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Director/CEO meets with DIG Frank Mba

Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo on the 23rd of July, 2025 in Abuja, met with DIG Frank Mba, the Head, Department of Training and Development (Research and Planning) in the Nigeria Police Force, for a familiarization visit and to further discuss his interest in establishing a 55Ha rubber-based agroforestry model farm in Ondo State. The duo had a fruitful discussion and he has agreed to work with the blueprint prepared by the Institute which has already been submitted to him. Dr. L.N. Dongo also seized the opportunity to discuss issues of security within RRIN premises with him. He was amazed at the level of the issues and promised to speak with the CP, Edo State to strengthen the police network in RRIN.



Dr. L.N. Dongo with DIG Frank Mba

Dr. L.N Dongo pays a working visit to the RRIN Sub Station, Manchok, Kaduna State

The Director/CEO, in the company of some members of her Management Staff, on the 27th - 29th of July, 2025, paid a working visit to the RRIN SubStation in Manchok, Kaduna State. In her entourage were Dr. Patience Imarhiagbe (Director / Research Outreach Department), Dr. Haliru Yaduma Umar

(Director / Head, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Department), Mrs. Agustina Anusike (Head, Internal Audit) and Mrs. Lynda Taiye Oladimeji (Personal Assistant to the Director/CEO). They were received by Dr. Valla Wuranti, the Officer In charge of the RRIN Manchok Sub-Station.

The team visited the 7 Ha rubber plantations at the Sub-Station and observed that it was not properly populated with standard 450 trees/Ha. This, according to the Officer in Charge, Dr. V. Wuranti was as a result of attacks by herders who came regularly to destroy the rubber plantation. However, some of the destroyed rubber trees have been re-supplied, leading to an uneven age plantation.



The team at the rubber plantation

He also said that tapping cups have been found in the stomach of dead cows, showing that they have entered the plantation. The team thus advised OC and his Staff to intercrop arable crops that are shade tolerant in the wide spaces in-between the rubber trees in order to generate more income.



The team after inspecting the plantation

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After the inspection of the plantation, Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team led by the O/C Manchok, Dr. V. Wuranti paid a courtesy visit to the palace of Chief of Moro' a, His Highness Isiaku Tagwai Sambo, the village head of the RRIN, Manchok host community. Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team were first received by the palace Chiefs and security men in his compound and then led into the palace to meet with the Chief of Moro' a, His Royal Highness, Isiaku Tagwai Sambo. Dr. Wuranti introduced the team to the Chief who welcomed them. The Director/CEO Dr. L.N. Dongo, expressed her gratitude to the Chief and Chiefdom for the love and hospitality shown to RRIN and her Staff in the community. She prayed for more support to RRIN by the Chiefdom for the purpose of development of rubber in the area. She also requested for a documentation of the piece of land that the community had given RRIN for posterity sake. The Chief in his response welcomed the team again and informed them that himself and many of his palace Chiefs are rubber farmers and will not allow rubber to leave their community, and that they will do all that is within their power to support rubber development in the area.



The RRIN team at the palace of Chief of Moro' a

He however expressed concern that though its been quite some time (17years) since the Government of Kaduna State gave RRIN the land to develop Rubber, the Institute is yet to erect her own structures to show her presence and seriousness, rather, the Institute is still using the apartment given to RRIN free of charge for its operation. The Director/CEO remarked that RRIN will soon do something in that regard and once again thanked the Chief and his people for the love they have for rubber. The discussions ended with a closing prayer in a Christian way led by one of the Palace Chiefs.

Dr. L.N. Dongo pays a five-day working visit to the RRIN Gum Arabic Sub Station, Gashua, Yobe State

The Director/CEO of Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria (RRIN) Dr. Lelia N. Dongo, was at RRIN Gum Arabic Sub-Station Gashua, Yobe State for 3 days working visit from July 30th to August 3rd, 2025.

The Director/CEO and her team were received on arrival at the Sub-Station by the Director/Officer-in-Charge of the Sub-Station, Dr. I. F Ojiekpon, and some other senior members of Staff of the Sub Station, after which, she was briefed about the on-going research and development activities at the Sub-Station.

Shortly after, the Director/CEO met with Staff of the Sub-Station. The meeting commenced with the Officer-in-Charge Dr. F.I. Ojiekpon, formally introducing the Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo and members of her entourage to the members of Staff of the Sub-Station. Dr. L.N. Dongo was accompanied on her visit by Dr (Mrs) P. Imarhiagbe, Director/Head, Research Outreach Department, Mrs. A. Anusike, Assistant Director/Head Internal Audit Unit and Mrs. Linda Oladimeji, the Personal Assistant to the Director/CEO. This was followed by self-introduction by members of Staff. Thereafter, the Director/CEO addressed the members of Staff present. Her message centred on staff attitude to work, staff training and development, new staff recruitment/delay in the payment of their salaries and accommodation in government Staff quarters.

She admonished the Staff present to always take their work seriously and always put up the team spirit as this makes the work to move smoothly.

With regards to training and manpower development in RRIN, she remarked that every Staff of the Institute is entitled to training, but that only the Research Officers are eligible for study leave with pay, while others are encouraged to pursue their studies on part time basis. She also said that on compassionate grounds they could be granted one work free day during the week to add to weekends for their part time studies, emphasizing that while acquisition of additional qualifications is commendable, upon completion it does not automatically translate to a change in job schedule but rather it is meant to enhance the workers efficiency, career progression and better pay.

She formally welcomed the newly recruited members of Staff, thanking God for the opportunity after several years of battling government bureaucracies on the subject. She said of the 142 new Staff, RRIN Gashua got 7 and that in the event of another opportunity, she will recruit more Staff for the Sub-Station especially the female gender, to balance the inequality in male to female Staff ratio she observed in the staffing of Gashua Sub-Station. She asked the new Staff to stand up for recognition, entreating them not to be discouraged by delay in the payment of their salaries. RRIN, she said, had done the

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needful for them to get their salaries in July. However, instead of Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS) to compute their salaries with CONRAISS salary structure of Research Institute and Allied Institution they prepared it with CONHESS salary structure of health workers. This mix-up has however been rectified and that by God's grace they will get their August salary including the arrears.



