

24th April 2015,

The Editor,
SaharaReporters.com.

Dear Sir,

RE: BART NWIBE, OTHER DIRECTORS OF SDS ACCUSED OF PLOTTING TO PUSH OUT FOUNDING MD

The above subject matter of your online post of April 22 2015 refers.

We read with a measure of consternation and sadness the story on your website alleging a myriad of malfeasance leveled against the persons of the Directors of Smart Drilling Services.

The consternation is borne out of an obvious attempt by Mr Iro Ukpai to rubbish the image of these gentlemen who have worked hard to build a reputation for themselves in their private and public lives and have succeeded in gaining the respect and trust of all around them, including we must add, the erstwhile Managing Director of Smart Drilling Services.

The language of the online post is without doubt, that of Mr Iro Ukpai. There are series of mails in the company records, written to other Directors that gives him out to be the sponsor of these tired allegations.

We would like to put on record that none of the allegations as written there has any truth in them. Specifically we would also like to inform Sahara Reporters that these allegations were a subject of a petition written to the Nigeria Police , Force Headquarters on the 5th of November 2014 by no less a person than Mr Iro Ukpai himself.

It is on the basis of that petition that The Special Fraud Unit of the Nigeria Police Force investigated the activities of Smart Drilling Services in its entirety and came out with an official stamped report dated 9th April 2015 and signed by ACP Nura Yakubu, an Assistant Commissioner of Police, clearing the Board of Directors of Smart Drilling Services Ltd of any wrong doing in running the affairs of Smart Drilling Services. One would have thought that Mr Iro Ukpai, who wrote the petition that triggered the investigation, would have waited to see the official outcome of the investigation.

We are aware that the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria does not preclude anyone from holding positions in different companies. It is therefore unreasonable to expect that Mr Iro Ukpai should create laws for other people different from those that govern the generality of Nigerians. We are sure he really does not mean to say that he contravened the law as he was, and still is, the Managing Director of Hocihat Nigeria Limited during his tenure as MD of Smart Drilling Services.

We do not run the affairs of Smart Drilling services on the pages of online news outlets; but we must state here for public consumption that Mr Iro Ukpai has not contributed in any material way to the sustenance and growth of Smart Drilling Services. He was until he was removed from the position of the Managing director earning a princely sum of \$10,000 per month for two years for doing nothing. We challenge him to mention one contract that was or is being currently executed by Smart Drilling Services that emanated from his efforts. He cannot because it doesn't exist.

It is from this salary that Mr Iro Ukpai was able to pay for the total of 7% of Smart Drilling shares that he bought as a shareholder in Smart Drilling Services Ltd.

He also makes an issue of the fact that the company at a time was run from his place. He forgot to mention that he was paid rent for that period of time.

The Company and Allied Matters Act expects that every company has a competitive edge that it tries to protect. This is why firms the world over has company secrets. To enforce the loyalty of the management and staff of such companies, **Non-Disclosure Agreements** are entered into. Smart Drilling Services is no different. In the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, id est the Company



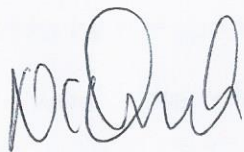
and Allied Matters Act are provisions that precludes Directors of Companies from using information and/or knowledge that they came in contact with from being Directors of such companies , to their benefit *even after they leave the employ or board of that company*. This is the law. Mr Iro Ukpai cannot in good conscience state there was an attempt to gag him with a Non-Disclosure Agreement when the agreement was to protect the company from acts capable of causing her to lose her competitive edge.

These are the core issues. **We reiterate that the Special Fraud Unit of the Nigeria Police Force has carried out its investigation and found nothing wrong with the way SDS is being run. And a scan copy of the report is attached for your perusal.**

In the light of the forgoing, the Board of Directors of Smart Drilling Services Ltd demand that you:

- 1) Publish this rebuttal as well as the Final Police Investigation Report to give a balanced view of your earlier publication.
- 2) Issue us an apology, in the same way and manner of your initial publication, for the damaging publication which you did without recourse to us either via telephone call or email message, as your publication has impugned our reputation and adversely affected our corporate image.
- 3) You do the needful with 7 days from today to avoid legal action and consequent claims for damages which Smart Drilling Services Ltd is prepared to institute against SaharaReporters in Nigeria and United States.

Please be assured of our highest regards.



S. N. Oreh

Company Secretary,

Board of Smart Drilling Services Ltd.