



Sugar News

VOL. 19 No. 1, Jan.-March 2019 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Indian company to partner Council to develop Nigeria's sugar industry



**Nigerian team
in India to seek
partnership with
Sugar Institute**

**NSDC Managment
visits Bauchi, discusses
sugar investment
opportunities
with Governor
Abubakar**

**Council officials
visit GNAL'S
Gagarawa
sugar project site
in Jigawa**

NSDC.... We sweeten your world

Editorial

The National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) is not relenting in its drive to ensure that the nation's sugar sector is on the right track and abundant potential in the sector is meaningfully harnessed for the overall benefit of Nigeria and Nigerians.

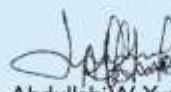
In matching words with action, the Executive Secretary of the NSDC, Dr. Latif Busari recently led a team of senior officials from the Council on a working visit to Governor Muhammad Abubakar of Bauchi state during which they discussed ways of possible collaboration in order to harness the state's sugar potential for economic growth.

While in Bauchi, Dr. Busari who disclosed Council's readiness to offer both policy and technical

assistance to all stakeholders who are interested in investing in the sector, called on the Bauchi state Government to partner the Council in its drive to diversify the state's economy.

Also, efforts to ensure the successful take-off of the proposed Nigeria Sugar Institute (NSI) are ongoing. Recently, members of the proposed institute were in Kanpur, India to seek for areas of possible collaboration with the National Sugar Institute of India.

In this edition are stories on developments in Nigeria's sugar sector, events within the Council in the first quarter of 2019 plus our regular segments.



Abdullahi W. Yunusa
Editor - In-Chief

NSDC Management visits Bauchi, discusses sugar investment opportunities with Governor Abubakar

The Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr. Latif Busari recently led a team of senior officials from the Council on a courtesy visit to Governor Muhammad Abubakar of Bauchi state to discuss ways of possible collaboration in order to harness the state's sugar potential for economic growth.

Dr. Busari who disclosed Council's readiness to offer policy and technical assistance to all stakeholders who are interested in investing in the sector, called on the Bauchi state Government to partner the Council in its efforts to diversify the state's economy.

He said the Council has already identified a project site in Warji and has engaged an independent consultant to carry out a pre-feasibility study on the area before actual work commences. Dr. Busari

said the state government has a lot to gain in terms of job creation, social amenities and other corporate social responsibility projects if the sugar factory is eventually established in the state.

On his part, Bauchi State Governor, Barrister Muhammad Abubakar thanked Dr. Busari and his team for extending a hand of fellowship to the state, stressing that agriculture and economic diversification are cardinal aspects of his

administration's agenda. He expressed State's willingness to offer any form of support that would encourage investors to come into the state and establish their businesses.

While thanking the Council delegation to the state, he promised to provide all the necessary assistance to facilitate the establishment of the proposed sugar project in Warji, including the construction of access road and other amenities.



Dr. Latif Busari handing over a gift item to the Governor of Bauchi State, Alhaji Muhammad Abubakar during a courtesy call on the Governor in the state.

Nigerian team in India to seek partnership with Sugar Institute

A six-member delegation from the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) recently visited the National Sugar Institute (NSI), Kanpur, India to seek the institute's help in seeing to the successful take-off of the proposed Nigeria Sugar Institute.

According to the NSI Director, Professor Narendra Mohan, the NSI will provide technical consultancy for human capacity expansion and efficiency improvement of existing sugar plants in Nigeria.

The delegation also requested the NSI authorities to conduct short duration training programmes for their technical personnel before setting up the sugar academy in Nigeria. The delegation, led by Director, Industrial Development, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, Mr. Adewale Bakare, was accompanied by Mr. Chris C.

Mbamalu, Mohammed Kawuyo from the NSDC and other two other officials from sugar companies.

Speaking further, Professor Mohan said, "We are advising our Nigerian counterparts to focus on sugarcane and sugar productivity besides aiming at setting up integrated complexes for producing other value added products, particularly going in

for generation of bio-energy".

The delegation visited the academic area of the NSI to see teaching and training facilities, and laboratories. The delegation also visited other facilities at the institute before its departure.

The visit ended with an agreement to draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the two



Busari leads Council delegation on courtesy visit to University of Ilorin VC

The Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr. Latif Busari was recently at the University of Ilorin to discuss ways of strengthening the existing working relationship between the two establishments.

On hand to receive the NSDC team was the institution's Vice Chancellor, Professor Suleiman Abdulkareem Age as well as other top members of staff of the university.

