

Local CONTENT Digest

H1 2023

NCDMB STAKEHOLDERS MAGAZINE

OLOIBIRI MUSEUM

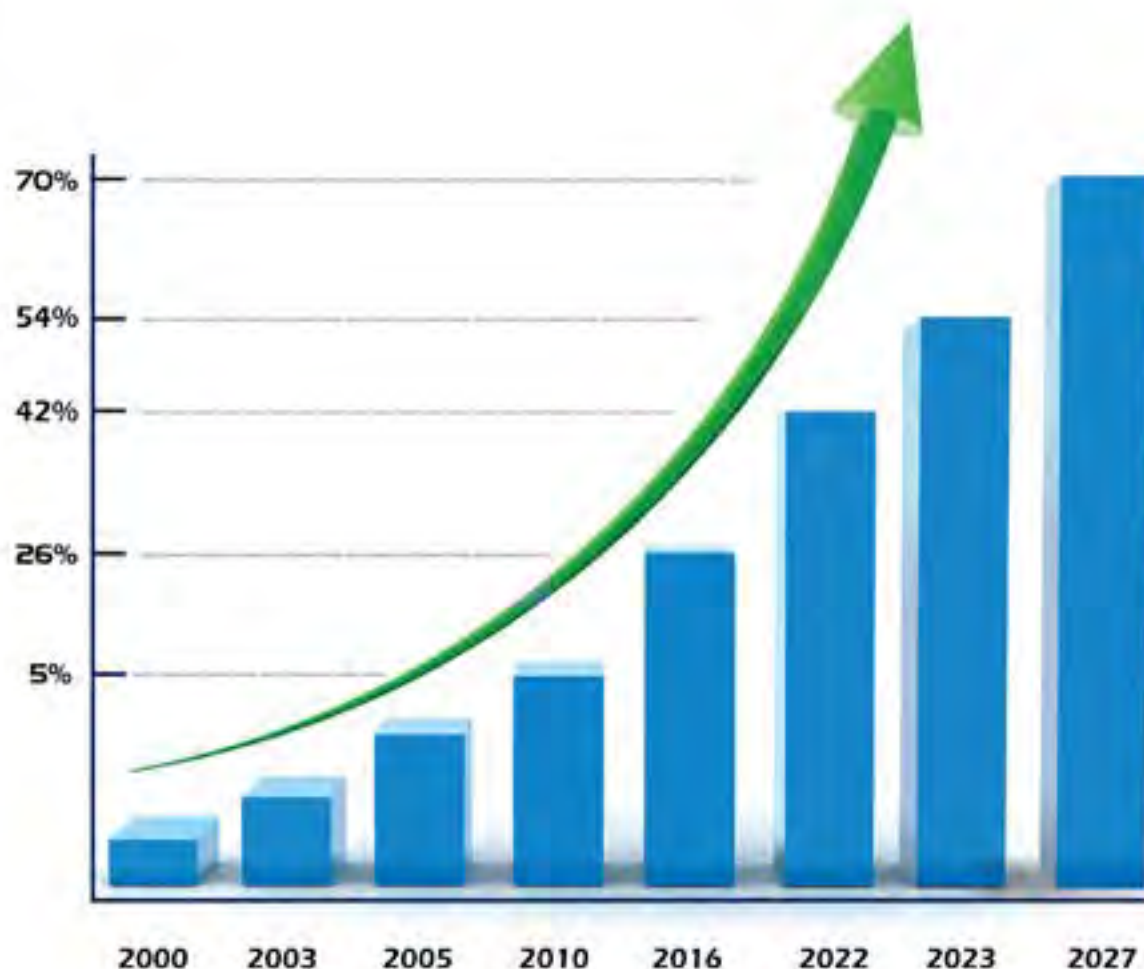
**HISTORICAL RESTORATION AND
ECONOMIC POSITIONING**



NCDMB CONFERENCE HOTEL TRANSFORMS YENAGOA



Nigerian Content Trajectory



NCDMB

Nigerian Content
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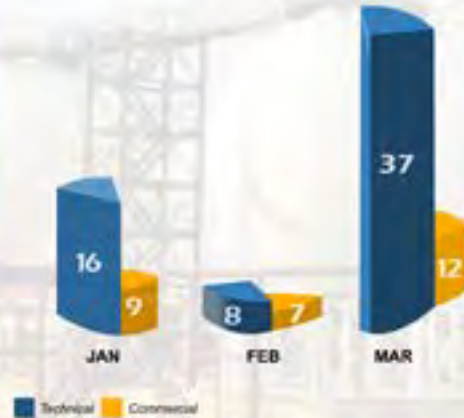
...Building local capacities in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

SMART FACT

Number of Temporary Work Permits approved/ rejected in Q1 2023



Number of Technical and Commercial Evaluation Reports issued in 2023



Number of NCP issued in Q1 2023



Number of NCCC issued in 2023



Number of Biometric Cards Issued in 2023



NOGIC JQS ADDITIONAL RECORDS IN Q1 2023



Data for January to April, 2023 compiled by **Hauwa Hamisu**

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, FNSE, FIPS



Sustaining Nigerian Content development in a transition period

The past six months were quite eventful for Nigerian Content development even amid the frenzy of national elections, which climaxed with the election of Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, from May 29, 2023.

One of the landmark events was the twin groundbreaking ceremonies of the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC) at Otuabagi in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State and the NCDMB Conference Hotel Project (CHP) at Swali, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, performed on February 22, 2023 by President Muhammadu Buhari. Represented by the then Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, Mr. President struck the right chord when he said that the Oloibiri Museum and Research project would correct a historical oversight by erecting a befitting monument at the exact ground where commercial quantities of oil were first discovered in Nigeria and production began in 1957.

Firm commitments made by key industry stakeholders, notably Mr. Mele Kolo Kyari, Group Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), and Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and the pedigree of the project promoters – Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Bayelsa State Government, and Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) as well as its joint venture partners, led by the NNPCL-plus the carefully articulated governance structure, provide the perfect mix of industry capabilities that will ensure the OMRC is completed on schedule and becomes a cynosure of all eyes.

The Conference Hotel Project (CHP) is equally on a sure footing. It is fully sponsored by the NCDMB and executed by Megastar Technical and Construction Company Limited- the same indigenous firm responsible for the iconic 17-storey Nigerian Content Tower in Yenagoa. Beyond the historical significance of the OMRC and the excellent business case of the CHP, the local content opportunities of both projects are quite enormous and would stimulate the economy for many years.

In March, I participated in another groundbreaking ceremony for a pipe manufacturing plant, which equally boasts huge local content prospects. The pipe mill is being developed by AS Energies Limited at Polaku, Gbarain, Bayelsa State. It will manufacture Glass Reinforced Epoxy (GRE) and Glass Reinforced Plastic (GRP) pipes. This project is significant as it fulfills the decade-old plan by the NCDMB to catalyse a pipe manufacturing plant in the Polaku, Gbarain area, for which the Board acquired

and sand-filled 10.6 hectares of land in 2013. When the project suffered investor apathy, we redesignated the land as a Gas Hub and pressed on with our capacity development mandate by attracting as-tute oil and gas firms to co-locate their projects in the Polaku/Gbarain industrial area, joining the Shell Gas Gathering Plant, which produces more than one billion standard cubic feet per day of gas. New entities sprouting up in the area with the Board's support include Azikel Refinery (a modular hydro-skimming processing plant), Rungas LPG Composite Cylinder Manufacturing Plant and Eraskon Nigeria's lube oil manufacturing plant. Other planned projects for the Gas Hub are the Pressure Reduction and Metering Station by Shell Nigeria Gas and CNG and LNG mother stations by Total Support Energy Limited.

One of the prerequisites for manufacturing is affordable finance and that has been a scarce commodity in the Nigerian oil and gas space for ages. To address this herculean challenge, we recently introduced the US\$50million NOGaPS Manufacturing Fund that will incentivise companies that would operate in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Parks (NOGaPS) and manufacture oil and gas equipment and components. This Fund will be managed by the Bank of Industry (BoI) and is remarkably different from the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund), which requires oil and gas companies to be contributors before they can benefit.

Within the period under reference, we continued our support to sister African nations in developing and implementing local content policies. We received a delegation from the Ministry of Commerce & Mines, Republic of Guinea that came to understudy Nigeria's Local Content policy. We also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Content Monitoring Committee of Senegal (ST-CNSCL), whereby we would provide strategic advice and guidance in local content implementation and other capacity development initiatives.

Our support to other African countries is anchored on the Sectoral and Regional Linkage pillar of the Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Roadmap. We are equally preparing for the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), hence our resolve in opening new markets for Nigerian oil and gas service companies that have built capacities that are not fully optimised in our market. We also have robust relationships with other nations through the African Petroleum Producers Organization (APPO), the Africa Local Content Roundtable and the Africa Energy Bank.

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We have kept faith with our commitment to significantly improve the quotient of women in the oil and gas industry and to dismantle bottlenecks militating against their success. This is why we organised bespoke trainings in Port Harcourt for over 30 women entrepreneurs in the oil and gas industry. Part of the goal was to prepare them to access the US\$40million special fund for women we had established under the NCI Fund in collaboration with the Nigeria Export-Import Bank (NEXIM). We are also partnering the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) to promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curricula in secondary schools across the country. They will guide the young ones to choose careers in the oil and gas industry in future. These programmes consolidate other running initiatives, like the setting up of the Diversity and Inclusion Sectorial Group in the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF) and the recent opening of a crèche in the Board's premises to support nursing mothers in our workforce who would be motivated to give their best to the organisation.

Top, top performance and accolades

In the last six months, we received several accolades for the modest work we have done and for our organizational efficiency. In January, the Board was adjudged by the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) as a *Level 5 Platinum Level organisation, with Exceptional Performance rated at 90.5 percent*. This came as validation of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) ranking of NCDMB as the First in *business efficiency and transparency* among Federal Government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) for the Year 2022.

On a personal level, I received the *Leadership Newspaper Local Content Champion of the Year Award* at the 14th Leadership Conference and Awards in January, and a month later I was conferred with a Doctor of Science degree, *honoris causa*, at the Eighth Convocation of the Imo State University. This was followed by another conferment as the *Champion of Local Content Development in Africa Award*, at the inaugural African Heritage Concert and Awards in Kigali, Rwanda, where I was recognised with other change-makers across Africa. These awards and validations are testaments to the excellent work done by our personnel, and the impact of our policies and initiatives on the continental oil and gas sector and the wider economy.

Developments continuing apace

Since this edition of our stakeholders' magazine is coinciding with the fourth edition of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF), I

heartily welcome delegates to our magnificent NCDMB Conference Hall and Nigerian Content Tower. We created NOGOF specifically to share information on opportunities in the oil and gas sector, a precursor to domiciling capacities for the execution of those projects and growing Nigerian content.

This is the first edition of NOGOF since the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) – the absence of which was blamed for the attrition of major new projects in our industry for years. With the legislation now in place and concomitant regulations being outlined by the respective agencies, we expect international and indigenous operating companies to use this year's NOGOF to announce those projects they had cut back.

Globally, our industry has recovered significantly from the devastating impact of COVID-19 pandemic, with a rebound in demand for crude oil from China and other markets expected to drive new investments. It is equally cheering to note that the European Union has re-classified gas and nuclear energy as green energy, while there has been a toning down of the energy transition rhetoric and re-opening of coal power plants by some advanced nations in the aftermath of the disruptions in energy supply arising from the Russia- Ukraine war. These developments impact our industry directly and I expect this year's NOGOF to point us to the future, especially with the increasing prevalence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our operations.

As we carried on with our activities in the last few months, we were confronted several times by industry players who were worried about the sustainability of Nigerian content projects and initiatives when the new administration assumes office. Similar fears were expressed by leading operators at the recent Nigerian International Energy Summit (NIES) regarding the Decade of Gas programme and other broad industry policies, even as attempts were made to set an agenda for the next government. The clamour for sustainability is stark evidence that many people are enthused by most of the initiatives we have pursued and would desire that they be sustained.

I have no doubt in my mind that key personnel of the incoming administration are well versed on the progress made in Nigerian content development and other key aspects of the oil and gas industry in the last few years and would have equally observed the challenges, thus would be well positioned to make the right decisions as we continue the journey of development and nationhood.

The months ahead might seem uncertain, but Nigerian Content development will continue apace.

Globally, our industry has recovered significantly from the devastating impact of COVID-19 pandemic, with a rebound in demand for crude oil from China and other markets expected to drive new investments. It is equally cheering to note that the European Union has re-classified gas and nuclear energy as green energy, while there has been a toning down of the energy transition rhetoric and re-opening of coal power plants by some advanced nations in the aftermath of the disruptions in energy supply arising from the Russia - Ukraine war. These developments impact our industry directly and I expect this year's NOGOF to point us to the future, especially with the increasing prevalence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in our operations.



in pictures





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The Decade of Gas initiative can potentially transform Nigeria's economy if faithfully implemented. **Dr. Philip Mshelbila**, MD of Nigeria LNG highlights the role of stakeholders in delivering on the programme.

Long regarded as a major oversight, the commissioning of Oloibiri Museum & Research Centre rights an historical wrong in the annals of oil exploration in Nigeria. Launching NCDMB's Conference Hotel Project simultaneously is icing on the cake. The two initiatives will significantly contribute to growing local content.

Dr Ibilola Amao, Principal Consultant of Lonadek Services, has over 30 year-experience domesticating technology in the oil and gas industry. Her story is an inspiration to women who may find the industry a daunting prospect.



34 Cuisine

Some restaurants in Abuja offer uniquely northern meals served in modern settings. For the food connoisseur, you will be spoilt for choice and your stay at the Federal Capital, longer.



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EVENTS

Office politics is a two-edged sword. Studies show that if positively deployed, the benefits are immense, for both the employee and the company. It could also turn the entire place belly up.

NOGOF has been spectacularly effective in opening up opportunities to local service companies. A review of the bi-annual event and its impact in the oil and gas industry.

A major plank of the Board's focus is meaningfully engaging oil and gas host communities. This has successfully bridged gaps in information and getting the buy-in of a spectrum of stakeholders.

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Can war bring peace, and love? Yes, some do! Tug-of-war, experts say, is superb for building team spirit and forging family bonds.



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Editorial

Esueme Dan Kikile, Esq



Coming of Age

Transitions are quite significant. Defined and properly managed, they help to usher in multidimensional growth in a country and engender citizen well-being and development.

Such has been the experience with the advent of democratic governance and purposeful leadership that have yielded, among other things, the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, 2010, a veritable game changer for Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

We have seen phenomenal growth in indigenous capacities and capabilities that have made Nigerian firms and professionals highly competitive and now playing bigger roles – building and manning critical infrastructure, delivering major projects and, indeed, operating as proud owners of major assets. Local content has thus moved from five percent in 2010 to its current 54 percent.

Two major projects – the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC) and the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) Conference Hotel Project (CHP) are among inestimable offshoots of the NOGICD Act. Flagged off in February, the twin projects represent significant milestones not only in the oil and gas industry, but also as great markers of deliberate efforts to deepen, expand and explore opportunities to drive developments across board.

While the OMRC will enhance tourism in the Niger Delta and also drive research in the industry, the CHP will help overcome the dearth of world-class hotel facilities in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital. No doubt, the two projects will create hundreds of jobs.

The significance of the projects underlines their choice as the focus of this edition of the magazine.

Another important focus is the Board's engagement with communities where oil and gas activities take place, largely through sensitisation and enlightenment. It is a highly strategic engagement, because without the buy-in of the host communities, the environment will not be conducive for businesses to thrive. The engagements, therefore, are geared towards building trust, contributing to developing the local economy and enhancing the livelihoods of people in the communities. There is no doubt trust, which is an essential element for relationships to thrive, is being built across board.

We bring you our usual offerings that make the magazine not only a repository of activities in the sector, but also a great resource of infotainment. For instance, we highlight some of the most attractive waterfalls in Nigeria. When next you are planning vacationing, consider visiting one of the destinations. You will not only be awed by the natural beauty, the history behind some of them is equally enriching. Then, there is the potential of tug-of-war to build teamwork and enhance family bonds, among many other interesting content that make the magazine an unputdownable.

This edition coincides with local content implementation crossing the 50 percent mark. It is a coming of age of sorts. Your magazine, *Local Content Digest*, will keep recording the great strides as we march towards 70 percent.

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Views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, its management and staff.

TRENDS

US\$50m Fund for oil industry manufacturing launched

A US\$50million fund that will incentivise companies that will operate in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Parks (NOGaPS) and catalyse manufacturing of equipment components has been launched by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Bank of Industry (BoI).

Presently, two of the oil and gas parks developed by the Board in Bayelsa and Cross River states are nearing completion. Some firms have indicated interest to move into the parks and begin the manufacturing of components used in the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors.

This new fund is different from the existing Nigerian Content Intervention Fund, which requires companies to be contributors before they can benefit.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said at the launch in March, that “the NOGaPs Fund will provide loans to Nigerian companies that meets the criteria to operate in any of the designated NOGaPS industrial park for the purpose of financing manufacturing activities, purchase of fixed assets, working capitals and logistic. Beneficiaries will get a maximum single obligor of \$3million and minimum of single obligor of \$250,000 with one year moratorium repayable within five years, at five percent interest per annum”.

Mr. Olukayode Pitan, Managing Director, Bank of Industry, noted that the fund would help to promote in-country manufacturing as well as job creation. “The interest rates are very good, just like the initial fund, which is less than 10 percent, and the same thing will apply to this one. All we are looking for are Nigerians who want to manufacture in Nigeria,” said the BoI chief executive.

AS Energies starts pipemill project at Polaku

The plan to establish a pipe manufacturing mill at Polaku, Bayelsa State, has taken off, 10 years after it was initiated, but this time by AS Energies Limited.

The ground-breaking ceremony was performed by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), in March. The plant will manufacture glass reinforced epoxy (GRE) and glass reinforced plastic (GRP) pipes. It has an estimated in-



FUNDING: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Management and staff of the Board with officials of Bank of Industry led by Mr. Olukayode Pitan, Managing Director, Bank of Industry after the Agreement signing on the launch of a US\$50million fund for NOGaPS Manufacturing Product Line in Lagos.

vestment outlay of ₦7.04billion (US\$8.8million).

The pipes will be produced to meet ISO 9001- Quality Management System Requirements; ISO 14001 – Environmental Management System Standard and BS 18001 – Occupational Health & Safety Management System Standard.

The Executive Secretary described the start of construction activities as a dream come true for the Polaku community and the Gbarain clan, hinting that the areas are blessed with the concentration of strategic industries, including Shell Gas gathering plant, Azikel Refinery, Rungas LPG composite cylinder manufacturing plant and Eraskon Nigeria Limited lube oil manufacturing plant. He said the NCDMB would consider the company's request for financial support but recommended that it explored available financing options to ensure delivery on schedule.

Engr. Gbenga Olaniyan, Managing Director, Officer of AS Energies, assured that the company would integrate the community in its operational plans and source essential materials locally in advancement of Federal Government's drive for in-country value addition. He said the plan was meant to conclude the construction phase within 12 months, to give way to actual production.

The GRE and GRP pipes are more resistant, lighter, less corrosive and more durable than conventional carbon steel pipes currently in use, giving the user reduced maintenance cost.



Mr. Obi Uzu, Managing Director, Global Process and Pipeline Services Limited; Mr. Nicolas Odinuwe, Chairman, Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN); Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB); Engr. Adokiye Tombomiyeye, Chief Operating Officer, Upstream, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd, and Dr. Ernest Nwapa, Pioneer Executive Secretary, NCDMB cutting the exhibition tape at the 7th SAIPEC sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference in Lagos.



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB performing the ground-breaking of a pipe manufacturing plant for AS Energies Limited at Polaku, Bayelsa State.

His Royal Majesty, King Bubaraye Dakolo, Agada IV, the Ibenanaowei of Ekpetiama Kingdom, assured the company of the community's full support and cooperation.

NCDMB to sustain support for local content in Africa

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) will continue to support other African nations in developing and implementing local content policies with a view to improving indigenous participation and value optimisation from hydrocarbons and mineral resources.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, gave the assurance in January when he hosted a delegation of the Ministry of Commerce and Mines from Republic of Guinea, who came to understudy Nigeria's Local Content policy.

Recalling that several African countries have benefitted from Nigeria's guidance on local content, he assured the delegation that NCDMB would extend similar support to any interested nation. The Board's objective, he said, is to extend local content practice across the continent, in line with the Sectorial and Regional Market Linkage Pillar of the Nigerian Content 10-year Strategic Roadmap.

Wabote said the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) would build broad collaboration among African nations and deepen trade among the 1.3 billion Africans, helping to create investment and job opportunities. The Executive Secretary advised African countries to consider their comparative advantages and take advantage of capacities developed in other countries rather than replicate.

He counselled the Guineans to remain committed to the implementation of local content policy, describing it as a long journey, which requires strong political will

from leaders and development of tools, processes, communications strategies and stakeholder engagements.

Mr. Saifoulaye Balde, Executive Director of the Bourse for Subcontracting and Partnering (BSTP) in Guinea, said the team wanted to learn about the Board's implementation models and ideas they could implement in their jurisdiction. He noted that Guinea had a booming mining sector with little local content input. He also conveyed his country's desire to increase indigenous participation in their nation's mining sector and deepen value addition.

FG rates NCDMB best MDA in efficiency, transparency

The Federal Government has rated the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) as the top performer in business efficiency and transparency in its ranking of ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) for the year 2022. This latest result is reminiscent of the Board's 81.46 percent score in Ease of Doing Business, which placed it on top of all other MDAs for the period January – June 2022.

In the Executive Order 001 (EO1) Compliance Report released in Abuja in March 2023 by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), NCDMB achieved a score of 81.11 percent to beat 52 other MDAs captured in the evaluative ranking.



Cross-section of trainees at the close-out of NCDMB sponsored mobile phone repairs, hardware, software and entrepreneurship development under its Youth Empowerment Programme for 500 Bayelsa State youths in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Issued on 18 May 2017 by President Muhammadu Buhari, the EO1 on the Promotion of Transparency and Efficiency in the business environment seeks to facilitate entrenchment of policies and practices that would foster an environment conducive for business, particularly start-ups, by eliminating bottlenecks.

PEBEC explained that an "MDA's EO1 overall performance is a combination of scores on the Efficiency and Transparency measures weighted at 70 percent and 30 percent of the overall score, respectively. The top performing MDAs differentiate themselves by achieving a balanced performance on both the Efficiency and Transparency scale".

100 youths trained in solar power installation

The training and empowerment of 100 youths in solar power installation and maintenance, sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has been concluded at Suleja, Niger State. The programme lasted one month and had participants from three zones of the state, notably Minna, Bida and Suleja.

Mr. Abdulmalik Hallilu, General Manager, Planning, Research, and Development, NCDMB, said the training was part of the Board's youth empowerment programme to contribute to the Federal Government's goal of reducing the rate of unemployment in the country as well as achieve the Board's mission of catalysing the linkage sectors of the oil and gas industry.

He added that renewable energy, especially solar energy, was gaining traction across the world because of the clamour for energy transition, which is the push to replace the utilisation of fossil fuels with renewable energy sources.

The training provided the beneficiaries with theoretical and practical skills on solar power installation, maintenance, repair and entrepreneurship. They were given

tool kits, exit stipends and shops in their communities to start their business. Halilu assured the trainees that they would be supported to form cooperatives societies to enable them access Federal Government's support funds associated with solar power.

In their various comments, the trainees confirmed that they learnt the intricacies of solar power value chain and thanked NCDMB for providing them with the opportunity to be self-reliant and help their communities. Alhaji Dalhatu Adamu, District Head of Magajiya, commended NCDMB for bringing such opportunities to Niger State. He advised the trainees to be good ambassadors of their communities.

Similar trainings were held at Ibadan, Oyo town and Ogbomoshos, as well as in Cross River State towns- Calabar, Bekearra and Ogoja.

Jonathan, Wabote win African Heritage Awards

Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, former Nigerian president and Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), were among the change makers across Africa celebrated at the inaugural African Heritage Concert and Awards in April.

Wabote was conferred with the Champion of Local Content Development in Africa Award; Jonathan won the African Democracy and Peace Icon Award; Dr. Seretse Khama Ian Khama, former President of the Republic of Botswana won the Africa Philanthropist Award and Prof PLO Lumumba, a pan-Africanist, won the Africa Advancement Icon Award.

Some other winners included Mr. John Magufuli, the late President of the Republic of Tanzania, who won the African Icon Award (posthumous); Mr. Olumide Akpata, former President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), was conferred with the African Legal Icon Award and the Triplets Ghetto Kids from Uganda won the African Entertainment Award.

The Executive Secretary said the award would motivate him to continue promoting local content across Africa, working with organisations and individuals, adding that the development of local content would lead to total economic emancipation of African countries.

Jonathan commended the African Heritage Concert and Award for honouring Africans who distinguished themselves in different endeavours. He stressed that "we live in a thankless society". He said it was important to celebrate the efforts of individuals who were changing the narrative.

