



2007 Elections BON Chairman Restates Commitment to Fair and Credible Coverage



Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa

The Chairman of Broadcasting Organisations (BON)

As the 2007 General Elections draw nearer, the Chairman of Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON), Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa, has reaffirmed the commitment of the organization to ensure balanced, independent, fair and credible coverage of the elections.

Mallam Jijiwa, who is also the Director-General of Voice of Nigeria (VON), made this declaration in his address at the 42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto.

According to him, "BON sees itself as a crucial stakeholder in the democratization process and the stability of the polity, as such it will always offer itself as a platform to widen choices, opportunities and possibilities

thereby ensure an enlightened electorate."

He further maintained that BON would work with the political parties in organizing political debates at various level, and ensure strict adherence to the NBC's Broadcast Code.

BON Chairman expressed satisfaction with progress so far made in organizing seminars and workshops in conjunction with Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation and UNICEF to sensitize the public about the avian influenza or bird flu, stressing that "our ultimate aim is to get the citizenry better informed through our member stations, thereby correct some of the misinformation on the disease.

Alhaji Jijiwa who noted with delight the remarkable progress made by BON in the recent time, however expressed dissatisfaction with poor welfare scheme by some member stations.

He stated that it would be counter-productive and self-defeating if BON members do not give due attention to staff welfare. And warned that it would no longer be acceptable to the organization that any member station should be owing its staff salaries and other entitlements for several months.

Alhaji Jijiwa who was recently elected the President of the Commonwealth

Broadcasting Association (CBA), declared that BON would remain a unifying factor for staff exchange, programmes exchange, joint and co-production; training and capacity building, equipment and technical support and exchange, stressing that "ours is an industry that stands to benefit tremendously from such economy of co-operation".

He promised to use his present position as CBA President to facilitate more opportunities of such cooperation for BON members.



Commissioning of Rima Television by President Olusegun Obasanjo

BON Commends Public Service Reforms

The Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON) has commended the On-going Public Service Reforms of the Federal Government and urged member stations to give it adequate publicity. This was contained in a communiqué issued at the end of its 42nd General Assembly held at Attahiru Bafarawa Institute, Sokoto.

BON Chairman to Improve Relations with Commonwealth Broadcasting Association

The Chairman of Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria (BON), Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa who was recently elected the President of Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) at its 26th General Conference, New Delhi, India, has promised to use his position to encourage mutual relationship between the two broadcasting organizations.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with BON Newsletter "Broadcasting", Mallam Jijiwa stated that he would dedicate his tenure to work for improvement of broadcasting in member countries.

Mallam Jijiwa who described CBA as an eminent international organization with strong leadership in the past, stated that his challenge is to build on the foundation already laid; to maintain and, possibly surpass the enviable height to which the past leaders have taken the association.

According to him, "I shall continue the policy of my predecessor, of encouraging and, indeed, supporting our indigent members to adapt to changing technologies, stressing that "we are presently engrossed in migration from analogue to digital and we are encouraging all our members to embrace that". The CBA President noted that broadcasting in Africa and Nigeria have been improving progressively, both in programming content, delivery and even impact. He however, expressed the hope that with more commitment to training and re-training the quality of broadcasting would continue to improve.

Mallam Jijiwa maintained that he would vigorously pursue the issue of training not only for journalists and those in the programming departments, but also others like Engineering, Administration, Legal and Finance. This according to him, will enhance professionalism in the industry. Unlike the dark years of military dictatorship where Nigeria became a pariah nation to the point of being dismissed from the Commonwealth, Mallam Jijiwa observed that the country has become fully reintegrated as a respectable member of the international community. This according to him is reflected by the country being re-elected into the executives of various international Organisations, including the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) which he is now the President.



Press Conference on Princess Nkky Breast Cancer Foundation held at Conference Room Radio House, in September 2005

42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006 The Chairman of BON/ D.G. VON Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa congratulates the Guest Speaker and Director - General Bureau of Public Service Reforms Dr. Goke Adegoye



BON Commends Public Service Reforms

BON viewed the Public Service Reform as imperative for growth and development of the economy as well as effective service delivery in public and private sector.

It also expressed support for the Service Delivery (SERVICOM) scheme and stressed the need to strengthen all the relevant public institutions to enhance its effective implementation. Earlier in a paper presented at the Plenary session of the General Assembly, the Director-General of Bureau of Public Service Reforms in the Presidency, Dr. Goke Adegoye, had stressed the need to regard the on-going the reform of the public service as a matter of expediency and utmost urgency. He therefore solicited the support of the media to help develop an effective communication strategy for public enlightenment. While his counterpart at SERVICOM, Mallam I. M. Abdulkadir, spoke on the need to make service delivery a subject of national discourse.

OSUN STATE BROADCASTING CORPORATION ACQUIRE NEW TRANSMITTERS.

Osun State Broadcasting Corporation, Osogbo, has acquired new transmitter for its FM Radio station, 89.5FM.

According to Prince Adeyeye Oyedokun, the General Manager who was recently elevated to Director-General and Chief Executive of the Corporation, the acquisition of the transmitter will enhance the effective coverage of the state and

Also, as part of improving its service delivery, the Corporation recently organized a compulsory six week computer literacy training programme for its top management staff cadre. The Corporation stated that the computer training is a continuous exercise which in the end will make every of its staff computer literate.

Gombe Media Corporation Acquires New Facilities

Gombe Media Corporation has acquired various broadcasting equipment in an effort to upgrade its transmission capability. These include a new Perkins 500KVA Generator, Two Panasonic MD 900 D Digital Video Camera, two JVC Mini DV/SVHS Deck model SR-VS 30m and seven world Radio Receiver; others are two sets of computer with accessories, 20 audio Cassette recorders and 40 Panasonic mini DV Cassettes.

