

FORWARD

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Tackling the power challenge

Power is one of the critical challenges which telecom operators have to confront in deploying their networks. While the challenge is readily surmountable in the developed countries which have well developed power infrastructure, it is not quite so in the developing world where national power infrastructure is often not yet as developed.

To manage this challenge, telecom operators in developing countries have to generate their own electricity. In setting up base stations therefore, telecom operators

often need to install electricity generators in their base station sites and bear the associated fuelling and generator maintenance costs. These impact significantly on their operational expenditure, OPEX.

In Nigeria for instance, telecom operators install two generators each in every base station, complementing power from these generators with public electricity supply.

The power challenge has engaged the attention of Ericsson, leading pan Africa

operator MTN Group and the GSM Association, the umbrella body of the GSM industry. The trio are in an advanced stage of a joint effort to explore the possibility of a cheaper and more environmentally friendly alternative to diesel for powering radio base stations.

The trial project, taking place in Nigeria, will demonstrate the potential of biofuels to replace diesel as a source of power for mobile base stations, especially in the rural, far flung places not served by the national electricity grid.

Biofuels have several important advantages over diesel as a power source for base stations. Biofuels can be produced locally, creating employment in rural areas. They do not require huge transportation cost as diesel, as they will be produced in the locality of the base stations. Biofuels have a much lower impact on the environment than diesel. The cleaner burning fuel results in fewer site visits and also extends the life of the base station generator, further reducing operators' costs.

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FROM THE EDITOR



Hi there!

How was your holiday?

I guess the best way to start is to express gratitude to all of you who have sent us congratulatory messages and warm words of encouragement since the maiden edition of *Inside LMN*, which from this edition is renamed **FORWARD**. The reason for the name change is reflective of the fact that we are a West Africa office comprising many countries besides Nigeria. Thus, whereas *Inside LMN* connotes a Nigeria-focused publication, **Forward** reflects a more global outlook.

I also particularly thank all LMNers who featured in the maiden edition for accepting to break the ice with us. First editions of publications like ours have their challenges, principally because no one has yet seen how they look like. But the colleagues we selected for that maiden edition gave us wonderful cooperation which resulted in a production that we felt proud to present to you and that was warmly received by you all. Now it should be fairly easier to coast along, thanks to our 'ice breakers'.

This edition examines the question of power. This is an issue that is critical in the current drive to take telecom services to more parts of Nigeria, especially the rural areas. We are looking at the ongoing collaboration between Ericsson, MTN and the GSM Association (GSMA) to source for alternatives to diesel to power radio base stations, particularly in the rural areas.

Buky Akande is allowing us into her world to share the

secret of her permanent glow and regal gait in 'My Style' column. Mitch Debrah is quite well known to most of us for his charm and friendly disposition. Yes, we know he is one of the techies around us. But I doubt if we all know what exactly he does when he is holed up in that office of his at Gate 3. Find out in 'My Work and I'.

Who would you trade places with for a day, if given the chance? If you asked me I would say Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia. How does it feel being the most powerful woman in your country? Oh well, this is not about me. Find out who four of our colleagues would love to trade places with for a day if given the chance.

One of our most eligible bachelors, Ifeanyi Ezech is on 'Off the cuff'. There are jokes and crossword puzzle on the back page. I am sure you will enjoy this edition as much as you did the last.

Please keep your suggestions coming. My email address remains lola.okutade@ericsson.com.

So long!

Lola Okutade



Year 2006 was sent packing in style



Memories of December 8, 2006 will remain with many LMNers for a very long time. That was the day activities of Year 2006 were rounded off with a colourful, fun-filled party at Fantasyland, Ikoyi, Lagos.

LMNers, mostly in smart casuals, started trooping into Fantasyland as early as 4.30 pm. Leif, leading Ericsson top shots, was among the early arrivals. It was a time to let hair down, socialise, dance and generally make merry. Everyone made the most of the occasion.

As it was not meant to be a speech-making day, the only speech of the day was delivered by Leif who urged LMNers to set the night on fire and enjoy themselves. They heeded his advice, as the dance floor was soon milling with eager feet.

Oh well, there was the usual initial shyness. The MC, ace comedian, Tee A, broke the ice by selecting, in his own words, five 'strong men', who he asked to pick five delectable

female dance partners. A mock dance competition was soon underway. In the end, all participants went home with gifts.

Then it was the turn of staff members employed within the year. They paired up and took turns to dazzle the cheering crowd with their dance steps in the manner of the old TV dance programme, Soul Train.

Soon all LMNers and their guests joined in the fun. All inhibitions gone, everyone had a swell time rocking to the beats coming from the console of the expert DJ.

It was not all dance throughout. Time was created to honour staff members who had demonstrated unflinching loyalty by staying with Ericsson through thick and thin. Adebayo Folarin, Finance Controller, got an award for staying with the company for 15 years. Others who have been with the company for five years are Temitope Adeoye, Omolola Adesegun-Arowolo, Oluseyi Fowobaje, Sara-Samantha Omisakin, Kelvin Anyanwu, Gabriel

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Opinions expressed herein may not necessarily represent those of **Ericsson Nigeria**

VOX POP

Rolf Engholm,
Director, Service Delivery/
Operations



The World Bank President (Laughter). And that's not because of the money. That guy is sitting atop a whole lot of opportunities that can make lasting impression on many economies across the world.

He can help the Third World so much. He can help the whole continent of Africa. Nigeria. Asia, which is close to my heart.

The World Bank President is a powerful man.

Who would you love to trade places with for a day, if given the chance?

Olawunmi Onawunmi
Ericsson Local Support (ELS)



I don't think I would love to trade places with anyone. I am happy with my life. Everyone has their challenges. Even if I look at other people and think they have a good life, they may be facing some challenges which, if I were in their shoes, might not be able to handle.

Having said that, if I must make a choice, I would like to trade places with a Head of State for a day, not because I want to change anything but because I would like to know what it is like. I would like to appreciate his challenges and the daily decisions he needs to make. It is easy to criticize from a distance.

You do not know what others face until you are in their shoes.

Adebayo Folarin
Finance Dept.



Let's see, perhaps the President of Nigeria. On account of the oil money we earn, Nigerians don't have cause to be poor. If you look at the likes of the United Arab Emirates, Dubai, they have used their revenue from oil to develop the country within a short period.

In the same way, why is it so difficult for us to do the same? I would love to be on that seat and see what difference I can make even if only for a day. Whoever can make Nigerians feel the positive impact of the nation's wealth, that person's name will never disappear from the history of Nigeria.

Mercy Maduabuchi
Quality Assurance Dept.



I would love to trade places with the Governor of Lagos State.

I have a passion to serve, you know; put smiles on people's faces, especially the less privileged. I would love to touch their lives, even if only for a day; put broad smiles on their faces.

Even at the level I am now, I run a non-governmental organisation to educate and give life and hope to the less privileged.



Leif formally unveils the maiden **Inside LMN**, now renamed **FORWARD**, last November

Hi all! Nice to meet with you here again.

Year 2006 was full of challenges, but as I mentioned at our end of year party, it was a good year for Ericsson and for us all.

I am proud of everyone in LMN and would like to seize this opportunity to thank you all for your tireless efforts at achieving our corporate goals in 2006.

There were many events of note in 2006, but there was one I particularly consider remarkable. We successfully launched 3G trial in Nigeria with Celtel. This development marked the beginning of our march to the next level of telecommunications development in Nigeria. We are happy to be part of this march.

The trial will enable all stakeholders to come face to face with the issues that 3G networks will necessarily throw up, and adequately prepare the parties to tackle them. This is a very important part of the country's preparation for the next phase of telecommunications development.

I have heard people ask if Nigeria is ready for 3G, especially when there are still many areas the basic telephony is yet to spread to. My answer is yes, Nigeria

is ready. There are people, especially in the urban centres, who need the value added services that 3G makes possible to improve their productivity and increase their contribution to the country's economic growth.

Implementing 3G, therefore, will enable the operators to tailor their services to meet the needs of the different segments of the market, that is, those who need nothing more than the basic voice service and those who need the value added services.

And of course, Ericsson's collaboration with MTN Group and GSMA to locally source an alternative for diesel is another interesting development. The success of this project which was formally launched in October will have a lasting impact on operators and stimulate yet another ripple effect on the Nigerian economy.

I welcome you to a new year of challenges and excitement.

Best regards,

Leif Edwall

ESCAPE/ TRAVELOGUE

John Awe

Experience Nature in Namibia



Namibia, the vast country of about two million people in southern Africa is increasingly attracting tourists and holiday makers from across the world. Perhaps, this owes a lot to the conscious efforts of the Namibian government to make the country the number one tourist destination on the continent.

