

News

Activist urges Obaseki to clear air over demolition of Central Hospital

CHURCHILL OKORO, Benin

Patrick Ehorlor, a human rights activist, has urged Governor Godwin Obaseki to keep Edo people in the loop over the condition of Central Hospital Benin, which has in the past few months generated controversies.

Ehorlor opined that if the governor discloses his plans about the century-old secondary hospital currently being demolished, then it would help to dispel the controversies that he is planning to use the site for a different purpose.

According to him, the hospital was built by the



Obaseki

colonial masters and if the government is going to move the hospital, they must inform the citizens whether it will be expanded or it will be relocated to another area for the purpose of civilisation or to develop new areas.

“Edo people are not aware

about what he is doing, there are speculations that he is going to build a park, a monuments among others on the site. We are not supposed to be speculating or live in assumption as a people when we have government because they are supposed to tell the people what they are doing.

“Without the people, there is no government. So, I think the government should communicate with the people,” he said.

The activist, who is the president of one love foundation, equally asked President Muhammadu Buhari to graciously resign and apologise to Nigerians for saying age is telling on him and

thus cannot work for longer hours in office.

Ehorlor, while speaking with journalists at the weekend in Benin City, said it would be honorable for him to resign considering the prevailing economic challenges confronting Africa’s largest economy.

“If a man comes out clearly to say he is weak and age is telling on him, then he should just resign. Why can’t he just resign and say I am sorry I have disappointed Nigerians that voted for me; it is a complicated issue I thought I can carry this load but it is too heavy for me. In my opinion, that is what a man of dignity would do.

Mouka makes smooth transition for sustainable market leadership, changes ownership to Dolidol backed by DPI

Mouka, Nigeria’s leading brand of mattresses, pillows and other bedding products, recently announced its change of ownership to Dolidol, the market leader in Francophone Africa based out of Morocco.

According to Raymond Murphy, CEO, Mouka, the transaction sets the scene for bigger and greater things for the Mouka brand with the affiliation with a regional market leader.

“In the light of this new development, Dolidol, a Moroccan market leader in the mattress space, will bring to the fore significant foam science, technical and engineering expertise to Mouka. As the market leader in Francophone Africa, Dolidol’s expertise will also be introduced to boost Mouka’s operations and the quality of its product portfolio.” Murphy said.

Femi Fapohunda, chief operations officer, Mouka, also shared his excitement about the change in ownership. “With Dolidol’s stake in Mouka, our consumers and trade partners should look forward to new and ground-breaking innovations due to the technological expertise Dolidol brings onboard. In addition, from an operational point of view, we look forward to improved productivity and product quality that meet consumer needs and exceed their expectations.” Fapohunda said.

Dimeji Osingunwa, Mouka’s chief commercial officer and lead strategist behind Mouka’s unrivalled distribution of approximately 2,000 branded outlets nationwide, shared his

views on the transaction. “I believe this strategic ownership will create additional investments in the expansion of the Mouka footprint within Nigeria and beyond our borders. I look forward to the synergy between the Mouka and Dolidol in deploying a world-class route to market strategy,” Dimeji said.

According to Ifeoma Okoruen, head, human resources, Mouka, the new owners of Mouka had positively commented on the capability of the Mouka team. “They had nothing but positive comments and compliments to make about the team across all job grade levels. They have also shown keen interest in the growth and development of the Mouka staff,” Ifeoma said.

Our investigation of the basis for this transaction reveals that this was indeed a win-win situation for both parties. Dolidol and DPI also expressed excitement about the future of this transaction.

On his part, Mohamed Lazaar, CEO, Dolidol, commented that, “I believe the acquisition of Mouka will allow Dolidol to strengthen its presence in the continent and complement Mouka’s growth in the region with an addressable market of around 200 million Nigerians.”

Walid Mougou also gave some additional insights into the strategic plans of Dolidol. According to him, Dolidol’s plans are centred on massive investment in Mouka, which will result in the development of the brand, people development, and the creation of more job opportunities.

Teruke International raises alarm over unfounded reports on products

OBINNA EMELIKE

Teruke International, manufacturers of Teruke Foods, has raised alarm over attempts by unscrupulous characters to damage the reputation of the foods product giant through fabrication of fake news.

