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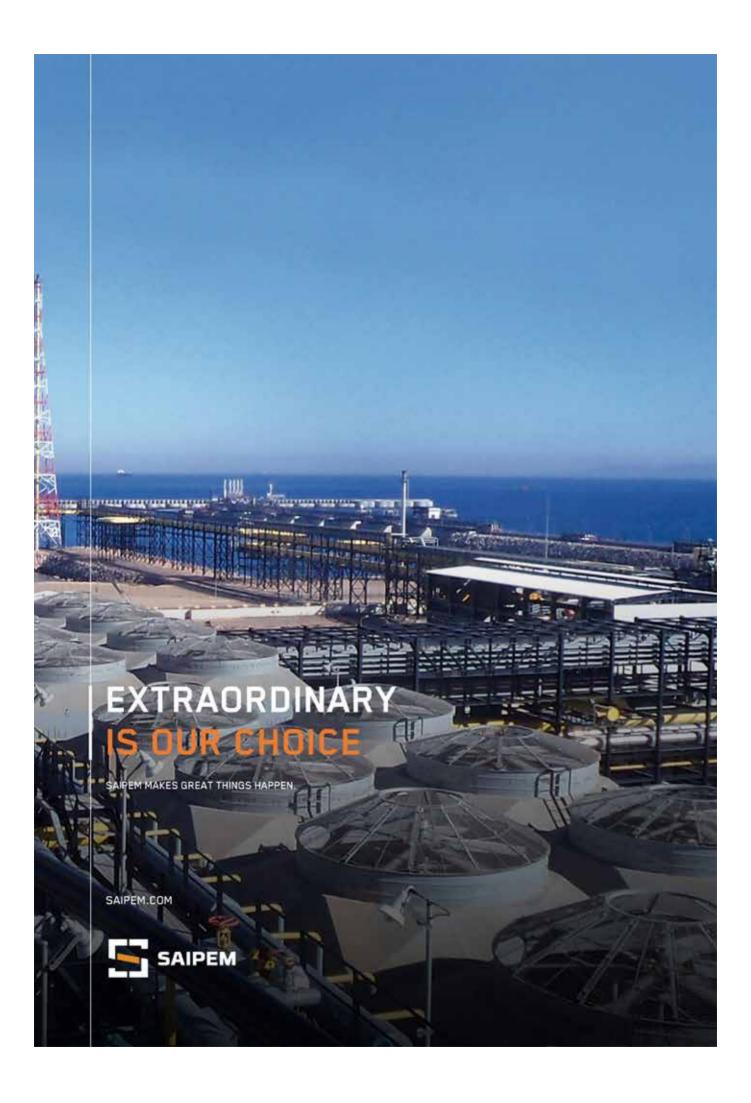
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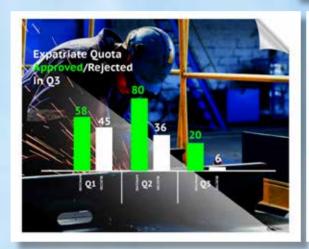


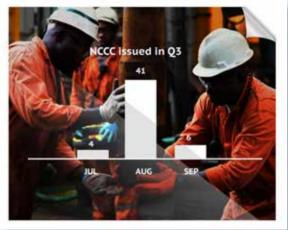






















Growing and embedding Nigerian Content

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop - Confucius

fter 10 years of continuous implementation, Nigerian Content practice is catching on in the oil and gas industry. Within this period, we have grown Nigerian content remarkably with many landmark achievements. As a Board and, indeed, a country, we are not yet where we want to be. But we are clear where we want to be by 2027 based on our 10-year strategic road map. Our target is to ramp up to 70 percent, from less than five percent Nigerian content level, back in 2010.

The target is not just to achieve quantum growth, but also to embed the practice in the Nigerian oil and gas industry and linkage sectors. This demands total shift in our hydrocarbon development and management strategy. It requires a high sense of urgency. The message is: produce, process, refine, manufacture, add value, retain value, pay taxes and create jobs in-country.

This is the way to go. Deepening Nigerian content is the recipe for our national economic survival and security. To depend on foreign inputs and supplies for our oil and gas operation leaves our economy vulnerable and subject to all kinds of global vicissitude, including tottering globalisation, Coronavirus pandemic and the threat of energy transition hanging in the horizon.

There's no better time, therefore, to look more inwards than now, as many countries are already doing. We have seen "America-first" under Donald Trump; "Make-in-India" under Narenda Modi and China's "dual circulation" strategy, announced recently by Xi Jinping to support Chinese economic agenda. These audacious economic programmes provide us fresh impetus to drive growth and embed Nigerian content in our energy landscape; not just to boost the capacity and efficiency of our local supply chain but also to ensure sustainability.

Our programmes and projects in NCDMB are intentionally designed to achieve more domiciliation and domestication of oil and gas activities in Nigeria. In view of the importance of technology and innovation to sustainable local content practice, research and development is identified as one of the four key enablers in our 10-year strategic road map. Thus, we are leading the charge in R&D in the oil and gas sector. We have not only launched an R&D road map and established R&D Council for the industry, we have also dedicated US\$50 million Fund to co-finance relevant industry research work.

We have seen traction in various projects set up to operationalise our R&D initiatives. For instance, we are rapidly developing Centres of Excellence in five universities across the country. Within this year, we launched two new platforms to promote digital tech solutions and innovation in Nigeria. The first one is our inaugural Nigerian Oil and Gas Technology

(NOGTECH) Hackathon and Boot Camp. It aims to drive innovation and enterprise. It brought together Nigerian researchers and stakeholders in the R&D ecosystem to come up with digital tech solutions to fix identified major challenges in Nigeria. Out of over 630 entries, we selected 15 most topical and innovative entries, which were further scrutinised to zero in on five most bankable projects.

We empowered each of the five teams with grants to progress their research for deployment. The five teams have now completed a three-month technology incubation boot camp under the auspices of NCDMB and are ready to unveil their breakthroughs before the end of 2020.

The second platform is called "Nigerian Content Universities (NCU) Science Technology and Innovation Challenge (STIC)". We created and sponsored this project for young people in Nigerian tertiary institutions. It is also an enterprise development programme designed to challenge students of all accredited Nigerian tertiary institutions to stretch their ingenuity by applying science and technology principles to create home-grown innovative tech and business solutions to address everyday problems in Nigeria. The project hopes to accelerate reverse engineering, create wealth and jobs. The difference between STIC and NOGTECH Hackathon is that the former is targeting the youth.

Another tangible testament of our goal to embed local content practice is our iconic 17-storey Nigerian Content Tower in Yenagoa, which was built from scratch within a record period of five years; it was commissioned by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR in August 2020. The Nigerian Content Tower is a screaming attestation to local content entrenchment in Nigeria. From design to construction and materials used, it epitomises practical Nigerian content, domiciliation, capital retention and job creation for local manpower. The Nigerian Content Tower inspires hope of more participation of Nigerians in the oil and gas value chain.

Similarly, the ongoing amendment to the extant NOGIC Act 2010 as well as the Bill seeking to extend local content to other key sectors of the economy (that have all scaled through public hearing) are part of the deliberate and intentional steps to embed local content in Nigeria's economic landscape. The Executives Orders 3 and 5 issued by President Muhammadu Buhari to underpin local content practice in public sector procurement outside the petroleum industry give strong indication of government's unwavering commitment to Nigerian content philosophy.

To restore the capacity of our technical and vocational institutions to meet growing demand for qualified technicians, we have embarked on massive upgrade and reconstruction of facilities in technical colleges across the country. This is

Summit

part of our strategy to support and sustain the supply side of the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors. We know that economic development is impossible without a pool of manpower in applied science, technology and commerce at the sub-professional level. This is what the technical colleges were established to achieve in Nigeria before they became moribund.

On targeted human capacity intervention to close critical skills gap, we sponsored 30 young Nigerian graduates in marine survey, in partnership with Niger Delta University, Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology, Lagos, as well as Centre for Marine Survey Nigeria, (CMSN), Lagos. The trainees will gain post-graduate Diploma and international certification from the International Naval Surveys Bureau and Phoenix Register of Shipping. Closing this gap will ensure the participation of more Nigerians in the oil and gas maritime operation, help to retain spend and balance the demand and supply sides of the business. This adds to another set of 50 Nigerians who we sponsored earlier this year as marine cadets in many parts of the world, which provided them international sea time experience with required global certifications.

To address the paucity of skilled Nigerians in the niche area of non-destructive testing, which has been a major source of capital flight, we facilitated the training of 30 Nigerians to acquire Level 3 certification of American Society of Non-Destructive Test (ASNT). Through this type of training, the Board aims to increase the pool of NDT professionals in Nigeria, which would aid capital retention.



Deepening Nigerian content is the recipe for our national economic survival and security. To depend on foreign inputs and supplies for our oil and gas operation leaves our economy vulnerable and subject to all kinds of global vicissitude, including tottering globalisation, Coronavirus pandemic and the threat of energy transition hanging in the horizon.

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DEEPENING SKILLS IN-COUNTRY: American Society for Non-Destructive Testing (ASNT) Level 3 Training and Certification trainees, sponsored by the NCDMB, an excellent example of the Board's targeted approach to growing skills and retaining spend in-country.

To restore the capacity of our technical and vocational institutions to meet growing demand for qualified technicians, we have embarked on massive upgrade and reconstruction of facilities in technical colleges across the country. This is part of our strategy to support and sustain the supply side of the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors. We know that economic development is impossible without a pool of manpower in applied science, technology and commerce at the sub-professional level.

For artisanal and soft skills development, we selected 255 young people from our NJQS platform and funded their training by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) in ICT, electrical/electronics, automation, instrumentation, mechatronics, repair and maintenance of air conditioners and refrigerators, building tech, among several others. By the same token, we trained 3,000 youths in Kano, Yobe, Bauchi and Cross River states in various areas of GSM technologies and maintenance skills, leveraging on our collaboration with NITDA to provide the young persons with starter-packs to practise their newly acquired competencies. This is in consonance with President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to lifting 100 million Nigerians out of abject poverty before the end of his term in 2023.

Refined petroleum products availability in Nigeria has been a challenge due to sub-optimal performance of our refineries. As a result, Nigerians have had to grapple with the vagaries of international crude oil prices. In the creeks, crude oil theft and illegal refining with associated environmental harm, proliferated. To stem the tide of crude oil theft and illegal refining, which add nothing to local content growth, we decided to catalyse the take-off of modular refineries in Nigeria; hence, our partnership with Waltersmith to start and operate a 5,000bbl/day refinery at Ochia, Ibigwe, Imo State. The refinery is now on stream; it was commissioned in November by President Muhammadu Buhari as evidence of a successful public/private partnership. The plan, ultimately, is to scale up the plant to 50,000 bbl/day refining capacity.

NCDMB is also in the forefront of promoting LPG utilisation in Nigeria through various partnerships to ensure domestic gas pro-

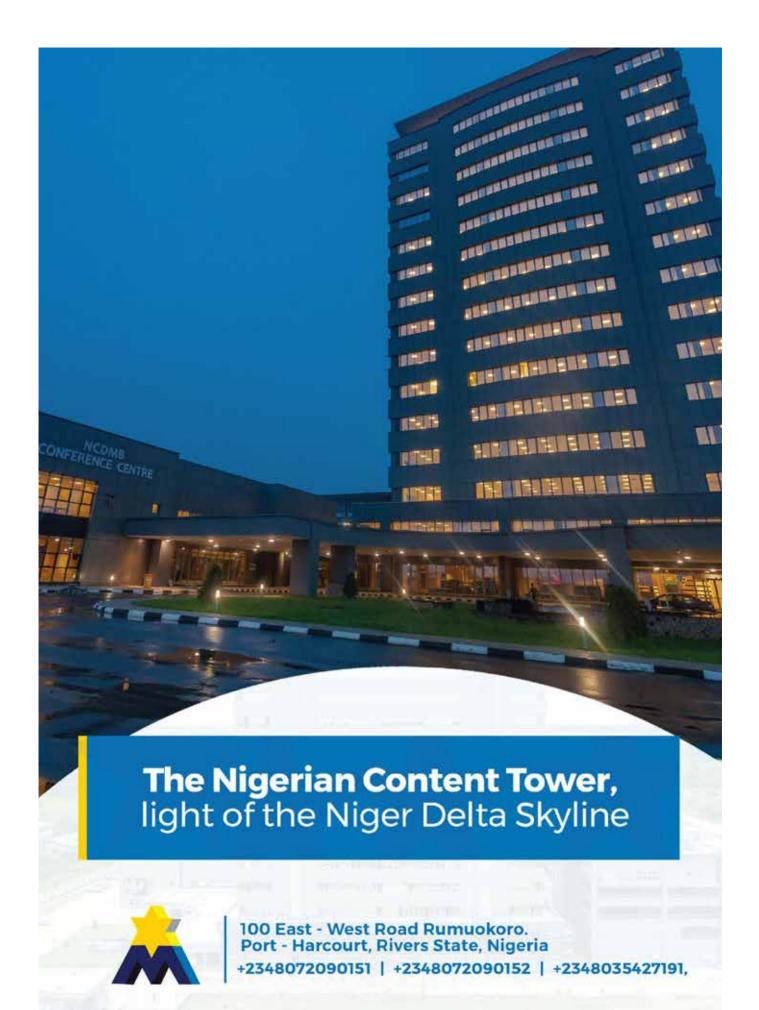
cessing, manufacturing of LPG canisters in-country. One of such partnerships crystalised this year, when the Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timpre Sylva performed the ground-breaking ceremony of a 400,000 LPG Composite Cylinder Manufacturing Plant in Polaku, Bayelsa State jointly developed by Rungas and NCDMB. We are also working on the development of another 168,000-metric tonne per annum loading and off-loading LPG terminal in Koko, Delta State.

Our oil and gas park designed for the manufacturing of oil and gas equipment, spare parts and accessories in Cross River, Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom states are at various stages of completion. The parks will serve as manufacturing hubs and technology incubation centres in Nigeria with huge job potentials and tax revenues to government at all levels.

My reappointment for a second term as Executive Secretary of NCDMB by President Muhammadu Buhari is perhaps another clear manifestation of Federal Government's resolve to sustain the momentum of local content growth in Nigeria.

Thus, despite the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic to businesses and the world at large, we are excited that our agency was able to maintain business continuity and posted impressive achievements in 2020. Our tenacity and growth are inching progressively to the 70 percent forecast by 2027. Therefore, we cannot afford to drop the ball. We must keep the momentum, knowing that "it does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop", as postulated by Confucius, the Chinese philosopher. We must continue to grow and embed Nigerian content in every facet of our economic life.

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5 startups who showcased at NOGTECH 2020 DEMO DAY were awarded \$10,000 each....

NOGTECH 2020 STARTUPS



AirsynQ

AirsynQ is an artificial intelligence-based pipeline vandalism detection using aerial surveillance image data, acquired using long-duration balloon lifted satellites.



Homefort Energy

Homefort Energy makes cooking gas accessible to low-income households using a pay-as-you-go model and digital innovations.



Fuel IntelliSense

Automated Fuel Station Inventory management using RFID technology, Monitor complete fuel volume usage and track inventory and sales



Gas360

Kiakia Gas monitors LPG use through LPG cylinders, safety status of cylinders (to enable them to take appropriate action), and transmit such information to



Gricd Mote

Gricd Mote provides customers real-time access to storage conditions of temperature-sensitive medication both stationary and transient.











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EditorialNaboth Onyesoh

It wasn't all doom and gloom

espite extraordinary challenges in 2020, we can confidently assert that for Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), it wasn't all doom and gloom. As our Chief Executive noted under *Summit*, NCDMB actually posted impressive scorecard even with all the disastrous and debilitating effects of COVID-19 pandemic in Nigeria and around the world.

Just to illustrate: First, we still marked our 10-year anniversary in April; a decade of existence and of steady development and implementation of local content practice in Nigeria's oil and gas industry with many ground-breaking achievements under our belt. We completed and commissioned our captivating 17-storey Nigerian Content Tower as corporate head office in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. We increased the Nigerian Content Intervention (NCI) Fund from US\$200 million to \$350 million; commissioned the first modular refinery, which NCDMB catalysed under a private/public partnership with Waltersmith. The list goes on and on.

To crown it all, President Muhammadu Buhari reappointed Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, our CEO as the Executive Secretary of the Board for a fresh term of four years, obviously to sustain the tempo and keep the momentum of local content practice in the oil and gas industry. "Victory," says Shakespeare, "is twice itself when the achiever brings home full numbers." On this premise, we submit that NCDMB was really victorious, as always, even in the Year 2020.

With such a wide array of momentous events in a tough year, our Editorial Board had a full basket to choose the lead story for this edition. We decided to lead with the Nigerian Content (NC) Tower for sundry reasons, including the speed of completion, its skyline and splendour, the symbolism and economic implication for Bayelsa, the Niger Delta region and Nigeria. It's a special story far beyond beauty and architecture.

In addition to the cover story, we have a full bouquet of interesting news and stories for information and refreshment. Our column on *Innovation* offers the result and rich rewards of the first technology and innovation contest, named "Nigerian Oil and Gas Technology (NOGTECH) Hackathon", which NCDMB sponsored to spur Nigerian researchers to come up with innovative indigenous tech solutions to

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fix identified challenges in nine areas of concern.

On our entertainment pages, we took up contemporary *Music*, showing the abundant raw talents in Nigeria. This edition spotlights Wizkid, no doubt one of Nigeria's biggest music superstars, who has taken his stardom to the global stage with his collaboration with Beyoncé in Brown skin girl. Very interesting read to lift the mind and imagination.

Our *Travelogue* is a ready recipe for lovers of travels and adventure. As the year winds down inevitably and some are thinking of where to go and unwind, especially with all kinds of restrictions around the world due to COVID-19, Zuma Rock Resort, featured in *Travelogue*, is an excellent option. It has golf, great cuisines, wildlife and a lot of sunshine, compared to the extremely cold weather conditions in temperate regions. Besides, the choice of Zuma Rock Resort will save citizens the trouble of sourcing for scare forex that has become even much harder to come by.

In closing, all glory goes to God for life and good health. Also, very many thanks to all the companies that have continued to patronise this magazine with adverts. Without their continuous patronage, it would certainly have been so cumbersome to roll out copies regularly to meet the yearnings and cravings of our readership every quarter. Pardon us that we are unable to list all of you seriatim on this occasion. And for all staff and stakeholders, seasons greetings and happy new year in advance.

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stakeholders

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Increase of Content Fund, Commission Bill opposed by

ey stakeholders in the industry, notably, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Petroleum Technology Association Nigeria, Petroleum Contractors Trade Section, Oil Producers Trade Section and Nigeria LNG Limited have advised the National Assembly against increasing the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF) from the current one percent to two percent, as proposed in the amendment of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD)

One percent of the value of contracts awarded in the oil and gas industry is paid into the NCDF and managed by the NCDMB for the provision of low-cost financing to oil and gas firms and development of capacities.

The stakeholders canvassed their position in October at the public hearing organised by the Joint Senate and House of Representatives Committee on Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring.

The hearing focused on the Bill for an Act to amend the NOGICD Act; Bill for an Act to enact Nigerian Local Content Act for the development, regulation and enforcement of Nigerian Content in all sectors of the economy except Oil and Gas Industry and Bill to repeal the NOGICD Act and enact the Nigerian Local Content Development and Enforcement Commission Act.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, recommended that the one percent NCDF deduction should be maintained, "Given the pressure that global oil and gas companies are facing with cost escalations and oil price reductions. With prudent management of the NCDF and full cooperation of operating companies, we believe Local Content shall continue to operate efficiently and grow".

Representatives of the oil and gas industry organisations also roundly rejected the proposed increment as well as the Bill that seeks to repeal the NOGICD Act and replace it with a new law.

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38 255 youths undergo vocational skills training

NCDMB receives report on Northeast intervention

he Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has received a report on the implementation of the schoolbased deworming programme in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. The Board sponsored the programme.

The deworming programme was implemented through the Aisha Buhari Foundation (ABF). The report was submitted at the Board's Abuja liaison

office by Dr. Mohammed Kamal Abdurrahman, National Coordinator of the Foundation.

The target of the Board's support was to eradicate schistosomiasis, a neglected tropical disease among children between the ages of five and 11 years and to improve the nutritional status of expectant mothers. The Board supported the programme because of the direct linkage between healthcare and nutrition of children and their mental



(L-R): Mr Abdulrasaq Isah, Chairman of Waltersmith Petroman Oil Limited; Senator Hope Uzodinma, Executive Governor of Imo State; Chief Lai Mohammed, Honourable Minister of Information and Culture and Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) during the Minister's tour of the 5,000-barrel per day modular refinery completed with NCDMB's equity investment at Ibigwe, Ohaji-Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State in August.

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development as well as contributions to the economy in their adulthood.

The intervention led to the donation of folic acid and iron supplements to 12,500 expectant mothers and mass administration of praziquantel drug among school children for treatment of schistosomiasis in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. About 243,776 children were administered the drug, with Adamawa having 100,778, Borno, 120,146 and Yobe 22,852.

Health workers were also trained for sustainability, and teachers were trained in administration of the drugs to school children.

There were also the donation of 55,000 packs of Ribena, toothpaste and toothbrushes to improve oral hygiene among pupils, development of a collaboration model between the Board, ABF, Federal Ministry of Health, World Health Organisation (WHO) and states ministries of health on accessing logistics, training, communication and administration of drugs to combat schistosomiasis on an ongoing basis.

Dr Omole Ukwedeh, Programme Manager of the project, said Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states were selected because they were the most affected by Boko Haram insurgency.