Deliberate efforts are made by the government to make the capital, Windhoek live up to the claim made in tons of tourism literature that it is one of the cleanest cities in the world. Waste bins are evenly spread across the length and breadth of the city, while the major roads are swept every night.

Devoid of the violence that is increasingly making its more prosperous neighbour, South Africa, a hard-sell to many tourists, Namibia is blessed with the scenic beauties of southern African countries, a fair share of natural tourists' delights

and one of the most efficient cashless payment systems on the continent. It is little wonder that many Hollywood actors and actresses have chosen the small African country as their getaway destination in recent times.

Apart from the snag of lack of a direct flight from Lagos to Windhoek, a holiday trip to Namibia promises to be fun irrespective of the budget you are working with. From the Kalahari Sands Hotel, a five-star hotel in the Sun International Group to Hosea Kutako Guest House and Backpackers, a tourist is sure to find accommodation whether he has a buoyant or a shoe-string budget.

While there is no intra-city mass transit system, taxis that charge flat rates can be found in most parts of the capital. As anywhere else, airport taxis would try to rip you off, though, if they know you are a tourist. The antidote against that is to greet them warmly and carry on as if it is the country of your birth.

Various modern fun spots dot the capital, but for an unforgettable holiday experience, go into the hinterland where you can see nature in its raw form.

In most of the northern region, you will find horse/donkey-drawn carts which serve as a means of transportation for the rural dwellers. Go to Opuwo Town in Kunene Region to see a tribe of Ovahimbas, who still live in rustic simplicity. For these people, clothing comprises no more than animal skin draped around the loins. Some of their rudimentary implements and appliances will intrigue you. Don't worry about how they will receive you. Tourists with binoculars and cameras are now part of their daily lives. Besides, they are friendly people.

Visit Namib Desert and see what are said to be the most beautiful sand dunes in the world. The site is simply breathtaking. If you have enough time to spare, come down south to the coastal towns of Swakopmund and Walvis Bay where weather all year round is cool and suitable for roaming the streets and lazing on the beach. Most hotel rooms have beautiful views such that you can

just sit and while away time, looking out of your window. Swakopmund has a huge and



beautiful aquarium that often sends tourists gasping for breath.

If the sight of wild animals sets you on fire, go to Etosha National Game Reserve. Managed by the Namibian Wildlife Resorts, Etosha has one of the largest collections of wild animals on the continent. Many tourists go to Etosha to see lions, cheetahs, kudus, oryx etc in their natural habitat (they are not caged). If you delight only in cheetahs-the fastest animal on 4 legs-the best place to go is Otjiwarongo region,

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I almost did not make it

Philip Emeagwali, one of the world's foremost scientists today started life on an unsure footing in Nigeria.

Although very brilliant and blessed with an uncommon zeal to go far academically, his parents' financial standing meant that his secondary education had to be interrupted three times. Very determined to surmount the odds, he went back to school each time his parents were able to muster the fees. They were to later run out of financial steam altogether before he could finish secondary education. He therefore had to drop out of school.

Shut out of further formal education, a determined Emeagwali resorted to teaching himself various subjects at home and miraculously passed the entrance examinations to the University of London and American Scholastic Aptitude Tests with top grades.

This same indigent African boy who seemed destined to end up as semi-literate automobile spare parts seller in the commercial city of Onitsha in Eastern Nigeria, is today the world's wonder boy of supercomputing. He has been called the "Bill Gates of Africa" by many commentators, "one of the great minds of the information age" by former President Bill Clinton and a father of the Internet by the CNN.

The world records Emeagwali holds in the field of science run into about ten pages of printed words. They include the world's fastest computation of 3.1 billion calculations per second; world record for solving the largest partial differential equations with 8 million grid points; world record for solving the largest weather forecasting equations with 128 million grid

points; and world record for an unprecedented parallel computer speedup. He is credited with the discovery of the counter-intuitive hypercube paradox; the formulation of the theory of tessellated models for parallel computing; and the discovery of chirality, duality, helicity, among others.

Emeagwali in 2004 was voted the 35th greatest African of all time in a survey for *New African* magazine in London. Emeagwali also ranked as the greatest African scientist ever. His discoveries have altered the course of history and helped humanity find solutions to challenges that had earlier appeared insurmountable.

It is somewhat chilling to contemplate that all these almost did not happen, but for an uncanny determination to succeed against all odds, and well, what many would call divine intervention. The magical turning point in the history of Emeagwali was his decision to go to the United States to continue his education in those trying times.

In an interview he granted Reuben Abati of Nigeria's *The Guardian* and published on Emeagwali's website, he shed light on his reasons for opting to travel out of Nigeria.

"I decided to study in the United States because I learned that I could work and study simultaneously whereas in Nigeria I could only study and I might not get financial support. My second reason for coming to the United States is that I wanted to become a scientist and felt that the United States would provide more opportunities than Africa" he says.

He applied for admission in 1973 and

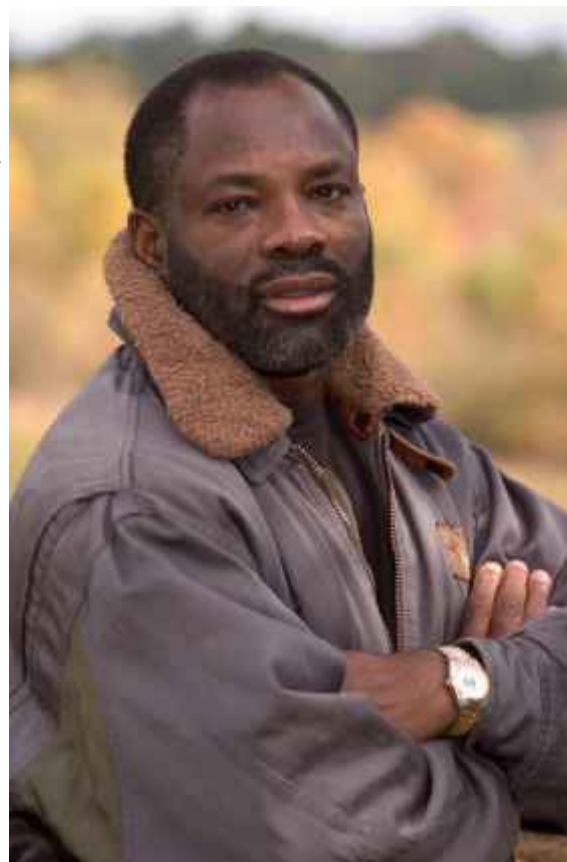
managed to impress the admission officer with his entrance examination scores so much that he gave him a tuition scholarship without his applying for one.

There was still another hurdle, though. To be able to get a visa, he had to be able to demonstrate to the American consular officer that he could pay his living expenses from Nigeria. But during his visa interview, the consular officer was also so impressed with his academic credentials that he overlooked the fact that he could not meet that requirement. He was issued the visa and he arrived in Oregon in March 1974. That was how Emeagwali's journey to greatness started.

"I came to the United States ... to study mathematics, physics and/or astronomy. I enjoyed the American system of education because it also allowed me to take diverse courses in fields such as philosophy and the liberal arts. The only drawback in my undergraduate education is that I was working full time while completing a four-year degree in three years, which didn't leave me much time to party, much to my regret," he says.

But his regret is the world's gain, because he otherwise might not have achieved what he has. Now the learning he did the hard way is profiting millions of people. Emeagwali stands out among numerous other scientists because his work has direct bearing on physical challenges of humanity.

"I prefer to conduct research investigations that will benefit the masses. My earlier work that helps oil companies recover more oil, benefits the masses, particularly in oil-producing countries like Nigeria.



Presently, I am studying how the Information Superhighway could help developing countries," he says.

Explaining further he says, "My original motivation was to demonstrate that computers with thousands of processing nodes, called massively parallel computers, can solve significant real-world problems".

Today, Emeagwali has forgotten poverty and is celebrated everywhere he goes in America and elsewhere. But he still very much remembers his humble beginnings and is always quick to warn that developing countries may not be able to reach their potentials in good time if they fail to remove all obstacles from scholarly pursuits. He is right on that one. ☞

MY STYLE



What's your daily beauty routine?

Everyday routine is, I wake up in the morning, have a shower and get ready for work. That's all. The one thing I don't do is go to bed with make up on.

For you, when is formal dressing out of place?

Formal dressing is out of place when you are having a regular girls' day out or you are in an informal function and you go and overdress. I find that inappropriate.

