



Sugar News

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

COVID-19: Council gets ministerial commendation



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NSDC....We sweeten your world

Editorial

As the world gradually recovers from the devastating effects of the coronavirus pandemic, activities across critical sectors of the economy have picked up. In Nigeria for instance, airports, schools, banks, religious and social centers that were hitherto closed have resumed, but with strict adherence to covid-19 protocols as outlined by the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19.

Like other sectors of the Nigerian economy, the sugar sub-sector also had its fair share of the disruption occasioned by the pandemic. Though activities in the sector weren't completely grounded, but were slowed down considerably.

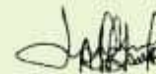
The National Sugar Development Council didn't go to sleep as its officers, especially staff in the management cadre participated in a number of local and international sugar meetings held virtually.

During the period under review, members of the

Governing Board of the NSDC paid an inspection visit to the project site of the Nigeria Sugar Institute (NSI), Ilorin, Kwara state. The Nigeria Sugar Institute when completed will among other objectives address issues relating to manpower needs in the sugar sector as well as provide technical assistance to sugar companies in Nigeria.

In this edition are our regular special pages like the Star Interview, Health Corner and Staff Matters segments as well as other interesting developments within the nation's sugar industry in the last quarter.

Do stay safe Covid-19 is real



Abdullahi W. Yunusa
Editor-In-Chief

COVID-19: FG directs civil servants on levels 12, 13 to resume work

The Federal government has directed federal civil servants on Grade Levels 12 and 13 as well as those on essential duties to resume full duties.

The Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Dr. (Mrs.) Folashade Yemi-Esan, gave the directive in a circular in Abuja.

Currently, only workers on Grade Level 14 and above go to offices, and work for just three days in a week, as part of measures to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

Mrs Yemi-Esan, in the circular, said that workers affected would resume work from Monday to Friday, and be in office from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. as usual.

The new development follows a directive by the Presidential



Dr. Folashade Yemi-Esan
Head of Service of the Federation

TaskForce (PTF) on COVID-19, urging workers to resume full working hours and days.

The PTF had, however, said that consideration must be given to the health implication of the number to recall for duties, in the light of the extant guidelines on the measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Mrs Yemi-Esan asked Chief Executive Officers to ensure full compliance with the directives on the COVID-19 pandemic preventive measures, including physical distancing, regular washing and/or sanitising of hands and wearing of face masks.

She said that efforts should be made to avoid overcrowding in individual offices.

Mrs Yemi-Esan said that where the number of staff resuming work was large, permanent secretaries and chief executive officers should consider the option of duty rosters.

NSDC Board members visit Sugar Institute project site

Members of the Governing Board of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), led by the Chairman, HRH EtsuTsaragiAlhaji A. K Abdullahi were at the project site of the Nigeria Sugar Institute (NSI), located in Ilorin, Kwara state to monitor the level of work so far done at the site.

The team which was received by the

was born out of the need to address manpower needs and challenges in the nation's sugar industry, stressing that the institute when completed would save the country and sugar companies the trouble of sourcing for foreign exchange to train their staff abroad.

He said the idea of establishing the institute was prompted by the dearth of competent indigenous technical

forming partnership with existing globally known sugar institutes for curriculum drafting and exchange programme".

While thanking the NSDC Board members for the visit, Dr. Busari said when completed the NSI will boost the economic activities of the host community and also provide jobs for its youths.

Speaking on behalf of the members



Governing Board and NSDC Management Team members during an inspection visit to Nigerian Sugar Institute site in Ilorin, Kwara State.

Executive Secretary, National Sugar Development Council, Dr. Latif D. Busari and some management staff said the visit to the NSI project site was to see and assess the level of work so far done by the contractors handling different segments of the project.

In his welcome address, the Executive Secretary, NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari said the NSI project

staff across sugar companies and its consequences on the industry, stressing that it was high time Nigerians are well trained to operate in areas within the sector largely controlled by expatriates.