Local Content saves Nigeria US\$2bn on LNG Train 7

he implementation of Local Content in the oil and gas industry saved Nigeria US\$2 billion in the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for Nigeria LNG Train 7 Project. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), announced this at the 2020 Annual Capacity Building Workshop organised by the Board for the Judiciary.

He said sustainable local content practice reduces the cost of oil and gas projects and creates job opportunities and economic prosperity. "In the LNG Train 7 project contract, which was recently awarded, the difference in price between Saipem Contracting that had established itself in Nigeria and the second lowest bidder that was coming from outside the country was US\$2 billion. That's what this country would have lost if not for the drive for the development of Local Content," said Wabote. He added: "The other consortium had no footprint in-country and it proposed to put (an) extra \$2 billion on the back of the project to develop local capacity to execute the project. This is evidence of cost savings associated with local content."

The Executive Secretary explained that developing local content and building capacity entails initial costs, but such costs ultimately gets reduced overtime and creates jobs and stability in the polity.

On the possibility of recording 100 percent Nigerian Content in the sector, Wabote said: "The aspiration is neither possible nor desirable, especially for a developing country like Nigeria. You still need foreign direct investments. This is a high technology intensive industry. You still need to leave some space for foreign participation and investments to grow the industry."

Ikike Line Pipe Coating Project creates 300 jobs

Project created jobs for over 300 people and boosted the use of locally sourced materials.

Mr. Ugochukwu Chijioke, Operations

Senior Manager, Tenaris/Pipe Coaters Nigeria (PCN), stated this when he hosted inspectors from the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) at the project site in Onne Free Trade Zone, Rivers State. He said the project was being executed by local workforce. He thanked Total Exploration and Production Nigeria (TEPNG) and NCDMB for making it a reality. Chijioke appealed for more projects so that capabilities developed during the project could be retained.

Engr. Paul Zuhumben, General Manager, Projects Certification and Authorisation Division (PCAD) at NCDMB, hinted that the Ikike Subsea, Risers & Flowlines (SURF) Engineering Procurement Construction and Installation (EPCI) project would create huge opportunities for local companies, especially as most businesses were shut due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He praised PCN for proving that local companies have acquired capabilities to match their foreign counterparts in the delivery of oil and gas projects to the highest quality and standards.

Zuhumben noted that PCN's experience spanned over two decades in Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) pipe management, pipe threading and line pipe coating for deep water applications.

The project's duration is five months and it involves 12 inches x 28km line pipes that will be coated with 3LPE, 5LPP and Concrete Weight Coating (CWC). Additional services include Bends coating and Anodes installation.

This is the first time in Africa that a facility will be applying CWC on top of a Thermal Insulation (5LPE) coated line pipe.



Cross-section of participants at the Nigerian Content Workshop on the Role of Enforcement Agencies, organised by the Board in Abuja in November.

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Feasibility for Brass Shipyard underway

easibility study has started for the construction of a shipyard in Brass Island, Bayelsa State. The yard will cater for the maintenance and repairs of cargo vessels, oil tankers, and LNG carriers. It will be executed by China Harbour Engineering Company, which has executed similar projects across the globe, including Nigeria.

The study will be funded by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) as part of its mandate to domicile key oil and gas industry's infrastructure and increase retention of industry spend.

Chief Timipre, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, who announced this, said the high traffic of vessels in and out of Nigeria provides a huge opportunity to retain substantial value in-country through the provision of dry dock services. He said the shipyard project would further develop and harness the nation's position in the oil and gas value chain and linkage to other sectors of the economy.

Sylva said the outcome of the feasibility study and subsequent construction and operation of the shipyard would create jobs and contribute to poverty reduction in line with the aspirations of President Muhammadu Buhari's Government.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said the Brass shipyard project and other efforts to catalyse manufacturing would help the Board to achieve the 70 percent Nigerian Content target by 2027.

He added that the project was being driven by the NCDMB in conjunction with Nigeria LNG as a Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) on the back of the Train 7 Project.

NCDMB extends local content beyond oil producing states

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has begun the second phase of sensitisation of residents of non-oil producing states on the benefits and impact of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act 2010.

The enlightenment workshops, which had previously been conducted in oil producing states since the establishment of the Board in 2010, are now being extended to states in the northern part of the country, beginning with Kaduna, Adamawa and Kano states.

Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communications and Zonal Coordination, NCDMB led the workshops. He said the intention was to increase awareness and participation of Nigerians in the oil and gas industry. He said the Nigerian Content Act mandates the NCDMB to enlighten critical stakeholders and integrate Nigerians into oil and gas industry activities as well as empower youths with skills required in the

sector.

He discountenanced the notion that Nigerian Content was meant for indigenes or residents of the Niger Delta region alone. He said all Nigerians can participate and benefit from the opportunities provided by the Nigerian Content Act. Ginah charged the participants to get familiar with the Board's NOGICJQS database and upload their qualifications on the portal to qualify for the various Human Capacity Development Initiatives of the Board.

He also explained that Nigerian Content is about domiciliation of industry activities and development of local capacities.

R&D Centres of Excellence to be established in five universities

Research and Development Centres of Excellence (CoEs) will be set up in five universities by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring

Trends

Board (NCDMB). The centres will be based on the Board's research thematic cluster: engineering, technology development, local material substitution, HSE and geological and geophysical studies.

This is part of NCDMB's commitment to collaborate closely with universities across the country, to encourage increased participation of lecturers and students in R&D activities.

As part of the plan, Mr Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Strategy and Development (RSD), NCDMB, led a team to Prof. Abdullahi Bala, Vice Chancellor of the Modibo Adama University of Technology, Yola, Adamawa State. Modibo Adama University is hosting the Board's Centre of Excellence on Health, Safety and Environment thematic studies.

As part of the execution plan for setting up the CoE, the Board awarded contracts to five consultants to conduct feasibility studies on equipment manning and other levels of intervention needs of the centres of excellence.

The Board has begun meetings with the consultants and introduced the contractors to various school authorities in a bid to ensure speedy delivery of the services.

Highlights of the meeting included the presentation on an overview of NCDMB mandate on R&D, R&D framework and 10-year road map as well as the presentation of the scope of work. The meeting also discussed the expectation of the university to host the centre, draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and inspection of the building for the centre.



Equipment at the renovated carpentry workshop of the Government Technical College (GTC) Abak, Akwa Ibom State, wholly sponsored by the Board



(L-R): Dr. Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building Division, NCDMB; Mr Olukayode Pitan, Managing Director, Bank of Industry; Mr Michael Ajayi, Country Director, Enactus Nigeria; Engr Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mrs Teju Abisoye, Executive Secretary, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSTEF) and Mr Olatunbosun Alake, Special Adviser on Innovation and Technology to the Governor of Lagos State.

Work begins on Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre

sixty-four years after the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantity at Oloibiri, Bayelsa State, by Shell Darcy, an Oil and Gas Museum and Research Centre is finally going to be established in the town.

This symbolic project is being promoted by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Shell Petroleum and Development Company (SPDC) and the Bayelsa State Government.

Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, said the Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC) is a unique opportunity to correct a historical oversight and preserve the heritage and developments in the oil sector, similar to what is obtainable in other oil producing nations. He said the project would be fast-tracked with pre-construction activities lasting eight months, while actual construction will be completed within 36 months.

The Minister thanked President Muhammadu Buhari for approving the project at the height of COVID-19 pandemic. He added that it would form part of his enduring legacies that would make a positive impact in the oil and gas community and the Niger Delta people.

PTDF will contribute 40 percent of the project cost while NCDMB and SPDC will provide 30 percent and 20 percent, respectively, with Bayelsa State Government providing the balance 10 percent.

Some of the benefits of the project include creating Nigeria's hub for oil and gas artefacts, attracting petro-tourism, retention of history and dissemination of knowledge as

well as the opportunity to bring change and socio-economic development to Oloibiri, among others.

40 cadets commence sea time training

orty cadets have begun the Sea Time cadet training programme sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). The training is the Second phase of the programme. It is conducted at Charkins Maritime and Offshore Services Limited, Ozuoba, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The trainees were selected from the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Joint Qualification System (NOGICJQS). They participated in aptitude tests and interviews from which 40 cadets (38 males and two females) were successful.

The aim of the training is to address the deficit of trained cadets in the maritime and oil and gas industries, thereby reducing the dependence on foreign personnel in marine operations. Under the programme, the cadets will be trained by Bernard Schulte Group for 12 months on-board a foreign vessel. They will be certified with the Certificate of Competence (COC) recognised by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA).

Dr. Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building Division of the Board, explained that the cadet training is a Human Capacity Building Initiative geared towards increasing the participation of Nigerians in the oil and gas industry, as shipping is a very important aspect in the sector. According to him, over 10,000 vessels berth at the Nigerian ports each year; yet, there was paucity of qualified Nigerians to man those vessels.

He said the Board implemented the 60-20-20 capacity building model to ensure that trainees get trained and are employable in the industry after the exercise.

NCDMB, ITF Train 1,000 youths in Yobe

r. Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan, President of the Senate, recently opened the training of 1,000 youths from Yobe State, focussing on mobile phone repairs, hardware, software and entrepreneurship development.

The training was sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) as part of the Youth Empowerment Programme for the North East. Its objective is to train and empower youths in high impact economic sectors, such as information and communications technology, agriculture and construction. The training was conducted in partnership with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA). The learning centres will be located in higher institutions in Yobe State.

Lawan lauded the synergy between NCDMB and NITDA in jointly organising the training and assured that the Senate would continue to provide legislative impetus for collaborations among government agencies in the delivery of their mandate.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, explained that the

Trends

Board's mandate includes developing local talent, facilities and assets that support oil and gas operations and its linkage sectors. He said the Board had realised that the oil industry cannot absorb all local talents, even at peak capacity, hence the conceptualisation of strategic youth empowerment programmes. He said the trainees would get starter packs, renting and furnishing of shops for apprenticeship and market linkage opportunities.

The Board will also sponsor mentorship and business development support to facilitate participants' entry into the business world as SMEs and pay them stipends during the training, apprenticeship and mentorship phases.

NCDMB, NITDA partner on local content development

he Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) have set up a joint committee to foster their collaboration in the development of local content in information and communications technology, oil and gas industry and related sectors.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB and Mr Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, Director General of NITDA, made the decision in a meeting in October.

The Executive Secretary explained that the operations of the oil and gas industry relies heavily on artificial intelligence and information technology, emphasising that "there is a lot of opportunities to synergise and support what our respective agencies are doing. We have similar collaboration with several agencies, and we undertake common projects".

He listed possible areas of collaboration to include promotion of in-country manufacture of motherboards, electronic components, system integration and assembly. Others are mentoring of the beneficiaries of NCDMB-sponsored GSM repair, training, development of mobile and personal computer applications as well as the optimisation of the use of locally developed virtual meeting platforms.

The DG stated that NITDA shares information with several ministries, departments and agencies and operates a flexible system.

He added that NCDMB and NITDA share similarities in their mandates and this was the perfect time to collaborate, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic had compelled several sectors of the economy to digitise their operations.

'Train 7, AKK, NCDMB HQ are key achievements of petroleum sector in 2020'

The signing of the Final Investment Decision for NLNG Train 7 project, commencement of the AKK pipeline project, championed by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), and the implementation of the deregulation of the downstream sector are some of the standout achievements of the petroleum sector in 2020, said Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources.

Other notable accomplishments include the completion of the 17-storey headquarters building of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and commissioning of the Waltersmith modular refinery, developed with 30 percent equity from the NCDMB. The Minister spoke in November at the Nigerian Content Tower

in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State during a review meeting with the Permanent Secretary, Directors and chief executives of agencies in the ministry.

He applauded the performance of the Ministry and its agencies in the past 12 months, stating that they delivered creditably on their respective mandates, despite the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Sylva explained that the sector recorded sterling achievements because the various agencies were managed by competent chief executives and they collaborated effectively among themselves. He expressed optimism that more outstanding results would be recorded in the sector in 2021.

On the choice of Bayelsa State as the host of the meeting, the Minister said several oil industry related activities would be moved to the state because of the imposing Nigerian Content Tower and adjoining 1,000-seater conference facility. He said NCDMB would also catalyse other infrastructural developments to attract and support oil and gas operations and management in the state.



L-R: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB); Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Senator Hope Uzodinma, Executive Governor of Imo State, and Mr Abdulrasaq Isah, Managing Director, Waltersmith Refining and Petrochemical Company, at the commissioning of the 5,000 barrels per day Waltersmith Modular Refinery funded with 30 percent equity investment by the NCDMB.



(R-L): Dr. Eruani Azibapu, Chairman, Azikel Group of Companies; His Excellency, Chief Timipre Sylva, Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB during a visit to Azikel Refinery in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in August.

Buhari hails NCDMB's participation in Waltersmith Modular Refinery

President Muhammadu Buhari has lauded the 30 percent equity investment by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in the 5,000 barrels per day (bpd) Waltersmith Modular Refinery, describing it as novel in concept and superb in delivery.

The President spoke while performing the virtual inauguration of the modular refinery and ground-breaking of the planned expansions at the Ibigwe Field, Imo State. The new phase will add 25,000 barrels per day processing capacity before the final phase of new 20,000 bpd, bringing total capacity to 50,000 bpd. He also lauded the expansion plans of the refinery and directed the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and other relevant government agencies to provide the company with access to crude oil and condensate feedstock for the timely delivery of the additional capacity.

Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, said efforts to achieve sufficiency of locally refined petroleum products "must be a combination of large-scale processing plants as well as small to medium modular processors".

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, stated that Section

70(h) of the Local Content Act mandates the Board to assist local contractors and Nigerian companies to develop their capabilities and capacities towards growing Nigerian Content in the oil and gas sector of the economy. "This refinery creates job opportunities and business prospects, enhances availability of petroleum products and provides ready market for some of our crude cargo within our shores," he said.

NCDMB is also in partnership with other investors for the construction of a 2,500bpd modular refinery in Edo State, and another 12,000bpd hydro skimming refinery in Bayelsa State, to produce a full slate of petroleum products to serve immediate and nearby markets.

Students, schools to win sponsorship opportunities in NCDMB/Enactus technology challenge

Undergraduates, academic guides and tertiary institutions have a chance to win lots of sponsorship opportunities in the Nigerian Content Science and Technology Innovation Challenge (STIC), launched in November by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in partnership with Enactus Nigeria.

The competition seeks to motivate and challenge Nigerian undergraduates to imbibe

the culture of research and development and apply science, technology and innovation to create home-grown business solutions to everyday problems in the oil and gas industry and other sectors of the Nigerian economy. The best student team will win №10 million and business incubation, while their academic guide will get a cash prize of №1.75 million and a laptop. Their university will get a winner's trophy and a research development centre.

The first runner-up will receive ₦4 million and business incubation, while their faculty guide will get ₦5 million. Similarly, the third placed team will win ₦1.5 million while their faculty guide will get ₦200,000.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, described the competition as one of the several initiatives the Board is implementing to develop indigenous capabilities. "We believe that tapping from the ingenuity of our young talents, we will enhance the delivery of the various strategic initiatives enunciated in our 10-Year Strategic Road Map," he said.

Mr. Michael Ajayi, Country Director, Enactus Nigeria, said those interested should visit www.stic.org.ng to submit their applications.

STIC will run for seven months, from submission of applications online, to regional competitions and then to the grand finale. Winners will gain access to funding, business incubation, mentorship and training that will accelerate the journey from business ideation to the market.

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UNIPORT student emerges winner in Nigerian Content Essay Competition

A second-year student of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT), Rivers State, Mr Abasiekeme Edet has won \(\mathbf{N}\)1 million in the Fourth edition of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) Annual National Undergraduate Essay competition. The topic for this year's essay contest was Research and Development as a Key Lever for Local Content Implementation in Nigeria's Oil and Gas Industry. The prize-giving ceremony was held in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in November.

Ms Oluwadamilola Elizabeth Oluwafela, a 200-level Medical student at Obafemi Awolowo University, Osun State, was the first-runner up and won a cash prize of ₹500,000. Mr Somtochukwu Samson Eze, a 100-level Medicine and Surgery student of University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), Enugu State, placed third and won a cash prize of ₹300,000. Other finalists received laptops.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said the Board sponsored the contest to create local content awareness among Nigeria's vibrant youth population and make them advocates of Nigerian Content, which is critical to sustainable development of the economy, job creation and national security. He was represented by Mr Patrick Daziba Obah, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics of the Board.

Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communication and Zonal Coordination, NCDMB, hinted that the competition is one of the Board's interventions to improve the standard of education in Nigeria, promote proficiency in writing, increase the participants' awareness of local content and engender citizen engagement from undergraduate level.

Ginah was represented by Barr. Naboth Onyesoh, Manager, Corporate Communication.

Thirty graduates begin training in marine survey

Thirty graduates have begun postgraduate diploma programme in marine survey under the sponsorship of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). The kick-off ceremony was held at the Niger Delta University, Wilberforce, Amassoma, Bayelsa State.



Abasiekeme Edet

The programme will equip participants with techniques to measure the quantity and quality of products such as crude oil, premium motor spirit (PMS), automotive gas oil (AGO), among several others. On graduation, the participants would be able to perform proper measurement and documentation of the nation's income from oil and gas production.

Twenty graduates are enrolled in Marine Survey Level (12 months) while 10 graduates will be trained as Marine Survey Upgrade (six months). The classroom component of the training will hold concurrently at the Niger Delta University's Entrepreneurship Centre in Bayelsa State and Federal College of Fisheries and Marine Technology in Lagos State for 12 months and six months, respectively.

On-the-job training for the participants will take place at the Centre for Marine Survey Nigeria (CMSN), Lagos, with international certification from the International Naval Surveys Bureau and Phoenix Register Shipping.

Dr. Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building Division, NCDMB, said marine surveyors are key to sustaining marine activities in the oil and gas industry and supporting vessel owners to survey and recertify their vessels in-country.

Prof. Samuel Edomiekumo, Vice Chancellor, Niger Delta University, praised the Board for partnering the university in such an important programme and assured that it would provide an environment conducive for learning.



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Mr Aderemi Makanjuola, Chairman, Caverton Offshore Support Group, during a facility tour to Caverton Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) yard in Lagos.

Advanced Non-Destructive Testing training begins

he training of 30 persons for the maiden American Society for Non-Destructive Testing, (ASNT) Level III Training and Certification in Nigeria has started. It is sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB).

Dr. Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building Division of NCDMB, said the training is aimed at addressing the existing gaps in the ASNT Level III professionals in-country and that the Board remained committed to train and certify 100 Nigerians in that category.

He explained that Non-Destructive Testing is a high value-adding activity with versatile applications in the oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors. According to him, Nigeria has just about 11 ASNT Level II inspectors currently. The training will also reduce capital flight with the engagement of expatriates for the services and drive the train-the-trainer strategy to create viable and robust pool of NDT professionals incountry.

HRH Chief Rowland Nze, President of the

Association of Non-Destructive Testing Practitioners (ANTEP), lauded the Board's capacity building initiatives. He said NCDMB, through its partnership with ANTEP, had improved the practice of NDT in the Nigerian oil and gas industry. Some companies had invested in advanced equipment and human resources, with confidence that first consideration would be given to them for NDT jobs in Nigeria.

NCDMB categorises non-compliance of Nigerian Content

Non-compliance with the provisions of the Nigerian Content guidelines has been categorised into Minor Infraction and Serious Infractions in the draft Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Compliance and Enforcement Regulation 2020.

Barr. Umar Mohammed Babangida, Director, Legal Services, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) said this at a workshop organised by the NCDMB for law enforcement agencies. The two-day workshop, with the theme: Understanding the Objectives and Philosophy of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, was attended by personnel from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and other

Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Nigeria Police, Nigerian Customs Service and other relevant agencies.

Mohammed said minor offences refer to first-time defaults, deficits in meeting deadlines for periodic reports and similar defaults. Applicable sanctions would include a Letter of Warning, Invitation of Management Team of the Operator/stakeholder for corrective dialogue with the Board, he said. Serious infractions include repeated or persistent defaults and/or deliberate refusal to comply with directives issued by the Board.

The punishment for serious offences will include naming and shaming defaulting operator/stakeholder with publicity within national and international oil and gas communities; notification to other MDAs about the non-compliance, including request for the withdrawal of tax privileges, and/or preventing the operator/stakeholder from getting "cost recovery", where applicable; withdrawal of Certificate of Authorisation issued for the project under Section Eight of the Act; withdrawal of any approval given by the Board.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said the Board organised the workshop to create synergy and collaboration with regulatory and enforcement agencies in the discharge of its mandate.



Dr Eruani Azibapu, President of Azikel Group; Mr Mele Kolo Kyari, Group Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) at the Commissioning of the 5,000 barrels per day Waltersmith Modular Refinery funded with 30 percent equity investment by the NCDMB.

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On August 13, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR commissioned the 17-storey Nigerian Content Tower, 1,000-seater Conference Centre, four-level car park and 10MW Power Plant in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The historic event was graced by several dignitaries who were physically present and others who joined virtually.





















A TRADITION OF FIRSTS

Shell companies in Nigeria have played pioneering roles in onshore, shallow and deep-water developments of Nigeria's Oil and Gas industry.

- 1st oil well drilled in Nigeria.
- 1st producing Nigerian deep-water oil & gas asset Shell's Bonga.
- 1st and only wholly IOC-owned domestic gas distribution company Shell Nigeria Gas.
- 1st Nigerian MD of an IOC produced by Shell. Shell Nigerian employees have gone to become captains of industry within and outside Nigeria.
- 1st made-in-Nigeria buoy was fabricated by Nigerdock for Shell.
- 1st First Technology Transfer initiative for Modular Gas facility fabrication.
- 1st Subsea Cross Over Module manufactured in Nigeria was for Shell's Bonga.
- 1st Twister module for gas processing fabricated in Nigeria for Shell.