You do look like you never have bad hair days. Do you?

I surely do have them. It happens to every normal woman every now and then (even if it means hiding behind closed doors). But I tend to ignore it.

Are you for body piercing?

No. Personally, I wouldn't do it. But I have nothing against people who do. Some people identify themselves with certain things and if it is body piercing, it is fine by me. But it's a no go zone for me.

Are you an aerobics person?

Inside of me, I am, but not on the outside. I'm too lazy (laughter).

Favourite clothing item?

Ankara and Jeans and Polo Shirts, most especially 'ankara' skirts. Basically anything that makes you feel free.

When you are eating healthy, what do you eat?

Less carbs, lots of fruits, vegetables and water. I tried a very healthy diet once. I went off carbohydrates. When I say went off, I mean I totally did for 3months. So my idea of eating healthy is cutting down on sugar, carbs and increasing your vegetables intake. And of course, liquid too, that is, water and not carbonated drinks.

What would you have changed in the way you look?

I would like to have almost everything changed. (Laughter). It would be nice to drop some kilos, Not for vanity but for health reasons. I would like to get more into the regimen of exercising at least three times a week.

Have you any favourite label?

Not in particular. Anything that fits is perfect irrespective of the brand. At any given point in time, is it *Nigchem?*, the Nigerian wax and Woodin, you will always find in my wardrobe. Thank President Obasanjo for that. I have a friend who went to tailoring school. She opened her outfit call *Mya Couture*. Every now and then, I do patronise her for any formal outing functions.

Costliest fashion indulgence?

Hmmm, I have to think about that. I don't spend much on clothing items. I would say my pairs of Jeans. I don't think twice about the amount once I find a pair that fits like a glove.

What would you consider to be the most

Buky Akande

unpardonable fashion sin a woman can commit?

Showing too much midriff, wearing a pair of leather pants or a pair of knee-high boots in Nigeria, and carrying a fake designer bag. That's the one fashion sin that kills me.

For men?

Ankara jackets/blazers just don't do it for me; I would NEVER let my man wear one. Other than that, I think Nigerian men in general are apt dressers.

What's that clothing item you wouldn't wear?

A pair of skinny jeans.... They look very elegant on the right people.... I am surely not skinny and I can't wear them.

What do you look like on a Sunday?

Sunday is pretty much like any other day. But instead of dressing formally as I do from Monday to Thursday, Sunday is a free-spirit day for me. I wear what I'm most comfortable in.

Many women reserve their tallest headgears for Sundays.

They look really pretty and make you look like a true African woman. I cannot handle it because it gives me headache when worn for too long. Two hours and that's it. Anytime I am at a function and I have to wear headgear, once I get out of the function, it is the first thing I take off.

What fashion advice would you give to young girls? Teenagers, for instance?

I've noticed a trend in teenagers, which is showing a lot of flesh or meat. When you are beautiful on the inside or outside, it is not really shown by the amount of flesh you show. And I think it just calls for trouble, if you ask me. So, my advice to teenagers is, 'keep the clothes on', because they look beautiful with it.

To men?

The blazers should be custom made as opposed to getting it off the shelf... It makes you look cleaner and smarter. ☞

Background

I have been around Ericsson World for about 13 years now. Right out of University, I joined Ericsson on a graduate programme in the UK. I have been around Ericsson world since then. Okay, I left Ericsson World for a total of two years and came back. This is my second time in LMN, actually.

I came to LMN in 2003, I think for a six month stint. I'm not Nigerian. I'm from Ghana. I schooled in the UK and US. I hold a B.Sc. in Electrical Systems Engineering and M.Sc. in Telecoms and Information Systems from the University of Essex. Then, I hold an MBA from Darden Business School in Virginia. I am simple and I get on with a lot of people. I have done a fair amount of travelling. I have worked in at least six or seven countries. I speak five languages and I love life.

Job dream as a kid

I come from an Engineering family. I grew up in the corridors of the state telecoms monopoly. I don't know really as a kid, I probably wanted to be an engineer. At Bachelor's level, I read Electrical Systems Engineering. So, it was pretty general I wanted to be an engineer.

Shortly after my Bachelor, telecom, especially GSM was blowing up then. During my Bachelor, we studied GSM in one of the courses I chose. So, I knew there was going to be an explosion and I said to myself I'd better be in the middle of it. That was how I chose telecom. I



"One of our goals was to make sure 3G took root in Nigeria and we've done that"

Ericsson achieve its goals

My camp, one of its goals was to make sure 3G took root in Nigeria. We've done that. We've implemented 3G. It is a trial now. We are waiting for NCC to go commercial. It is a new frontier for Ericsson. The operators will need to deploy 3G networks. The 3G lends itself to us in Africa, bridging the technology divide.

us straight from our phones to the internet. We don't have enough internet resource. Anyone with a 3G phone potentially can get on the net and surf or do whatever else they would like to do. So, it positions Ericsson, or intensifies Ericsson's positioning in the 3G World as a huge player. I think Ericsson holds something like 40 percent of the 3G/UMTS stake in the world. This reinforces that. In market unit, it opens another avenue for revenue in the region. That's on the 3G side.

On the 2G side, we just continue to support our customer, grow our customer. The Celtel account is probably the number one or number two in the market unit South Africa. Celtel took over from Vmobile this year and it just continues to grow. It reinforces Ericsson's position in Africa.

Challenges?

The usual challenges everywhere. Overworked, underpaid (Laughter). My key Account Manager, he has got revenue target. He has got cost target. He controls the revenues and the cost. So, certainly, there is always the pinch of cost on us. **Continued on page 9**

don't think I had a preconceived idea before then.

Working for Ericsson

It has been exciting. Through the Ericsson World, I have learnt two languages; I have visited endless number of countries. I have learnt a lot. I have learnt to express myself. It's put me in challenging situations which I would probably not have experienced otherwise.

I like the Ericsson culture. The relationships are pretty unofficial. Yes, it is a very deliberate company. You go through deliberate steps to do stuff. It is not ad hoc at all. That has its frustrations but it ensures that we do things systematically. The years I left Ericsson, I have seen the difference.

Job details

I wear two hats really. When I joined LMN this time around, I think in March, I came in as a Project Manager for 3G Trial. So that is one hat I still wear and then, the second hat I wear, I am the Implementation Manager, Core Network for the Celtel account.

What I do is that I manage and co-ordinate the implementation of whatever switches or equipment and services we sell to Celtel. So, I have a team of guys who do the installation, a team of guys who do the actual testing and implementation. And sometimes, we use external vendors. So, I manage all these things. With the 3G, it is a bit of a bigger thing because it was conceived as a project. So I manage that whole project and it's not just the core, that is, the roll out of the core, the radio, the base station and keeping the customer happy, and keeping the competition at bay as well.

How these help

NEW EMPLOYMENTS

Oladiran Amao, employed Solution Integrator with Customer Solutions Department since 7 September 2006. Diran holds a B.Sc. in Electrical/Electronics Engineering from the University of Ibadan and an OND Electrical/Electronics Engineering from The Polytechnic, Ibadan. He is a Cisco Certified Network Associate.

Akindolapo Ajayi, employed Supply Officer with the Supply Chain Management Department effective 3rd October 2006. Dolapo holds an Ordinary National Diploma in Computer Science from the Federal Polytechnic, Ede, Osun State and is currently undergoing a degree programme in Computer Science at the Lagos State University. He worked briefly with DHL before joining Ericsson as an outsourced staff in 2003.

Babatunde Ogunleye, employed Support Engineer with the ELS Department effective 3rd October 2006. Tunde holds a B.Eng in Electrical/ Electronics Engineering from the University of Benin and an MBA Engineering Business Managers at the Manchester Business School, UK. He is joining Ericsson with experiences he had gathered while working with such organizations as LM Ericsson UAE, V-Mobile, MTN Nigeria, Intercellular Nigeria Limited and Cosmos Technologies Limited.

Chinedu Chude, employed Support Engineer with the ELS Department effective 3rd October 2006. Chinedu is a graduate of Electrical/ Electronics Engineering from the Federal University of Technology, Owerri and is joining Ericsson with experiences he had gathered while working with Globacom Ltd and M-Tel. He is also MSCE and MCP Certified.

Onome Egboye, employed Assistant Customer Project Manager with the Project Office effective 16th October 2006. Onome holds a Higher National Diploma in Building and Quantity Surveying from the Yaba College of Technology. She is joining Ericsson with experiences garnered from working with organizations such as Alan Dick (West Africa) Limited.

