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Huge Population for  
Economic Growth

Endorsements of  
DPR, FISS, SON, ITF  
for Indorama Fertilizer

Solutions in  
Resolving Nigeria's  
Economic Crisis

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# IMPACT

In-House Magazine of INDORAMA-Nigeria

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• October 2016

Special Independence Day Edition

# NIGERIA

@



## How Indorama Fertilizer Enhances National Economy & Security

# Message from MD/CEO

## PROLOGUE

# LET'S CELEBRATE NIGERIA AGAIN!



**President Muhammadu Buhari**  
Federal Republic of Nigeria



**Manish Mundra**  
Managing Director / CEO Indorama-Nigeria Companies

**As Nigeria and Nigerians mark the 56th independence anniversary of the country on 1st October, 2016, it is my pleasure once again, on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Limited and its sister companies in Nigeria, to congratulate and felicitate with all Nigerians, the Federal Government and the 36 State Governments on this important occasion.**

**M**ost importantly, I wish to celebrate and rejoice with President Muhammadu Buhari, Vice President Prof. Yemi Osibanjo, the leadership and members of the National Assembly, honourable ministers and the State Governors on this event that marks the country's freedom from colonial rule in 1960.

In the past three years, we at Indorama-Nigeria have been marking the Independence Anniversary celebration with a Special Edition of our Impact magazine. The edition celebrates Nigeria as a Great Country, a well-endowed country, a country of great men and women!

Today, everyone is talking about the economic situation in the country, the

resultant effect being massive depreciation in the value of the national currency against international currencies, high deficit of foreign exchange, difficulty in sourcing raw materials for manufacturing industries, closure of many small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs), massive loss of jobs, among others.

For us here at Indorama-Nigeria, we see HOPE because we have FAITH that Nigeria will soon come out of its economic challenges, especially if there is concerted effort from everyone to overcome the challenges.

Here at Indorama-Nigeria, we are working hard to contribute our own quota to ensure that we actually surmount the challenges. And we remain very committed to the

industrialisation of the country; and remain committed to our vision of building the largest petrochemicals and fertilizer hub of Africa in Nigeria.

Our world-class fertilizer plant, which was recently completed and commenced production, has capacity for 1.5 million metric tons of Urea fertilizer, which have already reached millions of farmers in all the 36 states of the federation. This will greatly enhance the Federal Government's *Green Alternative* programme and diversification into agriculture to boost food security in the country.

Our petrochemicals plants are also producing 47 customized grades of polyethylene and polyethylene, which are raw materials for over 450 companies in Nigeria. These were raw materials that were hitherto imported into the country. Indorama, therefore, helps to keep many factories alive and keeping the economy going.

Nigeria has so much natural and human resources that need to be exploited. Nigeria needs a lot of both domestic investments and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) that should collaborate to exploit the resources that are in abundance here. All hands should be on deck to make things happen. It requires concerted efforts, actions not mere talk.

As we mark the independence anniversary this year, may I also specifically congratulate our employees, customers, government regulators, suppliers, technical and commercial partners, community people and indeed everyone. Let's continue to collaborate to make things better.

Once again, happy independence anniversary celebrations!!

**Manish Mundra**  
Managing Director / CEO  
Indorama-Nigeria Companies

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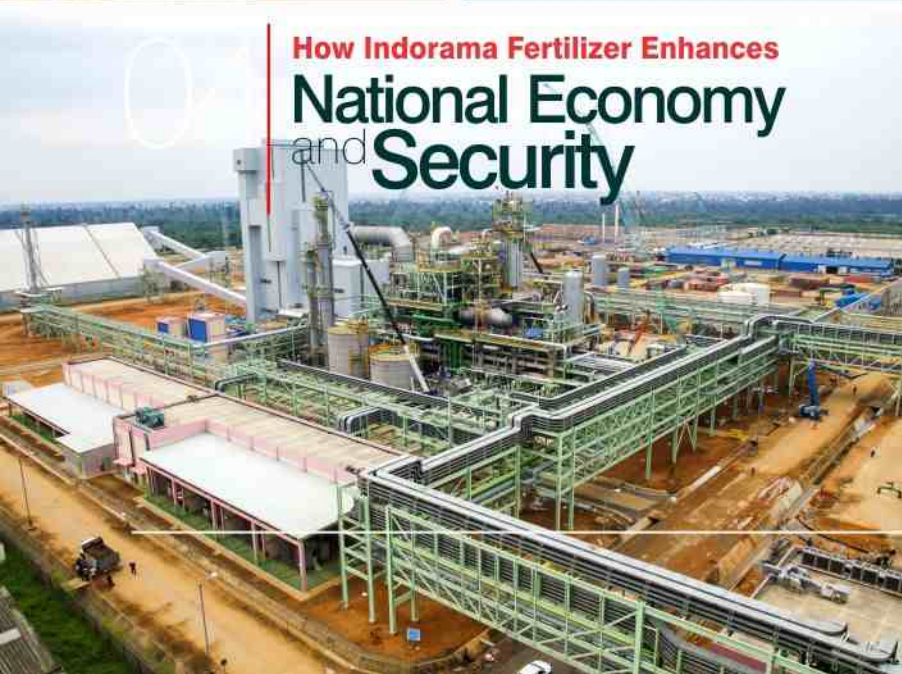


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### How Indorama Fertilizer Enhances National Economy and Security



#### Felicitations from His Excellency

I am directed by His Excellency, the Deputy Governor, Dr Kelechi Igwe to acknowledge the receipt of your magazine (October 2015) edition with thanks. It is His Excellency's hope that your fertilizer plant when commissioned will be a catalyst in achieving the diversification agenda of the present government towards agriculture in the face of dwindling oil revenue. Please accept the assurances of His Excellency's warmest regards.

**Barr. Sunday Nwankwo**

*Personal Assistant to the Deputy Governor  
Ebonyi State.*

#### We acknowledge Your Commitment to Nigeria

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your special edition of *Indorama Nigeria Impact magazine*, 2015 edition. I am also directed to acknowledge your commitment to the economic growth and industrial development of Nigeria, which is very evident from your high-level investments in Nigeria...Please, accept the warm assurance of the Director General's esteem and regards at all times

**Oladunke A. (Mrs)**

*For: Director General  
National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Abuja.*

#### We are partners in the industrialisation efforts of Nigeria

I am directed to acknowledge receipt of the October 2015 special edition of *Indorama-Nigeria Impact Magazine* titled "Nigeria @ 55". The Director-General appreciates Indorama's efforts in providing the necessary raw materials for the local plastic industry, hence reducing the burden of importation on some critical raw materials used by over 350 companies in the sector. It is also exciting to note that there is a great hope for the Nigerian farmer with the soon to be commissioned fertilizer plant. This would further speed up industrial development and grow the nation's economy. The Director-General is also very pleased with the continued co-operation and collaboration between the two organisations in our collective quest to meet as much of the raw material needs of the plastic sector as possible by increasing local production. Please accept the assurance of the Director General's highest regards.

Thank you.

**Mrs. E. S. Dashe**

*For: Director General/Chief Executive Officer (RMRDC), Raw Materials Research and Development Council, Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, Abuja.*

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## Editorial Suite

Welcome to the 3rd Special Edition of Indorama-Nigeria Impact magazine, dedicated to the 56th Independence Anniversary celebration of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It has been conceived to celebrate Nigeria in spite of the social, economic and political challenges it may be going through. It proposes solutions to our challenges. It points the way to Nigeria's greater greatness.