POWERING NIGERIAN CONTENT

Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited











ENABLING A NIGERIAN ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR ALL

Shell invests in infrastructure which supports Nigerian industries, businesses and people.

- Shell Nigeria Gas distributes gas to more than 115 commercial and industrial customers across Ogun, Abia and Rivers States.
- Gas from Shell Nigeria Gas is used to power thousands of stalls at the Ariaria International Market, one of West Africa's largest open markets with over 37,000 stalls.
- 14% of power to the national grid was delivered by Shell's Afam VI plant in 2019.
- Shell Nigeria Gas and NCDMB are currently partnering to enable gas distribution to industries in the Polaku Industrial Park, Bayelsa State and its environs.
- The value chain we sustain improves internally generated revenues and creates thousands of jobs for Nigerians.

POWERING NIGERIAN CONTENT



SHELL NIGERIA GAS LIMITED



PROMOTING MADE-IN-NIGERIA PRODUCTS ... ENABLING INDIGENOUS COMPANIES

Shell companies in Nigeria continue to build and support Nigerian manufacturers through technical support, access to funding and procurement from our projects and other activities.

- First stud bolts and nuts were manufactured in Nigeria by Nigerian Machine Tools (NMT) following technical support from Shell.
- Shell awarded the biggest aviation contract to Caverton, a Nigerian company to support asset acquisition.
- SCC produced the first set of carbon steel pipes manufactured in Nigeria for Shell in 2012
- Shell has provided access to nearly \$1.5 billion in loans to 637 Nigerian vendors under the Shell Contractor Support Fund since 2012.

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The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited

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UNLOCKING POTENTIAL ... DEVELOPING PEOPLE

Shell companies in Nigeria have made great strides in Human Capacity Development through employee development, project trainings, scholarships, internships, support of centers of excellence at Nigerian Universities and more.

- 1 st Nigerian MD of an IOC produced by Shell. Shell Nigerian employees have gone to become captains of industry within and outside Nigeria.
- 1st generation of Nigerian Deepwater Engineers were developed from Shell's Bonga project
- 96% of Shell employees in Nigeria are Nigerians.
- 14,015 persons awarded grants and scholarship since 2011.

POWERING NIGERIAN CONTENT

Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited

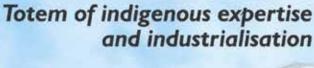






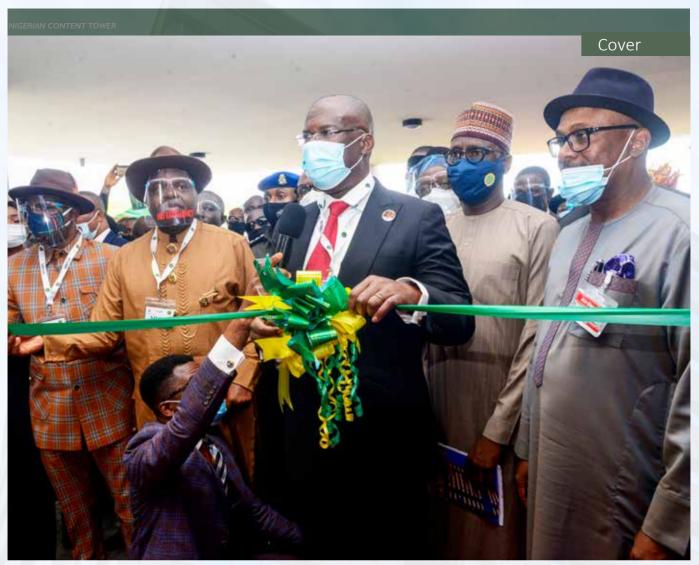
ICONIC NIGERIAN CONTENT TOWER

The recent completion and inauguration of the Nigerian Content Tower in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, signifies the firm commitment of the Government and oil industry stakeholders to pursue sustainable economic development through local content implementation.





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(R-L) Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB); Mr Mele Kolo Kyari, Group Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC); Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and Senator Douye Diri, Executive Governor of Bayelsa State, at the commissioning of the Nigerian Content Tower in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, on Thursday, August 13, 2020.

ugust 13, 2020 will remain memorable in the history of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and the wider economy. That was the day President Muhammadu Buhari inaugurated the 17-storey Nigerian Content Tower – headquarters of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), and the accompanying 1,000-seater conference centre, four-level car park and 10-megawatts gas-fired power plant, built in partnership with the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) as a capacity development initiative.

The event marked the coming of age of Local Content implementation and would serve as a plank for sustainable development of oil producing states.

The setting was perfect. Year 2020 is the 10th anniversary of the enactment of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act. Thus, the opening of the towering Local Content office, constructed by an indigenous con-

tractor, Megastar Technical Construction Company (MTCC) is the perfect symbolism of the huge capacity and growth by local service companies and their impact on the nation's economy.

An icon in the skyline

The Nigerian Content Tower is, today, the tallest structure in the South-South and South-East regions of the country. The project was started in late 2015. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said: "About half of what you see on the surface is buried below to keep the building standing and provide structural foundation support, using 207 piles, each at 800millimetre diameter, driven to 30 metres depth. The ground floor area of the main building is 30,000m², equivalent to four football fields; it is able to accommodate more than 1,000 workspaces for our own use and for the use of other occupants of the building."

Senator Douye Diri, Governor of Bayelsa

State, affirmed that the magnificent tower had changed the aesthetics of Yenagoa and the state.

Merely looking at the structure, it becomes evident that the Nigerian Content Tower is much more than a building. Wabote hinted aptly that it "represents hope that is visible from far and near to all lovers of development".

Arc. Denzil Kentebe, erstwhile chief executive of NCDMB, added: "What we are dedicating is not just bricks and blocks. It is leadership, vision, efficiency and especially continuity."

Dr. Ernest Nwapa, the pioneer helmsman of the Board, noted that the building is the perfect reflection of the successes of NCDMB. He also likens the agency's successes to a relay race. "Starting the race is key," he said, adding: "But to win, every runner must focus, perform strong and the finisher must not fail." He praised the current Executive Secretary, the Min-

ister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, and Mr President for anchoring the race superlatively, consolidating on the foundational efforts, which included the enactment of the Local Content law, setting up of the agency and the decision to site the headquarters in Bayelsa.

Jobs, new local content milestones

One of the most satisfying aspects of the Nigerian Content Tower is the thousands of jobs it created and the Nigerian Content records that were set during construction, compelling evidence that NCDMB practises what it preaches.

The design was produced by a Nigerian Architect, Popham Walter Odusote and built by Megastar, led by Architect Harcourt Adukeh, an indigene of Brass

in Bayelsa State. The main contractor and other consultants worked harmoniously to deliver a world-class project with impressive safety statistics. Said Wabote: "The construction material used is 76 percent Nigerian Content, with the tiles, electrical cables, granite and many other materials produced in Nigeria. The skills transferred to the local workforce in the construction of high-rise building has been unprecedented. We have utilised this project to create jobs, impact skills, procure local goods, build capacities and change the skyline of Bayelsa State and that of the Niger Delta."

Adukeh confirmed that the workforce was 97 percent Nigerian and three percent expatriates. He credited the Board for the Local Content attainments. "They (NCDMB) insisted that

we must use local labour, which was not readily available at that time. We had to train 250 men and women from Swali - the host community, with the assistance of the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) from where we got our main pool of workers, in addition to Nigerians from all over the country."

With this project, NCDMB has changed the narrative about timely completion of public sector projects, particularly in the Niger Delta, he said.

Beyond its aesthetics and symbolic value, the Nigerian Content Tower was conceived to serve as an enabler for job creation, investments and sustainable development in Bayelsa and adjoining states, especially in the operations and maintenance phases of the edifice. This is the overarching strategy



Inside the ultra-modern NCDMB HQ Building, with Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, in the backdrop.



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Already, two indigenous oil firms and an international oil company have expressed interest to rent space in the building. Ultimately, the new headquarters will help to meet the demand by host communities for energy companies to set up operational offices in the Niger Delta region, close to their oil fields. It is expected that some oil and gas organisations will follow NCDMB's shining example and erect offices in oil producing states, creating more job opportunities and access to development and wealth.

Symbolism for Niger Delta development

For the Minister of State for Petroleum, the inauguration ceremony was symbolic and emotional. This is understandable because he allocated the land while serv-

ing as Governor of Bayelsa State about a decade ago. He said the project lends credence to President Buhari's avowed commitment to continuity and pan-Nigerian disposition. "Mr President never plays politics with development. The foundations of the building were laid in 2015 before the advent of his presidency, but he ensured that it was continued and completed today."

Sylva averred that "the inauguration shows that President Buhari is keen to see infrastructural development in every part of the country. It shows that skyscrapers and other laudable infrastructure can be built in the Niger Delta. It also shows that indigenous contractors can perform wonders when given the right opportunities; it shows that the people of Bayelsa and indeed, the entire



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Niger Delta, are receptive to development, and it shows that Nigerian Content is here to stay."

Perfect 10th Anniversary gift

"The edifice is a befitting birthday gift as you mark your 10th-year anniversary as a regulator and developer of local content in the oil and gas industry. I am also pleased that this project has been delivered by local contractors supported by other local engineering and project consultants. We must all be proud that we finished what we started," said President Buhari, while inaugurating the project.

He noted that the project is a landmark reference in the Niger Delta and a long-lasting legacy to reminisce years of oil and gas exploitation, assuring the people that more legacies would be instituted. He expressed excitement that thousands of direct and indirect jobs were created during the execution of the project, besides the various business opportunities. "I believe strongly in local production and patronage of our goods and services as one of the surest ways to empower our citizens and give them viable opportunities to excel in their chosen professions and business endeavours."



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Mr President also commended the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, the Minister of State, members of NCDMB Governing Council, as well as management and staff, for the achievement. He pledged more spending on infrastructure across the country and focus on finishing projects delivered by local contractors and technology that create jobs for thousands of Nigerians.

The inauguration provided an opportunity for NCDMB to show-case its technical and infrastructural nous when it blazed the trail in hosting virtual cum physical dedication of a project by Mr President. There were speeches, documentaries and more, originating from the venue in Yenagoa, the State House in Abuja and even far away Milan, Italy. But, like a well-cooked stew, all the ingredients gelled and were served to the audience seated in the hall, as well as those connected via zoom or through five national broadcast stations and the world wide web!

The occasion drew an impressive number of dignitaries, physically and virtually. Among the virtual guests were former President Goodluck Jonathan – credited for signing the NOGICD Act in April 2010; Dr. Ahmed Lawan, Senate President; Mr. Ovie Omo-Agege, Deputy Senate President; Mr. Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation; ministers, federal legislators, managing directors of international and local oil and

gas companies and heads of government agencies.

Guests onsite included Mr. Mele Kolo Kyari, Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC); Mr. Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State; senior military officers, captains of industry and traditional rulers, among others.

NCDMB has continued to receive acclamations and enquiries ever since. From the presidency, oil and gas stakeholders and members of the public – all are enthralled by how the project was completed within five years and opened in an outstanding ceremony.

Mr Lorenzo Fiorillo, Chairman of NAOC described the event as a giant leap in the development of Nigerian Content in the oil and gas industry. He said the company was grateful to be given the opportunity to provide reliable power to the building.

Kyari acknowledged that "since the inception of NCDMB, there has been significant progress in the development of capacities. Many of our fabrication yards, construction facilities are now operated by Nigerians. With the completion of this building, it is an indication that skills and capacities can be exported".



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With the commissioning of this project, I want to highlight that we have put in place a landmark of reference in the Niger Delta to reflect long-lasting legacies that signpost the years of oil and gas exploitation and I assure you that there is more to come.

I believe strongly in local production and patronage of our goods and services as one of the surest ways to empower our citizens and give them viable opportunities to excel in their chosen profession and business endeavours. That is why two of the Executive Orders issued under our government are related to enforcing local content in public procurement and contracts, to further replicate the successes being realised in the oil and gas industry.

Local Content and self-reliance is one of the key principles of the recently approved \$\frac{1}{2}\$.3 trillion National Economic Sustainability Plan. The plan is aimed at promoting local production, local services, local innovation and the use of local materials. The impact of the pandemic has further shown that it is imperative that we must produce what we eat and produce enough of our requirements for export.

All these policy directives and programmes are also meant to address some of the causative factors of in-

security. We believe that the provision of employment opportunities and available infrastructure that support businesses to compete and grow is essential to addressing some of the causes of insecurity.

With the commissioning of this project, I want to highlight that we have put in place a landmark of reference in the Niger Delta to reflect long-lasting legacies that signpost the years of oil and gas exploitation and I assure you that there is more to come.

I must commend the Nigerian Content Board for the successes recorded in the last 10 years since its formation. The edifice we are commissioning today is a befitting birthday gift as you mark your 10th year anniversary as a regulator and developer of local content in the oil and gas industry. I am also pleased that this project has been delivered by local contractors supported by other local engineering and project consultants. We must all be proud that we finished what we started.

Key success factors

Several factors contributed to the speedy completion of the headquarters. Chief among them is the availability of funding. The NOGICD Act provides that one percent of the value of all contracts awarded in the upstream sector be paid into the Nigerian Content Development Fund. The NCDMB Executive Secretary affirmed that "this project represents an evidence of the prudent management of the Fund. We are also deploying the Fund to execute other projects and income yielding ventures".

Equally important was the unflinching support of President Buhari and members of the Federal Executive Council. As Sylva put it, the Cabinet granted gracious and timely approvals of funding requests when it mattered most. This explains how a project that was awarded during the administration of former President Jonathan continued seamlessly to completion under Buhari's administration.

Adukeh identified a few other success factors. He enthused that "from the invitation to tender, the client had a clear picture of what it wanted to achieve through a transparent process and bespoke conditions of service tailored to this project" He stressed that "the excellent technical background and experience of the current Executive Secretary helped ease the project".

Continuity was also key. Successive CEOs of the Board bought into the project and pursued it vigorously.

For Nwapa, the seed for success was sown in the smart decisions taken in the formative years of NCDMB. "We insisted that this headquarters had to be big, had to magnificent and had to make a statement. It had to be built by Nigerians. The thinking was done by Nigerians, the design and construction by Nigerians and Nigerians will operate it," he said.

The hope of Nigeria's sustainable economic development lies in infrastructural development, catalysing manufacturing and implementing local content practices across key sectors of the economy, including ICT, power, transport and construction. The Federal Government put a stake in the ground through the Presidential Executive Orders on Local Content 003 and 005, even though implementation is still in its early stage. The National Assembly has also begun to debate the Nigerian Local Content Development and Enforcement Bill, which seeks to institutionalise local content across all sectors of the economy.

Such efforts and more are urgently needed to diversify the economy, increase job opportunities and help to solve current security challenges. That is the sure route to sustainable development of the economy, an excellent model to replicate the Nigerian Content Tower in other sectors.



Obinna Ezeobi is with Corporate Communication and Zonal Cordination, NCDMB.













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Workplace efficiency vs presenteeism

ong before the coronavirus pandemic struck early this year, the workplace, vis-à-vis increasing adoption of technology, had been under intense scrutiny. Many had wondered if, perhaps, the traditional workplace, with its all-too familiar 9-5 emblem, had passed its use-by date, considering the fact that technology seems to have blurred where and when one can get a job done. Time and place matter little today in delivering on a task. People can work remotely, from their vehicles, homes, the park; just about anywhere.

Remote working, work from home or telework was promoted as being more efficient than the traditional workplace for its flexibility, better family time, less commuting, leading to less stress and higher productivity.

A survey by Buffer, a research firm, in 2019, found that 99 percent of workers would love to work remotely. A year before that, in 2018, 78 percent of respondents worked primarily from home, the Buffer survey showed. "Of our respondents, 99 percent said they would like to work remotely at least some of the time for the rest of their careers," the survey revealed.

Thus, the argument for or against remote work versus traditional workplace was finely balanced when the deadly coronavirus struck and forced economies to shut down, disrupting businesses across the world. The pandemic, therefore, accelerated the argument for offsite working as health concerns forced businesses to adopt the remote work model. Companies, such as Chevron, Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Amazon and many others, immediately adopted the remote work model. In Nigeria, Carbon, Andela, British American Tobacco Nigeria, BuyCoins, NCDMB and the banks are some of the businesses and organisations that implemented a telework policy for employees. Banks adopted a lean operation approach, streamlining both their workforce and their physical touchpoints.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to ravage, many talk about the "new normal". The new normal for businesses is that now employees' health is a key consideration. Workplaces must be rearranged to ensure physical distancing, among other measures, to tackle the pandemic. To ensure there is adequate space for social distancing, companies have had to move some tasks offsite. Many bank executives have continued to work from home since March while others requiring onsite presence now work in rotations: a day on, a day off.

The 2019 Buffer survey concluded that "while remote work is sometimes portrayed as a trend, these results seem to infer that this way of working is here to stay". Indeed, the coronavirus pandemic has helped to validate that conclusion. There is a growing list of companies across the world adopting remote working on a permanent basis. Twitter, Microsoft, Facebook, Shopify, Otis, and Lambda School have all announced the adoption of remote working in perpetuity. "Office centricity is over," CEO of Shopify, Tobi Lutke, said. Remote work is definitely no longer "on trial" as the Financial Times put it.

Having tested remote working, it is conceivable that the post-COVID-19 workplace will favour increasing adoption of remote work in the country, though slowly. The reasons for this are numerous.

Bar employee compensations, real estate cost - office building, leasing and maintenance - is the second highest cost incurred by businesses. Going remote means critical savings on real estate. It also means less man-hour loss to traffic and other commuting related problems that are a drag on productivity.

Productivity for remote work, studies have shown, is higher than that of onsite workers. A two-year study of remote work in a Chinese company by Stanford professor Nicholas Bloom, in 2012, showed "massive, massive improvement performances; 13 percent

COVID 19 came with lots of challenges for the workplace. While the world has moved on to a new-normal, Nigeria may likely struggle adopting the remote working culture.

improvement in performance from people working at home". Surveys by businesses like Best Buy, British Telecom and Dow Chemical showed that "teleworkers are 35-40 percent more productive". American Express employees working remotely were found to be "43 percent more productive than their office colleagues". Some key drivers of the higher productivity include flexibility of schedule and location, less commuting and more family time.

Productivity data for remote work in Nigeria is, unfortunately, sketchy. However, some of the key concerns for full adoption of telework by Nigerian businesses include poor infrastructure: epileptic electricity supply and regular IT network downtime. Others are trust and cultural issues. Nigerian employers are more predisposed to exercise total control and would prefer a workplace where they can display their fiefdom power. This, coupled with largely unenforceable labour laws, has seen a rise in presenteeism as a mechanism for job protection.

Employees may also resist remote working because of how society views people who work from home as jobless, pretenders or fraudsters. Nigerian employees also like to convey a sense of being a "big man" and love to leave home dressed up for work. An HR practitioner, Funke Onafunye believes "remote work presents some complexities for companies in Africa", which is why adoption will be slow. The post-COVID-19 workplace will certainly grow lean and exciting, with increasing investments in information and communications technology infrastructure and systems: artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing, teleconferencing, digital collaboration, digital tools and robotics to create exciting user experience.

Adoption of remote work will no doubt be slow in Nigeria, in the short to medium terms. As technology evolves, post-COV-ID-19, with more efficient ways to work, adoption of remote work to boost productivity and earnings will become quite attractive.



Gas hub, cylinder plant unveiled in Bayelsa

hief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, recently unveiled a Gas Hub initiated by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) at Polaku community in Bayelsa State. He also performed the ground-breaking of Rungas LPG Composite Cylinder Manufacturing plant located inside the Gas Hub.

The Hub is being developed on the 10.6 hectares of land purchased by NCDMB at Polaku in 2013 for the establishment of an oil and gas pipe mill. The targeted investors withdrew, compelling the Board to conceive strategies on how to use the land for productive uses.

The Minister described the Gas Hub as a practical step to give effect to the Federal Government's declaration of 2020 as year of gas. "This land is close to the Shell Gbarain Gas Plant that produces more than one billion standard cubic feet of gas per day. That provides opportunities to leverage on the proximity to activate value-adding initiatives and lead to industrialisation and multiple economic activities," said the Minister.

On Rungas Cylinder plant, Sylva said achieving the Federal Government's agenda of LPG penetration across Nigeria and making LPG the preferred choice for cooking fuel will require targeted interventions at the demand and supply end of the value-chain.

The manufacturing plant will produce between 400,000 to one million LPG composite cylinders annually, thereby making composite LPG cylinders accessible and affordable to Nigerians. It will also create jobs during its construction and operations phases.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said the Board decided to use the Polaku land for gas related activities. It had partnered Rungas Limited for LPG Cylinder plant; Shell Nigeria Gas to set up Pressure Reduction and Metering Station and Total Support Energy Limited for the provision of CNG and LNG mother-stations.

255 youths undergo vocational skills training

wo hundred and twenty five youths have begun their training in nine vocational skills under the sponsorship of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB).

The six months programme is being conducted by the Industrial Training Fund (ITF). It covers classroom and intensive practical exercises in hospitality and tourism, mobile phone repairs and troubleshooting,

information and communication technology, electrical/electronic technology and industrial automation and mechatronics.

Other areas include instrumentation and process control, mechanical services and maintenance, residential air-conditioning and refrigeration maintenance and building technology.