Emeka Igboeanya, employed Support Engineer with the ELS Department effective 16th October 2006. Emeka graduated from the University of Benin with a B.Eng in Chemical Engineering. He is also an

Oracle Application Developer. He is joining Ericsson with experience garnered while working with organizations such as Huawei Technologies Co. Limited, IDM/NIIT Services Ltd and B.A. Soyode and Co.

Khadiza Ali, employed as Trainee Assistant Project Coordinator with the ELS Department effective 25 October 2006. Khadiza is a graduate of Economics from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. She is coming into Ericsson with experience garnered from working with Union Bank of Nigeria.

Enimien Etomi, employed Assistant Sales Manager with Celtel Account effective 30 October 2006. Enimien holds a B.Sc. in Computing and Information System from the University of West of England, UK and a Masters in Business Administration from Temple University, Philadelphia, USA. She is joining Ericsson with experiences she has gathered from working with Motorola Nigeria Limited. She is the successful candidate for the Ericsson Excelerate Global Management Trainee Program.

Ireno Yonwuren, employed Senior Product Manager with Customer Solutions Department effective 1 November 2006. Ireno graduated from the University of Lagos with a B.Sc. (Hons) in Zoology. She also bagged a PGD and M.Sc. in Computer Sciences from the same University. She is currently undertaking her MBA at the University of Leicester, UK. She is bringing into Ericsson vast experience gathered from her sojourn with organizations such as Authentic Services and Supplies Limited, Guinness Nigeria Plc and MTN Nigeria Communications Limited.

Olutosin Aina, employed Support Engineer effective with ELS Department 1st November 2006. Tosin is a graduate of Electrical Engineering from the University of Ilorin. He is joining Ericsson with the experience he had gathered from working with Telnet (iTeco) Nigeria Limited.

Oluwatoyin Okoya is employed Supply Officer with Supply Chain Management Department effective 1st November 2006. Toyin holds a Bachelor of Economic and Social Studies in Economics and Management Studies and a Master of Business Administration. She joined Ericsson in April 2006 as a Contract Supply Officer.

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HEALTH TIPS

How to save a choking child

In our day-to-day lives, we are sometimes faced with some critical life or death situations. The time to act and make a choice between one and the other may be as short as a few minutes or even seconds. Our quick appraisal of the situation and our knowledge of what needs to be done immediately determine how events turn- sadly or happily. This is particularly so of parents of young children.

Choking in children has for ages presented a challenge to mothers and children carers. Many promising children have lost their lives needlessly to choking from food. Here we present some tips from medical experts on how to handle the situation.

Under 1 Year Conscious Baby

1. Lay the infant facedown on your forearm, resting your arm on your thigh to hold her steady. Support her chin firmly with one hand, and be sure her head and neck are lower than her torso.
2. Using the heel of your free hand, deliver five quick blows right between her shoulder blades.
3. If she doesn't cough up the object, turn her onto her back. Rest her on your forearm, using your thigh to support her body and your hand to steady her head and neck. Make sure that both her head and her neck are lower than her torso.
4. Using two fingers, deliver five quick thrusts to the centre of her chest, right on the breastbone, about one

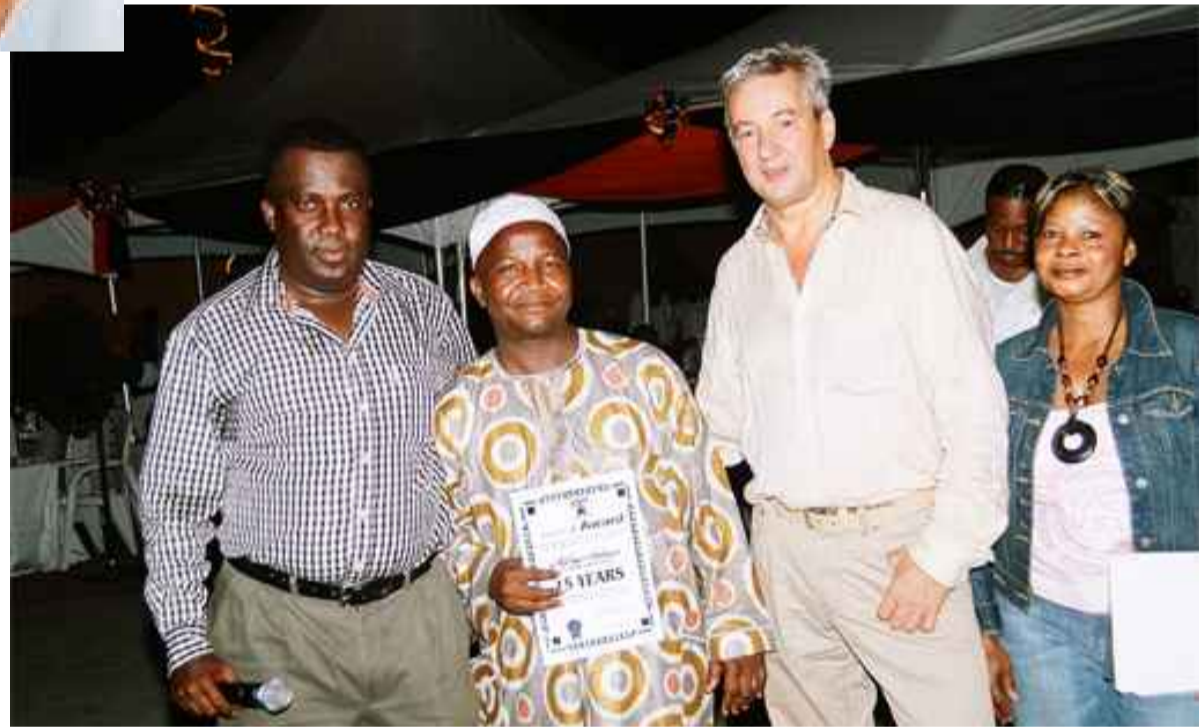
finger-width below the nipples. Stop if she starts to cough so she can cough up the object.

5. If she still can't breathe, continue to alternate five back blows with five chest thrusts until the airway is unblocked. If this doesn't work or she loses consciousness, go to Unconscious Baby section below.

Unconscious Baby

1. Lay her on her back. To open her airway, tilt her head back and lift her chin. If you can see the object, remove it.
2. Seal your mouth over her nose and mouth; give two slow breaths; feel to find out if her chest rises and falls.
3. Reassess. Put an ear to her mouth to listen for breathing; feel for chest movement. If there's no rising or falling, redo steps 1 and 2. If she breathes with your help, give one breath every three seconds (count "one one-thousand, two one-thousand...") until she breathes on her own or help comes.
4. If there are still no signs of normal breathing, begin chest compressions: Place two fingers in the centre of her chest, over the breastbone. Deliver five compressions one-half to one inch deep. Follow with one breath.
5. Continue cycles of five compressions/one breath for one minute then call for help. If the baby doesn't regain consciousness, continue with rescue breathing and chest compressions until help arrives. Every minute, check for signs of normal breathing, coughing and movement.







'I would love to be an accountant'



Patricia Uelle, the quiet, unobtrusive lady that moves round the offices serving you tea has exquisite taste and tall dreams. Her favourite car is Mercedes Benz, preferably E Class; favourite phone, Sony Ericsson, and she would have loved to be an accountant.

Pat dreams of having a boutique stocked with imported and locally made wear of all sorts, or a shop filled with canned foods and other packaged foods.

Born and brought up in Bariga, Lagos, Pat, the oldest of five siblings, attended Gbagada Primary School and Anthony Secondary School. She later opted to learn to sew and went on to stay with an aunt in Kano, who enrolled her in a sewing class. A religious riot in Kano put paid to her quest to become a seamstress, as she abandoned her training and came back to Lagos. It was on her arrival back in Lagos that she joined Ericsson as a tea girl.

Her typical day begins at 5am when she wakes up and begins to prepare for the office. To catch the staff bus, she has

to leave her Orile residence by 5.45am. She leaves office around 5.20pm daily.

Her weekend routines are different. "On Saturday, I wake by 7am, do some washing and then go to the market to shop for food. On Sunday, I go to church. In the evening, I go to fellowship. I don't do much of exercise now. When I was in secondary school, I used to run. But I have put on weight now," she said.

For leisure she relaxes with her husband, watching a game of football or home movies, particularly those featuring her favourite stars, Saint Obi, Sola Sobowale, and Patience Ozokwor. She also loves to cook her favourite soup, 'Ofe Owerri'

Whatever happens, do not flash Pat. She hates it when people flash her.