Dr. L.N. Dongo, addressing Staff at Gashua

On the issue of accommodation, she reiterated that members of Staff residing in government quarters are responsible for maintaining their residences and that the meager amount they pay as rent goes to federal government purse directly, an account that is not accessible by the Institute. Staff maintenance obligations she informed them, include fixing of damaged doors, windows, electrical and plumbing fittings, painting interiors of buildings, payment of water rate, electricity bills etc.

On the issue of Power and Water Supply at RRIN Gashua Sub Station, the Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo, shared her concerns on the persistent shortage of power supply which also affect water supply at the Sub-Station. This was reported to be caused by high fuel consumption (15-18 litres of diesel per hour) by 150kva diesel

generator that powers Sub-Station water borehole amidst high cost of diesel. She was however happy to hear that the solar powered water borehole at the nursery was functioning well and that it backs up water supply at the estate when the diesel water borehole runs out of water.

In their reactions, a Staff suggested that since Gashua has abundant sunlight, the diesel-powered water borehole could be converted to solar powered, this action will lay to rest issues of high expenses incurred in purchasing diesel for the 150kva generator.. Dr. L.N. Dongo welcomed this suggestion, immediately instructing the Officer in Charge to come up with a memo on this subject and forward to her for possible inclusion in 2027 capital budget.

Another Staff bemoaned the condition of the administrative block suggesting a renovation. The Director/CEO remarked that a stitch in time saves nine and that if little maintenance was being carried out, the building would not have dilapidated to this state. Maintenance she said, definitely costs less than total rehabilitation.

Another Staff also suggested that the use of solar in the Administrative block will also reduce cost of fuelling the small petrol generator. The Director/CEO responded to this suggestion by saying that by the grace of God she will include 5kva solar lighting system of RRIN Gashua Admin block in 2027 capital budget.

Another Staff member observed that, though the Sub Station has 45 Staff members, the total population, including their children and wards, is well over 100, suggesting that the Sub-Station is overdue for Staff school. To this, the Director/CEO responded that establishment of educational institution is a State government responsibility. However, she will discuss the matter with RRIN Governing Board Chairman, Barr. Alphonsus Ogar Eba to present their appeal to His Excellency, The Executive Governor of Yobe State, Alh Mai Mala Buni.

A member of Staff in his contribution, commended the efforts of some prominent Bade indigenes in providing the Sub-Station with some stands of solar street lights to combat security challenges at the Sub-Station, however it is not sufficient to power the Sub-station. He pleaded with the Director/CEO to increase the number of solar-powered street lights. She responded that as the funding situation of the Institute improves, she will provide more solar street lights at the Sub-Station.

A member of Staff appealed to the Director/CEO that whenever there is opportunity for recruitment of Staff, wives of RRIN Gashua Staff should be considered and she promised to recruit more females as earlier stated.

Another member of Staff appealed to the Director/CEO to remodel the 4 blocks of 6 self-contained apartments each, in such a way that the occupants do not have a common place for meeting each other as the customs, traditional, religion and cultural milieu of the area forbid a non-member of a household to see the wives of other households without the permission of

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the household. The Director/CEO responded by encouraging the occupants of the blocks to tolerate one another, as Staff of RRIN are members of the same family and that building of Staff residential quarters is presently on hold by the government.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team with Staff of the RRIN Gashua Sub Station after the meeting

After the meeting with the members of Staff, the Director/CEO toured key facilities at the Sub-Station. This included the diesel-powered generator, laboratory block, water plant, Staff quarters, 1,000,000 grade one gum arabic seedlings capacity nursery, the newly established 2.2Ha *Senegalia senegal* gene pool garden, and the 47Ha mature gum arabic plantations.



Dr. L.N. Dongo being briefed by Dr. I.F. Ojeikpon on the newly established Senegalia senegal gene pool

Day 2 and 3 of her visit featured Community engagements, during which Dr. L. N. Dongo, and members of her entourage and RRIN Gashua Heads of Department paid a courtesy visit to the Lawan of Agana land, Alhaji Ibrahim Ali Agana. Agana land is one of RRIN Gashua host communities. The Officer-in-Charge Dr. F.I. Ojeikpon, who also holds the traditional title of Wambai of Agana, introduced the delegation to the Lawan. The Lawan's spokesperson, Mallam Haruna Gambo, welcomed the delegation and expressed gratitude for the institute's support and co-

-operation especially in the area of employment of indigenes of the community. The ED reaffirmed her commitment to the community inclusion. She further requested support and co-operation of the Lawan in securing additional land for expansion of gum arabic operations in the community. As a gesture of goodwill and respect, the Director/CEO presented a gift to the Lawan on behalf of the Institute. The Lawan reciprocated the kind gesture with gift items, symbolizing mutual respect and partnership.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team with the Lawan of Agana Community and some of his indigenes at his palace

From the palace of Lawan of Agana, the delegation then proceeded to the palace of the Lawan of Tajuwa, Alhaji Alwali Lawan, another RRIN Gashua host community. Speaking at the palace, she appreciated the Tajuwa community for their continued support and cooperation with the Institute. She also solicited for additional land area to facilitate the expansion of gum arabic production in the community. The Lawan of Tajuwa requested further employment opportunities for the growing number of unemployed graduates in the community and also appealed for the provision of potable water for the community. She pledged to prioritize these concerns when community projects funds are available. The visit was consummated with exchange of gifts between the Director/CEO and the Lawan, and prayers were offered by Mallam Maazu for the success of the delegation's mission.

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Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team with the Lawan of Tajurwa Community and some of the indigenes

The grand finale of ED's community tours was the visit to the palace of His Royal Highness, the Emir of Bade, Alhaji Abubakar Umar Suleiman, CON. The Officer-in-Charge, Dr. Ojiekpon, I. F. introduced the Director/CEO Dr. L.N. Dongo, affirming that her visit fulfilled an earlier promise made upon her assumption of office. In her remarks, Dr. Dongo thanked the Emir for his hospitality and reiterated RRIN's intent to request additional land area for gum arabic development. In his response, the Emir welcomed the request and assured the delegation of his willingness to engage relevant stakeholders for possible land allocation. The visit was concluded with the presentation of a symbolic gift by the Director/CEO to the Emir, further strengthening the bond between the Institute and the host community.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team with the Emir of Bade

On the final day of her working visit, the Director/CEO and her delegation departed Gashua, en route to Kano, making a

brief stopover at Mallam Madori, Jigawa State, to inspect the RRIN/FGN 100,000 Grade One Gum Arabic Seedlings Capacity Out Grower Nursery, which is fully equipped with a functional borehole, power generator, and galvanized nursery shade. Dr. Ojiekpon, I. F. provided some insights on the facility status and performance.



