

RRIN TABLOID

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RRIN holds February edition of general prayer meeting

The February edition of RRIN prayer meeting took place on the 5th of February, 2024. It commenced with an opening prayer by Mr. W. Imarhiagbe and a praise worship session, led by Mrs. P. Ifahi. Dr. A.M.D. Uwumarongie then took over to lead the prayer session. He took his text from Psalm 127: 1-2, that God builds the house and watches over it, he thanked God for His sustenance, protection, guidance and His grace and mercy on us all. Psalm 102: 13-14 he said that God should arise and have compassion on Zion (RRIN), praying that this year should be the set time for God to favour the Institute. He also prayed that just like Zaccheus in the bible, all Staff and Management should be strategically placed for Gods blessings. He concluded the prayer session by asking for God to enable the workers carry out their duties efficiently and effectively.

The prayer session was rounded up by Mrs. O. Uzoho and the grace shared by Mr. W. Imarhiagbe.



Cross section of some members of Staff during the prayer session

RRIN holds a one day workshop on "Current Landscape and future trend in the Data world: How women can play a significant role in shaping the future of Data analytics/Data science".

The Socio-Economics Division in the Research Outreach Department of the Institute, in collaboration with the Research Women Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society, on Monday the 12th of February, 2024 held a one day workshop on "Current Landscape and future trend in the Data world: How women can play a significant role in shaping the future of Data analytics/Data science". The facilitator of the workshop, Dr. B. Agbonkolor, welcomed Dr. P. Anegbe – who represented the Director/CEO, he welcomed all Staff present to the workshop and introduced the speaker, Mr. David, Ikhu-Omoregbee, the CEO and Senior Data Scientist with the Dreamer Hub Consultancy Ltd, Germany.



Mr. David, Ikhu-Omoregbee during his presentation

He started his presentation by thanking all Staff that were present for the workshop, followed by a brief overview of the DREAMMAKERHUB (DMH) CONSULTANCY, describing it as a bespoke Consultancy and Training Solution provider company registered in Nigeria with team members from Germany, UK, USA and Nigeria. The consultancy he said, engages in data strategy and architecture, data modernization and engineering, business analytics, data exploitation, artificial intelligence and more. They also deliver big data projects in healthcare, agriculture, Banking, insurance, oil and Gas, Academic Institutions and other industries. The DMH also takes pleasure in impacting the desired knowledge suited for professional development and career advancement of individuals as well as businesses across various industries and sectors. They also train all category of Staff in different categories of data handling, emphasizing that presently, the world runs on data and its proper handling. He also reiterated the importance of proper analysis of data as it is instrumental in proper decision taking and achievement of Business goals. He further said that by categorisation, the five most important Analytics tools were PowBI, TABLEAU, EXCEL, SQL and PYTHON. These softwares he said can be used for both quantitative and qualitative data, depending on what the individual is comfortable with.



Cross section of some members of staff during the workshop

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He went further to say that women play a major role in the Data world and that the gender gap can be closed through promoting Diversity and inclusion, gender friendly programs and mentorship. He concluded by likening Data to crude oil, asking rhetorically if we were ready to refine it.

There was a brief question and answer session after which the workshop ended with closing prayers.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MAIDEN VISIT TO AKWETE SUB-STATION, ABIA STATE

The Executive Director/CEO, Dr. Lelia N. Dongo in the company of Dr. Isiaka O. Bakare, Director Research & Head, Knowledge Sharing and Management Department, Dr. Chioma Okwu, Technical Assistant (TA) to the Director/CEO and Mrs. Lynda Oladimeji, Personal Assistant (PA) to the Director/CEO visited the Akwete substation from the 28th to 31st January, 2024.

The Director/CEO and her Team were received by the Officer-in-charge of the substation Dr. E. G. O. Ogidi at 8:30 am on the 29th of January, 2024. He welcomed the Director/CEO and her Team to the Sub-station and introduced members of the Internal Management Committee of the substation to the Director/CEO.

Dr. L.N. Dongo thanked the IMC of the Sub Station and informed them that the visit was scheduled for last year but was not actualized because of paucity of funds. She also informed members of Staff present of the outline of the activities scheduled for the visit vis: Meeting with Substation Staff, meeting with the Traditional Rulers, field /Plantation Visitation and inspection of offices and office properties.

