

PRISONERS' RIGHT TO WATER PROJECT Pilot Project at Oji-River Prison



**Commissioning of Oji River Water Project led by
His Excellency Deputy Senate President Sen. Ike Ekweremadu**

CAPIO has initiated the Prisoners' Right to Water Project (PRIWAP). This project was born out of CAPIO's recognition that all prisoners retain the right to adequate potable water supply.

Prisoners' Right to Water is an initiative, in line with CAPIO's strategic objective to provide basic needs of prison inmates as part of CAPIO's Social Welfare Programmes in Nigerian Prisons.

The project embarked on the provision of safe water to the inmates at the Prison in Oji-River, Enugu State.

Oji-River is home to a prison facility, originally designed for 80 inmates but is currently housing about 123 inmates. This relatively modern facility has three bore-holes, a standby power generating set and a network of water distributing pipes which had gone into disrepair.

The Prisoners' Right to Water Project, Phase I at Oji-River Prison commenced in response to an application written to CAPIO asking for help in restoring water supply to the prison community. A CAPIO delegation including a hydrological engineer visited the prison for need assessment.



Site inspection by CAPIO team and prison staff

Subject to the findings of the hydro-physical investigation of the three (3) boreholes which have gone into disrepair, targets for the project were formulated. These include redevelopment of one bore hole, re-wiring of the underground water reticulation

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CAPIO at a glance

Founder: Order of Discalced Carmelites, Nigeria.

Established: 1992

Incorporated: 2003

RC No: 15750

Interests: protection of human rights of prisoners

Local Partners: NPS, ESJRT, CIDJAP, PRAWA, HRAN. Pax Christi Trust

Foreign Partners: Irish Aid/ Misan Cara

Head Office: 2 Bent Lane, GRA, Enugu

network and provision of additional water storage tanks at strategic locations. These extra storage tanks would make water easily accessible to the inmates.



Work materials on site

Work started with the full cooperation of the Prisons Authorities in the state, leading to a record time project completion. An upgrade of the Power Transformer at the prison became necessary as a condition to ensure sustainability of the project. This mini-challenge was tackled to ensure that desirable results were produced. All the targets were met, resulting in a daily supply of approximately 500 gallons of water to the prison community.



Water flows at last

The Prisoners' Right to Water Project was commissioned on 18th July, 2014 by his Excellency, the Deputy Senate President of the Federation; Senator Ike Ekweremadu, CFR. In his speech he assured CAPIO and the prison community that the senate would help quicken the passage of the Prison Reform Bill.



The CAPIO Executive Director, Fr. Ambrose Ekeroku, OCD. has said that although the project has kicked off at Oji-River Medium Security Prison, the Prisoners' Right to Water Project will be extended to other prison facilities where there is need.

CAPIO Executive Director receives award for service to humanity



Fr. Ambrose Ekeroku OCD with other award recipients at the event.

CAPIO Executive Director, Rev. Fr. Ambrose Ekeroku, OCD was honoured alongside the Attorney-General of Enugu State and other dignitaries at the 20th Anniversary of PRAWA in Enugu. The award which was presented in appreciation of 'distinguished service to humanity' was in recognition of his efforts in discharging his duties in the prisons both as chaplain and Director of CAPIO. CAPIO's most recent effort shown in the implementation of the Prisoners' Right to Water Project was acknowledged.

CAPIO, others represent ESJRT at Federal Justice Reform Team's (FJRT) Conference



CAPIO Executive Director, Rev. Fr. Ambrose Ekeroku OCD was part of the delegation representing Enugu State Justice Reform Team

(ESJRT) at the Federal Justice Reform Team's (FJRT) Conference in Hotel Bellissimo, Lekki, Lagos State.

During the Conference, Fr. Ambrose made a strong case for the need of rehabilitation of prisoners so as to break cycles of recidivism.

Court orders bag of stock fish to CAPIO

A Magistrate court sitting in Enugu ordered the Ogui Police station of the Enugu Police Command to release a certain bag of stock fish to CAPIO. The bag of stock fish was instantly delivered to the prison community in Enugu.

The prison inmates and staff were delighted on receiving the stock fish and expressed their joy and appreciation to CAPIO, the Police and the Court.



REHABILITATION

CAPIO Sponsors Education Of 11 Inmates at National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) Enugu Study Centre



A set of NOUN matriculation candidates at the Enugu Maximum security prison

As part of CAPIO's rehabilitation efforts, eleven of fourteen inmates at the Enugu Maximum Security Prison were enrolled into various programmes offered by National Open University of Nigeria. The inmates were successful in West Africa Examination Council (WAEC) examination and thereby qualified for admission into relevant courses in the higher institution.

The inmates who are receiving CAPIO's sponsorship are from indigent backgrounds and were at risk of not furthering their education although they had met admission requirements and have demonstrated the will to continue their education.

This is part of CAPIO's efforts at rehabilitating inmates. Thus, ensuring that once released, they can move on to live more economically productive lives and escape recidivism.

In the past, CAPIO had donated sets of computer and internet facilities to enable inmates at the Enugu Maximum Security Prison write their examinations.

MEDICAL

CHILD GETS FREE HERNIA SURGERY

CAPIO sponsored hernia surgery for a child born in Enugu Maximum Security prison.

