



Sugar News

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

NSDC, Indian Sugar Institute sign MoU on training, capacity building for NSI staff



**Industry Minister,
sugar stakeholders
jaw-jaw on sectoral
issues**

**Senate
Committee on
Industry members tour
sugar project
sites**

**BUA Sugar has
our support,
says Emir of
Lafiagi**

NSDC.... We sweeten your world

Editorial

Though the first quarter of 2020 began on a busy note for stakeholders in the sugar industry, it was later slowed down by the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic towards the end of the quarter. The COVID-19 outbreak halted economic, social, political and corporate activities across countries, continents and regions. But amidst growing concerns on the impact of the pandemic on global activities, stakeholders in the sugar sector didn't drop the gauntlet as they forged on with their programmes, though skeletally.

During the period under review, the Senate Committee on Industries

embarked on oversight visit to sugar project sites in Kwara and Lagos states. According to the Chairman of the Committee, Senator Bayo Osinowo, the visit was to enable the committee assess the level of work so far done by the operators under the Backward Integration Programme (BIP) which is a critical component of the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP).

In February, the NSDC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the National Sugar Institute (NSI), Kanpur, India on training and capacity building for staff of the Nigeria Sugar Institute (NSI), Ilorin, Kwara state. The MOU

signing ceremony held at the Indian High Commission in Abuja.

Sadly, following the discovery of the index case of COVID-19 in the country, the Federal Government, through the Head of Civil Service of the Federation issued a directive to officers on grade level 12 and below to stay at home to curb further spread of the pandemic.

The Council also participated at the 41st Kaduna International Trade Fair which held between 28th February to 8th March 2020 in Kaduna state.



Abdullahi W. Yunusa
Editor-In-Chief

Senate Committee on Industry members tour sugar project sites

The Senate Committee on Industries led by its Chairman, Senator Bayo Osinowo recently visited major sugar project sites in Kwara and Lagos states to monitor progress so far made with regards to the Backward Integration Programme commitments of operators in line with the implementation of the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP).

The Senate team comprised of Senators Bayo Osinowo, Ibrahim Hadejia, Francis Fadahunsi and Danjuma Laah, while the National Sugar Development Council team was made up of the Executive

Secretary, Dr. Latif D. Busari; Director, Policy, Planning, Research and Statistics, Mr. Hezekiah Kolawole; Director, Finance and Account, Malam Auwalu Abubakar



Members, Senate Committee on Industries and the E.S NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari during the committee's oversight visit to Dangote Sugar Refinery in Lagos.

Shira; Director, Procurement, Malam Ibrahim S. Ibrahim; Special Assistant to the E.S, Mr. Chris Mbamalu and other Council staff.

The team began its oversight visit with a courtesy call on the Emir of Lafiagi, Kwara state, Alhaji Saadu Haliru and later proceeded to the Lafiagi Sugar Company (LASUCO), which is the Backward Integration Programme site of the BUA Group. The delegation was received by the General Manager, BUA Sugar Refinery, Alhaji Ibrahim Yaro and members of his team.

While at the BUA project site, Alhaji Yaro briefed the delegation on the level of progress so far made, projections as well as challenges facing the company. He said though efforts are on to ensure early completion of the project, but

highlighted paucity of funds, lack of access to land and dearth of infrastructure as well as insecurity as major problems confronting them.

He was however optimistic that the BUA Group would meet and surpass its targets and deliver on its promises given the enormous technical and financial resources it has invested in the project.

On his part, the Chairman Senate Committee on Industries, Senator Bayo Osinowo pledged his Committee's readiness to provide all the necessary legislative support and policies that would drive

development in the sugar sector, adding that the sector holds a lot of potentials for Nigeria and Nigerians.

In his remarks, the Executive Secretary of the Council, Dr. Latif D. Busari said government will continue to provide the right policies and enabling environment to protect investments in the sugar sector. He said all the challenges highlighted would be looked into by relevant government agencies.