Since we commenced the special edition in 2014, it has generated very positive reactions from many people, especially top government agencies and officials who see it as a great mark of patriotism and corporate citizenship on the part of Indorama-Nigeria operations.

Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Limited (IEPL) and Indorama Fertilizer and Chemicals Limited (IEFCL) as well as their sister companies remain fully committed to the socio-economic development of Nigeria and the prosperity and wellbeing of its citizens.

Our petrochemical products (47 various grades of polyethylene and polypropylene) remain the livewire of over 450 plastics and allied industries that use the products as raw material. At this time of recession and scarce foreign exchange, Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals supplies the oxygen that sustains these industries.

As usual, our Managing Director, Mr Manish Mundra opens the edition with a Prologue titled "Let's Celebrate Nigeria Again!" His thesis is that Nigeria is a great country, blessed with enormous natural and human resources waiting to be fully exploited. He believes that despite the current recession, Nigeria can work hard to exit economic crisis as quickly as possible.

He says it requires well-thought out policies, honest practical steps, less talk, more action! He promises that Indorama will continue to contribute its quota to help Nigeria exit recession as quickly as possible. Take a look at his thoughts encapsulated in few words.

The Cover Story of this Special Edition of IMPACT magazine is a socio-economic analysis of HOW INDORAMA FERTILIZER ENHANCES NATIONAL ECONOMY AND SECURITY. It is anchored by my humble self.

It deploys the analytical approach to show the humongous socio-economic benefits that Nigeria and Nigerians are currently enjoying as a result of the new fertilizer plant built by Indorama at the cost of \$1.5 billion with capacity for 1.5 million metric tons of urea per annum.

Our interviews with some farmers, agro-dealers and retailers of Indorama Urea fertilizer confirm the enthusiasm and excitement that have greeted the emergence of the brand in the domestic market.

Dr. Balbir Singh, an agronomy expert working in our Marketing department brings great insight into the Green Alternative programme recently launched by the Federal Government to promote agriculture between now and 2020. He dissects the roadmap and identified its potential and action points to ensure results are achieved.

Mr Patrick Okoro, our staff in the Commercial department, highly knowledgeable on Nigeria's economic policy writes on leveraging on Nigeria's 170 million population for economic growth. The Federal Government's economic team may well draw some insights from that article. Mr Bashir Mohammed of our Safety Department wrote on the imperatives of national safety. Dr Oby Anyiam of our Medical Department writes on Viral Hepatitis: Prevention and treatment. Both articles are must-read for everyone.

Other members of my editorial team, Chindedum Emeana, Mike Achaziem and Augustine Ubadire have written various reports of regulatory agencies visiting our Complex for inspections.

*Please enjoy this special package.*



**Dr Jossy Nkwocha**, FNIPR

Head of Corporate Communications / Special Adviser  
to the Managing Director

**A socio-economic analysis shows that the world-class Indorama fertilizer plant which commenced production in late June, 2016 has great potential to impact exponentially on the Nigerian society, economy and security.**

With output at 1.5 million metric tons of Urea per annum, it is perhaps Nigeria's biggest partner in the newly-inaugurated Green Alternative programme of the Federal Government to reposition agriculture as a business capable of producing enough foods for Nigerians, and providing sustainable solution to the nation's huge food import bills.

In Nigeria, fertilizer is a very strategic product for social and economic development. No country thinks of adequate agricultural production, food security and wealth creation among rural folks without investing in fertilizer production.

That was why the Federal Government conceived and established two mega-dollar



# How Indorama Fertilizer Enhances National Economy and Security

fertilizer companies: the Federal Super Phosphate Fertilizer Company (FSFC) Kaduna in 1976 and the National Fertilizer Company of Nigeria (NAFCON), Onne, Rivers State in 1988.

But due to technical and management problems, both fertilizer plants collapsed in the 90s. In a paper presented in December, 2012, the Executive Secretary of the Fertilizer Suppliers Association of Nigeria (FEPSAN), Alhaji Ahmed Rabi Kwa lamented the negative impact of the demise of the two strategic industries on the national economy.

About 20 state-governments owned and five private-sector-owned

fertilizer blending plants across the country died with FSFC and NAFCON. More than 50,000 direct and indirect jobs were lost, and swelling the labour market.

Statistics from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources shows that since 1999, Nigeria has been importing most of the fertilizer needs of farmers across the country. The Federal Government subsidized all such importation by 50%. In January 2015, for instance, the Federal Government approved N26 billion for importation of fertilizers for the dry season farming. Just recently, the government said it has also paid a debt of N65 billion owed on fertilizer supplies.

As a result of high cost of imported fertilizers, irregular supply and in many cases supply of poor quality fertilizer brands, coupled with poor soil management and lack of agricultural extension services in many rural communities, the nation's main food crops such as rice, cassava, maize, sorghum, soya beans, cocoa, palm oil, wheat, etc suffered gross production deficiency. Nigeria's expenditure for importation of food items for the country's 170 million population rose to \$7 billion with yearly increase of 11 percent.

According to the available statistics, Nigeria became a net importer of food, including expending huge cost importing wheat and rice. Importation of four main commodities consumed over one trillion naira in foreign exchange every year since 2005. A report from Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) showed that Nigeria is the world largest importer of United States' hard red and white winter wheat with an annual import bill of N635 billion; and the second largest importer of rice at N356 billion per annum. This was just a tip of the iceberg, and a terrible scenario for any economy and society.

Fortunately, in its recently-launched Green Alternative: The Agriculture Promotion Policy 2016 – 2020, the FG restated commitment to achieve its high objectives and reverse the ugly trend. A glimpse of various government documents shows that government wants to achieve very laudable objectives, including:

- To drastically enhance food security across the country by increasing Nigeria's food production to over 20 million metric tons per annum of rice,



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# FARMERS, AGRO-DEALERS SPEAK!

**Farmers, agro-dealers and retailers across the country are excited about Indorama Urea fertilizer which was launched into the domestic market recently by Indorama Eleme Fertilizer and Chemicals Limited (IEFCL).**

Field reports and photographs from Kaduna, Plateau, Niger, Benue, Taraba, Bauchi, Nassarawa, Gombe, Adamawa and other states of Nigeria have indicated that farmers have already started using Indorama Urea fertilizer in their farms this planting season to ensure better crop yield.

Since early July, on daily basis, IEFCL has been dispatching between 90-100 trailers of Indorama Urea fertilizers to various parts of the country, which have found their way into agro-shops and farms. In fact, as at August ending, the company has supplied approximately 135,000 metric tons of Urea fertilizer across Nigeria.

With the company's aggressive marketing, Indorama Urea has reached farmers in 35 states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, via 100 Agro dealers and approximately 2000 retailers, in addition to four bulk distributors and two fertilizer blender companies. The photographs show

the far-reaching impact that Indorama's fertilizer intervention is having on Nigeria's socio-economic landscape.

This, in turn, is creating a value chain of employment creation, satisfied agribusiness entrepreneurs and end-user farmers, and boosting hopes of bountiful harvest and food security in the near future.

Many farmers and ealers who spoke to this magazine are highly thankful to Indorama fertilizers for

farmlands in good time which will make for better crop yield and greater profitability. Stakeholders in Nigeria's agricultural sector have all stressed the importance of early distribution of fertilizers to maximize its use during farming periods.

