

July 26, 2012

President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR,
President of the Federal Republic, and
Commander –in –Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria,
State House, Presidential Villa,
Asokoro,
Abuja Nigeria.

Mr President:

TWIN BOMBINGS OF THISDAY NEWSPAPERS: THE NEED FOR COMPENSATION.

On behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of THISDAY Newspapers, we write to thank you for visiting the remains of the premises housing THISDAY Newspapers on Saturday 28th of April, soon after the *Boko Haram* bombings of our Abuja and Kaduna offices on Thursday, 26th of April, 2012 – an act which they filmed and posted on YouTube in a clear act of impunity.

Your visit must have afforded you the opportunity of seeing first hand the utter devastation of our premises – the first attack of a major organisation by *Boko Haram* soon after the attack on the Abuja Headquarters of the United Nations. During the attack, 4 lives were lost mainly of contractors and retailers around our premises, with scores injured around the back entrance gate from where a suicide bomber in a car drove an Isuzu SUV through the back utility gate and detonated his bomb around 10:30 AM, after production and circulation, when few of our staff were on the premises on Sector Centre B, Jabi Business District, Jabi, Abuja – opposite the Jabi Central Motor Park.

Had the bombings happened a few hours earlier, or even a few hours later, during the peak of production, about 150 Abuja staff including journalists, printers and other staff may have been affected.

Mr President, we lost the following to the attack:

1. Fully automated Goss Community Towers complete with full assessories valued at \$3,000,000 USD with a replacement value of \$5,000,000 USD.
2. Fully automated but fairly used KBA 4 – colour printing equipments valued at 1,000,000 EUROS;
3. 3 Heibelberg Computer – to – Plate equipments complete with assesories valued at \$200,000 USD;
4. 2 old style but serviceable high end Cameras and Plating equipments and plate makers valued at \$50,000;
5. Several PC and Apple computer equipments, cameras ETC, ETC valued at another \$50,000;
6. Massive destruction to the entire building which will take another N750,000,000 - N1,000,000,000 bring down and reconstruct as our staff are currently operating under trees and containers in defiance of the terrorists to demonstrate that they mat have destroyed our premises, they cannot defeat our Nigerian spirit ; they cannot defeat Free Speech.
7. Currently, we are spending hundreds of millions with other newspapers and commercial printers to print our publications every day constraining cash flows and making it difficult to meet salary obligations and emolument to staff and other suppliers. Today in the 3 months following the dastardly attack we have spent an average of 10,000,000 per day and counting, knocking off N900 million from our cash flows over this first 3 months alone. Imagine the cost over the next year - before we are able to rebuild our business and our lives.

THIS DAY

Mr President, the lack of adequate security around such a major public space as the Jabi Motor Park where thousands pass through every day is a main factor to the ease of the attack as we are powerless to restrict and control over any person around our premises: this must be urgently addressed, Your Excellency.

Mr President, even as we did not directly lose any of our staff members, it is important that the Federal Government takes immediate care of the families of the dead and of the injured.

Today marks exactly 3 months after the dastardly bombing of our premises, kindly take action to mitigate our losses, Mr President.

Please be assured of our high esteem and continued loyalty to The Federal Republic of Nigeria.

With Kind Regards,

For: THISDAY NEWSPAPERS



Nduka OBAIGBENA
Chairman and Editor-in -Chief.

PS: PHOTOS OF THE REMAINS OF THISDAY, ABUJA PREMISES ATTACHED.