The team after visiting the NSDC Sugarcane Biofactory and the Nigeria Sugar Institute in Ilorin, later

proceeded to Lagos where it visited the Dangote Sugar Refinery. The delegation was received by the DSR Team and taken round its facilities.

While in Lagos, the delegation visited the Dangote Sugar Refinery and Golden Sugar Refinery where it was taken round both facilities by top members of the two organizations. They expressed satisfaction with their operations, and urged them to be innovative and leverage more on the opportunity provided by technology.

NSDC, Indian Sugar Institute sign MoU on training, capacity building for NSI staff

The National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), has on behalf of the Federal Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, India to train personnel of the proposed Nigerian Sugar Institute (NSI) located in Ilorin, Kwara state on factory operations.

Speaking at the event, the Executive Secretary, National Sugar Development Council, Dr. Latif D. Busari, said the collaboration with NSI would help address the challenges faced in the implementation of Nigeria's sugar master plan which was launched six years ago.

He said that one of the challenges was the lack of the technical manpower to run the sugar factories.

"As you all know that the Nigerian sugar master plan was lunched six to seven years ago, and it became clear that we have a serious challenge in terms of the technical manpower

needed.

"What we saw is that if we must succeed in establishing the sugar factories, we must first of all train those



R-L: E.S NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari, Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Abhay Thakur and Director General, National Sugar Institute, Kanpur, India, Mr Narendra Mohan at the MoU signing ceremony between the NSDC and NSI in Abuja.

that will be in charge. Then we saw the need to set up an institution that will rapidly develop the technical manpower that is needed in the sugar industry in Nigeria.

"So, when we decided on that we started looking for where we could leverage on the experiences that several nations have had already. "We do not have to reinvent the wheel and

looking round we came to two institutions, and one of them is the National Sugar Institute Kanpur, India and what you see today is the outcome of the interaction we had in past few months," he said.

He added that when established, the Nigerian Sugar Institute would benefit from the huge market available. "How it will factor into the Nigerian industries and energy is if you see the sugar master plan. "We will be able to generate more than 400 megawatts of electricity. We will produce more than 160 million litres of ethanol. These are if we are able to completely implement the plan," he said.

Responding, Narendra Mohan said that the agreement was basically for setting up an institute in Ilorin in Kwara. "So we are going to give the first detail of the extraction such as what type of classrooms, laboratories, equipment and all that.

"The second part is about the training

of the trainers because ultimately you do not have the faculty of your own at present. "So we are going to begin the training sessions, and we have identified the faculty and initially 10 people are to be trained at the faculty in NSI. "The third, which is important, Nigeria is having few sugar factories and there is a huge gap in meeting the demand for, sugar. "But the capacity building is one thing. We will give advice on capacity building and also

address the challenge for the smooth running of the institute," he said.

Speaking also, the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr Abhay Thakur said that India had been involved in the capacity building programmes in Nigeria for a very long time. He said that one of those was done when the Nigerian Defense Academy (NDA) in Kaduna was set up in a similar fashion 50 years ago.

He added that the first commandant of the academy was a well-known Indian brigadier, whose name had gone down in Nigerian history.

He said that the Naval College in Port Harcourt was also built in a similar fashion with assistance from the Indian Navy and there is a whole range of capacity development programmes in which India has extended its expertise.

Industry Minister, sugar stakeholders jaw-jaw on sectoral issues

The Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Otunba Niyi Adebayo has met with major sugar operators implementing the Backward Integration Programme component of the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan to look at issues affecting their operations and seek for better ways of addressing them.

The meeting which according to the Hon. Minister was convened to "hear directly from sugar operators on the modalities they have fashioned out to meet their respective BIP targets", was attended by the Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council, Dr. Latif D. Busari, Chairman, Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Chairman, BUA Group, Alhaji Abdulsamad Rabiu and Chairman, Flour Mills Nigeria Limited, Mr. John Coumantaros. Others were FMITI officials, NSDC Directors as well as top management staff of the three sugar operators.