**"I am happy that Indorama staff visits my farm in Bauchi"** --- Alhaji Lawal Abdulrahaman, Yankar Farms, Tildenfulani village, Toro, Bauchi State.

This is my first time of using Indorama Urea in my maize farm. Before now, I was applying prilled urea. I used it because it was readily available in the store near the farm. This year, however, I was attracted to the big full Indorama Urea bags. We have applied 55 bags of Indorama Urea in my 22 hectares farm and we are about harvesting our maize..

In fact, I am happy with the dust-free Indorama urea unlike prilled urea which contains dust. I can see the difference that Indorama

**"I am happy that Indorama staff visits my farm in Bauchi"...I am expecting a higher crop yield unlike yester years; surely it will help in enhancing food security of Nigeria.**

timely supply of granular urea to enable farmers cultivate their



At the fertilizer market



Mr Sinha with Alh. Lawal



A farmer in his farm



Alh. Ibrahim with Mr. Sinha of IEFCL

fertiliser stays in the soil for a longer time to nourish the crop. I am convinced with the high quality of Indorama fertilizer with the visible healthy growth of my plants and crop.

I am expecting a higher crop yield unlike yester years; surely it will help in enhancing food security of Nigeria. I am happy with Indorama officials visiting my farm, discussing various crop management issues and assuring the assistance of Indorama agronomy department in future for improving crop yield.

**Our numerous customers are commending Indorama fertilizer”** --- Alhaji Ibrahim Yaro Muhammed, AIMYCO Trust Nigeria Ltd, Tildenfulani village, Toro LGA, Bauchi State.

I am an agro-dealer here in Tildenfulani. I have received 6,000 bags of Indorama Urea fertilizer. The stock of Indorama Urea was received on time at his outlet to service the farmers' demand in this area during the current wet season. In fact the farmers were happy with the quality of the fertiliser.

So far, I have not received any complaints from the framers. Rather, I receive commendation. The acceptance of the product was very fast amongst the farming communities of the area. As an agro-dealer I am confident to build a long term business relationship with Indorama fertiliser.

cassava, maize, sorghum, soya beans, cocoa, palm oil, wheat, etc.

- To create N300 billion additional income in the hands of 20 million Nigerian farmers nationwide.
- To provide 3.5 million jobs across the country through enhanced agriculture and agribusiness activities.
- To stop importation of food items into the country and save over \$7 billion on such imports.
- To stimulate local production of fertilizers by encouraging private-sector investments expected to reach \$5 billion in 2020.

In the paper quoted earlier, Alhaji Kwa enumerated the key issues and constraints to fertilizer supply and distribution in the extant fertilizer import regime. According to him, these included weak legal and regulatory framework resulting in the flooding of the market with dubious quality products; instability of microeconomic variables (interest rates, foreign exchange, tariffs, subsidy and farmer protection regimes, etc); and inadequate financial services and high cost of credit.

Others are lack of market information on prices, availability, supply sources, etc, poorly developed transport infrastructure leading to high transportation costs; inadequate and obsolete port facilities, inefficiencies in the customs clearing bureaucracy; low demand arising from weak purchasing power of the farmers, low technical knowledge on efficient fertilizer use by farmers; and inconsistent government policies especially on subsidies and market stabilization programs.

As Nigeria celebrates its 56th independence anniversary, it also proudly celebrates Indorama's investment of \$1.5 billion, which has delivered the world's largest single-line Urea plant, and reinforces the company's vision of building the largest petrochemicals and fertilizer hub of Africa in Nigeria.

The project funded majorly by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of the World Bank, promises to help Nigeria to achieve its stated objectives in the new agribusiness masterplan and to eliminate the huddles identified in the supply and distribution of fertilizer in the past (the import regime).

Indorama fertilizer's impact on the economy is indeed going to be humongous. For instance, at the prevailing foreign exchange rate of about N420/\$1, Nigeria's annual import food bill of \$7 billion would have jumped by three times to about \$21 billion.

If Nigeria could achieve food sufficiency through local availability of Indorama fertilizers, then the company would have helped the nation to save a whopping \$14 billion. If the FG continued with importation of fertilizers this year, there would have been greater pressure on the Naira, which would have precipitated another 20% slide in the value of the national currency.

When Indorama begins full export of its surplus production, through its highly automated port terminal at Onne Port Complex, constructed at the cost of \$150 million, the company would be helping to earn foreign exchange, which is currently in gross deficit. This in

cont'd from  
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## National Economy and Security

itself will help to shore up the value the Naira by over 10%. Generally, Indorama fertilizer is projected to boost the nation's Gross Domestic Products (GDP) by about \$1 billion.

In terms of job creation, the operations of Indorama fertilizer have already led to new blending plants being established across the country while old ones are being revived. Such plants will use Indorama Urea to produce various grades of fertilizers that suit different soils and crops.

Indorama is partnering with such plants to carry out training programmes for farmers nationwide on the best use of fertilizers to boost crop yield. As FG targets 3.5 million jobs by 2020, Indorama would be contributing over 25% of that figure directly and indirectly.

Analysts and industry stakeholders strongly believe that Indorama Eleme Fertilizer and Chemicals Limited, producers of the Indorama Urea brand, is a blessing to the country and the government at this time of recession.

Perhaps, the most important is the impact on food production across the country. Since early July, the company, on daily basis, dispatches between 90 – 100 long trailers of 600 (50kg) bags of Urea fertilizer to different parts of the country for the wet planting season. So far, Indorama fertilizer is fully on ground in 32 states of the federation including all the 19 Northern states of Nigeria.

This is expected to enhance food harvest later this year – various food items will be available at cheaper prices; more people will feed well and farmers will make more money. More people will be happy and a happy population is a recipe for less crime in society. This explains why security experts insist that food security enhances national security.

Because of the larger security implications in fertilizer production and sales, Indorama ensures strict compliance to the regulations of the Federal Government. At the production stage, inspections are regularly carried out at the plant in Port Harcourt by various federal and state government agencies.

Such agencies include the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), the Federal Ministry of Environment, the National Agency for Foods, Drug Administration & Control (NAFDAC), the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), Federal Fire Service, etc while the distribution of the product is guided by approvals of the Farm Input Support Services (FISS) department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture; and the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA).

Indeed Indorama fertilizer is Nigeria's foremost ally in food security and national security.

Night view of Indorama world-class fertilizer plant in Port Harcourt, Nigeria



# X-raying Fed Govt's Green Alternative Programme

## Its potentials and Action points



Dr Balbir Singh  
Marketing Department, IEFCL

### Introduction:

On 15th August, 2016, the Federal Government of Nigeria launched the Green Alternative Agricultural program. According to the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo who launched the programme on behalf of President Muhammadu Buhari, the programme is a comprehensive plan and a well thought-out strategy to meaningfully and systematically address the myriad of challenges in the growth of the agricultural sector, with a view to providing innovative solutions for reviving and repositioning the sector for accelerated national development.

The Vice President said the agricultural sector roadmap, known as The Green Alternative, for promotion of agriculture from 2016-2020.

In a bid to provide support services to farmers in Nigeria, Vice President Osinbajo disclosed plans by the Federal Government to employ 100,000 youths as extension workers through the Green Alternative initiative.

