

On The Response of the Government of Canada / the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) to our Water for Life Project.

(I want to emphasize our Branch's appreciation for the effort and commitment that your organization and its Nigerian partners have demonstrated. Again, I regret that we are unable to encourage you further with your submission and I hope that you will be able to secure funding from alternative sources. Signed, Mr. Manuel Le Bris, Senior Development Officer, Nigeria Program, Africa and Middle East, CIDA.)

The Project

The Water for Life Project first aims at the provision of the basic human necessity: clean and safe drinking water.

At the present time, the only sources of water supply for the two communities are very unreliable. These are streams and brooks which are mostly dried up especially in the dry season. These streams and brooks are fertile breeding grounds for mosquitoes which cause malaria. These streams and brooks are the major sources of water-borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, guinea worm, tape worm, and night blindness.

The Project will spin out a small business venture that will utilize Canadian technology to process, bottle, and market and sell bottled-water there by creating a productive and gainful economic activity for the communities.

The Project propounded by AIFWAN, an organization dominated by Nigerian women, and aimed at the empowerment of women. It augurs well for as a project that engenders Women in Development.

Since an aspect of the project will deal with the sinking of wells or boreholes, submersible pumps, and solar panels, an element of Human Infrastructure Development is provided to the Project. In the near future, this project will enable AIFAWN to develop the necessary infrastructure for sustainable agricultural operation (irrigation scheme system), micro-business schemes, and small scale storage / preservation projects.

Project Objectives:

- To provide clean, safe, and reliable source of water supply for the communities of Umundugba and Amandugba to eradicate diseases, and improve health.

- To create productive economic activities in the communities.

- To provide skills training and gainful employment for women, especially.
- To provide water for irrigation to resuscitate agricultural activities and enhance production.

Planned Project Activities:

1. The Project will first establish a clean safe and reliable source of water supply by sinking wells. By means of submersible pumps powered by solar panels the water will be brought to the surface and made available free of charge to the communities for their domestic consumption.
2. A Water Bottling Plant will be erected to process and bottle water from the well for sell to the surrounding cities. The initial plant set up will produce about 500 x 20litre bottles of water a day. This strictly commercial aspect of the operation will make the Project self-sustaining. The Water Bottling Plant will be expandable to allow for increased water bottling capacity in response to the anticipated increase in market demand for bottled water.
3. One of the important aspects of the Project will be Technological Transfer. Local manpower will be working with technical experts in the drilling of wells, and the installation of equipment thereby acquiring valuable technological know-how. Mostly women will be trained in all aspects of the plant operation and maintenance after the commissioning of the Project.
4. Gainful employment will be created in the marketing, sales and distribution of bottled water. A support staff will be developed and ongoing technical and skills training will be provided to ensure for the smooth operation of the project; a seamless diversification into the secondary phase of the project – irrigation.

The Number of People The Project will benefit:

The Project will directly benefit about 300,000 people; and indirectly 6,000,000 people. Umundugba and Amandugba are two kindred communities co-habiting side by side in the same locality. They have a population of about 150,000 people each. The combined population of 300,000 people will directly benefit from the provision of reliable, safe and clean water free for life.

Safe, clean and reliable source of water supply will enhance the health and wellbeing of these communities of 300,000 people.

Safe, clean and reliable source of water supply will mean the eradication of water-borne diseases like cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, guinea worm, tape worm, and night blindness.

Safe, clean and reliable source of water supply will put out of business the fertile breeding grounds for mosquitoes which cause the dreaded and deadly malaria.

Safe, clean and reliable source of water supply will raise the life expectancy of the two communities. (The average life expectancy for Africans is between 35 and 40 years. In Canada we have achieved an average life expectancy of about 78 years.)

Safe, clean and reliable source of water supply will reduce the infant mortality rate for the two communities. (In Africa, one in six babies dies before their first birthday. One in sixteen women dies during child birth.)

The bottled-water business that is a spin-off from the water project will be marketed and sold to the surrounding cities. There are about 12 cities with a combined population of approximately 6 million.

Because Canadian technology is being utilized, the quality of the bottled-water will be guaranteed.

Business will be good. Revenues will be realized. People will be employed. Useful knowledge and technical know-how shall have been gained. The project will be self-sustaining.