Dr. L.N. Dongo at the grade one gum arabic Out-Grower Nursery at Mallam Madori, Jigawa State

ASURI RRIN Branch holds General Elections

The RRIN branch of the Academic Staff Union of Research Institutes (ASURI) on Wednesday 30th July held its general meeting and general election to usher in a new set of executives to take charge of the Union's affairs for the next three years. The general meeting commenced with the reading, correction and adoption of the Minutes of the last general meeting, as well as the matters arising. This was closely followed by the presentation of reports by the Chairman, Dr. J.O. Ogbebor and Treasurer, Dr. A.M.D. Uwumarongie of their Stewardship of the Union from April, 2022 to date. Dr. K.O. Omokhafa, in his comments after the report presentation, thanked all who had helped to keep the ASARI-ASURI flag flying. He also thanked the outgoing EXCO for their service and urged those coming on-board to always make the Branch relevant at the National level. All the contestants, he said, have been given the opportunity to serve and should make efforts to carry all along. The general meeting was thus brought to a close and the general election commenced with the dissolution of the EXCO.

On hand to observe the election were representatives of the National EXCO (NEC) Dr. Maxwell Okorie and Dr. Pullen Osayande the Chairman and Secretary respectively of the ASURI, Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) Branch as well as the Non Academic Staff Union (NASU) RRIN representative, Mr. Osondu Okonji.

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ASURINEC representative, Dr. M. Okorie and Dr. P. Osayende during the election

The Chairperson of the Electoral Committee, Dr. Funmi Otene told the House that of the nine positions up for election, eight were unopposed, while one, the position of the Chairman had two contestants Dr. J.O. Ogbebor and Mr. K. Ijie. They were both given time to address the House and the voting commenced, at the end of which, Mr. K. Ijie was declared the winner with the majority votes.



Electoral Committee Chairperson, Dr. F. Otene sorting votes after the election

The new EXCO members are as follows:

Mr. K.O. Ijie	Chairman
Dr.(Mrs) E.O. Uzunuigbe	Vice Chairman
Dr. A.M.D. Uwumarongie	Secretary
Dr. B. Omoike	Assistant Secretary
Dr. E. Ogidi	Treasurer
Mr. P.Igbako	PRO
Mr. O. Olufemi	Financial Secretary

The oath of office was then administered on the new EXCO members by the NEC representative, Dr. M. Okorie.



Dr. M. Okorie administering the oath of office on the newly elected officials

He advised them to take their functions seriously and that there is no victor nor vanquished. The new Chairman, Mr. K.O. Ijie on behalf of the new EXCO, expressed his appreciation to the NEC representatives, the Electoral Committee and Scientists for the successful election



Newly elected Chairman, Mr. K.O. Ijie expressing his appreciation to all after the taking the oath of office

RRIN Holds Eight Monthly Prayer Session for 2025

The Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria (RRIN) held its monthly prayer session on Monday, 4th August, 2025, at the Institutes' Conference Hall. The session began with opening prayers by Mr. W. Imarhiagbe, who thanked God for His Mercies and Grace on all members of Staff and for bringing us all into this new month, committing everyone present to God. This was closely followed by a vivacious praise/worship session by Mrs. Evelyn Eguagie.

The prayer session was led by Dr. (Mrs.) Edwina O. Uzunuigbe. In her short exhortation titled 'Help from God' and taking her

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text from Psalm 121:1-7, she said we all need help in our lives. The major question she asked is, from whom do you ask for help? She advised, like the Psalm 121: 2 that our help is from God and that any other help is temporary and may disappoint, while that from God is permanent and sovereign, since one cannot be greater than the help you get. Our God will not come down physically to help us, but can use anyone to be our helper. She thereafter led all present to pray for God's help in our lives. She also prayed for God's protection on the Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo, all Staff and our individual families. She rounded off the prayers by asking for God's blessings and grace in all aspects of our lives and in carrying out our daily duties.



Cross section of Staff during the prayer session

The July celebrants present were then called to come forward and the Director, Administration, Mr. V. Ilumah, led the prayers for God's protection and blessings on them and that the Lord will always direct and order their steps. He also committed the Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo, the convener of the monthly prayers and provider of the birthday cake, into God's continuous protection and guidance. This was followed by a happy birthday song and the cutting of the birthday cake.



July celebrants cutting their cake

The July prayer session was concluded with the sharing of the grace, led by Dr. A.M.D. Uwumarongie.



July celebrants with some of the Staff present

RRIN holds her eight edition in the RRIN Monthly Seminar Series (MSS) for the year 2025

The eight session in the RRIN MSS for the year 2025 held on the 20th of August 2025, chaired by Dr. P. Anegbeh, and it showcased two presentations.

The first presentation by Mr. Dicken Ehiwe was on his doctoral thesis proposal titled *The Integration of Medicinal Plants in Rubber Plantations in Southern Nigeria*.

He noted that many medicinal plants face agronomic threats, and their selective integration into the rubber ecosystem could help preserve them. Beyond their role as food and medicine, medicinal plants are also valuable trade commodities.

The research will be conducted at the RRIN Iyanomo Main Station and the Igbotako Substation.



Mr. Dicken Ehiwe during his presentation

.Mr. Andrew Aladele, the second presenter, presented a comprehensive report from his just concluded training program at the African Biosciences, Ibadan, Oyo State, sponsored by RRIN on *Genomics and Bioinformatics*.

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He explained key concepts in molecular biology such as transcription, translation, DNA replication, and the use of PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction). He also clarified the distinction between genetics and genomics. Importantly, he introduced bioinformatics as a cutting-edge interdisciplinary field that uses computational tools to collect, store, and analyze biological data.