"Flashing kills the battery. I do not flash people. I will call if I have credit. If not I hold my peace", she said. ☺

Foluso Jemilo, employed Support Engineer with the ELS Department effective 6th November 2006. Foluso is a graduate of Electrical Engineering from the University of Ilorin. He is joining Ericsson with the experience he gathered from working with Telnet (iTeco) Nigeria Limited.

Abolaji Sunmola is employed Assistant Technical Manager with Customer Solutions Department effective 6th November 2006. Bolaji holds a B.Sc in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from the University of Lagos and is coming into Ericsson with experiences he gained whilst working with Huawei Technologies Co. Limited.

Adebayo Akinwunmi is employed Assistant Technical Manager with Customer Solutions Department effective 7th November 2006. Bayo holds a Higher National Diploma in Electrical/Electronics Engineering from The Polytechnic, Ibadan and an OND in Electrical/Electronics Engineering from the Ogun State Polytechnic. He is coming into Ericsson with experience he had whilst working with ZTE Corporation, NITEL and MTEL.

Olufemi Arosanyin as Sales Manager, MTN Account effective 1st December 2006. Femi is a graduate of Electrical Engineering with an option in Telecommunications and Electronics from the University of Ilorin. He also has a Masters in Space Studies majoring in Satellite Applications, Space Technology Management and Remote Sensing from the International Space University, Strasbourg, France. He is joining Ericsson with the experience he had gathered from working with Nitel/Afritel Rural Radio Pilot Project, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, TSS West Africa, Lagos and Abuja, Profile Technologies, Abuja and Aperto Networks Inc, Milpitas California, USA.

Adebimpe Amusan as Resource Administrator [Region West] effective 1st December 2006. Bimpe hold a Higher National Diploma in Secretarial Studies [Bilingual] from the Yaba College of Technology and an Ordinary National Diploma in Secretarial Studies from the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro. She joined Ericsson in 2001 as a Secretary with experiences she gathered whilst working with such organizations as Campaign Services Limited and Gani Fawehinmi Chambers. She later joined Michael Stevens Consulting, a Contractor of Ericsson as contract Secretary in 2003 until her recent appointment.

RESIGNATION

Obiajulu Egbunike resigned his appointment as Assistant Technical Manager, VMobile effective 31st October 2006. Oby joined Ericsson in January 2003 as an Engineer. He is a graduate of University of Ibadan where he bagged a B.Sc (Hons) Electrical/Electronics Engineering in 2001. We wish Iheanyi good luck in his future endeavours. ☺

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Ericsson establishes learning centres



they are sited, Ericsson has sponsored the lecturers manning them on training tours to Sweden and other countries.

"The GSM simulation laboratories," says Olabode Sowunmi, Head, Corporate and Marketing Communications, "are centres where people can go to observe the latest technology in GSM. Their objective is to assist those carrying out research in related fields. According to him, the academics upon their return from the Ericsson-sponsored training have been able to sustain the high standard required to rank the centres among similar others in the advanced countries.

"We at Ericsson believe that corporate social responsibility must be genuinely responsible. Giving

money to some people as part of corporate social responsibility may have its own gains, but in Ericsson, we believe that it is more impactful to equip the local people in a way that it will be permanently beneficial to them. When you give somebody training, you are looking beyond now. You are actually preparing the person for the future. We may not be making much noise about it, but the truth is, it is more beneficial to the people and to the society at large". ☺



In furtherance of its commitment to giving back to the society and elevating the living standard of the people, Ericsson has collaborated with the authorities of the University of Lagos (Unilag), Lagos and Federal University of Technology, Yola to create GSM simulation centres to help advance the knowledge of students, researchers and other academics in telecommunications.

The centres, which cost Ericsson thousands of dollars to establish, are furnished with state-of-the-art equipment and learning aids. The centres are already proving invaluable to final year students writing projects, researchers and other categories of scholars seeking to keep up with technology trends.

To ensure that the centres retain their relevance to the academic communities where

OUR PARTNER

Joe Ihenwa Okolo, President, TopSkills Solutions Limited

'Ericsson towers above competition'

When was TopSkills formed?

TopSkills was incorporated as a business in January, 2005. Before then, we had been in operation under a different name, Dina Emms. It was just a civil structure engineering company. We started in 1998, then rendering some services to Ericsson in civil works. After a point we saw that telecom business was a core business we could pay greater attention to. So instead of running it from Dina Emms, we now founded TopSkills to take it to the height we are now.

What do you do for Ericsson?

TopSkills Solutions Limited is an

engineering service company. We render engineering services in telecoms and *infotainment* technology. Under the telecoms aspect of our business we render services to Ericsson. It is not only Ericsson Nigeria, but Ericsson worldwide. We have had the opportunity of working for Ericsson in Pakistan and in some West African countries.

So basically what we do for them is what is called front-end engineering and as well, we do resource vending. We put some of our staff on loan to Ericsson as they need human resources. Beyond that, we have capacity to render other services in telecom. But what I've just said is the contract we have with Ericsson.

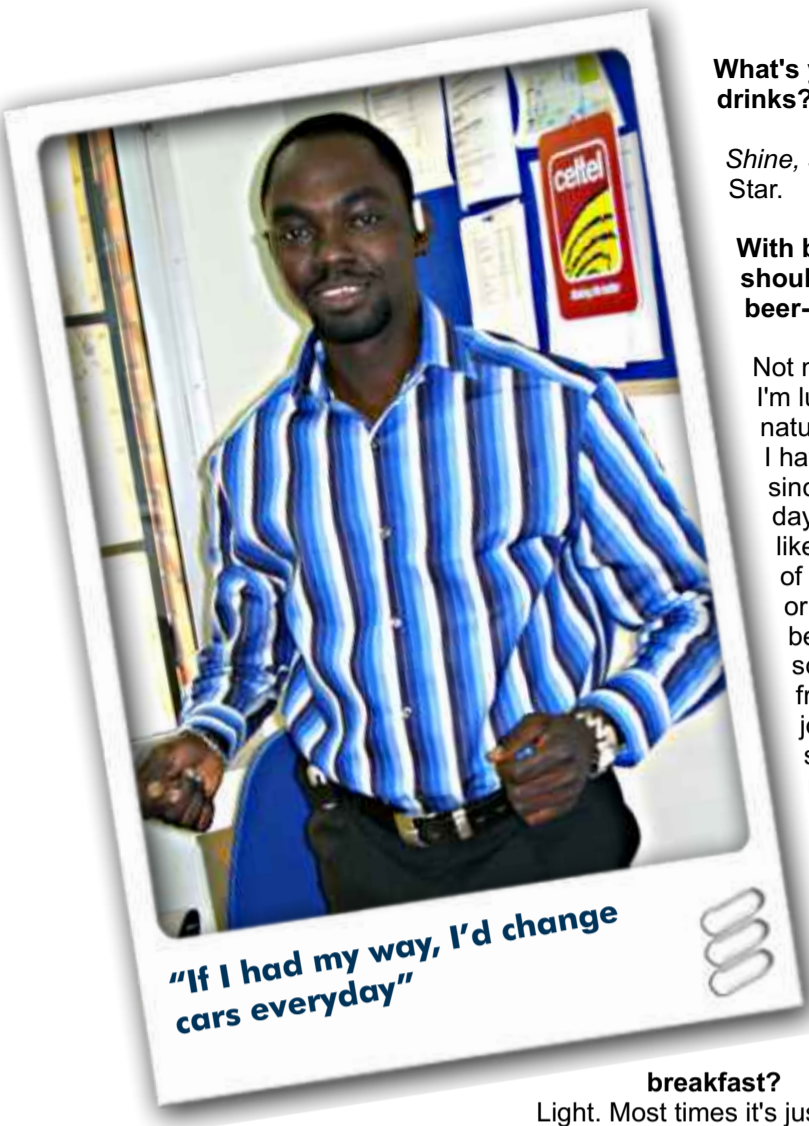
How does this help Ericsson achieve its goals?

Planning is the key part of success in anything you do in life. And more so, when it comes to engineering or science and technology, if you like. So what we do is that we help them in the civil works aspect of their work. We help them prepare engineering solutions and communicate it by way of drawing and information as is standard in the industry. And as well by resource vending aspect of the business, we avail Ericsson highly qualified personnel who help them either in supervision or in the direction of works, especially rolling out of networks.



Continued on page 10 >

◀ Continued from page 5



What's your choice of drinks?

Shine, shine bobo. Star.

With beer you should be expecting beer-belly someday.

Not me. I can say I'm lucky. I have this natural slim stature. I have been like this since my university days. I eat what I like. I have no fear of adding weight or growing a pot belly. In my school days, my friends used to joke that my stature remained constant even if other variables changed. I've been like this for the past 10 years.