The management expressed gratitude to the state government for its continuous support, which has enabled it to continue to reposition for efficiency and better coverage of the state.

DEJI AIYELABOWO, TAKING EKITI BROADCASTING SERVICE TO GREAT HEIGHTS.

The appointment of **Alhaji Deji Aiyelabowo** as the General Manager and Chief Executive of Broadcasting Service of Ekiti State, has brought about the rapid transformation of the station.

Aside the physical changes that have taken place within the short period he has been in office; **Alhaji Aiyelabowo's** open-door style of administration has boosted the workers morale and enhanced their capacity to contribute meaningfully to the progress of the station.

The General Manager has not only recruited new staff, but also ensured that those on freelance for many years were given permanent employment.

Alhaji Aiyelabowo, has also ensured the reactivation of the Ifaki A.M station. The radio station which began transmission in 1997 has been moribund for so many years as attention was shifted to FM and television. However, Alhaji Aiyelabowo led management saw the need to reactivate the station to enhance effective communication with the grassroots especially towards the North, West and Eastern parts of the state.

The state government is also making plans to provide the station with outside Broadcast Van (OB) as well as Booster Station to enable it cover the state effectively.

Broadcasting corporation of Abia (BCA) Acquires New Transmitters.

The Broadcasting Corporation of Abia (BCA) has taken delivery of ultra modern studio equipment and transmitters to boost its effective coverage of the state. Installation of the new equipment is expected to commence very soon. Equally the construction of Radio complex of the Broadcasting Station by the state government is nearing completion.

BCA management has equally embarked on intensive computer literacy programme for its workers as a way of enhancing their efficiency. While regular payment of staff salaries has remained a top priority.

MITV AND STAR FM TO ACQUIRE NEW TRANSMITTERS

The Management of MITV and Star FM 101.5 has concluded arrangements to acquire digital transmitters to enhance its transmission capabilities.

A statement from the management said that the station is on Multi Choice DSTV West Africa bouquet, which has ensured wide reception of its programmes.

The company has also obtained operating licence for direct Broadcast Satellite Transmission.

Ondo state Radio vision Organs In-house workshop for workers.

Ondo state Radio Television has organized series of In-house workshops for various categories of staff in the News, Programmes and Engineering Departments to improve their efficiency and Knowledge of modern broadcasting.

The state government has equally procured a functional outside Broadcast Van for both the Radio and Television stations. And this has enabled them to disseminate information about government activities to the grassroots.

This is in addition to the installation of a micro-wave link for the FM station.

Ultra modern equipment For Ekiti State Broadcasting Service.

Ekiti State Broadcasting Service has acquired ultra modern broadcasting equipment to enhance its services and operation. These include, digital console for the FM Radio, Professional decks, Computers, studio cameras, etc.

The television studio has equally undergone complete renovation in an effort to transform it into a first class broadcasting station. Also, the state government has opened up discussion with a Communication company to supply four transmitters to the station in order to increase the Corporation's coverage areas. It is expected that contract for this would be awarded very soon.

Ekiti state Broadcasting Service has recorded tremendous achievement in the recent time. And this is attributed to the unrelenting support of the state government. According to the General Manager, Deji Aiyelabowo, the state government has maintained a non interference policy, which has helped the station to remain focused.

Cable Mission Television Commissions Its new Calabar Operation.

Cable Mission Television (CMTV) Network recently commissioned its new Ultra modern microwave Multiple Distribution System (MMDI) cable Television in Calabar.

CMTV network which is one of the pioneers of MMDS in Nigeria and also at the forefront of telecommunication and information technology in Nigeria has in recent times embarked on a spread of its services in the South and South East
Z o n e s

Presently, CMTV offices are located in Port Harcourt Rivers state, Yenegoa Bayelsa state, Calabar Cross River State and others are expected in the next two months at Eket in Akwa Ibom State and Onitsha in Anambra state.

CMTV which is a subsidiary of multimesh communication Limited has been in operation in Nigeria for more than ten years as an integrated electrical electronic Engineering Group of Companies, geared towards helping to restore our lost family and societal values through quality programming that will enhance living standards.

CMTV is also pioneering the digitalization of its MMDS Cable network. While it recently launched two independent Television channels-Tunes Channel and NIGERIA MOVIE NET (NMN) in an effort to enhance its local programming.

The management of CMTV has in recent times embarked on various training programmes for its staff aimed at enabling them to meet up with the challenges of modern broadcasting.

SOKOTO MEDIA CORPORATION MAKING GIANT STRIDES

The Sokoto media Corporation, which was established about five years ago, precisely May 2001, out of the defunct Sokoto State Broadcasting Corporation, has been making steady progress since it came on stream.

For many years the idea of a state owned Television station had been on the drawing board by previous civilians and military

administration but none had the conviction to actualize it

Things however changed dramatically with the coming of the Administration of Governor Attahiru Dalhuru Bafarawa who had a clear vision and priority to establish a state owned Television station that can compete favorably with any state Television station in the country.

Within a record of thirteen months, the Bafarawa administration built and equipped the Sokoto State television with state of the art equipment supplied by microwave
A s s o c i a t e s

The station which was initially named Sokoto State Television (STV) has a 10 Kilowatt transmitter with two studios equipment with digital cameras and top class electronic equipment. It started test transmission on May 10, 2001 and was commission by president Olusegun Obasanjo on Thursday 7th June, 2001.

Beside the Television, the Bafarawa administration has invested millions of Naira to put both the Radio and Television Stations in proper shape to enable them contribute meaningfully in the propagation of government programmes and policies that will influence societal values, and in so doing improve and strengthen the economic, social and political development of the state.