Mr. Andrew Aladele during his presentation

The presentations sparked varying insights and contributions from attending scientists, which enriched discussions. Finally, The Executive Director of RRIN, represented by Dr. K. O. Omokhaye, applauded both presenters and commended Mr. Aladele for his timely knowledge sharing. The session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. S. Idoko.

Thereafter, general announcement was made by the chairperson of the RPRC.



Cross section of Staff during the seminar presentation

Nursery Unit celebrates one of her own.

The RRIN Nursery Unit on Friday 22nd August, 2025, celebrated one of her own, Mrs. Fayemi Esezobor - Principal Agricultural Superintendent 1, who bowed out of service after 35 meritorious years in Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria.

The reception, which held at RRIN Central Nursery, was a joyous occasion celebrated in pomp and pageantry as the entire Nursery Staff were in attendance including the Director & Head of Research Support Services Department, Dr. Frederick A. Akpobome and the Head of Production Division Dr. F Igbinosa.

In his welcome address, the Head of Nursery Unit, Mr S O Igbinobaro expressed appreciation to all Nursery Unit Staff for their cooperation and specially thanked Mrs. Fayemi Esezobor for her commitment to work during her service years in RRIN.

The Head RSSD Dr. F Akpobome congratulated Mrs F Esezobor on this remarkable milestone and wished her well, God's continued blessings and good health in retirement life.



Mrs Fayemi Esezobor with some of the Nursery Staff

The reception climaxed with the presentation of retirement gift to Mrs. Fayemi Esezobor, by Dr F A Akpobome on behalf of the entire Nursery Unit Staff.



Dr F A Akpobome presenting the retiree, Mrs. Fayemi Esezobor a parting gift on behalf of the entire Nursery Unit Staff.

The Editorial Board of RRIN extends its heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Fayemi Esezobor and wishes her a fulfilling and blissful retirement.

MAIDEN VISIT TO IGBOTAKO EXPERIMENTAL STATION

The Executive Director accompanied by two Institute Management Committee visited the experimental station located at Igbotako, Ondo State on the 13th to 15th August, 2025.

The Igbotako Experimental Station which was established in 1983, covers a surveyed land area of 21 hectares, including 1 hectare of swampy land. The site is geo-referenced between Longitude 4.63325 E4037 59.70504 and Longitude 4.63938 E4038 21.786.

Three major plantation establishment were undertaken in 1983 (7 ha), 1991 (4 ha) and 1996 (7 ha). Also, the experimental station recorded 67 % success rate in their 0.5 ha nursery, hence the decision to expand their nursery area to 3ha in 2025.

The experimental station currently has 19 Staff members (16 males and 3 females). During the visit, 16 Staff was present (14 males, 2 females). The Officer-in-Charge (OC) reported that one of his Staff, Mr. Jimmy Nadoma, who had obtained verbal weekend permission, had been absent from duty for a full week.

A key objective of the visit by the Executive Director and some members of Management were to familiarize with the Staff and evaluate the current status of the experimental station, and to further engage with the Staff on possible strategies to enhance productivity. The following observations were noted during the visit:

- Slaughter tapping of trees, with cuts extending into the cambium.
- Improper clearing of the plantation.
- The need to retrain the five tappers that are currently engaged in the station to ensure proper tapping of the rubber trees.

During the interactive session, The Executive Director, RRIN admonished her Staff to improve on their commitment, work ethics and collectively we can rebuild RRIN. The Officer-in-Charge responded by first appreciating the Executive Director's visit and thereafter highlighted several challenges and requests:

- Lack of office accommodation since inception.
- Need for production and kitting materials such as rain boots and raincoats.
- A Signpost to increase RRIN's visibility in the area.
- Provision of imprest for emergencies. A recent field injury was cited, a field Staff sustained a cutlass injury that day.
- The need for a secured farm shed after the recent burglary incident (The Executive Director requested for an official report to Management).

6.. Replacement of damaged coagula dump.

7. Request for the supply of herbicides for continuous maintenance of the plantation.

Thereafter, the Executive Director made her Recommendations and Closing note;

- She directed enumeration of the rubber trees and to note the tree that are not kitted for tapping to guide provision of tapping kits.

- The ED advised intercropping the plantation boundaries with shade-loving crops and pineapples, considering the establishment of oil palm on the adjoining land by another institute.- The visit concluded with the recognition and presentation of an award to a staff member for outstanding maintenance of his allocated avenue within the plantation.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and her team with some of the Staff after the visit

Director/CEO welcomes Corps members attached to the Luigi Tataglino School

The National Youth Service Corps members currently serving at the Luigi Tataglino School of the St Mary's Catholic Church, RRIN, on Wednesday 27th August, 2025, paid a courtesy call on the Director/CEO Dr. L.N. Dongo. The Corpsers led by Miss Blessing Lilian Onuchukwu said they decided to visit the Director/CEO and to inform her that there were some Corpsers serving and residing within the Institute, though not carrying out their Primary Assignment with the Institute. She said they were five in number, although one of them was unavoidably absent in the visit. There was a brief interaction, during which Dr. L.N. Dongo gave the Corpsers a brief overview of the Institute and what her job entails as its head. She also detailed one of her Staff to show the visiting Corpsers round the Institute. Before leaving her office, the Corpsers presented a gift to Dr. L.N. Dongo, in appreciation of her warm welcome to them and for her good works in the Institute.

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Miss B.L. Onuchukwu presenting a gift to Dr. L.N. Dongo on behalf of her fellow Corpers

The other Corpers present during the visit were Miss Marvellous Jude, Miss Chidinma Marcelina Nwankpuma and Mr. Yusuf Saheed, while Mr. Henry Chima Ozondu was unavoidably absent.