"The Nigeria Sugar Institute will address issues relating to manpower development, meeting specific needs of players in the industry, training of Nigerians locally and

of the Governing Board, HRH Alhaji A.K Abdullahi expressed delight with the work so far done and pledged the board's support to ensure its early completion and subsequent commissioning towards the end of the year.

Dangote Sugar appoints Ravindra Singhvi as GMD/Chief Executive Officer

The Board of Directors of Dangote Sugar Refinery has appointed Mr. Ravindra Singhvi as the substantive Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc, effective October 30, 2020.

This disclosure was made by the company in a notification of the resolution of its board meeting, to the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

"Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc. wishes to notify the Exchange and the investing public that at the Board of Directors Meeting of the Company held today, Friday October 30, 2020, the Board approved (a) the Unaudited Financial Statement for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2020, and (b) the appointment of the current Ag. Managing Director, Mr. Ravindra Singhvi as substantive Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc. effective October 30, 2020."

Prior to his new appointment, Mr Singhvi had been the Ag. Managing

Director of Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc since 18th June, 2019, after serving as the company's Chief Operating Officer.

The Board has stated that it is "confident that he is a great asset to the Company, particularly at this time when it is on a rapid growth trajectory, in view of its recent acquisition and it's several backward integration projects (BIP) to position itself for further job creation in local plantations and factories, import substitution and deeper contribution to national economic development." He has over 39 years of proven experience in leadership positions in Manufacturing and Processes in Sugar, Petrochemicals, Cement, and Textiles products industries in India.

He is a Chartered Accountant with background in Company Secretarial Practice, Corporate Governance and Management, and holds a Bachelor's Degree in B.Com (Hons) and Law(I) from the University of Jodhpur, India.



Prior to joining Dangote Sugar Refinery Plc, Mr. Singhvi had served as the Managing Director & CEO of NSL Sugar Limited, Hyderabad, India, and Managing Director, EID Parry (I) Limited, Chennai, India, one of top three sugar producing companies in India.

COVID-19: Council gets ministerial commendation

The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, OtunbaNiyi Adebayo has sent a letter of commendation to the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) for its exemplary dedication, commitment and loyalty in the service of Nigeria throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

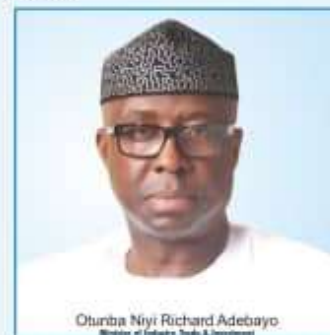
According to a letter of commendation signed by the Permanent Secretary, FMITI, Dr. NasirSani-Gwarzo, "this is to commend your patriotic service to the nation as member of the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment Committee on Sustainable

Production and Delivery of Essential Commodities during the COVID-19 pandemic".

While appreciating the leadership of the Council and its entire staff for putting the nation first at such a peculiarly challenging period, the Minister said the Council made invaluable contributions to the milestones achieved by the ministry throughout the lockdown period.

The letter further reads, "While appreciating you for the satisfactory service rendered, please accept the

assurances of the Honourable Minister's personal regards and best wishes".



Otunba Niyi Richard Adebayo
Minister of Industry, Trade & Investment

Council presents sugar investor to Kwara state government

As part of its drive to develop the nation's sugar sector and make it economically viable, the National Sugar Development Council has presented a new sugar investor (Nosak Group Ltd) to the Kwara State Government, in Ilorin, Kwara state.

opportunities for Nigeria, especially Oreke - Okegbo area of Ifelodun LGA in the area of creating jobs for its teeming youth population.

he area of creating jobs for its teeming youth population.

Mal. Bkeke said the Council had

to the Governor.