The beneficiaries are drawn from the six geo-political zones of the country. They were selected from NCDMB's NOGIC-JQS platform and underwent further selection exercises.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB said the initiative was in furtherance of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act and 10-Year Strategic Roadmap, targeted at growing Nigerian Content from 27 percent in 2017 to 70 percent by 2027, retaining over US\$14 billion out of \$20 billion estimated annual industry spend and creating over 300,000 direct and indirect jobs. The training will help close gaps in vocational and entrepreneurship skills among Nigerian youths, drive self-employment and value creation in the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors.

The Board had, since its inception in 2010, trained over 9,000 Nigerians in various skill areas for graduates and artisans, resulting in over 10 million training manhours.



Chief Timipre Sylva, Honourable Minister of State, Petroleum Resources (HMSPR), unveiling the NCDMB Gas Hub in Polaku, Bayelsa State in August.

For the Record



GUIDELINES ON APPLICATION FOR EXPATRIATE QUOTA, SUCCESSION PLAN & DEPLOYMENT OF **EXPATRIATES IN THE NIGERIAN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Act ("The Act") was signed into law on 22nd April, 2010. The Act provides steps for development and monitoring of Nigerian Content in the Oil and Gas Industry ("the Industry"). The Act established a Nigerian Content Development & Monitoring Board ("NCDMB") which is charged interalia with the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the provisions of the Act, with a view to ensuring compliance by all operators, contractors, alliance partners and relevant stakeholders. Pursuant to Sections 31, 32, and 33 of the Act, NCDMB is vested with the powers relating to the administration and management of applications for Expatriate Quota, Succession Plan and deployment of Expatriates in the Industry. Section 33 in particular makes it mandatory for all applications for expatriate quota approvals to be submitted to and be approved by NCDMB before any application is submitted for expatriate quota to the Ministry of Interior or any other agency or Ministry of the Federal Government

2. APPLICATION

This Guideline is intended to facilitate compliance with the relevant Sections of the Act dealing with and/or connected to issues of Expatriate Quota, Temporary, deployment of expatriates and Succession Planning. It shall be applicable to all operators (NNPC, International Oil Companies and indigenous operators), Service Companies, Project promoters and all companies providing services and carrying on business in the Industry

2.1 DEFINITIONS

• Act	- Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Con
	tent Development Act

 NCDMB - Nigerian Content Development & Monitoring Board (The Board)

 ES - Executive Secretary

FMI - Federal Ministry of Interior

- Director of Planning, Research DPRS

and Statistics

 NNPC - Nigerian National Petroleum Corpora

FMI - Federal Ministry of Interior

- Department of Petroleum Resources DPR

 NIS - Nigerian Immigration Services

• NC - Nigerian Content

 Industry - Oil and Gas Industry

• EQ - Expatriate Quota

- Succession Plan SP

 CBP - Capacity Building Plan

• EC - Employment Commitment

JEM - Joint Evaluation Meeting

 Applicant Company -Company applying for EQ

 Nigerian Position -Position in Professional or

Technical cadre occupied by

a Nigerian Indigene

 Expatriate Positions -Expatriate Quota or a posi

tion ccupied by a Non-Nigeri

an Indigene

 Understudy -A Nigerian Indigene

> deployed by an employer to work under an Expatriate with the aim of eventu

ally succeeding the expatriate

 Management -A level within an organi

> zation which membership is individually in charge of a group of tasks or a subset of the company and who can not belong to any Labour Union or Association by virtue of their being in such

cadres.

-Nigerian Content Compli NCCC

ance Certificate

-Nigerian Content NC

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3 OBJECTIVES

This Guideline is issued pursuant to the provisions of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 ("the Act") and for the purpose of establishing a procedure for the administration and management of applications for Expatriate Quota (EQ), Succession Plan ("Plan") and deployment of same in the Industry. Section 31 (1) of the Act requires operators to submit Succession Plan to the NCDMB of ALL positions not held by Nigerians and are not currently on the list of approved 5% management positions for investors interests as provided by Section 33 of the Act. The Plan shall provide for Nigerians to understudy each incumbent expatriate for a maximum period of four (4) years and at the end of the four (4) year period, the position shall become Nigerianised except on projects with shorter life span for which special consideration would be made by the NCDMB for a certificate of no objection based on the Human Capacity Development Plan (HCDP) submitted by applicants for the affected position; In line with Section 33 (1) of the Act, operators would be required to make application to, and receive approval of the NCDMB before making any application for Expatriate Quota to the Federal Ministry of Interior (FMI) or any other agency or Ministry of the Federal Government. Section 32 of the Act allows the operator or project promoter for each of its operations, a maximum of 5% of Management positions as may be approved by the NCDMB as Expatriate Quota for its investor interests

4. 5% INVESTORS MANAGEMENT POSITIONS

In line with Section 32 of the Act, any application for retaining 5% Management expatriate positions shall be submitted for approval by the NCDMB. The approved number shall be a maximum of positions at the discretion of the NCDMB; it could be less, but not more than a maximum of 5% of the overall staff on the Management cadre of the applicant company, subject to annual review where necessary

5. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION FOR EXPATRIATE QUOTA

Any operator, Service Company, project promoter, stakeholder applying for EQs in the Industry, including companies providing service(s) or intending to provide service(s) in the Industry shall seek and receive the approval of the Board before making any application for EQ to FMI, except where such expatriate position(s) fall under the 5% Management positions for investor interests as prescribed in Section 32 of the Act, that have been previously approved by the NCDMB

5.1 NEW EXPATRIATE QUOTA

The Applicant Company shall provide documentary evidence to show that the position(s) applied for have been advertised in at least Two major Nigerian newspapers, the NOGIC JQS, the internet and social media sites and that the post(s) had been advertised internally in the company and that no qualified Nigerian indigene had been found within Nigeria including the company and outside Nigeria for the position(s)

All draft external advertisements for such positions under application shall be submitted to NCDMB for review and certification prior to publication. The Applicant Company shall notify NCDMB of receipt of applications, planned interview dates and results of interview for each vacancy advertised Operators and Service Companies with international affilia-

tions wishing to establish new quota positions by using staff from their international operations will have to submit the staff credentials to the NCDMB along with a Capacity Building Plan in one of the following areas:

- Employment of Nigerians in areas identified by the NCD-MB
- II. Training of Nigerians in areas identified by the NCDMB
- III. Facility upgrade or revamp as identified by the NCDMB
- IV. Sponsorship of a Research and Development initiative as identified by the NCDMB

The Applicant Company shall provide:

- The information specified in Form NCDMB EQ/A, on paper and electronic (Excel) formats in its application to the NCDMB
- ii. Proof that no Nigerian indigene is qualified to occupy the position(s) advertised
- The information as specified in Form NCDMB EQ/C on ALL existing expatriates in the company on paper and electronic (Excel) formats
- iv. The information as specified in Form NCDMB EQ/D on ALL Nigerian indigenous employees in the company on paper and electronic (Excel) formats
- v. The electronic copies of required Forms in (i), (iii) & (iv) shall be uploaded through the Portal Account Profile of the Applicant Company at *portal.nogicjqs.gov.ng* and electronic copies forwarded to the Board appropriately

5.2 RENEWAL / EXTENSION OF EXISTING EXPATRIATE QUOTA

Applicant Company seeking extension or renewal of existing Expatriate Quotas shall provide:

- The information specified in Form NCDMB EQ/B, on paper and electronic (Excel) formats in its application to the NCDMB
- The information as specified in Form NCDMB EQ/C on ALL existing expatriates in the company on paper and electronic (Excel) formats
- iii. The information as specified in Form NCDMB EQ/D on ALL Nigerian indigenous employees in the company on paper and electronic (Excel) formats
- iv. Documentary proof of Succession Plans and understudy of relevant expatriate(s) by Nigerian indigenes in progress since last application and that competent Nigerian indigenes are not available either internally within the company or externally (within or outside Nigeria) to occupy the required position(s) or state any other applicable reasons
- v. The electronic copies of required Forms in (i), (ii) & (iii) shall be uploaded through the Portal Account Profile of the Applicant Company at *portal.nogicjqs.gov.ng* and paper copies forwarded to the Board appropriately

5.3 INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN APPLICATION WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

All applications for EQs shall be accompanied with the following:

- Succession Plan: Program/strategy for the reduction of expatriates and specific target dates to convert the expatriate positions to Nigerian positions within four years
- ii. Organizational Chart of the Applicant Company

For the Record NIGERIAN CONTENT TOWER

- iii. Advert Report (for new applications)
- iv. Job Descriptions/Qualifications/Persons Specification for each Job role
- v. Training schedule for understudies and other Nigerian staff
- vi. Employment Commitment for Nigerians within the Two Years quota grant period
- vii. Past FMI approval letters for the required positions
- viii. Current DPR permits
- ix. Proof of expatriate registration with professional bodies in Nigeria
- x. Cross Posting/Exchange Program: This should include the positions, names and contact details of the Nigerian and Expatriate staff involved. Experiences gained by both the Nigerian and expatriate staff should be supplied

5.4 EXCHANGE PROGRAM

An exchange program involves a Nigerian going out of the Country to either mentor or gain experience to handle higher responsibilities on his/her return to the Country. In exchange, an expatriate is brought into the Country in the same or similar designation to mentor or understudy the operations in-country. The objective of the program should be clearly stated and should be for capacity building of the Nigerian. An exchange program is for a two years period and may be extended by another two years at the discretion of the NCDMB

5.5 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS BY NCDMB

- i. Upon receipt of the application and the submissions, the NCDMB may hold a joint evaluation of the application with the Applicant Company on the application, in order to ascertain that the application is in line with the provisions of the Act and the Schedule to the Act. For service companies, the NCDMB may also request a tripartite meeting with the service company and the project promoter of project for which the expatriate application is/are being made. Thereafter, the NCDMB shall make a determination on the application prior to the Applicant Company submitting its application to the FMI or any other agency or Ministry of the Federal Government
- ii. The NCDMB shall make a determination on expatriate quota applications submitted to it within 30 working days of the receipt of the application provided that all information and documents as required by the NCDMB are duly submitted by the Applicant Company. However, if the NCDMB is unable to determine on an application within the time stipulated, it shall inform the applicant, communicate the reasons for the delay and give a definite time within which a determination shall be made. The extended period shall not be more than fifteen (15) working days after the expiration of the initial 30 working days period
- iii. Unutilized expatriate quota positions will not be renewed. If such positions are required by the Applicant Company, they will have to go through the process for establishing a new quota position
- iv. Expatriate staff over the age of 60 will not be renewed as the Nigerian Labor Law pegs retirement age at 60
- Expatriate Quota approvals will not be issued to Applicant Companies that are into Manpower Supply Services, as approvals are only granted to companies directly handling projects

vi. Once a quota position(s) has tagged as non-renewable by the FMI, an Operator or a Service Company can not renew the said quota position(s). The position(s) must be relinquished. If such positions are required by the Applicant Company, they will have to go through the process for establishing a new quota position

5.6 COMMUNICATION WITH APPLICANT COMPANY

Upon issuance of the Expatriate Quota by FMI, the Applicant Company shall communicate to the NCDMB the list of the approved positions within one month of receipt on paper and electronic (Excel Worksheet), by updating the "Effective Date of current Quota" and "Expiry Date of current Quota" fields in Form NCDMB EQ/C for the approved positions, as well as update their expatriate quota status on the NOGIC JQS. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the NCDMB, expatriate staff, job-titles or designations on the Expatriate Quota approval and Nigerian understudies shall remain unchanged for the duration specified in the FMI letter(s) of grant Expatriate Quota. The list of Nigerians to fill the rejected positions shall be forwarded to the NCDMB for approval before final approval of the expatriate quota positions is made

5.7 RE-EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS AFTER APPROVAL

Should the need arise for a rejected quota position to be reevaluated, the Applicant Company will be requested to submit a Capacity Building Plan (CBP) stating the capacity building initiatives that will be undertaken by it (as agreed with the NCDMB)

The Capacity Building Plan could/would include one or more of the following area

- i. Employment of Nigerians in areas identified by the NCDMB
- ii. Training of Nigerians in areas identified by the NCDMB
- iii. Facility upgrade or revamp as identified by the NCDMB
- iv. Sponsorship of a Research and Development initiative as identified by the NCDMB

5.8 RE-DESIGNATION OF EXPATRIATE QUOTA POSITIONS

Whenever the need arises for an already approved quota title to be re-titled, the Applicant Company shall make a request to the NCDMB, stating the old quota title, the new quota title and the expatriate staff occupying the position. Approvals is at the discretion of the Board.

5.9 BIOMETRIC DATA CAPTURE OF EXPATRIATE STAFF

Biometric data of all expatriate staff is to be captured by the NCDMB within a month of their entry into the country for new quota positions. For renewals and re-designations, biometric data of expatriate staff must have been captured prior to the applications being made by the Applicant Company

Operators in the Oil and Gas Industry engaging services of contractors with expatriate staff should ensure that such expatriates have valid NOGIC EBS Identification Cards issued by the

Board. Registration with NOGIC JQS should be included as a condition for all contractors' expatriate staff working for operators

5.10 EMPLOYMENT COMMITMENT

In line with Section 29 of the Act, any operator, project promoter, contractor, stakeholder including Service Companies

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shall upon application for Expatriate Quota, submit a detailed Employment Commitment plan stating employment positions for Nigerian indigenes with timelines for the employment (as agreed with the NCDMB). Renewal of quota positions will be dependent on the compliance level with the previously submitted employment commitment

6. SUCCESSION PLAN (SP)

In line with Section 31 of the Act, any operator, project promoter, contractor, stakeholder including Service Companies shall upon application for Expatriate Quota, submit a Succession Plan. The SP shall consist of a minimum of two Nigerian Indigenes understudying each incumbent expatriate position and such SP shall include a detailed work program on how the position will become Nigerianized at the end of a four (4) year period from the date of establishment of the position. If the need arises for the relocation of an understudy, the NCDMB must be notified with sufficient reasons regarding the relocation and confirmation of an immediate replacement as an appropriate alternative ensuring that the understudy program is not disrupted or extended in any way

6.1 INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED IN SP APPLICATION WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

All submissions for the SP shall be accompanied with the following:

- Program/strategy for the reduction of expatriates, specific target dates to convert the expatriate positions to Nigerian indigenous positions within four (4) years. This will include all trainings (on and off the job)
- II. Salaries, wages, and benefits as provided in the company's conditions of service for Nigerian indigenous employees
- III. Conditions of service and staff demography on cadres
- IV. A career development path must be defined for each understudy

7. ANNUAL MANDATORY SUBMISSIONS TO NOGIC JQS ON HUMAN CAPACITY PROFILE

All Operators, Alliance Partners and Service Companies are required to submit the under-

listed documents to the NCDMB by March 31 of the current year, notwithstanding whether or not an EQ application had been submitted or would be submitted during the year:

- List of all expatriate workers on temporary or permanent employment in the company as listed in Form NCDMB EQ/C, on paper and electronic (Excel) format;
- Total list of Nigerian indigenous Staff as provided in Form NCDMB EQ/D, made on paper and electronic (Excel) format;
- iii. Form NCDMB SP/A and SP/B, made on paper and electronic (Excel) format
- iv. The electronic copies of required Forms in (i), (ii) & (iii) shall be uploaded through the Portal Account Profile of the Applicant Company at *portal.nogicjqs.gov.ng* and paper copies forwarded to the Board appropriately

8. INTERFACES WITH FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION SERVICES AND DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES

NCDMB shall periodically meet with FMI and DPR and any other government agency deemed relevant to assess progress on industry compliance with the Expatriate Quot provisions in the NOGICD Act, 2010

8.1 COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS & MONITORING

- i. Compliance with this Guidelines shall be a major criteria for any award of NCCC and NC requirements for ITTs: and every operator, alliance partner, project promoter, contractor, service companies and stakeholders in the Industry shall each be responsible for ensuring the strict adherence of this Guidelines by its corporate entity. In furtherance to this, all Expatriate(s) shall be duly designated and deployed strictly in line with the approved designations or shall not be deployed, engaged or permitted to undertake any other role, service or responsibility contrary to the approval granted pursuant to the Expatriate Quota application made Expatriate(s) shall depart from Nigeria promptly upon the completion of the project or work for which the Expatriate Quota approval was granted by the FMI and in no event shall any Expatriate(s) be permitted or authorized to remain in the employment or stakeholder following the completion of the relevant project unless with the written approval of the NCDMB and the FMI and in line with the provisions set out in the EQ Guideline
- ii. NCDMB, in accordance with the provisions of Section 59 and 62 of the Act shall establish a mechanism for monitoring compliance with these Guidelines, which may include but not limited to unscheduled visits to offices or job sites of the companies, as it deems necessary

9. CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE

- i. Non-compliance with this Guideline by any operator, project promoter, contractor stakeholder in the Industry; including companies providing service(s) or intending to provide service(s) shall be considered to have violated provisions of the Act if it employs or permits or procures the employment of any expatriate staff either on permanent or temporary position(s) in the oil and gas industry outside of the procedures specified in this Guideline
- ii. The NCDMB would require immediate removal of such expatriate(s) and penalize the company in line with the provisions of the Act

10. FORMS AND CHARTS

EQ/A -	-	New EQ Application	s Form
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EQ/B – EQ Renewals Form

EQ/C - All Expatriate Staff Details

EQ/D - Nigerian Staff Details

EQ/R - Re-designation Form

SPC - Succession Plan Chart

ECC - Employment Commitment Chart



Nigerian content development achievement of Eni.

Eni, through the three companies - NAOC, AENR and NAE, has continuously demonstrated her commitment to local content development long before the enactment of the Nigerian Oil & Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act of 2010 which is aimed at deepening indigenous participation in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

With sustainability and development of local economy as the core drivers of her business value, Eni continues to identify and support Government's pursuit of the national objective of local content development.

The Company, pioneered the participation of Nigeria in the industry with an offer in 1962 to the Federal Government to acquire interests in her operations upon commercial discovery of hydrocarbons.

This option was exercised by the Federal Government in 1973 setting the stage for a JV arrangement which was subsequently adopted with other international companies.

The Companies have continued to build on this pioneering role through a multi-pronged approach which includes:

- Being the only international company with a Nigerian company as its partner and with highest Nigerian participation – 80%, in its Joint venture operations. The current NAOC JV arrangement (60% NNPC, 20% OANDO and 20% NAOC).
- Deliberate utilization of Nigerian contractors in her operations.
- Implementing Access to Energy initiatives.
- Implementing programmes that enhances the capacities and capabilities of the indigenous companies for sustainable participation in the industry.
- Development of local manpower and human resources to achieve the desired domestication as envisaged in the NOGICD Act.
- Collaboration with Nigerian Universities/Research Centres for the development of innovative research leading to technology/design improvement, human capacity building and encourage indigenous technology in Nigerian content development.

TOGETHER WE HAVE GREATER ENERGY

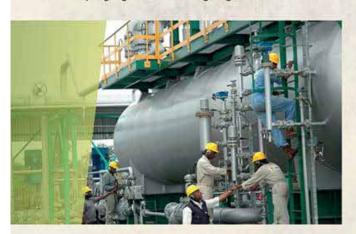


Use of Nigerian Contractors

The deliberate use of local contractors by Eni started even before the promulgation of the Act in 2010 with significant achievements made in local fabrication and construction, technology transfer and other operational activities.

In-country milestones achieved through this include, amongst others, local fabrication of:

- Platform jackets for Agbara (1987-1989) and Okpoho offshore oilfields (2002-2004) assembled in Nigeria at Wilbross Yard, Port Harcourt - Rivers State.
- Pressure Vessels for Ogbainbiri Flow station Upgrade (2001-2003) by Dorman Long Nigeria.
- Separators (2001-2003) for Idu Flow station Revamping by Dorman Long Nigeria Ltd.



- Single Phase Skid Mounted Modularized Separator 50,000 BPD (2003) by Dorman Long Nigeria Ltd.
- Low Pressure Production Separator for Oshie Field Development Project (Diameter of Vessel: 2150mm, length of vessel: 9280mm; (2009) by Dorman Long Nigeria Ltd.
- Flare Knock-Out Drums for OB/OB Trains 4 & 5 (Diameter: 4,000mm, Length 24,475mm, length (2009) by Dorman Long Nigeria Ltd.
- Line pipes in Abuja by SCC for Ogbainbiri Kolo Creek Pipeline (March 2012).
- Subsea Pipeline End Manifold (2015) for Abo Phase
 Project.

In addition, the Single Point Mooring (SPM) Bouy for Crude Oil On/Off Loading at Brass oil Terminal

was fabricated in Nigeria by Nigerdock in April 2012 while Eni entrusted another Nigerian company with the continuous horizontal directional drilling (CHDD) on River Niger.

Eni commitment and achievements in Nigerian Content development has grown beyond successes in in-country fabrication and construction, technology transfer and other operational activities with more significant achievements recorded in the following areas.

Energy for Nigerian Content Development

Access to energy to support the growth of Nigeria's industrial capacity remains the flagship of our commitment to Nigerian content development. Free supply of about 50MW of electricity through off-grid and direct connections to 91 communities has been a critical enabler in the growth of economic activities, improved quality of life and generation of employment in our operating areas.

Eni has just completed a 10MW gas-fired power project in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State for reliable power supply to the new NCDMB Headquarters and for the take-off of Nigeria Oil and Gas Parks where Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) are expected to establish factories to enhance local capacities and capabilities in the Nigerian petroleum industry.

The first upstream IPP constructed by Eni is currently contributing 450MW of electricity or 15% of total supply to the national grid to stimulate sustainable industrialization of the country. The capacity of the plant is being increased to 1000MW with the completion of Phase II to boost the supply of energy required for the country's economic development.