How heavy is your

breakfast?

Light. Most times it's just a cup of coffee or tea.

Which is your heaviest meal of the day?

Lunch. But I'm not so hot with heavy meals as such. Just half a plate of rice is okay. I do have poor appetite really. I remember complaining to my doctor about this recently and he advised I should take more vitamins. I really should eat more than I do right now. But maybe when I get married, this will change.

What's your idea of a fantastic holiday?

It has to be in my hometown, cut away from the hustle and bustle of the city-traffic, air pollution and so on. It is peaceful and healthy. You can get fresh palm wine, straight from the wine-tapper returning from farm. It's quite natural. After working all year round, one deserves that kind of rest. You wake up 5am and hurry out of the house to beat traffic. You return 7 or 8pm. You do the same things every

day. Sometimes, I think I run like a computer programme. When I travel to the village, I live a different life altogether and by the time I am back to Lagos, I feel refreshed.

Any role model in Ericsson?

Yes. What really makes one a role model? For me, a role model is someone that motivates and inspires people around him. In Ericsson, Pattison Mutambiranwa is my role model.

As for a female, what I look out for is diligence; a hard-working lady, maybe, as an entrepreneur or in a corporate environment like Ericsson. Here, such a woman is our Training Manager, Buky Akande.

Favourites?

My favourite food is rice, that's what I can eat any time. My favourite car? I'm a car freak. If I have my way, I would change cars every day. I love them big. I was telling my friends recently that by next year I would go for a jeep.

For mobile phones, my favourite brand is Sony Ericsson P 990i. That is not because I am with Ericsson. Sony Ericsson has some of the best multimedia phones around. I have almost all the models. And I can't have enough.

How do you spend your weekends?

Oh it is fun all the way. I'm the clubbing type. I don't compromise my weekends. Sometimes I do come to work if the need arises. Otherwise, they are meant for fun. And the fun includes tidying up my apartment, washing etc. I love to do those things. Then, I hang out with friends. I have to do all that now before I start getting restrictions and getting told where and where not to go! (Laughter).

I'm bored by most other types of entertainment. I can't read a novel to the end. Neither can I sit down to watch a 2-hour film. What? I'd be bored to death. That is not to say I do not watch films at all, though. I watch occasionally, especially when there are friends with me, or when I see some really interesting actors and actresses on the film posters. I like RMD, Genevieve Nnaji and Liz Benson. And talking about foreign stars, I love Eddie Murphy. 📺

You know, in running a project organisation like we do, we have highs and lows. Some of the challenges, when we have highs, we are stretching our resources human resources, support resources, cars. It can be a challenge to manage that because, if we think about our human resources right now, the market is booming for human resources. If you keep them unhappy here, they will be poached to your competition and in this case your competition could be Ericsson Ghana or wherever. So keeping them happy and giving them tools that make them work can be a challenge.

Another huge challenge is the customer. Managing the customer. If you meet a difficult customer, sometimes a bit disorganised, you may find that there is not a lot of alignment in their organisation- between the upper management who have the vision and the implementing team who performs that vision.

We have got pressure from both sides. The people who have the vision want us to do certain things which show their vision while the people who implement this vision may not be as committed. And we are working between the two. Trying to merge those two can be a huge challenge. But we have to accommodate this you know customer is always right.

Another challenge is the one everyone faces in Nigeria. Within the walls of Ericsson, yes, we are fine. We are protected, we have systems in place but you know, walk out on the street and you come up with the challenges everyone faces. Sometimes when I meet these, I ask myself is it worth it? Yesterday, driving to Ibadan, we came across madness on the road and I asked myself, is it worth it? But then, when I'm back in my office and everything is going on well and I love what I do, I'd say yes, it is worth it.

Happiest day on the job?

Making that first 3G call was really exciting because we had worked toward this for six months. We fixed huge challenges that many thought we couldn't surmount. We faced shortfalls; we faced resources that left because they got frustrated; we faced financial challenges because we had a budget I would call a shoe string, maybe someone else may not call it that.

So that day we made the first 3G call, I called a lot of people who mean a lot to me and said hey, we did something today that is special. We made the first 3G call in Nigeria and I was part of it. That was something. It may not mean much to a man on the street, if I stopped him and said hey, I made a 3G call today he would be like "What? Show me the money", (Laughter) But surely, that was one of my happiest days.

Saddest day?

The saddest day for me was when we lost one of our team members. He was one of the first. We came in day in day out. We worked hard. Yes we played hard as well. Life is fragile. He was here. Then, he was gone. We all felt it.

Interest in other departments

I was an engineer for 11 years and then I went to Business School. The reason I did that was I had done all I needed to do as an engineer and was ready for a new challenge. So, I went to learn about how to run a successful business, grow a business. So, for me, the next stage will be to be in an environment which will put me more in the business realm rather than a technical one.

Travels

Not so much. I'm now an arm-chair engineer. My team travels a lot. I don't travel so much. But yesterday, I was in Ibadan. I coordinate stuff from here.

What he would like changed about the job Structurally, it is pretty sound the way the job is organised. And again, I wear two hats, which of them am I going to talk about? Okay,

Continued on page 10 ▶

Which plant or flower best represents you?

I am friendly, easy-going. I like people around me to be happy. I am slow to criticise. I make friends easily. Boys, girls, I like to meet new people. And I get along with most people. Red Rose, perhaps.

Ooh, the ladies will love you.

(Laughter)I don't know about that. Okay, I've been called a ladies man before. But I can't say I know what they are talking about. I just live my normal, easy-going life.

What's a relaxing evening for you?

One with friends, a plate of pepper soup and a few drinks

Fish or goat pepper soup?

It has to be goat. I am a typical Igbo guy. I love a steaming bowl of goat meat. It could serve as my dinner.

HANGIN' OUT



D'Jamz Base Club

Freight Forwarders Association, Chief Basil Akukwe, D'Jamz is fast becoming the delight of night-clubbers and other fun seekers around the Festac/Mile Two axis.

Fully air-conditioned, the club can seat 1500 at a go, has two bars on two floors, a 90 square metre dance floor and a VIP area

in case you would rather nurse your bottles of beer with quiet.

There is a giant television screen inside the hall for screening musicals and premiership matches. According to the manager, Johnny Asomba, the club has become a darling of soccer fans because

apart from the screen inside the club, two other TV screens of the same size are installed in a conference hall and on the outside wall of the club. Every weekend soccer fans besiege the club to watch matches from the world's top leagues.

For those who love to dance, the club is served by three disc jockeys (DJs) who have access to a large array of local and international music hits. There is also a live band which plays anything from makossa to hip hop every evening by the outside bar.

For those who love to sing, there is karaoke facility at the outside bar, called Bush Bar. There is also a Barbecue Bar, where you can get all types of barbecue-fish, snail, asun, chicken, suya, as well as shawarma, among others.

There is ample parking space inside the perimeter fence of the club building and extra parking space outside the fence. Security is provided by armed policemen.

While the bars operate every day, the club days are Wednesday, Fridays and Saturdays. You may check it out. 📺

This is a new night club cum Chinese restaurant located near Apple Junction along the FESTAC link road in Amuwo Odofin, Lagos.

Owned by the President of Nigerian

MY WORK & I

◀ *Continued from page 5*

maybe the 3G side. It is a shoe string budget we are working with. It makes business sense for it to be a shoe string because it is a trial. You haven't won the business yet. So, it makes sense. But it makes managing the project a lot more difficult. Structurally, I think it is right.

The Implementation Manager Position is not solely an administrative position. So, maybe a bit of administrative assistance, which I do get a bit of, will make it easier for me to interface more with the customer and do some business/customer relation building.

What else he would have loved to be

Sometimes, I look at Alex Ferguson, Arsene Wenger and I say to myself I would have loved to be in that job. In some of the exercises at the Business School, we went through these things. What would have been your dream job? Football Manager! I don't know if I would be good at it but, I would love that challenge. I would love that adrenaline, that fire, that team spirit. I play football. I would love to psyche people up to go and win. I like to win. Every Saturday when I watch DSTV, I say I wish that was me.

Is it too late?

(Laughter) I don't know if it is. So far, doors have not opened yet. No agent has come to me to say come and manage this team.

EVENTS

◀ *Continued from page 2*

Arise, Kesiena Tonukari, Aliu Asuku, Olanrewaju Adegbite, Isibor Ilozavbie, Olufemi Fadeyi, Akinloye Sholiyi, Jacob Sutton and Fisayo Araoye

Ericsson's bevy of beauties later joined Leif to cut the success cake to the applause of all.