While addressing the gathering, the Minister said the sugar sector "occupies a serious place in the programmes and

activities of the current administration of President Muhammadu Buhari", adding that the Ministry has the "blessing and approval of Mr. President to vigorously



Hon. Minister of Industry, trade and investment Otunba Niyi Adebayo in a group photograph after meeting with major sugar operators

pursue Nigeria's drive to achieve self-sufficiency in sugar production".

He charged the operators to see themselves as key players whose inputs are invaluable in the actualization of the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan, noted that government was open to innovative suggestions on ways to achieving, quicker, faster and smarter results in the sector.

"Government cannot achieve its goals in the sugar sub-sector without the inputs and participation of private sector players. Ours is simply to provide the enabling

environment to do your job. The day to day execution of the plans mapped out for the sector rests squarely on the private sector.

We are more than ready to ensure that things work in the sector. So, this meeting isn't about who is wrong or right all the while, but how to collectively move the sector forward".

In his remarks, Executive Secretary, NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari reiterated government's determination to ensure that the sector works for the good of all, noting that the sugar industry is undergoing serious reforms that would begin to yield results for all stakeholders soon.

"The sugar industry is a unique industry that requires patience, commitment and huge funding for it to survive. It takes an

insider who understands how the sector works to appreciate the work and efforts that have so far gone in since we began the implementation of NSMP a little over six years ago. The challenges are quire enormous, but not insurmountable".

In his submission, President, Dangote Group, operator of the Dangote Sugar Refinery (DSR), Alhaji Aliko Dangote canvassed for the review of existing performance framework as captured in the NSMP, which according to him would clearly spellout Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for operators.

BUA Sugar has our support, says Emir of Lafiagi

The Emir of Lafiagi in Kwara state, Alhaji Saadu Haliru Abubakar in whose domain the Lafiagi Sugar Company (LASUCO) owned by the BUA Group is sited has said that the entire Lafiagi emirate, including its sons and daughters home and abroad are working towards the success of the company.

Alhaji Abubakar said the Lafiagi Emirate is pleased with the efforts that the BUA Group has put into the LASUCO sugar project, stressing that the project is a huge blessing to the people of Lafiagi and other adjoining communities working either directly or indirectly with the company.

“We are quite pleased with the level of work currently going on across the sugar estate. I am really delighted by the commitment and passion shown by the management of the BUA Group towards this project located in my domain. The BUA Group should be rest assured of our support and cooperation. I have personally asked my subjects to offer them the necessary support that would lessen the burden on them. Without any shred of doubt, the BUA Group is interested in the prosperity and wellbeing of our people. We shall continue to work together as partners in an atmosphere devoid of skirmishes and violence”.

The Emir of Lafiagi who dropped this hint while playing host to members of the Senate Committee on Industry who were on oversight visit to the Lafiagi

Sugar Company (LASUCO), Lafiagi, also commended the leadership of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) for the amicable resolution of disagreements between the company and farmers over land ownership. He thanked the NSDC for convening separate town hall meetings which gave



Emir of Lafiagi, HRH Alhaji Saadu Haliru alongside the NSDC boss, Dr. Latif D. Busari and Members of the Senate Committee on Industries during their oversight visit to the Lafiagi Sugar Company (LASUCO), Kwara State.

aggravated stakeholders the opportunity to table their issues for deliberation.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, the Chairman Senate Committee on Industry, Senator Bayo Osinowo thanked the Emir for the warm reception he accorded the team and pledged his committee's readiness to work towards the early completion of the LASUCO project.

Senator Osinowo expressed optimism that the LASUCO project when completed would provide job opportunity for Nigerians, especially those living in the state, said the Committee which he chairs is poised to ensure that investments in the sugar sector yield desired dividends for all interested parties.

