



# Pelican News



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Blue Skies Newsletter

## UK Minister for Africa visits Blue Skies Ghana

UK Minister for Africa, James Duddridge, and UK Trade Envoy to Ghana, Adam Afriyie, visited Blue Skies today with the British High Commission to Ghana to see how the company is managing to export high quality value-added fresh-fruit products and employ over three thousand people, despite the challenges being faced by the business in Ghana.

Founder and Chairman, Anthony Pile, introduced the visitors to the ‘fresh-from-harvest’ prepared fruits and freshly squeezed juices made by Blue Skies and highlighted the major challenges preventing the company from expanding further in Ghana. Anthony spoke of how a managed exchange rate with rising inflation was hurting exporters and emphasised how expensive yet poor energy supply was damaging machinery and eroding profitability. He also highlighted how declining agriculture in Ghana was making it difficult for the business to meet demand from some of its European customers.

Anthony said “we are delighted to have hosted the UK Minister for Africa and the UK Trade Envoy to our factory in Ghana and to have the opportunity to talk openly about the opportunities and challenges faced by Blue Skies in Ghana.”



*Pictured: Anthony Pile (third from left) with UK Minister for Africa, James Duddridge (to his right), and UK Trade Envoy to Ghana, Adam Afriyie (to his left)*

## Blue Skies finalists at FPC Awards



Blue Skies have once again made it through to the finals of the Fresh Awards. This year Blue Skies are finalists in the CSR Excellence category (which it won last year) and the Best Place to Work category. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 9<sup>th</sup> of June in London.

## Ghana mark Queens 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Pictured: The Ghana team at the Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at the Residence of the British High Commissioner in Accra. The party was attended by dignitaries including musicians, politicians, journalists and film stars.



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## **2016 Foundation projects take shape**

Work on our 2016 Foundation projects is making good progress. This year's projects include a three classroom block, staff common room, office and store for Chinto Community School near to our factory in Dobro, a clinic for a coconut growing community in the Western Region of Ghana, a new classroom block for a papaya growing community and the return of the School Farm of the Year Competition. Work on most projects is expected to be completed in time for the next Foundation Board meeting in June.



*Above: progress at Chinto Community School near to our factory in Dobro*



*Above: progress at Nawule Clinic near to Jomorow in the Western Region.*

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## **Another great result for Blue Skies UK**

Congratulations to our Blue Skies UK factory which recently received official approval from one of our customers. Group Technical Manager, Stephan Morris commented that the auditor commended Blue Skies for having "absolutely outstanding systems". Stephan, Lorna, Les, Vijay were present during the audit to observe Linda's calm efficiency with the auditor, and Marcin's organisation behind the scenes.

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## **HPW in Egypt**



Pictured: Daniel from HPW at a melon farm during a successful visit to Blue Skies Egypt.

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## **Meet Rachel Buckingham**



A warm welcome to Rachel Buckingham who joined the UK NPD team Blue Skies this month. Rachel studied Food Science at Leeds University before working at Nestle on sugar confectionery and then at English Provender Company in NPD. In her spare time Rachel enjoys playing squash, going for walks and cooking. Rachel says she is happy to be working at Blue Skies and look forward to developing some great products.

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# Stanford Students visit Blue Skies



Pictured: Students from Stanford University paid a visit to Blue Skies Ghana this month. Foundation and PR Manager Alistair Djimatey gave the visitors a presentation and a tour of the factory.

# Leadership Programme visits Blue Skies Ghana



Pictured: 32 people from 8 African countries visited Blue Skies this month as part of a Young Africa Leadership program. The visit was led by Alistair Djimatey who told them about opportunities and challenges in industry and agriculture.

# Blue Skies Weddings Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Thokoane of Blue Skies SA



*By Waydu Nhlapo, Blue Skies South Africa.*

Congratulations to a wonderful couple. You two really stand out in a crowd. Together you are stronger, together you are one, As you wed today, may your feelings and emotions for each other only grow deep and strong with time. As the two of you unite today as husband and wife in love and in friendship, may the Lord look upon you kindly. From this wedding day on, your lives you share, Live, love, laugh and be forever true from the minute you swear to each other: "I do. As you start this new journey in life, may you will always grow together and never grow apart. A happy

marriage is like a long involving conversation that always seems too short. Best wishes for the future! Happy Wedding! Wishing the groom always remember the golden rule - "Happy wife, happy life"! Congratulations to a beautiful bride and a groom. All the best to you and your new family at this special time and always.

# Restoration of World War I memorial in Accra begins



A project to restore a World War I memorial in the James Town area of Accra is under way. The project is being led by JustGhana and has received donations from a number of organisations including Blue Skies. The memorial tower which was built around 1922 to commemorate the fallen heroes of the First World War, has suffered neglect over the years.

# **Blue Skies team win Peace Volleyball Gala**

Blue Skies Ghana hosted a volleyball gala this month to promote peace ahead of the forthcoming presidential elections in Ghana.

Speaking to the Ghana News Agency (GNA), Mr Alistair Djimatey, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Blue Skies said, "the peace volleyball gala, which is aimed at promoting peace before, during and after the 2016 general elections, is one of the activities lined up by the company to help educate and sensitize the public about the need for peaceful elections".

In the end the Blue Skies team 'The Pelican Spikers' won the tournament, beating Unity Club by 25-22.



*Above: Perpetual Ofasi congratulates the winners with Alistair commentating in the background*



*Above: The Pelican Spikers basking in the glory of their win!*

# **Blue Skies Babies**



A belated congratulations to Parlaad Nandhra from the UK Operations team and to his wife Tamara on the birth of their baby Neve was due on Christmas Day but was born 00:00:20 on boxing day - so 20 seconds late! She weighed a 8lbs 12oz.



Congratulations to Janet Lutterodt of Blue Skies Ghana on the birth of her baby daughter.



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