

The Anthony DeVito Experience proudly presents:

“THE NIGERIA PAPERS”

On January 8th, 2002, I received an email that changed my life. I was given the opportunity to get rich, quick. It was an offer I daren't refuse.

What follow are the actual emails I got, and my responses. Please note I have not altered them in any way to make them funnier. I didn't have to.

SUBJECT: RREQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

OFFICE OF THE CO-ORDINATOR
CONTRACT REVIEW PANEL
NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION.
DIRECT FAX; 234 1 7597561

Dear Sir,

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

I am Dr.Lateef Karimu, the Co-ordinator of the contract Review Panel of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Sometime Ago , a Contract was awarded to a Conglomerate of Foreign Companies by my Committee on behalf of the NNPC. The Contract was Overinvoiced to the tune of US\$32.5Million (Thirty Two Million Five Hundred Thousand united states Dollars). This was done deliberately by one of my colleagues and I to benefit from this project. This funds are presently lying in the NNPC accounts having observed all laid down protocols. This surplus US\$32.5Million is what we ask that you help us receive, by providing an account for lodgement of the funds since it is forbidden for us government workers or people in public office to operate foreign bank accounts under our government policy.

On final conclusion of this project, 70% of this surplus shall be for us, while 25% shall be for you and the remaining 5% shall be used to compensete either party should there be any expenses incurred. You should be informed that all arrangements to make you the beneficiary contractor of the funds shall be perfected from our office and upon our final recommedations, our bankers will transfer the funds directly to your account.

This piece of information should however be kept to yourself alone as we are still very much in government service.Send me an email or fax immediately to let me know if you would be of assistance.

Regards, Dr.Lateef Karimu.

\$

RE: RREQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

What a terrible problem! I would be more than happy to help, as Nigeria is one of my favorite countries. Please advise!!!

history books. (ha ha).

But on a serious note, I am sorry for not calling to you on the phone, I do not have one since my line was tapped for 10 years! Besides, I was afraid to awaken you from slumber with the time difference. But let us get up to business with my info (short for information!!)

Name: Alfred E. Neuman

Phone: 646-555-6969 (my friend Dawn will take a message for me)

Bank: Dollywood Federal Savings from Butcher Holler, TN

Account #: 123-45-99f000111-35u4672199872-2368c64581028k3645-3y89376o251434u

Let me know when the big bucks come rolling in! This is the best thing that has ever happened to me since I lost the use of my legs.

Your Best Friend, Al(butter).

p.s. Go Nigeria!

\$

Dear partner(milk),

We have filed in the application for the release of the funds as a contract payment to your company (You). The project has commenced in earnest, using your advised bank's information and your company particulars. We have also started the registration of your company with our Corporate Affairs Commission (and back dating it), with this we can register your company with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as a Category 'A' contractor and then go ahead to pay the taxes for the required years(which is usually 3 Years).

We have set the machinery of receiving the necessary approvals to the release of the US\$32,500,000.00 as a contract payment. We are confident that in at the next 2 to 3 days, we would have concluded the entire process of receiving the necessary approvals, to the release of the funds, which may be communicated to you directly by The Federal Ministry of Finance. So please if the Ministry contacts you, it is important you contact me as soon as possible so that I can know the status of our file and advice immediately.

We quite recognize the enormity of trust reposed on us by you in availing us the use of your account to receive this fund and for this we further reassure you that we will not let you down in any way, this is our assurance and guarantee to you. In as much as you follow our instructions carefully, religiously and promptly our guarantee of a hitch-free success remains unshakable.

I also will use this medium to extend the collective appreciation of the partners to you. They have asked me to let you know that we recognize that you are doing us a favour, in as much as you stand to benefit enormously from the successful completion of this project. They acknowledge that it would not have been easy without you because we would not have been able to achieve the much needed officialisation which is compulsory in this project because of our very status in the civil service and the society as a whole. For your total support and understanding we say thank you and assure you that this is the beginning of a life time relationship between our families.

Please be informed that right now we have no access to the fund, which is presently lodged in an escrow account of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). As soon as the payment is approved by the various ministries/departments, the fund will be transferred into your account for us all. Also all expenses incurred by both parties during the course of this project if properly documented shall be reimbursed before the actual sharing of the money in the ratio spelt out in my letter to you. Take note of this please.

Now that our file is currently undergoing the process of receiving all the necessary approvals, we are going to be very busy ensuring that we put all documents in place. In the light of this call me on daily bases so i can appropriately furnish you with whatever information I have in respect of our file. Meanwhile if you want to reach me, please do not use your international dialing operator due to the sensitive nature of this deal. Always dial direct this is very important.

Please endeavour to maintain absolute confidentiality and follow our instructions carefully and promptly. Thank you very much for your patience and understanding, and your resolve to assist us for our mutual gains. I will call you later today before I leave the office.

Best regards,
Dr. Lateef Karimu(salt).