Speaking on the essence of the visit, NSDC boss, Dr. Busari said the visit was to bridge existing information gap between the Council and the university and to also clarify issues relating to the NSDC Sugarcane Bio-factory which is located within the university community.

On the current state of the sugarcane bio-factory, Dr. Busari said efforts are ongoing to ensure speedy completion of all pending works at the site, adding that the project will

soon be commissioned. He said the NSDC is currently implementing a 10-year masterplan for the sugar sector, adding that four existing sugar project sites are doing fairly well as well as coordinated efforts to revive the Nigerian Sugar Company Bacita, located in Kwara state.

In his remarks, the Vice Chancellor, University of Ilorin, Professor

Suleiman Abdulkareem Age who pledged to support the Council in the pursuit of its mandate, commended the NSDC for locating the bio-factory in the university.

Professor Age pledged the university's readiness to explore other areas of possible collaboration with the Council as well as ensure the security of all the facilities and structures put in place by the NSDC.



The Asst. Manager of the Bio-factory, Mr. A. Akinwale explaining the modalities for the on-going seedlings multiplication activities.

Council officials visit GNAL'S Gagarawa sugar project site in Jigawa

Some senior officials of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), recently paid a working visit to the sugar project site of Great Northern Agribusiness Limited (GNAL) located in Gagarawa, Jigawa state to see the level of work so far done.

The team which was led by the Executive Secretary, Dr. Latif Busari also had Malam Salihu Bkeke, Malam Ahmed Waziri Mr. Chris Mbamalu and NSDC officials in the North-West zone on board.

The NSDC team was received by the Director, Agricultural Services, GNAL, Dr. Umar Majiya, Deputy Director Agricultural Services, Malam Muhammed Jika and Personnel Manager, Malam Abdullahi Bawa. In his remarks during the visit, Dr. Busari said he was impressed by the efforts so far put in by the company at implementing its sugarcane to sugar project, but advised them to devise sustainable means to manage water given its scarcity around the area where the project is located.

He praised the team's plan to convey water from River Hadejia to its sugar project site as a way of addressing the water challenge confronting it.

The E.S commended the team for its diligence, seriousness and commitment to the project, adding that the efforts so far put into the projects are indications that the brains behind the business are serious-minded people.

"With what we have seen here, the company has a lot of potential of becoming the most efficient low cost producer of sugar in Nigeria in the nearest future."

While pledging NDSC's support to ensure that the company's plans are realized, the E.S expressed optimism that by 2023 sugar production in Nigeria will be over one million metric

tonnes.

In his response, the GM of GNAL, Mr. Wang Ting Fu solicited the assistance of the Council to ease the difficulty they often encounter with regards to the importation of equipment.

On how to address the problem of water in the area, he said the use of underground water would require many boreholes and pump stations, hence they had commenced arrangements for conveyance of about 250 million cubic meters of water from River Hadejia to the project site.

He said the entire project would cost the company the about N30 billion and so solicited for some form of support from the Federal government. He disclosed that the Chinese government gave the company 40 percent grant as incentive.



The Executive Secretary, middle, Dr. Latif Busari alongside other Council officials and operators of the Great Northern Agribusiness Limited during a visit to the company's sugar project site in Jigawa State

NSDC Management Team in Calabar for annual retreat

The Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr. Latif Busari recently led members of the NSDC Management Team to the ancient city of Calabar, Cross Rivers state for the team's annual retreat which held between Thursday, 10th to Saturday, 12th 2019.

The theme of the three-day event was, "Workforce Synergy for Sustainable Results in NSDC", which according to the HRM Department was a follow-up to consolidate on the gains of the 2017 Management Retreat with the theme, "Work Ethics and Corporate Dynamics in NSDC".

Speaking on the importance of the retreat, the E.S, Dr. Latif Busari expressed concern that, "participants in the previous retreat sessions have not taken advantage of lessons learnt by applying it at the work place, hence the impact of knowledge gained was not felt on staff

performance".

On how to ensure that the gaps or shortcomings identified are addressed in future retreats, the E.S urged the HRM Department to, "henceforth modify retreat programmes for better results. The first of day of the retreat should be devoted to x-ray performance of the Council in the last year, highlight the challenges and brainstorm to proffer solutions to the challenges identified".

On staff training, Dr. Busari also advised the HRM Department to "review its activity on staff training and find out if the Council's investment on training was having impact on staff performance and the overall Council's productivity".

He used the opportunity to congratulate the Assistant Director, Procurement, Mrs. Afiong Onwumeru for being the first female staff to rise to the Management position since the establishment of the Council.

On his part, Director, Human Resource Management, Mr. Samuel Kwabe, said the choice of the theme of the retreat "was a product of the importance that Council attaches to the issues of cooperation and synergy in the workplace as a panacea to achieving higher productivity".