The youths are among the 500,000 teachers currently undergoing recruitment by the Federal Government. He said the revival of the country's agricultural sector was critical at this moment since oil price has significantly dropped at the international market.

He also assured that the Bank of Agriculture would be recapitalized and repositioned to meet farmers' financial need by giving them a single digit interest rate and low interest.

Prof. Osinbajo maintained that the move to diversify the economy through the agriculture sector had become necessary due to the huge food importation bill and the need to create jobs for the teeming population of youth in the country.

### Policy Objective of the Programme

Chief Audu Ogbah, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development stated that the policy objective of the document, which has a four-year implementation period (2016 to 2020), is to make agriculture the biggest alternative to oil and gas business in the bid to diversify the nation's economy adversely affected by the crash in the price of crude oil.

The Minister said that the emphasis on "Green" was to capture the essence, spirit and orientation of this new policy/strategy document. He said the emphasis is deliberate to underscore not only the imperative of building a strong, vibrant and resilient economy, but also a green, refreshing, regenerating, transformative agriculture-led economy.

"We touched on the human element; we reflected on years of neglect where agriculture was seen as the refuge for the wretched and unsophisticated. But we refuse to dwell on lamentations. They can only guarantee misery."

"We touched on land and land-use; we touched on soil types and appropriate and correct use of fertilizers (**Indorama will Play Important role in supply of fertilizer**) for maximum yield," the minister said.

According to the Minister, testimonies

abound regarding rice yields on farms in Kebbi, Jigawa and Enugu states --- which have proved that our rice yields are already approaching the highest world average of seven tons per hectare. "We also dealt with seed, importance of quality and availability."

The Green Alternative outlines virtually everything that needs to be done, most especially every policy that needs to be undertaken to achieve self-sufficiency in agriculture and also to become a major exporter of agricultural products, a position Nigeria occupied many decades ago.

### Strategic Policy Thrusts of Green Alternative

The Green Alternative policy has five major strategic thrusts including:

- Achievement of self-sufficiency and sustainable food security,
- Reduction in import dependence and economic losses,
- Stimulation of agro exports to enhance foreign earnings,
- Enhancement of wealth and job creation, as well as,
- Achievement of economic diversification to make the economy less dependent on oil.

The 129-page detailed document outlines the government's policies and objectives to see agriculture as the best alternative in the administration's quest to diversify the economy, policy will serve as the new fulcrum for economic diversification, inclusive growth and sustainable development in agric sector.

In terms of structure, the Green Alternative has three pillars with the first being Productivity Enhancement comprising nine key components namely: access to land, soil fertility, access to information and knowledge, access to inputs, production management, storage, processing, marketing and trade, consumption and nutrition. The second pillar is Private Sector Investment, which ensures greater access to finance, promoting agribusiness and ensuring investment development.

It is to ensure mutual complementarity between efficient, effective and productive agricultural production, systems and processes without causing further harm to environmental sustainability, especially mitigating the effects of climate change to enable the habitat continue to support the ecosystem.

The Nigerian farmers are seeking more

availability of fertilizer, timely application of research findings, adoption of science and technology, provision of good seeds and small irrigation facility for all-year-round farming.

### Agric Policy Targets

Target include growing the agriculture sector annually between 6 - 12 per cent; doubling agricultural household incomes in 6 - 12 years; integrating agricultural commodity value chains into the broader supply chain; driving job growth and wealth creation, as well as ensuring enhanced capacity for foreign exchange earnings.

Other key targets are promoting responsible use of land, water and other natural resources for sustainable livelihoods; facilitating the capacity of the country to meet her obligations to the citizenry on food security, promoting food safety and quality nutrition; and instituting improved governance architectural system in the agricultural sector.

This is aimed at unlocking the full potential of the Agriculture sector through the creation of enhanced opportunities for private sector investment and ensuring additional steady inflows of foreign direct investment into the sector.

### Food Crops Export

The Federal Government is delighted with the progress already achieved over the past months in the industry, especially in its drive towards achieving self-sufficiency in grains, particularly rice, maize, sorghum, millet, wheat and animal products such as milk, meat, eggs, fish, as well as tomato paste within the next three years.

The government is putting in place relevant sub-policies, administrative guidelines and strengthening regulatory oversight to ensure zero reject of Nigeria's agricultural commodities and produce, especially in the European Union market. This will be achieved through the introduction and enforcement of new benchmarks for safety, packaging, branding, quality control and standards."

### Conclusion

Truly, the country may be going through excruciating pains because of the past acts of laxity, recklessness, indiscipline and abominable indulgence of the worst order. Nonetheless, there is hope of a brighter future through properly laid out agric policies being embarked upon by the current administration.

# Ministry of Agric Team Inspects Plant, Endorses Indorama Urea

**A four-member team from the Farm Input Support Services (FISS) department of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources (FMA&NR) has inspected the operations of the newly-completed Indorama fertilizer plant, which commenced production in late June, 2016.**

The fertilizer plant, funded largely by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), an arm of the World Bank, at the cost of \$1.5 billion has capacity for 1.5 million metric tons of Urea per annum.

The team led by Engr. O.B. Jatto, Director of FISS department, visited the plant on 20th July 2016, endorsed the Urea fertilizer and commended the company on its efforts to satisfy the fertilizer demands of millions of farmers across the country.

Engr. Jatto noted that FISS being the regulatory agency of the Ministry of

Agriculture is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer companies in the country distribute the product according to government regulations, policies and directives.

“On behalf of the honourable Minister of Agriculture, Mr Audu Ogbeh I want to thank the management of Indorama Eleme Fertilizer & Chemicals Limited for this giant world-class plant.”

“I must say that it is a thing of joy for a country to have a plant of this nature because of the situation we are going through in terms of supply of fertilizer in the country. I hope that when this plant fully comes on stream, much of our fertilizer supply problems would be solved”, he said.

Engr Jatto said that the emergence of Indorama fertilizer brought a sigh of relief to the federal government as it to help to solve the crisis in fertilizer availability and distribution in the country.

He maintained that it is the policy of the federal government that fertilizer companies should first satisfy domestic needs before considering export.

The Director said he appreciated

the teething problem that the company was facing at the time with bagging of the product. “We know there is no company that will just commence production and would not experience little technical hitches,” he said.

Engr Jatto said the company should articulate its challenges and share them with the Ministry so that the Federal Government could help in resolving such challenges. He added that the government was very interested in fertilizer issues because of the high priority placed on the product. “We can't talk of food security in the country without talking about fertilizer,” he said.

Special Adviser to the Managing Director, Dr. Jossy Nkwocha thanked the team for the visit and assured them that the company will meet the expectations of the Federal Government in the supply of fertilizers across the country.

Other Indorama officials at the event included Naveen Sirohi, head of the marketing team, Dr S. K. Srivastava, Dr Balbir Singh, Mahesh Appat, Rishi Raaj Magariya, Avijit Sinha, among others.

Group photograph of senior officials of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture led by **Engr O. B. Jatto**, Director of FISS department (5th from right) and executives of Indorama Fertilizer led by **Mr. A. K. Sharma**, head of QAQC (5th from left) during the visit of the federal officials to the fertilizer plant.