BROADCAST STATIONS TO SHOW MORE COMMITMENT TOWARDS POLIO ERADICATION.

Broadcast stations in the country have been called upon to show more commitment in towards the eradication of Polio from the
c o u n t r y

The call which contained in a communiqué was issued at the end of a one-day workshop/media dialogue organized by BON, in collaboration with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), National Programme of Immunization (NPI) and Federal Ministry of Information, held in Rockview Hotel, Abuja. The 12 point communiqué further stated that as a matter of policy, management of Radio and Television stations should increase their airtime on Polio based stories and Programmes as well as other six child killer vaccine preventable diseases.

It equally recommended that owners of Radio and Television station should adequately equip their stations to enable them fulfill their social responsibility effectively. While the National Broadcasting commission (NBC) should ensure that the electronic media include in practical terms child Rights issued especially Polio eradication and routine immunization in their daily broadcasts.

BON Mounts Campaign on Debt Recovery

The Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON), has resolved to vigorously pursue the recovery of over N8billion being owned members by Advertising Agencies in the country.

Arising from its 42nd General Assembly held in Sokoto, BON called on the (AAAN and ADVAN members) to pay at least 60% of the debt, pending final reconciliation of the account by the parties.

BON also reaffirmed and reiterated its earlier decision that member stations should increase their rates by 25% from January 2006 and directed member stations yet to implement the decision to do so.

It also expressed dissatisfaction with the unilateral increase in licence fees to member stations by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and demanded a reversal to the status quo.

BON equally enjoined its zonal committees to intensify programme and personnel exchanges as well as to co-produce programmes to enrich their content and to promote the country's unity in diversity.



Dr. Silas Yisa DG NBC

AFRICAST/URTNA JOINT COMMITTEE: Dgs ASSURE SUPPORT

The Directors General of NBC, NTA, FRCN and VON have assured the Africast/URTNA 2006 joint Organizing Committee of full support to achieve the objectives of the Conference. They urged the Committee to put up a show that would make Nigeria proud.

Speaking at separate courtesy calls paid on them by members of the Committee, the Directors General stressed that this was a chance in a million to bring the whole industry together on one platform, and that the most mileage must be made out of it.

The Director General, NBC, Dr. Silas Yisa, said the commission had always wanted to carry the whole industry along on the Africast bandwagon, and that this was a very positive development on the African broadcast scene.

He told the Committee to work very hard to put up a show that would outshine any of its kind on the continent. In the same vein, the DG Voice of Nigeria, Alhaji Abuabkar Jijiwa said his organisation had always been an active participant in Africast, and that this was another reason to work even more closely with the organisation to make Nigeria the centre of African broadcast activities.

He assured the Committee that as DG Voice of Nigeria, and Chairman BON, he was going to do his utmost to ensure the full participation of the two organisations in Africast/URTNA 2006.

NDDC PRESENTS 300KVA TO RIVERS STATE BROADCASTING CORPORATION

The Management of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), has presented a 300kva Transformer to Rivers State Broadcasting Corporation to enhance its operations. The Presentation took place at its transmitting Station at Elenwo. Speaking at the occasion, the General Manager and Chief Executive of the Station, Ms Medline Tador, commended NDDC for the kind assistance which she stated would go a long way in assisting the station to provide uninterrupted transmission. She described the gesture as a good corporate initiative and appealed to other corporate bodies to emulate their good example. Similarly, Rivers State Broadcasting Corporation recently made history when one of its engineering staff, Mr. Ezekiel Mgbo - Awayi, produced On-Board Transistor, Diodes and Silicon Controlled Rectifier (SCR) Tester.



During the Presenting of 300KVA Transformer to NDDC for FSSC. From Left to Right: Mr. Vincent Akor - Representing the Director of Corporate Affairs of NDDC; Ms Medline Tador - General Manager FRSB and Mr. Ezekiel Mgbo - Awayi, Director of Technical BSAC.

Describing this as a significant achievement, the management of the Station commended Mr Mgbo's initiative and called for the support of all to enable him consolidate on this great innovation. The Tester can also be used to identify diodes and transistor action as well as indicate diodes polarity and transistors type, if this is not known.

WHY RADIO IS WORTH LISTENING.

Television has changed dramatically in recent years. You can now sit down in front of a wide, flat-panel screen, and call up hundreds of channels in an instant. You can pause and rewind live broadcasts and record every episode of your favorite programme using a personal video recorder (PVR) such as a TiVo. And in some parts of the world "video on demand" services enable viewers to call up programmes when they want to watch them, rather than when broadcasters decide to transmit them. All this has been made possible by digital technology, which has visibly transformed television. At the same time, however, a similar - if less remarked upon - transformation is under way in radio. It is going digital too.

The latest digital radio receivers, launched this month in Britain, feature TiVo-style pause, rewind, programme guide and timed recording functions.

Some digital satellite receivers, which are becoming increasingly popular in America, also offer pause, rewind and recording features, as well as access to dozens of channels. Such features will become common place as sales of digital radios increase, from 4m receivers in 2004 to an estimate 23m units in 2008, according to figures from In-sat, a market-research firm. In Britain, sales of digital receiver have overtaken sales of analogue Radios, according to Dixons, a retail chain.

