

09-61636011

PRESS RELEASE

GOVERNOR SARAHI CONDOLES CBN GOVERNOR

The Executive Governor of Kwara State, Dr. Bukola Saraki today visited the headquarters of the Central Bank of Nigeria to condole the Governor of the C.B.N., Professor Charles Soludo on behalf of his people and government, on the death of two officers of the Bank who were on an official assignment in the state.

The two CBN staff, Messrs Soladoye Obisesan, a manager and Christopher Agwu, an Assistant Manager, along with two officers of First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Mr. Emma Ehajaiye and Alhaji Abdul Ahmed as well as two officials of Kwara State Government, Messrs Ganiyu Bakare and John Oyedun died in a ghastly motor accident on Thursday, February 24, 2005 while on an inspection visit to Aukulade – a state owned farm project in Patigi Local Government Area of the state.

Dr. Saraki prayed for the souls of the six officers who died on the spot and the driver of the vehicle who lost his life later. The Kwara State Governor also prayed for God to strengthen and give the families they left behind the fortitude to bear the loss.

He pleaded with the C.B.N. Governor not to allow the death of the officers to discontinue the assistance the Bank is rendering to Kwara State. Dr. Saraki claimed the deceased were on a mission to explore how additional credit support could be given to rice farmers in order to improve their output.

The Kwara State Governor took time to brief Professor Soludo on how his state is planting and producing rice in two seasons including the dry season. He said as a result of the double cropping, the state has increased the production of rice from one to two hectares to two to five hectares a year.

The CBN Governor, Professor Soludo on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the Bank welcomed Governor Saraki to the Bank and thanked him for personally finding the time to come and express his condolences.

Professor Soludo reminded him that the death of the officers is a clear indication that each day we live is a miracle of life. He stated that, their death is a call for us to rededicate our lives to God.

He assured the Kwara State Governor that the commitment of the Bank to the state is unwavering and it is the only way to mourn and immortalize their service.

The CBN Governor congratulated him for his various achievements particularly in agriculture and the production of rice. Professor Soludo went further to point out that the Kwara State rice production method is an unfolding major revolution.

The CBN Governor affirmed that the Bank will review the Micro-Finance policy to give agriculture a big boost in order to reverse the trend that makes food importation to consume 40 per cent of the nation's foreign exchange.

Governor Soludo and three Deputy Governors, Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman, Messrs Ernest Ebi and Tunde Lemo as well as some Departmental Directors were on hand to receive the Kwara State delegation.

Tony Ede
Deputy Director
Corporate Affairs
Central Bank of Nigeria
Abuja
8th March, 2005