The officer-in-Charge of the Substation, Dr. E.G.O. Ogidi once again welcomed the Director/CEO and her entourage to the sub-station. In his address, he said the Substation had eight major Units, with a staff strength of 43 persons. The substation currently occupies 294.6 hectares of land after review by the joint Committee of the neighboring communities and the RRIN Substation representatives and that the landmark has also been well defined. Also, a Committee has been set up where younger staff have been taken round to see the landmark to forestall further encroachment due to ignorance. Although some challenges and limitations were being faced such as:

- death or retirement of capable hands, but re-training is on-going,
- vandalization of tapping cups and hangers,
- plantation being used as hide-outs, efforts are made to rescue some of the plantations from being hideouts for some vices,
- no project vehicle for extension work and security issues.



Welcoming Dr. L.N. Dongo and her entourage to Akwete

After the meeting with the Staff, the Director/CEO paid a courtesy visit to the three Paramount rulers in Akwete, some of the Chief's present were chairman/ Rep of Amakam Autonomous community, Chief Bar. Nnanna Churchill Wagbaranta, Chairman/Rep of Umuihueze, Prof Chinenye Sunday.

The Director/CEO and her entourage were welcomed by the Paramount rulers of Akwete at the Akwete Traditional Council's Palace. Kola nuts were offered, followed by prayers by a member of the traditional council. The Eze on behalf of other chiefs appreciated the Director/CEO's visit and made the following remarks: That the RRIN Management should extend employment opportunity to the indigenes of Akwete, and that there should be joint security outfit /committee.

Dr. L.N. Dongo then thanked the elders for their cooperation. She assured the elders that the RRIN Management will look into their requests and act within the ambit of the law and based on the available resources. She also, informed them, that the process and approval for employment opportunity is on-going. She stated that as soon as the final approval is given to RRIN, Akwete communities will be given their quota.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team at the Traditional ruler's palace

Day 3 was earmarked for the Field visitation. The Director/CEO accompanied by the entire staff moved round the plantations, the budwood nursery, root stock nursery and all sections of the plantation, offices, workshops were all covered in the visitation and assessment process.



Field visit of Dr. Dongo and her team at Akwete

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COURTESY VISIT to Mr. Agun Gbenga Joseph, the State Commandant, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, Edo State Command

The Director/CEO in the company of Dr. Kenneth Omokhafa, Director and Head, Research Operations Department, Dr. Peter Ogwuche, Head, Security and Servicom and Dr. Chioma Okwu, Technical Assistant (TA) to the Director/CEO paid a courtesy visit to the State Commandant, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC), Edo State Command on the 12th of February, 2024 to discuss pressing security matters related to RRIN's immediate environment.

The meeting commenced at 12:45 pm with the spokesman introducing the officers present, which includes the State commandant, Mr. Ojile, Deputy commandant and Mr. Ebaloghemen, Head, Agro rangers Unit, and also gave a brief background of the 17th State Commandant of Edo State Command who hails from Ekiti State. Thereafter, Dr. Chioma Okwu introduced the Staff of RRIN.

After the introductions, the Director/CEO, RRIN started by commiserating with the State commandant on the loss of two monarchs in Ekiti State. Thereafter, she debriefed the state commandant on the purpose of her visit, that there is an urgent need for both Institutions to collaborate in securing life and properties at RRIN as they are a major paramilitary arm of the Government in the area. She went further to inform the State Commandant of threats from Fulani herdsman who have now resorted to burning private farms of Staff for sprouting of new forage for their cattle, in addition to uprooting cassava tubers for the cattle to feed. The Director/CEO solicited for an intense patrol in the Institute with the help of the Agro Rangers Unit. Dr P. Ogwuche further buttressed the need for the patrol as the present level of havoc needs urgent intervention, that as at today, 150 acres of cassava farm have been uprooted by these Fulani herdsmen to feed their cattle. These vices are been driven by to youth restiveness in the area.