Different digital-radio technologies are being deployed in different parts of the world. Outside the United States, the leading standard is called DAB. It is already popular in Britain, Germany and Canada, and is spreading in Europe and Asia. DAB signals are transmitted separately from conventional analogue FM signals, but many receivers can switch to a station's FM signals in the event of the digital signal being lost (in a moving car, in America, there are two kinds of digital radio: subscription-based digital satellite services (XM and Sirius) and a technology called HD Radio that allows digital signals to piggyback on standard FM transmissions. Satellite radio now has around 5M subscribers and can be found in 4% of households, and the number is more than doubling each year. The growing clout of

satellite radio is illustrated by its exclusive content deals, such as those struck by XM with Major League Baseball, and by Sirius with Howard Stern. Then there is an emerging global digital-radio standard called Digital Radio Mondiale

(DRM), which uses digital encoding to deliver near FM audio quality in the long-wave and medium wave frequency bands, which have a far longer reach than FM **s i g n a l s**. DRM transmissions are already under way in some parts of the world, though receivers are still expensive, as DAB receivers were initially, but cheaper DRM radio are on the way.

Finally, digital radio can also be delivered via the internet, in the form of audio streaming. According to figures from Forrester, a consultancy, 16% of American households have listened to streaming audio online equivalent of blogging, which allows anyone to post audio files online for downloading by others.

Tuning in to the future: All of this means greater choice and control for listeners say Michelle Abraham of In-Sat. Digital radio offers better sound quality than analogue, and its more efficient use of the airwaves means there is room for more channels, and hence greater variety. (XM and Sirius offer dozens of genre-specific music channels, for example) Digital-radio listeners tend to be more promiscuous in their listening habits, says Andrew Maloney of Radio Scape, a British firm that develops digital radio technology. Since it is easier to flick between stations some radios even have a "back" button for quick switching: listeners do more **c h a n n e l s - h o p p i n g**.

As well as improving quality and choice, digital radio can do things that analogue cannot. Music stations can transmit artist and track information, and news stations can transmit scrolling headlines to the radio's screen. Digital also allows radio stations to broadcast multiple streams, which appear as sub-channels on the tuning menu. In future, car radios could store a traffic bulletin in memory and play it back when the driver hits a "traffic news" button. Says Ms Abraham,

Forthcoming radios with colour screens could display a map during the weather forecast or a sponsor's logo during a particular show." When the advertising guys get hold of this, goodness knows what will happen, "says Mr. Maloney.

Broadcasters and advertisers are, says Ms Abraham, are rubbing their hands at the new business models made possible by digital. Satellite radio has demonstrated that subscription based charging can work in radio, as it does in TV. More targeted channels, Sub-channels and online channels will allow broadcasters to reach specific audiences more easily, which should enable them to charge more for advertising. And the ability to send other forms data alongside audio means that broadcasters could, for example, deliver mobile-phone ring tones or discount coupons alongside particular shows: only by listening to the whole programme can you receive the download, which can then be transferred from the radio to your mobile phone.

There is even talk of using global-positioning technology in digital receiver to deliver adverts specific to the listener's location. There is a paradox here, observes Ted, scheduler of forester. Broadcasters see digital as an opportunity to increase advertising revenue, but the success of satellite radio in America is partly the result of listener's desire to escape from advertising: many satellite music channels are ad free. "Consumers say they hate advertising. But they also say they won't pay enough to make it go away," he says. Digital radio will offer a wide range of choices, however, and "consumers will pick the business model that gives them the programming they want at the lowest cost." Charging more for advertising depends on attracting specific audiences, and that will require investment in better programming, says Mr Schadler. So as radio goes digital, choice will improve and both listeners and broadcasters ought to be able to get more of what they want.



Chairman (BON) and Director General (FON) Mallam Abubakar Jijawa exchange pleasantries with President DBN - TV Oja Sunny Adam, while EDSOM, NTA, Alhaji H.B Hassan watches with interest.



BOB - TV, Television Market held in International Conference Centre Abuja March, 2006. Chairman of Broadcasting Organisation (BOB) Director - General FON, Mallam Abubakar Jijawa (Centre) poses with independent producers, extreme right is the Executive Secretary (BON) Mr Olatu Nwoko



41st General Assembly of BON held in Abeokuta, Ogun State Dec. 2005. From left, Chairman (BON) DG FON Mallam Abubakar Jijawa, the special Guest of Honour, Mr Taiwo Alimi, Chairman Board of Directors, gateway Radio who represented Ogun State Governor, Permanent Secretary, Ogun Ministry of Information & President DBN TV Mr Olu Tony Adu



Commissioner for Information Alhaji Ibrahim Gindabu with Governor Dalhatu Baharawa inspecting Rima Television



41st General Assembly of BON held in Abeokuta Dec. 2006 Gala Night from left Executive Director Lagos National Station FRCN Atidebi, Atoyebi, next the special Guest Honour, Mr Taiwo Alimi, who represented the Ogun State Governor, the Chairman of BON/IGB FON Mallam Abubakar Jijawa centre and General Manager, Naurawa Broadcasting Service Saleman Adare



President, Commonwealth Broadcasting Association CBA, Mallam Jijawa makes his acceptance speech, on his election as President in New-Delhi, India



41st General Assembly of BON held in Abeokuta Dec. 2005 opening ceremony Executive Director News Voice of Nigeria FON Mr Ben Egboma standing explains a point, while the managing Director Anambra Broadcasting Service, Aika Mr Bechukwu Oshana on cap listens in right attention.



41st General Assembly of BON held in Abeokuta Dec. 2005 opening ceremony from left Executive Secretary (BON) Olatu Nwoko, General Manager Gateway Radio Enyi Aka Mijevagbe and Chairman (BON) DG FON Mallam Abubakar Jijawa

Introduction:

The Chairman of Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON), Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa was recently elected the President of Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA), at its 26th General Conference held at New Delhi, India. A versatile and accomplished Broadcaster, Mallam Jijiwa who is also the Director General of Voice of Nigeria (VON), spoke about his election, programmes and vision for CBA in an interview with BON Newsletter, Broadcasting. Except;

Question:

Congratulations on your recent election as the President of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA).