Mr. Kwabe formally introduced the trio of Dr. Abiodun Adeyemo, Malam Yusuf Argungu and Mrs. Afiong Onwumeru as new members of the NSDC Management to other members of the team.

The Calabar retreat focused principally on the following topics; concept of workforce synergy and its benefits to NSDC, workshop behavior and commitments to duty, workforce synergy strategies in NSDC, working with passion in the public sector as well as team building activities.

Council redeploys staff to ensure efficient service delivery

In order to fast-track the realization of the mandate of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) through effective and efficient service delivery, the NSDC Executive Secretary, Dr. Latif Busari has approved the redeployment of a total of five staff of the Council across departments and Zonal Offices.

According to a circular signed by the Director, Human Resource Management, Mr. Samuel Kwabe, on behalf of the E.S, it said the redeployment exercise was geared towards repositioning the Council to guarantee more effective and efficient service delivery.

In line with the circular, Malam Baba Dasin, an Assistant Director in the Technical Service Department has been posted to the office of the

Executive Secretary, Malam Muhammed Jazuli of the Policy, Planning, Research and Statistics was moved to the department of Finance and Accounts while Malam Umar Ango of the NSDC North-West Zonal office was redeployed to the Lagos Liaison Office.

Other affected officers are Malam Salihu Mohammed formerly of the Lagos Liaison Office returned to the department of Finance and Accounts in Abuja while Malam Hamman Mahmud of the North-East Zonal Office was posted to the North-West Zonal Office in Kano.

All the concerned staff have since complied with the directive and reported at their places of assignment as stated in the circular.

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Figure 2: Dr. L.D Busari presenting some NSDC publications V.C. Unilorin Prof. Suleman Abdulkareem Age while the Director, Finance and Accounts, Malam Auwalu Abubakar looks on.



Members of the NSDC Management Team in a group photograph with their facilitators at the end of their retreat in Calabar, Cross-Rivers State.



L-R: Deputy Director, Finance and Accounts, Mallam Ibrahim .S. Ibrahim and Deputy Director, Technical Services, Madam Salihu Bkeke jointly overseeing documents during an official visit to the Governor of Kogi State, Alhaji Yahaya Bello

Photo Speak



The NSDC delegation to University of Ilorin in a group photograph with members of the University management.



The NSDC Management team in a photo-session with representatives of Ashoka during their visit to the Council's office in Abuja.



Members of the Ashoka delegation during their visit to the Council

Indian company to partner Council to develop Nigeria's sugar industry

Obviously pleased with the ongoing reforms and enormous business potential in Nigeria's sugar sector, an Indian-based sugar engineering and consultancy services company has expressed willingness to invest and participate actively to grow the sector.

The company, Messers J.P Mukherji and Associates Limited recently sent three of its officials to the corporate headquarters of the National Sugar Development Council in Abuja where they met and discussed elaborately with the Executive Secretary of the Council, Dr. Latif Busari on areas of collaboration.

According to its representatives, the company engages in "total project management for setting up of a sugarcane processing complex. It specializes in engineering and consultancy services for the cane sugar industry to produce sugar and its by-products, stabilization and optimization of existing plant

capacities aimed at reducing project cost".

Speaking further on the company's long years of service in the sugar industry, the leader of the delegation and Managing Director of the company, Dr. M.S Sunderam, said "JPMA has been in the forefront for innovative designs, many of which have been patented. It also achieved milestones in designing equipment and systems for energy conservation and has been credited for saving large quantities of fuel, thereby generating surplus bagasse for co-generation of electricity and producing paper".

In his speech during the visit, the NSDC boss, Dr. Latif Busari said the Council would be pleased to leverage on the company's expertise for a financial and technical evaluation of Josepdam Sugar Company

(Nigerian Sugar Company), Bacita, Kwara state.

Dr. Busari who noted that the nation's sugar industry is undergoing serious reforms, especially as it relates to the implementation of a 10-year masterplan for the sector, added that the local sugar industry holds a lot of opportunities for willing investors.

JPMA is currently consulting for Dangote Sugar Group for the optimization and upgrading of the Savannah Sugar Company Limited, Numan, from 3,200TCD to 6,000TCD and thereafter the establishment of a green field 12,000TCD plant in Numan and another in Tunga, Nassarawa state.

Staff wellbeing is paramount to us, Dr. Busari ...As Mr. Kwabe harps on cooperation amongst staff

The Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr. Latif Busari says the Council as a responsible and responsive government establishment attaches much importance to the overall wellbeing of its staff, stressing that a healthy body guarantees improved output and increased productivity.