In his response, Governor Abdulrahman thanked the Council for keying into the economic diversification agenda of President



L-R: Director, Technical Service, Mal. Salihu Bkeke presenting documents to the Executive Governor of Kwara state, Alhaji Abdulrazak Abdulrahman when he led a delegation of investors to the state recently.

The Council, through its Director, Technical Services, Mal. Salihu Bkeke officially presented the group to the Executive Governor of Kwara state, Alhaji AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq in Ilorin.

While presenting the NOSAK Group to the governor, Mal. Bkeke said the move was in furtherance of the Council's desire to attract genuine investors to the sector, adding that the sugar industry holds numerous

carried out all the necessary background checks on the company as well as its operations before now, stressing that the company has shown genuine interest and it is ready to do business in the state.

He assured the governor of Council's commitment to sugar-related ventures in the state, and promised to provide technical assistance to both parties whenever the need arises.

He later presented a copy of Pre -

Muhammadu Buhari, adding that Kwara state under his watch will leave no stone unturned in his quest to diversify the economy of the state.

While welcoming the members of NOSAK Group to the state, he assured them of government's determination to partner with genuine and sincere private sector players to develop the state and her people. He urged them to be faithful to whatever agreement they would enter into with government and its representatives.



Members of the NSDC Governing Board and Management team during an inspection visit to the project site of the Nigeria Sugar Institute, Ilorin Kwara State.



2nd from left, Director, Finance and Accounts, Alhaji Auwalu Abubakar Shira and 3rd from right, Mr. George Musa, ISO Consultant during the duo's visit to the NSDC South West Zonal Office in Ilorin, Kwara State ahead of the forthcoming external audit of the Council by Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON).



Council staff, Mr. Samuel Orhena and Alhaji Zubair Omoniye on a condolence visit to Malam Sheriff Gambomi of the PPRS Department over the demise of his father in Maiduguri, Borno State.

Photo Speaks



R-L Director, Technical Services, NSDC, Mal. Salihu Bkeke when he led the Nosak Group to the Oluoroke of Oreke-Okegbo, Oba Sunday Adefifa in Ifelodun LGA of Kwara State.



The ES NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari (Middle), some Council staff and members of a delegation from NOSAK Group during their visit to the corporate headquarters of NSDC in Abuja.



Director, Technical Services, Mal. Salihu Bkeke (Middle) alongside members of the NOSAK Group during their visit to the Oroke-Okegbo Area in Ifelodun LGA, Kwara State.

Addressing indigenous manpower needs in Nigeria's Sugar Industry

By Abdullahi W. Yunusa

Undoubtedly, manpower is one of the critical components of any business or organizational set-up. The success or failure of an organization largely depends on the competence, capability and professional capacity of its manpower. All factors considered, manpower remains the power house of any venture or organization.

Critical stakeholders and operators in the nation's sugar sub-sector are not unaware of the shrinking number of well-trained indigenous professionals with the requisite technical know-how to handle certain operational assignments in the existing sugar companies and factories across the country. It is common knowledge that sensitive operational tasks in sugar companies in Nigeria are mostly handled by expatriates

brought in from leading sugar-producing countries like Brazil, India, China, Sudan and South Africa.

This is not to say that there are no indigenous professionals working in sugar companies in Nigeria, but the challenge is that the number of Nigerians holding key operational responsibilities pales into insignificance when compared to the number of their expatriate colleagues. In some instances, local engineers and experts in the sector are perpetually made to work under the supervision of expatriates, who are considered rightly or wrongly, to possess more requisite knowledge and hands-on experience.

Ideally, Nigeria, given its sheer

human and natural endowments shouldn't just be among the leading sugar-producing countries around the world, but a major force to reckon with in terms of being home to highly proficient engineers and technicians in the sector. Sadly, like in many other sectors, Nigeria keeps

local manpower in the industry, the Federal Government had, through the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), working very closely with major operators, approved the establishment of Nigeria's pioneer sugar training institution to be called Nigeria Sugar



trailing behind less endowed nations in its quest to grow the sugar sector and attain self-sufficiency.