Mr. Moses Siloko Siasia, Chairman of Heritage Times, said the awards were conceived to motivate change makers in the public and private sectors across the continent with a view to positioning them as models for others to emulate.

Federal Tech College gets science lab from NCDMB

It was a day of excitement and celebration when in March at the Federal Science and Technical College, Tungbo, Bayelsa State, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) commissioned and handed over a renovated and upgraded science laboratory block to the school. The block comprises physics, chemistry and biology laboratories, fully furnished and equipped with tools which meet the required standards.

Engr. Mofe Megbele, Deputy Manager, Capacity Building Division, said the Board embarked on upgrade of technical schools across the country because critical manpower were produced in those schools and their products offered highly sought-after services in the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors. "Projects, like this, are key to achieving technical capability development, which is one of the pillars of our 10-year strategic plan. We will continue to empower Nigerians to play leading roles in the Nigerian oil and gas industry and on the global

stage," he added.

Megbele said the laboratories were expected to improve the teaching competencies of teachers, improve the performances of students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and incubate young minds who would do exploits beyond the shores of this country in the future.

Mrs. Joy Umunnakwe, Principal of FSTC, sought the Board's continuous partnership with the school to make it one of the best science and technical colleges in the country. Mr. Oseibi Kubuye, Chairman of the school's Parents Teachers Association, said the project contributed to the economy of the community as some youths were gainfully employed during the construction phase.

NCDMB, APWEN partner to deliver STEM education to the girl-child

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has partnered the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN), in promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) curricula in secondary schools across the country, for the benefit of the girl-child. The partnership was launched in March at St. Jude's Girls Secondary School in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, under the "STEMitout4girls" campaign with the theme: Interest and Proficiency in STEM.

Engr. Mofe Megbele, Deputy Manager, Capacity Building Division conveyed the Board's readiness to collaborate with the association for programmes and policies that promote capacity development for the female gender. He said well-educated young girls could address the issues facing humanity in the 21st century, such as peace and security, climate change, sustainable development, food production, environmental issues. "One way to underpin sustainable development is to entrench quality STEM education in our girls. Armed with quality education, these girls can aspire to be whatever they want to be," he said.

Engr. Elizabeth Jumoke Eterigho, President, APWEN, said the aim was to increase awareness on engineering as a suitable career for girls, improve the numerical strength of female engineers in Nigeria and provide the girl-child with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the rapidly changing world. She acknowledged the difficulties in accessing quality learning opportunities in STEM subjects, which was why the engineering and science sectors were currently dominated by the males.



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote Executive Secretary of NCDMB receiving his Champion of Local Content Development in African Award.



Officials of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) with female students representing select secondary schools after the launch of the STEMITout4girls campaign for the girl-child, for promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

NCDMB advocates increased women CEOs in oil & gas industry

Over 30 women chief executives underwent a six-day entrepreneurship workshop sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, based on a course content developed by the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

Mrs. Angela Okoro, Manager, Capacity Building at the NCDMB, said women entrepreneurs were disproportionately fewer than their male counterparts in the oil and gas industry. The entrepreneurship development programme, she said, would equip women with critical skills to enable them participate effectively in the sector and in other endeavours.

The training was also intended to place women entrepreneurs in a better position to benefit from the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCIF), established by the NCDMB in collaboration with the Nigeria Export-Import Bank (NEXIM), she added.

A pool of funds totalling US\$40million generated by the NCDMB and NEXIM is available for women who own or manage oil and gas servicing companies under the NCI Fund.

The workshop taught the participants how to identify their entrepreneurial potential; develop personal entrepreneurial competencies and identify new business opportunities.

Summarising the nuggets for the training, the facilitators said: "An entrepreneur has to evaluate his motivation and ask: Why am I in business? The primary purpose of business is to serve human and societal needs. Profit is a function of the quality of what you are offering to the market."

They also explained that the training was designed "to inculcate behaviours and competencies in participants," stressing that mind-set change is a critical factor in business success.

Wabote gets varsity's Doctor of Science

For his vital contributions to the growth and transformation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and the leadership he provides for the development of local content in Nigeria and Africa, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), was conferred with a Doctor of Science degree, honoris causa at the eighth convocation of Imo State University, Owerri, in February.

The award was received on his behalf by Mr. Patrick Daziba Obah, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, NCDMB, who dedicated it to the management and staff of the Board for the excellent discharge of their jobs and accomplishments, which continue to receive positive reviews from government and other industry stakeholders.

Dignitaries at the event were Senator Hope Uzodinma, Imo State Governor; Senator Rochas Okorocha, former governor of the state and Professor Uchefula Chukwumaeze, the institution's Vice Chancellor.



Conferment of Honourary Doctorate Degree on Wabote

(L-R): Prof. Uchefula Chukwumaeze, SAN, FCARB, Vice Chancellor, Imo State University (IMSU); Senator Hope Uzodinma, Governor, Imo State; Mr. Patrick Daziba Obah, Director, Planning, Research & Statistics, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), representing Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote and Dr. Ernest Nwapa, Pro-Chancellor, IMSU and pioneer Executive Secretary, NCDMB at the university's 8th Convocation ceremony in Owerri, Imo State.

In honouring Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the authorities of Imo State University said they found him to be a model public servant, a thought leader in local content, astute manager of men and resources and one who has continued to transform an important sector in the Nigerian economy.

Others who received honorary doctorate degrees were Nigeria's first female state governor, Her Excellency, Dame Virgy Ngozi Etia-ba; Chief Oliver Chukwudum Alawuba, Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, United Bank for Africa and Chief Chika Emenike (NPOM), Chief Executive Officer, Kotec Group of Companies.

Repayment rate of NCI Fund put at 98%

The repayment rate of the loans disbursed to oil and gas service companies under the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund is about 98 percent, making it the best performing credit scheme in the country.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) announced this when he hosted Mr. Azubuike Ishiekwene, Senior Vice Chairman and Editor-in-Chief of Leadership Group Limited, who conveyed the selection of the Executive Secretary as a recipient of the Leadership Local Content Champion of the Year Award. The award was later conferred on the Executive Secretary in Abuja at an event chaired by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo.

Wabote explained that the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF) is NCDMB's only source of funding which accrues from one percent deduction from contracts executed in the upstream sector of the oil and gas industry. He said the agency applies the funds effectively and judiciously in delivering on its mandates and achievements, including supporting oil and gas businesses through the NCI Fund, the

only funding scheme dedicated to the oil and gas industry.

Ishiekwene told the Executive Secretary that he was selected for championing the development of local content across Nigeria and the African continent, and building local capacities in the oil and gas industry. He noted that in addition to the media's responsibility of holding the government and public office holders to account, the media was also obligated to promote and encourage excellent performance by deserving public servants and business leaders. He said the recognition presents such personalities as models for others to emulate.

Niger Delta group hails NCDMB for enlightenment drive, leadership training

The Movement for the Survival of Izon Ethnic Nationality in the Niger Delta (MOSIEND) has commended the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) for its sustained engagement with communities and groups in oil and gas-producing areas.

Mr. Kennedy T. West, President of MOSIEND, conveyed this commendation at the four-day training workshop organised by the Board for the executives of the group at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The union leader said the training had enriched their knowledge of leadership and responsibilities, including many new things. He noted that the struggle for equity and justice in the Niger Delta had suffered setbacks because of leadership deficit. West cited widespread vices, such as illegal bunkering and refining of crude oil and piracy, advising the NCDMB to extend the training to the movement's zonal and clan executives where most activities take place, to reorientate youths.

Mr. Olumide Ajomale, one of the resource persons, emphasised the need to change the narrative of the Niger Delta struggle. "Today, it's no longer muscle, no longer brawn; now it's engagement," which, as he explained, required sound judgment, negotiation skills as



Dr. Richard Orianzi, General Manager Nigerian Content Development (NCD), Nigerian Agip Oil Company Limited (NOAC); Mr. Fabrizio Bloomfield, new Managing Director, NOAC; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Barry Nwibani, General Manager, Public Affairs, NOAC; Alhaji Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Planning Research and Statistics, NCDMB and Mr. Kingdom Unwene, Manager, Procurement.

well as communication skills.

Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communications and Zonal Coordination at the NCDMB, explained the Board's Community Content Guideline, which specifies the benefits that host communities could legitimately expect from oil and gas companies. These include jobs, training, services, supplies and the establishment of critical infrastructure.

NCDMB Signs MoU with Senegal, lists strategies for regional collaboration

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the National Content Monitoring Committee of Senegal (ST-CNSCL), the agency responsible for the coordination and supervision of the development and implementation of local content strategies in the Senegalese oil and gas sector.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB and Mor Ndiaye Mbaye, Technical Secretary, ST-CNSCL signed the MoU at the

opening of the seventh SAIPEC sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference in Lagos, in February 2023. The MoU provides that NCDMB will offer ST-CNSCL strategic advice and guidance in the areas of laws, frameworks, knowledge exchange, procedures for baseline study, data collection on capacities that exist in Senegal, design of strategic plan for local content implementation in Senegal and other capacity development initiatives.

In addition, Wabote proposed strategies that would deepen collaboration among African oil producers and local content advocates, eliminate barriers and promote cross-border collaboration among governments and businesses, amidst global concerns over energy security. The Executive Secretary hinted on the need for peer review mechanisms and sharing of experiences and ideas on industry sustainability and growth. He said the action plan under consideration centres on legal framework, funding, infrastructure, human capacity development and research and development.

Bureau of Reforms Awards NCDMB Platinum Level ranking

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has been described as a Level 5 Platinum Level organisation in a summary report of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) Self-assessment Tool (SAT) released in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, in January 2023. According to the federal agency, the rating translates to "Exceptional Performance with a performance level of 90.5 percent."

BPSR, at a presentation ceremony, noted that NCDMB is structured to achieve its vision, mission and strategic objectives, which have been effectively communicated to relevant stakeholders and well understood by the staff. It said: "NCDMB has adopted robust financial and accounting policies that comply with financial regulations and are clearly reviewed to ensure efficient and reliable financial reporting, such as e-payment for all transactions –



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB (4th from left) and Alhaji Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Planning Research and Development (NCDMB) (1st from right) with a delegation from the Ministry of Commerce & Mines, Republic of Guinea during a courtesy visit to the NCDMB Liaison office in Abuja.

supplies, contracts, salaries and entitlements of staff.”

To improve further, the Bureau recommended that the Board “Develop formal code of conduct defining standards of behaviour to which individual Governing Board members of NCDMB subscribe and adhere”. It also noted that “the procurement staff are encouraged to sign an affidavit regarding their commitment not to engage in practices involving conflict of interests to improve compliance with the provisions of Public Procurement Act, 2007”.

Dr. Dasuki Arabi, Director General, BPSR, described the NCDMB as the first agency under the Ministry of Petroleum Resources that submitted itself willingly to undergo the assessment since the Bureau was mandated to deploy the tool in all federal ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).

Mr. Akintunde Adelana, Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, NCDMB said the exceptional grade obtained by the Board would spur the staff to even do better. Noting that “Getting a Platinum Level award is no mean feat,” he promised that recommendations made by the BPSR would be carefully studied and implemented for even better results.

NAOC MD visits NCDMB, assures of new tempo of activities

Mr. Fabrizio Bloomfield, the new Managing Director of Nigerian Agip Oil Company Limited (NOAC) recently visited Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) at the Abuja liaison office. The new Managing Director was accompanied by Dr. Richard Orianzi, General Manager, Nigerian Content Development (NCD) at NAOC, and Mr. Barry Nwibani, the General Manager of Public Affairs (PAF). The meeting was intended to introduce the new MD, who is also the Vice Chairman of the oil company to the Executive Secretary.

The NCDMB boss expressed concern about



Cross-section of trainees at the graduation ceremony on the training and empowerment programme for solar power installation and maintenance in Suleja, Niger State.

the glaring absence of NAOC at the Board’s recent conferences and events, saying the firm had made very few or no appearances at many industry activities in the recent past.

The new Managing Director said that the company’s activities would pick up soon. Mr. Barry Nwibani recalled that the Executive Secretary played the role of a father figure to most stakeholders in the oil and gas industry. He added that the Board and NAOC have had a fruitful and collaborative relationship that would be sustained.

Winners in NTA/NCDMB School Quiz Contest announced

The fifth and sixth editions of the NTA Yenagoa Science Quiz Competition, sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), has been concluded. For the 2020/’21 edition, Faith Comprehensive Secondary School, Yenagoa, clinched the first prize; Ijaw National Academy, Kaiama, was the first runner-up, while Belary School, also in Yenagoa, won the third position.

In the 2021/’22 edition, Belary School won the first position; Milky Way Academy, Yenagoa, the second position, while Faith Comprehensive Secondary School clinched the third

position. The contestants and their schools received trophies, laptops and three-in-one printers-scanners.

In his remarks at the presentation ceremony, Mr. Esueme Dan Kikile, Manager Corporate Communications at the NCDMB, underscored the Board’s policy of encouraging young people to develop interest in the sciences. According to him, the initiative is in line with NCDMB’s mandate “to build local capacities in the oil and gas industry”.

He reaffirmed the commitment of the Board to the promotion of education in the sciences and technology as part of its corporate strategy to develop the capacities of Nigerians for value-adding activities in the petroleum sector in the years ahead. Kikile expressed satisfaction that the standard of the quiz competition and number of participating schools had improved remarkably since 2012/’13 when the competition began. He assured stakeholders of the Board’s continued sponsorship.

Kikile also commended the NTA Management, represented by Mrs. Dauju Whyte, Manager NTA Yenagoa, and the Quiz Coordinator, Mr. Richman Okpobo, for quality performance in their roles.



Management and staff of the NCDMB in a group photograph with indigenous services companies during the Quality Management Services (QMS) sponsored by the Board in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

NCDMB/NLNG establish Technical Working Group

Towards achieving quick resolutions of strategic and operational issues and ensuring speedy project execution, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Nigeria LNG Limited have set up a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising representatives of the two organisations.

The working group is a product of a courtesy visit by the NLNG executive management to the Executive Secretary of NCDMB at the Board's headquarters in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in August 2022, where an agreement was reached to set up a small group that would facilitate in-person discussions and resolution of issues, cutting bureaucracy, improving efficiency of decision making, approvals and Nigerian content development for NLNG.

The technical working group met for the first time in Lagos in April and has the General Manager, Project Certification and Authorisation Division (PCAD), NCDMB, Engr. Paul Zuhumben, as the Chairman, with the General Manager, External Relations, and Sustainable Development (ER), NLNG, Mr. Andy Odeh, as Co-Chairman, with three additional members from both organisations.

Zuhumben explained at the meeting that the technical working group would not take over the work of different NCDMB's directorates, divisions, and departments, but focus on emerging issues that will collectively improve development and compliance with Nigerian Content in the oil and gas industry.

He said the Board had always acted beyond its role as a regulator and fostered collaborations with different stakeholders within and outside the Nigerian oil and gas industry with a view to ensuring better working relationships and a more productive oil and gas industry and the economy.

'Transparency, master plan key too Niger Delta development'

Transparency, prudent management of resources and deployment of a new master plan are some of the strategies that will attract the private sector to support the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and return the agency to the path of sustainable development of the Niger Delta region.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) said this at the NDDC Public-Private Partnership Summit 2023 in Lagos in April.

The Executive Secretary recommended that the NDDC should project itself positively through its choice of signature projects and interventions and open its accounts and project sites for public scrutiny. He also canvassed



Hot dip galvanising plant owned by Orbit Galvanised Steel Industries Limited at Ikorodu, Lagos.

the modification of the existing Niger Delta Regional Master Plan or the development of a new plan with the support of key stakeholders in the region. He further advised NDDC to stick to its core mandate and resist being pressured to dabble into projects outside its responsibility, adding that the assessment of proposals should be strictly based on their sustainability.

Wabote acknowledged the need for NDDC to explore PPPs as a credible option to meet the expanding developmental demands of the Niger Delta region, adding: "PPPs also bring with it corporate governance, technical expertise and commercial acumen to enhance project delivery and successful operations."

The summit featured the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) worth over \$15billion between the NDDC and Atlanta Global Resources Inc, an international infrastructure project financing firm, for the construction of a mega rail line that will connect the nine states under the NDDC and ease the infrastructure deficit in the region.

Wabote seeks annual reporting on Decade of Gas implementation

Agencies responsible for the implementation of the Federal Government's Decade of Gas programme should provide annual status reports.

This was the position of Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), at the annual Nigerian International Energy Summit (NIES) in Abuja. He urged stakeholders to stay the course with the implementation of the programme, even as a new administration assumes office on May 29, 2023.

Wabote highlighted eight focus areas the Board was utilising to drive the realisation of the Decade of Gas initiative of the Federal Government. They include Human Capacity Development, Construction of Industrial Parks, Public-Private Partnerships and Nigerian Content Intervention Funds. Others are: Research



Members of the NCDMB/NLNG Technical Working Group (TWG) with Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB after their inaugural meeting at the Board's liaison office in Lagos in April.



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB) with representatives of international operating oil and gas companies and their service counterparts inspecting the facilities of Orbit Galvanised Steel Industries Limited at Ikorodu, Lagos

and Development, Regulatory Framework, Regional Collaboration and Enabling Business Environment.

Wabote said NCDMB had “delivered close to 14 million man-hours of training for acquisition of various skill sets required to explore, develop, operate and maintain hydrocarbon facilities”. On the construction of oil and gas industrial parks, the Executive Secretary said the Board had begun issuance of allocation letters to credible investors in readiness for the commencement of operations within the NOGaPS Industrial Parks in Bayelsa and Cross River states.

Orbit Galvanising Plant gets NCDMB, IOCs support

Orbit Galvanised Steel Industries Limited at Ikorodu, Lagos State has been assured of getting the support of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and international oil and gas companies towards upgrading its capacities, acquiring relevant certifications and meeting the standards of the oil and gas industry.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), gave the assurance in April when he led representatives of international operating oil and gas companies and their service counterparts on a visit to the facility. He said the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act sought support for in-country capacities to serve the Nigerian oil and gas industry and allied sectors.

One of the assets of the company is a state-of-the-art fabrication and hot dip galvanising plant. The firm also has capacities to manufacture and supply substation structures, telecom/microwave towers, solar module mounting structures and railway structures.

The Executive Secretary said the galvanising facility would help to address the challenge the NLNG Train 7 project faced while finding the required operational capacity in-country. He urged the Nigeria LNG Limited and the consortium of service companies contracted for the Train 7 project - Saipem, Chiyoda, Daewoo - to support Orbit Galvanised Steel to upgrade the facility so that it can provide services for their projects and future endeavours.

Mr. Uche Iwuamadi, Group Executive Director, African Industries Group (AIG), the holding company of Orbit Galvanised Steel, said the company was the only integrated tower manufacturing company in Nigeria, adding: “The entire end-to-end process, right from iron ore mining to the casting of billets, to fabrication and galvanising, is done in-house within Nigeria, and that creates employment opportunities for many Nigerians.”



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB with guests at the NDCC Public-Private Partnership Summit 2023 in Lagos in April.

“The NOGaPs Fund will provide loans to Nigerian companies that meets the criteria to operate in any of the designated NOGAPS industrial park for the purpose of financing manufacturing activities, purchase of fixed assets, working capitals and logistic. Beneficiaries will get a maximum single obligor of \$3million and minimum of single obligor of \$250,000 with one year moratorium repayable within five years, at five percent interest per annum”.

- Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB



DECADE OF GAS PLAN

**Nigeria's best game for economic
transformation**

*The Decade of Gas is Nigeria's clearly defined pathway to energy transition and economic transformation through the oil and gas industry. **Dr. Phillip Mshelbila, Managing Director, Nigeria LNG Ltd**, calls for stakeholders' steadfast alignment and commitment to the grand plan.*

Significance of the Decade of Gas plan

Climate change is something we are already witnessing, not just in other parts of the world, but in Nigeria as well. This is something that has become a reality and, therefore, the demand for cleaner energy faces us every day.

It is on the basis of all of this and the realisation that we have the resources, and the demand but only just need to make these two work that Mr President, supported by the former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, in 2021, launched the Decade of Gas. The reason this Decade of Gas is crucial is because the window of opportunity for us is narrowing. If we do not act now, we will end up having to take very different actions, which will put us in a patch-up position and we will no longer have control of our destiny. We will have to rely on others to ensure that we're able to achieve some degree of energy security to ensure that we can address the energy poverty that we face and to enable us to also take on the third challenge of the energy transition.

Today, we have the opportunity to take control of our destiny.

The Decade of Gas plan is comprehensive

This Decade of Gas is probably the most comprehensive plan that we have put together to date. The reason is that in putting together this plan, we have gone back in time and looked

at every other plan that was developed earlier and we've taken the valuable elements from those plans and then looked at today's reality. This includes the energy transition, and we have put together a plan that we believe is indeed the single most comprehensive.

We realise that if we don't act now, the social acceptability of what we have traditionally done, which is oil production, will worsen. Funding for the types of activities that we have traditionally done is disappearing. Very often, people argue that this is our problem; let's solve it ourselves and forget what's happening in Europe or in America, we don't need them. Unfortunately, we do need them. If nothing else, we need them for the funding, sometimes for the technology. We cannot isolate ourselves and say we will simply continue as we have done before.

Change imminent but we must stay the course

What was a Decade of Gas has now become seven, maybe 7½ years of gas left in that window. And on top of that, we have a change in administration and the key promoters who launched this Decade of Gas are on their way out. We will have a new administration, but we cannot afford a disruption in the plan.

The biggest challenge we have today is to ensure that this plan remains on track and is also implemented as planned. Let me give some examples of our competitors.

Many years ago, the United States deployed a technology that completely changed the gas industry through fracking. That unleashed reserves of gas that the US had but they never thought was going to be developed, at least not economically. Qatar, which has one of the biggest reserves of gas in the world, has now gone into an expansion project that's going to take them from 77 million tonnes per annum of LNG export to 126 million tonnes per annum. Last year, while we were still celebrating the Final Investment Decision on Train 7 and patting ourselves on the back that we were going from 22 million tonnes per annum to 30 million tonnes per annum, we decided to see what the rest of the world was doing. We went to Qatar and when we looked at the scale of what they are planning to do and are doing, it's mind-boggling.

The Decade of Gas Plan has four key focus areas

But we do have our own plan, and that is the Decade of Gas. With it, we can catch up with these countries that are doing tremendous and amazing things with their natural resources.

The Decade of Gas is ambitious, but it can be done. It is well thought through, and it is focused on four phases. It looked extensively at the demand side: where is the demand today? Where is the demand going to be tomorrow? Where will it be by 2030 and where will it be by 2050? It's looked at the demand in details



What was a Decade of Gas has now become seven, maybe 7½ years of gas left in that window. And on top of that, we have a change in administration and the key promoters who launched this Decade of Gas are on their way out. We will have a new administration, but we cannot afford a disruption in the plan. The biggest challenge we have today is to ensure that this plan

across all the different sectors. It also looked at the supply side and it is not just focusing on Nigeria's reserves, which is about 200 trillion cubic feet (TCF), but it is actually going to the level of identifying the 10 key projects that, if unlocked, will ensure that we achieve our objectives within the decade.

It's down to specifics. For each of these 10 projects, the intent is that the key stakeholders

will sit down, be it the Ministry of Petroleum, Ministry of Finance, the regulators, particularly NCDMB and all other stakeholders that are necessary to enable those 10 projects to happen, with specific and tailored plans that will be developed and agreed and put into implementation.

We've also identified what infrastructure is needed to connect supply and demand. Some of them are in play, like the AKK is under construction already. But there are a number of others that need to happen quickly, if this is to work. The key ones have also been identified.

Thirdly, we have an idea of the costs, and there's an understanding that government needs to lead. But there's a recognition that government cannot fund everything itself either. And so within the plan is that government will put down an initial \$1 billion to \$2 billion, every year, on top of which it can attract counterpart funding from the private sector. The whole funding aspect of it is also understood.

Fourthly, it is also looked at the commercials - very essential and it is looked at pricing. How do we go from where we are today to a cost-reflective pricing all the way to a market-led or market-driven pricing system within a period of time. We have worked out a schedule that looks at actions that need to be taken in the first six months, the first 12 months, 24

months, and subsequently. It's a very detailed schedule with milestones and so on.

There's a governance plan that's been put in place that has the Minister of State for Petroleum leading it. It has sponsors that cut across the industry, including the regulators and all those who need to be at the table. There are various project streams, led again by multidisciplinary teams across the industry. All is set.

Speed of implementation needs to improve

Three years have gone, and we have continued with piecemeal implementation of little parts of it. Yes, certain things are happening, but the coordination is not there, the speed and urgency is not there. Most importantly, having all of the stakeholders coordinated and putting this together is not there. The actual implementation is something that we're still waiting for.

One piece that is missing from the Decade of Gas Plan is security. It's an essential piece that needs to happen. Security in the Niger Delta is critical and we have to address the issue. The bottom line is that we need to transform not just our gas industry but our economy, as a country.