But Alas!

You would think that the Canadian Government which boasts of its aid programs to the poor countries of Africa would be interested in a community-based grass-roots project like this.

No. I have been told that the Government of Canada works with the African Governments on the projects they device and deem fit.

The Canadian Government works with the African Governments on "Good Governance Projects".

I have been told that our Water for Life Project is too small to warrant any financial assistance from the Government of Canada.

I have been told that our Water for Life Project does not fit into the guidelines of the Canada International Development Agency (CIDA) as mandated by the Government of Canada. As it were, the Government of Canada, not the African people themselves, decides how it wants to help the people of Africa.

In fact, I have a letter from one of those officials, Mr. Manuel Le Bris, Senior Development Officer, Nigeria Program, Africa and Middle East.

In response to my plea for financial assistance for our Water for Life Project, he writes, and I quote:

Thank you for your letters addressed to our vice-president and I, dated respectively October 26 and November 3, 2004, requesting financial assistance from the Africa and Middle East Branch of CIDA for the Water for Life Project.

The Nigeria Program Team, including representatives based in Abuja (capital of Nigeria), and from our staff in the field, has carefully assessed your proposal. Unfortunately, and as alluded to in our phone conversation in October, the Nigeria Bilateral Program is unable to support financially this initiative in light of the following concerns:

- *While it has merit, we have currently no mechanism in place to support a project of this nature; and*
- *Our support to Nigeria in the environment and health sectors is focused on Borno, Bauchi, and Cross River States.*

I want to emphasize our Branch's appreciation for the effort and commitment that your organization and its Nigerian partners have demonstrated. Again, I regret that we are unable to encourage you further with your submission and I hope that you will be able to secure funding from alternative sources. Signed.

The Vampire Africa State:

Dr. George B.N. Ayittey, a Distinguished Professor of Economics at the American University, Washington, D.C., a Pre-Eminent Authority on Africa, wrote in his book, Africa in Chaos, and I quote:

“Government” as it is known in the West does not exist in much of Africa. Leaving aside the democratic requirement that a “government” must be by the people and for the people, one expects at a minimum a “government” to be responsive to the needs of the people; or at (the very) least, to perform some services for its people. But even this most basic requirement for “government” is lacking in Africa. “Government” as an entity is totally divorced from the people, perceived by those running it as a vehicle not to serve but to fleece the people.

Dishonesty, thievery, and peculation pervade the public sector. Public servants embezzle state funds; high-ranking ministers are on the take. The chief bandit is the head-of-state himself. For example, President Mobutu Sese Seko of Congo was not satisfied with his personal fortune of US\$10 billion; he stole an entire gold-mining region, Kilo-moto, which covers 32,000square miles, and reportedly has reserves of 100 tons of gold.

Even diplomats cannot resist the routine plunge into frenzied banditry. In 1993 a Nigerian envoy to the United Nations was involved in the unbridled embezzlement of large sums of money at the diplomatic mission. In 1994 the Ugandan Ambassador to Nigeria vanished with US\$3.5 million intended for the renovation of his embassy premises. Then on October 1994, the Rwandan foreign minister disappeared with about US\$187,000 he was carrying in a suitcase to fund his country’s United Nations mission in New York. Earlier in July 1994, Rwanda’s Ambassador to the United Nations absconded with about US\$2 million.

It is disheartening and shameful when Africa’s own ambassadors, who incessantly appeal to the international community for humanitarian aid, themselves exercise no scruples whatsoever in grabbing what they can from the little aid meant for the poor, starving peasants. One would have thought that of all people, Rwanda’s Ambassadors – the very people who appealed for humanitarian aid – would comport themselves in a way that would encourage others to help their country.

But in Africa, government officials do not serve the people. The African state has been reduced to a mafia-like bazaar, where anyone with an official designation can pillage at will. In affect, it is a “state” that has been hijacked by gangsters, crooks, and scoundrels. They have seized and monopolized both political and economic power to advance their own selfish and criminal interests, not to develop their economies. Their overarching obsession is to amass personal wealth, gaudily displayed in flashy

automobiles, fabulous mansions and a bevy of fawning women. Helping the poor, promoting economic growth, or improving the standard of living of their people is anathema to the ruling elites. “Food for the people!” “People’s Power!” “Houses for the masses!” are simply empty slogans that are designed to fool the people and the international community.