The State commandant responded that their core mandate is to protect and secure lives and properties but they are been limited due to lack of mobility. The ED responded by proposing to give them a hilux whenever the officers are on their weekly patrol in the institute. At that point, the Commandant requested that RRIN's Chief Security Officer (CSO) should work together with his Deputy Commandant and the Head of the Agro Ranger Unit to achieve this common goal. This will lead to a tripartite (Military, Agro Rangers and Vigilante) security in the institute. Dr. Omokhafa gave the vote of thanks and the meeting came an end by 1:16 pm.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team with the NSCDC State Commandant and others after the meeting

Director/CEO RRIN Dr. L.N Dongo, pays a courtesy visit to the Commissioner of Police, Edo State Command, CP Funsho Adegboye.

The Director/CEO, RRIN, Dr. Lelia N. Dongo with some of her Staff - Alhaji Hassan Ayuba Security/Servicom Unit, and Mrs. Lynda Oladimeji, Personal Assistant to the Director/CEO, paid a courtesy visit to the CP, Edo State Command on Monday, 12th of February, 2024. The meeting commenced with the CP Funsho Adegboye, Deputy Commissioner of Police Operations (DC OPS), Assistant Commissioner of Police Criminal Investigation Department (AC CID) and the Personal Assistant (P.A) to CP. The purpose of the visit was to inform the CP of an existing Police outpost in RRIN and the need for the CP to help strengthen the workforce to ensure that there is adequate security of life and properties within RRIN and environs. The CP promised to visit RRIN Police outpost for on-the-spot assessment, the possibility of converting the outpost to a Police Division and to also familiarize himself with his area of responsibilities.

The Director/CEO appreciated the CP for the warm reception. In turn the CP also appreciated the Director/CEO for her courtesy visit and wished her and her team a safe trip back to the institute.



CP Funsho Adegboye, Dr. L.N. Dongo and Alhaji H. Ayuba after the visit

African Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge Research and Development Project Executives pays a courtesy visit to the Director/CEO, RRIN.

The President, Alhaji Shuaibu Aro, Director of Media, Dr. Abiodun and Ogun State coordinator, Chief Raji Togunwa of the African Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge Research and Development Project, on the 13th of February, 2024 paid a courtesy visit to the Director/CEO RRIN, Dr. L.N. Dongo, with the aim of seeking for technical support in the area of Rubber plantation establishment, production and improvement of Agroforestry tree-crops and medicinal plants. The Director/CEO, RRIN received them in the company of some IMC members (Dr. P. Anegbeh, Dr. E.O. Abolagba, Dr. I.O. Momodu, Mr. V.O. Ilumah, Mrs. A.N. Anosike), Dr. E.S. Osazuwa and Dr. Chioma Okwu.

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Dr. L.N. Dongo welcomed the visitors to the Institute, and intimated them on the mandates of RRIN and its 2 major crops. She informed them that they have something in common with RRIN, with respect to Biodiversity Conservation, and Rubber-based Agroforestry System with shade-loving medicinal plants. She reiterated the need to partner with the organization as joint forces leads to growth.

The President was pleased with the information he received, saying that his interest has heightened with the information that agroforestry has been imbedded into the Rubber-based System. There was an interactive session between the visitors and the Management staff, medicinal and agroforestry experts present.

Finally, Director/CEO inquired if there were grant bodies funding their activities, this is because RRIN has developed a proposal for youth empowerment through Rubber-based Agroforestry. The President responded that it was solely members funds that is been used to run the organization. She however suggested that they should propose this innovation to their State Governor to empower his subjects mostly the youths.

The Media Director, Dr. Abiodun appreciated the Director/CEO and her team for a fruitful discussion. The meeting was brought to an end with a closing prayer and Group photograph by 2:56 pm



Dr.L.N.Dongo, the Executive members of the African Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge Research and Development Project, some IMC members and Staff after the meeting

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE, FUNSHO ADEGBOYE PAYS A FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO ED, RRIN

The commissioner of Police in the company of his Personal Assistant, his Protocol Officer and a Senior Officer, on Thursday the 15th of February, 2024 paid a familiarization visit to our amiable Director/CEO Dr. L.N. Dongo, following her visit to the CP on Monday, the 12th of February, 2024.

The CP was intrigued and amazed at the array of Rubber plantations as he drove into the Institute's premises. He inquired to know the profitability of the system and if RRIN has the authority to commercialize her products.

The Director/CEO responded that last year the Federal Government approved the commercialization of their products through spinoff company and they are presently working on finalizing the agreement with a potential partner.