# I'm Overwhelmed with Your New Fertilizer Plant!

- DPR Zonal Operations Controller

**The new Zonal Operations Controller of Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Port Harcourt, Mrs Chioma N. Njoku has commended the management of Indorama-Nigeria for transforming the old Eleme Petrochemicals into a world-class petrochemicals complex that now has both polymer and fertilizer sections.**

She made this statement on 28th July, 2016 when she led a team of senior officials of the Agency on a familiarisation visit to the company. Other top officials on Mrs. Njoku's entourage included Engr. A Buba, head of Operations; P.A. Emordi, head of Downstream; T. M. Kingsley-Sundaye, head of Gas; and R. A. Okoye, head of Engineering and Standards.

After a comprehensive tour of the petrochemicals and fertilizer plants, Mrs Njoku barred her mind at the company's boardroom: "As a young officer, I knew very much about the old Eleme Petrochemicals Company Limited. Coming here today, I am overwhelmed with the transformation of the plants and facilities, and the expansion."

"I am overwhelmed because these are very huge projects. Reviving the plant that was already here before you came is a huge project. Again in 36 months you are able to put up this kind of giant world-class fertilizer plant."

"We see very huge projects like this fertilizer plant." "We see very huge projects like this end up in the foundation stage. I am really impressed. You have done a real great job here," she said.

The new world-class fertilizer plant was built by Indorama at the cost of \$1.5 billion. It has capacity for 1.5 million metric tons of Urea per annum.

The Operations controller said that revamping the petrochemicals plant and building a new fertilizer plant will help in creating many employment opportunities and boosting food security in Nigeria and Africa.

She said her team was at Indorama to familiarize with the various operations of the group and to foster mutual working relationship between the two organisations.

Mrs Njoku stated that DPR as a regulatory body has the responsibility to ensure that companies in the oil and gas sector operate within the confines of government policies and regulations. "As the regulators of this sector, we are monitoring everything you are doing. We have our representative here in your complex. You must conform to all government rules and regulations in your operations. We will continue with our regular inspections," she said.

She applauded the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model of the company which she linked to the mutual trust and understanding that exist among the various stakeholders and the company, especially the host

communities and staff.

"I am quite impressed by the excellent relationship with your host communities because that is very important. Even though you have the license to operate, you still need peace to operate. You are operating freely and peacefully because of the support from your stakeholders," she said.

The DPR team was received by Indorama's management team led by Mr A. K Sharma, head of Quality Assurance and Quality Control department (QAQC) on behalf of the Managing Director, Mr Manish Mundra.

After a presentation on the various operations of the petrochemicals and fertilizer plants, the team were taken on a plant tour led by Hermant Deshmukh, head of operations of IEFCL and Vivek Sharan of Logistics department.

Other top officials of Indorama-Nigeria at the vent included Dr Jossy Nkwocha, Pradeep Ekka, Dr. M.K. Jain, Balaji Rao, S. K. Das, S. Morali Mohan, Charles Onuoha, Innocent Kpenden, among others.

Group photograph of top officials of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) led by the Port Harcourt Zonal Operations Controller, **Mrs Chioma N. Njoku** and Management staff of Indorama Eleme Fertilizers & Chemicals Limited during a familiarization visit to the Indorama Petrochemicals Complex recently.



# NNPC Seeks Sustained Business Collaboration with Indorama

**Group Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer of Refineries of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Engr. Anibor O. Kragha has called for sustained business collaboration between the corporation and Indorama-Nigeria operations for mutual corporate benefits and for enhancement of the national economy.**

Engr Kragha made this proposal when he led a team of top management of the Port Harcourt Refining Company (PHRC), including the Managing Director Dr Bafred Enguju on a business visit to the Indorama petrochemicals complex on 20th July, 2016.

He assured that the new NNPC management is business-focussed and profit-driven with a lot of viable business opportunities to drive the Nigerian economy.

He explained that the visit was meant to acquaint Indorama management of the new spirit that drives the operations of the refineries and the corporation as a whole; and seek possible ways of collaboration to achieve greater result.

It was indeed a marketing campaign as Engr Kragha extolled what he called "the new NNPC" and "the news refineries" that are now fully equipped to run as a business with diverse profit centres.

For instance, he mentioned that the vandalised crude lines of PHRC have been restored and re-commissioned to deliver crude oil to the refinery. The operating procedures of the Phase 2 refinery, he said, have also been ISO-certified to meet international standards.

"Our products are available and of high standard. We are ready to service our customers in the most efficient manner", he said, noting that Indorama remain one of its major customers. Engr. Kragha assured that his team is driven to increase capacity utilisation above 60 per cent in production of petroleum products.

The NNPC boss also commended the management of Indorama-Nigeria for transforming the old Eleme Petrochemicals Company and expanding to PET and fertilizer. He



Group Executive Director of NNPC, **Engr Anibor Kragha** (3rd from right) flanked by Managing Director of Indorama-Nigeria companies, **Mr Manish Mundra**; Managing Director of the Port Harcourt Refinery, **Dr Bafred Enguju** and other management team of NNPC and Indorama.

recalled that his first visit to the company was in 1997 when it was managed by the NNPC and coming back, he has seen a huge transformation.

Top officials who accompanied the GED and MD included Sir Ralph Ugwu, Executive Director Services; Engr. A. Owolabi, Executive Director Operations; Engr. Sanusi Usman Mohammed, General Manager – Greenfield refineries, among others.

The NNPC officials were received by Indorama management led by the Managing Director, Mr Manish Mundra.

"Thank you so much for finding time to visit us. We are happy to receive you and your team. We always consider ourselves as sibling of NNPC. In both our petrochemicals and fertilizer operations we need the NNPC," he said.

Mr Mundra added that whatever Indorama has achieved in Nigeria is with the backing of NNPC and would achieve more if the collaboration is sustained.

The Indorama boss spoke on the company's new world-class fertilizer

plant, which is the world's largest single-line urea facility, built in a record time of 36 months. He informed the guests that the plant has commenced production, supplying about 90 – 100 trailers daily across the nation to boost food production in the country.

The NNPC team members were indeed excited and were later taken on a tour of the plant, which has capacity for 1.5 million metric tons of Urea fertilizer per annum. It was funded at the whopping cost of \$1.5 billion through loan from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector arm of the World Bank.

Other Indorama executives at the event include A.B Rao, Technical head, petrochemicals; Christian Ojoboh, Director of Resources; Praveen Jain, head of Commercial; A. K. Sharma, head of QAQC; Dr Jossy Nkwocha, head of Corporate Communications; Pradeep Ekka, head of Human Resources; Kendrick Oluka, head of Community Relations & Development, and Cliff Osagie, head of Legal Services, Vivek Sharan, head of Logistics, among others.

# Indorama is doing well for Rivers, Nigeria – ITF boss



Area Manager of ITF Mr Emmanuel Isiwu receives corporate souvenir from Head of HR of Indorama Mr. Pradeep Ekka

**The Area Manager of Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Port Harcourt office, Mr. Emmanuel Isiwu has declared that Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Limited (IEPL) and its sister companies are doing well, not just for Rivers State and its host communities, but also for Nigeria as a whole.**

He made this statement when he led a team from ITF on a familiarization visit to the company on Tuesday 9th August, 2016. He noted that his team's visit to Indorama was part of a programme to visit strategic partners and congratulated the company on its expansion to fertilizer, which he described as germane to the focus of the federal government to promote agriculture in the country.

He also lauded Indorama for being prompt in fulfilling its statutory obligations to the ITF, stressing that training is key to continuous growth and development. He therefore advocated a

strategic partnership between both organizations.