Nigeria had in 2013 launched an ambitious roadmap for the sugar sector called the Nigerian Sugar Master Plan (NSMP). Major objectives of the roadmap are for Nigeria to attain self-sufficiency in sugar production; stem the tide of unbridled sugar importation; create huge numbers of job opportunities and contribute to the production of ethanol and generation of electricity. As laudable as these objectives are, they cannot be realized without the inputs of competent manpower, especially Nigerian professionals.

To address the dearth of qualified

Institute (NSI). The NSDC and operators are optimistic that the establishment of the NSI will enhance professionalism and ensure that indigenous field and factory professionals are exposed to relevant trainings and practices in the sector.

In the short to medium-term, the NSI is expected to train 16,640 and 2,610 skilled agricultural and factory manpower respectively to meet the immediate needs of the industry. According to the implementation committee set up to drive this process, the priority areas of capacity building so far identified and adopted are the development of relevant curricular and training of resource persons for crop physiology, diseases and their

management, insect/pests and their management, cultural operations and mechanization, cane nutrition, weed management and irrigation, cane harvesting and haulage, farm machineries workshop organization and management. Others are sugar laboratory technologies, factory instrumentation, mills operations, water and steam consumption and sugar refining etc.

The overall objectives of the Nigeria Sugar Institute (NSI), are; to conduct specialized training to enhance the capacity and know-how of technical staff serving the sector for the benefit of the industry; develop the human resources to ensure the cost effectiveness and competitiveness of the Nigerian sugar industry; ensure delivery of its courses at the highest standards with relevant quality assurance procedures to ensure acceptance and recognition of its certificate worldwide.

Other objectives of the NSI include, to tap new technologies and innovative approaches as they emerge for the industry's full benefit; maintain an up-to-date database and

keep abreast of relevant information and technologies that can be used as sources of reference by the sector as well as to dispense courses and continuous learning programmes for technologists and technicians to meet the requirements of an evolving and competitive industry.

The stakeholders in the NSI project include, local sugar operators, the University of Ilorin Sugarcane Research Institute, National Sugar Development Council, foreign sugar training institutions like the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, India, Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, Reduit, Mauritius and the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

To ensure its smooth take-off and eventual running, specific roles have been assigned to various stakeholders in line with their areas of competences and mandate. For instance, the foreign institutes are to develop curriculum, train the trainers, offer operational guidance, advise and also carryout certification of programmes.

While the NSDC on the other hand will ensure programme implementation and supervision,

consultation, engagement, periodic impact assessment and part-funding. The industry operators are among other demands expected to provide inputs to concept implementation plan, provide work place opportunity, part-funding and periodic feedback on NSI products while FMITI is expected to offer policy support.

So, essentially, government's resolve to establish the Nigeria Sugar Institute in order to expose indigenous professionals to modern trends in the sector isn't only commendable, but timely and apposite given our desire to grow the nation's sugar industry. Going forward, sugar factories in the country will be able to source competent professionals of various cadres from within the country and rely less on expatriates.

By this arrangement also, when the NSI becomes fully operational, sugar companies operating in Nigeria will have no reason for sending their workers abroad for further training. So, in all, it is going to be a win-win situation for both Nigeria and the operators.

Health CORNER

HOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT INFLUENCES YOU

When we hear the word environment most of us immediately think in terms of the earth or nature, but what we're going to focus on today is your personal environment.

Your personal environment consists of everything (and everyone) you come in contact with each day, your physical as well as social surroundings, the relationships, sights, sounds, smells and even the words you use on a consistent basis.

You see, it is very true, that to a large extent, you are a product of your environment because different types of surroundings affect your behavior

and overall life satisfaction in a very real way.

When it comes to striving to achieve goals or any type of meaningful life change most of us focus on such things as self-discipline and willpower, determination and planning.