Dr. L.N. Dongo and the Corpers after the visit

Audit Guide

APPROVED INTERNAL AUDIT GUIDE FOR 2025

The following are the guide:-

- 1 a. All imprest holders should retire their imprest before asking for another.
- 1.b. Retirement of imprest must not exceed your monthly imprest amount given but it can be lower than (FR1007)
2. The period for cash advance retirement after your account has been credited is now two month ie according to the Internal Audit guidelines from the office of the Auditor General of the Federation, after which your salary account will be debited with the said amount
3. All purchases on behalf of the Institute must be brought to Internal Audit for inspection before use.
Note: Internal Audit will no longer accept used item receipt as evidence of purchase. We are all advised to bring our purchases for inspection before use
4. Certificate of honour, will no longer be accepted for retirement if the amount involved is more than N5,000.
5. Photocopied/forged receipts will not be accepted by Internal Audit unit as receipt of purchase.
6. Receipts not endorsed by Internal Audit Unit, as an evidence of the item being seen will not be accepted as source document for retirement.
7. All sales of the Institute produce should be witnessed by Internal Audit.
8. The Programme Leaders or whosoever the Research funds are released to, should collate all source document of expenses for single retirement to avoid duplication of retirement.
Note: Every retirement memos must be submitted with their payment voucher number

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Report on the Assessment of the Rubber Cluster Farmer Plantation and Proposed Factory Establishment Site in Ijebu-ode, Ogun State.

The formal request from Davemark Chemicals Limited for a Lohashippi processing center to support cluster farmers in Ijebu-ode, Ogun state, informed management decision to deploy a team of expert from different field to Ijebu-ode in Ogun state. The team comprised of;

1. Dr. Funmi Otene - Agric Extension and Management (Director research)
2. Eng. Emmanuel Fagbemi - Mechanical Engineer (Principal Research Officer)
3. Akowe Fredrick Emeghai i - Agric Supt./Technologist (Principal Agric Sup.)

The trip from Benin City to Ijebu-ode which is about 220 km, or 137 miles took place on the 20th of August 2025. On arrival, we were received at the palace of the Awujale of Ijebu-ode land, which also play host to the administrative office of the cluster farmers cooperative society. On ground to receive us were:

1. Engr. Jeremiah Oluwatosin - He is the deputy national president NARPPMAN and president South West Zone.
2. Elder Olubisi Makonjuola - Member NARPPMAN and CEO Davemark Chemicals
3. Kasim Odedina - President NARPPMAN, Ogun state
4. Dr. Osinyemi Adeyemi - Cooperative president
5. Mrs. Florence Osindeyemi - Head of finance and accounts

Visit to the Rubber Plantation

For an on the spot assessment, we took a trip from the palace to the one hundred hectares plantation,(100 hectares) otherwise known as Ijebu-ode Initiative Poverty Reduction (IDIPR).a five minute drive from the palace.

The plantation has access good road and was established in 2014/2015 (10-11 years old) with the support and supervision of the experts from Michelin.

The land area is 100 hectares of rubber plantation with a tree population of 500 trees per hectare. The matured yielding trees are about 90% of the 100 hectares tree population. Yield per month is reported to be 25 tons with just 10 experienced tappers exploiting field latex.



Apart of the 100 Ha plantation

The state of the plantation is good with constant maintenance. The field latex yield per day is 1000 liters, which is an average of 100 liters per tapper.

The concern for few tappers was raised, and their response was that they only employ trained and skilled tappers to avoid exposing the young trees to slaughter tapping which can endanger the life span of the rubber trees. They therefore requested RRIN assistance in training more tappers.

Proposed Factory Site

The site covers a land area of 100 ft by 100 ft with a flat topography. It has good access road and is very close to the highway. It is also located very close to the plantation, this is of immense advantage as field latex would be transported to the factory at ample time. There will be a borehole for constant water supply. Energy source will be solar system and other alternative to power the borehole and Lohashippi. Oven type with gas and firewood will be used for sheet drying. The smoke house capacity is estimated to dry 2000 sheets.

Daily latex supply is estimated to be 1000 liters.

Youths in the area would be major employees to checkmate theft and restiveness.

Conclusion

Davemark is a business driven entrepreneur and has demonstrated again the zeal for the establishment of a Lohashippi Processing Centre for the cluster farmers co-operative in Ijebu-ode, Ogun state. With adequate enlightenment and cooperation from the farmers, the scheme will be a good success.

Recommendation

The team recommends that the management of RRIN consider granting Davemark request for a processing centre and support with continuous training, monitoring and guidance on quality assurance.



Members of the RRIN team and the CEO, Davemark Chemicals and some NARPPMAN Executives after the assesment

Know your PSR

CHAPTER 7

Chapter 7 070108

Medical and Dental procedures medical treatment

Section 1 - General

Section 2 - Facilities for medical treatment

Section 3 - Absence from duty on account of illness

Section 4 - Compensation for injuries

Section 5 - Repatriation of corpses

Contd.

SECTION 2 - FACILITIES FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT

070201 - The medical facilities in Nigeria provided to all officers and their families and the scale of charges will be determined by the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

TREATMENT BY PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS

070202 - A staff who prefers to be treated by a private practitioner instead of availing himself/herself of services of authorised Healthcare Provider must himself/herself bear all expenses incurred through such treatment.

TREATMENT ON BOARD, SHIP/AIRCRAFT AND ABROAD

070203 - If an officer is embarked by Government or its accredited representative in a sea-going vessel as an invalid and placed in the charge of the ship's Surgeon, the latter's fees for medical attendance on the officer during the voyage will be payable by the Government

070204 - (i) Government will consider claims for the refund of medical expenses incurred by officers and their families during voyages duly authorized by the Government in cases of serious illness occurring en route and provided that the illness is not attributable to the officer's or his family's negligence. Claims for petty bills incurred on board ships/aircraft will not, however, be entertained.

(ii) In the case of Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and other officials of Government that are involved in 'frequent overseas engagements, provision for an annual International Medical Insurance should be made.

070205 - The Federal Ministry of Health may authorize a refund of medical expenses (including charges for maintenance) incurred by an officer while overseas on leave or on duty provided:

(a) the illness was not due to the Officer's own negligence;

(b) the illness was attributable to conditions or the climate overseas;

(c) the officer sought to avail himself of the services of the local National Health Service (where applicable) and could not obtain the requisite attention there under within a reasonable time.

(d) the officer informed the nearest accredited representative of the Federal Government of Nigeria at the earliest date possible that he was unable to obtain the requisite attention through the National Health Service; and

(e) the officer showed reasonable diligence, expedition and economy in seeking and obtaining medical attention.