Dr. Busari who dropped this hint at the first NSDC General Staff meeting for 2019, said the just concluded general medical check-up exercise organized for staff of the Council was part of efforts aimed at attending to the health

needs of the personnel as well as boosting their morale.

"I want to speak on the general medical check-up that we just concluded. I have come to understand that because of the harsh economic times a number of us don't take our health seriously. We are usually unmindful of certain medical issues in our lives only to rush to the hospital when we become critically ill. It is ridiculous that we even pay more attention to our cars than our health. It is important we take our health seriously. A stitch in time saves nine".

On the issue of organizational discipline, Dr. Busari expressed some reservations about the attitude of some staff, especially as it relates to honesty, transparency and accountability in the discharge of their assignments. He said, "it appears we are taking things for granted here. That we always say we are one big family doesn't mean that people continue to commit offences. Any family without discipline will collapse".

He enjoined Council staff to carry out assigned duties diligently, transparently and professionally

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in line with laid down rules and regulations as enshrined in the Civil Service rules.

Also lending his voice, the Director, Human Resource Management (HRM), Mr. Samuel Kwabe said the meeting was convened to reflect on the activities of the Council in the last 6 months and chart a way forward, especially as it relates to achieving NSDC's core institutional mandate and goals.

Mr. Kwabe who called on staff to freely express themselves in very

"responsible, civil and orderly manner", noted that the gathering was an opportunity for staff to ask relevant questions and seek clarification on certain policy, administrative and sectorial issues.

While commending the staff for strictly adhering to civil service rules in their daily official assignments, Mr. Kwabe also thanked staff who came in from the Zonal Offices to participate in the meeting.



Dr. Latif Busari

Executive Secretary
National Sugar Development Council (NSDC)

NSDC holds general staff meeting

To ensure that staff of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) play key roles in efforts geared towards achieving the Council's mandate and are aware of developments in the nation's sugar sector, the Council held a meeting which was attended by staff from the headquarters and Zonal offices.

The meeting, the first in 2019, which had all members of the NSDC Management team in attendance, was chaired by the Executive Secretary of the Council, Dr. Latif Busari.

In his speech at the meeting, NSDC boss, Dr. Busari, who said the meeting was convened to take stock of what had been done in the Council in the outgone year, urged members of staff to feel free to air their views on issues that would be tabled for deliberation.

"Like we always say, this is a family meeting. I expect it to be very interactive in nature. Let us feel free to contribute to discussion, especially on how to sustain the

gains we've so far recorded as an organization and be alive to our responsibilities in our capacity as chief regulator of the industry".

The meeting afforded Directors and heads of units the opportunity to brief the gathering about activities in their respective departments in the last one year as well as what to expect within the current year.

Departmental briefs were presented by the Director, Human Resource Management, Mr. Samuel Kwabe; Director, Policy,

Planning, Research and Statistics, Mr. Hezekiah Kolawole; Director, Finance and Accounts, Malam Auwalu Abubakar Shira; Director, Procurement, Alhaji Ishaq Odewale; Deputy Director, Technical Service, Malam Salihu Bkeke; while the Senior Information Officer, Abdullahi W. Yunusa presented the brief for the Public Affairs Division on behalf of the Deputy Director, Public Affairs, Malam Ahmed Waziri.



A cross-section of NSDC staff during Council's general staff meeting held at the Sugar House in Abuja



DRINK PLENTY OF WATER

- Drink plenty of water even if you do not feel thirsty
- check the colour of your wee - if it's pale you're drinking enough.
- If your doctor normally limits your fluids, check how much to drink during hot weather.
- Avoid alcoholic, hot or sugary drinks including tea and coffee (they can make dehydration worse).
- If you go outside, carry a bottle of water with you.
- Stock your fridge with cold water and freezer with ice.

KEEP YOUR BODY COOL

- Drink cold drinks and eat smaller cold meals such as salads and fruit.

- Wear light coloured, loose fitting clothes made from natural fibres like cotton.
- Stay out of the sun. If you must go outside, apply sunscreen, wear a hat.
- Plan your day around the heat
- Put wet towels or cool packs on your arms or neck or put your feet in cool water.
- Take cool showers or baths.
- Minimise physical activity, do all household chores early in the morning when it is coolest.

KEEP YOUR HOUSE COOL

- Cool your house by closing windows, shutting curtains and blinds, opening

windows at night if you can to let in cool air.

- Use air-conditioning if you have it (make sure it's set to cool).
- If you don't have air-conditioning, spend time in a cool place like a library, shopping centre or cinema.
- Know which room in your house is the coolest (this will often be on the ground floor on the south side).
- If there is no power or you can't get to an air-conditioned space, spend time in the coolest part of your house.
- Use your stove and oven as little as possible.