The said child was born to an inmate who was incarcerated while pregnant and has remained with his mother in her cell. According to an appeal made to CAPIO on the boy's behalf, he was in need of surgery that would relieve him of discomfort and potential health risks.

The hernia was successfully corrected by Specialists at the Mother of Christ Specialist Hospital, Enugu. The child has recovered and returned to his mother in the prison cell.

Four inmates receive medicated eye glasses

In the recognition that low vision and blindness have dire effects on individuals, families, and communities, which range from a decrease in quality of life and increased mortality to large-scale economic consequences, CAPIO responded to a plea by 4 inmates at Enugu Maximum Security Prison who were battling with severe eye conditions.

In line with CAPIO's strategic objective to conduct medical outreaches to prisons and provide supplementary drugs, commodities and equipment to prison health facilities, members of the medical team paid a visit to the ailing inmates and provided free consultations, drugs and medical eye glasses.



WHO ARE CAPIO VOLUNTEERS?

CAPIO Volunteers are unpaid workforce available to further CAPIO goals and to help meet an array of needs. Volunteers could exercise their resources, talents and skills in any of our 5 units;

Medical: Doctors, Nurses and other health professionals

Legal: Legal practitioners

Rehabilitation: Teachers, Tradesmen, Social workers, religious men and women

Social Welfare: youths/students, unskilled persons.

Advocacy: Lawyers, Politicians and others

To become a CAPIO volunteer or to donate towards CAPIO Works in prisons, please fill out the form to the left of the page. Thanks

Would you like to ☐ Join ☐ Donate

First Name Last Name

Address

Phone No

Email address

May we publish your name as a Donor/Sponsor? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you volunteering or Donating to which unit? ☐ Medical ☐ Legal

☐ Social Welfare ☐ Rehabilitation

How often do you want to donate? ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Annually

Method of payment ☐ Cash ☐ Cheque Amount

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Account details, please turn overleaf

UPDATE ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF 769 INMATES AWAITING TRIAL

The Human Rights application filed by CAPIO on behalf of some 769 inmates awaiting trial in Enugu state has been on since January of 2014. The matter is still pending before the Federal High Court, Enugu Division, where it is hoped that the court will grant unconditional release to 769 inmates.

The Ministry of Justice, which constitutes the first and second respondents and the Comptroller of prisons (third respondent) are ably represented by their counsels who have filed counter-affidavits to CAPIO's application.



Fr. Ambrose Ekeroku with some members of the Legal Team at the FHC, Enugu

In their counter-affidavits, the 1st and 2nd respondents argued that the Federal High Court lacks jurisdiction to entertain the suit. They also argue that the Ministry of Justice does not possess powers to release the inmates unconditionally without the pronouncement of the court. Other issues raised include claims that the detention of the inmates were lawful and that the matter was not commenced by due process.

On the other hand, the 3rd respondent in their counter-affidavit contended that they were not involved in the arrest, prosecution and/or trial of the applicants but merely ensured proper custody

of all persons brought with valid warrants from the appropriate detaining authority.

Meanwhile, CAPIO in an attempt to debunk the above assertions made by the respondents has filed a further affidavit and reply on points of law where it canvassed vehemently that the Federal High Court has jurisdiction to entertain any matter(s) pertaining to Fundamental Rights Enforcement as en-capsulated in the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as Amended).

The matter was adjourned to the 30th of October 2014 for adoption.

CAPIO gets a New Vehicle



CAPIO'S NEW TOYOTA HILUX TRUCK DONATED BY SEN. EKWEREMADU

CAPIO'S work in the prison received a boost with the receipt of a brand new Toyota Hilux Truck. The truck was donated to CAPIO by the Deputy Senate President; Senator Ike Ekweremadu CFR at the Commissioning Ceremony of the Prisoners' Right to Water Project, Phase I at Oji-River Medium Security Prison.

The donation by the Deputy Senate President came in recognition of the logistical limitations encountered by CAPIO in visiting and conveying items to prisons. This gesture by Sen. Ike Ekweremadu CFR has been applauded by CAPIO Management and staff who have pledged to increase efforts at improving the prison system in Nigeria. The CAPIO Executive Director has voiced appreciation to the deputy Senate President while calling on others well-meaning politicians and Nigerians to tow the same line and show support for CAPIO's works.

APPRECIATION

The Board, Management and Staff of CAPIO wish to express our profound gratitude to members of the worshipping community at Mt. Carmel Prayer Centre, St. Theresa's Church Clarendon Street Dublin 2, Ireland And Misesan Cara for their continual support and encouragement.

Special Thanks to the Deputy Senate President, Sen. Ike Ikweremadu (CFR), The Knights of the Order Of St. Mulumba, Trans-Ekulu Zone, Enugu sub-council, The Knights of the Order of St. Mulumba, Holy Ghost Zone, Enugu sub-council and Pax Christi Trust for your continual support.

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PLEASE SUPPORT CAPIO PROJECTS IN PRISONS

Kindly pay to Diamond Bank
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Account Number: 0020796511

OR

Bank: Keystone Bank
Account Name: Carmelite Prisoners' Interest
Organization (CAPIO)
Account Number: 1006129966

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