In case after case, African government officials get rich by misusing their positions. Faithful only to their foreign bank accounts, these official buccaneers have no sense of morality, justice, or even patriotism. They would kill, main, and even destroy their own countries to acquire and protect their ill-gotten booty because, as functional illiterates, they are incapable of using the skills and knowledge they acquired from education to get rich on their own by creating wealth.

The inviolate ethic of the vampire elites is self-aggrandizement and self perpetuation in power. To achieve those objectives, they subvert every key institution of government: the civil service, judiciary, military, media, and banking. As a result, these institutions become paralyzed. Laxity, ineptitude, indiscipline, and lack of professionalism thus flourish in the public sector. Of course, Africa has a police force, and judiciary system to catch and prosecute the thieves and criminals. But the police are themselves highway robbers, under orders to protect the looters, and many of the judges are themselves crooks. As a result, there are no checks against brigandage.

The worst is the military – the most trenchantly perverted institution in Africa. In any normal, civilized society, the function of the military is to defend the territorial integrity of the nation, and the people, against aggression. In Africa, the military is instead locked in combat with the very people it is supposed to defend. –En quote-

For most of its 45 years of independence from Britain, Nigeria had been ruled and misgoverned by the military. Here is a litany of the billions stolen by the Generals, their cronies and henchmen:

Name	United Kingdom £	Switzerland US\$	United States \$	Germany D
Gen. Ibrahim Babangida	6.20 billion	7.41 billion	2.00 billion	9.00 billion
Gen. Abubakar	1.31 billion	2.33 billion	800 million	
Rear Admiral Mike Akhigbe	1.24 billion	2.42 billion	671 million	1.00 billion
Gen. Jerry Useni	3.04 billion	2.01 billion	1.01 billion	900 million
Alhaji Ismail A Gwarzo	1.03 billion	2.00 billion	1.30 billion	700 million
Alhaji Umaru Dikko	4.50 billion	1.40 billion	700 million	345 million
Paul Ogwuma	300 million	1.42 billion	200 million	500 million
Gen. Sani Abacha	9.01 billion	4.09 billion	800 million	3.01 billion
Mohammed Abacha	300 million	1.20 billion	150 million	535 million
Abdulkadir Abacha	700 million	1.21 billion	900 million	471 million
Alhaji Wadanas	600 million	1.32 billion		300 million
Tom Kimi	400 million	1.39 billion	152 million	371 million
Dan Etete	1.12 billion	1.03 billion	400 million	1.72 billion
Don Etiebet	2.50 billion	1.06 billion	700 million	361 million
Major Ali Mustapha	600 million	1.01 billion		210 million
Anthony Ani	2.80 billion	1.09 billion	360 million	1.66 billion
Bashir Dalhatu	2.30 billion	1.01 billion	161 million	1.43 billion
Gen. Wubhishi	700 million	1.31 billion		

This is the African Governments our Canadian Government prefers to do business with to the exclusion of the real people in need.

This is what the Canadian Government has done and keeps doing for the past 50 years.

That's one of the many reasons why nothing changes in Africa. And the vicious cycle continues in perpetuity.

That's why President Bill Clinton in quoting Einstein said that it is madness to be doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.

And that's why Senator Jesse Helms of South Carolina said that Government aid to Africa is like pouring money down a rat hole.

The Government of Canada and the rest of the rich industrialized countries are content with pouring money down the rat hole in the name of misguided aid to the poor countries – aid money that does not reach down to the poor that need it the most, but is grabbed by the vampire elites who salt it away in their Swiss bank accounts.

The Government of Canada and the rest of the rich industrialized countries are satisfied with “white elephant projects” for the poor countries that are conceived bearing maximum benefit for only the donor countries, and their vampire elite collaborators in Africa; and do nothing for the ordinary Africans.

Help Us Help Africa

That's why I am appealing to you for help. Please Help Us Help Africa. What Africa needs is a hands up not a hands down. Africans need opportunity earn their dollar and not have it given to them. African parents are the best placed to feed, clothe, and educate their own children. They need to be empowered.

Whatever happened to age old adage: give a beggar a fish you feed him for a day; but teach him how to fish, and you have fed him forever?