

**STAKEHOLDERS MEETING, SITE HANDING OVER AND INTRODUCTION OF CONSULTANT FOR THE CONDUCT OF PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND PRODUCTION OF REPORT OF OREKE OKEGBO SUGARCANE GROWING AREAS OF OREKE OKEGBO AND OGBONDOROKO IN KWARA STATE HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**

In furtherance of Council's mandate to conduct Pre-feasibility studies for potential sugarcane growing areas, a meeting was held with host communities of Oreke Okegbo and Ogbondoroko in Ifelodun and Asa local government areas respectively on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2019. The meeting included officials of Bureau of Lands Kwara State, representatives of the host communities, the Consultants and NSDC team. The purpose of the gathering was to hand over the sites and introduce the Consultants to the host communities and also define roles that would be played by each of the stakeholders in the execution of contracts.

At the event, the Kwara State Bureau of Lands was represented by Director of Acquisition, Alhaji Abdulwahab A.R and Director Planning, Alhaji Muhiyeedeen A. A total of 14 members of the host communities of Oreke Okegbo headed by Community Deputy Head, Chief Olaitan O. Kayode and Ogbondoroko headed by Secretary, Afon-Imekon Land Development Committee (AILDC), Mr. Segun Adebisi were present. The Consultants handling the Pre-feasibility Studies of Oreke Okegbo, En-Plan Group and Ogbondoroko, J. Berachah Global Nig. Limited, were ably represented by the Engr. Bayo Abolarin and Mr. Bamikole O.T. respectively. The NSDC team comprises of Alhaji Salihu Bkeke, Deputy Director Technical Services, Balarabe Ladan, Zonal Coordinator (NC & SW Zone), Alhaji Sule T. Kutama, Chief Project Officer, Mr. Michael T. Owoyemi, Principal Project Officer and Chief Clerical Officer (NC & SW Zone), Aluko Bola.

The Deputy Director Technical Services, brief remarks was centered on the role of NSDC in promoting local sugar production through provision of incentives and creating enabling environment for local sugar production in the country. According to him, it became necessary for the Council to ensure that the local sugar production progresses in order to stem the tide of unbridled sugar importation where millions of forex have been lost consistently. He said, on completion of the Pre-feasibility Studies, the report will be used to attract an investor either from the host communities via State government or through the Council as the case may be. It is expected that the state government representation

by Bureau of Lands would in turn ensure maximum cooperation and assistance to the Consultants to accomplish their tasks.

The Director of Acquisition, Bureau of Lands stated that after confirming the land to be viable, it is expected that the host communities will engage the Bureau for necessary documentation. After which an investor would be obtained, M.O.U developed between the host communities and the investor in order to determine mode of utilization of the land as either lease or outright sale.

The meeting was blessed with the Oloreke of Oreke Okegbo, His Royal Highness, Oba Sunday Adefila who stated that his community is fully in support of the project and will continue to cooperate with the Consultant and Ologbondoroko of Ogbondoroko Alhaji Isiaka Ahmed Akande who also stated that the community could not believe that the conduct of pre-feasibility is realistic until when their contact read out the letter of the Council introducing the Consultant to them. He prayed for the project to have a positive result and promised to give the Consultant all the necessary support to complete the job.

The lead Consultant for J. Berachah, Mr. Bamikole O. T. said that his firm will ensure to familiarize itself with the earmarked area as soon as possible so that the work can commence immediately. He informed the gathering that the Company will engage the youths for some physical works at the site and that the Pre-feasibility report will take into account all the wastes to be generated by the sugar factory to ensure that they are converted to useful products.

Engr. Bayo Abolarin of EN-PLAN Group lamented that the pre-feasibility studies will surely capture much popularity and value addition after completion, he said EN-PLAN Group was ready to commence work at the site by the end of January 2019.

On behalf of the host communities, the Oloreke of Oreke Okegbo thanked the Executive Secretary of National Sugar Development Council, Dr. Latif D. Busari for keeping to his words and commitment towards the implementation of the Pre-feasibility Studies of Sugarcane Growing Areas of Oreke Okegbo and Ogbondoroko.



**Kwara State Bureau of Lands officials, the prefeasibility study Consultants, representatives of the host community of Ogbondoroko and NSDC officials**



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