

Local CONTENT Digest

H2 2022

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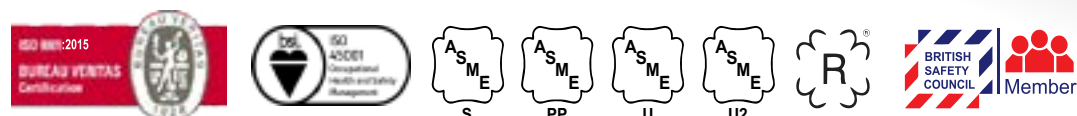
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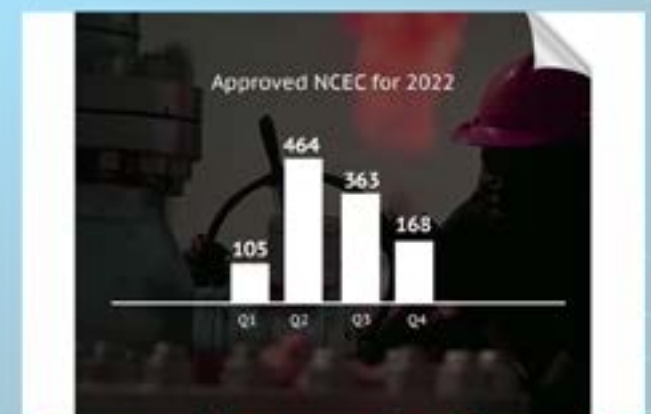
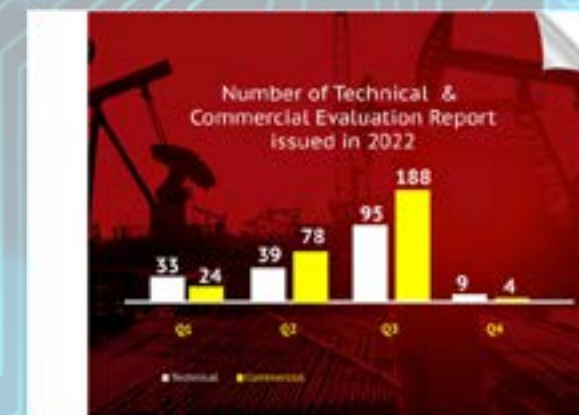
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SMART FACT



Data for January to November, 2022 compiled by Hauwa Hamisu.



Nigerian Content achievement at 47% is no fluke

Two awards speak eloquently to the work we have been doing at the Board. In October, I was conferred with the *Distinguished Capacity Development Award* by President Muhammadu Buhari. Earlier, NCDMB achieved First Position in the Ease of Doing Business ranking by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), under the office of the Vice President in the period January to June, 2022. In 2019, NCDMB was ranked 27th. Moving to the first position in just three years is a testament to the relentless focus of the management and staff of the Board in delivering on the mandate of the NOGICD Act.

As gratifying as the recognitions are, they could not have come without the excellent work of the Board in symphony with stakeholders in the oil and gas industry. Together, we have significantly moved the needle of Nigerian Content, and by so doing, growing wealth, deepening the skills pool and generally enhancing the wellbeing of Nigerians across the length and breadth of the country.

The impact we are making is not only in our primary sector, oil and gas. Take, for instance, our investments in vocational skills, where we have trained many young Nigerians on skills such as mobile technology repairs and installations, among others, in many states in the six geopolitical zones, upgraded vocational training schools to make them more effective, and recently inaugurated a ₦1billion Vocational Hub at the University of Ibadan constructed and equipped by the NCDMB. This institute is expected to produce highly skilled artisans with exportable skills. This investment is anchored on the insight that the oil and gas industry cannot provide job opportunities in huge numbers, but can be a catalyst to create hundreds of thousands of jobs. Investing in vocational skills not only bridges a huge skills gap, it also enables the beneficiaries to work for themselves and possibly become entrepreneurs.

Maritime sector delivers the goods

One of the biggest Nigerian Content move was taken when we announced bids for Brass Island Ship Repair Facility. Our studies showed that though Nigeria accounts for two-third of shipping volume in West and Central Africa, there is a paucity of in-country capacities and capabilities in the maritime sector especially in the maintenance and repairs of ships, vessels, and other marine facilities utilised for trade and commerce and in the oil and gas industry. The Brass Island Shipyard will, when completed, grow local capacity in the maritime sector, create thousands of jobs and retain income that would otherwise have been spent in other jurisdictions repairing and maintaining vessels. The shipyard is especially suited for Brass because of its location and natural water depth of 6-7m and only needs to be dredged about 3m to enable service of big carriers. The vision is to make Brass the hub of ship repair and service in the West and Central African regions.