Human Capacity Development Programmes

Industry-Focused Training are being executed by the company as highlighted by:

- Sub-sea Engineering training of 10 graduate engineers to close identified technology/knowledge gaps of Nigeria in deep offshore operations.
- Intensive training of 15 Nigerian University Lecturers on advanced technology in geosciences to build their capacity and to pass on the knowledge to their

TOGETHER WE HAVE GREATER ENERGY



students, improve the quality of young geosciences graduates in Nigeria and close the gaps between the teaching of Geosciences in the Universities and the needs of the Nigerian oil and gas industry in those specific areas.

 Provision of requisite onboard Practical Sea Time Cadet experience/training for 20 Nigerians to address the acute shortage of local manpower in the sector.

Project based trainings of 537 Nigerians in various disciplines including Geology, Electrical Engineering, Welding/Construction, Rigging/Lifting/Scaffolding, Instrumentation Fitting, Piping Design and Fabrication, Seismic Data Processing, Civil Works, Waste Management, Project Management, HSE, Engineering Exploration/Petroleum/Production and Corrosion and Materials Engineering.

Research and Development Initiatives

Eni is the leader in the promotion of research and development in the Nigerian Oil & Gas Industry with various initiatives aimed at domesticating the available technology and developing sustainable solution to issues peculiar to Nigeria geology and her people.

- Four Nigerian universities are being supported in the area of Research and Development to develop new technologies/design improvement in soil remediation, biofuels, thermo-electric generation and maintenance engineering under the Eni-Universities collaboration arrangement. These are Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State; University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State; Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State and Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Imo State.
- Nine Geoscience workstations equipped with 9
 OpendTect software licenses were recently presented
 to three Nigerian Universities namely: University
 of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt; Modibbo Adama
 University of Technology, Yola; and University
 of Ibadan, Ibadan, to close the gaps between the
 teaching of Geosciences in the Universities and the
 needs of the Nigerian Oil & Gas Industry in those
 specific areas.

Institutional Capacity Development - Centers of Excellence

Eni is establishing a Centre of excellence for Maritime Research and Development in Rivers State University, Port Harcourt with the construction of a state-of-the-art Maritime Laboratory and facilities. Similar Centre of Excellence in Maintenance Engineering is being established by Eni at Federal University of Technology, Akure.



Awards

Eni is widely recognized for her leading roles in Nigerian Content Development and outstanding commitment to the development of local content initiatives in the Oil & Gas Industry and this has fetched the Company series of awards from various categories of stakeholders in the industry. The awards include:

- 2014 Local Content Operator Award of the Year
 the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN).
- 2016 Local Content Operator Award of the Year
 the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN).
- 2019 Most supportive international oil company in Nigeria - Oil and Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria (OGTAN).
- 2019 Company with Most Impactful Gas Development Activities - Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB).
- · 2020 Local Content Operator of the year.













- 1. Sen. Douye Diri, Governor, Bayelsa State giving a plaque to Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB during a courtesy visit to the Governor in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State..
- Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Hon. Godwin Udom, Chairman, Akwa Ibom State Government Technical Schools Board and other stakeholders after the inspection of the renovated carpentry workshop sponsored by the Board in Government Technical College (GTC), Abak, Akwa Ibom State.
- 3 Management of NCDMB, Charkins Maritime and Offshore Services Limited with the 40 cadets selected for phase 2 Sea-Time Cadet Training programme sponsored by the NCDMB in September.

- Cross-section of 255 Youths participating in the NCDMB/ITFsponsored Vocational/Skill acquisition training in Abuja, in August
- 5. (R-L): Ms Oluwadamilola Elizabeth Oluwafela, a 200-level Medical student, Obafemi Awolowo University, Osun state (1st runner-up); Mr Abasiekeme Edet, a 200-level Pharmaceutical Sciences student of University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State (winner) and Mr Somtochukwu Samson Eze, a 100-level Medicine and Surgery student of University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Enugu State (2nd runner-up) at the Award and prize giving ceremony of the Fourth Edition of the NCDMB Annual Undergraduate Essay competition in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

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- 6. (R-L): Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; His Excellency, Chief Timipre Sylva, Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and Dr. Eruani Azibapu, Chairman, Azikel Group of Companies during a facility visit to Azikel Refinery in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in August.
- 7. (R-L): Mr. Olabisi Okunola, Supervisor, Strategy and Transformational Division, NCDMB; Mr. Chido Nwakanma, Adjunct Faculty, Pan-African University, Lagos; Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manger, Corporate Communications and Zonal Coordination Division, NCDMB; Barr. Naboth Onyesoh, Manager, Corporate Communications, NCDMB and Prof Teilanyo Diri, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Federal University, Otuoke, Bayelsa State at the Nigerian Content Capacity Building Workshop organised by the NCDMB for Media Stakeholders in the South south region, in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.
- 8. L-R: Mr Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development; Mr Obinna Ofili, General Manager, Nigerian Content Development Fund and Treasury Management; Mr Patrick Obah, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics; Mrs

- Maureen Ohaeri, General Manager, Human Resources; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary; Mr Akintunde Adelana, Director, Monitoring & Evaluation and Barr. Umar Mohammed Babangida, Director Legal Services at the Nigerian Content Workshop on the Role of Enforcement Agencies organised by the Board in Abuja in November.
- g. Mr Tobin Spiff, Senior Officer, Capacity Building Division, NCDMB giving his remarks at the close-out ceremony for the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (Hair Dressing and Barbing) in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in September.
- 10.Former Ms Maureen Okiemute Obukofe, Supervisor in the Directorate of Legal Services, NCDMB married her heartthrob, Mr Kenneth Omamuromu Adugbo on November 21, 2020 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Oleh, Ughelli, Delta State. With her are Mr. Isaac Yalah, Director, Finance and Personnel Development, NCDMB; Mrs. Rose Chukwuonwe, former Coordinator, Legal Services, NCDMB and Barr. Mohammed Babangida Umar, Director, Legal Services, NCDMB.

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ONALIAG Tony Attah says NCDMB is a business enabler

Milestone

Simbi Wabote's reappointment was quite deserving

On behalf of the management of the Nigerian LNG Limited, I would like to congratulate the Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote on his reappointment for another four years. This is a testament to the confidence that President Muhammadu Buhari, the Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Silva and the entire nation and the industry reposed in him on the back of his first four years.

This is a clarion call by popular demand that we want him to do another four years. We have experienced the Executive Secretary very positively, and perhaps there is nobody else, at least in Africa, who understands Local Content more than he does.

When he was a staff member of Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), he was recognised and exported to Dubai to help them on Local Content. From Dubai, he went to Oman, to Brazil and he eventually came back to Nigeria. And it soon became obvious that he had to move to the national league.

Nigeria LNG has made giant strides on Local Content

At Nigeria LNG, we started to think about Local Content much before the NOGICD Act was enacted in 2010. We were very deliberate the first time Nigeria was venturing into the LNG business. LNG is a highly technical industry, underpinned by niche technology. It was clear to us that we could not continue or achieve sustainability if we did not do anything about local content.

We were forced to reckon with local content very early on, to the extent that our starting point was Nigerianisation.

Nigeria LNG has achieved great success with local content in her own way and, today, we have a 100 percent Nigerian-managed company. We have a very good relationship with expatriates and the rest of the world, but I am so proud to say that there is no expatriate on my leadership team running the company. We are US\$13 billion company by assets and on an annual basis at least US\$6 billion revenue turnover.



Milestone

Local Content is about domiciliation

When Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote became the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, he introduced clarity, purpose but most importantly, he left no one in doubt as to what Nigerian Content is supposed to achieve and what it is not designed for. Prior to him coming onboard, there was misconception that Nigerian Content meant Nigerianisation. And that once you start a project, 100 percent must be taken over by Nigerians and, in fact, foreigners cannot do business in Nigeria.

On my first visit to him, he explained to me that Local Content is about domiciliation and domestication and most importantly, it is about building capacities and capabilities of Nigerians to participate. That clarity made a very big difference in everything that we have done. We took to heart his guidance and recorded a lot of successes.

In terms of domestication, our main product is LNG and it is mostly exported. We are number one in terms of

bringing LPG into the country today. As of 2007, when the then President Olusegun Obansanjo invited us to bring some LPG into Nigeria, the total national capacity in terms of consumption was just 50,000 tonnes. But since Nigeria LNG got involved, today we have more than 16 off-takers that are Nigerians. Most importantly, we have grown that capacity to one million tonnes in Nigeria. From the one million tonnes, NLNG supplies 350,000 tonnes and we have enabled the sector. There is still some amount of import. And as the sector grows, our market share goes down. This will be our highest production year, delivering 380,000 tonnes. We have gone to our Board to seek approval to bring 450,000 tonnes next year, thereby growing the capacity.

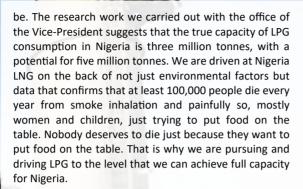
We are driven by energy transition

There is a changing energy base and energy transition. For us in Nigeria, LPG utilisation is not near where it needs to



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Milestone



NCDMB is an enabler of businesses

As part of that ambition to make LPG available, we partnered the Executive Secretary and NCDMB to support a Nigerian company and for the first time in the history of Nigeria LNG, we worked with a local company - Temile Development Company Limited to build the first Nigerian-owned LPG vessel, Alfred Temile.

We continued to work with the Board to the extent that the Executive Secretary said to me that he would like to bring about partnership in the industry. Often, we couldn't tell the value that regulators bring to the business. Most times people believe that regulators are mostly concerned with levies or taxes or asserting themselves to stop production.

But the Executive Secretary insisted that he came from the industry and his vision for NCDMB is to bring about value that should be greater than what the industry alone can ever bring. His first executive move was with the Nigeria LNG, signing the first business-to-business service level agreement. Many more of such agreements have been signed with other stakeholders.

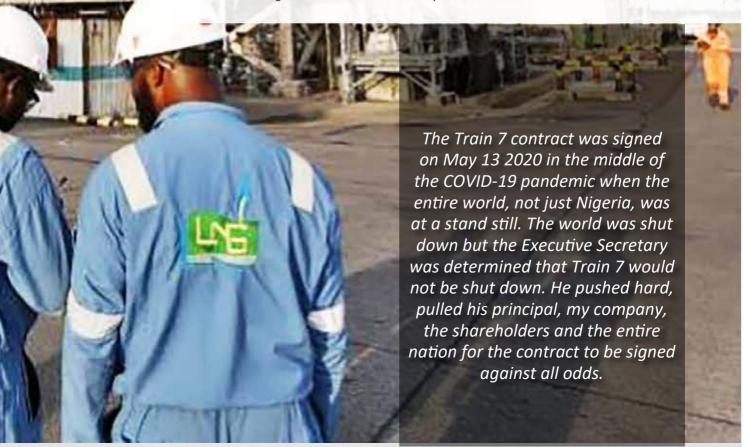
A service level agreement meant that we were clear on how we wanted to do better, on how we would be guided. To the extent that he made a commitment that if we sent a request to the Board and after 15 days, we had not heard back from them, it was deemed approved. That is a strong commitment. Normally, if you send something to a regulator, you wait. If, after six months they have not responded, you still wait. But the Executive Secretary decided otherwise. And we have tested it.

There is so much disbelief and suspicion in the industry when you deal with regulators, but Wabote and the NCDMB are different. That is the breath of fresh air that convinced President Muhammed Buhari to reappoint him for a second term in office.

NCDMB is a strong partner for progress on Train 7

NCDMB is a partner in progress to Nigeria LNG. We have six trains. Between 1999 and 2006, we were seen as the fastest growing LNG company in the world. But since 2007 till last year, all our efforts to deliver Train 7 had not delivered one way or the other.

But I went to the Executive Secretary and told him that when we did Trains 1 to 6, the Nigerian Content Act was



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direction of the Board. There was a lot of trepidation that the Act would be a blocker. Some of our shareholders were very concerned. But we needed to disprove the naysayers. It was a challenge to the Executive Secretary to demonstrate that the Board is an enabler and not a blocker. We signed up a dual feed strategy, which should ordinarily complicate issues. When you run a single Front-End Engineering Design, if you finish in 24 months, it is deemed record time. With the support of the Executive Secretary and the NCDMB, we ran a dual FEED and finished everything in 15 months. It was unbelievable.

NCDMB was pivotal to Train 7

The Executive Secretary worked assiduously to ensure that Train 7 became real. Without his personal support and commitment, we may not have Train 7 today. Train 7 means 12,000 jobs directly and based on the Board's calculation, it is 40,000 additional jobs indirectly.

The relative peace that the entire Niger Delta enjoys today through the Amnesty Programme involved 35,000 persons, who were positively engaged. Think about one project that is bringing the opportunity for at least 50,000 people directly or indirectly to be gainfully employed. On

top of that, 55 percent of that scope will be domiciled and domesticated in Nigeria.

So, one way or the other, Nigerians will benefit from more than half of the scope of this particular project and we are talking of over US\$10 billion in terms of the overall Train 7 investment. The Executive Secretary took it personally to push for the success and we appreciate it. The Train 7 contract was signed on May 13 2020. That was done in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic when the entire world, not just Nigeria, was at a stand still. The world was shut down but the Executive Secretary was determined that Train 7 would not be shut down. He pushed hard, pulled his principal, my company, the shareholders and the entire nation for the contract to be signed against all odds.

More than 50 percent of other projects were cancelled or postponed across the world. Today, only one Final Investment Decision (FID) has been taken on LNG plant across the world. So, you can understand the gamechanging capacity the Executive Secretary has caused to happen, for Nigeria, for Nigerians, for Nigeria LNG and the Niger Delta region.



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The inflation rate, which was restrained for many years, is inching up. Several ways are highlighted to preserve your wealth against inflation.

Inflation degrades wealth

This can be prevented

any of us do not fully appreciate the corrosive nature of inflation on our income, savings, and investments, and, ultimately, our standard of living. Inflation, which simply is the rise in the prices of goods and services at a given period, is indeed bad news for wealth creation and preservation. It erodes purchasing power, which leads to a fall in living standard.

Choco Milo, a cube-like chocolate treat for children made by Nestle, which sold for ₦500 a pack two months ago, is today selling for ₦800. That is a whopping 60 percent increment in just two months. So, where you buy two packs two months ago, you can only buy one pack today. Or take fuel, for instance, from ₦145 two months ago it currently sells for ₦161-₦170, about a 25 percent rise, meaning you need more money to fuel your vehicle now than you did two months ago.

The country's inflation rate has been trending upwards since the turn of 2020. This is further compounded by the raging Coronavirus pandemic. Headline inflation rate for 2019 was 11.40 percent. This figure rose to 13.71 percent in September 2020. What this means is that if you had №10 million in January 2019, by year end, you had roughly №8.86 million due to inflation, and as of June this year, the value had dropped further to №7.65 million. If this persists, you may as well kiss your savings or retirement fund au revior. Even if we factor in interest rate, six percent being the best rate offered by banks, inflation will still continue to bleed your savings or income by as much as seven percent.

Over the past few years, inflation has continued to be a huge challenge in the economy, trending at double digit figures. "It is clear that the Central Bank of Nigeria's hope of bringing the inflation rate to single digit cannot be realised before the end of this year," says a professor of Economics, Sheriffdeen Tella. It is important to

hedge against inflation to preserve your wealth. How do you do that? Well, the strategy will be to ensure your savings are inflation-resistant.

Stock investment

One way to build an inflation-resistant wealth, according to financial experts, is to invest in stocks. A chartered accountant and personal finance coach, Oluwatosin Olaseinde, says stock investment is a good way to hedge against inflation. "As an asset class, a share offers value in two ways: capital appreciation and dividend payment," says Olaseinde.

Historically, the capital market has returned an average of 20 percent growth over the past 10 years. What this implies is that if you had invested a certain sum in good quality stocks 10 years ago, you should be 20 percent richer as of today. For instance, over the past one year, the NSE Premium Index (an index that tracks the most highly capitalised stocks on the Nigerian Stock Exchange) had appreciated by over 16 percent (2,203.85 in October 2019 and 2,568.00 in October 2020), higher than the inflation rate.

You can also increase your earning power to hedge inflation by improving on or acquiring new skills. This is done by investing in further education or training that will boost your earning power. With relevant new skills you have a higher chance of improving your income.

If you had invested \(\frac{\text{\t

Real estate investment

Real estate is always a winner, no matter the prevailing situation, because in the long term, the return on investment is usually strong as it outpaces inflation. Capital appreciation or rental income are two ways to benefit from real estate investment. "Despite uncertainties, such as a decline in oil prices, political instability, inflation and the rising cost of fund, the real estate sector will still thrive," says the Chief Executive Officer of Lifepage Group, a real estate investment firm, Oladipupo Clement.

The demand for real estate assets continues to be bullish. One way to invest profitably in real estate, according to Clement, is via rental property either for commercial or residential purposes. An investor can invest in virgin or developed land. Investment in real estate, though, should be done with careful consideration. Decisions, such as location and asset type, are key to returns on the asset.

Invest in yourself

You can also increase your earning power to hedge inflation by improving on or acquiring new skills. This is done by investing in further education or training that will boost your earning power. With relevant new skills, you have a higher chance of improving your income. "Take that course to take you to the next level, take up new challenges, prepare for new opportunities; read those books. Ensure you are deliberate about improving yourself," says Olaseinde.



WALTERSMITH MODULAR REFINERY

Proud forerunner in local refining capacity

The inauguration of the 5,000bpd modular refinery showcases what deliberate, focused investment can achieve in Nigeria's quest for economic growth driven by industrialisation. Mr Isa Abdulrazaq, Chairman, Waltersmith Petroman Oil, pays eloquent testament to the ecosystem that made this project possible.

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History and future of Waltersmith

We held commissioning and groundbreaking ceremonies. We also flagged off the development of our industrial and innovation park with the signing of the technical support agreement with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) with the full support and endorsement from the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment.

Waltersmith Petroman Oil Company commenced upstream petroleum operation here in Ibigwe (Imo State) since 2005. We attained first oil in 2008 and has since then operated the Ibigwe marginal field.

In September 2018, we broke the ground for the 5,000 barrels modular refinery and, today, we are commissioning the brand new refinery with processing capacity of 5,000 barrels per day. This is phase one of an overall 50,000 barrels per day processing plant. The facility we are commissioning has been designed to produce 271 million litres of products annually. These products include AGO or diesel, DPK or kerosene, HFO heavy fuel oil and NAFTA.

Evacuation of these products of top quality and standards commenced on November 3, 2020 following statutory approvals graciously granted by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR).

Supply of products to the market

This refinery has already delivered over five million litres of petroleum products into the Nigerian economy. The expansion projects, for which we are also breaking ground today, will be constructed in two phases. The first will be 25,000 barrels per day processing capacity before the final phase of new 20,000 bpd, bringing the total capacity to 50,000 bpd.

We are now at the contract-tendering stages and we expect construction to be completed in about 24 to 30 months.

The combined products expected at full capacity will include premium motor spirits (PMS), LPG and jet fuel, in addition to the existing products mentioned above, contributing to about 2.7 million litres of products per annum. This represents 10 percent of the total refined products consumption in Nigeria. This would have a major significance on the foreign exchange savings for the nation as well as jobs for thousands of our youths.



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Motivation for investments

Conceptualising and realising this dream were largely anchored on faith and belief in the evolving reform in the Petroleum sector and Nigeria as a whole. Waltersmith was inspired by the commitment and promises by the President Muhammadu Buhari-led government to the people of Niger Delta, to encourage the establishment of modular refineries. We are proud to be a forerunner of this initiative, propelled by our commitment and belief in the Nigeria project and the determination to play our part in making it happen. Through the Federal Government and the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, this is a promise fulfilled.

Feedstock supply, key enabler for refinery investment

A major enabler for lowering financing risk for the projects is crude oil supply assurance. Whereas the phase one is relatively secured, we are still going through the motions to get the expansion phases to similar level of comfort. As a matter of fact, we are fully progressing the next phase, hoping that all residual challenges will somehow be resolved in a timely manner before completion and commissioning early 2023.

That is why Waltersmith, in the past three years, has been engaging government, the DPR, NNPC and SPDC JV partners to explore and mature possible arrangements to help the de-risk and enable our refinery's expansion aspirations.

There are some fields that are not far from our location and have remained unattended to for over 20 years. They are opportunities for partnership and development. They are excellent sources of crude oil and feed stock for our refinery. In addition, the evolving ASSA field offers condensing feed stock in the portfolio of opportunities and supply sources.

We are also participating in the ongoing marginal fields round. Fields around our Ibigwe field can be developed and tied in as additional field stock for the refinery. We solicit gracious and urgent intervention on this matter so that our company will achieve its objective of contributing meaningfully to Nigeria's energy security, economic sustainability as well as empowering Nigerian youths and our host communities.

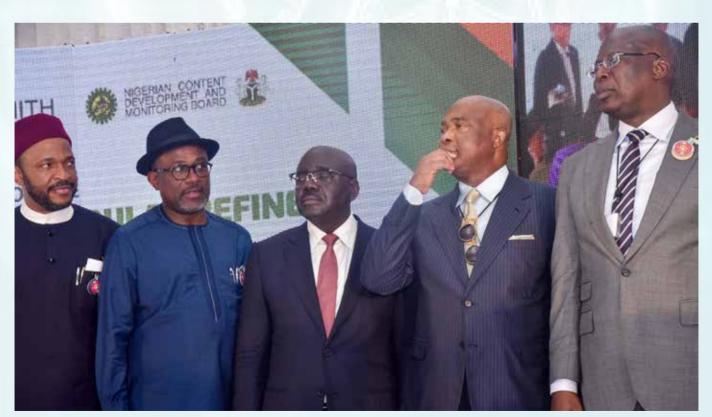
Key contributors to Waltersmith Modular Refinery success

We remain grateful to the GMD of NNPC and the Director of DPR for showing genuine concern and interest in finding a timely solution to the issues. We thank President Muhammadu Buhari for the honour of commissioning the plant and for providing the enabling policy framework for a successful implementation.