All key stakeholders need to remain onboard

The Decade of Gas Plan needs continuous support across board. It started out with NLNG sponsoring the development of the plan. Now, we are in the implementation phase. All the different stakeholders represented in different ways are now supporting financially and otherwise. That's an indication of commitment.

Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS), the Independent Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG), and NNPC all are now contributing. We do not expect the new administration to come in and say that we need to reopen this or we need a new plan. We believe that everybody is behind this; it just needs to be implemented.

It is important that stakeholders understand this Decade of Gas and support it. We need to ensure that we're not going back to the days when every 10 years we were either doing a Gas Master Plan or we're doing this other plan. We have it, and my appeal to those who have the ears of the incoming administration is that as they come and settle down quickly, let us simply pick this Decade of Gas plan up and run with it. This is probably the best example of a public-private partnership that we can ever have in this country. This is how we can secure the future economy of Nigeria.

Excerpts of Dr. Phillip Mshelbila's speech at the Nigerian International Energy Summit (NIES) in April 2023.

The reason this Decade of Gas is crucial is because the window of opportunity for us is narrowing. If we do not act now, we will end up having to take very different actions, which will put us in a patch-up position and we will no longer have control of our destiny. We will have to rely on others to ensure that we're able to achieve some degree of energy security to ensure that we can address the energy poverty that we face and to enable us to also take on the third challenge of the energy transition.



NIGERIAN CONTENT POLICY ON PROCUREMENT AND UTILIZATION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT IN THE NIGERIAN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY



1.0 Preamble

The general public, particularly operators/project promoters, alliance partners, contractors, sub-contractors, service providers and other stakeholders in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry are hereby notified on the availability of made-in-Nigeria Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that meet standards and quality specifications of the Oil and Gas Industry for patronage.

In line with the mandate of the Board and the 10-Year Strategic Roadmap with the target of achieving 70% Nigerian Content by 2027 in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry, the Board championed the initiative for local manufacturing and utilization of made-in-Nigeria Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). As part of the efforts geared towards achieving this laudable initiative, an industry-wide Committee was inaugurated by the Board to determine the in-country capacity of local manufacturing of PPE. The Committee, upon conclusion of its work, recommended that procurement and utilization of PPE in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry be prioritized to companies that have proven in-country capacity for local manufacturing, amongst others. Hence, this Policy intervention by the Board to encourage domestication of local investments and mandate PPE users to patronize local manufacturers in the procurement and utilization of made-in-Nigeria PPE in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry.

Consequently, procurement of PPE for use in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry shall be granted to only local manufacturers with proven in-country capacity, which are duly prequalified/certified by the Board in compliance with Sections 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 15, 41, 53 and 70 of the NOGICD Act, 2010.

2.0 NCDMB Prequalified Companies for Procurement and Supply of PPE

The following companies are certified to have proven in-country capacity for manufacturing of PPE and are hereby duly prequalified/certified by the Board for first consideration for procurement and supply of PPE contracts/job offers in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry, as indicated in the table below:

| S/N | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Xirea Apparel Limited | Plot 599 Trans-Amadi Industrial Layout Road, Port Harcourt, Rivers State 0906086578 enquiries@xireaapparel.com |
| 2. | Matola International | No. 11A Abajohnson Crescent, Harmony Enclave, Oshodi/Alimosho, Ikeja, Lagos 8033743645 |
| 3. | DLK Clothing Signatures Ltd | Plot A345 Enyeke Nwafor Street-ACO Estate, Sabon-Lugbe Between Top Class Generators and Setraco Quarters, Airport Road, Abuja precosouraphoe886@gmail.com |
| 4. | International Uniform | No. 17/21 Taiye Ogunjo Street, Okunola Road, Egbeda, Lagos 08033088746; 07033573439 |
| 5. | Kay Global Ltd | No. 62, BAJOMO HOUSE, Beside Union Bank Plc. Ife/Ilorin-Delta State 07064463195; 08028028208 info@kay-global.com; kay@kay-global.com |
| 6. | Ticktos Nigeria Ltd | Office 1: 13, College Road, Ogba - Ifako, Lagos. Factory: Ticktos Nig. Ltd Garment Factory, Abekuta Expressway, Marol, Lagos 8032191659; 8098006494 |
| 7. | Yikodeen Footwear Ltd | No. 3/9, Adesin Akinsanya Street Off NNPC Road, Ejigbo, Lagos 8171179722 yikodeen@gmail.com; info@yikodeen.com |
| 8. | Future Concerns Nigeria Ltd | No. 8A/B Chris Efurum Chantaga, Lekki Phase I, Lagos 08038118111; 08137874133 techsupport@futureconcerns.com |
| Companies on Standby for Prequalification | | |
| 1. | Handis On Facility Nigeria Limited | No. 4 Eleganza Estate Opp. Sgc Lekki Lagos 8100960777 support@handisonfacilityng.com |
| 2. | All Ray Maritime Services Ltd | KMS, New Umuahia Road, Umuahia, Abia State 08033044855 sales@allraygroup.com |

Note: The above three companies, which are placed on standby, have also been identified by the Board/Committee to have appreciable level of capacity and shall be included in the prequalified/certified list as soon as they upgrade/upscale their in-country PPE manufacturing capacity to meet the requirements of the Board.

3.0 Regulatory Policy on Procurement and Supply of PPE

- To maximize the utilization of made-in-Nigeria PPE, procurement and supply of PPE contracts/job offers in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry shall be granted to only companies with proven in-country capacity for PPE manufacturing. Such companies shall be duly prequalified/certified by the Board with valid Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC) for local manufacturing.
- All PPE for use for any project/service in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry shall be procured from NCDMB prequalified/certified local manufacturers.
- In the event that there is no proven in-country capacity for the manufacturing of a particular type of PPE in the industry, the prequalified companies should be given right of first refusal to import such PPE with the approval of the Board.
- Companies with the authorization of the Board to import such type of PPE shall have a legally binding Memorandum of Agreement with the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to domiciliate the manufacturing of such PPE type over a specified period of time to the satisfaction of the Board.
- PPE companies that may establish local manufacturing facilities under the initiative of this Policy may formally write to the Board for capacity audit. Such companies may also be issued NCEC for manufacturing category II if it meets the requirements of the Board.
- All operators/service companies by this Policy are required to submit to the Board Quarterly Report on the procurement of made-in-Nigeria PPE through Purchase Orders (POs) issued to NCDMB prequalified/certified companies.
- The implementation of this Policy shall be the sole responsibility of the Board and project promoters, in line with the provisions of the NOGICD Act, 2010.

4.0 Consequences of Non-Compliance with this Policy

All operators/project promoters, contractors, sub-contractors, alliance partners, service providers, and other stakeholders in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry are required to strictly comply with this Policy.

The consequences of non-compliance with this Nigerian Content Policy on Procurement and Supply of made-in-Nigeria PPE shall include the following:

- Refusal of the Board to issue Certificate of Authorization to the operator/project promoter.
- Refusal of the Board to participate in the operator's tenders or issuance of Nigerian Content Compliance Certificate (NCCC) for a period to be determined by the Board.
- Refusal/withdrawal of privileges, supports and/or approvals required from the Board.
- Disqualification/denial from participation of tenders and in the award of contracts in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry.
- Blacklisting and denial of Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC) and cancellation of already issued NCECs to the company by the Board.
- Initiation of penal sanctions as provided in Section 68 of the NOGICD Act of 2010.
- Invoking of administrative sanctions in line with Sections 70 (i) and (p) of the NOGICD Act of 2010.
- Any other penalty, including imposition of Cashier's Commission (CC) as may be determined and deemed fit by the Board, in line with the provisions and expectations of the NOGICD Act of 2010.

5.0 Conclusion

This Nigerian Content Policy on Procurement and Supply of Made-in-Nigeria PPE is hereby approved and published for strict compliance, dated this 5th day of October, 2022.

This advertisement supersedes previous communication on this subject matter.

ENGR. SIMBI KESIVE WABOTE, FNSE, FMS
Executive Secretary, NCDMB

The OMRC logo is displayed in a red rounded rectangle with white text. Above it, a golden ribbon banner curves across the top of the page.An architectural rendering of a large, modern, multi-story building with a glass facade and a central tower. The building is surrounded by green lawns and trees. In the background, the ocean is visible under a clear blue sky. Golden streamers are falling from the top of the image.

Historical restoration & economic positioning in Yenagoa

The CHP logo is displayed in a red rounded rectangle with white text.

In the annals of the oil and gas industry in Nigeria, no two projects launched simultaneously have elicited as much excitement and hope. The potential to significantly transform the economy of Bayelsa State is huge. This impact extends far beyond its borders to the Niger Delta and the entire country.



“This day had been long in coming but I am super excited it is finally here and is now a reality.”

– Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote

A fundamental of fiscal management long held as obligatory by successive administrations, yet unimplemented, has finally developed the kinetics and leapt from the realm of mind into concrete action. That was the storyline on February 21 as project promoters performed the groundbreaking of Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC). As the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, rightly observed, the project “had witnessed many false starts and deferred hopes” since the days of President Shehu Shagari (1979-83).

The aforesaid fundamental, couched in simple, incontrovertible terms by the Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO), Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, Mallam Mele Kyari, is “to ensure that value is returned to everyone, particularly where the value is created.” Value – in the sense of oil and gas revenues – was first created at Oil Well 1, Otuabagi, which the oil prospector, Shell D’Arcy (precursor of Shell Petroleum Development Company) named Oloibiri Oilfield (Oil Well 1). Value is now being returned to that community in the shape of the ₦117billion OMRC project for which an Engineering, Procurement and Construction contract was awarded to Julius Berger Nigeria on February 8.

On a day that the Swali community in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State had been agog, with old and young celebrating the groundbreaking of a world-class three-star facility, NCDMB Conference Hotel, the first of its type in Bayelsa State, the people of Otuabagi and the entire Ogbia race were counting their own blessings, too. With cultural troupes massed at the project site, they welcomed and entertained dignitaries from the Presidency, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), and NNPC, Abuja, Bayelsa State Deputy Governor, Senator Lawrence Ewruhjakpo, chief executives of NCDMB, SPDC, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the Obanobhan of Ogbia, His Eminence, King Dumaro Charles-Owaba, and others. The show of appreciation, in a welcome address by a community leader, Professor Teddy Charles Adias, Vice Chancellor, Federal University, Otuoke, and the cultural displays, was as memorable as the groundbreaking ritual itself.

An idea whose time has come

As events have shown thus far, the “many false starts and deferred hopes” in regard to the OMRC could not have been unexpected. A project driver of sufficient sensitivity to the pains and yearnings of the Otuabagi community and Ogbia was nowhere among the prospective implementers. In 2023, the picture is dramatically different: there was a Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, who had the ears of the President and Commander-in-Chief and was evidently determined to reverse the narrative of neglect concerning the Niger Delta’s oil- and gas-producing communities.

In addition, in the Year 2023, an outstanding figure in the oil and gas industry, a man whose corporate accomplishments are symbolised by the ultra-contemporary 17-storey Nigerian Content Tower, completed in record time during his tenure, is part of the equation in project delivery. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, recipient of President Muhammadu Buhari’s Distinguished Capacity Development Award, 2022, has, in his role as chief driver in local content development, transformed hitherto struggling indigenous oil and gas service firms into international oil companies. Today, he is fully on the scene as project promoter. He says he is “super excited” that OMRC is now a reality. He has a reputation, and the Otuabagi community could bank on him. NCDMB, where he is the Chief Executive Officer, is contributing 30 percent of the project cost.

The greatest surprise of the day was the arrival of the Managing Director, NDDC, Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, at the groundbreaking event. The Federal Government’s interventionist agency is fully funded from proceeds of oil and gas exploitation. As he mounted the podium to address the gathering, the NDDC boss marvelled at the scope of the OMRC project and declared to ear-splitting ovation that his agency would partner the project development partners; that it would provide “a befitting access”, a solid road from the state capital, Yenagoa, to the site of the multibillion naira monument. That means massive transformation of the dilapidated 40-kilometre road, narrow and winding, that has been the only means of access to the project site and communities of Ogbia, Nembe and Brass local government areas for decades.

At the Federal Executive Council (FEC) level, the mission-driven Minister of State for Petroleum Resources had had little difficulty persuading the



(L-R): Mr. Osagie Osunbor; Country Chair, Shell Companies in Nigeria; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Samuel Ogbuku, Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC); Chief Timipre Sylva, former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Mr. Mele Kolo Kyari, Group Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian National Petroleum Company; Senator Lawrence Ewruhjakpo, Deputy Governor, Bayelsa State and Dr. Edmund Daukoru, Amayanabo of Nembe and Chairman, Board of Directors of Nigeria LNG Limited, at the ground-breaking of Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC) at Otuabagi, Bayelsa State.



President and fellow members during the deliberations of February 8 to okay all processes relating to project execution. Thereafter, the Council's directive went out to the partners - PTDF, NCDMB, SPDC (and its Joint Venture, JV, partners), and Bayelsa State Government - in regard to their agreed contributions to the Joint Project Account at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). The partners, according to Engr. Simbi Wabote, "have commenced implementation of this directive to ensure the project is not starved of funds midway into implementation".

In 2023, three of the key actors in the project execution plan – Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, NCDMB Executive Secretary, and the NDDC Managing Director – are persons with special commitment to the OMRC. Their industry allies, notably, SPDC and NNPC, are equally enthusiastic about the project. "This is history in the making and Shell is proud to be part of it," Country Chair of Shell, Mr. Osagie Osunbor, declared assuredly at the event. From NNPC's Mele Kyari was a pledge: "We'll ensure the project is fully executed." Everything in the proceedings was a good augury that the 30-month timescale of the project is realisable.

Just as Victor Hugo declared in his days: "Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come." Decisive steps, including remittances to the aforesaid Joint Project Account and creation of a Governance Framework, have thus far been taken among the partners themselves, and between them and the Presidency.

Righting a historical oversight

Memories of a viciously exploitative past, when white men with their tools invaded the virgin forests of Otuabagi in the early 1950s unchallenged, clearing pathways in the bush and exploding dynamite in the crudest forms of seismic investigation, now give way to a new dawn of engagement and compensatory projects. The earth vibrations that shook buildings from time to time, sometimes causing cracks in block houses, and the massive oil spills in the production phase, from 1957 till 1978, when oil production came to an end there, created a distressed and embittered populace. Shell operated from Portakabin structures and left nothing of value at the time of its departure from Otuabagi, after extracting over 20 million barrels of crude oil in a span of 21 years.

"By starting work on the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC)," Chief Timipre Sylva explained at the groundbreaking, "we have taken a giant step towards correcting a historical oversight by erecting a befitting monument at the exact ground of Oloibiri Oilfield, where commercial quantities of oil were first discovered in Nigeria and production

began in 1957." According to him, "With the event, Nigeria has aligned itself with global practice where oil-producing nations establish an oil and gas museum to confer recognition and preserve the heritage and the origin of oil."

The Minister was quick to reassure the Otuabagi community and Bayelsa State in general that what was underway was different from previous exercises that turned out to be "false starts and deferred hopes", adding: "Groundbreaking is different from foundation laying." In 1983, the then President Shehu Shagari did foundation laying at the very project site in Otuabagi. In 2001, the administration of then President Olusegun Obasanjo did same, but no further action thereafter. Chief Sylva said groundbreaking means actual take-off of construction work, with the contract already awarded, in this case, to a reputable international firm.

Of great significance in the current undertaking is the fact that the Museum and Research Centre is the very first material benefit that has come to the real community where Shell D'Arcy discovered and drilled the crude oil. Oloibiri, which used to be the traditional headquarters of the Ogbia Nation in the earliest times, was the name adopted by the oil company for the oilfield even though it was several kilometres away. It has enjoyed whatever compensatory package was provided before now, the latest being a well-equipped hospital established by SPDC. However, in the present project, Otuabagi is better off, hosting a world-class monument, the first of its type on the continent.

Design features of the project

In the design of the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre are features that would serve a multiplicity of interests. As conceived by the project promoters, the OMRC would have two distinct arms:

1. Oil and Gas Museum Centre, which will showcase:
 - The history of crude oil exploration and production (E&P) in Nigeria.
 - Data generated, platforms, equipment, tools, among other, used at successive stages of the evolution of the petroleum industry in the country are to be stored for posterity.
 - Display of geological formations and techniques adopted in E&P
 - Interactive screen for digital engagement with professionals, students, tourists and historians across the globe in search of knowledge.
2. Research Testing Centre with the following key features:
 - a. Open field around one of the abandoned wells where field trials of prototypes of oil and gas-related indigenous research will be conducted in fulfillment of the requirement for product acceptance in industrial application. As explained by Chief Timipre Sylva, this component of the

Research Centre “will close a major gap in our quest for homegrown exploration and production technology”.

b. Access to university/polytechnic students in oil and gas-related disciplines to potentially appreciate an active oilfield.

c. A reference facility for historians to document the evolution of oil and gas in Nigeria.

Potential socio-economic benefits of the OMRC

Among the project development partners there is unanimity that the following socio-economic benefits would accrue to the host community and the nation from the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre:

- Commercialisation of research through the creation of a suitable ecosystem for the development of homegrown technology for oil and gas operations.
- Creation of a new commercial value chain from museum and research operations that will generate jobs for Nigerians.
- Attainment of time-tested reputational capital of recognising Oloibiri/Otuabagi as the premier location of first oil discovery in Nigeria.
- Retention of history and dissemination of knowledge for education, tourism and research.
- Positioning of Nigeria in the global network of oil-producing countries that have established oil and gas museums
- Significant economic boost from government spending as execution of the project proceeds.

Groundwork that birthed OMRC project

According to Chief Timipre Sylva, the magnitude of the project scope made it imperative for the planners to “leverage the benefits of public-private partnership, inter-agency collaboration, and inter-governmental alignment, to optimise resource utilisation and accelerate project delivery”. That was precisely the basis of the choice of the four aforementioned project promoters. Speaking on the successful take-off of the project, Engr. Simbi Wabote said its planners had been guided by certain key considerations: “Credible partnerships, funding model, governance framework, product offerings, project delivery, and long-term sustainability.” On how the partnership has worked, he said: “We have jointly and severally worked to deliver the project feasibility study, environmental impact assessment (EIA), geotechnical survey, site clearing and the architectural design.”

The research component of the OMRC project was conceptualised, among other things, to generate awareness of the petroleum industry; encourage interest and pursuit of knowledge in oil and gas-related disciplines; foster originality and technological innovation among Nigerians with the ultimate aim of building local capacity and, by extension, local content development. As the NCDMB boss emphasised, “in-country research and development” is prioritised, a strategy that makes requisite facilities and materials for research available here at OMRC and saves costs of undertaking such industry activities abroad.



In the speech of Chief Timipre Sylva was a useful explanation of what “in-country research” entails and how it could be beneficial to the country. According to him, the Research Centre is “where prototypes can be tested and validated in fulfillment of the requirement for approval of new technologies.” He added: “This will close a major gap in our quest for homegrown exploration and production technology.”

Such aspirations, as expressed above, are a challenge to Nigerian scientists, engineers and technologists, particularly those in the industry, as well as undergraduate and graduate students and their lecturers in polytechnics and universities to gear up for productive research. Academic feats by Nigerian students in European and American universities point to the fact that Nigeria is a breeding ground for geniuses and intellectual giants. A well-resourced research facility like OMRC is a guarantee of in-country scientific breakthroughs and technological innovation.

Funding and long-term sustainability

In the comprehensiveness of project conceptualisation and planning, funding has been extensively deliberated upon and decisions reached to guarantee not only smooth execution but long-term sustainability. Chief Sylva is upbeat about the arrangement: “The blend of the financial and technical resources and expertise of these astute entities will guarantee the delivery of a world-class Museum and Research Centre.”

The present and future of the project were covered in the explanation

by Engr. Simbi Wabote: “Funding streams from incomes, grants, and others have been mapped out to ensure that the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre remains functional during the operations phase.” The Executive Secretary added: “The streams of income are largely underpinned by the products and service offerings to be provided at the Centre. These include tourism (on-site and virtual), informative and immersive pavilions, facilities rentals for retreats and other socio-cultural events, laboratory services, research services, trainings and workshops.”

As typical of every well-conceptualised project, the Museum and Research Centre is not without adequate mechanisms for oversight to drive its implementation and to ensure visibility and active involvement of the project development partners. A new company called Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre Ltd/Guarantee has been registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission. Its ownership is according to the funding structure, that is: PTDF, NCDMB, SPDC and Bayelsa State Government, with the ratio 40:30:20:10, respectively.

To guarantee host community interest, the erstwhile Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, directed lead contractors of OMRC and NCDMB Conference Hotel, namely, Julius Berger Nigeria and Megastar Technical and Construction Company Limited, alongside other contractors “to integrate the host communities, their traditional institutions, vendors and skilled youths in the various scopes of the project”. He stressed that it was mandatory for the companies to “build

The Minister was quick to reassure the Otuabagi community and Bayelsa State in general that what was underway was different from previous exercises that turned out to be “false starts and deferred hopes”, adding: “Groundbreaking is different from foundation laying.” In 1983, the then President Shehu Shagari did foundation laying at the very project site in Otuabagi. In 2001, the administration of then President Olusegun Obasanjo did same, but no further action thereafter. Chief Sylva said groundbreaking means actual take-off of construction work, with the contract already awarded, in this case, to a reputable international firm.



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote receiving the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council's award from Mr. Rahman Ipaye, Deputy Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari.

capacities, where necessary, to ensure hitch-free project delivery". He drew their attention to NCDMB's Community Content Guideline, which sets out obligations of companies to host communities, and advised them to use it as a hand-book.

Engr. Simbi Wabote outlined the benefits of the project to the host communities. He noted that in the construction and operations phases are numerous opportunities that the local population must prepare themselves to exploit for their own economic empowerment. He said: "The Centre will provide platform for businesses to market their services and wares to tourists during the regular festivities and the various events and celebrations to be developed by the Centre Management."

Construction works, he emphasised, "provide many job opportunities for artisans, technicians, engineers," and busi-

ness transactions for local suppliers and service providers. Discerning individuals and businesses would also have to develop and perfect skills, such as tour guides, storytellers, dancers, singers, costume makers, event planners, travel agents, food vendors, designers, producers of souvenirs, transporters, show promoters, and many others.

To actualise the vision of the OMRC as a very attractive proposition to stakeholders, the host community, the state, and the Niger Delta have to create an atmosphere of peace, safety and security. Communal harmony is essential. The Executive Secretary said: "Right from the construction phase to the operations phase, we must demonstrate that we are welcoming, hospitable, friendly." He advised the stakeholders to demonstrate that the state is "indeed the Glory of All Lands".

With a solid reputation for efficiently catalysing oil and gas industry ventures by bolstering capacity for in-country value addition, NCDMB is unmistakably on a familiar turf with other partners to drive the execution of the OMRC project. Its involvement is a bold statement not only of its capacity to identify and catalyse the development of worthwhile industry-related projects but also to demonstrate that its dedication to fostering sectorial linkages is unwavering. That the NCDMB Conference Hotel is coming on stream at the same time reinforces the brilliant business outlook of the organisation.





And then, there is the NCDMB Conference Hotel

The prescience that underlies project planning and execution at the NCDMB is in evidence as the Board undertakes construction of the NCDMB Conference Hotel, adjacent to the iconic Nigerian Content Tower. It is, among other things, to cater to accommodation needs of tourists, researchers and educationists visiting the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre, and is consistent with institutional philosophy that “the oil and gas industry should serve as a growth driver across many sectorial groups”. The vision of the Engr. Wabote-led NCDMB Management is that the service industry, particularly the tourism sector, could be reasonably boosted with a facility of this nature.

The Management envisaged that the magnificent, environmentally-sustainable 204-room facility, taken together with the Board’s 17-storey headquarters building, would “enhance the scenic view of Yenagoa and attract more visitors to the city and encourage them to stay longer”. Among its many design features, the NCDMB Conference Hotel will have power back-up, in addition to the company’s gas-fired NOGAPA 10-megawatt power plant at Elebele. Also, lift services, serviced bedrooms, bathrooms, public areas and kitchen would be available, with all

rooms air-conditioned and having external windows and ventilation. In the facility, motion-activated lighting is part of the uniqueness.

With a solid reputation for efficiently catalysing oil and gas industry ventures by bolstering capacity for in-country value addition, NCDMB is unmistakably on a familiar turf with other partners to drive the execution of the OMRC project. Its involvement is a bold statement not only of its capacity to identify and catalyse the development of worthwhile industry-related projects but also to demonstrate that its dedication to fostering sectorial linkages is unwavering. That the NCDMB Conference Hotel is coming on stream at the same time reinforces the brilliant business outlook of the organisation. The energy and drive thus far by its Management inspire great hope that the magic that delivered the Nigerian Content Tower in record time would make the completion of the OMRC and the Hotel a reality within the timelines set.



Dianam Dakolo is a Content Consultant in the Corporate Communication Division of NCDMB.