Another project that has the potential to also grow Nigerian Content is the ongoing NLNG Train-7. I am happy to note that a lot of work is

ongoing with many local service companies working on the project. This point was reiterated when Dr. Philip Mshelbila, Managing Director of Nigeria LNG Ltd, paid a courtesy visit to NCDMB's head office in Yenogoa. He said the project will create at least 10,000 jobs in its various phases. More importantly, he referred to the close collaboration between the Board and NLNG to deepen the local content component of Train-7. It serves as a model for other major projects going forward.

In the same vein, we are discussing with the Nigerian Navy to connect its shipyard to the oil and gas industry. The facility has the capacity to design and construct tugboats, ferries, barges and houseboats, fabrication and installation of gun mounts and ballistic shields, among many others. It also has the capacity to repair and maintain ships. It is a good example of cross sectorial linkage. Caverton Boat Fabrication Yard at the Badore Ferry Terminal in Ajah, Lagos is a great example of technology transfer and a further evidence of growing local content. It is a huge, strategic investment. We are delighted to note that Nigeria's capacity in the maritime sector is being scaled up.

"As gratifying as the recognitions are, they could not have come without the excellent work of the Board in symphony with stakeholders in the oil and gas industry. Together, we have significantly moved the needle of Nigerian Content, and by so doing, growing wealth, deepening the skills pool and generally enhancing the wellbeing of Nigerians across the length and breadth of the country."

Scaling up industrial capacity

Other notable milestones in the second half of the year include the partnership achieved with oil majors Shell, Exxon and NAOC in the development of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Parks (NOGaPS). The industrial parks play strategic roles in Nigeria's long term quest to industrialise. With NOGaPS being the fulcrum for the production of parts and equipment required in oil and gas industry operations, as well as its linkage sectors, operationalising the parks is key. Shell funded the provision of power and utility cables deployed at the oil and gas park located at Emeyal-1, Bayelsa State, while Exxon Mobil provided the electrical infrastructure for the park at Odukpani in Cross River State. In addition, NAOC partnered the Board to develop the 10-megawatts gas power plant that will supply power to the Bayelsa Park, the Nigerian Content Tower and some strategic infrastructure owned by the Bayelsa State Government. Our vision for these industrial parks is gradually being crystallised. The role of the parks as hotbed of innova-

tion, domiciliation of manufacturing and wealth creation is accelerating. In the manufacturing front, Grephil International Limited opened a factory dedicated to the manufacture of bolts, nuts, fittings, flanges and carrying out valve calibration, sand blasting and related services. The factory was opened in August in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Coleman Technical Industries Limited (CTIL) also opened its fibre optic cable manufacturing factory, a world-class facility which is the first of its kind in the West Africa region and fifth in Africa. Joining the league of companies increasing in-country industrial capacity is Uniterm Nigeria Limited and Southwestern Technologies and Oilfield Services Limited, which opened new factories in Port Harcourt. We are witnessing the growth of production capacities into more sophisticated equipment and parts required in the oil and gas industry. Local production of the highly sophisticated fibre optic cables that are the backbone of delivering increasingly large broadband in the telecommunications industry is a major advantage for Nigeria and the entire African region.

One of the standout examples of close collaboration with the industry was achieved when Crestech Engineering Limited followed the Board through the process of remedying a breach of Local Content regulations. When Crestech Engineering was made aware of its breach of Expatriate Quota, the company worked with the Board by providing high level training to Nigerians selected from the NOGIC-JQS platform and after the training, employed three of the four train-

ees. It is a win-win for the industry and the country, and enunciates the point I have always made that local content regulations are not been implemented as punitive measures, but as tools to grow the economy. Although this is not always the case, the core mandate of the Board is to support the industry to successfully implement local content practices.

With greater compliance as shown by the aforementioned example, more investment in capacity and capabilities across many sub-sectors in the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors, 70 percent local content target by 2027 is achievable. It requires the collective commitment of all the players in the ecosystem to achieve this target. We at the Board are optimistic this will be achieved. While we celebrate the twin awards, bigger achievements await us as we march relentlessly towards attaining the ultimate goal set out in the 10 Year Strategic Roadmap.