We thank Governor of Imo State, Senator Hope Uzodinma for providing the enabling peaceful environment within the state and we thank the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, for his support and leadership.

I also pay huge salutations to our partners, the Governing Council and management of the NCDMB under the leadership of Engr. Simbi Wabote, for their vision to partner the private sector to realise government aspiration on modular refineries.

We thank the African Finance Corporation (AFC) for the financing support and thank our contractors. We also thank Seplat Petroleum for their contribution to crude oil supply. I also thank our host community for their partnership and always demonstrating responsibility and ensuring that this project suffered zero delays all through the period of construction.



MAJOR MILESTONE (R-L): Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Senator Hope Uzodinma, Governor, Imo State; Mr Isah Abdulrazaq, Chairman, Waltersmith Petroman; Engr Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and a guest at the inauguration of Waltersmith Modular Refinery.

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Cuisine

Frittata Nigeria's answer to the pizza by Tspices Kitchen

osin Samuel is a digital creator, developer and food blogger behind the fast-growing food brand, Tspices Kitchen, which was founded to help women, and yes, men, become better home cooks.

The food affionado brings new and creative ways to regular Nigerian meals. Tosin has lots of simple, creative, step-by-step guides to becoming a master chef right there in your kitchen. With over 80,000 followers online, Tosin's food evangelism is increasingly catching on. She believes that cooking is not just a necessity, but a basic survival skill that everyone should know and that everyone can be a better cook with one recipe at a time.

Tosin's special, the frittata, aka Nigerian pizza, is an amazing meal that appeals to most palates. Frittata is simply an omelette-based dish in which vegetables, plantain and sometimes meat, fish or sausage are cooked together.

It is an elegant way of enjoying your plantain and egg. It is quick, easy, and highly nutritious breakfast.





Prep Time: 15 minutes Cook Time: 30-45 Minutes

Serving: 2-3

Ingredients

- 2 medium size plantain (ripe and fried)
- 7-8 eggs
- 2 tablespoon cooking oil
- ½ cup of green pepper
- ½ cup of red pepper
- 1/4 cup of fresh tomatoes
- 1 cup of sausage
- 1/2 cup of red onions
- 1 teaspoon of curry powder
- 1 teaspoon of thyme
- 1-2 stock cubes
- Salt to taste

Preparation

- Get a saucepan, add some oil. When it's hot, add some onions and leave to sizzle
- Add the chopped red and green pepper and stir. NOTE: you might want to leave some extra pepper and onions for garnish later
- Add the tomatoes and stir
- Season with your stock cubes, salt, curry and thyme
- Add the sausage or whatever you are using to the vegetables and leave to fry for a few minutes
- While it's frying, you can decide to season your eggs with some bullion powder and salt, if you want, for some extra juicy taste
- Whisk thoroughly and set aside
- After frying the veggies for a few minutes (5-7 minutes), pour the vegetable sauce in the egg bowl and stir thoroughly. Pour it back in the pan when you are done combin-
- When you are done, start to arrange the fried plantain on top of it, preferably in cyclical order
- Arrange till it's covering the entire saucepan
- Now you can sprinkle the coloured peppers and onions you set aside earlier on it
- Cover and leave it to cook on low heat for 30-45 minutes.

When it's done, cut, serve and enjoy!

You can bake this instead for a healthier version.

Pay-as-you-go cooking gas headlines innovations at the HACKATHON

Lots of innovative solutions were showcased at the just-concluded Nigerian Oil and Gas Technology Hackathon, deepening the conviction that Nigeria's future growth and prosperity is in indigenous solutions to local challenges.



Five Winning Teams of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Technology (NOGTECH) Hackathon sponsored by the NCDMB in October.

f you are among the estimated 170 million Nigerians that still depend on firewood or kerosene for cooking, probably because you cannot afford a gas cylinder and the refilling costs, then this innovative solution should excite you.

The Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) model of gas distribution, pioneered by Homefort Energy, will enable low income earners across the country to rent cylinders and refilled gas, paying little sums to use the commodity. Homefort Energy is one of the five very innovative companies selected in September 2020 at the end of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Technology (NOGTECH) Hackathon, sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). It was organised in partnership with Learners Support Consultancy Company.

"With \\$500, we hand over the cylinder and kit to a new consumer. The cylinder comes with 6kg refilled gas worth \\$2,000. The consumer does not have to pay the \\$2,000 straightaway: the payment is in micro units, as little as \\$150, which is for 0.5kg at a time, using a phone. With the virtual grid supply

system, the consumer will not run out of gas. There is a smart metre; it allows us to sell gas using the pay-as-you-go model," says the promoter.

If the Homeforth model of gas distribution is fine-tuned and implemented successfully across the country, it will help to drive LPG penetration rapidly, especially among the households that still use firewood and kerosene. There are additional benefits: the rate of deforestation will slow down and environmental hazards associated with using dirty fuel will be minimised.

Like the other four winning teams, Homeforth Energy was given a cheque of US\$10,000 equity-free grant. The company is currently participating in a three-month incubation programme, where it will be availed workspace, expert mentors, global partners and market access to the nation's oil and gas industry, making Homeforth Energy commercial and investor-ready.

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Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, assured that the firms will get additional support in their product development phase. The support will help the companies to get patents for their innovations and produce prototypes, conduct field trials, operate as start-ups and get industry linkages. However, the backing would depend on the success of the product incubation phase "because the goal is to fund bankable businesses, not charities," he said.

Wabote explained that the Board sponsored the NOGTECH Hackathon contest to foster innovation in the oil and gas and ancillary industry. The Board also wants to stimulate the creation of local digital technologies that would solve different problems across the country. Part of the goal is also to challenge the participants to channel their intelligence and become successful entrepreneurs.

The Executive Secretary counselled the five winning teams to focus on their vision and strategy and retain their passion. The motivation should not be on making quick financial gains, but on innovative solutions, making a difference and contributing to society. "The greatest inventors, particularly in the technology space, did not start by looking for money as their main objective. They wanted to make a difference and create a change. Our prize money was only meant to bring people together," the Executive Secretary said.

Mandate to spur innovation

Dr. Ama Ikuru, General Manager for Capacity Building at NCDMB, explained that catalysing innovation is a key component of developing Local Content. He said the NOGTECH Hackathon helps the Board to achieve two of its mandates - engaging in targeted capacity building interventions and conducting studies as well as encouraging research that will advance the oil industry. The other four winning projects are Fuel Intellisense, Gricd Mote, Kiakia Gas and Airsyng.

Fuel Intellisense will help fuel stations to get accurate data and avoid loss of income through syphoning underground fuel or stealing of fuel from different outlets. The project proposes to install a system that can be viewed remotely, showing how much fuel was dispensed daily and the balance. The system will be installed on existing pumps and tanks. Simisola Aremo and Oghenetega Loretim, promoters of Gricd Mote, explained that their innovation would provide cool shade transportation for temperature sensitive items in the health sector and the oil and gas space, as well as storing them in appropriate conditions. The product will also provide monitoring for temperature, humidity and locations of these items.

Kiakia Gas is promoted by Emmanuel Uwandu and Muhammed Aliyu. The product seeks to get gas to end users while enabling them to know the quantity of gas left in their cylinders so that they do not run out of gas. The system will also be used to order for gas and can be deployed by gas plant owners to manage sales in their plants.

The fifth project is Airsynq, a novel idea of balloon-lifted satellite that uses helium to stay in flight up to 2,160 hours or about 90 days. This technology can provide a year-long continuous area surveillance, with an artificial intelligence software that can help international oil

companies and security teams monitor all the activities around areas where the balloon is deployed. The balloon goes through a routine of checking each image in real time and then reports every activity with sensors that can pick up images from altitude of about 3,000 metres. The promoters of the initiative are Sadique Temitayo and Feyisayo Awopetu.

Lighting the innovation torch

The NOGTECH Hackathon was launched in May 2020. It received over 630 entries in seven thematic areas. The focus areas were health, asset security, tackling cyber threats, renewable energy, skills and talent management and supply chain.

The entries were first subjected to two stages of assessment by internal NCDMB judges and external judges. The number then went down to the top 15 teams. The top teams participated in the two-day Hackathon venture and one-day grand finale in Lagos, where judges selected the five most innovative and bankable teams for the incubation stage.

Technology experts, who served as mentors in the three-day Hackathon, hailed NCDMB for sponsoring the initiative. Mr Solawole Akinboye, Country Representative of RC Global, noted that "the young people of Nigeria have ideas, and any platform that allows them to showcase those ideas and move them to a place where they can compete with other ideas across the world is a good thing". Mr lyinoluwa Aboyeji, widely acclaimed for co-founding Andela and currently pioneer Managing Director of Flutterwave, commended NCDMB for bringing the Nigerian oil and gas and technology industries together. "It is a step in the right direction, and we hope they would do more," he said.

Ikuru said NCDMB was also working on other projects to spur technology development and innovations in the oil and gas industry as well as ancillary sectors. Some of these are sponsorship of ENACTUS — Science and Technology Innovation Challenge for undergraduates in Nigerian universities; establishment of modern research and development centres of excellence in five universities in the country; upgrade of laboratories in universities and workshops in technical schools; active participation in technology expos and research product development frameworks to help inventors attain market penetration.

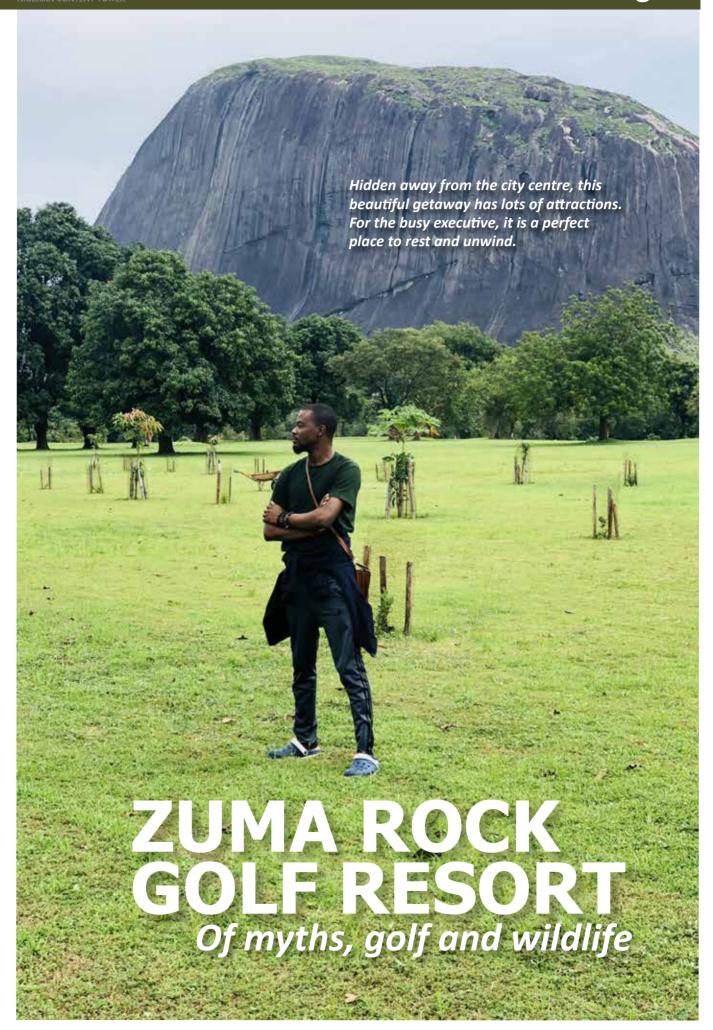
Nigerian youths have proven overtime that they are remarkably ingenious and resilient. What is needed is a deliberate, concerted effort by government and the private sector to back the talent and grit of the youth. NCDMB has led the way superbly; it is time for other organisations to stand up and be counted.

Homeforth's Pay-As-You-Go model of gas distribution can help address domestic gas penetration, which still remains a major challenge. Many more ground-breaking solutions are waiting to be unearthed.

-Teleola Oyeleke

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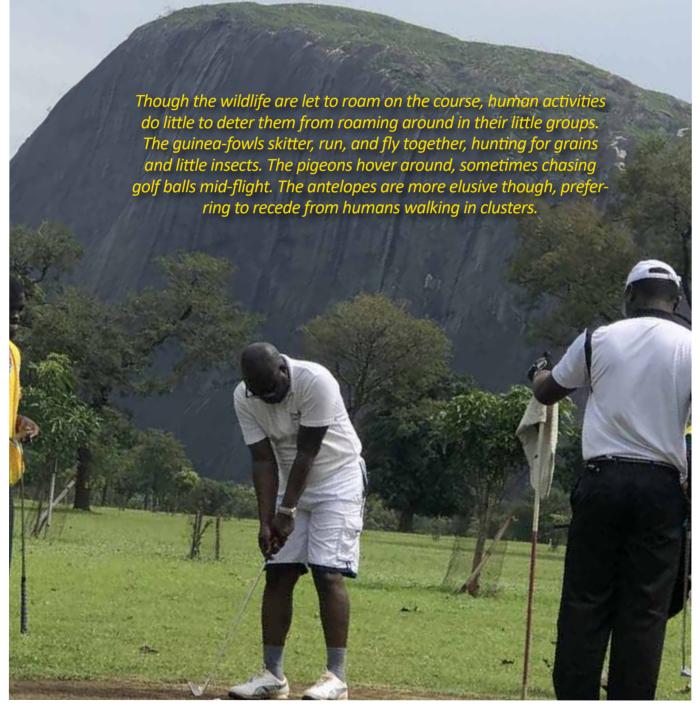


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uma Rock sits prodigiously in Madalla, on the Abuja-Kaduna expressway, west of the Abuja metropolis and visible from over 50 kilometres away. Domiciled in Niger State, the monster-stone stands at over 900ft, towering above any other rock in northern Nigeria. Famed for its feature at the back of the \\$100 note, the gigantic monolith oversees a sprawling expanse of greenery to its north, a resort named the Zuma Rock Golf Resort.

The Zuma Rock Golf Resort is a Lebanese-run sevenhectare space of lush vegetation consisting of many attractions, such as wildlife, restaurants, a swimming pool, apartments for lodging and a golf course. A guest is ushered in to the place through a gated entrance that opens into a beautifully tended route that snakes all the way to a modest reception building. On the drive from the gate to the reception, one is treated to beautiful, aesthetic views of trees, tended lawns, golfers and mahogany-coated antelopes galloping gleefully in the distance.

Seated at the reception are two smartly dressed receptionists, one of which handles the telephone directories while the other attends to the customers in person. There is a couple of people lined in front of the receptionist, so I'm made to sit on the black leather couch while I wait my turn, just beneath a splendid portrait of a beautiful island in the Carribeans. While I wait, I'm given a brochure detailing the pricelist of the lodges available at the resort. If you are looking to have a weekend getaway at the Zuma Rock Golf Resort, it will cost a tidy sum. Rooms range between *25,000 to *50,000. If you, however, desire royal treatment, then the penthouses might be your thing.



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erian content tower Travelogue



Much more than the green

The apartments are housed in each of one of six one-storey guest chalets symmetrically arranged along the same lane as the reception. A new one is being built at the end of the road, and the chalets are sitting opposite the vast, green lawn, against the beautiful reflection of the sunset. Since the end of the COVID-19 lockdown, new measures have been implemented to give guests at the resort an exclusive experience during the course of their stay.

One of these concessions include a limitless access to the entire course and a complimentary access to the swimming pool. Prior to the lockdown, one could visit for a single day tour of the resort without lodging. All they had to do was to pay a token of \(\frac{1}{2}\)5,000, and they would be allowed a tour.

The rooms are lavishly furnished with some of the sleekest fittings found anywhere in the country.

For a more profound experience, the resort makes available some recreation for the guests. At the back of the guest chalets is a Kettler Outdoor 10 tennis tables where guests typically come out to play when the scorching Abuja sun is friendly enough to allow for some outdoor activities.

Other recreational activities include biking and horse-riding, which guests have to pay for. The bills are calculated on an hourly basis, with bicycles available for ₹2,000 per hour and horse-riding going for ₹4,000 per hour. In the evening, guests (which typically consists of European and Asian expatriates) can be seeing biking along the entire stretch of the resort, especially on the bike lane stretching from







Travelogue NIGERIAN CONTENT TOWER

the reception area all the way to the end of the road where a new chalet is being constructed. Guests also have the luxury of varieties as they are given the option to choose from anyone of the different models of bicycles on display under the bicycle shed at the entrance of the golf course.

The horses are kept in a stable at the northern end of the course and are only made available at sunset.

The Zuma Rock Golf Resort runs a subscription-based golf membership club, with subscription pegged at ₹250,000 per annum for members who have an unfettered access to the golf course at any time of their choosing. Non-members may also make use of the course for a token of ₹10,000 per session. On weekends and holidays, the Zuma Rock Golf Resort becomes a carnival of high-earning Abuja men and women who troop in with their golf kits to spend the whole day swinging.

Myths, wildlife and exotic cuisine

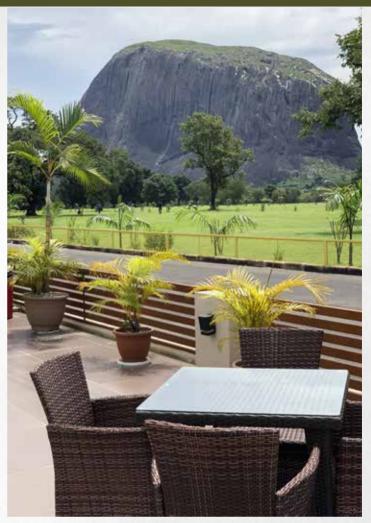
Even though the wildlife are let to roam on the course, human activities do little to deter them from roaming around in their little groups. The guinea-fowls skitter, run, and fly together, hunting for grains and little insects. The pigeons hover around, sometimes chasing golf balls mid-flight. The antelopes are more elusive though, preferring to recede from humans walking in clusters. When they think no one is watching, they chase the wind, their silver-black ivory horns gleaming against the reflection of the orange sunlight. In this resort, the sun makes everything more beautiful.

The Zuma Rock settles majestically in the background, visible from any part of the resort. The perfect view, though, is when you're sitting at the poolside of the Cilantro restaurant. Located just behind the reception, Cilantro is the only restaurant in the resort. An Indian restaurant with a mission to "change the perception of Indian food in Nigeria", Cilantro serves a wide variety of Indian and continental dishes which do not include beef and pork. "We use halal meats only," the base of their menu reads.

The Zuma Rock is as much a monument of international repute and a symbol of immense significance to the natives who have lived around it for centuries. Magnificent in size and reputation, the rock has been an object of sheer fascination that has never ceased to inspire myths and legends. The rock is adorned with contours that natives have often interpreted in interesting ways. One of such contours seems to take the shape of a human face, which the natives have interpreted as being the face of the Zuma rock deity. The Gwari people, who are traditionally settled at its base, believe the rock to be a gateway to the spirit realms and that when people die, their spirits live inside the rock.

The Zuma Rock Golf Resort is no doubt one of the best tourist attractions in the country, with its beautiful, aesthetic ambience. For a three-day retreat, there's a lot to do and even more to see, but the novelty eventually wears out after the first couple of days, if there aren't more recreational outlets than the ones already available. There are already plans to make it more fun, Mr Rami, the Lebanese managing-director, has assured.

Victor Daniel is a lawyer and writer. His works have been published in Brittle Paper, The Kalahari Review, African Writer, Ngiga Reviews, among others. His nonfiction, God's Mailbox is a Traffic Jam, was published in the first edition of Selves: An Anthology of Afro Nonfiction. He has been a feature writer on Diaspora magazine, Nigeria Abroad, since May 2020. ■





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NIGERIAN CONTENT TOWER

Outdoors



Anywhere you can find a beach play volleyball

And if you can't find one, build a court. Beach volleyball has huge impact in overall wellbeing.

The two players jumped at the same time, arms extended above their heads near the net to block a strike from an opponent. The two seemed to hang in the air, like wind tossed balloons. As they descend into the sand, the lithe, sweaty bodies glisten in the midday sun. One cannot help but admire the players' well-toned bodies and suppleness.

The players were engaged in beach volleyball, a game that is gaining prominence among beach goers. The beach has always held a special attraction for people of all ages and status. The splashing waves, the cool ocean breeze, the whispering palms and the soft yielding sand under the feet have an unusual calming, almost therapeutic effect on beach goers. The beach is both a place to de-stress and to burn those extra calories. There are so many fun activities on a beach to help you achieve a toned body: swimming, dancing, volleyball, horse-riding and soccer. Beach volleyball ranks high among the most exciting sports that are highly beneficial to your health.

Fitness coach Ada-Ari Agbim said team sports, including volleyball, are always the best way to achieve a toned body. "Do it with a team. It could be one friend or an entire class. Find someone to join you on this journey," she said.

Sand court expert Robert Butch Hendrick also said: "From cardiovascular exercise to muscle conditioning, the demands of the game and the unique qualities of the sand court work together to create an intensive, full-body workout." Beach volleyball is definitely a fun and stimulating way to strengthen the body. The resistant nature of the sand means players would need to work twice as hard to move freely on court. This is very good for the muscles and for the heart, and generally helps players to become nimble.