Answer:

Thank you ever so much.

Question:

How do you feel about being elected the President of the CBA and how were you elected, bearing in mind the divergent power blocs within the Commonwealth?

Answer:

If there is one word to express my feeling, I think the word is "exhilaration." I feel very happy, not because of the post and its trappings, but because one has been called in a special way, offered a larger platform so to speak, to serve humanity and to contribute to the growth of the profession.

I was elected because I polled a much higher vote than my other worthy contestant. You were right to talk about "power blocs." Like in all human societies, people are pulled together by many things some of which are: ideologies, beliefs, tribe, and ability to think alike, etc. In my own case, I cannot deny that some supported me because of the place I come from, because I witnessed tremendous solidarity from Africa, Middle East and the Caribbean. But all in all, most gave their support because they were interested in a candidate they think have the capacity to serve the Commonwealth. I use the word "to serve" to demonstrate that leadership is about service.

Question:

What challenges does it pose to you, taking into cognizance the state of the CBA today?

Answer:

In any position one finds oneself, just like in my current position

as the President of Commonwealth Broadcasting Association, one is challenged to excel, to contribute towards the growth of the Association. The CBA is an eminent international organization, with strong leadership in the past. The challenge of the present leadership is to build on the foundations already laid, to maintain and, possibly, surpass the enviable heights to which the past leaders have taken the association.

Question:

How do you intend to use your present position to enhance interaction among the CBA members as well as improve the state of broadcasting in the Commonwealth?

Answer:

We live in a very dynamic world. I think it was Heraclitus, the Ancient philosopher that propounded the doctrine of change. To him, the world is constantly in a state of flux. The dynamism of technology illustrates this Heraclitian thesis. The only way to remain relevant is to move with the world, otherwise you are left behind.

As the President of the CBA, I shall continue the policy of my predecessor, of encouraging and, indeed, supporting our indigent members to adapt to changing technologies. We are presently engrossed in migration from analogue to digital and we are encouraging all our members to embrace that. Once we get our members to adapt to changing technologies, sustain our training programmes, reward hardwork through prizes, provide assistance to our members through bursaries, consultancies, networking opportunities and material for broadcast; support freedom of expression and the ideals of public service broadcasting, assist in the exchange of information among its members, the state of broadcasting in the Commonwealth would be affected positively.

We at the CBA see our organization as a family and the members as part of that family. I shall do everything within my powers to enhance interactions amongst us. Already we have started making overtures to the suspended members to come back to the fold through special waivers.

Question:

Are there specific programmes or projects you would wish to embark on during your tenure?

Answer:

The CBA has enough programmes and once these programmes are faithfully implemented, the CBA would be stronger. However, there are some programmes I may want to implement differently. Take the issue of training, under the auspices of the CBA some journalists, especially from developing countries mostly go to Europe for training and workshops. Because of the cost implication, only a few of them benefit. I would want to get the same people, the trainers, to go to the CBA countries for the training. Besides reducing costs, it would enable many people to benefit.

I would impress it on the CBA to consider the fact that journalism does not start and end with those in broadcasting or programming departments. There are others in Engineering, Administration, Legal, Finance departments and other units. They are also part of the media organization and should have training programmes crafted to suit them. They too should benefit from bursaries and all that.

Question:

How would you describe the relationship between CBA and Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria (BON), which you are also the Chairman? Is it possible admitting BON into CBA as a full member?

Answer:

The CBA is an association of commonwealth electronic media organizations. BON, Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria, is made up of members of the Nigeria electronic broadcasting organizations. So, what CBA is to the commonwealth is what BON is to Nigeria. With the same objective of seeking the good and progress of members, both organizations share the same goal and relate cordially on the basis of that.

The CBA membership are from media organizations of countries within the commonwealth and some affiliate members. Since some members of BON are not CBA members, the issue of BON becoming a member is problematic. However, what we do is to continue encouraging BON members to join the CBA too.

Question:

How would you be able to harness your position to improve the quality of broadcasting in Africa and Nigeria in particular?

Answer:

If you have been following broadcasting in Africa and Nigeria, you would notice that there have been progressive improvement, both in programming content, delivery and even impact. As we are committed to training and re-training, the quality of broadcasting would, willy-nilly, continue to improve.

Question:

What are the specific benefits to be derived as a member of Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA)?

Answer:

As a member of the CBA, media organizations are entitled to, among others, access to CBA conferences on a subsidized basis, free CBA directory to the top executives, subsidized training and consultancies, free broadcasting rights for Commonwealth short stories, access to CBA's contacts, and 10% rebate for advertising in CBA publications.

Question:

How would you describe the future of broadcasting in the Commonwealth?

Answer:

Very bright since the Commonwealth countries are fully committed to embracing modern technologies.

Question:

Do you see your election as an indication that Nigeria has been fully integrated into the comity of nations?

Answer:

During the dark years of military dictatorship, Nigeria became a pariah nation to the point of being dismissed from the Commonwealth. In fact, if you may recall, as a consequence, a Nigeria **Mallam Muhammed Ibrahim**, former Director-General, Nigeria Television Authority (NTA) had to relinquish his position as the President of the Association. Other international organizations equally ostracized us. With the restoration of democracy and our re-admission into the organization, added to our even being re-elected into the executives of these organizations. One can say without fear of contradiction that we have been fully reintegrated.



Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa

The Chairman of Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
BON Delegates pose with the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammed Maccido shortly after a courtesy visit on the Sultan.