Earlier in a brief presentation, Mr. Pradeep Ekka, head of IEPL HR, who led the Indorama management team that received the ITF officials, outlined the company's historical antecedents and strides since emerging in Nigeria's economic landscape 10 years ago.

He explained that the Fertilizer project came with complementary 83km gas pipeline to supply gas feedstock for Urea production, and a Port terminal to facilitate the export of the commodity

after the local market is satisfied.

Moreover, he explained that the company now supplies 35 customized grades of polymers (petrochemicals products) in the last 6 years.

He stressed that the company's investment and expansions into PET, Fertilizer and others clearly shows commitment to building the largest petrochemicals hub in Africa right here in Eleme.

He also noted that the company's future expansion plans include an NGL plant for \$250m, another polymer plant for \$225m and a methanol plant valued at \$100m which would bring Indorama's cumulative investment into the Nigerian economy to \$4.2 billion by 2020.

Thereafter, the ITF area management team members namely Biobele Abraham, Pomark Kaatpo, Veronica Nduka, Fidelis Ugwu and Dorine Egubere were taken on plant tour of the brand-new fertilizer plant's Control Room and bagging section, as well as Olefins Plant, Olefins Control Room and polymer bagging and storage area.

Speaking after the plant tour, Mr Isiwu expressed delight at the commitment of Indorama to the Nigerian economy.

"The last time I was on official assignment to the company, management was talking about the plan for a fertilizer plant; but here today, within a short time such a gigantic project has been completed, "he enthused.

Other members of the Indorama management that received the ITF delegation include Mr Mahesh D.R, Mr Nyime Oluka, Mr Benneth Mandah and Mr Festus Nbakpone. Others are Mr Debo Ajaguna, Mr Alex Fubara, Korim Chidiebere and Osaze Jerry-Iyamu.



Group photograph of officials of ITF, Port Harcourt zonal office and HR department of Indorama-Nigeria.

## Federal Fire Service Inspectors Excited About Facilities at Indorama Complex

Inspectors from the Federal Fire Service (FFS), South-South Command, Port Harcourt were at the premises of Indorama Petrochemicals Complex in Eleme Rivers State on Tuesday, 6th September, 2016 to inspect safety facilities and equipment for the newly completed Indorama fertilizer plant.

At the end of the inspection, the Zonal Commander, Mr. Chika Njoku, commended the company for the array of facilities for preventing or fighting fire at the Complex. Other officers on the team included Felix Elozieuwa, Stella Okweye, Francis Alaidogbom, Hawa Kulu Weli and John Nnaemeka.

The team was first received at the Fire Station conference room by Indorama officials led by Dr Jossy



Both officials of the Federal Fire Service, Sort Harcourt office, and HSE of Indorama-Nigeria pose for a group photograph during their inspection visit to the new fertilizer plant.

Nkwocha, Special Adviser to the Managing Director and Mr Prashant Sontakke of the Safety department who expressed happiness for the visit and the relationship with the agency.

A detailed presentation of the safety policies, procedures, practices, facilities, safety records and certifications of the company were made by senior fire officers, Mr Suleiman and T. B. West.

Thereafter, the guests were conducted round the facilities and installations including the Fire station

control room, fire trucks, pump station and power plant. They raised various questions for which satisfactory answers were provided.

At the end of the inspection, Mr Njoku commended the company for building a giant fertilizer plant within a short time, and emphasized the need for strong policies and practices to prevent fire in the complex or effectively fight it whenever it occurs. He also spoke about approvals from FFS in line with the Fire Service Act of 1963 and National Fire Safety Code of 2013.

## Senior NAFDAC Officials Inspect Indorama Fertilizer



Officials of the NAFDAC led by Mr. Adedeji Akinwunmi being conducted round the new fertilizer plant by Engr Obioma of Indorama.

Senior officials of the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) visited Indorama's fertilizer plant on Friday August 2016 on special inspection of the

company's plant, facilities, policies, practices and records to ensure Indorama urea conforms to federal government's regulations on production, storage and distribution.

According to leader of the team, Mr Adedeji Akinwunmi, NAFDAC is interested in both food safety and food security, hence their visit to the newly completed world-class Indorama plant with capacity to produce 1.5 million metric tons of Urea.

They were received by the company's management team led by Mr A.K Sharma, head of Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QAQC); Mr. Praveen Jain, head of Commercial; Dr Jossy Nkwocha, head of Corporate Communications, S. K Das, technical head and others from logistics, materials handling and marketing departments.

Indorama management made a detailed presentation on various areas of interest to the NAFDAC team and later took them on a tour of all the facilities including the use of chemicals, storage of Urea, security system, distribution channels, integrity of channels of distribution, etc.

After the inspection, Mr Akinwunmi expressed satisfaction with the company's consistency in following laid down procedures and documentation. Other members of the team are Leonard Omokpariola and Gloria Dick-Williams.

# Leveraging Nigeria's Huge Population For National Economic Growth



By Patrick Okoro  
Purchasing Department

With a population of about 170 million, and the seventh largest country in the world ranking after China, India, USA, Brazil, Pakistan and Indonesia, and the most populous black nation in the world, Nigeria is indeed blessed. In addition, the country is endowed with riches in mineral resources ranging from Crude oil, iron ore, tin, bauxite, gold, diamond, arable vegetation, the fourth largest delta region in the world and a land mass measuring 910,770sq km with pleasant weather.

With these natural resources, Nigeria seems tailor made for greatness among the comity of nations. What is required is that we deliberately embark on purposeful economic development premised on demand and supply principle, a systematic planning based on comparative advantage.

As Nigeria celebrates its 56th Independence anniversary, there is one pertinent question to ask: As the fourth largest delta nation in the world, where are the clusters of paddy fields, mass aquatic cultural farming, and visible trawling fishing activities? Looking at our savanna region one will see enormous untapped resource lying prostrate and no deliberate policy in place to harness them.

This is time to gather ourselves and take our rightful position among the comity of great nations. What should be done? How do we go about doing it? This piece will answer the above queries by taking-up two key sectors analytically.

## AGRICULTURE

Taking into cognizance our large population and vast arable land of about 720,740sq km representing 79.1% of our land space, agriculture is the 'open sesame' that would naturally unlock our food security. It is the catalyst to national revival with a spill-over effect on other strata of our economy. A well feed nation is a happy people, and a 'hungry man is an angry man' as the saying goes in our local parlance.

It is a fact that USA's enormous power and influence as a Super-power is partly derived from her capacity in controlling the cereal and grain commodity market all over the world. During the cold war era, her threat not to sell grain to the then USSR was one of the reasons that led to the capitulation of the then Soviet empire. USSR threat of using her nuclear arsenal on the rest of the world if USA goes ahead on her proposed grain embargo exposes the fact that the greatness of a nation lies on her food security.

How do we secure our nation against similar circumstance on our way to greatness? Our agriculture marshal plan should be modeled like the Chinese system -- family subsistence holding integrated into larger community pastures in cluster formats.

This integrated arrangement facilitates intervention from government agencies in land clearing, fertilizer and pesticides application, easy monitoring in credit scheme application and recovery, mass deployment of our teeming youths in farm implement handling and semi processing activities and bulk evacuation of excess farm produce.