The Ground breaking of Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre



The groundbreaking of the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC) and the Conference Hotel Project (CHP) in February is one of the outstanding achievements of President Muhammadu Buhari in the oil and gas industry. The event, rich in historical significance was attended by several bigwigs in the oil and gas industry and beyond, including Chief Timipre Sylva, erstwhile Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, who represented Mr. President; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB); Mallam Mele Kyari, Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO), Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited; Chief Dr. Samuel Ogbuku, Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC); Mr. Osagie Osunbor, Country Chair of Shell Companies in Nigeria and Senator Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, Bayelsa State Deputy Governor and a host of other dignitaries.



NCDMB Conference Hotel Project (CHP) Commssioning.



Your guide to the authentic Northern cuisine experience in Abuja



Travelling, it is said, is the best form of education. Trying out different dishes outside of culture is one of the most enlivening experiences ever. When next you are in Abuja and looking for that peculiar taste of dishes unique to the Northern part of the country, these five restaurants carefully curated by us are your sure plugs.

L&N KITCHEN

Located at 49 Kumasi Crescent, Wuse District, we arrived around 7p.m and were greeted at the entrance by a waiter. I was really impressed by the menu because it was extensive with varieties of offers. I loved the ambience, with its semi close setting which is both modern and traditional. The ottomans gave it a more homely feeling and transported me back to my roots. We sat on the carpet and the experience was different. Almost all restaurants have a modern setting.

This was a new experience for me. I ordered the *tuwon shinkafa* (rice cake) and *miyan zogala* (moringa soup). The soup had just the right proportion of both moringa and groundnut and it was seasoned to perfection. I also ordered the beef suya (meat barbeque) with tamarind juice. The chicken was well seasoned with northern spices and grilled perfectly and the tamarind juice was full of flavours. The taste was exquisite and the prices were reasonable. Between ₦7,000 and ₦9,000 guarantees a full course meal. L&N Kitchen comes highly recommended for the authentic northern cuisine.



MASA BUKKA

This is one to look out for when you want to eat northern delicacies in Abuja from the comfort of your home. Masa Bukka is not the regular restaurant. It does more of home delivery service. I enjoyed the experience because it is not every day you would want to eat out. The menu ranges from main dishes and northern desserts; on offer are catering services and office lunch packages. I ordered the *masa* (rice cake) with *miyan taushe* (vegetable and pumpkin soup), ram peppersoup and *fatatan accha* (fonio porridge). The texture of the masa was perfect: soft and crispy. The soup was fresh and peppery, just the right amount.

From the dessert menu, I ordered *alkaki* (sweet wheat cake), chin-chin (flour biscuits), and *dublan* (flour flakes dipped in sugar). I had a great experience, especially with the desserts, because they were so textured, tasty and sweet. Delivery was on time and the packaging was excellent. I went looking for a good northern cuisine experience and I got what I was looking for. I had a great authentic northern and homely taste. *Masa* is perhaps the restaurant's best seller. The prices are in the range of ₦400 to ₦3,500. Delivery is to all parts of the federal capital. It is an efficient service.



MAI SHAYI COFFEE ROASTERS

When you think northern and exquisite dishes, Mai Shayi is your go-to at 84 Kwame Nkrumah Crescent, Asokoro. The restaurant is an infusion of northern and Western cuisine, with the twist of brewing your own coffee. This is the place to be if you're a coffee lover; they also source some of their coffee locally. The surroundings is fine and the ambience inside even finer – cozy décor and beautiful artworks on display. For the main menu, we ordered the *masa* burger and *tuwon shinkafa* (rice cake) with *miyan kuka* (baobab soup).

This was my first time of eating *masa* in a burger form and I was impressed because I love *masa* and burger. The combination was something else. The beef patty was tender and the *masa* was fluffy and soft but not soggy. For the *tuwo* and *miyan kuka*, it was made to perfection and tasty. The overall taste for the two dishes was homely and amazing. For drinks, we ordered *zobo* (hibiscus tea) and coffee, both brewed to perfection.

The most unique experience was the opportunity to brew our own coffee from scratch. *Masa* burger was ₦7,000, *tuwon shinkafa* and *miyan kuka* ₦10,500 while the *zobo* and the coffee were ₦3,000 and ₦6,500, respectively. My overall experience was simply amazing. Looking for that high-end northern cuisine experience? Mai Shayi Coffee Roasters is your direct plug.

GRILLS 101

Grills 101 restaurant is at 70 Kur Muhammad Avenue, Wuse. The restaurant has a bamboo-like building, which makes the building unique. On the grounds is a beautiful garden and then a walkway before arriving at the entrance of the restaurant. After about 10 minutes of waiting, I was seated at the table and a menu was brought to me by one of the waiters. There were different sitting arrangements, including a family section. I ordered the *gurasa*, which is a northern flat bread sprinkled with peanut butter, little pepper and then grilled (*bandashen gurasa*), together with mixed *suya* (beef, kidney and liver). This is one of my favourite meals. The *gurasa* was soft with the right amount of seasoning comprising peanut and pepper, while the mixed *suya* was tender and tasty. For drinks, I ordered *zobo* juice, which was chilled and flavoured perfectly. The meal cost ₦3,000. I will definitely go back to try other items on the menu.



UNDER THE MANGO TREE (Mukkarama)

I visited under the tree restaurant for lunch. The name of the restaurant is Mukkarama, but it is better known as under the mango tree, located behind Frasier Suites. It is one of the best places to visit for northern cuisine at really affordable prices. The restaurant is always packed around lunch time. When I arrived, the large space for parking vehicles was already almost full. There was a long queue at the entrance, almost discouraged about queuing just to get lunch. However, I waited and I am glad that I did because the food and experience were worth the long waiting period.

The restaurant is indoors with a simplistic approach to its décor - just tables and chairs. Mukkarama has a wide range of only Northern cuisines. After the long wait, I was seated inside by the waiters when it got to my turn. The *tuwon alkama* (wheat cake) with okra soup is ₦600. I ordered meat and *ponmo* (cow hide), which came to about ₦1,500 for a full meal. I also ordered tigernut spiced with coconut and date, which was very creamy and sweet. One of the best things about Under the Tree is the affordability and quality of the food.

There you have it. In Abuja, you cannot go wrong armed with this guide. I am sure when next you visit, you will say a silent "thank you" for my exhaustive guide.

- Bilkisu Yar'Adua

SMART MONEY

TODAY IS ON AI

How to get a foot in the Door

History is replete with the (often) creative destruction of technology. AI is set to be the biggest of them all.

You may have heard of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot developed by OpenAI and launched in November 2022. And if you have not heard about it, you soon will. ChatGPT is simply an artificial intelligence software that can engage in humanlike conversations with you and help you solve real challenges in the blink of an eyelid.

So, you are a content developer or student and you are experiencing difficulty in writing your story, your press release or feature article, or your thesis, simply engage with ChatGPT and explain to it what you want, and in seconds – yes, you heard it right – the bot has produced a decent story, press release, feature article or thesis for you. Or, let us say you are a researcher or data analyst and you are struggling with interpreting a data set that you have, just engage your chatbot and before you finish typing the challenge the bot already has the answer(s) for you.

Supposing you are a musician or a software/code developer and you are having a mental block composing your next song or writing your next codes, ChatGPT is there to write the lyrics and compose the song for you or help you write the code, in seconds, mind you.

Sounds surreal? Indeed, it is. Many professionals are today worried that AI may soon render them redundant and out of job. Artificial intelligence, by many definitions, is the ability of a digital computer or computer-controlled robot to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent beings. Experts say “AI is now allowing computers to make decisions that historically required human beings. AI is so versatile that it finds useful applications in every industry. In banking, for instance, Stanbic IBTC Bank

introduced an AI-powered robot it named Pepper a few years ago. Pepper is deployed to handle basic everyday banking tasks.

In the IT industry, developers are deploying AI for code writing; in manufacturing, many of today's assembly lines are AI-powered. In public relations and communications, AI is being deployed to generate press releases, blog posts, communications plans, and even contribute ideas for brand campaigns and promotion. It is also used in the building and deployment of 3D websites. Today in more developed markets, such as in the United States, China, Holland and Singapore, there are port terminals with fully automated operations. And the list goes on. A few days ago, the world woke up to a viral AI image of the Roman Catholic Pope.

To be sure, the deployment of AI has been on for years now. Siri, the digital personal assistance in your Apple devices is AI; so also are Google Now, for Google; Cortana for Microsoft products; Jarvis on Android and Android Wear, and many others. But 2022 was a defining period for AI with the introduction of ChatGPT. The chatbot has helped many to boost their productivity.

For those who believe that AI is a passing phase, it is not. In fact, it will keep getting better and bigger. A market research firm, Zion Market Research, projected that the “global AI industry should grow to \$422.37billion by 2028.” With this growth projection, the Brookings Institute believes the “market for AI is still in its early stages” in the US and other markets. Already, there are many versions of ChatGPT in the market. Google, for instance, introduced Bard, its own version, this year, while Microsoft announced that its products will come preloaded with the chatbot.

Already, software developers and scientists are considering the deployment of AI in “automated diagnoses” that will focus on “image recognition and feature detection” to improve the “accessibility, efficiency and cost-effectiveness of eye care systems”.

To be sure, the deployment of AI has been on for years now. Siri, the digital personal assistance in your Apple devices is AI; so also are Google Now, for Google; Cortana for Microsoft products; Jarvis on Android and Android Wear, and many others. But 2022 was a defining period for AI with the introduction of ChatGPT. The chatbot has helped many to boost their productivity.

When this is achieved, there would be less reliance on human input. Other businesses are now taking advantage of the awesome capabilities of AI to improve their processes and make their operations more efficient and cost-effective. Today, AI is deployed in customer service, data analytics, sales and marketing, customer care, content marketing, cybersecurity, among many others. “Marketing and sales prioritise AI and machine learning higher than any other department in enterprises today (40 percent),” says Forbes.

Smart investors are already positioned to take advantage of the rising profile of AI. One of the best ways to get a foot in the AI boom is to invest in infrastructure companies like Google, Amazon, Microsoft, etc. In Nigeria, as of March 2023, there were 56 AI startups in Lagos. Many of the startups have attracted funding from reputable foreign companies, like Goldman Sachs, Y Combinator, and Asia Africa Investment and Consulting. There are investment opportunities in such startups. One can also target quoted companies that have invested in AI in their operations, says financial expert Ambrose Omordion.



Dr. IBILOLA AMAO

30 years of domesticating technology in Nigeria

Dr Ibiola Amao, Principal Consultant of Lonadek Services is highly accomplished in local content development, STEM education and career counselling. She shares deep insights on her career path, capacity building and the future of the industry.

About Lonadek

Lonadek Global Services is an ISO 9001:2015 certified engineering technology and information management company. We have been in operation since 1991, domiciling, democratising and domesticating technology in Nigeria. We work with our partners to identify local talent and upskill them to deliver services nationally and globally.

Milestones achieved in local content development Nigeria

The first thing I have achieved is domesticating technology. My doctorate was in Computer

Aided Designing and Drafting. I specialise in 3D modeling of oil and gas facilities.

When I graduated in 1988, I worked for three years in the United Kingdom. I returned to Nigeria in 1991 and realised that they were using drawing boards to produce drawings even for oil and gas facilities. So, I set out to transfer technology to Nigerians and I had been fortunate to have been engaged by NNPC-NETCO in 1992 to train 67 young engineers who have been recruited by NNPC for Chevron's Escravos gas project. Those young engineers trained that year are currently Executives around the world. One of them just retired as Group Executive Director in NNPC. Some of them are

working globally as captains of industry. Training them in 1992 to 1993 and preparing them for EGP Phase 1 on the Chevron project is one of my major milestones. We were able to deliver in a timely manner on the milestone using the Computer Aided Design system, which was the first time that was done in Nigeria.

Over the past 30 years, we have empowered over 100,000 STEM talents to deploy technology. We have counselled them in careers, created industry awareness and empowered them to be able to provide services, both nationally and internationally. We are currently upskilling about 10,000 tech talents with Microsoft, LinkedIn and GitHub. We are partnering pro-

prietors and leaders of technology to provide digital twin solutions to IOCs, independent and marginal field operators. We have definitely done enough on transfer of technologies, and we pride ourselves to have developed talents and executives who have passed through the LONADEK programmes.

Surviving and making waves in a male-dominated field

I was raised as a tomboy by my late father who was a civil and structural engineer. He knew I loved solving problems, climb trees, catching butterflies, grasshoppers and nurture them in bottles until they die. He encouraged me to pursue my love for mathematics, physics and chemistry. I went to an all-girls secondary school where there was no discrimination. I came out top of the class. From there, I went to the United Kingdom where I had my A level and there, there was discrimination as a black young girl coming into a computerised environment. I had not seen a computer in my life. I had to work extremely hard to change my brain from traditional mathematics in Nigeria to modern mathematics in England; change from where we are taught in the traditional ways to learning from experience and practicals.

Initially, I was laboratory-shy because I never had that experience. I had to change my learning style and had to work extremely hard to prove to my mathematics teacher, especially the fact that I am black does not mean that our brains are black.

When I went to Queen Mary College, University of London, I ensured I never missed a class. I was always in the library and the drawing office for extra three hours a day. At the end, I finished with a first class even though we were two ladies in a class of 50. I have always been a minority in most instances. During my PhD at the University of Bradford, I was the only female among 12 people in my set. I have got used to being a female amongst males; so, I don't even see myself as a female anymore.

Having worked as an engineer for over 30 years, I don't have that lens because my late father helped me by educating me and giving me excellent and exceptional educational opportunities. With a doctorate in engineering, there are not many men in engineering who had those qualifications and the exposure. He further encouraged me after I got my doctorate to go and train as a chartered engineer. I had to stoop to conquer. Despite having a PhD, I joined a graduate training programme with an engineering consulting outfit in Westgate, North England. This involved 18 months in the design office and 18 months on site. That exposure actually made me understand that I am cut out to be in the design office. I didn't really like being on site because of the weather conditions and the kind of rough life.

I learnt a lot from that experience that as a female, you really need to understand the way
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you're wired. You need to understand yourself and know where you want to play so that you can win. You must know that you can't be everything to everybody. I probably wouldn't have been successful if I wanted to prove a point on site.

I realised that my intellectual capacity was my strength. Maths, physics and solving problems were my strengths. I love working on computers. So, indoors was it for me. That's how I have been able to just focus on my strengths, and I have been very fortunate to have had male supporters as well as female role models who have guided and encouraged me to be who I am today.

Assessing the progress recorded implementing the NOGICD Act

I was one of the apostles of local content, having gone through the NNPC-VECTEL joint venture, which translated into NETCO. I had watched and experienced technology transfer first-hand in that joint venture. I have seen the importance of collaboration, cooperation and coordination between local companies and international companies to domesticate, democratise and domicile technology in Nigeria.

As far back as 1993-1994, I was already working with NETCO as a technology converter/technology transfer expert as a consultant. I remember very early in Engr. Ernest Nwapa's career, Prof Pat Utomi asked him to come and talk to me about local content and transfer of technology because he had done a fantastic presentation during his Chief Officers Course and people wanted him to drive Nigerian Content. We have been very much active as Nigerians working to see the passage of the Local Content Act.

So, in 2003, I set up the Oil and Gas Design Engineers of Nigeria, an association that actually pushed for the domiciling and democratising of technology. A group of us made a presentation to the GMD of NNPC, Engr. Funsho Kupolukun about why it's important for engineering to be domiciled in Nigeria as against going to foreign offices to run the project.

I was actively involved in the setting up of the Nigerian Content Division in NNPC before it was passed into an Act. Having seen the process of Engr. Ernest (Napa) trying his best to engage industry actively and push local content, Engr. (Joseph) Akande arrived and started using the strong whip to knock people into shape. After much efforts, there was the establishment of the NCDMB after former President Goodluck Jonathan signed the Local Content Bill. It has been very interesting.

I have watched the phases and witnessed different people coming to play their part. One thing I've noticed now is that Simbi Wabote is more collaborative and more involved in partnerships and strategic alliances to effectively get local content adopted not only in companies but also in our activities, our projects, and basically looking beyond Nigeria into regional

content.

Invariably, there are different phases but one thing is sure: you really need somebody who has international, regional and national perspectives to be able to drive local content strategy that creates jobs and wealth for not just only the nation but also the communities. For me, it has been a journey I've been very much involved with local content from the NCDMB side, from PTDF side and from the IOC side. I've done quite a few of the local content studies, skills gap studies with PTDF and NCDMB.

It has been very interesting for me. The good news is that we are beginning to settle into understanding the importance of local content. The likes of PETAN, OGTAN, and Women in Energy Network have come on board to promote local content and I'm beginning to see the fruits, rewards and the dividends of the hard work we put in place for many years.

I can say that before the advent of the Act, there were some jobs and spaces that were expatriate-driven. There were areas where Nigerians were not even playing in. For instance, marine vessels and asset ownership initiative were predominated by foreigners. But with the establishment of PETAN to drive technological acquisition and with different initiatives that have come up, you can see that there's a strategy behind empowering Nigerians and Nigerian businesses. The impact is being felt in the economy. Today, PETAN members are beginning to take local content to other African countries and taking the lead in showing how it was done and how it works.

Possibility of OGTAN members forming a consortium to ensure training excellence

I have always believed that bridging the gap between industry and academia is key to knowledge and technology transfer. In terms of moving the needle of local content further, we need to build capacity, capability and competence, which is one of the key roles of OGTAN.

The way the association is structured now with over 200 or 300 members, it is just not ideal for me. I have always been a promoter of cooperation, collaboration and coordination of resources because of economies of scale. In order to accelerate transfer of technology and empower our talents in Nigeria, there is a need for OGTAN to look at strategic alliances, partnerships, collaboration, joint ventures and consortium to be able to deliver on their mandate.

Aside from that, we need to look at improving the situation in our universities. Our higher learning institutions require the kind of investment that is not necessarily placed in the shops of OGTAN members. I think centres of excellence should be located in higher learning institutions while leveraging their infrastructure and bridging the gap between industry and academia. As for me, I would say if we look at higher institutions in the six geopolit-

ical regions or in the key geopolitical regions where hydrocarbon assets exist, we can consider partnerships where OGTAN members can invest in the centre of excellence in the chosen universities.

We must begin to consider institutions that have the potential to house centres of excellence. We should focus on the strength of each university and position them in a way that OGTAN members that have the required partnerships with international proprietors of technology and are prepared to bring their partners into those higher learning institutions to build the capacity of the centres. This is the kind of conversation I've been having for years. As you know, many Nigerians who do not see the big and holistic picture want to promote their own businesses.

I have been in the game for over 30 years and I have been on the Council of the Royal Academy of Engineers Africa, which comprises 23 countries. In the UK, I've been on the Energy Institute Board for six years. I am now on the International Energy Week Board. I can see the big picture of where the industry is going globally, regionally and nationally. It will be smart and timely for OGTAN members to be compelled to invest in these centres alongside their foreign partners so that the universities are not just issuing university degrees to our Nigerian talents but international certifications on the back of autumn partnerships. With this, our Nigerian graduates can get jobs anywhere in the world upon graduation in Nigeria. There are so many international talent-hunting portals and manpower supply companies that would readily recruit Nigerian graduates, if they have the right certification, the right skills and competencies.

I think we really need to collapse all the multitude of silos we have in OGTAN and be more focused and strategic about building in-country capacity and capability through partnerships and collaboration. This is my suggestion as an expert in capacity building and having carried out several training courses for young graduates.

Thoughts on the employability of fresh university graduates in Nigeria

I do not believe that Nigerian graduates are not employable. As a matter of fact, the favourite talents I like to work with are fresh graduates because they're always excited about learning new things. They are hungry for knowledge; they feel deprived that they may not have had the right kind of tutoring in our universities. They identify that they have a gap and are like sponge, just soaking up knowledge.

The problem we have is the absence of meritocratic recruitment. Meritocratic recruitment process is a situation where you have the right talents and right people and you do run your personality profile analysis to understand the strength and the passion of the fresh graduate. When you put them in the right training

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programmes, the sky is the limit because they have been deprived in our higher institutions. We need graduate training programmes and continuous professional development programmes. We need to encourage meritocratic recruitment for these young ones so that it is not garbage in, garbage out.

Current jobs Lonadek Global Services is executing

At the moment, we are very much involved in deploying engineering technology solutions for the international oil companies. One of our partners is Viva Engineering Information Technology Solutions who are the proprietors of the digital twin solutions. The IOCs use our solutions on their FPSO. We do not only sell the technology but we are in collaboration with our partners. We also outsource skilled systems integrators, digital transformation specialists, 3D modelers for Viva E3D in these organisations. We also have about 60 workers in NNPC's subsidiaries. We have manpower supplied to the IOCs. Also, in our area of strength, which is capacity building, we do a lot of training. We have commenced the second cohort of Amazon Web Services CAD practitioner training. We're currently upskilling about 10,000 Africans in Diaspora and in Africa with Microsoft, LinkedIn and GitHub and we are working on building the capacity of women in energy, women in engineering and women in entrepreneurship, which is my passion because I really love working with girls in STEM.

Areas of improvement for NCDMB

One area the Board needs to improve is the schedule of the NOGICD Act. I would like to see an improvement in that area. I know the NOGICJS portal has a lot of data, which can be mined for strategy and for rolling out more impactful initiatives. I also think the strategy of partnering industry operators and service providers is very useful, and this is the way to go. But doing that more effectively should be leveraged up with data and the historical records that have been gathered over the years. We use the data we have gathered over 12 years to strategise for the next 10 to 20 years.

Making STEM education attractive to young girls

First, I will say we need to do a lot of career counselling. Career counselling is not just for the girl-child but also girl-child's parents, the STEM teachers and career counsellors. How do I convince a mom to allow her daughter stay behind after school with a male physics teacher or a male maths teacher? It's almost impossible today. Hence, we need to get more female math and science teachers and we have to get more educated parents, teachers associations need to look at building an ecosystem that is conducive for girls to venture into male dominated courses and classes.

Secondly, there is need to have programmes that meritocratically identify, develop and engage female talents in male-dominated sec-

tors. We need to give them prizes and recognition. *When I graduated in 1988, I worked for three years in the United Kingdom. I returned to Nigeria in 1991 and realised that they were using drawing boards to produce drawings even for oil and gas facilities. So, I set out to transfer technology to Nigerians and I had been fortunate to have been engaged by NNPC-NETCO in 1992 to train 67 young engineers who have been recruited by NNPC for Chevron's Escravos gas project. Those young engineers trained that year are currently Executives around the world.*

nise them. We need to promote more female role models. Many mothers will say don't study engineering or you won't find a husband. I was told my marriage would crash, and some other terrible things. Of course, I'm a happily married woman now with three younger adults. My baby is 21. We need to let people know that you are not sacrificing your female personality because you want to become an engineer.

The onus is on empowering the girl-child, helping her to see the holistic picture of different career paths and guiding her to make the right choice based on who she is, her potential, her talent and her passion. Once you put a round peg in the round hole, it doesn't matter whether you are female or male. The sky is the limit. Just get that right ecosystem for our girls and encourage them to take the bull by the horn.



A made-in-Nigeria international brand

Engr. Tony Oguike, Chairman, Future Concerns Group, discusses how the conglomerate is meeting the specialised needs of clients across the oil and gas value chain.

Motivation behind establishing the PPE factory

At Future Concerns, we are seen as trailblazers in this sub-sector of HSE and emergency response. We felt that the next level of this positive trajectory was to evolve to an Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM). I believe we have risen to the top of the local vendor managers of global brands and high levels of service quality delivery. We have changed the expectation of what the local vendor should be.

Upon reaching this milestone, the next natural level is to evolve to an OEM. This process takes time, dedication and a long-term plan. So, the groundbreaking is perhaps a manifestation of seven years of research and development, which is the right thing to do, because the opportunities that the local content has given us is making us to become a made-in-Nigeria international brand that is exportable, that could be used in Port Harcourt or Texas, or in Louisiana.

That is why we took our time. It's going to be

global brand- Red Wings with over a hundred years' tradition, but this will be made in Nigeria by Future Concerns. For the production to happen in Nigeria, it has to be at the highest level, which was what our partners saw in the level of consistency, passion and zest to do it right.

Unique difference between Future Concerns and its competitors

What we are developing is not just a Future Concerns location but an international outfit. The biggest difference is that this is a continuum of an existing century-old tradition, just

that it is the first time they are manufacturing in Africa. So, that is a key differentiator and the reason it took us a very long time to get the licence because everything is done to the highest global standard.

We give credit to all the hardworking companies that have started production in Nigeria. I think with our facility, it will not just be a gold standard for made-in-Nigeria, but meeting global standards. A lot has been done on R&D, various interactions with the audit team in Pakistan, the head office in Minnesota and the Texas office, before we got to this level. This facility is going to come out like another manufacturing hub, just like Pakistan and the United States but proudly Nigeria.

Other business/services of Future Concerns Group

Over 20 years ago, I obviously started Future Concerns as a specialist company with HSE as our DNA. Being an engineer myself, we always felt that specialisation would beget opportunities.

