,755,429	Brazil	Tin Can	Bulk (Raw)
	Golden Sugar	-	-	-	Brazil	Tin Can	Bulk (Raw)
February	Dangote Sugar	45,624	89,194	700,054,902	Brazil	Apapa	Bulk (Raw)
	BUA Sugar	35,000	-	-	Brazil	Tin Can	Bulk (Raw)
	Golden Sugar	-	45,845	349,160,954	Brazil	Apapa	Bulk (Raw)
March	Dangote Sugar	92,329	31,000	225,582,712	Brazil	Apapa	Bulk (Raw)
	BUA Sugar	25,003	25,000	84,012,501	Brazil	Apapa	Bulk (Raw)
	Golden Sugar	44,002	39,096	304,493,292	Brazil	Apapa	Bulk (Raw)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>372,701</b>	<b>310,735</b>	<b>2,228,616,005</b>			

## SUMMARY OF AVERAGE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL RAW AND REFINED SUGAR PRICE: JANUARY - MARCH 2017

SUMMARY OF AVERAGE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL RAW AND REFINED SUGAR PRICE: JANUARY-MARCH, 2017.

MONTH	SOURCE (STATE)	SUGAR TYPE	WHOLESALE ₦/50KG	WHOLESALE ₦/MT	RETAIL ₦/50KG	RETAIL ₦/MT	INTERNATIONAL RAW SUGAR AVERAGE PRICE		INTERNATIONAL WHITE SUGAR AVERAGE PRICE	
							\$/MT	₦/MT	\$/MT	₦/MT
JANUARY	Lagos, Kano, Abuja, Adamawa, kwara	Refined Dangote /Bua/ Golden	19,010	380,200	19,383	387,650	453.30	138,116.44	541.9	165,109.85
FEBRUARY	Lagos, Kano, Abuja, Adamawa, kwara	Refined Dangote /Bua/ Golden	19,112.5	382,250	19,375	387,500	456.16	139,044.03	551.22	168,020.05
MARCH	Lagos, Kano, Abuja, Adamawa, kwara	Refined Dangote /Bua/ Golden	18,774.8	375,496	19,044	380,880	399.06	122,263.68	509.5	156,102.44
AVERAGE MONTH TOTAL			18,965.77	379,315.33	19,267.33	385,343.33	436.17	133,141.38	534.20	163,077.45

\*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

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