Many members of staff spoken to by FOWARD at the event said that it was a well organised party and a beautiful way to end Year 2006. ☞

ESCAPE/ TRAVELOGUE

◀ *Continued from page 10*

christened the cheetah capital of the world-where there is a cheetah conservation park a few kilometres from Otjiwarongo town.

For many tourists, a vacation is not complete without an extensive shopping session. World class shopping malls in Windhoek include Wernhill Park, Town Square Mall and Maerua Lifestyle Mall, the biggest, which accommodate international retail giants as Edgars, Boardman, Stuttafords, Clicks, Cna, Superspar, American Swiss, various jewellery shops with real diamonds, Foschini, Markams, different sport shops, Ackerman's, Jet, Checkers (grocery shop) and five cinema halls showing current and

recently released films, among other delights. Basically every suburb in the city of Windhoek has a shopping mall equipped with post office, telephone shop, grocery stores, etc. There are, Hidas Centre in Klein, Trade Centre in Klein Kuppe Suburb, among others.

Also, keeping in touch with your folks back home is not a problem. There are internet cafes everywhere. There is a robust communications system as well with pay phones strategically spread across the country. Namibia is one of the earliest countries in Africa to implement 3G. There are wireless landlines. Internet banking, ATMs,

Namibia is keeping up with ICT trends. Virtually all the shops accept credit cards.

No doubt you will enjoy your stay. ☞



OUR PARTNERS

◀ *Continued from page 8*

How would you describe Ericsson's contribution to Nigeria's telecom industry?

Wonderful. From the point of view of a participant, I can tell you that, yes, the network providers are able to do what Nigerians praise them for today because of companies like Ericsson. Ericsson particularly because it is one company that has been able to work for all the major and even minor providers in this country. So when you talk about what is called backbone provision in this country, Ericsson is it. Ericsson comes first before any other company like Nokia, Alcatel, and the rest of them. Ericsson works for MTN, Celtel, Mtel. I guess they have the greater part of their roll out plans because Ericsson systems are very standard, well tested and highly functional.

We as a third party firm have had interaction with these other companies and we can tell you Ericsson towers above them. Some of our personnel are trained by Ericsson. We have had the opportunity of comparing the organisation, the training they give, with those of other backbone providers.

How has your relationship with Ericsson impacted on your company in terms of corporate culture, entronement of world class processes etc?

We actually started telecom business with Ericsson. I personally had training with Ericsson. I have had the opportunity of making presentations in Sweden, Ericsson Sweden. This is because we were able to do something remarkable. This is a third world country and we were able to work hard with the quality assurance department of Ericsson. We were able to work out schemes that enabled the deployment of these BTS sites in a very fast, efficient and professional manner, so much so that some of their project managers in Sweden wanted to know the magic behind it. That was in 2003.

Beyond that Ericsson has exposed us. Initially when we started, Ericsson availed us the opportunity of attending some of their training. Probably there is a little bit of bias, because, if you talk about first impression, the first impression we had was with

Ericsson, and it was a good impression, because later on we had the opportunity of seeing the other companies and how they are set up, or how they run their things, like Motorola for instance. You cannot compare them with Ericsson, when it comes to the technical aspect of it. When you talk about corporate governance, a lot of it reflects on it. Implementation, thoroughness, efficiency etc. Overall, I will give it to Ericsson,

We as a local company have been able to launch beyond Nigeria just because our service has been highly acceptable and up to international standard. You will see some of these firms outside looking for us. Why? Because we are efficient, we are cheaper than most other people because we utilize the expertise and core efficiency we have to stay competitive in the industry. We are at the point of negotiating a contract with Ericsson in the Middle East. It is an ongoing thing. By the end of this month we would have started wrapping up the contract.

I will give the chunk of this ability to compete internationally to the exposure we have from Ericsson. When you talk of technology transfer, we are a firm that has benefited from it. We have had encouragement with some of the expatriate from Sweden. Today, it has helped us to get to where we are. We are looking to be highly competitive and be able to win business in all parts of the world, Americas, Europe etc.

What are the challenges?

First of all, acceptance. They change staff from time to time. So when new people come they have their own ideas about things. So you have to spend time and energy to convince them about who you are and what you can deliver before you are accepted.

Two. Part of Ericsson worldwide policy is that they work with authorised providers. It took a little bit of while before they could accord us that status. In fact, ironically, it was not Ericsson Nigeria that accorded us that status. It was Ericsson Middle east. Information about Top Skills went into Ericsson System through Middle East Ericsson, not Nigeria. ☞

Tackling the power challenge

Continued from cover page

Delving into the details of how the process will work, Olabode Sowunmi, Head Corporate and Marketing Communications says, "the biodiesel will be produced from crops that are rich in oil, like groundnut, palm oil and so on. The excess of these crops can be bought from farmers. This probably would be otherwise wasted. A local entrepreneur buys this off the farmers and converts the biomass or the crops he bought from the farmers into biodiesel using the special biodiesel processing plant. The biodiesel is then sold to the operator. MTN is being used at this stage, but once the pilot is successful, the model will be replicated among other operators in other countries".

Stressing the benefits of this initiative, he says, "remote network expansion has high associated costs, which include



The groundnut pyramids of old might soon make a resurgence

security, fuel transportation, road access and infrastructure development, among others. The price of diesel is also very unstable, distorting operators' projections. Using biodiesel solves these problems. Network reach is extended because this solution has the

implication of increasing the affordability and accessibility of mobile communications."

He noted that it was the first project of its kind in Nigeria. "Even the oil majors do not have this kind of projects. Our goal is to have a situation that the operators will rely less on diesel with its attendant troubles, not the least of which is the ever fluctuating prices. We want a situation that operators will be able to deploy and maintain services in the rural areas more conveniently and cheaply".

"The early adoption of biofuel-powered mobile networks would place Africa at the forefront of a new wave of innovation that is making mobile communications affordable and accessible across the developing world," said Karel Pienaar, CTIO of MTN Group in a joint statement announcing the initiative.

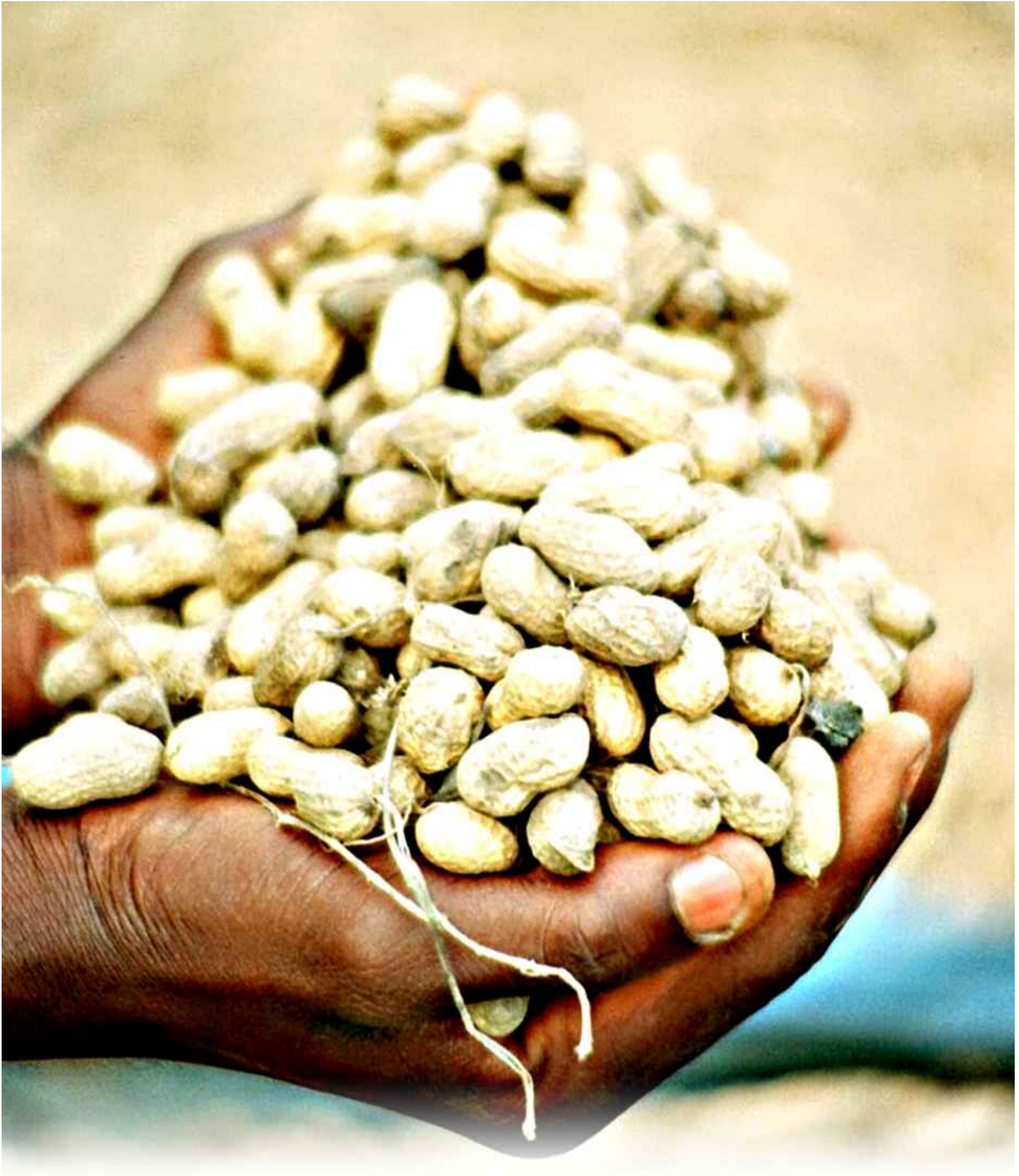
"The extension of mobile networks into rural areas is vital to boost the social and economic welfare of the developing world," said Rob Conway, CEO of the GSMA, the