The more we got brand identity, brand equity and brand value that stood for something, the more we were encouraged to come into other related fields. That is why, today, we are a group of companies and at the core of the group is what we call competence.

That means in any of our segments, we have either experts that have come through the system or experts that have established themselves in other companies. We have guys from Schlumberger, we have guys in Future Concerns who have grown organically. In this company, the clients are obviously the most important persons in the building. They are our motivation to serve and improve better on our services. We are client-immersive focused.

To serve our clients better, we now have a sub-sector for gas detection, for which we are in partnership with Mine Safety Appliances (MSA), one of the major manufacturers of safety instrumentation, gas detection and safety equipment. Beyond just selling the product, we started a service centre in 2014. Before this time, we used to send these gas detectors and self-contained breed appliance abroad. But in our usual way, when we felt confident enough, we did the research and development and created a similar maintenance facility as what MSA has at their headquarters in Pittsburgh.

After the launch, we were very privileged to be the best service centre in West Africa and, subsequently, they gave us the rights to manage all the channel partners in West Africa. There are only two in Africa - one for East Africa and Future Concerns for West Africa. This makes our team go to Ivory Coast, Cameroon, and other African countries, as part of our transcontinental solutions. With the setting up of sub-channel here, we ensure that MSA and Future Concerns imprint is consistent. The three-value propositions are: sales of the

product, the spares available and training in-house.

At Future Concerns, production of Personal Productive Equipment (PPE) is our DNA. Also, within the safety centre, you have MSA gas detection as well as the eye protection section where we produce prescription safety glasses. We have mobile laboratories that go to the field and take the personal data for the clients and transcribe them into true emergency HSE certified safety glasses.

In the past, guys like me that wear glasses had to wear an over-spec to go to the field locations. But now, we have a lab that can turn the regular glasses to safety glasses, work on the frame and on the lens. We have taken this innovative service to SPDC, ExxonMobil and Schlumberger, among others.

Another area of our segments is the fire services. As we evolved, we found out that our corporate clients were moving into towers and the emergency response became something that needed to be addressed because it wasn't their call. So, it became how will they provide a global certified emergency response solution without distracting them from their main job? They needed an entity that has specialists with same passion, operating systems and capability that can run them. Today, we have about four emergency fire safety teams with about 120 firemen outsourced.

We have a team in Total Energies and those guys have been there for about 12 years. We have a team in SPDC in Warri and Forcados and in their new Port Harcourt office. These are well trained firemen on location. We manage them and are responsible for any fire on those locations.

Our other more high-tech segment includes Future Oil Field Services, which specialises in production enhancements. It's essentially an EPCI company. It started about six years ago. Just like everything we do at Future Concerns, it changed the game. We have been able to handle quite some important projects. We also have Future Automation Calibration Technical Services (FACTS). Here, we specialise in instrumentation and calibration services. Those are the three key segments. The Future Concerns Safety Centre, Future Oil-field Services and Future Automation Calibration Technical Services.

We have over 180 specialists that run those businesses. We are not only proud of the brand identity but also very specific and deliberate about the separation. It means something to be a field engineer and means something different to be a fireman. In each of the segments, the key thing we insist on is just being a high professional and being best at what

you know is really what drives us at the Future Concerns Group.

Over 20 years ago, I obviously started Future Concerns as a specialist company with HSE as our DNA. Being an engineer myself, we always felt that specialisation would beget opportunities. The more we got brand identity, brand equity and brand value that stood for something, the more we were encouraged to come into other related fields. That is why, today, we are a group of companies and at the core of the group is what we call competence.

Qualities that endeared Future Concerns Group to OEMs

In each case, we try to embody what the original equipment manufacturer is about. We really try to ingratiate ourself into what is the DNA of the product. If it's consistent with what we want to do, which is to be very innovative and be able to represent these brands in the same way they would like to represent themselves. This is what has caused a cross-pollination of cultures because we don't want to just sell. We are selling a lifestyle of productivity and consistency that includes selling the product. And what we found was that this was very attractive to the bigger world. We also try to be original. It's not a copy and paste, it's not one size fits all.

As you are aware, we represent Red Wing, which specialises in shoes. They make very strong safety shoes and they've evolved to making the coveralls because of our relevance. We also let them know that the African bodily dimensions are a little bit different, and therefore, we are in the room for research and development and are very proud that they have created a line of female coveralls for the African woman, which is quite different from other demographics. The weather on the field, the nuances of the African worker become part of the research and development at the OEMs. These are the originalities we bring to the table.

For the corporate goals of each of the organisations, we take pride in representing the Nigerian business environment with a lot of compliances because we wanted to change the reputation of what a Nigerian entity or a business is about - from managing their accounts, connection to the sales to the after-sale programme. All of that is deliberate. That's one of the reasons these big corporate outfits seem to gravitate towards Future Concerns.

We mean business, we work very hard and



smart and we respect the DNA of each of our partners. Red Wing really did see why we needed to step the game up to have an OEM here. They respected the NCDMB goals and the geography they serve. We insisted on that and what you saw was a win-win situation for each party involved, from Red Wing, the manufacturer to the clients here in Nigeria, as well as our Future Concerns. Our goal in every case is to bring value from Future Oil Fields to Future Concerns to Future Automation. These are the things that drive us.

Projects executed in the oil and gas sector

At Future Concerns, we manage the PPE programme for a lot of the IOCs. Halliburton is one of our very first clients for over 20 years. Today, we are not serving them as vendors. We actually have a base on the location as well because they have come to trust us for anything within the emergency response. We have helped Chevron build on-location gas detection programme and train their people. In fact, today, we have about 30 people from Chevron in our training facility. At SPDC, we have helped with the digitalisation of their operation from gas detection and being able to monitor what is going on at Bonga from their main location. In Total, we are part of their solar-

isation of all the gas stations.

At Future Oilfields, we are one of the very important production enhancement service providers, export pumps descending systems. It's a long list. One thing to note is that when they want special collaboration, they seem to call to collaborate and innovate.

The Future of Future Concerns

This question was posed to me when we moved in here in 2014 and I said the future of Future Concerns is more of the same.

Our future is more of evolving and finding our best version, being able to evolve into an OEM. I'm glad that last year, we were able to move to a new facility and that was a very distant dream. Majorly, the future of Future Concerns is utilising all our skills, all our resources and knowing that at each era, the best of us is just a means to an end, not an end in itself. With our OEM posture, hopefully, we shall invite or bring the entire oil industry to see a world-class standard manufacturing facility.

At Future Oil Fields, we yearn for more technology, more equipment and, ultimately, for our own oilfield. One thing that excites me is that our guys are well prepared about our technology. If you come to Future Oilfield, most likely you will be able to get a solution. You will see the dependability of the brand, the integrity and the can-do attitude. This is where

success lies for us.

So, in 10 years, expect to see an older Future Concern and a more vibrant company. Each segment will continue to create its own identity as well as continue to have the founding members' DNA of competence and passionate pursuit of excellence.

Impact of the implementation of the NOGICD Act on the company

We are an example of preparation meets good policy towards evolution. I knew that the NOGICD Act was going to give a lot of companies opportunities, but we just wanted to create a platform first, a platform that would be able to create jobs for our people and would inspire them to find the greater calling.

I believe that when the platform is in place, it is translatable to any good policy that is geared towards a positive trajectory. We clearly know that we won't be where we are today if it wasn't for the Act. We are totally indebted to the NCDMB team under the leadership of Engr. Simbi Wabote. His leadership obviously drove the clear vision of manufacturing the flame retarding coveralls and apparel here.

A lot of times in emerging economies, you are not sure about where the policies are going. But the exciting thing in this particular case was you heard it very clear about the policy direction and it was irreversible. That singular move gave us the audacity to invest our dollars, invest our time, our resources and our people towards preparing to provide the next level of expertise and the next level of display of the best of Nigeria.

Absolutely, if it wasn't for the NOGICD Act, we wouldn't have got here. However, we wanted to be a company, not a Nigerian company. That means we are looking at ourselves as finding best practices, inspiring our people to a very high level of productivity all the time. However, obviously serving in Nigeria and West Africa, you have to adopt leadership, which has learning at its core. What you see with Future Concerns is really a product of learning from the best, serving high level intellectual companies like Schlumberger, Halliburton and the likes, as well as serving the IOCs, having the opportunity to go to the field and adopt the same winning strategies here.

Sometime ago, we were given a leadership award by SPDC. It was very intriguing to us because we didn't just win a leadership award, we also won a Learner Mindset Award. I think that captures the Future Concern space, you know, being a trailblazer as well as having a learner mindset.



1. (L-R): Engr. Abayomi Bamidele, General Manager, Strategy and Transformation Projects, NCDMB; Mr. Livingstone Egba, Consultant to the NCDMB; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Alhaji Mohammed Musa Bello, Minister of the Federal Capital Territory after the Executive Secretary received the Leadership Local Content Champion of the Year Award at the 14th Leadership Conference and Awards at the International Conference Centre, Abuja.

2. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB commissioning the new secretariat of the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigerian (PETAN) at Trans-Amadi Industrial Area, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

3. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Mr. Olukayode Pitan, Managing Director, Bank of Industry after signing an agreement on the launch of a US\$50million fund for NOGaPS Manufacturing Product Line in Lagos.

4. (L-R): Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and management of AS Energies Limited and other stakeholders during the ground-breaking of a pipe manufacturing plant at Polaku, Bayelsa State.

5. Akintunde Adelana, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, NCDMB receiving the Board's award for emerging a Level 5 Platinum Level Organisation from Mrs. Mercy Okon, Head, Strategy, Innovation and Research, Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR).

6. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Dr. Philip Mshelbila, Managing Director, Nigeria LNG Limited with participants at the 22nd World LNG Summit & Award ceremony in Athens, Greece.

7. Management and staff of NCDMB with Trainees at the flagging-off of the Commercial Air Training for 20 Nigerian youths at the Underwater Warfare School, Navy Town, Ojo, Lagos State.



8. R - L: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Engr. Adokiye Tombomiyie, Chief Operating Officer, Upstream, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited; Mr. Nicolas Odinuwe, Chairman, Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN); and Dr. Ernest Nwapa, Pioneer Executive Secretary, NCDMB at NNPC exhibition booth during the 7th SAIPEC sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference in Lagos.

9. L-R: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Dr. (Mrs.) Lami Ahmed, Board Member, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited; Dr. Ernest Nwapa, Pioneer Executive Secretary, NCDMB.

10. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB exchanging pleasantries with His Excellency, Sen. Douye Diri, Executive Governor, Bayelsa State during the condolence visit at the Governor's lodge, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

11. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with oil, gas and energy stakeholders at the PETAN's 2022 Oil and Gas Industry Dinner and Award ceremony in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

12. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Mr. Moses Frank Ekpo, Deputy Governor, Akwa Ibom State during the commissioning of Standard Institute of Technology Facility in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State.

13. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with other Awardees at the 2023 OGTA National Awards in Lagos.

14. L-R: Dr. Ernest Nwapa, Pioneer Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Nicolas Odinuwe, Chairman, Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria, (PETAN); Engr. Adokiye Tombomiyie, Chief Operating Officer, Upstream, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary NCDMB with delegates of the 7th SAIPEC sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference in Lagos.



15. Former President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and other winners at the inaugural African Heritage Concert and Awards, Kigali, Rwanda in April.

16. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB); Mr. Moses Siloko Siasia, Chairman of Heritage Times and pan-Africanist and legal practitioner, Prof PLO Lumumba at the inaugural African Heritage Concert and Awards, Kigali, Rwanda in April.

17. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with representatives of international operating oil and gas companies and their service counterparts after visiting Orbit Galvanised Steel Industries Limited at Ikorodu, Lagos.

18. NCDMB management staff in a group photograph with His Excellency, Sen. Douye Diri, Executive Governor, Bayelsa State after the condolence visit at the Governor's lodge, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

19. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB receiving an award of excellence in recognition of his outstanding Public and Humanitarian Services in the oil and gas Industry from Arc. Opiribo West, National President, Stella Maris College Old Boys Association in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

20. Mr. Omomehin Ajimijaye, Manager, Research and Statistics, NCDMB (4th from left); Mr. Patrick Obah, Director, Planning Research and Statistics; (5th from left) with officials of the NCDMB, Schlumberger and select students at the NCDMB-Schlumberger six-day Technology Enhancement Programme in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in April.

21. Barr. Esume Dan Kikile, Manager, Corporate Communication, NCDMB with the winning school at the Grand Finale/Award of Prizes for the Board's sponsored science quiz for Secondary Schools in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Office politics

Does it really exist?

Healthy politics benefits the workplace. The obverse is extremely damaging.

You often hear some workers say with confidence that they do not engage in office politics. Well, I have bad news for them. They may be unwittingly shooting themselves in the foot. Humans are by nature political beings and however much one denies it, wherever people gather, there, politics is: in the home, academia, at work, religious centres, anywhere.

For people who express such sentiments, it is clear they do not fully appreciate what politics is. So, what is politics? Let us consider some definitions of politics.

what politics is about - people trying to exploit opportunities to move ahead in life, which may contrast with other people's plans and agenda. Or, let us take another common example. You are a team lead in your workplace and your subordinates have varying degrees of skills and talents. Oftentimes, you just find yourself gravitating towards a particular colleague or a group of workers that you trust to execute tasks well because of their attitude, skills, enthusiasm, speed of execution, easy interpretation of tasks and general comportment.

alliances against other colleagues, gossiping, and intentional concealment of important information. Those will no doubt destroy a business.

However, those are just a part of the politics in workplaces. A workplace that encourages healthy political skills will benefit greatly from increased productivity. Numerous studies on the subject have shown this to be true.

Management researchers, led by Gerald Ferris of Florida State University discovered that workplace political skill has multiple sub-skills, including networking, interpersonal adaptability, emotional intelligence and sincerity. Researchers at Boise State University, working with others from the United States and Pakistan, found that "political skill predicted higher job performance, reduced stress at work, and greater career success as measured by promotions and pay rises".

When office politics is played right, there are numerous hidden benefits for both the individual and the organisation. Networking skills, for instance, are of great value to any organisation. Individuals with such skills are better at rallying support for important projects or initiatives across different units of the business. A politically savvy individual will likely help to bring the best out of co-workers because he can easily adapt his working style to suit either his subordinates or superiors.

The Oxford English dictionary defines politics as "activities aimed at improving someone's status or increasing power within an organisation." Wikipedia puts it this way: "Politics is the set of activities that are associated with making decisions in groups, or other forms of power relations among individuals, such as the distribution of resources or status." Dr. Rob Yeung, a chartered psychologist and coach at consulting firm Talentspace, defined office politics as "the ability to understand stakeholders effectively and to use such knowledge to influence them and secure resources in order to achieve organisational and/or personal goals".

From the definitions above, the moment you take up a position in a workplace, you have already kick-started your office "political career". In that position, you make decisions that will affect workers in different ways, positively or negatively. On your first day at work, you are already calculating in your mind what you need to do to attain a higher position to improve your status. Such scheming, no matter how good-hearted or positive, is affecting someone else's plans in the company and such individual(s) will try to resist your plans, passively or actively. These are classic examples of

These sets of workers will no doubt get regular commendations and perks. And where that is not the case, you tend to develop a special bond and relationship with them, and they become your 'clique'. Once that happens, you are inadvertently deep in office politics. This is why it is sometimes difficult to separate office politics from mentorship. Some say mentorship is a form of office politics. A mentee will enjoy special favours and command the attention and time of the mentor to the exclusion of other subordinates.

Organisational psychologist, corporate consultant and author Marie G. McIntyre, wrote in her book, *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*: "Office politics is an unavoidable fact of life in every workplace. To accomplish your personal and business goals, you must learn to successfully play the political game in your organisation."

Office politics is mostly viewed from the prism of negativity, hence the claim by many that they are apolitical in the workplace. Indeed, office politics often involves blackmailing or backstabbing a colleague, forming malicious

In effect, when office politics is played right, there are numerous hidden benefits for both the individual and the organisation. Networking skills, for instance, are of great value to any organisation. Individuals with such skills are better at rallying support for important projects or initiatives across different units of the business. A politically savvy individual will likely help to bring the best out of co-workers because he can easily adapt his working style to suit either his subordinates or superiors.

Another political sub-skill is the demonstration of sincerity in a worker's interactions with others. This entails speaking and behaving in a manner that is perceived to be honest and genuine by others. Honesty makes it easy to motivate teams and make them productive.

Indeed, office politics is real and you need the right skills to win in it.



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01



02



03



04



05



- 01 Graduation of solar power trainees in Suleja, Niger State.
- 02 Graduation at the Smart Electrical Engineering Training, Lagos Energy Academy.
- 03 Kick-off of the American Society for Non-destructive Testing (ASNT LEVEL III) training in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.
- 04 Kick-off of the NCDMB/ITF vocational/skills Acquisition programme in Abuja.
- 05 Phase 2 Sea-time Cadet training at Charkins Maritime and Offshore Services, Ozuoba, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

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...Building local capacities in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.



NOGOF over the years Linking opportunities to local capacities

-Inaugural NOGOF, 2017

A novel initiative has laid the foundation for the industry to grow by leaps and bounds.

A little over six years ago, from March 29 to 30 in 2017, the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunities Fair (NOGOF) began with a gathering of over 1,000 oil and gas industry stakeholders at Uyo, the hospitable capital of Akwa Ibom State. This would be the start of an initiative considered a missing link in the effort to grow Nigerian content in the oil and gas industry.

Envisioned by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and superintended by Mr. Akintunde Adelana, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation and his team, NOGOF serves to showcase opportunities across the oil and gas value chain. It provides a platform for international and local oil and gas operating companies to present their short, medium, and long-term opportunities. Service companies are also encouraged to present their capacities to meet the needs of operators. The showcase of opportunities would encourage Nigerian oil and gas service companies and allied industries to build in-country technical and human capacities in required areas, promoting job creation for Nigerians and retention of spend within the local economy.

The inaugural edition in 2017 had the theme: Advancing indigenous participation in the oil and gas industry for national development. It was targeted specifically by the NCDMB to address the issues surrounding extraction data in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

The issues at the time bordered on the dearth of authentic data on opportunities in the Nigeria oil and gas market, a situation which spurred some foreign investors to reconsider investing in the industry. Wabote captured this problem thus: “While the Board and industry had made giant strides, especially with respect to developing capacity in-country, upgrade of existing facilities and establishment of new facilities, there

has not been an alignment of the capacity being established with the demand for the opportunities available.”

Some experts who provided perspectives included Dr. Ibe Emmanuel Kachikwu, the then Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, who noted that “one of the greatest problems of the Nigerian space, which was overcrowding” and Hon. Emmanuel Ekon, then chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Local Content, who admitted that “the event was the first time operating companies informed service companies about the projects to expect”.

A significant outcome of NOGOF 2017 was the commitment to produce a compendium of opportunities from the presentations made. This compendium would be in the form of yellow pages and would have catalogues of planned projects by international and local operating companies with their pre-planned strategies for execution.

Continuing success built on solid foundation

The next edition of NOGOF was in 2019, with the theme, Maximising investments in Nigeria’s oil and gas industry for the benefit of the Nigerian people. The focus was on projects and opportunities, which are considered the oxygen most stakeholders need to grow in the oil and gas industry. The event raised the bar for NCDMB’s events as it drew over 1,200 stakeholders who thronged the newly completed NCDMB Conference Hall in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The attendees included oil and gas industry leaders, government officials, bankers, academics and community leaders, among others.

The Executive Secretary reiterated that NOGOF is a platform used to share opportunities that are warehoused by various international operating companies and indigenous operators, and it addresses access to market so that companies would know and understand what is coming

and prepare themselves.

Giving an update since the last edition, he confirmed that the Board delivered on the promise to produce a compendium of opportunities and had identified over 80 oil and gas opportunities that would be developed by major international and indigenous operating companies in the short to long term. Wabote put the cumulative value of these 80 projects at US\$100billion. The essence of the compendium was to create a database of Nigerian content opportunities and “help indigenous and potential investors prepare, improve their capacities and capabilities to participate in available and upcoming contracts and projects,” he added.

Some of the big outcomes from the 2019 NOGOF was Shell’s announcement that it would expend about \$15billion on 24 oil and gas projects in Nigeria in five years and execute six export gas projects to keep the NLNG Trains 1-6 and support Train 7. Others included the signing of the Nigerian Content Plan for the NLNG Train 7 project.

The success of 2019 NOGOF felt like a testimony of how much improvements had taken place in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, and it showed that the aspirations were being realised.

Strategic creativity under a pandemic

Building on the successes of the foundation editions, the 2021 edition was highly anticipated but the onset of COVID-19 Pandemic in early 2020 threatened to mar the event, which had taken a bi-annual cycle. Rather than move or cancel the event, like most other events organisers did that period, the NCDMB leadership decided that NOGOF would be held virtually with the theme: Leveraging opportunities and synergies for post-pandemic recovery of the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

As part of the virtual edition, NCDMB launched the \$50million Nigerian Content Research & Development Fund (NCRDF), which will support research and development initiatives in the oil and gas industry. The event also highlighted efforts to achieve the 70 percent Nigerian content target in the industry by 2027 and unveiled the current compendium of opportunities for the oil and gas industry.

The 2023 edition of NOGOF makes a return to the NCDMB Conference Hall in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, from May 17 to 19, 2023, with the theme: The oil and gas industry: catalyst and fuel for the industrialisation of Nigeria. The focus is on industry linkages as well as opportunities within the African continent. It promises to showcase opportunities that exist in the industry over the next three to five years, with presentations by over 20 international and indigenous oil and gas companies.

Some of the topics that will be discussed at NOGOF 2023 include upstream opportunities, linkage industry opportunities, gas and downstream opportunities, financing and investment, environmental, social and government (ESG) and sustainable and regional opportunities with members of the African Petroleum Producers Organisation (APPO). As usual, the NOGOF will be attended by a cross section of industry stakeholders and would feature activities like exhibitions and opportunities for meetings by interested companies and individuals.

Across six years, NOGOF has come of age and, like a fine wine, it keeps getting better.

- **Ophelia Jackson**



- Press conference heralding second edition NOGOF, 2019

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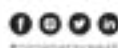
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Host Community Participation in oil industry operations NCDMB ups tempo

For all the achievements recorded in implementing the provisions of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, nagging questions remain unanswered about the low participation of indigenes of host communities in the core operations of the oil and gas industry. The less than stellar performance of the Community Content Fund among the basket of the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund tells part of the story about why the Nigerian content implementation is yet to strike the right cords in the hinterlands.

This explains why the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) recently intensified sensitisation activities to enhance host community participation in oil and gas industry operations.

In scheduled and well-attended enlightenment workshops in Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Rivers, Delta, Imo, Edo and Ondo states, top officials of the Board's Corporate Communication and Zonal Coordination led other teams of the Board to painstakingly explain opportunities in the oil and gas value chain and how indigenous contractors, youths and others in host communities could tap into it. Feedback from the communities emanated from question-and-answer sessions.

With composite value of Nigerian content improving to at least 54 percent by end of 2022, up from 26 percent in 2017, the NCDMB seeks to energise potential economic agents at the grassroots within oil and gas-bearing communities to contribute to the 70 percent growth target for 2027. This will stand alongside local oil and gas companies that have massively utilised a multiplicity of incentives from the Board to grow in-country value addition and drastically curtail capital flight. It is a guiding principle of the NCDMB that meaningful integration of host communities in industry operations, with the attendant

economic and social benefits, would foster a stakeholder consciousness very much needed for an operating environment conducive for oil and gas companies.

The sensitisation and enlightenment workshops, principally led by Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communications and Zonal Coordination at NCDMB, supported by personnel from Capacity Building Division, focused on provisions of the NOGICD Act, and Community Content Guideline. These instruments highlight objectives of the Federal Government, the mandate of the NCDMB, and the strategies evolved over time to actualise domiciliation of industry operations and domestication of local capacity.

Central to the NOGICD Act is the imperative of systematically growing in-country value addition through development of local capacity and capabilities and by stimulating adequate utilisation of local assets. This key objective is comprehensively addressed in the 10-year Strategic Roadmap with its five strategic pillars and four enablers.

The Community Content Guideline, as a further strategy of the NCDMB for deepening local content practice, has major aims, including:

1. Structured engagement of youths in host communities in productive endeavours, including employment, training, services, supplies, manufacturing and contracts.
2. Establish critical infrastructure to stimulate development in host communities
3. Attract new businesses to strategic locations in host communities
4. Sustain growth of host community entrepreneurs through funding and policy support.

In the last four months, the Zonal Coordination/Corporate Communication Division held sensitisation programmes on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act and the Community Content Guideline (CCG) across key oil-producing states. The intent was to explain the opportunities in the NOGICD Act and the CCG to the stakeholders and introduce them to new strategies of engagement to derive maximum benefit from their relationship with operating oil and gas companies. The workshops were led by the General Manager Zonal Coordination/Corporate Communication Division, Dr. Ginah O. Ginah.