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(e) the officer showed reasonable diligence, expedition and economy in seeking and obtaining medical attention.

070206 - (a) Approval for journeys outside Nigeria for medical treatment will only be granted by the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation. The Federal Ministry of Health should be informed of such approvals accordingly. This will be confined to, based on the recommendation of the approved HealthCare Provider, serious cases where a patient's life is in danger or where the examination is necessary for diagnosis of difficult cases or to ensure that a patient is fully recovered and able to undertake the duties of his office. Where the officer is treated as an out-patient, he will be entitled to estacode allowance at the appropriate rate.

(b) In exceptional cases where dependants of officers are compelled to travel abroad for medical treatment/check-up, government involvement will be limited to half of estimated expenses.

(c)(i) Every application for medical treatment abroad must be supported by a consultant's report from an authorized HealthCare Provider. It must be submitted to the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Health and by the sponsoring State Government, Federal Government Ministries or Parastatals / Organisations. The Permanent Secretary will then make his recommendations to the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation.

Applications approved will be notified to the applicant by the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation with copies to the Federal Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and appropriate Nigerian Mission abroad. As a further control measure, the choice of consultants/clinic abroad will be made by the Nigerian Mission. However, where contact already exists between a patient and a consultant the Mission may endorse the arrangement. The Mission's Medical Consultant will vet all bills before settlement to ensure that they are proper and reasonable.

(ii) Conditions for Spouse accompanying ailing officers: Permission may be granted an Officer's spouse to accompany him/her at Government expense where the ailing officer is considered to be in 'life or death' condition, in consequence of which immediate medical treatment or hospitalization abroad is recommended. In such a case, the commitment of the Federal Government shall be limited to the provision of return air

passage for the two of them, together with the payment of estacode rate in respect of only one spouse, it being assumed that if the patient is hospitalized his or her spouse will remain in a hotel, or that if the officer remains as an out-patient, the two of them will utilize the same hotel accommodation. Even then this privilege (by which spouse is permitted to accompany the officer) shall not be automatic, it being a necessary requirement that a specific approval from the competent authority must be obtained prior to the journey abroad

MEDICAL CHECK-UP

(d) (i) Approval for public officers to receive periodic medical check-up at Government expense abroad will be given by the appropriate authority as stated below:

(ii) Officers for whom Presidential approval is required:

- Members of the Council of States;
- Members of the Federal Executive Council;
- The Inspector-General of Police and his Deputies;
- Chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission and all full time
- Chairmen of Government Establishments,;
- Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF);
- Head of the Civil Service of the Federation;
- Permanent Secretaries / Directors-General/Chief Executives;
- Officers of the Armed Forces of the rank of Brig General (or its equivalent) and above;
- Auditor-General for the Federation; Accountant General of the Federation

(iii) Officers for whom the President should be informed

- Senate President;
- Speaker of the House of Representatives Chief Justice of Nigeria;
- Members of the National Assembly. Justices of the Supreme Court;
- Justices of the Court of appeal,

(iv) Public Functionaries for Whom the approving Authority is their Permanent Secretaries or Heads of Extra-Ministerial Office: All staff in Home Ministries/Extra-Ministerial Offices and officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Salary Grade Level 12 and above. The Director of Medical Services and Training of the Ministry of Health will counter- sign the certificate or recommendation issued by a local consultant which should be attached to the application.

PROCEDURE FOR MEDICAL CHECK-UP

(e) (i) The President's approval in respect of officers in category (d) will be conveyed to the Ministries of Health, Finance and Foreign Affairs and the appropriate Nigerian Mission.

(ii) Officers of the Armed Forces of the rank of Brigadier General (or its equivalent) will submit to the President their applications through the appropriate Service Chief. Approvals/rejections will be notified through the same channel.

(iii) Officers in category (d) (iii) above will submit their applications through their Permanent Secretaries for the Director

of Medical Services and Training of the Federal Ministry of Health to countersign the Certificate or recommendation issued by a local consultant which should be attached to the application.

OFFICERS ENTITLED TO MEDICAL CHECK-UP

(f) (i) Officers on Salary Grade Level 16 and above shall undertake mandatory medical check-ups locally once a year. If as a result of such check-up it is recommended that a further medical consultation and/or treatment should be undertaken /given abroad, permission to do so may be granted by either the President or Head of the Civil Service of the Federation as the case may be. Where such officers happen to be abroad on official business, they may undertake the once-a-year medical check-up abroad, provided that they obtain prior permission from either the President or Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, as the case may be, prior to their departure abroad.

(ii) Officers on Grade Level 12 to Grade Level 15 are entitled to medical check-ups locally once in two years. If as a result of such check-up it is recommended that a further medical consultation and/or treatment should be undertaken/given abroad, permission to do so may be granted by the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation. Where such officers happen to be overseas on official business, they may take their once in two years medical check-up abroad provided that they obtain prior permission from the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation before the medical consultation takes place, and provided also that the medical adjacent practitioner to be consulted is one that is recommended by the Nigerian Mission located in or assigned to the particular country concerned. It should be noted that a local medical check-up may only be authorised if the applicant chooses a recognized HealthCare Provider.

(f) Hospital bills in respect of medical check-ups authorised under this Scheme should be settled by the relevant Ministries/Extra-Ministerial Offices. Where such bills are settled by Nigerian Missions abroad, in the first instance, bilateral arrangements for reimbursement should be made between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the relevant Ministries/Extra-Ministerial Offices.

(g) Relevant sub-head should be created in the Budget to accommodate the mandatory medical check-up of officers.

To be continued

Agro climatology Bulletin (AUG 1-27-2025)

SUMMARY

1.0 Weather Trend

The trend of maximum temperature indicated a high temperature.