**SUGAR SECTOR IN THE NEWS
JANUARY – MARCH 2019**

- PTAD concludes verification of former Savannah Sugar workers, THISDAY, 28th February, 2019. Page 28
- We're bringing 60% jobs via sugar cultivation- MAN, Daily Trust, 1st March, 2019 Page 17

STAFF MATTERS

SEND FORTH

In line with its tradition, the Council recently organized a send-off ceremony for Corps members posted to the NSDC who had completed their service year.

The Corps members sent forth are Ogbu Benjamin (Procurement), Ojuade Wemimo Sulyat (PPRS) and Juliet Okoye Chinwe (HRM).

A select number of Council staff drawn from departments and units took turns to deliver messages of goodwill to the Corps members and also wished them well in their future endeavours.

Highpoint of the ceremony was the presentation of gift items to the corps members by officers from the Human Resource Department.



R-L: Benjamin, Sulyat and Juliet in a photo-session during an in-house farewell ceremony organized for Corps members and IT students by the Council.

MANAGEMENT RETREAT

The 2018 Annual Management Retreat was held at Dannic Hotels, Calabar, Cross River State from 9th to 12th January, 2019 with 14 out of the 15 management staff in attendance. The theme of the 3- day event was; Workforce Synergy for sustainable results in NSDC designed to provide participants with appropriate skills for creating harmony and synergy in the workplace.

MEDICAL CHECK-UP

The management of the Council in furthering its commitment to the well-being of staff magnanimously approved general medical check-up for all staff at the Medicaid Radio-Diagnostics Centre Abuja. According to the E.S, Dr. Latif Busari, the gesture was to enable staff know their health status and be properly guided on issues relating to their health.

GENERAL STAFF MEETING

The first general staff meeting involving all members of staff including those from the Zonal and Liaison offices was held on 14th March, 2019. The meeting held in the Council's conference room during which issues of concern to the development of the Council were discussed.

DATA ON SUGAR IMPORTATION IN THE FIRST QUARTER January - March 2019

Month	Importer	Qty (MT) (NPA)	Qty (MT) (NCS)	Levy Paid (N)	Country of Origin	D/Port	Type of Sugar
January	Dangote Sugar	45,523	46,900	252,034,722	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	43,753	36,000	179,318,700	Brazil	Tincan	Raw
	Golden Sugar	-	-	-	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
February	Dangote Sugar	46,910	89,906	492,390,282	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	36,252	-	-	-	-	-
	Golden Sugar	-	-	-	-	-	-
March	Dangote Sugar	45,612	46,600	227,631,603	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	40,005	40,000	199,080,754	Brazil	Tin Can	Raw
	Golden Sugar	52,600	52,600	269,782,862	Brazil	Tincan	Raw
Total		310,655	312,006	1,620,238,823			

SUMMARY OF AVERAGE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL RAW AND WHITE SUGAR PRICE: January - March, 2019

MONTH	SOURCE (STATE)	SUGAR (BRAND)	WHOLESALE N/50KG	WHOLESALE N/MT	RETAIL N/50KG	RETAIL N/MT	INTERNATIONAL RAW SUGAR AVERAGE PRICE		INTERNATIONAL WHITE SUGAR AVERAGE PRICE	
							S/MT	N/MT	S/MT	N/MT
JANUARY	LAGOS	DANGOTE/	13,507	270,134	13,817	276,334	280.215	86,006.36	335.255	102,899.64
	KANO	GOLDEN/								
	ABUJA	BUA								
	ADAMAWA									
	KWARA									
FEBRUARY	LAGOS	DANGOTE/	13,794	275,867	14,193	283,865	286.018	87,736.04	350.738	107,589.03
	KANO	GOLDEN/								
	ABUJA	BUA								
	ADAMAWA									
	KWARA									
MARCH	LAGOS	DANGOTE/	13,603	272,045	13,942	278,844	282.178	86,589.74	342.184	105,003.27
	KANO	GOLDEN/								
	ABUJA	BUA								
	ADAMAWA									
	KWARA									
AVERAGE			13,634	272,682	13,984	279,681	282.804	86,777.38	342.726	105,163.98

* Note: Mt = Metric Tons (50kgx 20), Kg = Kilogram, N = Nigerian Currency Naira,
S = USD, Currency Conversion US\$1 = N305.95 (Nigeria Central Bank Rate)

Weight Conversion: 1000kg = 1 Metric Tonne, S/ Ton = 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.

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...and much more