State governments should be saddled with providing storage facilities with the active participation of the commodity exchange board, at this level, as well as inter-state fund for food arrangement, and food-for-food brokered bilateral agreement to be brokered by the exchange commission.

The recent Lagos and Jigawa States' money-for-beef plan comes in mind, though desirable but not secured as arrangement was politically conceived and might be subjected to whims and caprices of political pendulum. One prefers the exchange commission system backed by irrevocable legislation with authority to deduct first-line from federal allocation as a collateral of the renegading state in arbitration remediation.

With this model in place, the delta region will be assisted in mass production of rice, fish and vegetable round the year, with grains, tubers, Palm plantation, rubber, cocoa allocated in the preceding orders of comparative advantage states.

Our scarce agricultural products when harvested are wasted because small and medium processing plants are economically unsustainable due to high energy cost. Large scale manufacturing, entertainment, research-based activities are lost to the economy due to this obvious mitigating factor which greatly impede our industrialization growth and with it attendant consequences in unemployment, hunger and frustration on our restless vibrant youthful population.

## POWER/ENERGY

Our energy/power sector is so moribund that all efforts by successive governments to resuscitate and revitalize it have turned out exercises in futility. Its attendance consequences have rendered our economy and related activities prostrate. We are not supposed to be in such situation. With our vast topography traversing across large

expanse of land, we are not supposed to rely solely on gas fired energy and few irrigational dams for our power needs.

Concerted effort should be made to diversify to wind energy within the coastal belt and the Mambilla axis, even though for strategic reasons this might not be sustainable due to limited quantity of energy, as presently practiced (greenhouse model) by Nordic Europeans.

Considering the requirement of power to drive our industrialization need, which should be in the region of 60,000 megawatt within the next couple of years, embarking on nuclear powered reactors should not be ruled out under the watchful supervision of the relevant UN agencies. Coal, solar powered technology should also be considered within the economies of scale environment.

In fact high energy cost has really hurt the Nigerian economy in many ways. In recent times multinational companies like Michelin and Dunlop were forced to relocate to a neighboring country because of outrageous cost implication in remaining competitive in tyre and latex related production irrespective of the fact that one of the companies cultivated Africa's largest rubber plantation in Nigeria.

Ironically we are the biggest importer of tyre and latex based product in the continent. The cost in terms of capital flight, job losses, taxes and value chain lost to the economy can hardly be quantified.

## CONCLUSION

We can achieve a lot as a nation by leveraging our large population. We have a huge market for our agricultural produce. If we are able to turn them into finished products, we also have huge markets for them. We must fix our agriculture and energy sectors immediately. They will galvanize all other sectors of the economy. It is for Nigeria's large market that South African firms such as MTN and Shoprite are now striving in Nigeria. Our huge population can sustain any economy if the right things are done to harness our resources and encourage industrialisation and use of made-in-Nigeria goods and services. As we celebrate our 56th independence anniversary, I wish all Nigerians the best of the season!



Dr. Oby Anyiam  
Medical Department

# VIRAL HEPATITIS

## .....AN OVERVIEW

**H**epatitis is defined as inflammation or swelling of the cells of the liver. This can be caused by drugs, alcohol use, or an infection (be it viral, bacterial, fungal or a parasitic infestation). However the most common cause of hepatitis is viral infection.



**Viral hepatitis is very common and affects 400 million people globally which is up to 10 times the number of people living with HIV and given the size of the epidemic, anyone and everyone can be at risk. Hence the need to know about it.**

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF VIRAL HEPATITIS

In the first few weeks after an infection, there may be no symptoms but when they present they include:



Yellow eyes and skin



Dark urine and light colour stools



A mild fever



Nausea and poor appetite



Abdominal pain



Fatigue and body pains

### WHAT IS VIRAL HEPATITIS

This is inflammation of the liver caused by any of the different types of hepatitis viruses. They include types A, B, C, D and E.

### HOW IS IT SPREAD

The transmission of hepatitis is dependent on the type; **Hepatitis A/ E** – through ingestion of food or water that has been contaminated with the faeces of an infected person who has not practiced good hand washing

**Hepatitis B**- through contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person via unprotected sexual contacts, sharing of infected needles, razors, or toothbrushes. Also spread from an infected mother to her baby at childbirth.

**Hepatitis C**- spread in the same ways as type B however the risk of sexual contact spread is much less except in HIV positive individuals and male homogenous sexual relationships.

**Hepatitis D**- same as type B but only affects those who already have Hepatitis B infection

**NOTE:** Hepatitis is NOT spread through hugging or hand shaking

### HOW CAN IT BE DIAGNOSED/ TREATED

Following presentation at a clinic when having these symptoms, your doctor will take a thorough history, carry out a physical examination and send for laboratory blood and urine tests to assess your liver function, detect the presence of the virus, and also look for evidence of any complication.

Treatment is mainly for types B, C and D because types A and E usually resolve on their own after a few weeks to months. Drugs used are called antivirals and interferons.

### POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

1. **Liver Cirrhosis:** when healthy liver cells are damaged and replaced by non-functioning scar tissue.
2. **Liver failure:** the state in which the liver can no longer perform its functions of detoxifying the body, processing certain nutrients, metabolizing drugs etc.
3. **Liver Cancer:** the growth and spread of abnormal and malignant cells in the liver.

### HOW CAN VIRAL HEPATITIS BE PREVENTED

- Compulsory hand washing after toilet use, baby diaper change and before food handling.
- Avoid sharing needles, razors, clippers and tooth brushes
- Avoid drinking or using potentially contaminated water
- Avoid unprotected sex
- Adequate vaccination
- Go for periodic medical check-ups and screening
- Routine health checks and counselling of food handlers.



# Imperatives of Safety in National Development



**Bashir Mohammed**  
Safety Department



**Safety of lives and property is an important component of national development. Safety is the condition of taking appropriate actions to avoid causing accidents, injury or loss. It is the condition of being safe, free from danger, risk or injury. As the nation celebrates its 56th independence anniversary, there is need for safety considerations, need to avoid un-safe acts to avoid unnecessary injury, death or loss of property.**

Research shows that Nigeria witnessed unprecedented growth in the 70s and 80s, and the consequence of this unplanned and largely uncontrolled development was the high rate of road traffic accidents with its corresponding high casualty rate. Statistics published by various road safety authorities (Nigeria and international) placed Nigeria as one of the countries in the world with the highest rate and severity of road traffic crashes.

The foregoing acted as a tonic for the Nigerian Government to think of a comprehensive action to deal with the scourge by the establishment of Federal Road Safety Commission in 1988 ; made fully operational through the FRSC Act 2007 cap 141 laws of the federation as amended.

There are various aspects of safety including industrial safety, domestic safety, road safety, air safety, marine safety, cyber safety, personal safety, among others. In this article, I will like to discuss road safety because Nigeria has lost many lives as a result of recklessness on the roads.

Undoubtedly Nigeria has not done enough in respect of national safety in relation to road traffic accidents. Driving is a safety-sensitive task, therefore, to minimize the risk and ensure that required standards and best practices

are followed; the following defensive driving measures must be incorporated:

- Stringent drivers' training and qualification
- Anti-drugs and alcohol policy in relation to driving
- Compulsory use of seat belts
- Non-use of cellphone while driving
- Effective journey management plan
- Driver improvement monitoring
- Punishment for over-loading
- Regular vehicle maintenance checks
- Speed monitoring/ speed limit checks
- Driver's eye test
- Regular road maintenance to remove potholes
- Immediate removal of vehicles that break down on the road

As a safety officer, my observations have also revealed the following are some unsafe driver actions that lead to fatal car-truck or car-car crashes, which if checked will promote safety on the roads.