COVID-19 spread: FG directs workers on grade level 12 and below to stay at home

As part of concerted efforts to curtail further spread of COVID-19, the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation has directed non-essential public servants on grade level 12 and below to stay at home.

The directive which was contained in a circular signed by the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (HOSCF), Dr. Folashade Yemi-Esan, said the step was to limit physical contacts in the workplace in order to curb further spread of the coronavirus.



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

Continued on page 9

The Executive Secretary, NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari addressing newsmen at the end of the Senate Committee on Industries oversight visit to Lafiagi Sugar Company (LASUCO) Kwara State.



Executive Secretary, NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari (middle) in a group photograph with some Management Staff to mark his 64th birthday anniversary.



Members, Senate Committee on Industries and the E.S NSDC, Dr. Latif D. Busari during the committee's oversight visit to Dangote Sugar Refinery in Lagos.

NSDC
Lead Auditors at a
sensitization
workshop
organized by the
Standards
Organization
of Nigeria (SON)
for Lead Auditors
drawn from
government
establishments



Photo Speaks



Some NSDC staff and visitors to the NSDC pavilion at the 41st Kaduna International Trade Fair.



L-R Former Zonal Coordinator, NSDC North-Central/South-West Zonal Office, Alhaji Balarabe Ladan officially handing over to the incoming coordinator, Malam Suleiman Kutama in Ilorin, Kwara State.

Council officials visit KADIPA Executive Secretary

A four-man delegation from the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) recently paid a working visit to the Executive Secretary of Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency (KADIPA) Hajiya Umma Aboki to discuss on areas of business collaboration and partnership between the two organizations.

Leader of the delegation and Deputy Director, Policy, Planning, Research and Statistics (PPRS), Alhaji Babangida Abba Damare said the visit was to formally introduce the Council to KADIPA boss, explore investment opportunities in the sugar sector and share experiences on how to create a business friendly environment.

Alhaji Damare who said the Council is presently implementing a ten-year master plan for the sugar industry known as the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP), reiterated Council's determination to ensure faithful implementation of the master plan.

He further stated that the Master Plan projected that for Nigeria to achieve its domestic sugar targets, "the country needs to establish some 28 sugar factories of varying capacities and bring about 250,000 hectares

of land into sugarcane cultivation, on which some sites fall within Kaduna State". He cited Sugarcane Growing Areas of Dutsin – wai, Makarfi, Giwa, Ikara etc. as potential sites for sugar investments.

Responding, the Executive Secretary of KADIPA, Hajiya Umma Aboki said the current administration under the leadership of Governor Nasir El-Rufai believes that industrialization is the panacea to the growing rate of unemployment in the state and Nigeria as a whole. She said the agency under her watch will continue to evolve programmes and policies that would promote investments in the state.

Hajiya Umma Aboki who commended the Council for designing a policy roadmap for the sugar sector, said KADIPA would carefully study the document to enable her understand the contents.

The Council team comprised of the Deputy Director, PPRS, Alhaji Babangida Abba Damare, Assistant Director, PPR, Hajiya Fatima Bobbo, Suleiman Mohammed Kabir and Abdullahi Habib.



NSDC delegation to the office of the Executive Secretary, Kaduna Investment Promotion Agency (KADIPA). The team was led by Deputy Director, PPRS, Malam Babangida Abba Damare.

Continued from page 5

“As a further step to check the spread of COVID-19, all non-essential public servants on grade level 12 and below are to stay and work from home with effect from Tuesday 24th March, 2020 until further notice”.

On the other categories of officers who will be at work, the statement said such officers are “strongly advised to limit the number of visitors they receive to the barest

minimum. This is to reduce physical contact as much as possible,” it noted.

The statement also “directed officers who have recently visited countries with incidence of COVID-19 or, have had contact with persons who recently returned from these countries, are advised to self-isolate at home for 2 weeks. In case such officers exhibit any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they are advised to

contact the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on 0800970000-10”.