If you count on discarding those extra loads

of calories and fat, there is no better fun way to achieve it. A survey by the Harvard Medical School revealed that an hour spent playing beach volleyball could burn about 500 calories. For the busy executive who desires to keep fitness levels up to boost productivity as well as build new friendships and relationships, beach volleyball represents the ideal sport. It is a game played by two and up to 12 people at one time. The sport is said to have a reputation as a spontaneous activity where pick-up games are common.

Equally important is the fact that beach volleyball presents the opportunity for family bonding. It is a game the whole family can engage in - from the children to the parents. And it is fairly easy to master. Beach volleyball also helps to improve mental health. Many find that exercising and engaging in a sporting activity like beach volleyball is a healthy and natural way to fight depression, reduce stress, increase self-esteem and generally improve mental health.

For cities on the coastline, like Lagos, Port Harcourt and Brass, with miles of beaches, organising and participating in beach volleyball should be fairly easy. However, the beauty of beach volleyball is that it can be enjoyed everywhere - on the beach as well as in areas where there are no beaches. Cities in the hinterlands can enjoy beach volleyball much the same way cities with beaches do. It is quite easy to develop.

Volleyball experts given detailed description on how to build a court. To set up a volleyball court, we start with the configuration, which is important. This, experts say is so that "you can help minimise sun visibility issues as the sun rises and sets". Position the court to run lengthwise north to south rather than east to west to avoid the sun getting in players' eyes. Dimensions are not required because the court is not for official purposes. The court can be as large or as small as you want, based on space constraints. The playing

For cities on the coastline, like Lagos, Port Harcourt and Brass, with miles of beaches, organising and participating in beach volleyball should be fairly easy. However, the beauty of beach volleyball is that it can be enjoyed everywhere.

space must be level, free of obstructions.

If the area where you have the court gets flooded easily, then it is important to set up a good drainage system on the court. Ensure the drainage ditch is set towards the lowest point of the land and then set a perforated drainage pipe across the middle of the court. The two poles and the net are then installed. The poles could be wood, aluminium or steel. But concrete poles, like those used by DISCOs to transport electricity to residents are a no-no for safety reasons. The poles should be from 11ft to 13ft long and placed about 29ft to 36ft apart. They should be buried 3ft deep.

Next is to spread small drainage gravel uniformly across the base of the court and drainage pipe. The layer is then covered with landscape fabric to help keep the gravel from mixing with the sand, while still allowing water to pass through to the drainage system. The sand is finally spread across the court.

Setting up beach volleyball courts in some of the oil producing communities could be a potent tool for community engagement, with the youths encouraged to pick up the game.

Next time you want a fun way to work on your cardiovascular health, look no further than beach volleyball. It allows you to jump, sprint, crouch, stretch and generally use all your muscle groups, leaving you strong, healthy, nimble and radiating life.





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Couture

area is where Ganzallo has found his niche. If you are wondering how an enterprise that is focused on delivering high quality sport swears thrives in a market where the clothing markets are proliferated with imitations, Ganzallo explains: "What makes us stand out is quality. We have chosen that path and we intend to walk it, come rain or shine. The quality of our merchandise will always stand us apart. Sometimes, it's frustrating when you see these inferior items being passed off as the real things. But it is what it is: you just keep your focus locked on values."

He added: "We don't compromise quality. I also try to be a step ahead of others. We always keep our eyes open for what is trending globally and try to be the first to introduce them here." Ganzallo emphasised on the company's tagline, Everything sport made easy, saying: "That's our key promise to our customers: to make whatever they are looking for our business and easy to get for them. I believe we are doing this already and will bend over double to even go further in delivering on this promise."

Another unique thing about MumogSports is how it sources its materials and the quality of advice it gives its clients. "We do this by sourcing from the original manufacturers or dealers. Sometimes, we advise on design too, and because I am a creative person, sometimes it's easy. I worked in one of the best Ad agencies. The fact that I am a fashion forward person has also helped a lot," said Ganzallo.

A background forged in creativity

Prior to his foray into sportswear designing, Ganzallo had a stint in the media, marketing communication and insurance sectors. As a creative enthusiast, he was





involved in several brand engagements, delivering unique and memorable marketing campaigns for Starcomms, Ecobank, and Skye Bank. "I started out as a journalist. I was a reporter and columnist with Encomium. From there, I went to work as a copywriter/concepts person at Centrespread FCB. I left Centrespread FCB for AXA Mansard. After AXA Mansard I also worked at CFAO Yamaha as the Events and Sponsorship person before I set up MumogSports."

Recalling his magic moments in the advertising sector, he said: "My time as a copywriter is still one of my fondest memories, career-wise. I worked with some very amazing individuals and we created some very memorable campaigns that I am still very proud of. I remember the Skye Bank I Wish sing-song campaign, followed by another for the same bank Hakuna Matata. I also remember we did some very good jobs for Starcomms, the leading CDMA company in Nigeria then, in addition to Zenith Bank, Tantalizers, Lotto Nigeria and Ecobank."

Fitting Nigerians in trendy sports wears

In spite of the challenges posed by a proliferation of imitation jerseys in this market, Ganzallo sees great opportunities. In addition are clients who want to have the exact same jerseys that fit and trim footballers wear. "The jerseys people wear comprise majorly of two types: the stadium version, which is for the fans, and the players' version. The stadium jersey is practically the same designs as what you see the players wear but their cut is loose fit while the players' version is athlete cut, with shapes. You sometimes have customers with big frames and potbellies insisting on the players' version, which sometimes end up appearing ill-fitting. It's a challenge convincing customers to pick the stadium rather than the players' version," says Ganzallo. Another is exchange rate volatility and access to finance.



On the impact MumogSports has made in the market, Ganzallo says it has been huge. "We are the 'go-to' people presently in Nigeria when it comes to clubs and national teams' jerseys, sports wears, gym equipment and accessories. We even get recommendations to corporate organisations and individuals even beyond Nigeria," he says excitedly.

On the dynamic business environment, the CEO of MumogSports says Nigerians are some of the most fashionable and discerning people in the world, with distinct taste in fashion and quality.

Beyond the design and sales of bespoke sport swears, MumogSports offers fitness consultancy services. "MumogSports is a lifestyle company. We help people with fitness plans, gym setup, we even had a lot of people consulting us during the COVID-19 lockdown on how to keep fit. We helped some people to set up mini gyms in their homes," says Ganzallo, adding: "We will be glad to serve institutions and organisations. Remember, we are not just a sports fashion company, we also offer consultancy and services in fitness and sports. There are lots of ideas we can give government and organisations in the private sector on how to use sports as a bonding tool and even to increase productivity in their operations."

The Idris Elba fan, while recalling some of his timeless creations as the Team Lead of MumogSports, said, "We recently did some designs and executions for MI supporters, they call themselves *Tribe of Judah*. We are very proud of that. We also did some jobs for the official supporters clubs of Chelsea Football Club in Nigeria."

He added that the future of MumogSports is quite bright. With Nigeria's population, there are loads of opportunities in this land. "I want to build MumogSports to become a household name in Nigeria. That is my dream and aspiration right now," he says.

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turned out to be prescient.

Wizkid Made in Lagos to global starboy!

o you remember what the title of Wizkid's debut album was? Superstar!!! Less than 10 years down the line, the album that gave us these interesting lyrics from the Holla at your boy hit single, it's your boy wizzy,...if you see me drive by, holla at your boy, I find more swag, holla at your boy, I pop more bottles..., has

In October 2020, the now 30-year-old WizKid, whose birth name is Ayodeji Balogun, released his fourth career album, *Made in Lagos*, a 14-track effort that oozes of star power in terms of his chosen collaborators. The album holds a global vision, uniting Kingston (*Blessed*, featuring Damian Marley), California (*Smile* with HER), London (*Skepta*, Ella Mai). Clearly, it is proof that Wizkid's Nigerian sound is in international demand.

Wizkid began his career when he was just 11 years old. His first record, *Lil Prinz*, was recorded in 2001 in collaboration with Glorious Five, a group consisting of Wizzy and his friends from church. In 2006, he started pursuing music full-time, at first collaborating with various Nigerian pop acts, including OJB Jezreel, Naeto C, and Banky W. By 2011, he recorded his debut studio album as a solo

artist under Banky W's label, EME Music. There has been no looking back for the superstar since then. In 2014, he released his sophomore album, *Ayo*, and then his third album, *Sounds from the other side*, in 2017, which featured Drake in *Come closer*.

MUSIC

Wizkid has since collaborated with international acts that include Skepta, Chris Brown, Ty Dolla \$ign, Trey Songz, Chronixx and Buju Banton. In 2019, Wizkid found himself duetting with superstar, Beyoncé's and Jay-Z's sevenyear-old daughter Blue Ivy on the cute ballad, *Brown Skin Girl*, soundtrack to Disney's *The Lion King: The Gift*.

In an interview, Wizkid was recorded as saying: "I didn't start making music to be an African star. I always wanted to be a worldwide musician." With over 7.3 million followers on Twitter, his dreams have certainly come true.

Fun Fact: Wizkid's collaboration with Drake in *One Dance* almost toppled Bryan Adams's long-standing UK singles chart record when it spent 15 weeks at No1 in 2016.



Burna Boy – Twice As Tall

Grammy-nominated artiste, Burna Boy, released his anticipated fifth studio album *Twice As Tall*, following the critical acclaim and commercial success of his fourth album *African Giant*. In this album, Burna once again showed his ability to drop powerful and meaningful lyrics on a perfect blend of different melodies without losing his African touch.

The 15-track album features the likes of American hip hop mogul, Diddy, Coldplay's Chris Martin, Senegalese icon, Youssou N'Dour, Naughty by Nature, Sauti Sol, and UK-Ghanaian rapper Stormzy. The album is produced by Diddy, Timbaland, Telz, Rexxie, Leriq, among others. The album racked over seven million streams hours upon its release and sat on the 54th position on the Billboard 200, making it the highest Nigerian charting album in the history of the charts. The joke in town is that after you become an African Giant, you must grow twice as tall, leading us to believe that Nigeria's first mainstream Grammy might come from this album.



DJ Cuppy – Original Copy

DJ Cuppy, another daughter of billionaire Femi Otedola, is one artiste that has received so much music beef because she was born with a silver spoon. However, she continues to shut her critics up by consistently delivering the goods with jams like *Abena* and *Gelato*. In her new album, *Original Copy*, DJ Cuppy, whose birth name is Florence Ifeoluwa Otedola, has stayed true to her craft and showcases her immense talent as an artiste and her diverse knowledge of great sounds.

The 12-track album, which featured the likes of Efya, Wyclef Jean, Wale, Darkoo, Stonebwoy, Teni, Sir Shina Peters, Nonso Amadi, Julain Marley, Ms Banks, Ycee, and Seyi Shay, amassed rave reviews within 24 hours of its release. All the 12 tracks made it to the top 100 Nigerian songs on Apple Music. With her success on this album, the 27-year-old musician has proven that hard work indeed trumps talent.



Davido has released his third studio album, A Better Time, a 17-track album, which hosts an array of guest artistes, including Nas, Young Thug, Lil Baby, Hit-Boy, Nicki Minaj, as well as African stars, like Tiwa Savage, Sauti Sol, Mayorkun and Bella Shmurda. Davido had previously been featured on President Barack Obama's 2020 Sum-

mer Playlist. The new album, which has been described as generous by some fans, has hit songs splashed all over it with the potential to becoming quick fire jams.

A Better Time is a follow-up to last year's smash hit, A Good Time, which was streamed over a billion times around the world and was a massive breakout success that helped to cement Davido's status as a global star. In this new album, FEM, which is a colloquial way of saying "be quiet", has received so much love and become the unofficial anthem at rallies and parties. FEM reached one million hits in less than nine hours after its release. For Davido, A Better Time is that outlet to be free, be happy and hopeful for a better future.



Five others

- Nigeria rapper, Reminisce delivered a brand new joint called Vibes, featuring Mo and Fatimah Safaru, his daughter, on the new album, Vibes and Insha Allah.
- YBNL label boss and rapper, Olamide, released his 10th studio album, *Carpe Diem*, a loaded 12-track album that bears the imprimatur of producers like
- Pheelz, ID Cabasa and Young John.
- Former first lady of Mavin now signed to Motown records, Tiwa Savage, gave us a quality album, *Celia*, named after her mom, having entertained her fans with jams like Attention, Dangerous Love, and Koroha
- Orente crooner, Adekunle Gold, has dropped his third studio album, Afro-
- **Pop Vol 1**, which hits you at first listen and is blessed by Patoranking, Tekno and Nailah Blackman.
- Fireboy returned this year, following his 2019 break out success, with a sophomore album, titled: *Apollo*. This latest effort shows a much more confident side and assured performance.



Kenneth Gyang Stamping his personality on the biggest releases

he biggest film out of Nigeria in 2020, without a doubt, is Mo Abudu's Ebony Life produced film, *Òlòtūré*. This important film shines a light on the global problem of human trafficking that involves 21 million victims annually, including 800,000 from Nigeria and across Africa.

Òlòtūré, which we had reviewed in a past edition of this magazine, was released worldwide on Netflix October 2, 2020, and has become one of the most successful crossover Nigerian titles on the service, creating a buzz and conversation among audiences in Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Middle East.

Òlòtūré is 34-year-old Kenneth Gyang's fourth directorial feature film project. What makes Kenneth Gyang tick is his award-winning streak in Nigeria's film industry. His third feature, *The Lost Café*, released in 2017, won the Audience Prize at the Africa International Film Festival in Nigeria and Golden Palm at the 2018 Mexico International Film Festival.

Confusion Na Wa, Kenneth's first feature project, won for him lots of laurels and critical acclaim. Film critic Oris Aigbokhaevbolo describes the film as the "result of a progression, an evolution of film making in Nollywood. It is the most important film in Nollywood as the industry enters a new phase..." The film won Best Film at the Africa Movie Academy Awards, Jury Prize at the Pan African Film Festival in Los Angeles and opened the 2014 New York African Film Festival. In 2012, Gyang directed Blood and Henna, which narrates the ordeal of the controversial 1996 Pfizer clinical tests in Kano. Kenneth's versatility in his projects is also something to be admired as Confusion Na Wa was a dark comedy; The Lost Café was pure drama and Òlòtūré is a gripping thriller.

The Jos-born auteur has also left his imprint on the small screen on projects that include *Wetin Dey, a 2006 BBC World Service Trust series; Sons of the Caliphate and Castle and Castle,* which are showing on Netflix as well as MTVBase's *Staying Alive.*









Citation - Kunle Afolayan

Renowned filmmaker, Kunle Afolayan enters the social advocacy space by using his latest film to address the menace of sexual assault and harassment in higher institutions of learning. *Citation,* a Netflix Original, centres on a smart and determined Masters student, Moremi played by Temi Otedola, daughter of billionaire businessman, Femi Otedola who accuses celebrated professor Lucien N'Dyare, played by Hollywood actor based in Haiti, Jimmy Jean-Louis, of sexual assault.

Much of the ensuing drama in the movie plays out in front of an unnerving tribunal, chaired by Professor Ibukun Awosika, who is the current chairman of First Bank of Nigeria as panel members listen to testimony from Moremi, N'Dyare, and other witnesses and advocates using well-crafted flashbacks. The movie, which was mainly shot at the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, has some stunning camera work. It features appearances from Ini Edo, Sadiq Daba, Yomi Fash-Lanso, Gabriel Afolayan and Afrobeat star, Seun Kuti.

Citation deserves credit for handling a complex and emotive issue with sensitivity and its deft use of cross-cultural collaborations, as evidenced by the use of locations in Senegal and Cape Verde.





Rattlesnake: The Ahanna Story

- Ramsev Noauh

In 1995, late filmmaker Amaka Igwe brought a gripping visual offering to viewers, titled: *Rattle Snake*. Twenty-five years later, following an award winning remake of one of Nollywood's classic films, *Living in Bondage*, actor turned director, Ramsey Nouah tries his hands on Amaka Igwe film with a remake titled Rattlesnake: *The Ahanna Story*.

The movie follows the life of Ahanna Okolo, a young man who decides to steal the life he always wanted. He gets a band of jolly men and women together with various skills, carrying out a series of spectacular heists. But when their biggest heist takes an unexpectedly deadly turn, the gang members suddenly find themselves with bitter enemies on both sides of the law.

Many would remember Ahanna in Igwe's flick, played by Francis Duru; this time out, budding actor Stan Eze plays the titular role. He is supported by a fine blend of veterans and newbies that include Chiwetalu Agu, Gloria Young, Ejike Asiegbu, Sonny McDon, Osas Ighodaro, Efa Iwara, Emeka Nwagbaraocha and BBN star, Tobi Bakre.





For Maria Ebun Pataki - Damilola Orimogunje

It is a season of socially conscious films, one is tempted to say *For Maria Ebun Pataki* sits comfortably as a film that addresses a subject matter that could use more on-screen representation in our part of the world - postpartum depression.

For *Maria* follows the harrowing experience of a first-time mother who struggles with postpartum depression, a condition that affects mothers often after birth. This beautiful yet melancholic film draws you into the world of this couple and automatically feels for them both, as well as a mother-in-law, who does not understand anything about postpartum depression but believes her son's wife is a lazy, unfit mother.

This is Damilola Orimogunje's first feature film, which was inspired by having seen the French film *Amour* for probably the seventh time. The movie, shot over nine days, offers a deeply emotional journey, magnified by the exquisite music of highlife fusion group, the Cavemen and solid performances from Meg Otanwa, Gabriel Afolayan, Tina Mba and Judith Audu.

Five other end-of-year releases

- The Milkmaid tackles the subject of insurgency from a visually appealing but painful reality point-of-view. The movie has got one of the best film scores you will listen to this year.
- Author Tunde Leye's viral story, Finding Hubby has been adapted for the big screen with the same title. How many frogs will you kiss before you meet the prince?
- This Lady Called Life, a romantic comedy directed by Kayode Kasum is another movie to watch this season. You could do with some good laugh.
- Rise of the Saints, a thriller inspired the legend of Moremi Ajasoro, warrior Queen of Ife provides a good viewing this holiday.
- "They say that practice makes perfect.
 That is a lie. Practice makes good. Only obsession makes perfect", is a line from the movie, Coming from Insanity. Solid Watch.

Books

Chimamanda

Nigeria's gift to the world

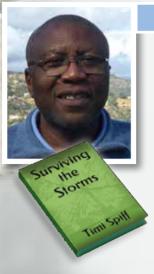
escribed by leading magazines and critics as a "creator of characters" and a "rare novelist who in the space of a year finds her words sampled by Beyonce, optioned by Lupita Nyong'o and honoured with the National Book Critics Circle Award for fiction", and hailed by Harold Pinter's widow as a writer who embodies "those qualities of courage and outspokenness, which Harold much admired", novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is, indeed, Nigeria's gift to the world.

Born on September 15, 1977, Chimamanda first rose to prominence in 2003 with the publication of her first book, Purple Hibiscus, a comingof-age novel set in post-colonial Nigeria. She went on to write two more critically-acclaimed novels, Half of a Yellow Sun (2006) and Americanah (2013), as well as a collection of short stories - The Thing Around Your Neck (2009), Zikora (2020) and powerful essays - We Should All Be Feminists (2014) and Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions, 2017. Instructively, her TEDX talk, The Danger of a Single Story, has been viewed more than 18 million times.

Chimamanda Adiche has evolved from being an author cum novelist to a global thought leader and activist. With her celebrity status, she has shared tables with leaders that include Oprah Winfrey, Brigitte Macron, Beyonce and Barack and Michelle Obama. It is important to remember that her TEDX talk, We Should All Be Feminists, has been distributed in book form to every 16-year-old in Sweden. In a conversation with Trevor Noah, a leading TV host, she defines her activism as this: "People think a feminist is a crazy woman, who hates men and doesn't shave. But that is not what it is. Feminists are only looking to have equal opportunities for all people."

Chimamanda's possibility of being Nigeria's second winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature is high considering the many laurels and awards that she has garnered in such a short time within and outside the literary space. She has bagged about 15 honourary doctorate degrees from respected universities around the world and listed by Time magazine as one of the world's 100 most influential people. She is the first Nigerian and youngest African to receive the UN Foundation Global Leadership Award, which had been won previously by world leaders like Barack Obama, the late Kofi Annan, Bill Clinton and Oprah Winfrey. Chimamanda's stock will continue to rise in the years ahead.





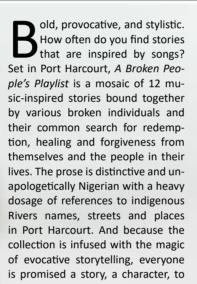
Surviving the Storms Timi Spiff

ublished in June 2020 by The New Gong, Surviving the Storms marks the fictional debut of Timi Spiff as an author. Spiff, who is a retired public servant, has his background in journalism, having studied Mass Communication and worked as a financial journalist, which saw him win the Financial Reporter of the Year Award in 1991 during the maiden edition of DAME.

Surviving the Storms is a coming of age story about a teenager in Port

Harcourt, Southern Nigeria, against the backdrop of the aftermath of a civil war. Kuro, the protagonist, often finds himself in a storm of sorts and inevitably must find a way out of the storm, often aided by the intervention of his mother, Mrs Nicholas. Strong themes of self will, redemption, exuberance of youth, the challenges of parenthood as well as the benefits of education make this '70s slice of life book a good read.

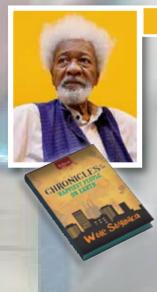
A Broken People's Playlist Chimeka Garricks



move or haunt them. There is something for everyone as the author manages to infuse some lightness, wit and humour into these stories.