Thereafter, the CP together with the Director/CEO and some Directors

visited the Police Station domiciled in RRIN. After a brief tour of the facility, the CP made some remarks that the Station can be upgraded to a Division and that he has officially authorized his Director Administration, to visit the Station and put up a report on the things needed for the upgrade of the Station to a full functional Division. The meeting was indeed a pleasant and interactive one.



CP Funsho Adegboye with Dr. L.N. Dongo at the RRIN Police Post

Health Corner

HEPATITIS

Hepatitis involves inflammation of the liver cells and damage to the liver. The liver is a vital organ that processes nutrients, filters the blood and fights infections. Hepatitis is mainly caused by viral organisms.

There are five (5) types of Hepatitis.

1. **Hepatitis A** - Mostly transmitted by consuming food or water contaminated by faeces from a person infected with Hepatitis A.
2. **Hepatitis B** - Transmitted through contact with infections, body fluid such as blood, vagina secretions or semen.
3. **Hepatitis C** - Transmitted through direct contact with infected body fluids, typically through injection, drug use and sexual contact.
4. **Hepatitis D** - Also called delta hepatitis is contacted through direct contact with infected blood.
5. **Hepatitis E** - A water borne disease mainly found in areas with poor sanitation and typically results from ingesting faecal matter that contaminates the water supply.

Symptoms of Hepatitis

Abdominal pains, Loss of appetite, Weight loss, Yellow skin and eye (jaundice),

Dark urine, Fatigue, Flu-like symptoms, Pale stool, Itchy skin, Muscle or joint aches, Malaise.

Prevention

Mainly with vaccines and personal hygiene plus abstinence

Treatment

Visit the Doctor.

Dr. D. Ayegba is the Medical Doctor in the RRIN Clinic

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PENSION MATTERS

Revised Regulation on Retirement and Terminal Benefits

The National Pension Commission recently issued a revised regulation on retirement and terminal benefits for immediate implementation.

The regulation simplifies some difficulties and guides the process of accessing retirement and terminal benefits by pension contributors and retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme.

This is the first comprehensive review of the regulation since its initial issuance in 2007.

The commission said the review has input from “key stakeholders” in order to ensure a more efficient retirement benefits administration.

According to a release by the commission recently, the revised regulation contains several new provisions on pension enhancement, voluntary contributions, temporary access to RSA due to loss of job, payment under the Micro Pension Plan, administrative sanctions for violations by Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs), amongst others. The regulation also introduces salient amendments to several existing provisions while providing more clarity on others.

The key highlights of the revised regulation include the simplification of the documentation process, non-confirmation of employment status by employers, access to lump sum, RSA consolidation before payment of benefit.

Documentation process

While the old regulation outlined the documents required for retirees to access benefits, the revised regulation as a way of simplifying the process has now mandated PFAs to make efforts to ensure that all documentation preparatory to the retirement of the Retirement Savings Account (RSA) holder should be provided and concluded within a period of four months prior to the date of retirement.

“In order to ensure that prospective retirees are duly educated on the modes of accessing their benefits, PFAs have also been mandated to advise prospective retirees to check their websites and be acquainted with the CPS Retirement Pack containing features of Programmed Withdrawal (PW) and Retiree Life Annuity (RLA) at least three months to date of retirement. The pack also contains other salient issues that would guide the retirees towards a smooth retirement process”.

Non-confirmation of employment status by employers

Also, the revised regulation has simplified the provisions on the notification and documentation required for access to RSA due to temporary loss of job.

Temporary loss of job has been defined as a situation “where an employee voluntarily retires, disengages or is disengaged before attaining the age of 50 years and is unable to secure another employment after four months of the disengagement.”

“The provision addresses situations where employers refuse to confirm the retirement or disengagement of their former employees. Prior to this revision, a letter of acceptance of resignation or disengagement issued by the employer is mandatory for a pension contributor seeking payment of 25 percent for temporary loss of job. However, the Revised Regulation provides that where the employer fails/refuses to accept the resignation letter from the employee, the PFA shall write the employer confirming the employee's resignation and ensure that an acknowledgement copy is kept as proof of receipt.

Where the employer fails to respond to the PFA's inquiry within 30 days, the employer's refusal is taken as acceptance of the employee's resignation for the purpose of benefits payment”.