Decrying the situation, Jim Omaraye, the company’s CEO, peaking with the company’s CEO, noted that reports by some online publications are claiming that Teruke Foods products are produced, licensed, and imported from China. “This is massive misinformation and an attempt to embarrass the management of Teruke International and smear our reputation as a fast-growing force in the food sector of the Nigerian economy, which

we have garnered through many years of hard work and dedication.”

According to him, consequent upon the publications, which have been making the rounds on social media in the past couple of days, the management of Teruke International Co. Ltd wishes to state that the reports are fake and should be disregarded. “They are mere figments of the imaginations of some lazy fellows who continue to wallow in ignorance, not believing that the technology deployed by Teruke International Co. Ltd for food processing could emerge from the shores of Nigeria”, he said.

“I have received many calls from our customers who have raised concerns over the unfounded reports. Some bloggers, out of carelessness, laziness, and unprofessionalism,



Jim Omaraye

have decided to write lies and publish the same as authentic news about the source of our products without due diligence.

“Our foods are hygienically produced, tested, and packaged according to global industry standards. Our cans and pouches are certified to meet the FDA’s standard, and

the contents are healthy for consumption. This same fake news was circulated about two years and our attorneys duly addressed the issue, and some of the bloggers publicly recanted their posts and apologized. We want to use this opportunity to reassure all our customers that these reports are fake news, and they should be ignored in their entirety as they are a cheap attempt at blackmailing us. We are in discussion with our legal team and are in the process of prosecuting those that continue to spread these malicious stories.”

The CEO also wants to use this opportunity to thank customers for their support and standing by the Teruke brand over the years.

Founded in 2017, Teruke International is one of Nigeria’s fastest-growing canned foods manufacturers.

Special Olympics Nigeria pilots Identification for Inclusion (ID4I) solution

In a continuous effort to change the lives of people with intellectual disabilities (PWID), Special Olympics Nigeria (SON) has successfully implemented the ID4I (Identification for Inclusion) solution powered by the Mission Billion Challenge and supported by the partnership of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC).

The solution aims to facilitate the registration and issuance of a unique and secure National Identification Number (NIN) to people living with intellectual disabilities and their families, thus improving access to opportunities and services for the inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities in our society and giving them further access to acquire vital documents and other social and welfare services beneficial to them.

The ID4I solution registration using the grassroots approach is currently ongoing in various special schools/inclusive schools within various local government areas across Lagos state. The activities entail coordinating information sessions for persons with intellectual disabilities and their families,

providing orientation training to registration staff, and deploying mobile registration to capture biometrics within communities, hence encouraging the issuance of NIN to persons with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics Nigeria believes pioneering this grassroots solution is key to driving inclusion and scaling

up identification enrolment of PWIDs and their family members across Nigeria.

Special Olympics Nigeria is part of a worldwide movement (Special Olympics International) that is aimed at changing the misconceptions individuals have about people with intellectual disabilities (PWID).



Funke Felix-Adejumo to host Nathaniel Bassey, Ebenezer Obey, Jumoke Adenowo, others for Winning Edge 2022

Funke Felix-Adejumo, female enthusiast and philanthropist extraordinaire, has concluded plans to celebrate, empower and inspire women worldwide with her annual Women on the Winning Edge conference.

This year’s celebratory word, prayer and musical conference will host top ministers like; Jerry Eze, Jumoke Adenowo, Bishop Felix Adejumo, Sola Adesakin and celebrated gospel artistes like; Nathaniel Bassey, Dunsin Oyekan, Beejay Sax, Tim Godfrey, Tope Alabi, Sammie Okposo, and Sinach. Also, legendary gospel icon, evangelist Ebenezer Obey will be ministering in songs in what is arguably Nigeria’s largest gathering of women.

While speaking on the forthcoming event, the convener, Funke Felix-Adejumo, said, this year’s event, which will hold on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at the Tafawa Balewa Square, Onikan, Lagos, will be different, bigger and better. The renowned family



life and marriage counselor has also assured all aspiring women of hope to prepare themselves for an awesome spiritual encounter - with a powerful word to kick-start the year with worship, music and prayers.

As part of its annual provisions, free buses have been made available from different locations across the city of Lagos.