Each story is written under the influence of songs; Lost Stars by Adam Levine; Music by Erick Sermon & Marvin Gaye; Hurt by Johnny Cash; Song for Someone by U2; In the City by Brymo; I Put A Spell On You by Nina Simeone; I'd Die Without You by P.M. Dawn; Beautiful War by Kings of Leon; River by Leon Bridges; Love's Divine by Seal; Desperado by Eagles; You Suppose Know by Best ft. Yemi Alade.





his is not a review. When we found out that the great Noble Prize for Literature winner, Wole Soyinka - the only surviving member of the early class of Nigerian literature following the departure of poet, John Pepper Bekeredemo-Clark recently was releasing his third published novel, we just had to provide our teeming readers with a teaser.

In his long and productive career, Wole Soyinka has written many award-winning plays, highly lyrical poems, songs, political and cultural essays, five riveting memoirs and three full length satirical films. Chronicles of the Happiest People

joins *The Interpreters* (published in 1965) and *Season of Anomy* (published in 1973) as Soyinka's novels.

According to his publisher, Bankole Olayebi, "Soyinka proves with this novel that he has lost none of his story-telling chops! A narrative tour de force, this novel has got everything—friendship and betrayal; faith and treachery; hope and cynicism; murder; mayhem and no shortage of drama, all set against the backdrop of contemporary Nigeria."

Trust that we will provide a riveting review of this work in our next edition.

NIGERIAN CONTENT TOWER WINNING ESSAY

R&DaskeyleverforLocal Content implementation

onsider a secondary school leaver with genuine aspirations to study petroleum engineering and someday contribute to the oil-driven economy. Great ambition! But sadly, his dreams are dashed by prevailing challenges.

First, he is not convinced that Nigerian tertiary institutions can offer practical quality education reeded to become employable in the oil and gas industry. At least two of his uncles, who studied petroleum engineering, are now online vendors. Also with the domination of the industry by international oil companies, there is an air of uncertainty. Eventually, he opts for a totally different course – pharmacy.

The foregoing is my story but (it) does not have to be the story of every Nigerian desirous of engaging in the oil and gas industry. Local content initiatives have come to change the narrative.

The advent of local content and the change in parrative

The discovery of oil in commercial quantity in 1956 brought about an era of foreign domination of the oil and gas industry. The implication was a gross underutilisation of Nigeria's human and material resources. This informed the need to pass policies, guidelines and legislation, which would lead to a greater involvement of Nigerians in the industry. Notably, the policy document, called Guidelines for Farm Out and Operation of Marginal Fields, stands out as a key initiative for integrating Nigerian content across the industry. The most important initiative was the passage of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act of 2010 (the Local Content Act). Since the passage of the Local Content Act and its implementation by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), significant local value has been added to the industry. There is a progressive change in the narrative.

The Local Content Act gives first consideration to indigenous operators in the award of oil blocs and field licences. Considering that indigenous companies were only responsible for 11 percent of production in 2012, this is a step in the right direction, which when complemented by award of marginal fields, will improve indigenous value in oil production. Also, indigenous service providers are now given exclusive consideration in award of contracts. This has redefined the narrative for fabrication, engineering and many more service companies. Notably, through Project 100, an initiative implemented by the Board, more than 60 indigenous service companies have been empowered to sustain operations.

The Local Content Act also accommodates greater training and employment of Nigerians, by mandating operators to develop and submit employment and training plan for proposed projects. Also, indigenes can now learn directly from expatriates under a succession plan. As of 2018, the implementa-

tion of the Local Content Act accounted for the delivery of project-based trainings to over 5,800 Nigerians. On the employment side, since the passage of the Act in 2010, more than 30,000 direct and indirect jobs have been created for Nigerians. Other impressive areas of local content implementation are patronage of Nigerian goods, legal services and financial services.

Research and Development as a lever for Local Content implementation

R&D is particularly important to local content implementation. It is pertinent to note that local content is not just driven at providing indigenous opportunities but also maintaining maximum efficiency and productivity. Hence, the questions: Can (a) greater (number) of jobs be given to Nigerians with a deficit in skillset and industry training? Can indigenous companies and service providers with insignificant R&D portfolio compete fairly in the global oil market? How can indigenous players develop new technology and processes without R&D projects? Indeed, R&D is important not just in the general sense but particularly in a local content-driven era. The importance of R&D has been underscored by many countries, including India, where the state-owned company, Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), sets out two to three percent of revenue towards research and development.

The role of tertiary institutions in research and development

Tertiary institutions have a significant role to play in R&D efforts of the oil and gas industry, particularly in this local content era. Students of oil industry-related courses should rightly be involved in developing indigenous processes and technology that can help oil and gas operations. Unarguably, where such research is domesticated in our tertiary institutions, the students can contribute to local processes and technology, and even learn to adapt transferred technology to our local realities.

However, for a plethora of reasons, there have been continued complaints that Nigerian tertiary institutions do not contribute significantly to R&D efforts; more so do not produce industry-skilled graduates. This is a given where curriculum is theoretical and not practical. Sadly, some of the graduates cannot even understand the mechanism of drilling rigs and oil facilities. On the other hand, their counterparts in other nations are actively involved in oil and gas research and development. Some lecturers also do not have practical experience and cannot efficiently train students or supervise them through R&D processes. Hence, we have a piteous army of unskilled trainers training potentially unskilled and unemployable students.

Role of regulatory bodies in R&D

Now, more than ever, regulatory bodies have a significant role to play in facilitating indigenous research and development as the

drive towards local content implementation increases. The NCDMB stands out as a primary body in this regard. The Board has made great strides towards funding R&D projects. The Board established US\$50 million Nigerian Content Research and Development Fund to boost R&D in the industry. This comes in handy at a time lack of funds has impeded R&D progress in the nation. The Board has also facilitated project-based trainings, which substantially benefit many indigenes.

The Nigerian Content Research and Development Council (NCRDC) was also launched to advise the Board on matters relating to research and development. The board, among other things, seeks to ensure that research is based on industry challenges and geared towards developing necessary products and their prototypes. The NCRDC also aims at ensuring that research products are commercialised, which is in consonance with the objective of local content to increase patronage of indigenous products.

Observation and recommendations

The challenges of R&D in the industry today include the absence of infrastructure as well as lack of adequate funding for researchers and research institutions. To make matters worse, the failure of tertiary institutions to advance research and development is another significant challenge. Clearly, without addressing these issues, the quest towards productive R&D will fail and this will deter local content implementation.

It is recommended that tertiary institutions should collaborate with oil companies to develop a more practical learning curriculum. The Local Content Board may now require that certain oil companies partner certain tertiary institutions as part of their local content plan. This is beyond internship placements. Such partnership will bring about merging of resources towards research and development, especially as the tertiary institutions are not self-sufficient. Also, this collaboration with oil companies will make research more focused on relevant areas, as opposed to innovations that already exist. Also, lecturers of oil and gas courses should compulsorily engage in practical training workshops as part of their continued learning requirement. The Oil and Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria is one efficient institution that has facilitated training of lecturers since inception.

The absence of funding is a plague that is crippling R&D efforts in Nigeria. It is thus recommended that much more should be done in this regard. These funds should also be made available to tertiary institutions as well as the Petroleum Training Institute, in order to help them acquire research infrastructure and facilities. Also, oil companies should be made to fund specific R&D projects particularly those with relevant prospects for the industry. This way, R&D will serve as a key lever for local content implementation.

Abasiekeme Edet is a second year student of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State. This essay emerged overall winner in NCDMB National Undergraduate Essay Competition 2020. It has been edited and shortened.



Planning, Research and Statistics Directorate

Supporting business with data and seamless engagements

By Patrick Daziba Obah

e handle applications for expatriate quota from oil and gas companies. Such requests include temporary work permits, redesignation and five percent investors' interest.

We also handle baseline studies, collection, collation and analysis of statistical data. We do this overtime in different aspects of the oil and gas industry. Currently, we are working on fabrication. We also catalyse research and development in the oil and gas industry. In addition, we manage the NOGICJQS platform, which is the soul of the Board. It is an electronic platform where multinationals, service companies, individuals and even our R&D activities interact through various models.

Regulation of Research and Statistics

We regulate research activities in the oil and gas industry as mandated by the NOGICD Act of 2010, to ensure that whatever R&D product that comes out will be economically viable and commercialised, following all the necessary steps laid out by the Board.

We do not do R&D just for the sake of it; we do it with the hope that it will generate income and the product will be utilised in the oil and gas industry. Currently, we have several of such activities ongoing.

We also implement the research and development guideline, the 10-year R&D plan, which is a by-product of the Board's 10-Year Strategic Road Map. We have been able to identify some pillars that will enable us to pursue our R&D roadmap.

Collaboration with Ministry of Interior on Expatriate Quota Management

The NOGICD Act is very clear on what we should do. It says there should be an initial approval from the Board. We are like a clear-

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ing house: we do all the technical assessments on the need for such expatriate quotas to be granted. Once that has been done, we send a letter to the Ministry of Interior for final approvals. We are collaborating with the Federal Ministry of Interior (FMI) towards seamless exchange of information so that people do not drop misinformation and cause disharmony within the system.

We have a database of all the expatriate positions that we have given since the inception of the Board. The database should be able to tell us a story about technology transfer, it should tell us a story about job creation and preparedness of talents for upcoming energy sources.

We are working on an electronic interface, such that they do not need to have a hard copy letter from us. This will enable NCDMB and the FMI to have a seamless exchange of information. We have notified the Ministry and stakeholders in the industry about our preparedness to launch the platform in the next one or two months.

This is one of the beauties that the COVID-19 scenario has brought to bear. There will be minimal paperwork on expatriate quota administration once this is launched.

Setting up two new NCCF Sectoral Working Groups

One of the sectoral working groups is Diversity, and the other, Gas Value Chain. The diversity sectoral working group was created to encourage women to perform better in the oil and gas industry, to make them see opportunities and have easier access to funds.

The sectoral group will help women feel more confident and have a platform to speak up, to interact, ask questions and make suggestions. These are very brilliant people. So-

ciety can only benefit from them, if they have a platform to express themselves in the line of their business.

The second is Gas Value Chain sectoral working group. It is intended to give prominence to gas, which is the new big thing in the oil and gas industry. We are trying to ensure that people in the gas business will have some prominence, compared to what it was in time past.

Improvement in the operations of the NOG-ICJOS

The NOGICDJQS has been quite active and when that update was made, it was to give stakeholders more accessibility to some of the features that had been frigid. It is now more user-friendly. For instance, the registration of companies, which used to be the normal application process of writing a letter to the ES; now, everything is done online. Companies that have their names registered on the JQS portal do not need to go anywhere else to pick up their registration certificates. You can print the certificate and use it. Now, the certificate has an expiration period and a certificate number.

The NOGICIQS also houses the Expatriate Quota, Temporary Work Permit, five percent investors' interest and redesignations. All of these will be covered and handled electronically, and, of course, it remains a database because all the expatriate quota approval trends are there on the portal. In terms of statistics, it provides us with reliable numbers to be able to do any analysis. You need these numbers to determine the capacity as well as utilisation capacity. We try to reach out to other sectors to create markets for them.

Mr. Patrick Daziba Obah is the Director, DPRS. NCDMB.







Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote has been re-appointed as the Executive Secretary, NCDMB for another four years. He was reappointed based on the positive recommendation by the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva for transformational leadership and effective promotion of Local Content.



Secondment to NLNG

Mr. Terhemba Makeri, has been de-seconded by his parent organisation - the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) from the NCDMB to the NLNG as the General Manager, Human Resources. He held the same position at the NCDMB between 2017 to September 2020.



Movement

Mrs. Maureen Ohaeri has been appointed the General Manager, Human Resources Division. She was the General Manager, Facility and Logistics Division.



Mr. Okey Egbuta has been appointed the Acting General Manager, Facility and Logistics Division. He was the Manager, Midstream, Project and Certification and Authorisation Division (PCAD) as well as the Manager, Special Projects (HQBP/Polaku), STPD.

Promotion

The following staff who participated in the Chief officers' Transition Programme (COTP) have been promoted from the supervisory level to Management cadre:

- Mr. Naboth Onyesoh Corporate Communication Division
- Mrs. Doris Opuwari Human Resources Division
- Ms. Amanda Yekorogha Monitoring and Evaluation
 Directorate
- Mr. Suleiman Ozimede Facility and Logistic Division
- Mr. Timbiri Augustine Capacity Building Division
- Mr. Chukwuma Udom Capacity Building Division
- Mr. Isaac Akpan Zonal Coordination Division



Former Miss Maureen Okiemute Obukofe, a supervisor in the Directorate of Legal Services (DLS) married her love, Mr. Kenneth Omamuromu Adugbo on November 21, 2020 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Oleh, Ughelli, Delta State.

Wedding



e have used the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund as an enabler of Nigerian content development. This is key to meeting the targets of the Nigerian Content 10-year strategic road map. We provided cheap and accessible fund to players in the oil and gas sector, helping them to grow their businesses. That is one of NCDMB's foremost achievements. The reception has been good from industry players. Most of them applied for it successfully and have come back to give us good reports on how the NCI Fund helped them achieve their objectives as well as that of the Board, which is to grow Nigerian Content level to 70 percent.

Increase of the Fund size from US\$200m to US\$350m

The increase came as a result of the successful performance of the NCI Fund. Pre-2017, we were applying the NCI Fund in a different model - using commercial banks as touch points. That programme was not very successful. When we came up with the Fund Management Agreement with the Bank of Industry (BoI) in 2017, it became quite effective. We started with a US\$200 million intervention fund so that industry players could actively subscribe to the different product lines that we had created. The dollar-denominated different product lines are: Manufacturing, Refinancing, Contract Financing and Asset Acquisition, at single obligor limit of \$10 million and interest rate of eight (8) percent. We also had the Community Contractor Financing as the only naira-denominated product line and we kept it at a single obligor limit of ₩20 million with an interest rate of five (5) percent. We have almost exhausted the entire \$200 million, so there was a need to increase the size of that basket of investment due to the positive performance.

We also needed to increase the size of the NCI Fund because the number of applicants was over a hundred, totalling \$560 million, value of applications and over ₹25 billion. How can we meet all of that, if we do not increase the size of the fund?

For this reason, the Management of the

Board approached our Governing Council and we were able to get necessary approvals to increase the size of the fund by \$150 million. However, \$50 million of this fund is for two new product lines we just developed. The first is for Women in Oil and Gas, which was allocated \$20 million. We also worked with PETAN to come up with a working capital product line, which we assigned \$30 million. We are going to add these two new products to the existing basket and we are hoping that they will go a long way to impact positively in growing Nigerian Content in the industry.

Making the Community Contractor Fund more accessible

The Community Contractor Product Line is quite different from the other four product lines. This is because you are dealing with small scale contractors that do business with different International Operating Companies and service companies in the oil and gas space. The Community Contractor Product Line has not been very successful for two key reasons: One, maybe because it is naira-denominated and, secondly, because of the channels that were used. Bol operates more like a wholesale bank; that is why the other four product lines were very successful. We have learnt that the Community Contractor Product Line needs a different intervention platform, a retail platform, because of the nature of the business. You need to engage them appropriately and disburse the funds. We are revising the Community Contractor Product Line to make it a lot more flexible and nimble so it can make the necessary impact.

General performance of the NCI Fund

The total value of applications we received as at March 2020 was about \$560 million and over ₹25 billion; we had over a hundred applicants. We had to look through all the eligibility criteria before disbursements are made. As at March 2020, we had disbursed the equivalent of \$187 million to about 27 beneficiaries. In that process, we have been able to derive over \$14.3 million and ₹658 million as earnings from this intervention fund.

In terms of principal repayment over this period, we have been able to plough back over \$20.3 million as well as \\$360 million as principal repayment. We are very much on the right trajectory and the fund is doing well. That is part of the reason we needed to increase the fund. Recently, we engaged Bol to provide some level of counterpart funding to grow the size of the basket. They committed ₦50 billion to the fund and this is good because we have quite a number of applicants waiting in line to access this fund. We will also be looking at other intervention platforms that can fit into the key objective of what NCDMB is doing and we see how we can bring them on board.

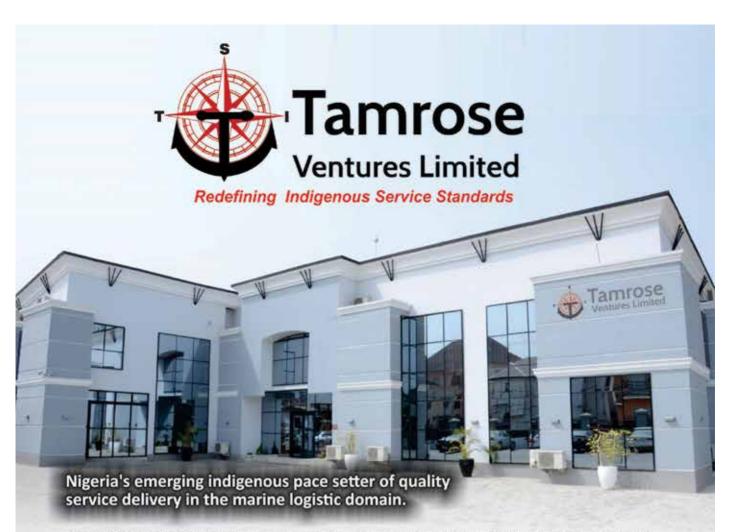
NCI Fund and COVID-19 pandemic

The pandemic took everyone by surprise. The effect was really felt from March 2020 as oil price dropped to near zero. That had a direct impact on oil and gas players who we support. The Board, under the leadership of the Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Wabote, decided to look at the entire NCI Fund scheme, to see where we could provide some level of palliatives. Part of what we did was to extend moratorium timelines between six to 12 months for the existing loans, so that it would support their businesses. We also reduced interest rate from eight (8) percent to six (6) percent and this also helped to return some money to the players in the industry.

Part of the new product line we are developing for PETAN members is also a form of palliative; to see how we can provide working capital for these companies so that they can stay afloat. If part of our strategic objectives is to grow Nigerian Content to 70 percent by 2027, then we have to keep these companies afloat, give them the necessary support that is needed to ensure that they do not reduce workforce and at the same time keep doing what they are doing, so that when the oil price bounces back and things return to normal, we should continue from that point in time.

Mr Isaac Yalah is Director, Finance and Personnel Management, NCDMB. ■

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GIVING MEANING TO NIGERIAN CONTENT IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY:

OUR RAISON D'ETRE:

To redefine indigenous service standards

OUR VISION:

To be the dominant indigenous marine logistic services provider in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry

OUR WAY:

A first class operationally efficient organisation.

A Continuous Improvement based ISO certified processes.

A vibrant and performance driven team of highly motivated and skilled indigenous talents.

All coming together to create truly world class quality services - our trade mark!

OUR SERVICES:

- Offshore Marine Security Services
- Terminal Services
- Platform Supply Services
- Integrated Procurement Services

TMC EAGLE

TAMROSE - redefining indigenous service standards since 2010.







ILLEGAL USE OF MANPOWER SUPPLY PERMITS TO DEPLOY **EXPATRIATES** IN THE NIGERIAN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

t has come to the attention of the Ministry of Interior, the Nigerian Content Development & Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) that Manpower Supply Companies that have been issued Statutory Oil and Gas Industry Service Permits by the DPR to supply 'Nigerian Professionals Only' are engaged by operators and contractors to supply expatriates in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry.

The permits clearly indicate that they are not to be used to deploy expatriates under any circumstance or guise.

It is also disturbing that Operators and Major Service Providers promote this illegal practice by entering into contract agreements with these Manpower Supply Companies to source Expatriates for positions which in several cases had been denied quota and earmarked to be occupied by Nigerians. This practice circumvents laid down statutory approval processes and compliance requirements for obtaining Expatriate Quota Positions.

Stakeholders in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry are therefore to note the following:

- i. Companies (Operators, Service Providers, etc.) engaging manpower suppliers with permits for supply of "Nigerian Professionals Only" are to ensure that no expatriates are deployed under such manpower supply contracts under any guise (whether on EQ, TWP or other processes);
- ii. Companies seeking to engage expatriates in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry must ensure that they obtain the relevant approvals from NCDMB before applying for Expatriate Quota, TWP or other entry permits from Ministry of Interior, the Nigeria Immigration Service or other agencies of government;
- iii. Companies deploying expatriates in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry are to ensure full compliance with the guidelines and requirements of the Ministry of Interior and NCDMB including registration on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Joint Qualification System (NOGICJQS) as well as biometrics enrolment of all expatriate personnel in their employment;
- iv. NCDMB will intensify its monitoring and evaluation activities to identify companies violating the statutory provisions of the DPR manpower supply permits and perpetuating illegal expatriate deployments with a view to invoking appropriate sanctions and penalties as specified in the Immigration Act, 2015 and Immigration Regulation, 2017 as well as the NOGID Act; and
- v. Companies in the Oil and Gas Sector intending to apply for Expatriate Quota Positions, should submit and process their applications to the Board by registering and applying on the NOGICJQS portals.

For enquiries on the NCDMB Expatriate Quota process, please contact NCDMB by email: <u>info@ncdmb.gov.ng</u> or Phone: 07000NCDMB. Also refer to the appropriate operational guidelines available on the NCDMB and NOGICJQS portals (<u>www.ncdmb.gov.ng</u> and <u>www.nogicjqs.gov.ng</u>), respectively.

Permanent Secretary

Executive Secretary

Director/CEO

Ministry of Interior

NCDMB

Department of Petroleum Resources







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