

161932054.54  
136058002.52  
28.09 / 1 US\$  
32.46 / 1 US\$  
Applicants  
Applicants  
7.63

ITES

Range  
9.5500%  
0 0 0 0  
0 0 0 0  
0 0 0 0  
0 0 0 0  
0 0 0 0  
0 0 0 0  
0 0 0 0

tion

IES

CHANGE

6.70  
1.36  
12.86  
-1.45  
0.100  
0.035  
0.015  
0.50  
0.000  
-0.300  
-0.250  
-0.250  
-0.350



Lagos State Commissioner for Finance, Mr. Akin Doherty (left) and Managing Director, Equitorial Trust Bank Plc, Mr. Ike Oraekwuotu at the commissioning of the bank's Okota branch...on Tuesday.  
Photo: Felix Elijah

oil export contributing at least 40 percent growth to the economy in the short term.  
"We will continually seek and create new partnerships and alliances to diversify non-oil exports, promote national development and create wealth to improve the quality of life of Nigerians."  
According to JWT-LTC/CMC Connect (Perception Managers), Branding and Media Relations Consultants to NEPC, the unveiling of the new logo will present the opportunity to formally introduce the new NEPC to the external relevant stakeholders. The new logo will be unveiled by the President of Federal Republic of Nigeria to be represented by Chief Ufot Ekaette, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation.

# Nigeria, Others Fail In MDGs, Says Report

By Michael Simire,  
REAL ESTATE EDITOR

Reports by both the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have confirmed that Nigeria and some sub-Saharan countries are off-track in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target on water and sanitation target.

According to the UNICEF report, drinking water coverage in Nigeria fell from 49 per cent in 1990 to 48 per cent in 2004, whereas coverage of 65 per cent by 2004 is required to achieve the MDG.

In the same vein, the report emphasized that sanitation coverage, though rising from 39 per cent in 1990 to 44 per cent in 2004; a coverage of 58 per cent required in 2004 would have put

Nigeria on track. The UNDP report states: "On current levels, sub-Saharan Africa will reach the water target in 2040 and the sanitation target in 2076."

These observations were made at a daylong forum that held in Lagos, recently. It was the Second Water and Sanitation Roundtable, organised by two non-governmental organisations - the Bread of Life Development Foundation (BLF) and the Development Information Network (DEVNET).

The event sought to review the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme report 2006 titled: "Meeting the MDG drinking water and sanitation target: The Urban and rural challenge of the decade, as well as the UNDP Human Development Index report 2006 titled: "Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis."

In a communiqué released at the end of the talks, delegates stressed that the scenario indicates that the Nigeria state and its institutions have failed in their responsibility of delivering this essential service (water and sanitation) to the people.

"We therefore urge President Olusegun Obasanjo to declare a state of emergency in the water and sanitation sector and also convene a National Dialogue on deplorable state of the water and sanitation sector in Nigeria as a step towards coming up with policies and programmes to redress this backward trend," stated the communiqué, which was endorsed by Babatope Babalobi of BLF, Bankole Olubamise of DEVNET and Anthony Akpan of the Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE).

Participants endorsed the

UNDP recommendations that though "public financing holds the key to overcoming deficits in water and sanitation, and that in countries with high levels of poverty among unserved populations, public finance is a requirement for extended access." They then called on the government to reconsider its privatisation agenda in the water and sanitation sector.

While noting that bodies such as the UNDP and the UNICEF seem quite informed on the state of water resources in Nigeria, the forum charged government at all levels to undertake local situation assessment studies and come up with reports that indicate the state of access to water and sanitation by citizens in all parts of the country, the state of water resources infrastructure (both in terms of quality and quantity),

and programmes/policies to be implemented at all levels in coming years.

They lamented that, as a result of lack of data on water resources in Nigeria, development efforts in the water and sanitation sector in Nigeria are haphazard and unplanned. Participants therefore urged all stakeholders in the water and sanitation sector to focus more on the majority population of citizens in rural areas who are unserved, and unheard.

Participants observed the absence of a water policy in almost all the 36 states in the country and urged all affected governments to initiate an inclusive and participatory process of developing a water policy (as a step down of the National Policy on water and sanitation); which should be further stepped down to local government levels.

FOR HOME/OFFICE DELIVERY OF DAILY INDEPENDENT CALL TODAY!: 08053424484