\$

Dear friend and partner,

I am glad to inform you that we have successfully registered your company name as a corporate entity with our Corporate Affairs Commission and we have also registered your company with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) as a category 'A' contractor. We are pleased to inform you, that we have successfully secured two of the necessary approvals to the release of the fund and presently the file/application has been passed over to the Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF) /Debt Reconciliation Committee (DRC) which is charged with the responsibility of reconciling the claim as contained in your application and upon their satisfaction you will be issued with an Exchange Control Approval Number (E.C.A.O.No).

The issue of reconciling the claim at the D.R.C. is more or less an administrative/bureaucratic requirement as we are confident that with the approvals already secured, the process of reconciling is a mere exercise. What we are really concerned about and hoping that we receive soonest is the Exchange Control Approval Number from the committee. This number is very important to the project, in that with its allocation, our claim becomes unchallengeable by any authority whatsoever. It confirms that your company has been officially recognized as the sole beneficiary of the US\$32,500,000.00 as a contract payment. You can appreciate why this number is very important to our successful officialisation and completion of this project with due recourse to our achieving absolute peace of mind after the transfer. However, we have no doubt in our capability to see that the number is issued as promptly as we expect, knowing fully well that we have satisfied all their requirements via the approvals already received.

We have reached a vital stage in this transaction and it is our collective interest that we keep in touch with each other as our file is at the Debt Reconciliation Committee (D.R.C) and you could be contacted any moment from now, any unnecessary delay could be detrimental and may completely jeopardize the whole project. Therefore once you receive any messages from any ministry or office, endeavor to contact me immediately.

We have filed all the necessary tax papers and are to pay taxes for the preceding 3 years which all amounted to US\$63,250.00. Also your name has been programmed into the main computer of the NNPC along with those of other contractors to be paid in this financial quarter. Right now our claim to this money has all the legality and legitimacy required, **all that is left is to pray to God** for the E.C.A.O.No. to come out quickly. And also we are still in the process of raising money to cover tax, which amounts to US\$63,250.00.

Considering the huge sum of money we intend to leave in your care pending our arrival in your country, I think it is in our collective interest to build a strong relationship. So I will want you to call or email me on a daily basis. Dear friend, do not forget to inform me once the Debt Reconciliation Committee contacts you. Please do not relent in your efforts to reach me as I wait in earnest anticipation.

Thank you and goodbye for now. Please confirm your receipt of this email.

Best regards,
SALT.

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Dear Salt,
Why is your name salt now? Should I change my name to Pepper, since we will always be together now? (ha ha). I love a good joke now and again, there is too much suffering in the world. By the way, since you live in the land of Nigeria, can you get me a good price on a lion? I always wanted one since I was a wee toddler watching Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. Marlin Perkins gave me great solace after my true father was killed by his riding mower. Boy, I bet my Mom felt bad after nagging him to tend the greens that fateful day! But many tears and many years later, here I am. Alone but not lonely, with my new best pal, Queen Latifah! (no offense intended Dr. Lateef, I'm a jokester, ask anyone!!!) See you soon, I'm fixing up my spare room for you!!!

Love, PEPPER.

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Dear partner,

Attached are documents of registration for your persual. Please do not forget to reach me, once you are contacted by the DRC.

Best regards and God bless.
Dr. Lateef. (Salt)

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I got the papers, they are beautiful! the pictures of the horsies rearing up in majesty are my favorite. Finally something to hang on my wall to refute the slings and arrows of my peers who mock me for never attending school. God bless YOU Dr. Lateef, my salty benefactor!!!

**-Alfred e. Neuman (flour)
Chairman, Nigerian National Petroleum Corp.**

p.s. I will be buying a new desk at Ikea today to run the company from. As you can plainly see, I take this new position very serious. I wish you were here with me.

\$

Attention: Alfred Neuman.

Sir,
RE: RECONFIRMATION OF BANKING PARTICULARS.

Please find attached, two page documents to your organisation.

You are advised in your best interest, to fill out the DRC form and have same sent back to to this office, via this email or fax 23417599285.

Your Faithfully,
Mrs. Halima Yaradua
Duty Officer.

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Dear partner,

What is happening, please update me.

Regards,
Dr. Lateef

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Probably a better question to pose is what ISN'T happening! (ha ha) I finally got my stitches out, the bad news being the doctor said my hair will never grow back where the injury was. It looks like a reverse mohawk, maybe i will be a trend-starter (ha ha). But one thing that is not funny is the faith healer I paid to work his God-magic on my legs is a charlatan I think. I'm still dead from the waist down and he says God doesn't give refunds. Luckily I'll soon have plenty of money "wink". I will send those forms to you as soon as I finish assembling my IKEA desk, which isn't easy to do from a wheelchair.

Love, Al.

EPILOGUE:

As of January 25th I have not received any further e-correspondence from Herr Kiram. I'd be lying if I said I don't miss Dr. Lateef and all the greedy times we shared. But that's why attempted con jobs are a double-edged sword; when the conner doesn't get what he wants, the conee is left flat like the first wife of an A-list Hollywood actor.

If you'd like to "read more about it" as they say, go to snopes.com and do a search for NIGERIA. And if you're in the mood, why not drop a line to the good Doctor at latkarlat2@yahoo.com and tell him his good friend Alfred E. Neuman has finally finished assembling his desk, and is patiently awaiting further instructions.

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