- Failure to keep in lane or running off road
- Failure to yield right of way
- Failure to obey actual traffic signs, traffic control devices or traffic officer
- Failure to obey safety zone traffic

laws.

- Frequently changing the lanes by weaving back and forth
- Inattentive driving while talking or eating
- Driving on wrong side of road
- Improper or erratic lane change
- Operating the vehicle in an erratic, reckless, careless, or negligent manner
- Sliding due to water, slush, sand, dirt, oil, or wet leaves on road
- Making improper turn
- Driving with insufficient or inadequate visibility
- Failing to yield to overtaking vehicle
- Drowsy, sleepy, or fatigued driving
- Vision obscured by rain, fog, sand, or dust
- Racing to beat a yellow light that's about to turn red
- Driving with the high beams

In conclusion, I believe that if everyone makes effort to obey safety regulations on the road, there will be less automobile accidents. I believe that our nation cannot afford to continue to lose so many lives on the highways. The FRSC must also do its work effectively by sensitizing road users and motorists to comply with safety rules.

Unfortunately, some bad eggs in the commission are now more concerned with money they will make from motorists than on enforcing safety. This is very sad. As we mark our 56th independence anniversary, I wish everyone safe trip to their various destinations. Happy independence anniversary to all Nigerians and the Federal Republic of Nigeria!



Dr. Jossy Nkwocha, FNIPR

## Resolving Nigeria's Economic Crisis: The Critical Nexus between Politics and Economics

**Nigeria is facing serious economic crisis. The nation's currency, the Naira, has lost its value by almost 300% in relations to the United States' dollar or the United Kingdom's Pound Sterling. Many companies in various sectors have closed down and laid off their employees. Cost of food items such as rice has increased by over 100%. Inflation and unemployment have increased drastically.**

Foreign direct investment (FDI) is declining seriously. There is serious hunger among the poor and middle-class Nigerians. The Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) then confirmed the fears of many that the Nigerian economy has slipped into full-scale recession with Quarter 2 figures showing -2.06%.

Many people have been lamenting this situation. Some have called for the sacking of the economic team. Many believe that the solution lies in diversifying into agriculture, away from oil and gas, which have over the years been the mainstay of the nation's economy. Indeed, there have been so many suggestions, so much talk and many debates that have left us with a cacophony of voices. All measures put in place to rescue the economy have failed. The managers of the economy, confused, find themselves in the panic mode and resort to fire-fighting technique of trial and error.

I have come to the conclusion that there is a missing link. All the solutions being proffered and all the actions taken so far have failed to appreciate the fundamental fact that the economy is intertwined with politics; there is a critical nexus between politics and economics. My thesis is that we have to align the two properly for us to exit the crisis mode and move into economic prosperity; otherwise the Nigerian economy would continue on a downward slide.

In simple terms, politics deals with the processes of acquiring and retaining power to control the levers and resources of a given society. It is through the political processes that a particular government comes to power. In many multi-ethnic societies, the pattern of interactions among the ethnic groups defines the character of the prevailing politics: inclusive politics, exclusive politics, bitter politics, do-or-die politics, winner-takes-all politics, consensus politics, etc.

On the other hand, economics deals with managing scarce resources within the mechanism of the demand-supply theory. Economics is concerned with using available resources to generate various productive activities that produce goods and services that satisfy human needs and wants, and creating wealth for individuals, organisations

and nations. Economics strives on investments and production, which explains why some nations are rich while others are poor. Economics deals with independent variables that are constant and make economics almost an exact science. Economics strives on research, data and statistics. That also explains why economics is supposed to be unbiased and apolitical.

Politics, they say, is a dirty game, war by other means. Politics is like opium, it intoxicates. The exercise of power which flows from politics can make or destroy a society. Economics on the other hand is gentle yet powerful also. Politics is more of an art while economics is science. Politics and economics are therefore like strange bed fellows that can hardly meet.

**My postulation here is the need for integration of politics and economics for common good. We must align the two forces in managing and exiting the economic crisis that Nigeria faces at the moment**

However, development scholars are of the view that both politics and economics must be aligned properly for society to move forward. There is a critical linkage between them. Adam Smith's classic, *The Wealth of Nations* and the thoughts of Karl Mark explain this linkage. Unfortunately, in many societies, there is a kind of superiority contest between political power and economic power; and one tries to destroy the other. And some scholars have asked the question: between politics and economics, which one is superior? Which controls the other?

My postulation here is the need for integration of politics and economics for common good. We must align the two forces in managing and exiting the economic crisis that Nigeria faces at the moment. In today's

societies, politics shapes economic systems and policies. On the other hand if nations want to grow, they must allow economic imperatives or reality to dictate the direction and pattern of its politics and governance. This is more so in a multi-ethnic and multi-religious society where so many interests have to be balanced for the sake of peace and unity.

The truth today is that the economic crisis in Nigeria is being managed without ensuring that the political imperatives are right. In Nigeria, most so-called economic policies and decisions are politically motivated. The allocation of economic resources in Nigeria is political. Budget allocations and implementation are more political than economic. Where government cites key industries in Nigeria are political. Key appointments of government even in the economic sector are purely made on political consideration. Economics has therefore been largely neglected at the expense of politics.

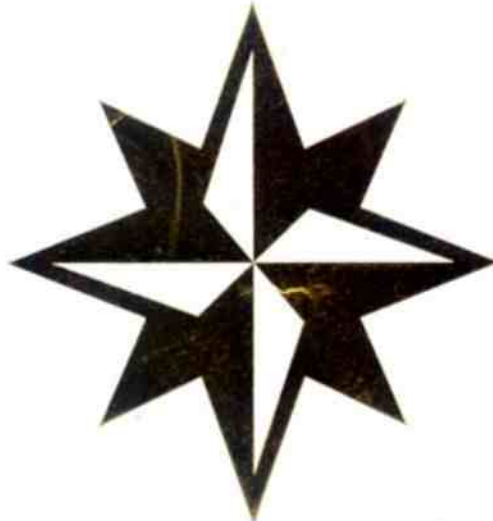
This scenario throws up many contradictions that violate economic principles and laws. When economic laws are violated, the result is economic crisis as we are witnessing. The study of political economy is primarily aimed at managing the conflict between politics and economics to ensure smooth running and prosperity of nations.

The question usually arises: who should run the economy -- economists or politicians? This question is quite germane in our case. For instance, managing the economy involves fiscal policy which is controlled by the Minister, a politician while the monetary policy is controlled by economists at the Central Bank. Both fiscal and monetary policies must align properly. In our instant case, both are at variance.

In conclusion, my point is that we should play good politics, unite all the constituent parts, extinguish fear in the polity, let genuine peace reign, engender a feeling of inclusiveness and togetherness, address the concerns of many, let merit and expertise guide government appointments. The Nigerian sick economy will respond positively, and our economic crisis and recession will disappear. I humbly submit.



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commitment to good health and safety management during 2015.

**Lynda Armstrong OBE**  
Chair of The Board of Trustees  
6 May 2016

**Mike Robinson**  
Chief Executive  
6 May 2016



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