

Bread strike threatens food supply

Supplies of bread have dwindled in Lagos and other cities across Nigeria since 5 May when the Association of Master Bakers and Caterers of Nigeria went on a nationwide strike over the rising price of flour and other raw materials.



Photo: Tugela Ridley/IRIN

"Flour mills have increased their prices almost every week," Lateef Oguntinyinbo, chairman of Lagos state chapter of the association, told *IRIN*.

He called on the government to intervene. "Mills have been arbitrarily increasing prices," he said, adding that the bakers do not want to pass on the cost to poor consumers.

He said demand would then drop and everyone would lose.

The government said the rising costs were caused by international wheat prices. "Whatever may be the cause of the global food crisis its impact on Nigeria is real," the minister of commerce and industry, Charles Ugwu told the Nigerian *Vanguard* newspaper.

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