And while these are all important factors, the key to making it possible for you to create sustainable results is an environment designed to not only help you achieve your desired outcome but support the new behavior or circumstances on a daily basis.

If your environment has little or no structure, conflicts with the change you are attempting to create, or you are surrounded by circumstances and people that drain your energy, it's not only going to be very difficult to stick to any plans you may have to change or grow, you're going to be susceptible to increased levels of stress, unhappiness, and deconstructive behaviors.

If you want to foster an environment that nurtures your well-being, brings out the best in you and leads you to greater life satisfaction then you're going to need to make some choices about your surroundings.

When it comes to changing your environment, your options are pretty clear-cut. You can either adapt or change. It's that simple, and that hard.

The first thing you'll need to do is spend some time reflecting on your life and identifying any areas that need attention and then pick one easy thing to work on and begin slowly redesigning your environment to better suit your needs.

I think most will agree that in general, it's easier to change your physical environment than your social.



It's one thing to change your decor, move to a new neighborhood or save to buy a new car, quite another to confront your mother-in-law about her habit of telling you how to raise your children or your boss about his/her dictatorial management style.

But adapting doesn't mean settling for less or choosing to be powerless. You may not have control over all of the circumstances in your life, but you always have control over your response to them.

Focusing on managing your thoughts, emotions, and behavior, using immovable objects as stepping stones, and learning to set and maintain healthy personal boundaries can go a long way toward easing the stress of even the most challenging circumstances and relationships.

Again, I want to emphasize starting small, especially when it comes to change. The place to begin is to give some thought to your standards. Whether we're aware of it or not we have standards for everything and doing the work to begin slowing raising them can change your entire life for the better.

It's amazing how simple things like clearing clutter, re-arranging your furniture, slapping on a new coat of paint or buying a few colorful accessories can improve your surroundings and mood!

One of the most important areas you can focus on for positive change won't cost you a penny. Of course, I'm talking about you.

You can begin by being honest with yourself about where you reside on your daily list of priorities.

"Do you set aside time for self-care?
"How about the way in which you talk to yourself, especially when you're having a bad day?"

"Are you harboring self-limiting beliefs that are preventing you from reaching for the things you want and deserve in life?"

We may not be consciously aware of these internal issues but they affect your environment and overall outlook on life just the same.

And then there are the other people I your environment.

Admittedly, removing someone from your life can be hard, which is why it becomes surprisingly easy to find ways to tolerate toxic relationships.

You are the only one who can decide if a relationship is worth the stress it creates, but if you really can't bring yourself to cut the person out of your life, you can look for ways to minimize your exposure and offset their influence by surrounding yourself with people who are positive and supportive.

So let's revisit the question I posed at the beginning of this post, how would you describe your environment?

Is it nurturing and supportive or are there gaps that could use some attention?

Changing your environment will take time, but it really isn't all that difficult to do if you are willing to commit to doing one small thing each day that will make your environment more supportive of the life you desire to create for yourself.

STAFF Matters

A staff of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) in the department of Policy, Planning, Research and Statistics has signed the dotted lines with his longtime friend, Dr. Zainab Babagoni Machina in the ancient town of Maiduguri, capital of Borno state.

The colourful wedding ceremony which took place on the 4th of July, 2020 was attended by families, friends, colleagues and associates of both Sheriff and Dr. Zainab.

The Council in its tradition of identifying with members of staff, sent a two-man delegation to grace the ceremony on its behalf.

With the wedding fatiha concluded, guests were later treated to a lavish reception where friends of the couple danced, wine and presented gifts to them.

Sheriff of PPRS quits bachelorhood

Here's wishing our dear colleague, Sheriff and his dear wife the very best in their marital journey. Once more, congratulations, Amarya da Ango.