Face-to-face, bridging gaps

At each of the sensitisation and enlightenment workshops in the aforementioned states, the NCDMB team explained every relevant element of the Act, the fullest range of benefits and the Content Guideline, as well as what was required of the communities for them to benefit adequately and also support industry operations.

At Obunagha, Gbarain, in Yenagoa Local Government Area, on February 5, 2023, Dr. Ginah O. Ginah said: "The oil and gas-producing communities should participate to the level of their capacity," assuring them that their capacity would be enhanced by the NCDMB

ers for well-paid jobs in the emerging companies, but to prepare them for gainful self-employment. Many young technicians and engineers, according to Dr. Ginah, have grown into successful entrepreneurs in the sector through NCDMB's capacity-building initiatives and strategic interventions by way of funding.

Mr. Augustine Timbiri, Manager, Capacity Building Division at the NCDMB, elaborated on how vocational training, as conceptualised and implemented under NCDMB's Nigerian Content Human Capacity Development Initiatives, could make all the difference to the lives of youths, particularly those without jobs. According to him, the primary aim of such initiatives is to "Develop a pool of skilled and competent workforce for the oil and gas industry

least 10 percent of skilled roles. The NCDMB insists that infractions by companies should be reported to it for appropriate action while urging youths and others not to take the law into their hands, as such acts are anti-investment.

Easing conflicts, clear opportunities ahead

The team drew attention to NCDMB's Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Schemes (NOGAPS), which have taken off with such industrial estates in Emeyal 1, Bayelsa State, Odukpai, Cross River State, Ilaje, Ondo State, and others, noting that there is a US\$50million Fund for companies that would move in to manufacture tools and spares for the oil and gas industry. Participants at Calabar learnt of NCDMB's financial intervention in companies like General Electric Multimodal facility, Brentex Petroleum Services Limited, which is into manufacturing of pipes for the oil and gas industry.

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through funding and training programmes. He reminded them about the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF), which was established by the Board specifically to help indigenous companies and local contractors to carry out petroleum industry-related businesses. To enjoy the training programmes, intending companies and individuals only need to register free of charge on the Board's Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Joint Qualification System (NOGICJQS) database.

He advised the youth, just as he did in all the workshops, to channel their prodigious energies and talents to constructive and productive activities in the oil and gas industry, stressing that acquisition of technical skills is a critical first step. Ginah spoke about big firms that could take off in Bayelsa State in the near future, notably, Azikel Refinery, Gbarain, the US\$45million Rungas Cylinder Manufacturing Plant, Polaku, Brass Fertiliser Plant, Brass, and the multibillion naira Eraskon Nigeria Limited, a lubricating oils blending facility in Gbarain, noting that they would have hundreds of vacancies.

The General Manager said there would be technical skills, not only equip youths and oth-

ers and its sector," as part of value addition.

The message was the same at Eket, in Calabar, Benin, Owerri, and the other towns visited by the NCDMB sensitisation team. In all the workshops, host communities were told what they could legitimately expect from oil and gas companies operating in their areas, especially in the areas of employment, contracts, and training/capacity building, as set out in the Community Content Guidelines.

In regard to unskilled jobs (cleaners, porters, grass-cutters, etc.), they would have 100 percent of vacancies. For semi-skilled roles (drivers, gardeners, storekeepers, janitors, security guards, file clerks, etc.) they are entitled to 50 percent. In addition, they are entitled to at

least 10 percent of skilled roles. The NCDMB has been confirmed by the feedback from many participants who admitted that lack of awareness had been responsible for most conflicts between their communities and the oil companies. With NCDMB as a key agency to receive and resolve complaints from host communities, an era of peaceful coexistence between industry operators and their hosts has begun. Besides, NCDMB's NOGICJQS, which has facilitated the training of thousands of citizens here in Nigeria and abroad for international certification, is now widely known, and hitherto frustrated youths now see clear opportunities ahead.

- By Dianam Dakolo

GENDER BALANCE AND INCLUSION IN THE OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

NCDMB leads the way

March 2023 had profound symbolic significance in the push by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) for a gender-friendly oil and gas industry, as women entrepreneurship and girl-child education events held simultaneously in some states. These initiatives were in furtherance of policy pronouncements by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Board back in 2019 and 2022, to the effect that gender equality and inclusion would be pursued in the Board's implementation of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act.

At a 2019 workshop in Lagos, with the theme: Mainstreaming Women in the Oil and Gas Industry, the Executive Secretary took a dim view of the tiny proportion of women in executive positions, pledging to reverse such negative trends through deliberate policies and concrete measures. Quoting statistics on the global industry, he said: "It is estimated that women occupy 50 percent of non-technical positions at entry level compared to 15 percent of technical and field role positions." The response of the NCDMB to the imbalance came in sundry packages by the Board and its partners to promote diversity in the oil and gas industry.

Some of the initiatives include the setting up of the Diversity Sectorial Group in the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF), which is the think tank of Nigerian Content Development; Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) education for the girl-child, and targeted capacity building and empowerment schemes.

In Lagos in June 2022 at a conference of the aforesaid Working Group with the theme: Leveraging Opportunities for Women in the Oil and Gas Industry, Engr. Wabote pledged increased "access to funding, award of contracts, and support for research and development" to firms established by women entrepreneurs. He lived up to his words with the creation of a US\$40million women fund under the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund) in partnership with the Nigerian Export-Import Bank to make funding available for companies in the oil and gas industry owned or managed by women.

When 70 women CEOs of firms in industry-related operations underwent an Entrepreneurship Training Workshop in Port Harcourt, anchored by Empretec, a manpower development agency affiliated to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), it was to sharpen the entrepreneurial skills of the women in the oil and gas sector and to enable them to qualify for the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCIF).

The Port Harcourt training workshop, which ran for two weeks with two streams of trainees was intended, among others, to bring the women entrepreneurs up to speed on global trends in the oil and gas industry, value chains in the industry, as well as critical management principles that would equip them to cope in a fiercely competitive business environment. One hundred and fifty CEOs underwent similar entrepreneurial training in 2022 alone.

Catching them young, watching them grow

At Amarata, Yenagoa, on 28 March, St. Jude's Girls' Secondary School was the venue of an NCDMB-sponsored campaign tagged: STEM-it-out-4girls, in which the leadership of the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) gave a vivid background

to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) as a concept, emphasising how studies in any of these curricula could be stimulating for any student with the appropriate guidance and orientation.

The campaign marked the beginning of a partnership between NCDMB and APWEN, focusing on encouraging girls to develop interest and proficiency in STEM. In appreciation of the zeal and professionalism exhibited by the APWEN team, led by its President, Engr. Elizabeth Jumoke Eterigho, the NCDMB boss pledged full support for the STEM programme which would entail regular monitoring and evaluation to know the growth and performance of the female students. According to Engr. Wabote, the students are expected "to fully apply the knowledge gained from this training to improve their performances in future examinations and competitions". Explaining the relevance of the programme to the overall goals of the NCDMB, he said: "One short way to underpin sustainable development is to entrench quality STEM education in our girls. Armed with a quality education, these girls can aspire to be whatever they want to be in the near future."

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OMRC & CHP Milestones



Speaking on the expected outcomes of the campaign, the APWEN President said quality learning opportunities are unavailable to many students and that girls confronted by such circumstances readily take the easy way out. "Our educational system has allowed gender divides to be perpetuated and to disproportionately affect the most marginalised girls," she added. Engr. Eterigho is confident that with STEM, the numerical strength of female engineers in Nigeria would improve significantly in the years ahead and so would their contribution to national development.

Capacity building is key to empowering women

In the comprehensiveness of its package for empowerment and productivity of women, the NCDMB has had several capacity building programmes in different parts of the country, which focused on critical vocational skills. A most recent training, spanning three months

of intensive work in hairdressing, make-up, fashion designing/dressmaking and catering, was held for single teen mothers at the International Institute for Tourism and Hospitality in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital. At the completion of their training in December 2022 the 20 teen mothers, like their counterparts in other NCDMB-sponsored skills acquisition programmes, were provided with starter packs, which included sewing machines and accessories, microwave ovens, sundry hair stylist tools like hairdryers and hair straighteners with accessories, and gas cookers, in line with their respective trades. The close-out ceremony was memorable as the beneficiaries chorused: "NCDMB, thank you for giving meaning to our lives."

With regard to its own workforce, NCDMB has been motivating and elevating high-performing women to senior leadership positions. It has equally remained true to its commitment to enhancement of the productive capacity of all: male, female, high and low, in line with

the organisational capability component of its 10-Year Strategic Roadmap. To get the best of its female staff, the Board has built and commissioned a creche with top-of-the-range facilities and with well-trained caregivers on full-time employment. The creche facility would provide essential support to nursing mothers in the workforce who would be motivated to give their best to the organisation.

The Board's efforts to lead the womenfolk into the mainstream of the Nigerian oil and gas industry was recognised at the 2022 Nigerian International Energy Summit this year when the agency was bestowed with an award of the Best Gender Support Company in the Energy Space.

In the pursuit of gender balance and inclusion in the oil and gas industry, NCDMB has become a model and a lesson in consistency and institutional integrity.

- Bilkisu Yar'Adua & Ophelia Jackson





DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality. A clarion call

Congratulations to all women and every single supporter of women on this year's International Women's Day! The theme for this year is: DigitALL: Innovation for Gender Equality. It could not have come at a more propitious time, given the growth and dynamism of technology. Technological evolution has been swift.

Daily, there is one update or upgrade in the technology than we can keep up with. The use of technology is so advanced that we now speak in terms of Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and others that were a distant thought since John McCarthy mooted AI in the '60s; it has grown by leaps and bounds. It is now a reality. You might ask: Why is this all important for women?

Well, we first need to understand what these seemingly unfamiliar terms - AI or ML - connote. Artificial Intelligence is a combination of big data and computer to solve problems. Most of these challenges are typically arduous but now simplified in a more timeous and efficient way. Similarly, Machine Learning (ML) is a subset of AI that helps machines to learn by using a set of algorithms to understand the data they are exposed to, essentially mimicking human thought processes and patterns. Apparently, AI is no longer the future, it is now!

Although some have argued about the loss of jobs due to AI and, typically, the first casualties are women. But is this line of thought the fact? We have been down this road before. The advent of computers was held up as making secretaries/typists, a profession in which you find mostly women, to go extinct. But, is this true? The answer is neither here nor there because the phasing out of typewriters or shorthand did not have an adverse impact on people who were willing to upskill; rather, more opportunities were created. For instance, you can be a

data analyst, programmer, software engineer, among many other jobs that were far more rewarding and were good careers than the age-old typist. However, those lethargic thoughts to upskilling were swept aside.

In the same vein, AI will create more jobs than the extinction of skills because it is associated with efficiency, time-saving, requires less physicality (especially for the physically challenged), fraud detection, etc. Women, by their very nature, often multitask, having more to do on their plate regardless of all the arguments about gender roles. These innovations would be nothing if women do not get involved early on, as women upskilling to compete has become an absolute necessity.

The theme of this year's International Women's Day is a clarion call for women to stand up and open their minds to the revolutionary impact of technology. PwC, leading accounting firm, estimates AI has the potential to contribute at least US\$15trillion to the economy globally by 2030. So, women have to be in a pole position to acquire new skills in AI, deep learning, big data, ML, etc.

Based on the foregoing, what can women do immediately? I suggest that women start looking into some form of training in the AI field. It might seem daunting at first because of the analytical skills required, but it is possible to acquire basic knowledge in not more than five days of online courses, and thereafter to advanced levels, such as up to a Master's. Another extremely critical focus should be on the girl-child, to catch them young by investing in STEM education because that is the basis of AI. I am aware that in the industry, various groups are making efforts, such as Women in PENGASASN who supported secondary schools girls to produce oil from jatropha plant in Abuja, Association for Professional Women Engineers

in Nigeria (APWEN), Women in Energy, Oil and Gas (WEOG) and others have been creating awareness and supporting STEM programmes for girls. These gestures are laudable but as a collective, we have to do more.

Why is AI important for Women? Well, AI deals with data, no offence to the other gender but the constitutions of many countries speak to just that gender. The consequence of this might not be so obvious in comparison to the disadvantages women will be exposed to if a concerted effort is not made to participate actively in AI. This is so imperative because we are dealing with big data that is supposed to interpret or mimic human behaviour. Women need to get involved and ensure that issues unique to women are taken on-board early on. We do not need to carry placards for this; just get involved so that we can start the correction today. As we all know, a stitch in time saves nine. This way, we will not have a reprise of constitutions being gender-biased until recently in a few countries.

A 2021 research by Heinrich Boll Stiftung (my former employer) showed that women are disproportionately represented in ML research; only about 10-15 percent of researchers are women, and of the known authors in AI about 18 percent are women. However, it is not too late to get on board.

The theme of #IWD2023 is simply a clarion call for women to be aware and participate. It is also an appeal to the world to #EmbraceEquity to create space that will enable women to thrive safely in the innovation and technological field.

Happy International Women's Day #EmbraceEquity.

- **Zuwairat Asekome**

TUG OF WAR

ENHANCES TEAMWORK, BONDING AND COORDINATION

And some other surprising benefits at the workplace!

Are you pondering a fun yet beneficial game for your next workplace end-of-the-month/quarter bonding session? Are you wondering about a game all staff can comfortably and safely partake in, irrespective of age or gender; one that is not only fun but can also help with team bonding, coordination, focus, and increased productivity at work? Then, you need not look further than tug-of-war.

Yes, tug-of-war. It is a fairly common, well-known game that is often played wherever you go in Nigeria and across the world. It is a fun game pitching one group against another in a test of strength. Tug-of-war is so exciting that we often miss the other benefits of the game such as physical conditioning, teamwork, fitness, focus, mental endurance and strategic thinking. As one team seeks to pull the other over the line to their side in the tug-of-war, the above benefits come into play.

According to Anatomic and Clinical pathologist Dr Krish Tangella of United States-based DoveMed, "Tug of war is a high-intensity sport that requires a lot of physical effort. This means that it can help to improve cardiovascular fitness, as well as increase the strength and endurance of the heart and lungs." A study on tug-of-war published in the International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health showed that tug-of-war athletes have higher conditional capacities, in terms of endurance performance than the general population.

Indeed, many erroneously believe that all that is required to win a tug-of-war is physical strength. No doubt, physical strength is needed but that alone will not win a tug-of-war. Great teamwork is required to win a game of tug-of-war. For instance, before the start of the game, a team needs to assess the individual

strength of its members, with the strongest two placed in front and back of the team, and the other team members in alternate positions based on their strength. This is to ensure that the team's strength is evenly distributed down the line. Equally important for success is that the team must work in sync, otherwise it will fail.

Tug-of-war also helps to condition participants through the test of their physical and mental endurance levels. Because the game is a test of strength, great physical exertion is often required. As well, participants must show mental toughness to overcome the strains of the game. Tug-of-war keeps participants fit and helps their vital organs, such as the heart and lungs, to function at peak levels. The game uses physical strength as it is strategy. For instance, the even distribution of weights on the line, the use of the leg muscles rather than that of the hand, leaning backward at a 45-degree angle by the team to achieve maximum pulling force, the arrangement of team members on one side of the rope are strategies employed to win.

In the hugely popular Netflix movie *Squid Game*, a tug-of-war game between two unevenly matched teams was won by the seemingly weaker team because that team adopted the right strategy. The game also requires focus because a momentary lapse in concentration could cost a team the game if the opposing team is smart enough to take advantage.

The interesting aspect of the tug-of-war game is that it does not require a long list of gadgets to set it up. All that is needed is a very tough rope and a little space. Thus, it can easily fit into a weekly work schedule. On Fridays, staff

The game in the workplace is not so much about the winning. What is most important is the game's ability to show how working well with your team, how your dedication to the team goal, and how reliance on each other's abilities can produce outstanding results. A lesson that could easily be inculcated into the work culture.

could gather in an open area within the office, maybe a carport space or any other available space, and have a go.

The health and wellness benefits of tug-of-war, its team bonding capability and its effects on the mental capacities of a workforce make tug-of-war a must-have activity in any organisation. There is no doubt that incorporating a tug-of-war game as a team-building exercise into an organisation's work culture will be a smart decision.

The game in the workplace is not so much about the winning. What is most important is the game's ability to show how working well with your team, how your dedication to the team goal, and how reliance on each other's abilities can produce outstanding results. A lesson that could easily be inculcated into the work culture.

Community Content Guideline

The document charts a clear route to a win-win situation for companies operating in the oil and gas sector, and their hosts.



The Community Content Guideline is the outcome of strategic thinking at the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) on how to actualise the domiciliation of oil and gas industry operations and how the host communities can adequately be integrated into the appropriate value chains.

The Guideline consists of ground rules for industry operators and service companies on various matters, such as location of project offices, employment, and procurement of goods and services as well as responsibilities of the NCDMB, in fostering human capacity development and entrepreneurship in partnership with the companies.

Formulated and adopted in 2018, in the aftermath of the Board's release of its 10-Year Strategic Roadmap under the leadership of its Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Guideline is in partial fulfilment of NCDNB's institutional mandate to, among other things, "maximise participation of Nigerians in oil and gas activities; maximise utilisation of Nigerian resources, that is, manpower, goods, services and assets," and to "link oil and gas sector to other sectors of the economy". Equally significant is the fact that the Community Content Guideline was conceived to address recurring issues in host community agitations, youth restiveness and antagonism towards oil and gas companies in the Niger Delta. It is one of many in a long sequence of initiatives to make the petroleum industry crisis-free and able to contribute to the nation's industrialisation drive.

Pursuant to the foregoing responsibilities, the NCDMB came up with the Community Content Guideline to address host community aspirations through productive integration in the oil and gas value chain (upstream, midstream and downstream), just as it proceeded with its ambitious

five strategic pillars- Technical Capability Development, Compliance and Enforcement, Enabling Business Environment, Organisation Capability and Sectorial and Regional Market Linkage - and Enablers, to position Nigerian oil and gas firms for effective competition with their foreign counterparts not only in Nigeria but anywhere else overseas.

The Guideline, which has seven parts, is designed to achieve the following:

1. Structured engagement of youths in host communities in productive endeavours, including employment, training, services, supplies, manufacturing and contracts.
2. Establishment of critical infrastructure to stimulate development in host communities.
3. Attraction of new businesses to strategic locations in host communities.
4. Sustained growth of host community entrepreneurs through funding and policy support.

In the Guideline is a specification of possible benefits that host/impacted communities could legitimately expect and, where necessary,

demand in a non-combative manner from oil and gas companies. Infractions by the latter are to be reported to the Corporate Communications Department/Zonal Coordination Division of the NCDMB.

In the Introduction to the document, a much-needed clarification is made of the terms 'host' and 'impacted' communities: A host community is "the community where oil and gas operations/projects take place", while an impacted community is "Right of Way community due to pipeline passage, road access or any other "conduit" (creek, aerodrome, etc.) that is significant to the success of the operations in the host community."

Another vital clarification is on the term 'Negative impact'. This is explained as:

- a. Shoreline erosion due to vehicular movement from shore to offshore, and vice versa.
- b. Pollution of the rivers and seas due to vehicular movement and operation, rendering fishing unprofitable.

A project office is to be established and maintained in the catchment area in the case of operations and/or projects above US\$100million or duration above two years. Such a procurement office has to be manned by personnel of decision-making status and "shall be given powers to take procurement decisions in favour of the host community contractors on items relevant to the needs of the Project". A community office is also required at a place where the operator has significant operations.

On employment, host communities are entitled to, "All unskilled job roles (e.g. cleaners, porters, grass-cutters, etc.); at least "50 percent of semi-skilled job roles (e.g. drivers, gardeners, storekeepers, janitors, etc.); "at least 10 percent of skilled roles." Where local capacity does not exist the project promoters or contractors "identify near-fit indigenes, using the "onion effect," and put in place an understudy and

succession plan for eventual takeover of such roles."

In regard to human capacity development (HCD), the NCDMB, operators, contractors and project promoters will provide direct trainings. Scholarships, entrepreneurship and empowerment and project-based trainings are to be sponsored by operators, contractors or sub-contractors. According to the Guideline, "Selection of candidates shall be only through NOGICQS platform and shall be verified by the Corporate Communications and Zonal Coordination Division of the Board." Registration on the platform is free of charge.

On funding, the Guideline states, among other things: "The Board (NCDMB) will partner reputable financial institutions to offer funding support from the Nigerian Content Development Fund to host community business entitled to Finance Purchase Orders (FPOs), and to establish new business connected to the oil and gas industry."

In all, the Community Content Guideline has considerably advanced the Federal Government's objectives in the oil and gas sector, not only engendering grassroots participation in the multiple value chains of the industry and thus promoting economic prosperity but in fostering an atmosphere of harmonious coexistence and mutual dependence between operators/service companies and their respective host communities.

As the NCDMB, having chalked up 54 percent in local content capacity in 2022, coasts towards its target of 70 percent domiciliation by 2027, Nigeria would be celebrating a breakthrough in economic empowerment and propitiation of hitherto marginalised and alienated segments of society.





THINKING OF HOW TO BECOME TRENDY?

Stanley Nwabueze, CEO, Nwabueze Clothing, list the how to.

The fashion designer cum entrepreneur showcases the uniqueness of Nigerian fashion while also providing clues on how to stay trendy.

Nigeria is fast joining the league of fashion leaders, and will be in good company with Italy, France, United States and the United Kingdom, what with the uniquely Nigerian takes on fashion and the entrepreneurial zeal exhibited by many young Nigerians in the fashion industry. In Africa, though, there is no leadership dispute as Nigeria is pre-eminent. Just like afrobeats, Nigeria's own contribution to global music, Nigerian wears are unmistakable and are making big statements on the global stage.

One of the fascinating features of Nigerian fashion industry is that young entrepreneurs are defining the trends anchored on the nation's rich cultural heritage and diversity. It is an excellent example of local content gone global.

Lagos-based fashion designer, Uboh Chuks Stanley Nwabueze, the Creative Director of Nwabueze Clothing, is among the leading young fashionistas driving the industry. He says style must be the key word for every fashionable person in 2023. He notes that fashionistas should wear what makes them confident, comfortable and defines their personality. The metallurgical and materials engineer-turned fashion designer says every designer has inspirations and outfits that work for different people, adding that the social media space has made it possible to find inspiration on how to stay woke, trendy and decent. On the first rule of being trendy, he says comfort is important. "Choosing the right size is the key to dressing or looking good. Remember, you are addressed the way you dress. You want to stay away from too tight clothes and too loose clothes. Always go for the right size that fits your body."

Simplicity, he says, is another excellent way of defining your personality and creativity. "My style of fashion has always been focused on a minimalist, wearable day-to-day clothes that are luxury yet affordable and well detailed to give you a good tailoring experience." The alumnus of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, adds: "Wear simple outfits, like calm well-tailored kaftan or natives." He advises that the tropical nature of Nigeria makes kaftan, natives or senator one of the best costumes in 2023 as every man wants to own a well-tailored kaftan. When doing your selection, he says the kaftans should be simple with beautiful cuts, and well-tailored natives. And never forget to go for colours that match your skin colour.

Like a food that is well prepared, fashion has

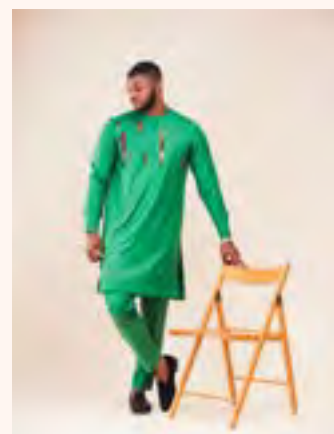
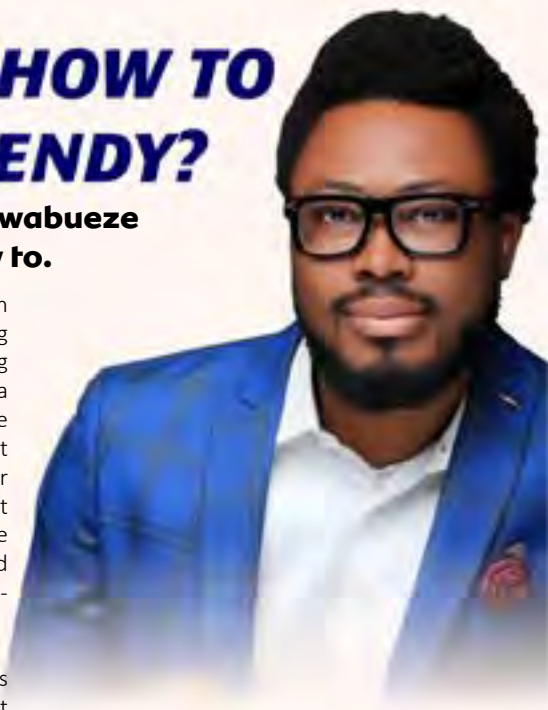
to be well served. To consolidate your fashion statement, you need to match it with befitting footwear. According to Nwabueze, investing wisely in high quality footwear is not a bad idea this 2023. "Invest in quality footwear because footwear is everything. Make conscious effort in choosing the right footwear to complete your look this year. The good news is that you don't have to break the bank to achieve this. There are quite a few Nigerian brands that make good and quality footwear. They come highly recommended, he say.

