

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BAUCHI STATE GOVERNOR AND SITE HANDING OVER FOR THE CONDUCT OF PREFEASIBILITY STUDIES OF WARJI SUGARCANE GROWING AREA TO CONSULTANT

The Executive Secretary, National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), Dr. Latif D. Busari visited the Executive Governor, Barrister Mohammed A. Abubakar and proceeded to hand over the site for the conduct of pre-feasibility studies of 11,150 hectares of land at Warji, Bauchi State on 21st January, 2019 at the Bauchi State Government House. Present at the event were the Executive Governor, Bauchi State, Barr. Mohammed Abdullahi Abubakar, Commissioner for Agriculture, Yakubu Kirfi, Commissioner for Industry, Umar Abubakar Gazale, Director General, Bauchi State Investment Corporation and the Consultant. The Council team included the Executive Secretary, Director Finance and Accounts, Alhaji Auwalu Abubakar, Deputy Director Technical Services, Alhaji Salihu Bkeke, Zonal Coordinator North-East, Isa C. Isaac, Project Officer II, Habib Abdullahi and Senior Public Affairs Officer, Yunusa Abdullahi.

The meeting was held with the Consultant, ENPLAN Group and the State Governor at the State House. In his brief remarks, the Executive Secretary said that the purpose of the visit was to flag-off the conduct of pre-feasibility studies of 11,150 hectares of Land at Warji identified by the Council as suitable for commercial sugarcane production. He then formally introduced the Consultants, ENPLAN Group who are to carry out the studies to the State Governor. He stressed that some portion of the land will be set aside for the factory and other infrastructures. He said when the project comes into operation, it is expected to directly generate 5,000-6,000 of skilled and unskilled jobs along with other indirect jobs. He said it will also attract provision of schools, hospitals and the like through corporate social responsibility from the investor. However, he said there are two main concerns which he would want His Excellency, the Executive Governor to address.

- i. Availability of irrigation water capable of sustaining sugarcane production in the area. The pre-feasibility studies will identify how best to handle this.
- ii. Provision of access road to the area is very essential for ease of mobility. He urged state government to assist in construction of access road to the area.

He also said that if the result show that the land is suitable for commercial sugarcane production, the Council would assist in sourcing for a serious investor

and encouraged the State Government to also help seek for investors that will invest into the project too.

The State Governor responded by welcoming the Council team to Bauchi state. He commended the efforts of the Council towards establishing industrial sugarcane production and he was optimistic that the team visits will bring good tidings to the youths through empowerment and development of Agriculture in the State. He advised the Council to also visit Duguri valley for its comparative potentials in Agriculture and for possibilities of exploiting it for sugarcane production. He believes Agriculture can empower the youths through modernization by using modern equipment.



L-R: Consultant, Engr. Waheed Onibanjo, Director Finance and Accounts, Auwalu Abubakar, Executive Secretary, Dr. Latif D. Busari, Executive Governor, Bauchi State, Barr. M.A. Abubakar, Commissioner of Agriculture, Yakubu Kirfi, Director General Investment Cooperation and Deputy Director Technical Services, Salihu Bkeke during the visit to Bauchi State Governor and Warji site

The Governor responding to the Executive Secretary's request said a major road project is ongoing close to the site of the Warji prefeasibility studies site and that the contractor would be contacted to open up access roads in the area. He

promised the State Government maximum support to ensure the successful completion of the project.

The event was concluded with a visit to the Chairman, Warji Local Government, Abdulkadir Aliyu. In his welcome address, he expressed satisfaction with the initiative of introducing industrial sugarcane production in the area by the Council as this will go a long way in empowering the youths.

The Executive Secretary in his remarks said he was delighted to be at Warji for the flag off of the conduct of prefeasibility studies. He explained that the studies will show if the land could support commercial growing of sugarcane. He said; if the result is positive and an investor takes up the project, provision of social amenities, its deliverables includes ethanol production, generation of electricity and creation of direct and indirect jobs for the people of Warji. He advised the communities to support the effort to ensure that the project is a success so that these benefits are achieved. He then formally introduced the Consultant, EN PLAN Group to the Local Government Chairman.