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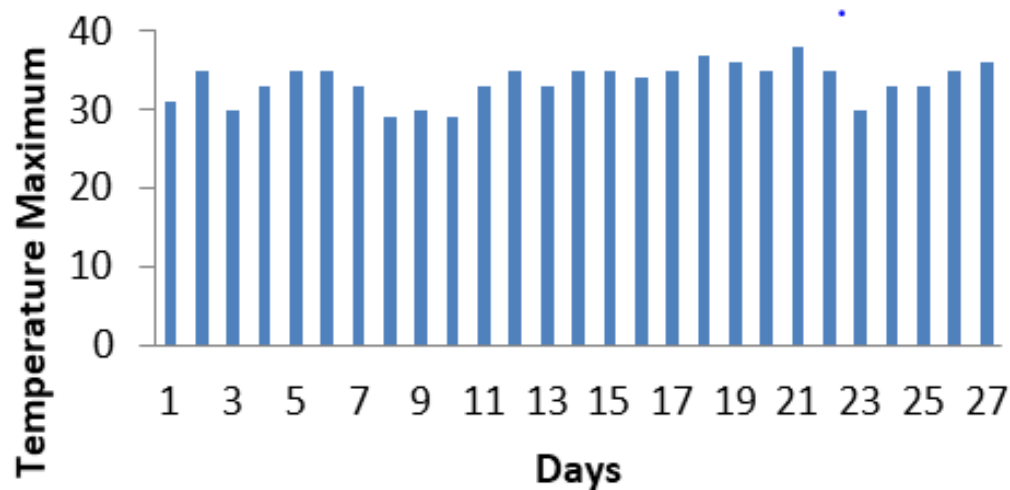
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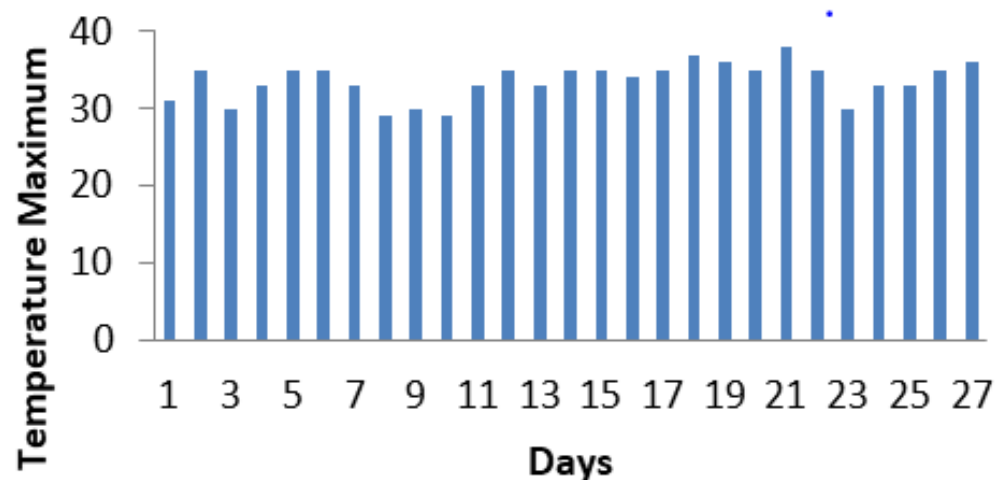
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**Daily Maximum Temperature
August 1 to 27**



The minimum temperature ranged from 24°C to 27°C while the maximum temperature ranged from 27°C to 38°C during the period under review.

**Daily Maximum Temperature
August 1 to 27**



The actual mean maximum temperature distribution for the month was 33.5°C with a monthly total of 908.0°C. There was only (5) days of rain in the month of August with a value of 101.9mm.

There was an average velocity wind speed of 2.1km/hr and an average Relative Humidity of 92.2% for the period under review.

	MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)	MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (°C)	WIND SPEED (KM/HR)	RELATIVE HUMIDITY (%)
Mean	25.0	33.5	2.1	92.2
Maximum	27	38	6	100
Minimum	24	29	1	87
Sum	676.0	908.0	59	2493.4

The agricultural activities that was experienced within the institute and her environ is the harvesting of cassava planted in the previous year. Also, there are planting of Rubber and cassava within the institute and her environ.

*For comments and suggestions, send feedback to:
Head, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Department,
Rubber Research Institute of Nigeria, P.M.B. 1049 Benin City.*

New PhD on the block

Another PhD in our kitty. Dr. Ernest Osarenren Idahosa successfully defended his PhD thesis recently at the Department of Agricultural Economics and Resource Management, University of Benin, Benin City.

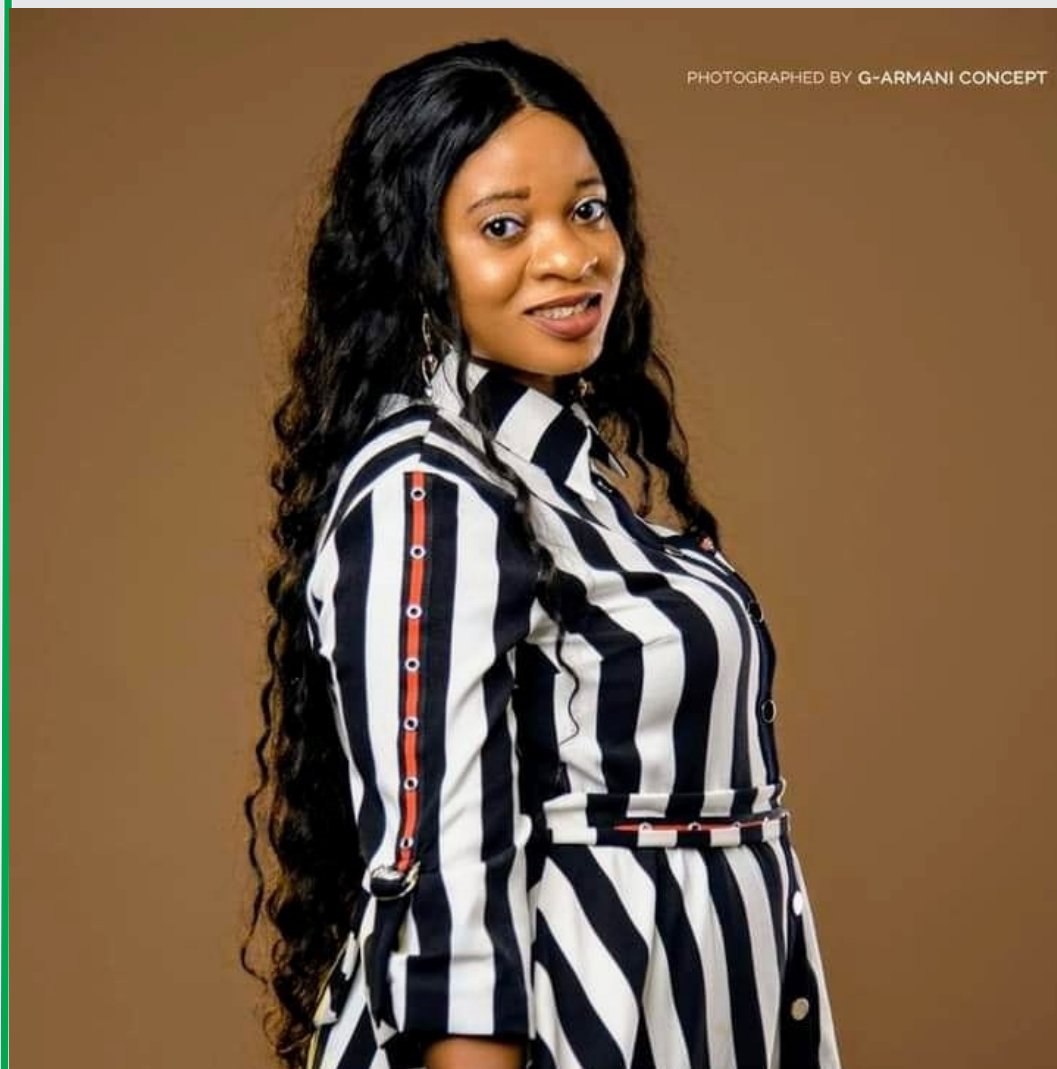
The Editorial Board congratulates him and wishes him success in all his endeavours