He reiterates that accessorising your clothing is as important as looking good and stepping out in grand style. According to him, accessories are like the icing on the cake in your choice of style. The better the accessories, the better the look.

Nwabueze, who built his brand around his name, is not only Nigerian by words, he is living the truism in letter and spirit. He advises that Nigerians should go for Nigeria-made fabrics. He notes that, increasingly, more Nigerians prefer made-in Nigeria fabrics because the creative industry has begun to look inward to creative, very innovative designs. He also notes that the Nigerian fashion space is giving its best and all the players are constantly improving on their craft. According to him, the evidence could be seen in the way fashion lovers are going back to wearing natives, so much so that the wears are transiting from traditional, ceremonial to office outfits. "The narrative is changing and evolving," says Nwabueze.

The fashion designer admits fashion has been one of his major tools in expressing the true African nature while also showcasing the level of creativity imbued in the Nigerian DNA.

Speak English, kiss French, drive German, and dress Italian is a famous quote. If the proponent of the mantra were alive today, he would most likely modify the statement to include: Create and rock like Nigerians, because Nigerian fashion is being rocked across the world, and not only by Nigerians.





***Domitilla: The Reboot* - Zeb Ejiro**

The Sheik, as he is fondly called by his admirers, Zeb Ejiro attempts to provide a follow-up to his classic and eponymous film, *Domitilla* for a new audience who have already acquired a taste for films with high production value, films coming out of Nollywood after 27 years from the release of the first part.

This new flick, written by Jeffery Musa David, is a parade of emerging and established actors that include 'Deyemi Okanlawon, Seun Ajayi, Stan Nze, Elvina Ibru, Teniola Aladese, Uzoamaka Aniunoh, Ejiro Onojaife, Onyinye Ojokoro and Iyabo Ojo.

Contemporary issues around prostitution, sexual exploitation, human trafficking and organ harvesting are treated in the film which is centred around the lives of four female characters – Ekwutosi, Fisayo, Promise, and Madam Vee – and the choices they make and the effects of their choices on those around them. It's an interesting watch but then not as captivating and memorable as the prequel. Guess what? Madam Vee and the dog are two characters to look out for.

***Jolly Roger* - Walter "Waltbanger" Taylaur**

Jolly Roger, written by Tunde Apalowo and directed by Walter Taylaur, known for his work in crime thrillers like *Catch.er* and *GbomoGbomo Express*, as well as romantic flicks like *Sunday Affair*, is a fine blend of crime, romance, thriller and dark humour. The plot, which moves between the past and present, tells the story of a fateful night where Brume, played by Daniel Etim Effiong and Toni Tones as Najite, a childless couple, encounter two drunk officers and how this meeting changes the course of their lives.

The film, which runs for about 90 minutes, deals with a lot of social themes of superstition, police brutality, infertility, infidelity, karma, and betrayal, hatred, revenge through the lens of a romantic relationship. One of the strong points is the economy of characters with Deyemi Okanlawon as Dammy, Frank Donga as Felix, Tina Mba as Mama B and Toyin Oshinaike as Yaw, as well as Tope Tedela and Kunle Oshodi-Glover who are supporting cast members. *Jolly Roger* also has a refreshing cinematography and lessons that we can all take home.



***Gangs of Lagos* - Jade Osiberu**

Jade Osiberu, who this magazine crowned as the undisputed blockbuster queen, delivers a fine, fast and furious action-packed crime thriller that explores the seedy underbelly of Isale Eko in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, in *Gangs of Lagos*. It will be recalled that the cinematic universe has already been gifted with *Gangs of New York* and *Gangs of London*. Enter Lagos. Primed as Amazon Prime's first Original in Nigeria, GOL portrays a group of friends who have to navigate their own destiny, growing up early on the hustle and bustle that Lagos' frenetic energy delivers.

Everywhere you turn to in this epic, you are bawled over by the star-studded characters that traverse the film, especially the dynamic trio of BBN alum, Tobi Bakre, Adesua Etomi and alte musician Chike as Obalola, Gift and Pasuma respectively. Ayo Lijadu, Olakunle Rotimi, Chioma Akpotha, Yvonne Jegede, Bimbo Ademoye, Tayo Faniran, Damilola Oguns, Eniola Badmus, Iyabo Ojo, Funke Williams, Yhemo Lee, Zlatan, Maleek of Ikorodu Bois, Adebowale 'Mr Macaroni' Adedayo, Black Kamaru and ace fuji star, Alabi Pasuma, are other artistes that make *Gangs of Lagos* a must watch.

Arts imitating life against the backdrop of recent elections in Nigeria and how eerily similar events in 2023 find their way into a film shot in late 2021/early 2022 is prescient. The famous Eyo masquerades make a special talk-of-the-town appearance as well. *Gangs of Lagos* comes in highly recommended.



BNXN GWAGWALADA
feat Kizz Daniel, Seyi Vibe

When three heavy hitting-vibe makers combine to fuse their different styles into a harmonious jam, you end up getting a jam like *Gwagwalada*. Produced by award-winning Sarz, BNXN, formerly known as Buju and his accomplice Kizz Daniel, rev things up with a catchy ad-lib and an earworm chorus. Readers from the recent issue of this magazine will remember BNXN from his collabo with Pheelz in *Finesse*, which we reviewed.

Thematically, the song projects the thrills in leaving your problems and detractors behind and escaping to a fun-filled, serene and tourist-like place like Gwagwalada, which is one of the areas in Abuja, the Federal Capital.

On the music front, the jam combines the fine attributes of Amapiano, Afro-pop and Naija pidgin groove with electric vocal deliveries, as well as an energetic flow by Seyi Vibe in his short verse. *I enter from Abuja go Gwagwalada* is a line you would probably never forget after listening to this very simple but yet irresistible dance jam. This is one song in which too many cooks did not spoil the broth.



SPYRO WHO'S YOUR GUY
feat Tiwa Savage

When the number one citizen in Lagos who typically always has a very busy schedule tells you that during his free time, he listens to Spyro's *Who's Your Guy*, then you know that the song is one to look out for. This is probably one of the best songs you would listen to all year because of the relevance of its subject – checking up on others and being that guy (irrespective of gender).

Following a successful release of the original track which, barely three weeks post-release, had garnered over one million views on TikTok and other top 10 charts, Africa's baddie queen, Tiwa Savage graces the remix with her sonorous talent. The song's super power is in its lyrics: *Who's you guy? Na only me walahi/See as we dey like beans and rice/I will never leave your side/I dedicate my time/To you my guy/Even if the road E rough I no mind/Cos you be my G for life*.

In *Who's Your Guy* produced by Mr. Soul (aka Shiroo), Spyro, whose name is Oluwasanmi Ogundipe, has given us a very enjoyable and relatable jam that can be enjoyed by everyone in the family and will leave you bumping to its groove.



ASAKE Yoga

Asake was undoubtedly the breakout music star of last year with six tracks that had topped the charts having just arrived on the scene with his debut album, which dropped in September 2022. Produced by Magicsticks, *Yoga*, his first single for 2023, has a folksy feel with the injection of cultural elements and chants in the contemplative sounding jam, which is a strong deviation from his heavy Amapiano-influenced songs of 2022.

The first few lines of the song- *Yoga yoga / I dey on my away hey/ I dey maya / Make nobody kill my yoga yoga*- seem to tell the story of an artiste who has undertaken an introspective look at life- battles fought, enemies acquired, betrayals faced, and fake friends experienced, having only recently returned from a deep spiritual retreat or vacation.

Yoga shows us Asake's versatility with the song's fuji vibe and hand-beaten drums, percussion and strings- violin and goje sound sprinkled with an indiscernible language. This pivot with *Yoga* is perhaps an attempt to new markets and attract new fans. But for whatever it is worth, *Yoga* is bold and celestial.

Why NCDMB is extending local content to African markets

Ahead of the 2023 Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF), **Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB)** explains why the agency conceived the event, its strategic foray into the African market and how Artificial Intelligence will benefit human capacity and local content development.

How we conceived the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair

When we were looking at strategies on how to develop local capacities to provide services to the oil and gas industry, we went through a gamut of things that we needed to do in order to enhance the participation of Nigerians in the industry. One of the things that stood out was that local service companies did not even know the opportunities that were coming in future. By the time these opportunities materialised, they are not ready to take advantage of them and are always on the back foot. The challenge was how to make them aware of these opportunities and prepare them in anticipation of these opportunities. It was from the request of stakeholders that we decided to provide a platform where we would tell them a five-year look-ahead of opportunities in the industry, such that people will begin to prepare themselves.

Train 7 is a success story of NOGOF

One of the greatest successes we have recorded from NOGOF is the Nigeria LNG Train 7. During the construction stage of LNG Trains 1 to 6, the level of Nigerian participation was near zero because LNG technology was alien to us and everything practically was done outside the country. But with the advent of NOGOF, 50 percent of the activities in LNG Train 7 is being done by Nigerians. This is because we provided prior information, which enabled them to prepare themselves to participate in that project. I sincerely believe that if we want to build another train of an LNG, almost 70 percent of it will be done by Nigerians in-country.

Why NCDMB is exploring African Markets

When you have built capacity in your country and the opportunities are not coming to match the capacity that you have built, what you begin to think of is how to export your capacity to other African countries. Do not forget that local content is a marathon race and not a sprint, and you can't just flicker the switch and you have fabrication yards in your country.

Part of the strategy we are adopting is to encourage our African sister-countries not to scout Europe or America for those capacities that we have already developed in other African countries. It's all part of the plan to ensure that we extend our capacities beyond Nigeria. An example is the Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) integration facility in Lagos. While we are also teaching them the Local Content strategy, we are also telling them that we have the first FPSO integration facility in Africa. If you want to develop your oil and gas industry, do not go to Europe, America, or China to build your FPSO. If you want to integrate your FPSO, bring it to Nigeria such that we can share the benefit,

reduce our costs, and help the African continent to grow.

The truth is that if we want to be the only ones to grow and our neighbours are not growing, we will soon have the situation in Europe where people are crossing the Mediterranean, losing their lives because they're looking for greener pastures.

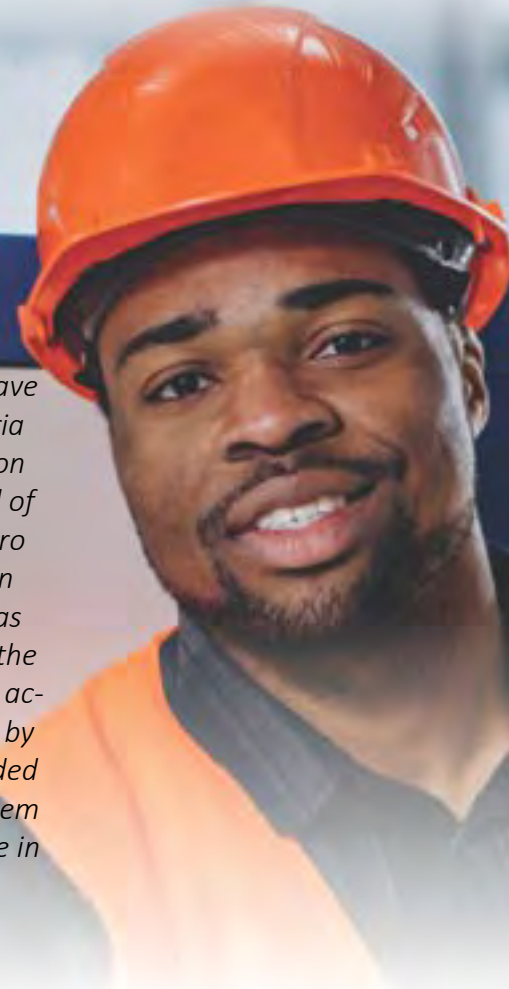
Nigeria has a population of about 200 million. There is enough capac-



ity we can send across the world beyond Africa, and the whole idea is also to key into the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTA), which allows Africans to trade amongst themselves. Where do you create the platform to tell them that we have such capacity in Nigeria? It is through the regional linkages that we do. That's why in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF), we are also inviting our African brothers to come and learn that this opportunity needs to be shared and people need to prepare themselves for it.

the Egina, which is offshore, almost 150 kilometres, two kilometres of water, there you have on board about 150 people. They showed me the future of FPSO, which will have nobody on board, and they'll be operating it even from Abuja. That's the future. Within that, there are opportunities; yes, you won't have bodies, but you have industries that will build the technology that is associated with it.

I am not afraid of artificial intelligence; I'm an incurable optimist. So, as it is coming, I am also looking at huge opportunities for Nigerians. Of course, if we don't tool ourselves and we don't get ourselves ready, then that is where you begin to get scared of the displacement that artificial intelligence will bring about.



One of the greatest successes we have recorded from NOGOF is the Nigeria LNG Train 7. During the construction stage of LNG Trains 1 to 6, the level of Nigerian participation was near zero because LNG technology was alien to us and everything practically was done outside the country. But with the advent of NOGOF, 50 percent of the activities in LNG Train 7 is being done by Nigerians. This is because we provided prior information, which enabled them to prepare themselves to participate in that project.

The threat of Artificial Intelligence (AI) eroding job opportunities in oil and gas

In the early days before the locomotive was invented, the means of transportation in the developed world were carts and horses. There were people who manufactured carriages, horseshoes, among others. It was a big trade. Then, when the locomotive came, they were scared that they would be out of work. Little did they know that with the locomotive, you would need to build roads for many kilometres and that would involve people to build the roads, that would involve people to develop asphalt plants. To their surprise, it created more jobs than the carriages they were used to.

Artificial Intelligence is also an opportunity. As with artificial intelligence's coming, some people are learning the opportunities associated with it. When I visited the Total Research and Development Centre in the South of Pau, France, they showed me the future of FPSO, what it'll look like. Today, you have about 150 people managing a particular FPSO, like

It's been around with us in those days. If you go to the automobile factories where they assemble cars, you see the number of people associated with it. Today, it's all been done by robots, but people are manufacturing those robots to support them. People are operating those robots to support them, writing programmes. If we are afraid of artificial intelligence, then we will be like those who disappeared during the Stone Age. Those people did not disappear because of the lack of stones, but because they refused to change. The Stone Age disappeared.

In a place like NOGOF, it is also an opportunity where companies would also talk about technology and what they are expecting from industry players, which will enable our people to prepare themselves. That's the beauty of NOGOF. This is because it tells you that they want to build an FPSO, they will tell you: 'Last year, we spent X amount of money; this year we want to build an FPSO that will have 50 people instead of 150.' That's the opportunity for you to begin to think differently, and that's where NOGOF comes in.

Concerns expressed by IOCs over overlapping policies and agency functions

I was there at a panel session where some International Oil Companies complained about some policies. Thank God, they didn't complain about the Local Content Policy. They talked more about the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA). They looked at some of the conflicting functions of some of the agencies that were created out of the PIA. But you must understand that this is a process that has just started. It is expected that there will be overlap of some duties and then at some point the agencies will streamline themselves and agree on who does what. But currently, they have that bit of a mixed bag because of the way the law is written. But I'm sure it will be streamlined very soon to enable investors and investments to come through. Stakeholders will be invited to NOGOF to share some of the things they are doing to address some of these overlaps and concerns. That's also the benefit of NOGOF.

Part of the strategy we are adopting is to encourage our African sister-countries not to scout Europe or America for those capacities that we have already developed in other African countries. It's all part of the plan to ensure that we extend our capacities beyond Nigeria. An example is the Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) integration facility in Lagos. While we are also teaching them the Local Content strategy, we are also telling them that we have the first FPSO integration facility in Africa. If you want to develop your oil and gas industry, do not go to Europe, America, or China to build your FPSO. If you want to integrate your FPSO, bring it to Nigeria such that we can share the benefit,

Sustainability of NCDMB's initiatives and programmes

This is a recurring question everybody keeps asking: a new administration is coming, what happens to the sustainability of Nigerian Content? Well, we believe that sustainability will continue and we are only focused on what we are supposed to do. But I think there is a saying in the Bible that you cannot light a candle and put it under your bed and then believe that people will not see it. I'm sure those that are transiting to the new government know the mileage that we have achieved. Whatever changes there are, I am sure they will ensure that Nigerian Content projects and programmes will be sustained as we move forward. I believe that it's only when you have not done things properly that you begin to worry if they will be sustained. But if things have been done properly, and with Nigeria yearning to improve itself, we will not go back.

You must give credit to the current administration. When President Mu

hammadu Buhari came onboard, one of the clear instructions he gave to his ministers was that they must complete existing projects before they introduce new projects. That's why you see most of the road projects that were started earlier have been completed; the railway project was not jettisoned and the airport terminal upgrade was not jettisoned.

Most of the projects started by the previous administrations were carried through, irrespective of being from a different political party, which was a complete departure from what it used to be, at least in some of the states where they sometimes forget that governance is a continuum. I believe that the new administration will continue with what they think is good, and then improve on others.

NOGIC JQS

Making dreams come true, empowering Nigerians

The platform is increasingly fulfilling the vision for its establishment, providing a direct route into the oil and gas industry.



Collins Nwadiana Egeonu, Obiawah Chinyere Nwabueze and Emmanuel Ugwu will forever remain grateful to the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Joint Qualification System (NOGIC JQS) which provided the platform that gave them gainful employment in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

At Oil Quest International Limited in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, one of nearly 9,000 indigenous oil and gas service firms in the country, five young graduates were recently selected through the NOGIC JQS platform and trained in industry-related skills and awarded certificates. At the conclusion of the year-long programme, the best three candidates were employed as Assistant Slickline Operators. The company's management is upbeat about the future of the new employees, not only in its employ, but also in the country's oil and gas industry.

This scenario has been replicated severally since the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) was established in 2010. It has empowered many young men and women currently working across the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

They, like thousands of other Nigerian beneficiaries who have undergone trainings in fields as diverse as seafaring (maritime cadets), engineering, Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and hospitality, are an eloquent testimony to the practicality of the NOGIC JQS platform that some thought was too good to be real. Thousands of citizens who cared enough to have more than a sneak peek at the electronic platform have been liberated from joblessness.

The journey to empowerment

The process starts when an individual registers on the

NOGIC JQS platform - established and operated by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board - and provides all the required information regarding educational backgrounds, certi-

cations, aptitudes and skill sets.

Conceived to serve as an industry databank of available capabilities and to be used as the sole system for Nigerian content registration of contractors and

- Engr. Philip Kaite,
Chief Executive
Officer, Oil Quest
International.



vendors in the industry to determine their eligibility, the NOGIC JQS has been one of the chief instruments by which the NCDMB continues to remedy deficits in local capacity in the oil and gas industry and introduce young Nigerians into the oil industry.

Among the successful trainees the enthusiasm was contagious. Collins Nwadinma Egeonu, a graduate of civil engineering, explained how he got on-board the JQS train: "I found the platform easy and user-friendly. A few weeks after registration, I got a call saying I was one of the chosen people to participate in the human capacity development training. The training was an enjoyable experience....The training exposed me to theoretical and practical knowledge and taught me about aspects of oil and gas, such as slickline services, gauge operations and entrepreneurship."

got to learn a lot. There are so many areas for women to function in this industry. So, if they truly want to, they can."

Another successful trainee, Mr. Emmanuel Ugwu, narrated his experience: "I studied Mechanical Engineering and after graduation, I couldn't find a job. My friend told me to register on the NOGIC JQS platform and I did. I was called to go through the pre-selection exam and I was chosen. I have always had an interest in working with equipment. Through this training, my dreams have come true. I am thankful for it."

Chief Executive Officer, Oil Quest International, Engr. Philip Kaite, said: "While running this programme, our goal was figuring out how to bring out the best in these individuals in the shortest period. So, what we did was move

future in our company and in the oil and gas industry is bright."

Highly strategic capacity building scheme

NCDMB has, indeed, come a long way in operationalising this window of capacity-building and job creation in line with the stipulations of Sections 55 and 56 of its enabling statute. Back in September 2018 in Lagos, the Board sponsored 50 engineering graduates in a Smart Electrical Engineering Training Programme. Organised in conjunction with a leading indigenous company, AOS Orwell, and the Lagos State Electricity Board, the training covered electrical installations, testing, maintenance and troubleshooting of electrical circuits and a lot else. The beneficiaries of the programme received certification by the multinational giant, SIEMENS, and a good number



- Collins N. Egeonu



- Emmanuel Ugwu



- Obiwah. C. Nwabueze

To a female participant in the training programme, Obiwah Chineye Nwabueze, there was an opportunity to prove a point, to jettison self-limiting preconceptions. The oil and gas industry, she said, must not be viewed as hard and impossible for the female gender. A Petroleum Engineer, Obiwah took the first critical step, by registering on the electronic platform. She was invited for the usual pre-selection sessions and, having established her suitability for the training, was shortlisted.

Recounting her experience thereafter, she said: "When I came for the training, I experienced firsthand how the oil and gas sector operates...I was exposed to the oil wells, amongst other aspects. This was an amazing experience. My conviction became stronger that I wanted to be in the oil and gas industry, and the training made it possible."

Her advice to other women who are desirous of breaking into the male-dominated industry: "It might not be easy but you can survive it. When I came for the training I told myself to act like one of the guys and I wasn't going to limit myself because I am a woman. And by doing so, I

them through rudiments and the basics of oil and gas, basics of oil completions, and everything that has to do with all the accessories. We also focused on other aspects by teaching about safety drills and exposing them to gauge training so that everyone could become professionals in this area."

The oil company, like other industry stakeholders involved in the promotion of the JQS, demonstrated absolute faith in the NCDMB and its offerings for advancement of the Federal Government's local content policy and human capital development by broadening the scope of the training to facilitate self-employment where industry-related jobs are not available.

Engr. Kaite said: "Realising that we might not be able to take everybody after the training, we decided to expose them to basic business skills and entrepreneurship. The knowledge acquired could be used to do something after this training. When the training was concluded, it was easy to retain some of these trainees because they were marketable and excellent individuals, which meant that their

got employed.

A sea-time training programme in 2019, sponsored by the NCDMB, was specifically designed to address the near-total absence of Nigerians in the cadre of trained cadets in the maritime and oil and gas sectors. In that programme, no fewer than 40 youths underwent a 12-month training facilitated by Bernard Schulte Group aboard foreign ocean-going vessels.

Though Nigeria had been at near-zero in local content in over 50 years of hydrocarbon exploration and production (E&P) within her territorial space, the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act 2010 has proved to be a veritable watershed. The NOGIC JQS has continued to serve as a strategic tool of implementation and every young person desirous of a career in the oil and gas sector is advised to register on the platform.

- By Ophelia Jackson & Yusuf Abdullahi



Modular Refinery Initiative

NCDMB is partnering with Modular Refinery Operators to meet the need for local refining of petroleum products, create jobs and boost economic growth.

- Waltermith's 5,000bpd Modular Refinery, Ibigwe, Imo State, *in operation*.
- Duport's 2,500bpd modular refinery, Edo State, *mechanically complete, undergoing production tests*.
- Atlantic International Refinery's 2000 bpd, Brass, Bayelsa, *under construction*.
- Azikel Group's 12,000bpd Hydro-skimming Refinery, Gbarain, Bayelsa State, *under construction*.

Benefits:

- Create 3,000 jobs in the refining value chain.
- Add value to crude oil resources.
- Grow domestic refining capacity.
- Curb pipeline vandalism.

NCDMB

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Development and
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...Building local capacities in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

The many amazing sights (and myths) of Nigeria's finest waterfalls

Although the list is not in any way exhaustive, these Nigeria's fascinating tourist attractions are not only best fit, they offer nature on a platter.

Amongst nature's many gifts of beauty and gorgeous gifts lies the resplendent waterfall. A cascade of water falling from a height, formed when a river or stream flows over a precipice or steep incline, a waterfall never fails to catch the eye and sense of wonder. Interestingly, they are evenly distributed across climatic zones of Nigeria: the tropical monsoon in the South; the tropical savannah climate predominantly in the central regions, and a sahelian hot and semi-arid climate in the North. Nary an action movie has regretted using the geographical wonder for beautiful scenes and storytelling.

Waterfalls do not lose their speciality in reality and often are the best of spots for relaxation and refreshment. Nigeria, a nation blessed with natural gifts beyond counting, boasts numerous waterfalls. Varying in sizes, accessibility, offerings, entertainment and tourism, the waterfalls attract all kinds to their wonder. Waterfalls can be locations for individuals, pairs, groups and parties. For the hospitable nation, whatever brings you to the flowing curtains of water is valid and welcome, always. Now, let us take a dive into some waterfalls to consider when planning your next foray into Mother Nature. We selected one per geopolitical zone, hence there is bound to be a waterfall close to you.

