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NIGERIA LOTTERY

Author / organisation	Vanguard Nigeria
Year recorded	2007
Region	Africa · Nigeria
Category	Economic, Governance/political
Original source	vanguardngr.com
Archive page	kiwanja.net/mobile-database/nigeria-lottery/

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Lottery Proceeds to be used for socio-economic dev't- Lottery Commission D-G

By Emma Ujah
Posted to the Web: Wednesday, February 14, 2007

The Director General of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission, Mrs. Titilayo Iroche, has said that proceeds from lottery could be deployed towards an accelerated socio-economic development of the country.

Speaking at the launching of the Nigerian National Lottery Point of Sale terminal offering, in Abuja, she said 20 per cent of every ticket sold was revenue to the federal government, to be paid into the National Lottery Trust Fund which could be applied to the development of sector, such as, education, sports, health and infrastructure.

Her words, "I believe governments wants to get involved in lottery because other nations get involved in lottery when they saw that the money that comes from lottery is used for good causes. For instance, in New York State, lottery is used to fund education.

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"You know we have been depending on oil, and government wants to diversify and go away to try to get money from other sources. If lottery is played well, the operators are forthright, they are men and women of integrity, the winnings are paid as at when due, what accrues to government is paid to government, the money can be used for good courses.

"Like disaster management, like education and sports. You know the Olympics that Britain is going to host is going to be paid for by a lottery operator in England. In South Africa, it is the same thing. They use it to fund sport, arts and others good thing.

Earlier, the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Symeon Goergiades, announced that a GSM entry has been provided to enable members of the Nigerian public, irrespective of their location to play the National Lottery.

According to him, through the initiatives, interested players could play throughout the 24 hours available each day as the mechanism had been designed in such a way that receipt of entries could be issued

automatically and player ID could be issued by the service providers.

“The GSM cellphone entry mechanism provides all people over Nigeria with the opportunity to play the National lottery simply by utilizing their GSM cellphone or CDMA Starcomms phones. The service is always available to consumers across Nigeria 24 hours a day”, he said.

Mr Georgiades explained further that rather than the old lottery trends, Nlot decided to adopt a mechanism that combined simplicity, flexibility and convenience, akin to internet banking in the traditional banking type terminals.

His words, “we identified, early in our strategic planning, that Nigeria and its customers and traders had a real need for a solution that created the ability to offer a multitude of convenient transactibility from a singular point.”

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