Staff of the Month (August, 2025):

Engr. (Mrs.) Uhunoma Owen-Egharevba joined the service of RRIN in December, 2012 as a Civil Engineer on CONRAISS 7/2 and deployed to the Works and Services Division. She had obtained her BSc degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Benin 2010.

In the course of her working with the Institute and in quest for further knowledge and academic qualification, she sought for and gained admission into the prestigious University of Benin to study for a Master in Engineering, obtaining her Master in Engineering (Water and Environmental Engineering) 2019.

In 2017, she obtained her professional qualification, becoming a registered member of Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN).



Engr. (Mrs.) Uhunoma Owen-Egharevba

She has risen through the ranks and is presently an Assistant Chief Civil Engineer on CONRAISS 12/3 in Works and Services Division.

She is hard working, polite, and carries out her duties with utmost dedication.

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August Birthday celebrants

The Director/CEO, Dr. L.N. Dongo and her Management Staff wish all the celebrants a happy birthday.

August	Date
<u>Agbonkpolor Nosa Betty</u>	12
<u>Oghide Edosuyi Austin</u>	17
<u>Oghomieje Lawnenta Amina</u>	25
<u>Igele Ajayi Augustine</u>	15
<u>Agu Josephine Amamatu</u>	24
<u>Igunma Osarenkhoe</u>	20
<u>Ajayi Enosakhale Cletus</u>	14
<u>Iyalekhueosa Albert Osadebamwen</u>	5
<u>Igbinedion Agustine</u>	17
<u>Akinyele Augustine</u>	15
<u>Inomwan Osasuyi Tony</u>	28
<u>Omesan Augustine Ebahi</u>	8
<u>Azowegie Morgan Irene</u>	23
<u>Salihu Saida Mustapha</u>	21
<u>Daudu Patience</u>	4
<u>Mohammed Sambo</u>	15
<u>Igbinidu Gladys Imuentinyan</u>	5
<u>Akpobome Ruth Oghenero</u>	2
<u>Egbenoma Omosigho Rosemary</u>	31

<u>Atamonokhai Mercy O.</u>	29
<u>Arasomwan Ozioma Nancy</u>	28
<u>Odidi Donald Okpo</u>	20
<u>Adaokwe Dominic E.</u>	22
<u>Igiede Osazee</u>	20
<u>Johnson Godson Obinna</u>	7
<u>Ubani Stanley</u>	23
<u>Imade Judith Osas</u>	25
<u>Eguagie Evelyn Ehis</u>	26
<u>Okojie Godday Ilegbinedion</u>	15
<u>Ugiagbe Osaretin</u>	9
<u>Odigie Osamwonyi</u>	24
<u>Okoh Ighodalo Micheal</u>	13
<u>Eruba Chukwudi</u>	27
<u>Ehiorobo Augustine Amenahagwon</u>	23
<u>Aiyegbene Festus</u>	18

<u>Ogbonmwan Alex Terence</u>	1
<u>Omoragbon Godwin</u>	24
<u>Aguele S. Maureen Adaku</u>	31
<u>Ojetemhen Augustine</u>	3
<u>Inegbedion Mary</u>	17
<u>Ojo Osagie</u>	28
<u>Nwaegbune A. Ogechukwuka</u>	22
<u>Akpan Augustine A.</u>	29
<u>Eze Patrick</u>	5
<u>Mohammed Abubakar Adama</u>	17
<u>Iwuemeka Faith Erhorwosere</u>	25
<u>Edet Okon Uwa</u>	18
<u>Opianta Enyinnaya Emmanuel</u>	25
<u>Okem Augustine Ifenyinwa</u>	1
<u>Osayande Nosakhare</u>	15
<u>Ogen Monday</u>	8
<u>Adajero Raphael</u>	17
<u>Omorogbe Augustine</u>	31
<u>Agbomodu Sunday</u>	30
<u>Onwuka Philomen Enotio</u>	10
<u>Okpako Lucy</u>	1
<u>Oyemhen Boniface</u>	16
<u>Ezukuse Enoreense</u>	6
<u>Nwosu John Chisom</u>	14
<u>Omosigho Elis Osarugue</u>	15
<u>Okosun Godwin</u>	15
<u>Okpako Diamond</u>	15
<u>Efenarua Yellow</u>	13
<u>Ikhayere Grace</u>	16
<u>Okuonghae Pullen</u>	12
<u>Umahonlen Justina</u>	10
<u>Ikotu Goddey</u>	9
<u>Okoro Godwin</u>	25

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