



Pelican News



August 2011
Blue Skies Newsletter

Retailers hit by rioting in UK

A number of UK retailers have been affected by the worst rioting to hit the country for thirty years. Supermarkets and convenience stores were among other businesses that were attacked by rioters who looted stock and caused extensive damage to property. The trade magazine 'The Grocer' reported that 16 Sainsbury stores had been damaged and 6 Tesco stores had been 'severely damaged', prompting a number of retailers to close early.

The rioting has fortunately had very minimal impact on Blue Skies; however it has painted a bleak picture of British society and raised eye-brows within many of the countries where the company operates. Anthony Pile said "I was in Ghana at the time of the riots and felt deeply ashamed of what was happening in the UK. Many of our staff live in countries with high levels of unemployment and poverty, so to see people who are relatively better-off destroying their own communities while people in Africa struggle to get access to clean water and health care, is appalling."



Above: A burnt out building left from rioting that took place in London.

British High Commissioner visits Ghana



The British High Commissioner to Ghana visited our factory in Ghana on the 13th of August. Peter Jones, who has been working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 1985, toured our factory and visited some of our farms. He is pictured above (left) with Nana Frimpomaa Arhin from DFID (centre) talking to Anthony. FM Robert Arhinful can be seen in the background.

Clinic refurb almost done



Pictured: The refurbishment of the training centre at Nsawam old hospital by the BS Foundation nears completion.



Blue Skies Egypt sails through two audits



Congratulations to Blue Skies Egypt who did extremely well in their ISO 22000 (Food Safety) and ISO 18000 (Occupational Health and Safety) audits in July, passing both audits with no non-conformances. Pictured above (from left to right) are Mohamed Bahgat, Amr Othman (auditor for OHASAS 18001), Alaa El-Din Naguib (for ISO 22000) and Ekramy Kamal.

Blue Skies SA supports National Science Week

This month Blue Skies South Africa supported National Science Week by engaging with students during a visit to the factory. National Science Week is held every year and is organised between the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Education. The objective is to raise the profile of Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) by engaging the media and students in a number of activities to highlight the role that SET plays within society. One of the activities promoted is to take secondary school students into industries so that they can learn about the processes that take place and observe how science is applied in practice.

During a visit to the Blue Skies factory in Balfour, students learnt all about how the company operates. They learnt about how fruit is sourced and the standards that have to be adhered to, they learnt about the different processes involved in production, and they learnt about how the company provides opportunities for youth. They also got to find out about some of the projects that have been carried out with the Blue Skies Foundation and how this has benefited the local community.



Above: Students gather outside the lapa following an insightful tour of the factory.

People of Blue Skies



This month we meet Joanne van Wyk (pictured) from Blue Skies South Africa. Joanne celebrated her birthday on the 30th of July 2011. SA Personnel Manager, Waydu Matala writes “When God made you he was having a good day! Because you are so special, so kind-hearted, that it’s difficult to tell in words. Happy birthday Joanne”.

A message from Joanne: Hi, I am Joanne van Wyk a temp at BSSA. I started here in April and am helping out while Sombu and Sally are on maternity leave. I am really enjoying working at BSSA because of the friendly people I have met. My wish is that Blue Skies has huge success with the new projects that it has taken on. I especially wish all the wonderful people at BSSA will take the opportunities given to them and change the world in which they live. In the words of Nelson Mandela “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”. We should all remember that even though we are different in many ways, we are all human beings with the same hopes and dreams for ourselves and our families. To quote one of the wisest leaders in SA “For to be free is not merely to cast off one’s chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others” (Nelson Mandela). Thank you Blue Skies for the education that I have received from all your wonderful people.

Welcome to new UK faces

A warm welcome to Eve Harper and Lily Paget who have joined us in the UK office to help on a temporary basis. And welcome back to Cath Maskell who is helping out with NPD.

Blue Skies Thinking

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Did you work today? Part II

In the previous write up we looked at the importance of work (hard work) and behaviour of some people towards that subject. It is imperative for all to understand the fact that without work no one, no industry, nor corporate entity can survive. I am talking about hard work spiced with wisdom and impact.

When you leave your house in the morning, mid – morning, afternoon or night for work, what do you set yourself to achieve? Do you think of what you will deliver or what you will derive from your employer, setup or company?

It is important to understand the purpose for which you have been employed and tilt yourself towards that direction. Never think you are favouring your employer with your hard work. In fact he has favoured you by offering you employment. As you walk, travel or drive to the bank at the end of each month to pick your salary, there are some questions you need to ask yourself.

- Did I really work for this money?
- Do I really deserve it?
- Am I fair to my employer?
- What will I do for my company to enable her continue to remunerate me?

If answers related to these questions are positive, you will have a sense of satisfaction and confidence that will propel you into achieving more. On the other hand if your responses are negative, you will become emotionally traumatized with a reasonable dose of guilt eating you up. Some research has revealed that lazy workers are usually filled with complaints and excuses. They are the first to talk about low wages and poor service conditions.

It must be noted that those responsible for turning such staff from these distasteful traits and encouraging or motivating the hardworking ones are the Heads. Any time heads fail to notice laziness and also curtail its existence, it seriously affects every part of the company's life. If you cannot play the role of a head by directing the "body" to the destination it ought to go, then you have a serious challenge. We ought to recognize that being in a leadership position or a head is not a title but a responsibility. If you cannot take charge and operate in a way that will facilitate the progress of your department or company then you need to rethink.

The head must have foresight, be proactive and cooperate with other "parts" (colleagues or staff) to keep the "body"(set up) running smoothly. Owing to the reason that some heads have become bosses, authority has been undermined and achievement of set targets derailed in numerous establishments.

The point is: when you make yourself a boss, most people working under you shy away and keep you at a distance. You are then kept in the dark on real issues on the ground and deprived of vital information that will ease your pressure. You must make yourself a head or leader and not a boss.

As a head, leader or staff you will have to work hard and leave the premises of the company each day fully satisfied with your delivery. It is your responsibility as leader to steer the affairs of your department without partiality, favouritism or nepotism. Official and private issues must be separated from each other to avoid relationship or attitudinal difficulties. Thanks for reading and hold it for the final part.

By Shakespeare Djokoto, Agronomy Dept. Blue Skies, Ghana

Ghana Staff take part in elections



Elections for our Staff Association in Ghana took place this month. The Blue Skies Staff Association (BSSA) is an internal union which is entirely run by our staff in Ghana. The elections were organised in partnership with the Ghana Electorate commission and supported by the Ghana police. Thanks to everyone involved in helping to make this a great example of democracy in action.

New facility takes shape



Work has begun on a new juice facility in South Africa. The photo above shows the base being excavated. The work is due to be completed soon.

Another ash cloud in UK is 'unlikely'

The UK is unlikely to see another volcanic ash cloud on the same scale as was seen last year, according to a report published in the journal 'Geology'. The findings are based on records dating back to prehistory across northern Europe and show that big clouds of the type seen in 2010 occurred on average only every 56 years. Scientists used evidence from microscopic layers of volcanic material in peat bogs and lake beds to reach their conclusions.

