

PRESS RELEASE

GOV. SOLUDO REPOSITIONS THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

The Management of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) today announced some changes in the structure of the operations of the Bank. The restructuring and repositioning of the CBN is to enable it efficiently, effectively, professionally and accountably perform its core functions. It is also to place the CBN ahead of other financial institutions which it supervises.

In the structural alignment, the number of departments has been reduced from the erstwhile unwieldy and functional duplications of 23 to a more manageable and focused 17.

The new 17 departmental structure of the Bank which takes effect from November 1, 2004 shall concentrate mainly on the four core mandates of the Bank which include issuance and management of legal tender currency; management of the nation's external reserves; promotion of monetary stability and sound financial system as well as banker and financial adviser to the Federal Government.

Before now, about 60% of the departments were geared to non-core functions.

To get the right structure to deliver the key pillars of the financial sector reforms, the CBN is also becoming leaner and limb. It is therefore rightsizing its workforce of over 6,000 staff by offering a good package for voluntary and early retirement.

It is expected that those that will be attracted to take advantage of the voluntary and early retirement scheme would include those who have one year and less to retirement; staff with duties which are no longer required or sourced out; staff with disciplinary problems and staff without the requisite qualifications.

Interested staff in the voluntary and early retirement scheme are expected to indicate their intentions by applying to management on or before November 30, 2004.

The new CBN organizational structure is the handiwork of staff themselves and part implementation of Project EAGLES restructuring plan which had been on the drawing board for four years. The process for staff voluntary and early retirement was to be implemented in May, 2004 but was delayed for the incoming

Governor to carry out. It was suspended for more consultation and understanding. The full implementation of the new structure and processes is expected to last between six and nine months.

Already, two Deputy Governors, with effect from October 28, 2004 have swapped portfolios. Mr. Ernest Ebi, former Deputy Governor (Policy) has moved to Corporate Services Directorate, while Deputy Governor, Mrs. Wahir Mshelia moved to Policy from Corporate Services beat.

*Management
Central Bank of Nigeria
Abuja
1st November, 2004*