North Central - Owu Waterfall

The best place to start is at the top with the Owu Waterfall, which has a height of over 120 metres, plunging down about 330 feet into a gentle pool of cold, clear water, said to be the tallest in Nigeria and West Africa. The Owu Waterfall is located at the Ifelodun Local Government Area in Kwara State. It is ensconced within beautiful greenery, forests and mountains, which spill into Kogi and Ekiti states, so it often has the look of water surrounded by leaves and trees as it finds its way to the rocky bottoms where it gathers to the delight of visitors. The Owu Waterfall is great for swimming, having a picnic by its side with friends and family, feeling a sense of spiritual healing as the waters are said in folklore to listen to the voices of people. Perhaps working a wish at the pools could come true; you never know. It is also believed that the Owu falls were once the habitat of a giant snake and dangerous birds which brought terror to dwellers of the region. The tales say that God had saved the villagers by striking the snake and sending the birds flying. This is one of Owu's allures, the beautiful stories and rich lore.

A distinctive part of the falls is the characteristic coolness, which permeates the surroundings. The coolness and sounds of the falls are often signs of one's closeness to the serenity of the waters. The roads leading up to the waterfall are not in the best of condition. Accessibility is not its best-selling point, but the journey is worth it nonetheless. The waterfall is free to access and it would be wise to ask lots of questions from the indigenes to avoid missing one's steps. The people are welcoming and do not restrict entrance for any reason as the waterfall is seen as belonging to all.

- Owu Waterfall.

North East - Barup Waterfalls

In the North East, one of the most popular and visited waterfalls is the Barup Waterfalls in Taraba State. The state is famous for its temperate climate with beautiful natural formations, ranging from mountains to waterfalls, which are numerous in the region. Barup is one of the special ones located at the Gembu in close proximity to the Gashaka-Gumti National Park, which is also an option for visitors to the waterfall. The park features Nigeria's highest mountain peak, the "Chappal Waddi," also known as "the mountain of death". The Barop Waterfalls cascade down a cliff filled with vegetation and thin trees. Visitors can relax in the pool beneath and take natural showers beneath the waters. Though the immediate surroundings of the waterfall might not be best suited for a quick picnic, the general region and areas leading up to the waterfalls are scenic and great for games among friends and family.

The Gembu area where the waterfall is located can be found on the famous Mambila Plateau, which has a deep history and is home to some of the best home grown coffee in Nigeria. The locals have a wealth of history steeped in relics of extinct volcanoes and thin air of the mountainous regions. The waters of the Barop falls form a part of the tales and can serve as noble stops in a glorious journey. Ensure you equip yourself with required materials, including food, water, change of clothing and seek a guide to make your journey more pleasurable and enlightening. Do not forget to tip generously for better experiences and story-telling. The region is prone to some interesting wildlife, including some friendly monkeys, which often greet curious tourists and visitors. The hike up to the waterfalls is also a part of the affair.



- Barup Water fall.

North West - Matsirga Waterfall

The Matsirga Waterfall is an experience. The ethereal beauty of the waters, which reflects the seven spectrum of light on rare occasions, is a delight to the senses. Unlike previous entities, Matsirga is found very near the Kafanchan-Madakiya-Zonkwa-Kaduna highway from whence the sound of its falling waters can be heard. You can catch glimpses of the waterfall along the road while traveling from Kafanchan: you only have to look right. It is located in Madakiya, a small settlement in Advwan District of Fantswam chieftdom in Kafanchan, south of Kaduna State. The falls flow through about four distinct hollows from the cold springs of Kagoro hills and cascades down 25 metres over some rocky cliffs to empty out in a large pool. Many consider Matsirga to be one of the most beautiful waterfalls in Nigeria and perhaps West Africa with the misty aura and cloudy haven it provides, putting visitors in a state of pleasant lucid dream. It is said that the purest beauty of the waterfalls can be witnessed in the mornings when the early sunlight bounces off the rising mist and the falling water.

The Matsirga Waterfall is picturesque and provides a great place for that impromptu birthday photo shoot; don't forget to go with cameras or phones with good cameras. The immediate environs could do with some intervention – public or private. But this does not diminish the

event. Be sure to wear hard boots and perhaps some shorts for the path is bushy with high-level weeds. According to the local lingo, the



- Matsirga Waterfall.

waterfall gets its source from the "River wonderful". As always, these experiences are much richer when one can locate a guide from among the locals who can be found settling about these attractions. Be sure to tip accordingly.

South South - Agbokim Waterfalls

Speaking about waterfalls, which exhibit the beauty of creation, the Agbokim Waterfall in Cross River State of South South Nigeria is magnificent and grand in appearance. The waterfall is situated in the Etung Local Government of the state and is near the Cameroon border of the country. From the city centre in Calabar, it would take about three hours to reach the Agbokim Waterfalls. Across various cultures and traditions, seven is seen to be a lucky number; so, it is with the waterfall, which comprises seven distinct streams which pour into a wide crater, sultry-like and intriguing. The waterfall is found within the rainforest and this I think is one of its distinctive features; that the waterfall appears as though an outlet for the forest itself. The green consumes the rock cliffs and gives the impression of waters bursting forth from fertile Mother Earth to rain down blessings on devout explorers. The regional lore tells once upon a time of a hunter named NTankum who discovered the falls and migrated his family to the environs. This is said to have happened in the 1900s. As always, a tour guide (often informal) will inform you that the best time to appreciate the waterfalls, like many others, is to visit during the wet season where the waters take on a determination to mesmerise by sheer volume and gravitation.

As with some waterfalls, the location offers the opportunity for adventurous hikes wherein the forest and its inhabitants provide the mind with wondrous stimuli. Another special feature of the waterfall is the pocket of space underneath the rocks over which the water flows. It



- Agbokim Waterfall.

gives visitors a chance for some privacy with the waters shielding one from view. The cosy pockets are prime spots for relaxing and meditating after taking a dip. It is also a place suitable for story-telling and bonding for couples and friends. A picnic is never off the table, when nature provides such a stellar backdrop.

South East - Awhum Waterfalls

The Awhum Waterfalls have been referred to as a spiritual enclave by many. No doubt, as it is located around the Awhum Monastery. The Awhum Waterfall is located at Amaugwe village of Awhum town in Udi Local Government Area of Enugu State. The locals insist that the monastery is a fairly recent addition and that the waterfall had been there ages. The waterfall is one of the most peculiar on the list due to a number of reasons, including the encompassing caves, which are part and parcel of the landscape. The waterfall has a standard entrance with a sign indicating the rules and regulations, which interestingly include prohibition of excessive talking or clapping. A gallon or container should be among the items you take to the waterfall as the waters are said to have healing properties capable of curing various ailments, with a little faith, of course. Now the beauty of the waterfall begins even before one reaches the actual natural body as a steady stream meets visitors a few minutes after the entrance. From then on and the next 45 minutes, you take off your shoes and follow the trickling water, which seems to foreshadow what is to come.

As the water tickles the soles of your feet and the birds chirp in the forest cover, a tranquil air comes upon you, beckoning you to refreshing waters and holy shelter. When you reach the caves, which display natural strata on clay-like rocks, from years of weathering, you will notice the writings and messages on the wall. The monuments to the Virgin Mary can also be found nearby. It is said that the caves were a refuge for residents during the Civil War. Further into the cave, you are struck by the beautiful contrast of light streaming down into the chasms and the dark cool edges, which is where the brightness fails to reach. If the



- Awhum Waterfall.

sights do not mesmerise you enough, the waterfall itself, a cascade of water intent on finding its way to nooks and crannies, is a majestic sight.

At that moment, you might understand the reason you are asked not to speak or clap though you would be tempted to be in awe of the sight. You are not meant to speak, perhaps because words are not necessary. Breathe it in, meditate in the waters and leave at peace with yourself and nature.

South West - Erin-Ijesha Waterfalls



- Erin-Ijesha Waterfalls.

The Erin-Ijesha Waterfalls is one of the most popular waterfalls in the

country. Located at Erin Oke of Erin-Ijesha, Oriade Local Government Area of Osun State, the waterfall's peculiarity lies in its seven steps where visitors can be seen on various levels communicating with nature and themselves. The waterfall is minutes from the expressway and less than a kilometre away. Also known as the Olumirin Waterfalls, the name Erin-Ijesha loosely translates to Elephant of Ijesha. The waterfall is said to have about 100,000 visitors yearly, the various seven levels offering different experiences.

The first and second floors are said to be for casual tourists as the climb gets tougher as you approach the top where a beautiful view worth the hassle awaits the visitor at the seventh and final level. The Abake village is located atop the seventh level and shares a boundary with Ekiti State. The waterfall is seen as a cleansing ground where festivals have been held and excursions also occur. Like with all waterfalls on the list, be prepared with change of clothing, food, games and some change as the need arises. The waterfall is open seven days of the week from 7a.m to 6p.m.

Amadin Ogbewe is a writer and journalist based in Abuja

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB receiving the Distinguished Leadership Award for his outstanding leadership in the oil and gas industry from Mr. Nicolas Odinuwe, Chairman, Petroleum Technology Association of Nigerian (PETAN) at PETAN's 2022 Oil and Gas Industry Dinner and Award ceremony in Port Harcourt.



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB receiving the Industry Human Capacity Development Icon Award from Sen. Margery Chuba-Okadigbo, Chairwoman, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation Limited represented by Dr. (Mrs.) Lami Ahmed at the 2023 OGTAN National Awards in Lagos.



New Appointments & Redeployments



Mr. Patrick Obah has been redeployed as the Director, Corporate Services (CSL) Directorate. He was previously the Director, Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS) Directorate.



Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu has been appointed the Acting Director, Planning, Research and Statistics (PRS). He was the previously the General Manager, Research, Statistics & Development (RSDD), Planning, Research and Statistics Directorate.



Dr. Ama Ikuru has been appointed the Acting Director, Capacity Building (CB) Directorate. He was previously the General Manager, Capacity Building Division (CBD).



Engr. Abayomi Bamidele has been appointed the Acting Director, Project Certification and Authorisation (PCAD) Directorate. Prior to the appointment, he held the position of Senior Technical Adviser (STA) in the Executive Secretary's Office as well as the General Manager, Strategy and Transformation Projects Division (STPD).

Mr. Kingdom Unwene, Manager, Procurement has been appointed as the new Acting General Manager, Upstream in the Project Certification and Authorisation (PCAD) Directorate.

Mr. Mofe Megbele, Deputy Manager, Direct Infrastructure Delivery in the Capacity Building Directorate has been redeployed as the new Deputy Manager, Stakeholders Management, Corporate Communication Department (CCD).

Mr. Victor Amabebe, Acting Deputy Manager, Stakeholders Management, Corporate Communication Department (CCD) has been redeployed as the new Acting Manager, Strategic Business Development in the Capacity Building Directorate.

Mrs. Angela Okoro, Manager, Human Capital Development (HCD) in the Capacity Building Directorate has been appointed as the new Acting General Manager, Corporate Communication & Zonal Coordination Division (ZCCD).

Mr. Maurice Iwhiwhu, Acting Manager, Strategic Business Development in the Capacity Building Directorate has been redeployed as the new Acting Manager, IPPG/NOC in the Project Certification and Authorisation (PCAD) Directorate.

Mrs. Tarilate Teide-Bribena, Deputy Manager, Tender Board Secretariat & Bid Evaluation in the Procurement Division has been appointed Acting Manager, Procurement.



1: Ama Ikuru's birthday at NIES 2023

Celebrating Dr. Ama Ikuru's birthday at NIES 2023: Front Row: Engr. Abayomi Bamidele, Acting Director, Projects Certification and Authorisation; Mrs. Angela Okoro, Acting General Manager, Zonal Coordination and Corporate Communication Division; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Dr. Ama Ikuru, Acting Director, Capacity Building; Mr. Isaac Yalah, Director, Personnel and Finance Management and Mr. Patrick Obah, Director, Corporate Services. Second row: Mr. Akintunde Adelana, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation; Mazi Sam Azoka Onyechi, Chairman, Oil and Gas Trainers Association (OGTAN) and Mr. Kingdom Unwene, Acting General Manager, Upstream, Projects Certification and Authorisation.

2: Engr. Adike Kopiam, Chief Supervisor in the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, NCDMB celebrated his investiture into the Knighthood of Saint Paul of the Anglican Communion on Sunday, December 18, 2022, at St. James Anglican Church, Imiringi, Ogbia LGA, Bayelsa State.

3: Engr. Opuwari Moses Reginald, an Officer in the Facility and Logistics Division wedded his sweetheart, former Miss Esaliba Lisa Asuo of SERVICOM Department on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at the New Divine Demonstration Ministry, Worldwide, Kolo, Ogbia LGA, Bayelsa state.

4: Senior Staff of NCDMB, after the completion of their Advanced Management Programme/Chief Officers' Transition Programme (COTP) organised by the China-Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Lagos, December 2022.

5: Participants in the NCDMB General Management Programme (GMP)/Officers' Career Enhancement Programme after completing their programme organised by the China-Europe International Business School (CEIBS) in Lagos, January 2023.



Celebrating a year of great achievements

After putting in a great shift in 2022, increasing Nigerian Content performance to 54 percent, the management and staff of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) organised an All-White Christmas Party to celebrate the end of the year and gear up for new accomplishments in 2023. In the best tradition of the Board, the staff turned out in glowing outfits and the event featured excellent performances from A-list entertainers and sumptuous food and drinks.







ENERGY TRANSITION

Africa should be principal players, not victims

By Prof Yemi Osinbajo

In the past few years, I have had the privilege of chairing our Government's Energy Transition Working Group and working with a strong inter-ministerial team and several energy sector players. It has become increasingly clear to me that Nigeria has a crucial and strategic role

in delivering the sustainable energy future that Africa and, indeed, the world must have in the next few years.

It is key that energy sector's actors must do a lot of the heavy lifting to get us there. No other

sector of our economy is as crucial to the transition to a more sustainable future as the oil and gas sector; at least, as far as our country is concerned.

The energy future we must desire

But what is that energy future? Let me say, first, what it is not.

It must not be a future where Africa remains at the bottom of the food chain in the brave new world of sustainable energy. Certainly not! But we must admit that today we have the largest number of individuals without access to power, the largest number of people without access to clean cooking fuels, and we need rapid industrialisation to get millions of our people out of poverty. And we must do all

of this without worsening the global warming situation, which is why some of us have argued that there is a need for some clarity as to where we are in the transition journey and what we need to be doing, because there are two existential crises for us- Africans and Nigerians.

The first, of course, is global warming and all its implications. And the second is the lack of energy access, the energy poverty that we have, and which results in millions of our people being extremely poor. There is no question at all that for us in this part of the world, both must go simultaneously. We must think in terms of transition to cleaner fuels, to renewable energy and at the same time access to power so that we can also have access to development for our people.

Gas must remain key to the future

That is why gas must remain an important transition fuel. We cannot accept the position that has been offered by some of the global north countries that gas is one of those fuels that must be defunded or that gas projects should be defunded in order to enable a faster progress towards the clean, renewable energy transition that we expect. We must think in terms of both. We cannot simply say this is only about renewable energy and transition to cleaner fuels.

For us, gas is crucial, and the reason is not just because we have such huge amounts of gas, it is also because LPG is possibly the only clean cooking option for us. And clean cooking is an important component of the entire clean energy agenda. It is crucial and we in this part of the world cannot do without it. Even when we talk about renewable energy for clean cooking, we also think in terms of LPG and all the other clean cooking options.

We are not victims, we have a great opportunity for green civilisation

For the future, we must not see Africa as the victim and we must not continue to repeat the notion that Africa is a victim in this whole process of sustainable energy or the journey towards sustainable energy. We are not the victims and we can, in fact, become the principal players. It is our nation and our continent that will drive the next stage of global economic progress. And we can do so by becoming the first truly green civilisation in the world.

How can we achieve that?

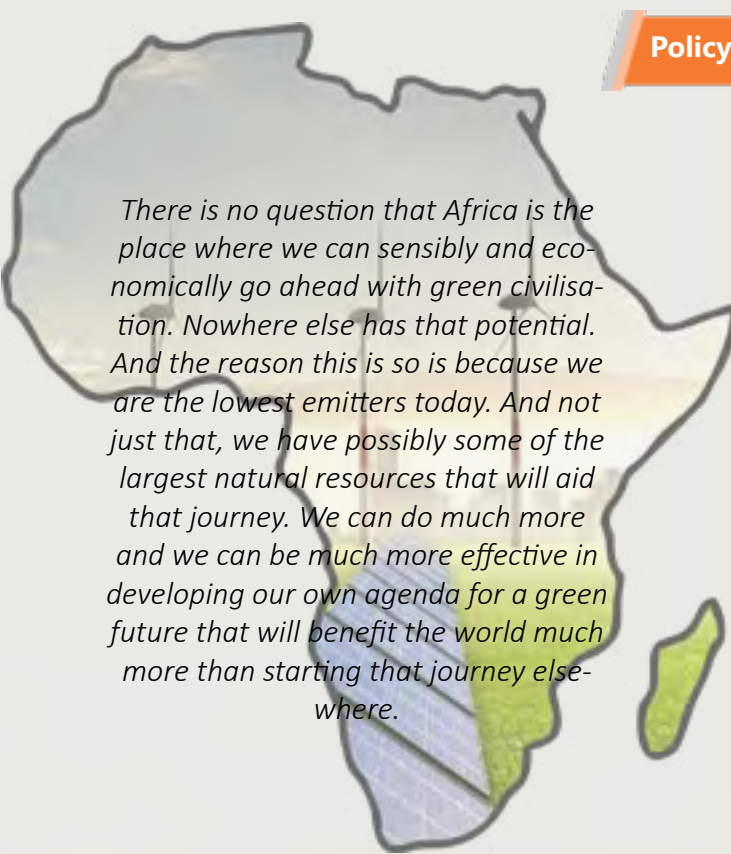
First, by recognising the opportunity early and intentionally developing all the potential around our natural resources, including natural gas, solar and biofuels. We must in particular leverage our renewable energy potential, and work actively on green technologies, carbon removal and green manufacturing. And we have the young and resourceful workforce that can enable that to happen very quickly. It is the energy sector working with governments that can muster the human and material resources to move the needle on this kind of ambition.

There is no question that Africa is the place where we can sensibly and economically go ahead with green civilisation. Nowhere else has that potential. And the reason this is so is because we are the lowest emitters today. And not just that, we have possibly some of the largest natural resources that will aid that journey. We can do much more and we can be much more effective in developing our own agenda for a green future that will benefit the world much more than starting that journey elsewhere.

The greatest emitters in the world are the global north countries. If you are going to do anything in terms of a green energy future, you should start from a low-emission base and that low-emission base is here in Africa and we have the natural resources to do so.

Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan is innovative and achievable

If we focus on our strengths today and focus on those natural resources, we can certainly move very fast, and I think we've started well.



There is no question that Africa is the place where we can sensibly and economically go ahead with green civilisation. Nowhere else has that potential. And the reason this is so is because we are the lowest emitters today. And not just that, we have possibly some of the largest natural resources that will aid that journey. We can do much more and we can be much more effective in developing our own agenda for a green future that will benefit the world much more than starting that journey elsewhere.

Our energy transition plan is bold and innovative. It calls for the ramping up of solar cells and we are going to be doing about 5.3 gigahertz per year until 2060. We think that this plan is perfectly achievable. The production of over 6 billion litres of biofuels annually to green, as it is, is the path to immobility. Added to this is the transition of at least two million Nigerian households annually to cleaner cooking fuels, such as LPG and electricity, every single year. These ambitions are achievable if we set our minds to it.

Huge opportunities in carbon trading

We are also part of the important initiatives around carbon trading, and I believe this holds important opportunities for oil and gas sector players.

I have in the past year been working with a very dedicated team of individuals and companies named the African Carbon Market Initiative, and the point is to open up the tremendous potential in carbon market trading. I think this is something we really ought to work on very seriously. We also have the Nigerian Carbon Markets Initiative and we think this is a win-win for everyone.

It is important for the oil and gas sector because there are so many carbon market trading opportunities in the sector. In early April, the Nigerians Sovereign Investment Fund launched a programme that will invest in carbon emission reduction projects in Nigeria and promote the Nigerian carbon market initiative. The initial fund is for US\$50million. They challenged the rest of the industry to put some more money into it so that we can achieve the objectives that we set for ourselves. You have a long way to go, but I very strongly believe that we are well able to achieve all the targets that we have set for ourselves.

The private sector must clearly articulate its own sustainable energy ambitions in alignment with the Nigerian Government's Energy Transition Plan. It is important for the private sector to sit down and say, 'This is our own plan and this is how it aligns with the energy transition plan.' You need to act very quickly on that.

Vice President Yemi Osinbajo made these remarks at the 2023 edition of the Nigeria International Energy Summit in Abuja.



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ALLOCATI AT THE NCDMB NIGERIAN OIL AND EMEYAL-1 OGBIA LGA IN BAYELSA STA

Site Pictures: NCDMB NOGaPS site, Emeyal-1, Bayelsa State

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) was established by the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act of 2010 as the sole agency of Government responsible for supervising, coordinating, administering, monitoring, and managing the development of Nigerian Content in the Oil and Gas Industry.

In line with her key mandate of developing local capacities and capabilities as enshrined in Section 70(h) of the NOGICD Act, the Board established the Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGaPS) as a low-cost manufacturing hub for equipment, component parts, spare parts, chemicals, consumables etc.

Construction work at the NOGaPS sites at Emeyal-1, near Otueke in Bayelsa State and at Odokpani, Cross River State is near completion and both sites are scheduled to commence operations in first half of 2023.

The Emeyal1 and Odokpani NOGaPS sites are both located on flat, well drained land of size 24 hectares and 25 hectares respectively and they are both equipped with high quality infrastructure and facilities such as:

- 24/7 uninterrupted power supply
- Internal road network with drainage
- Water treatment/supply plant
- Effluent water treatment plant
- Administrative Building Block
- Mini-Park Estate/Hostel Blocks
- Capacity Training Centre
- Security/Gatehouse
- Fire Station and many more

In view of the planned commencement of operation for 4th quarter of 2022, the Board hereby invite's interested reputable existing and new manufacturers to be part of this success story by setting up and carrying out their operations on the NOGaPS sites.

The Emeyal-1 site layout and some pictures showing the state of completion of the internal roads, drainages, administrative building, hostel, manufacturing shopfloor/warehouse, Capacity Training Center, etc are shown below.



| Plot No | Description | Plot Size (m ²) |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NBY08 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 2 | 5,440 |
| NBY09 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 13,300 |
| NBY10 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 13,442 |
| NBY11 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 12,510 |
| NBY12 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 11,493.34 |
| NBY14 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 12,744.80 |
| NBY17 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 12,717.57 |
| NBY19 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 11,421.77 |
| NBY20 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 12,484.13 |
| NBY21 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 12,440 |
| NBY24 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 2 | 7,437.51 |
| NBY25 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 2 | 7,437.51 |
| NBY26 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 2 | 7,437.51 |
| NBY27 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 2 | 7,437.51 |

ON OF SERVICED PLOTS FOR MANUFACTURING GAS PARK SCHEME (NOGAPS) LOCATED AT TE AND AT ODUKPANI IN CROSS RIVER STATE



Site Pictures: NCDMB NOGAPS site, Odukpani, Cross River State.

The Odukpani site layout and some pictures showing the state of completion of the internal roads, drainages, administrative building, hostel, manufacturing shop/floor/warehouse, Capacity Training Center, etc are shown below:



| Plot No | Description | Plot Size (m ²) |
|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| NCR05 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 12,730 |
| NCR06 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 12,770 |
| NCR07 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 11,818 |
| NCR08 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 10,563 |
| NCR09 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 11,358 |
| NCR10 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 2 | 8,605 |
| NCR11 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 2 | 9,551 |
| NCR14 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 3 | 5,167 |
| NCR15 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 3 | 5,100 |
| NCR16 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 3 | 5,020 |
| NCR17 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 3 | 4,800 |
| NCR21 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 10,441 |
| NCR22 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 10,448 |
| NCR23 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 1 | 13,086 |
| NCR24 | Manufacturing Shop Floor 3 | 13,400 |

Interested manufacturers and investors should submit application for plot allocation to the Board with the following:

- Cover letter addressed to the Executive Secretary of NCDMB with clear indication of the Plot no. of interest
- Evidence of CAC registration
- Company profile/brochure
- Outline of the proposed manufacturing activities: machinery, raw materials, personnel, layout with plot size, schedule, and any other relevant information.

Intending subscribers should note that available plots will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis.

Shortlisted allottees will be invited for a meeting with the Board to make presentation and further discuss details of their proposal and the terms and condition of the allocation.

Signed
Manager, Corporate Communications
For: Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB)





Towering the Skyline





Proof of Local Content



- 1,000-seater conference auditorium and multi-level car park
- Built under five years by an indigenous contractor
- 250 youths trained on artisanal skills and integrated in the construction
- Commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari in August 2020
- Tallest structure in use in the South/South and South/East

NCDMB

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...Building local capacities in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.