The general elections will be held early next year and a new Government sworn into office, evidence of Nigeria's stable democratic governance culture. We believe the foundations that have been laid, and the milestones achieved, for local content in the oil and gas industry will be sustained by the new government. The industry can only look forward to sustaining the drive to deepen local content, building on the 47 percent that has been achieved thus far and the Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Roadmap.

"With greater compliance as shown by the aforementioned example, more investment in capacity and capabilities across many sub-sectors in the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors, 70 percent local content target by 2027 is achievable. It requires the collective commitment of all the players in the ecosystem to achieve this target. We at the Board are optimistic this will be achieved. While we celebrate the twin awards, bigger achievements await us as we march relentlessly towards attaining the ultimate goal set out in the 10 Year Strategic Roadmap."

Modular Refinery...One of the benefits of local content implementation



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Focusing on the customer is at the core of service delivery at the NCDMB. The Customer Week 2022 was an opportunity for the Board to showcase its exceptional service.

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Nigerian music has attained global status. Olamide is a musician's musician, making hits, birthing and producing hit-makers! He is the leading music entrepreneur of this age.

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Great Imagination linked to winning

This edition of *Local Content Digest* is a collector's item! While engaged in the strategy session, the cheery news came that our Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, had been awarded the Distinguished Capacity Development Award by President Muhammadu Buhari. The Board also was recognised as the number one agency in the Ease of Doing Business ranking by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC).

The two awards are eloquent testament of the work NCDMB and the industry are doing to grow local content in the Nigerian oil and gas industry. We then had to change direction to capture this moment.

The *Cover* segment is, therefore, devoted to detailing the impact the Board's activities have had in the industry, how the narrative has changed and the significant growth that has been recorded. Accentuating this were the thoughts of our Executive Secretary where he delved deep into the values that drive local content, the investments the Board has made, and the nuances around local content, such as the software and hardware. Yes, you read right! It is the most wide-ranging interview he has granted till date. This is published in *The Big Interview* segment.

Together, the cover story and the interview segments provide a broad canvas of what drives local content, achievements in the last six years and expectations by 2027, at the terminal date of the 10-Year Strategic Roadmap. This edition is one for the keeps.

As part of its support for key linkage sectors, the Board is also investing in programmes to build capacity and close skills gaps in the country. One of these programmes is re-vamping vocational and technical colleges, investing in equipment and generally providing an environment conducive for vocational skills education. This programme is expected to enhance vocational education, upskilling Nigerians and create jobs. This is the focus of the *Innovation* segment.

"Together, the cover story and the interview segments provide a broad canvas of what drives local content, achievements in the last six years and expectations by 2027, at the terminal date of the 10-Year Strategic Road-

As this is the last edition of the year and it is coinciding with the holiday season, we have made a list of the best places to holiday. Nigeria has lots of holiday destinations that sometimes we are spoilt for choice. In *Travelogue*, we highlighted some of the best destinations in each of the six geopolitical zones so that you do not have to travel far to maximise the holiday season. If sightseeing is your thing, this is also a great time to check out nice places. If you need any convincing, read our *Outdoors* segment to know the benefits of sightseeing and how to easily do it.

This is in addition to our regular columns that are packed full of information. In *Money*, for instance, we examined the issues around cryptocurrencies, among other great and spicy content in *HSE*, *Cuisine*, *Music*, *Movies*, among others.

We are glad that we have delivered this edition just as the 2022 Practical Nigerian Content Workshop is opening at the magnificent Ibom Hotel & Golf Resort in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The theme of the conference is *Deepening Nigerian Content Opportunities in the Decade of Gas*. This is quite thematic and relevant to our industry today. I hope you will participate fully in the conference and enjoy reading this edition.

Here is wishing you all a fantastic holiday and a great 2023.

NLNG, NCDMB to deepen partnership beyond compliance

The Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Limited and the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) have set up a joint tactical team to drive closer collaboration on projects, ensure compliance with Nigerian Content obligations and promote other strategic alliances. This decision was reached in August when Dr. Philip Mshelbila, Managing Director of Nigeria LNG Limited, and his management visited Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

The NLNG MD said: “NLNG and NCDMB have a special partnership that is beyond operator and regulator relationship. We started this relationship when we signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) a few years ago and it put in place standards by which we would work together and ensure compliance and guard against surprises.”