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
Courtesy Visit on Forster, President Alhaji Shehu Shagari. By BON Delegates
The Chairman BON, Mallam Abubakar Jijwa makes his remarks.



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
Gala Night: The Chairman (BON) & D.G. VON makes a farewell speech,
on his left is the Sokoto State Commissioner Information Alhaji Ibrahim Galada,
right the MD Sokoto State Media Corporation Sokoto



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
Delegates pose for Group Photograph, shortly after the Opening Ceremony.
Among the delegates are the Deputy Governor Sokoto State Alhaji
Dallatu Mohammed and the Chairman (BON) Mallam Abubakar
Jijwa.



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
The Deputy Governor Sokoto State Alhaji Garba Mohammed 2nd from left,
and Chairman BON centre relishes the Presentation made by the Director
General Bureau of Public Service Reforms, Dr Goke Adegboyee.

Photo: Usman Zakari Babba



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
BON C.W.C poses for a Photograph with the Deputy Governor Sokoto State,
His Excellency Alhaji Garba Mohammed flanked right by the Chairman of
BON Mallam Abubakar Jijwa and left by Commissioner for Information,
Sokoto State, Alhaji Ibrahim Galada.



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
Courtesy visit on the former President, Alhaj Shehu Shagari by BON Executive Secretary (BON), Osta Nweke enjoys the rare handshake with Nigeria's former No1 Man. Other delegates watch with interest.



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
What a Presentation it seems to the Chairman of BON Mallam Abubakar Jijwa was telling the Director-General, Bureau of Public Service Reforms Dr. Goke Adegoroye, while the Deputy Governor Sokoto State, Alhaj Dalhau Mohammed watches with interest.



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
The Chairman of BON/D.G. VON Mallam Abubakar Jijwa in a warm handshake with the former Head of State, President Shehu Shagari shortly after Delegates paid a courtesy call the former President in his Sokoto Residence



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
Courtesy Visit on the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaj Muhammadu Maccido by BON delegates. The leader of BON delegation, Mallam Abubakar Jijwa Chairman BON / D.G. Voice of Nigeria in a warmth hand-shake with Sultan Maccido.



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
The Opening Ceremony - Members of the High Table sing the Nation Anthem from right, Chairman (BON), Mallam Abubakar Jijwa, (Centre) The Deputy Governor, Sokoto State His Excellency, Alhaj Dalhau Mohammed on his left the Secretary to the Sokoto State Government



42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto April 10 to April 12, 2006
Courtesy visit on Sultan of Sokoto, by BON Delegates. The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaj Maccido receives Delegates & the 42nd General Assembly of BON held in Sokoto in his Palace. The delegates were led by the Chairman, BON, Mallam Abubakar Jijwa.

Influenza: Season, Avian, and Pandemic

- Influenza is a common respiratory illness
- It is caused by a virus spreading from person-to-person in seasonal outbreaks
- Seasonal influenza causes an estimated half a million deaths globally, per year
- Avian influenza ('bird flu') is a bird disease that only rarely infects people
- Since 2003, there has been a bird flu outbreak caused by the influenza A (H5N1) virus
- The H5N1 virus could adapt to humans and cause a pandemic (a worldwide outbreak)
- Over past 300 years, average of three influenza pandemics per century; pandemics that started in 1918, 1957 and 1968 caused an estimated 50 million, 2 million and 1 million deaths, respectively.
- Previous pandemics have been caused by bird flu viruses that have changed:
 - by direct mutation in 19
 - by mixing with human influenza viruses in 1957 and 1968.

Pandemic Preparedness

Whether the H5N1 changes and causes the next pandemic or not, there will be another pandemic of influenza at some stage in the future. The concern with H5N1 is that the pandemic could be imminent.

It is important for individuals, organizations, and governments to prepare for the next pandemic. This is difficult as it is impossible to predict when the next pandemic will come or how severe it will be. But, there are simple actions that everybody can take to prepare for a pandemic, including:

- Understanding about how influenza virus (and other infections) pass from person-to-person, and adopt the hygienic practices to reduce the risk of catching or passing on infection.
 - General emergency preparedness to deal with natural or other disasters that would interrupt the normal supply of life's essentials (water, food, energy/light, transport, regular medications).
 - Specific medical supplies that may be needed: thermometer, paracetamol, and possibly Tamiflu and antibiotics depending on local context.

- It is widespread in birds and spreading to more countries (incl. from Asia to Europe)
- Humans have been infected by contact with sick birds: since 2003, the H5N1 strain has infected 186 people of whom 105 died.
- Possible person-to-person transmission (but still very limited human transmissibility).

What needs to be done?

- Control the virus in poultry (including prevent infection)
- Changing animal husbandry practices to separate sick from healthy birds, separate chickens from ducks, and minimize contact between birds and humans.
 - Improve surveillance for avian outbreaks and human cases
 - Prepare in case a severe pandemic virus emerge.

S U P P L E M E N T A R Y I N F O R M A T I O N

Influenza: Seasonal, Avian, and Pandemic

Seasonal influenza outbreaks affect 5% of adults and 20% of children occur each year. Symptoms include sudden onset of fever, headache, and body aches with cough and runny nose developing later. Seasonal influenza is usually a self-limiting illness, but can

lead to complications especially in older people (65 years) and those certain medical conditions.

At present, the influenza A (H5N1) virus remains an avian virus and is not transmissible from person to person. (There may have been rare cases of person-to-person transmission, but it did not spread on to any other person). The concern about H5N1 is that it could change to be able to pass from person-to-person and cause a pandemic.

