



**CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA**

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**REPORT OF VISIT OF ICA AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR**  
**26TH - 31ST MAY, 2013**  
**ICA AFRICA CHALLENGES CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENTS ON AFRICA**  
**CO-OPERATIVE BANK.**

The Regional Director of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Africa, Dr. Chiyoge B. Sifa, has challenged African Co-operative Movements to establish an African Co-operative Bank to promote and strengthen autonomous and viable co-operatives in the continent. She said, "establishing the bank will help create an enabling financial base for member countries across Africa."

Sifa made the above statement in Abuja, during a courtesy visit to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, during her one week visit to Nigeria from 27<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May, 2013. She briefed her host on the Africa Co-operative Development Strategy, adopted by the ICA Africa Regional Board for the development of the movement in Africa; and pointed out the place for African governments in developing the movements in the continent.

She stated that to enable ICA Africa implement the Africa Co-operative Strategy( 2013-2016), about US \$44million will be required, and solicited for members to contribute One US Dollar each, towards raising the amount, while appealing for Nigerian government's support to the ICA Africa Endowment Trust Fund, as decided by ICA Africa Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2009.

The Hon Minister, FMARD, Dr. Adesina, expressed appreciation that the ICA has formally accepted that government agencies may become Associate Members of ICA. He welcomed Dr. Sifa and her colleague, Mr. Francis Munyao, Strategy Manager, to Nigeria. With regards to the need to capacitate ICA Africa Regional office in Nairobi, Adesina committed to Nigerian government's contribution of US \$100,000 to the fund with immediate effect. He also assured his guest that his Ministry will take up membership in the ICA as soon as details were made available; and requested the Co-operative Federation of Nigeria (CFN) to intimate him of the challenges they are facing, adding, "I can't think of a better way of how nations could develop, besides co-operatives."

*Quality life through co-operative*

**Executive Committee**

**President: Engr. Jibrin Bala Abuja, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Rev. (Dr). Geoffrey Madu Samuel,**

*Treasurer* **Mr. Victor Alasia, Executive Secretary: Mr. Tom Tar.**

At a Co-operative leaders meeting and ICA members in Nigeria- the CFN, Odu'a Co-operative Alliance (OCA), and the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Staff Co-operative Society, in Abuja, Sifa made a presentation on the Blueprint for Co-operative Development Decade, and the Africa Co-operative Development Strategy, at the end of which an election was conducted, with Engineer Jibrin Bala, President of CFN elected to represent the West African sub-region in the ICA Africa Regional Board.

Dr Sifa visited the site of the Unity village estate, Km26, Abuja-Keffi Road, being constructed by CYRUS Projects and Development Company Limited, in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (FMLH&UD). She was received by the Project Architect/MD of CYRUS Ltd, Arc Peter Agada. He explained that out of 10,000 housing units under government's social housing policy targeting low-income earners, co-operative members will be allocated 2,500 house units, made up of self-contained, one-bedroom, and two-bedrooms. Arc. Agada informed Sifa that the FMLHUD has provided access roads, electricity, and water for the estate, adding that 500 house units will be developed in the on-going pilot phase. Responding Sifa said she was very impressed with the initiative of the Nigerian government and charged Arch Agada to do a good job, adding that her index for the measurement of poverty in Africa was the number of African population still living in mud huts.

In Niger State, Dr. Sifa and Mr Munyao were received by Niger State Commissioner for Investment, Commerce, and Co-operatives, in Minna, the State capital. The Commissioner, Barr Abdullahi briefed his guest that his Ministry had conducted a re-certification exercise for co-operatives in the state, the result which showed 5,000 active co-operatives out of the over 17,000 on the register. This was done under the Co-operative Data Analysis System (CODAS). Dr Sifa expressed delight that CODAS, a monitoring system developed by ICA Africa, was being used in Niger State. The last leg of the visit at Endwell Social Scheme of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), Co-operative Union, Niger State, Dr Sifa was briefed on the projects of the union which include establishment of a Micro-Finance Bank, and distribution of the AG-Zymes organic fertilizer being marketed in the state by over 600 sales agents.

The first visit was made by Dr Sifa to NNPC Staff Co-operative in Ikoyi, Lagos. Sifa was led on the visit by her host, Engr Bala, CFN President. Mr.J.A.Ojeyemi President of the co-operative with his executive members and staff received his guests very warmly. He informed his guests that the co-operative had about 6,000 members out of about 10,000 employees of the NNPC. He added that the NNPC Staff Co-operative was diversifying investment into agriculture under the River Basin Development Authorities in two states of the Federation, and plans were on being made to invest in the production of shrimps. Mr. Ojeyemi also conducted the guests round the offices of the Micro-Finance Bank due to start operations

soon. Dr Sifa expressed pleasant surprise that a primary co-operative on the African soil could engage in such huge business operations. She however challenged the leadership of the co-operative to continue to grow the co-operative, saying, “there’s always room up there.”

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Tar'.

**Tom Tar.**  
***Executive Secretary***