Additional lump sum payment

Significantly, in terms of lump sum payment, the revised regulation has clarified that the retirees shall be allowed to access additional lump sum after the payment of initial lump sum provided that there are additional inflows of funds into the RSA from the employers.

However, the additional remittances shall first be applied to augment pension up to 50 percent of the retiree's final salary while the balance may be paid out as lump sum.

Where the retiree's pension is already up to 50 percent of final salary, the retiree may choose to collect the entire additional remittances as lump sum.

Emmanuel A. Aiwekhoe

Principal Admin Officer (Pensions)

Know your Public Service Rules (PSR)

ABSENCE FROM DUTY ON ACCOUNT OF ILLNESS: MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

070301 - If an officer is ill and unable to report for duty, he/she shall notify his/her Ministry/Agency in writing or by any other means of communication. Any prolonged absence from duty on ground of illness should be supported with any of the following documents:

(a) Excuse Duty Certificate;

(b) Light Duty Certificate;

(c) Medical Certificate of Treatment duly authorized by the Healthcare Provider.

An officer who is receiving medical treatment within his/her duty post shall report to his/her employer, his/her absence within 24 hours. An officer who is receiving medical treatment outside his/her duty post shall report to his/her employer, his/her absence within 48 hours.

070302 - When an officer presents himself/herself to duly authorized Healthcare Provider for medical examination, the latter shall examine and treat him/her and if necessary, give him/her either of the certificates listed in Rule 070301 and if he/she is admitted as an in-patient, the Healthcare Provider shall inform his/her Ministry/Extra-Ministerial Office.

070303 -When a Ministry/Extra-Ministerial Office reports to a Healthcare Provider that an officer of the Ministry/Extra-Ministerial Office is so ill that he/she is physically unable to present himself/herself for medical examination, the Healthcare Provider shall, as appropriate, either arrange for the officer to be brought to hospital for examination and treatment or visit the officer to examine and treat him/her. If the examination results in the officer being admitted to a Hospital as an inpatient, the Healthcare Provider will so inform the officer's Ministry/Extra-Ministerial Office, otherwise he/she shall give the officer whichever of the Certificates listed in Rule 070301 as appropriate.

070304 -When an officer forwards to a Healthcare Provider a report on his/her sickness by the private practitioner attending to him/her, the Healthcare Provider will, after due consultation with the private practitioner, issue whichever of the certificates listed in Rule as appropriate. The period of excuse or light duty entered on the first certificate issued shall not exceed three days unless the Healthcare Provider has examined the patient, in which case the period may be for up to seven days. Each period of extension, thereto, shall not exceed seven days and not more than a total of forty-two calendar days sick

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leave may be allowed on such extension. If the officer is still not fit for duty after forty-three calendar days sick leave, he/she shall be examined by a Medical Board. This shall also apply to an officer admitted to a Specialist Hospital on the recommendation of a Healthcare Provider.

070305 - On any of the occasions listed in this Rule, the Healthcare Provider shall report the circumstances to the officer's Ministry/Extra-Ministerial Office:

(a) When an officer is admitted to and when he is discharged from a Hospital.

(b) When an officer refuses to carry out or in the opinion of the HealthCare Provider is neglecting to carry out, the medical advice he has been given.

(c) When in the opinion of the Healthcare Provider an officer is feigning ill-health.

070306 - If for any valid reason it is decided that an officer should be examined by a Medical Board, he must present himself for examination; the place and time instructed, and must afterwards comply with recommendation of the Board which will supersede any medical advice already given to him/her by a Healthcare Provider. An officer who fails comply with this rule shall render himself/herself liable to be treated as having been absent without leave.

Staff of the Month

The Staff of the month of February is Mr Matthew Itoya of the Tapping Unit. He was employed into the service of RRIN in 2007 with his First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC), after twelve (12) years as a Casual Tapper. After his employment was regularised, he was deployed to the Tapping Unit and has remained in that Unit till date. He is currently on CONRAISS 3/5.

In a bid to improve himself, he obtained his Trade Test III certificate in 2014, Trade Test II certificate in 2015 and the Trade Test I Certificate in 2016

Mr. M. Itoya is a dedicated, peace-loving Tapper and so far, has produced the highest kilogram/month (581.5kg) of cup lump of rubber. He is also a very honest and humble Staff



Mr Matthew Itoya

Picture Gallery



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