Influenza pandemics appear to be infrequent and unpredictable, with an average of three per century. The pandemic that started in 1918 was much more severe than the ones of 1957 and 1968. In addition, it caused a disproportionate number of deaths among 20–40 year olds, in contrast to seasonal influenza where most deaths are in those aged 65 years and older. This was not seen in the pandemics that started in 1957 and 1968.

Pandemics in the 20th century have spread in two or three waves. The first wave has emerged at a time when there is no normally seasonal influenza, and the second (and third) waves are during the normal influenza season. After the pandemic waves, the new virus subtype is still present, but there is now sufficient human immunity to this subtype.

Pandemic Preparedness: Avian Influenza Control

Whether the H5N1 changes and causes the next pandemic or not, there will be another pandemic of influenza at some stage in the future. The concern with H5N1 becoming a pandemic virus, it is vital to control the outbreak in poultry and to prevent human infections with this virus both because of the serious nature of the infection for those affected, and the potential for the virus to change and become more adapted to humans as a result of that infection. Improved surveillance (of both human and bird disease) is a vital part of this to enable response as well as to give early warnings, and possibly allow containment of a new virus.

Pandemic Preparedness

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- Specific medical supplies that may be needed: thermometer, paracetamol, and possibly Tamiflu and antibiotics depending on local context.

Even with
HIV
and
AIDS
*You are my brother,
You are my sister.*

Stop
Unprotected Sex



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 42ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF BROADCASTING ORGANIZATIONS OF NIGERIA (BON) HELD AT ATTAHIRU BAFARAWA INSTITUTE FOR QUR'AN AND GENERAL STUDIES, SOKOTO FROM MONDAY, APRIL 10 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12 2006

PREAMBLE

The 42nd General Assembly of the Broadcasting Organizations of Nigeria (BON) with the theme: "The Imperative of Public Service Reforms in Nigeria's Drive for Economic Growth" was held at Attahiru Bafarawa Institute for Qur'an and General Studies, Sokoto from Monday, April 10 - Wednesday, April 12 2006.

The General Assembly was preceded by the meeting of the Central Working Committee (CWC) on Monday, April 10, 2006 at Board Room, Sokoto State Media Corporation. It was presided over by the BON Chairman, Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa.

OPENING

The General Assembly was declared open by the Executive Governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa who was represented by his Deputy Governor, Alhaji Garba Mohammed. The Governor said in realization of the importance of the mass media in good governance, the state government had modernized the broadcast sector. Similarly, the print media which had collapsed when the government assumed duty had been rehabilitated. Staff of the Sokoto State Media Corporation are also being trained on the use of the new equipment to improve their services. In the area of rural electrification, more towns and villages have been electrified. Governor Bafarawa said a number of roads in the state had been built at a cost of Thirteen Billion Naira. Bore holes are also being provided and it is expected that all parts of the state will benefit before the end of the administration's tenure next year.

The Commissioner for Information, Alhaji Ibrahim Gidado in his address of welcome said the government considered the meeting as timely and it provided opportunity to show the media the achievements of the state government.

In his address, BON Chairman, Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa said the forum offered another unique opportunity to re-examine and re-appraise the activities of the broadcasting stations as a family for better services.

Reviewing the activities of BON, Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa said member organizations played significant roles in the success of the National Census, and sports transmission particularly the Africa Cup of Nations and the Commonwealth Games.

On the theme of the 42nd General Assembly, the Chairman said BON believed that as critical stakeholders, the media had a role to play in the sustenance of the current public sector reforms. He noted that the Due Process which is part of the reform had led to transparency, accountability and probity in contract awards.

BON Chairman stressed the need for member organizations to take seriously the issue of staff welfare. He expressed concern over a situation in which some stations owe staff up to ten months salaries.

PRESENTATION

Three presentations were made at the plenary session. Dr. Goke Adegoroye, Director-General, Bureau of Public Service Reforms, in the presidency stressed the need to regard the reform of our public service as a matter of expediency and utmost urgency. He said because of the imperative nature of the reform, the nation would count on the media to help develop an effective communication strategy for public enlightenment.

On Service Delivery, Mallam I. M. Abdulkadir of the SERVICOM in the Presidency spoke on the need to make service delivery a subject of National discourse. He said Nigerians must learn to regard service delivery as a national ethnic and complain whenever service is inadequate.

And in the paper on behalf of the National Broadcasting Commission, a Deputy Director, NBC, Mallam Sada Mujtaba explained the licence fee policy of the commission. He said NBC did not take pleasure in closing down stations for non payment of licence fee.

RESOLUTIONS

After thorough deliberations, the 42nd General Assembly resolved as follows:

1. That the current public service reform of the Federal Government is commendable and should be promoted vigorously by member stations. This is in view of its imperatives for growth and development of the economy as well as effective service delivery in public and private sectors.
2. BON also expresses support for the Service Delivery (SERVICOM) scheme and stresses the need to strengthen all the relevant public institutions to ensure enhanced service delivery.
3. It notes the successful transmission of both the 2006 Africa Cup of Nations and the 18th Commonwealth Games in Melbourne by member stations across the country. It attributes the success to the Broadcast Rights acquired by DAAR Communications Limited and BON commends the support, cooperation, unity and patriotism of its members in utilizing the rights.
4. On the National Population and Housing Census, BON notes with satisfaction the contribution of member stations to the success of the exercise.
5. BON reaffirms and reiterates its earlier decision that member stations should increase their rates by 25% from January 2006 and directs stations yet to implement the decision to do so.
6. BON also notes that over N8billion is still being owed member stations by AAAN and ADVAN members. It called on AAAN and ADVAN members to deposit at least 60% of the debt on account pending final reconciliation of the account by the parties.
7. The meeting expresses unhappiness with the unilateral increase in the licence fees to member stations by the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) and demands a reversal to the status quo.
8. The General Assembly urges BON Zonal Committees to intensify programme and personnel exchanges as well as to co-produce programmes to enrich their content and to promote unity in diversity.
9. BON congratulates Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa on his recent election as the President of the Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA) which it describes as an achievement for the nation. It also congratulates Mr. Willy Sowho on his re-appointment as General Manager, Delta Broadcasting Service.
10. The General Assembly expresses gratitude and deep appreciation to the Government and people of Sokoto State as well as the Managing Director of Sokoto State Media Corporation, Alhaji Aminu Tukur Sanyinna for hosting the delegates and their warm hospitality.
11. BON also expresses gratitude and deep appreciation to His Eminence, Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhamadu Maccido and Nigeria's former President, Alhaji Shehu Usman Aliyu Shagari for the warm reception accorded delegates.
12. The 43rd General Assembly will be hosted by the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) in July this year.


