

From: Andrew Jennings <andrew-jennings@btconnect.com>
Date: Tue, 13 Jan 2009 12:26:49 +0000
To: amos adamu <amosadamu@hotmail.com>
Conversation: Story for pending publication
Subject: Re: Story for pending publication

Hello again Dr Adamu:

Your response is surprising.

You say you cannot answer my questions because you are out of the country until January 26. Yet you are due in court in Abuja on January 19 to progress your libel action against the *Guardian* where you are claiming the stupendous sum of Niara 500 million.

That vast amount of money clearly makes this one of the most important matters in your whole professional career and I cannot believe that you are not in constant consultation with your legal team in Nigeria. It may be expected that these issues that I raise - about the conduct of your duties to sport and your level of prosperity and lifestyle - will be raised in court. So they are at the forefront of your mind.

I note that since President Adua had you relieved of your position last November – because of the bloated budget drawn up for the FIFA Under-17 tournament - you surely have sufficient time on your hands to answer my questions. I presume you are currently in Zurich for the FIFA football awards. That is not intellectually taxing.

My questions totalled 254 words. Your reply, explaining why you cannot answer them, is 368 words.

Mine are not complex questions and matters like your salary (# 1 & # 2) surely don't need much contemplation.

Similarly with taxation matters (# 8). Since 2006 you have been in receipt of considerable income from FIFA.

As a member of the FIFA executive committee you will have an account in Zurich managed by FIFA into which all your fees and expenses are paid. By now this account will have benefited to the tune of hundreds of thousands of US dollars. You have the choice to repatriate this either in bags of cash (as some of your colleagues do) or by bank transfer. Or perhaps you leave it in Zurich to withdraw when you wish.

I asked you a simple question: have you informed the Nigerian tax authorities about this foreign account? The answer should take a few

seconds of keyboard time. The fact that you decline to answer might lead reasonable people to suspect you have not declared this income in Nigeria.

Again – you either know about bribes to FIFA officials (# 5 & # 6) - or you don't.

Similarly (# 7) about FIFA and corruption is easy to answer.

If you really thought these issues important, there is time to deal with them long before 13.00 on Friday. If you cannot be bothered to address them adequately, then presumably you don't really care what is published globally.

To state that as a civil servant you cannot speak to me without informing your employer beggars belief. Was that the case every time you spoke to a journalist in the last two decades? I have my doubts. I would certainly wish to hear more on this from former Sports Minister Mr Abdulraham Gimba who I understand long sought your dismissal.

I have done all the things that an English court would expect me to do prior to publication. I think it highly likely that a judge would consider your response evasive. I do not seek to go down that road nor do I wish to publish untruths. I suggest you contact an English libel lawyer, fast, and ask them to explain Reynolds rules. And then be advised to answer the questions honestly.

Whatever, I shall proceed to publication and give your current response – and lack of it – full and fair coverage. It would also be fair to you to publish our correspondence online so the public can make up its own mind about these issues.

Meanwhile – because it is obvious that you **do** have time to deal with my handful of questions, let me amplify a little.

Your home: I am given to understand that you live in Amos Adamu Close and that your house is built on 2 of the 4 adjacent plots you own there. Do you accept or deny this?

I am told that a recent scandal was the purchase, by former Governor Donald Duke of an older house near yours for Naira 550 million.

Finally, I do not deal in character assassination and the sources of my information would not stoop to such activity. I would have preferred that you did not accuse me of attempting to blackmail you. My questions are fair and proper and in the public interest. The affairs of FIFA are of

global interest and you are a member of the executive committee.
Please spend the few minutes required to deal with them as a matter
now of some urgency.

Yours,

Andrew Jennings