global trade association for mobile operators. "Biofuels have the potential to make that happen by giving mobile operators local access to a commercially and environmentally sustainable power supply."

"In order to reach the next billion mobile users, we need to reach lower-spending segments of the population profitably," said Bert Nordberg, Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Ericsson. "By using locally-produced biofuels, we could significantly lower the cost of operating mobile base stations in rural areas." ☞



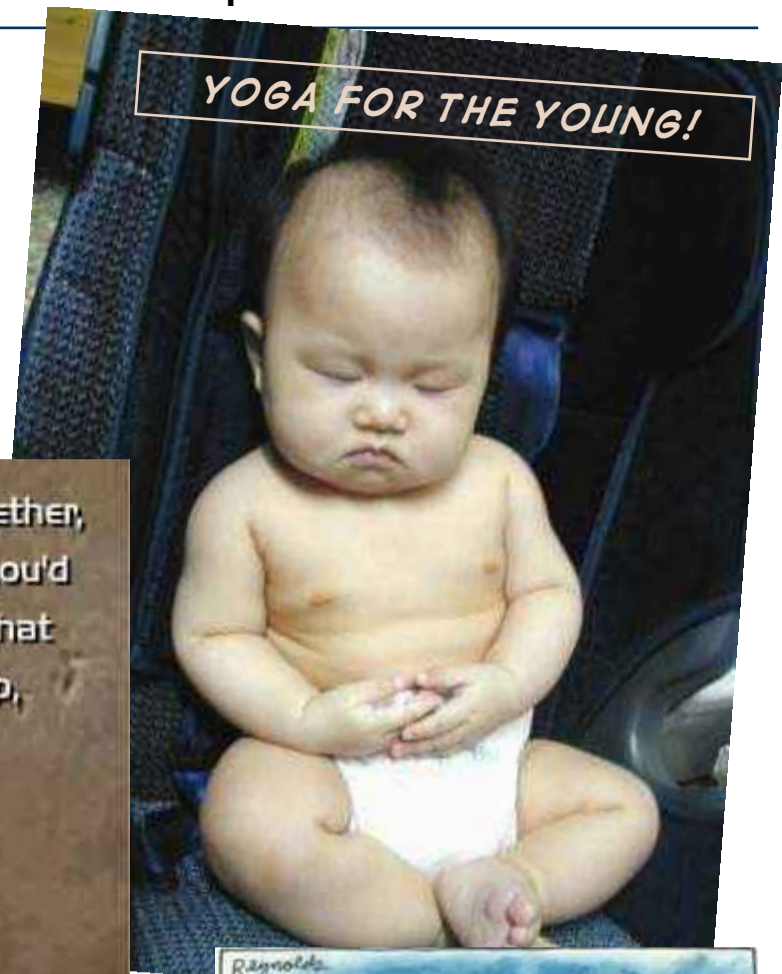
The return of the pyramids?



With research into the use of bio-fuels derived from crops such as groundnuts and palmfruits almost finalized, Nigeria will soon pioneer the use of biodiesel to power generators in radio-base stations. Soon the groundnut pyramids of the 1960s and '70s will return...Another commitment by Ericsson to making communications accessible to all.



GREETING CARDS...STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART!



as the days go by...



I think of how lucky I am that you're not here to ruin them for me!

When we were together, you always said you'd die for me. Now that we've broken up,

I think it's time you kept your promise!



JOKES

Lawyers are honest!

An old man was on his death. He wanted badly to take some of his money with him. He called his priest, his doctor and his lawyers by his bed side. 'Here's N30,000 cash to be held by each of you. I trust you to put this in my coffin when I die so I can take all my money with me'

At the funeral, each man put an envelope in the coffin. Riding away in a limousine, the priest suddenly broke into tears and confessed, 'I had only put N20,000 into the envelope because I needed N10,000 for a new baptistry'. Well, since we're confiding in each other, 'said the doctor, 'I only put N10,000 in the envelope because we needed a new machine at the hospital which cost N20,000'. The lawyer was aghast, 'I am ashamed of both of you' he exclaimed. 'I want it to be known that when I put my envelope in that coffin, it held my personal cheque for the full N30,000'

Millionaire's Wife

Interviewer to Millionaire: To whom do you owe your success as a millionaire?
Millionaire: 'I owe everything to my wife.'
Interviewer: 'Wow, she must be

some woman. What were you before you married her?'
Millionaire: 'A Billionaire'

My Family

Many, many years ago when I was twenty-three, I got married to a widow who was as pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown-up daughter Who had hair of red. My father fell in love with her, And soon the two were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law And changed my very life. My daughter was my mother, For she was my father's wife.

To complicate the matters worse, Although it brought me joy, I soon became the father Of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became A brother-in-law to dad. And so he became my uncle, Though it made me very sad.

For if he was my uncle, Then that also made him brother To the widow's grown-up daughter Who, of course, was my step-mother.

Father's wife then had a son, Who kept them on the run. And he became my grandson,

For he was my daughter's son. My wife is now my mother's mother And it makes me very blue. Because, although she is my wife, She's my grandmother too.

If my wife is my grandmother, Then I am her grandchild. And every time I think of it, It simply drives me wild.

For now I have become The strangest case you ever saw. As the husband of my grandmother I am my own grandpa

10 most stupid questions people usually ask

Do you know a lot of people ask stupid questions?? Here are 10 most stupid questions people usually ask In obvious situations and some clever answers.

1. You are smoking a cigarette and a cute woman asks...
Stupid Question: - Oh, so you smoke.

Answer: - Gosh, it's a miracle...it was a piece of chalk and now it's in flames!!!

2. At the movies: When you meet acquaintances/friends...
Stupid Question:- Hey, what are you doing here?
Answer:- Don't u know, I sell tickets in black over here..

3. In the bus: A heavy lady wearing pointed high heeled shoes steps on your feet...
Stupid Question:- Sorry, did that hurt?
Answer: - No, not at all, I'm on local anesthesia... Why don't you try again.

4. At a funeral: One of the teary eyed people ask...
Stupid Question: - Why, why him, of all people.
Answer: - Why? Would it rather have been you?

5. At a restaurant: When you ask the waiter.
Stupid Question: - Is! The "Paneer Butter Masala" dish good?
Answer: - No, its terrible and made of adulterated cement. We occasionally also spit in it.

6. At a family get-together: When some distant aunt meets you after years...

Stupid Question: - Munna, Chickoo, you've become so big.
Answer: - Well you haven't particularly shrunk yourself.

7. When a friend announces her wedding, and you ask...
Stupid Question:- Is the guy you're marrying good?
Answer: - No, he's a miserable wife beating, insensitive loud...it's Just the money

8. When you get woken up at midnight by a phone call...
Stupid Question: - Sorry. Were you sleeping?
Answer: - No. I was doing Zulu tribes in Africa marry or not. And you thought I was sleeping.... you dumbwitted moron.

9. When you see a friend/colleague with evidently shorter hair...!
Stupid Question: - Hey have you had a haircut?
Answer: - No, its autumn and I'm shedding...

10. At the dentist when he's sticking pointed objects in your mouth...
Stupid Question: - Tell me if it hurts?
Answer: - No it won't. It will just bleed. ☹