

## EU Study Heralds Osun Water Policy

A Lagos-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) with a bias for integrated water resources management (IWRM), the Bread of Life Development Foundation (BLDF), has been commissioned by the European Union Water Supply and Sanitation Reform Programme (EU-WSSSRP) to carry out a study towards the development of the Osun State Water Policy.

Targeted to ensure better service delivery in the state, the study is also aimed at restructuring the Osun State Water Corporation (OSWC) and the Osun State Environmental Protection Agency (OSEPA). The EUWSSSRP acted through its Technical Unit in the state.

Daily Independent learnt that the research scheme would likewise increase access to safe and ensure adequate and sustainable water and sanitation services in Osun and five other states. The states include, Anambra, Cross River, Jigawa, Kano and Yobe.

This, it was gathered, will be done through improved water governance and sanitation service delivery in urban areas.

The endeavour will also kick-start the development of the Osun State Water Policy, requiring that the BLDF carries out desk study on all reports and/or document related to institutional framework assessment or policy development, while appraising the rationale for policy development in the state. Similarly, the group will hold consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders for the purpose of enlightenment on the development of a state-specific water supply and sanitation policy.

The BLDF Project Officer, Oluwasanmi Falobi, said in a statement that, as part of the study, the NGO will review the organisational, financial, commercial and technical structure of the state's utilities parastatals (the OSWC and OSEPA), while assessing the roles the private sector can play in financing water delivery and sanitation services.

BLDF, he added, has formed a team of 10 experts headed by Professor Lekan Oyebande, who is Chair, Technical Committee of the West African Water Partnership of the Global Water Partnership (GWP), to carry out the study.

The group is also organising an electronic conference on "Water policy development and institutional reform in Osun State" between Monday July 14 and Friday July 25, 2008.

"A blog has been created for this purpose to allow all stakeholders in and outside Osun State to contribute to this e-conference. It offers an opportunity to learn from international experiences and

had expected a loss of 55 cents a share.

Freddie Mac and sister com-

economy and as the price of extended its decline. The Do Jones industrials shot up mo

was mixed against our currencies, while gold rose.



National President of Nigerian Institute of Shipping, Sir (Chief) Caleb Grade Nri, Lagos branch, by the National President of the Ofu-Obi Gra

oye (Left), being presented a Chief Gah Onyejenwoz in La

## Union To Assist Members In Sales

The National Union of Food, Beverage and Tobacco Employees has announced that it would soon establish a Multi-Purpose Hall to assist members in boosting their sales.

The union's president, Mr Lateef Oyelekan, told journalists in Lagos that the initiative would assist some members of the union to be able to remain in

business.

He said that the hall would be located at the State secretariat of the union, to allow easy accessibility.

"For each category in the food industry, we will allocate a portion with their brand name and with this, people will be able to know easily where to find what they want to purchase," Oyeleka

said.

He said the initiative would also generate funds for the union to augment its income check-off dues. The union president said in the first few months of its commencement, the restructured union administrative machinery ensured that due process followed in all its activities.

## Pearson UK Increases Shareholding In Longman

Pearson Education Ltd, UK says it has concluded plans to increase its shareholding in Longman Nigeria to 51 per cent.

Pearson management said in a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday in Lagos that the move was its expression of confidence in Longman Nigeria, the Nigerian education sector and the economy.

The statement said that the increase in the shareholding would translate to about N1 billion direct investment in the Nigerian economy.

Mr Emmanuel Ijewere, Chairman, Longman Nigeria Plc, said that if the increase was approved, Pearson would assist Longman Nigeria to strengthen its competitive advantages in the development

content creation, assessment, testing and the application of technology.

Ijewere said that Pearson, which is the largest education company in the world, had invested resources and expertise which would benefit all stakeholders in Nigeria.

He said that the move would also afford shareholders

## 11 Charged For Credit Card

Eleven people, including a U.S. Secret Service informant, have been charged in connection with the hacking of nine major retailers and the theft and sale of more than 41 million credit and debit card numbers, the Justice Department announced Tuesday.

The data breach is believed to be the largest hacking and identity theft case ever prosecuted by the Department of Justice, which said the suspects were charged with conspiracy, computer intrusion, fraud and identity theft.

The indictment returned Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Boston alleges that the suspect hacked into the wireless computer networks of retailers including TJX Cos., BJ's Wholesale Club, OfficeMax, Boston Market, Barnes & Noble, Sports Authority, Forever 21 and DSW and set up programs that captured card numbers, passwords and account information.

"They used sophisticated computer hacking techniques that

either sold to others or used themselves," Attorney General Michael Mukasey said at a news conference. "And in total, they caused widespread damage to banks, retailers, and consumers."

Mukasey called the total dollar amount of the alleged theft "impossible to quantify at this point." U.S. Attorney Michael J. Sullivan said that while most of the victims were in the United States, officials still haven't identified all the