The statement further urged officers and Nigerians to take their personal hygiene seriously, including frequent handwashing with soap under running water and the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

NSDC participates in 41st Kaduna International Trade Fair

The National Sugar Development Council (NSDC) was one of the key government organizations that participated in the 41st edition of the Kaduna International Trade Fair which held between the 28th of February to 8th of March 2020 in Kaduna state.

The Trade Fair which was organized by the Kaduna Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KADCCIMA), had “*Unlocking Nigeria's Potential through Regional Integration*” as its major theme.

The fair which was convened to serve as a meeting point for all business-oriented people and bodies was attended by investors, government agencies, manufacturers, marketers, and distributors from around Nigeria, West Africa and beyond.

The opening ceremony witnessed a

number of high profile dignitaries including the Honorable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment (HMITI), Otunba Niyi Adebayo who represented the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

countries; India, Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Germany. Others are Iran, Algeria, Niger Republic, Senegal, Mali, and Ghana.



Some NSDC staff and visitors to the NSDC pavilion at the 41st Kaduna International Trade Fair.

President of KADCCIMA, Hajiya Farida Dankaka in her address of welcome thanked participants for showing interest in the fair and urged them to utilize the opportunity that the fair provides for personal and corporate goals.

Hajiya Dankaka said the fair had participants from the following

The NSDC also had an official pavilion where it officials played host to potential investors, knowledge seekers and other visitors who approached them for enquiries, information, news or updates on activities as well as potentials in the nation's sugar sub-sector.



Office of the Head of Service of the Federation

THE PRESIDENCY

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CIRCULAR

HCSF/109/S.I/1/100

23rd March, 2020

Chief of staff to the president, C-in-C
Deputy Chief of Staff to the Vice President
Secretary of the Government of the Federation
All Honourable Ministers/Ministers of State
All Permanent Secretaries
Special Advisers/Senior Special Assitants
The Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission
The Chairman, Police Service Commission
Accountant-General of the Federation
Auditor-General for the Federation
Surveyor-General of the Federation
Chief Registrar, Supreme Court of Nigeria

COMPULSORY STAY AT HOME OF NON-ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVANTS ON GRADE 12 AND BELOW AS A FURTHER MEASURE TO CURTAIL THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

1. As you are no doubt aware, the Federal Government has taken a number of measures to manage the identified cases of covid-19 and curtail it's spread.
2. Government is concerned about the welfare and safety of all public servants just as it about other Nigerians. All public servants are, therefore, strongly advised to follow the measures being put in place by government to curtail the spread of the pandemic.
3. As a further step to check the spread of COVID-19, all non-essential public servants on grade level 12 and below are to stay and work from home with effect from Tuesday 24th March, 2020 until further notice.
4. All other categories of officers who will be at work, to limit the number of visitors they receive to the barest minimum. This is to reduce physical contact as much as possible.
5. Furthermore, officers who have recently visited Countries with incidence of COVID-19 or, have had contact with persons who recently returned from these countries, are advised to self-isolate at home for 2 weeks. In case such officers exhibit any of the COVID-19 symptoms, they are advised to contact the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) on 0800970000-10.
6. For the purpose of emphasis, observance of strict adherence to personal hygiene, including frequent washing of hands with soap and running water, is strongly advised.
7. For more information, guidance and update on COVID-19, please visit the website of the office of the Head of Service of the Federation (OHCSF): www.ohcsf.gov.ng
8. Please give the contents of this circular widest circulation.

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

Staff MATTERS

Dr. Busari: A reformer par excellence @64

By Abdullahi W. Yunusa

25th of February 2020 offered us a very unique opportunity to celebrate, recognise and appreciate the pacesetter, exemplary and visionary strides of our dear leader and the Executive Secretary of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr. Latif Demola Busari on the occasion of his 64th birthday anniversary.