ABUBAKAR JIJIWA
Chairman (BON)


OSITA NWEKE
Secretary (BON)



Broadcasting

MONITORING THE PULSE OF BROADCASTING

A Newsletter of the Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria Vol. 2 No 8 April - June, 2006

BON CHAIRMAN IDENTIFIES POOR FUNDING AS IMPEDIMENT TO GROWTH OF BROADCASTING INDUSTRY

The Chairman of Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON), Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa has identified poor funding as one of the major factors hampering the growth of broadcasting in the country.

Mallam Jijiwa who was speaking against the backdrop of over N8billion being owed Broadcast Stations by Advertising Agencies in the country, noted that the huge debt is presently crippling the industry. He expressed disappointment that despite "our repeated persuasive engagements with the Advertising Agencies these debts accruing from unpaid adverts remain a lingering sore to the very existence and survival of our stations".

He warned that to overlook the huge debt or pretend that all is well is to sound death knell to the electronic media, stressing that necessary measures would be adopted including the use of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to recover its members' debt if they must be rescued from this unpleasant situation.

BON Partners with OSMI for 2006 World Cup Transmission

The Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON) has entered into a Partnership agreement with Optima Sports Management International (OSMI) for the transmission of 2006 World Cup finals in Germany.

The Partnership agreement, which was at the instance of OSMI, was informed by the need to transmit the World Cup Matches to every nook and cranny of the country through BON Members Stations.

It would be recalled that OSMI had won the exclusive Broadcast Rights for the transmission of the global football fiesta to the Nigerian territory.

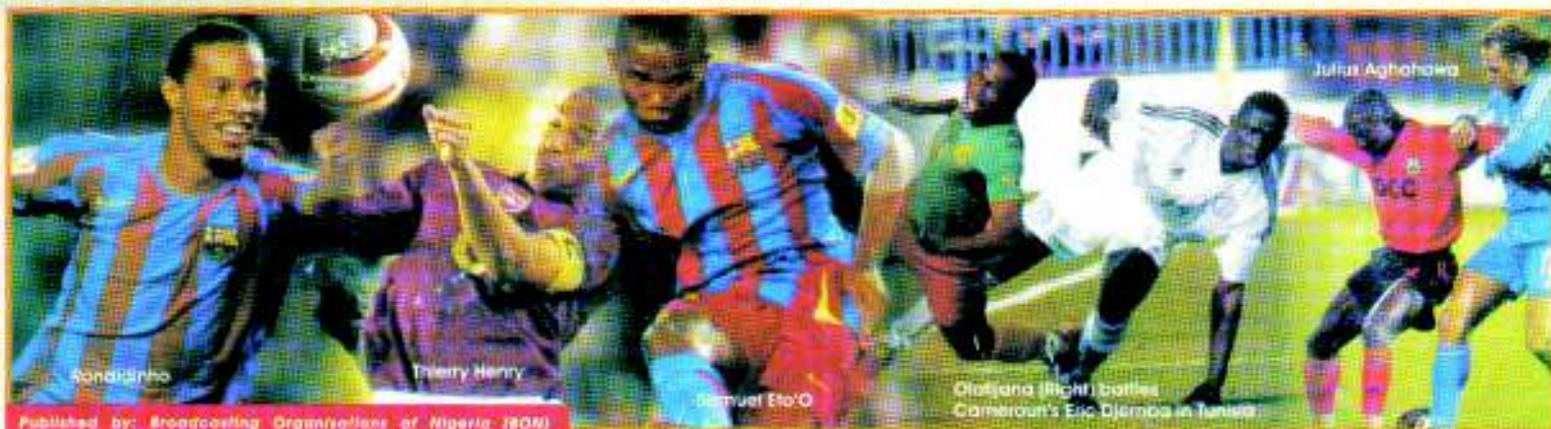
A stakeholders meeting organized under the auspices of National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), held at NBC Headquarters, May 3, provided a proper forum for representatives from BON led by the chairman, Mallam Abubakar Jijiwa and Chief Executive of OSMI, Mr Rotomi Pedro to discuss the way forward on the successful transmission of the world greatest football competition.

Under the agreement no BON member station will pay for the rights, while participating stations are expected to meet the agreed obligations.

Equally an acceptable sharing arrangement of the accruing benefits had been worked out by the two parties.

Altogether a total of 64 matches would be transmitted during the competition, BON members are expected to hook on for the transmission of the matches.

BON had already set up a seven man adhoc committee to liaise with OSMI to ensure the success of the world cup transmission. these matches.



Published by: Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON)
7th Floor Radio House Area 10, Abuja. Tel/Fax: 09-2342140
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WORLD CUP STARS ON PARADE