Newly wedded Sheriff Gamborni and his wife, Dr. Zainab

Council drivers celebrate retired colleagues in grand style

Council drivers have organized a sentforth ceremony for two of their colleagues, Mr. Nathaniel Chigbu and Mallam Hamza Kila who bowed out of service recently.

The ceremony which held within the Council premises was chaired by the Head Driver, Mallam Umar Bununu and was attended by other members of staff.

In his speech at the event, the Head Driver, Mallam Bununu said the sentforth programme was their own little way of celebrating and showing love to their colleagues who were exiting the service having served their fatherland meritoriously.

While thanking God for sparing their lives this far, Mallam Bununu urged their retired colleagues to think of ways of engaging themselves while in retirement, noting that both Nathaniel and Hamza still have a lot to offer humanity.

In their separate responses, both retired drivers thanked their colleagues for the honour done to them and prayed God almighty to guide and protect them as they go about their lawful assignments. They also urged them to continue to work together as one big, united and harmonious family.

Highpoint of the event was the presentation of plasma television to Mr. Nathaniel Chigbu and Mallam Hamza Kila.



Council drivers in a photo-session with their retired colleagues; Mr Nathaniel Chigbu and Mal. Hamza Kila during a sent forth organized in their honour

Mr. Nathaniel Chigbu was until his retirement the driver attached to the office of the Executive Secretary, while Mallam Hamza Kila was in the Finance and Accounts department.

Here is wishing both officers all the best in their respective ventures and endeavours.

DATA ON SUGAR IMPORTATION IN THE THIRD QUARTERS JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

Month	Importer	Qty (MT) (NPA)	Qty (MT) (NCS)	Levy Paid (N)	Country of Origin	D/Port	Type of Sugar
July	Dangote Sugar	101,417	-	-	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	45,005	24,330	122,448,122	Brazil	Tincan	Raw
	Golden Sugar		-	-	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
August	Dangote Sugar	99,591	-	-	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	40,014	-	-	Brazil	Tincan	Raw
	Golden Suagr		-	-	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
September	Dangote Sugar	46,780	-	-	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
	BUA Sugar	45,000	78,886	751,406,761	Brazil	Tincan	Raw
	Golden Sugar		-	-	Brazil	Apapa	Raw
Total		377,807	103,216	873,854,883			

SUMMARY OF AVERAGE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL RAW AND WHITE SUGAR PRICE: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2020

MONTH	SOURCE (STATE)	SUGAR (BRAND)	WHOLESALE N/50KG	WHOLESALE N/MT	RETAIL N/50KG	RETAIL N/MT	INTERNATIONAL RAW SUGAR		INTERNATIONAL WHITE SUGAR	
							AVERAGE PRICE		AVERAGE PRICE	
							S/MT	N/MT	S/MT	N/MT
JULY	LAGOS	WHITE	17,126.00	342,200	17,398.00	347,960.00	271.26	97,926.06	354.39	127,934.79
	KANO	DANGOTE/								
	ABUJA	GOLDEN/								
	ADAMAWA	BUA								
	KWARA									
AUGUST	LAGOS	WHITE	17,243	344,850	17,508	350,150	288.27	108,191.94	372.01	139,643.11
	KANO	DANGOTE/								
	ABUJA	GOLDEN/								
	ADAMAWA	BUA								
	KWARA									
SEPTEMBER	LAGOS	WHITE	18,060	361,200	18,348	366,950	281.28	106,887.35	364.33	138,448.25
	KANO	DANGOTE/								
	ABUJA	GOLDEN/								
	ADAMAWA	BUA								
	KWARA									
AVERAGE MONTH										
TOTAL			17,476.33	349,417	17,751.33	355,020.00	280.27	104,335.12	361.5767	135,342.05

* Note: MT =metric Tons (50kgx 20), Kg = Kilogram, N =Nigerian Currency Naira, S= USD,
Currency Conversion US\$1 = N370.5 (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.

Editorial Team

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...and much more