Given the precarious state of affairs in our dear country, and even the world at large today, moving from one physical location to another is in itself a miracle, talk more of marking 64 long years on earth. This is no doubt a huge success worth rolling out drums to celebrate with pomp and pageantry.

We can only but thank God almighty who has in His infinite mercy kept, protected and preserved Dr. Busari in the last six impactful decades and four amazing years. There is no denying the fact that Dr. Busari is a beneficiary of God's mercy, grace, favour and benevolence. There is no greater accomplishment than living a life of purpose and helping others to realise their individual goals and altruistic aspirations. This is one area that Dr. Busari stands out.

Dr. Busari is without doubt a great man by all human assessment and consideration. But he isn't a man given to chest-thumping and bragadocio, hence his resolve to always go about his activities behind the cameras and without fanfares. He is an apostle of integrity, and has an undying thirst for excellence and standards. He believes everyone has the ability to be excellent, therefore he never denies anyone the opportunity to express his/ her God given abilities. He leads by example, and always willing to assign tasks to his lieutenants to prove their mettle.

Dr. Busari is both a workaholic and a voracious reader who searches for knowledge even from unlikely quarters. There is hardly any issue that Dr. Busari is ignorant of. It will be superfluous to say he knows everything, but the truth is, he knows what an ideal 21st century leader ought to know.

My personal encounter with him in the last five years reveals a personality who believes in recreating himself in those around him. He isn't your typical Nigerian boss who lords himself over his subordinates or who ascribes celestial powers to himself. He's courteous, humble, hardworking, responsible and responsive in the discharge of his duties. Little wonder he commands enormous respect and recognition even from his contemporaries. His sound work ethic and passion for service earned him loads of accolades from his former boss and Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah who christened him the "Star Boy" of the Ministry. He is a true leader who leads from the front, and challenges and inspires his subordinates to develop their potentials.

Here is wishing our dear boss a glorious birthday anniversary, even as we pray God almighty to continue to bless, protect, guide, guard and lead him aright in all his endeavours. May all his dreams, vision and altruistic aspirations be granted by God. Once more, congratulations to our dear STAR BOY.



The E.S NSDC in a group photograph with NSDC management to mark his 64th birthday anniversary

“ We sincerely apologize for our inability to bring you the quarterly sugar importation data for the first quarter of 2020 due to the ongoing lockdown due to COVID-19 which disrupted operations at the port in Lagos. We shall upload the data on our official website as soon as we have them.

Thanks.

SUMMARY OF AVERAGE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL RAW AND WHITE SUGAR PRICE: JANUARY - MARCH 2020

MONTHS	STATE/CITY	SUGAR TYPE	WHOLESALE N/50KG	WHOLESALE N/MT	RETAIL N/50KG	RETAIL MT	INTERNATIONAL RAW SUGAR AVERAGE PRICE		INTERNATIONAL RAW SUGAR AVERAGE PRICE	
							SMT	NMT	SMT	NMT
JANUARY	Abuja, Kano, Lagos, Ilorin, Yola	Refined Dangote Bua Golden	13,627	272,532	13,835	276,700	310.98	95,458.25	387.62	118,983.62
FEBRUARY	Abuja, Kano, Lagos, Ilorin, Yola	Refined Dangote Bua Golden	14,102	282,030	14,370	287,400	323.65	99,348.56	416	127,696.51
MARCH	Abuja, Kano, Lagos, Ilorin, Yola	Refined Dangote Bua Golden	14,800	296,998	15,150	302,999	258.08	85,782.75	350.988	116,986.19
AVERAGE			14,176.33	283,526.66	14,451.67	289,033.33	297.57	93,529.85	348.87	121,222.77

* Note: Mt =metric Tons (50kgx 20), Kg = Kilogram, N =nigerian Currency Naira,
 \$= Usd, Currency Conversion Us\$1 = N306.92(nigeria Central Bank Rate; Average For Quarter)
 Weight Conversion: 1000kg = 1 Metric Tonne, \$/ Ton = C/ib 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