He said the current plan is to take the relationship beyond complying with the provisions of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act. “NLNG has a vision, not just to be a globally competitive NLNG business, but to help build a better Nigeria. To do that, we have to work closely with the NCDMB and raise our partnership to a new level. That includes human capital development, research and other areas,” he added.

Mshelbila recalled how NCDMB supported the take-off of the Train 7 project. “The Final Investment Decision (FID) was taken with the help of NCDMB and the project is now under construction, making good and safe progress. We are looking at potentially 5,000 to 10,000 persons being employed in different phases of the project. We already have thousands working on the ground. It is employing various contractors across different areas. This is a true example of how local content should be,” he said.

Oil firms need diversification of operations, revenue options

For oil and gas companies to survive the cyclical nature of the industry and ongoing energy transition, they need to widen their services to cover other sectors of the economy, instead of depending solely on contracts from the oil and gas sector. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), gave the advice while commissioning the GIL Automations’ cable tray and switchgear factory in Lagos in October.

He advised service companies to develop a model that is adaptable to any prevailing circumstance, stressing that the ongoing



L-R: Mr. Olalekan Olufemi Ogunleye, Deputy Managing Director, Nigeria LNG; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Dr. Philip Mshelbila, Managing Director, Nigeria LNG Limited at the courtesy visit by the Nigeria LNG management to the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

energy transition made it imperative for companies to acquire new capabilities to enable them operate successfully in the new environment.

He recalled that companies converted their factories at the peak of COVID-19 to produce items that were needed at that time. “This same ingenuity is required of service companies to model their software, personnel and other assets to check the opportunities they are overlooking due to being fixated on contracts from the oil and gas industry,” he said.

The Executive Secretary praised GIL Automations for expanding from the provision of service to manufacturing. He remarked that the company had developed capacity to provide world-class services across the oil, gas, manufacturing and power industries, and created a niche for itself in industrial automation, instrumentation, electrical, control, communication and safety systems.

“As an ISO9001 certified local manufacturer of low voltage electrical products in line with international standards, the products are not only meant for the local market but also in high demand within the regional and continental markets,” Wabote added.

‘13,000 Nigerians have benefitted from NCDMB’s Human Capacity Programmes’

About 13,000 Nigerian youths have benefitted from the human capacity development programmes of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) since the inception of the agency in 2010. The beneficiaries were trained in various skill areas for graduates and artisans, resulting in over 12 million training manhours.

Dr. Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building Division, NCDMB, stated this at the kick-off ceremony for the training of 100 youths on industrial assembly and installation of pre-paid meters sponsored by the Board. The latest training was provided by Femadec Energy Limited in Lagos.

Ikuru said the training was consistent with the 60:20:20 human capital development policy of the Board, and adding that human capital development is the strongest pillar for attaining the mandate of the Board. He said the training was designed “to help trainees key into the Federal Government’s National Mass Metering Programme, to close the gaps in the Nigerian consumer electricity supply industry and ensure that consumers are appropriately billed”. He added that the market for the service was huge and it presented a viable option for anyone seeking to find good paying jobs.

The training was divided into two skill categories- Pre-paid Meter Assembly and Pre-paid Meter Installation.

The Board had a similar partnership with the Industrial Training Fund (ITF) on vocational training. Many beneficiaries of the scheme have either started their businesses or become gainfully employed, the General Manager said.

Uniterm, Southwestern Technologies open new factories in PH

Uniterm Nigeria Limited, and Southwestern Technologies and Oilfield Services Limited have opened new factories in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The facilities were commissioned by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in September.

The NCDMB boss praised the companies for growing their business and contributing to the development of the Nigerian oil and gas industry, as well as contributing to the goal of achieving 70 percent Nigerian Con-

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tent in the oil and gas industry by 2027. “The addition of the new operational base and office complex will enhance the operational efficiency to provide superior service delivery to customers,” he said.

He expressed delight that Nigerian oil and gas service companies were showing resilience and making their mark in the provision of top-notch services to diverse clientele, not only in the oil and gas industry but also in the linkage sectors. Wabote said Rivers State hosted the largest concentration of oil and gas service providers in Nigeria and commended the state government for creating the enabling environment for businesses to grow within the city rather than relocate to other states.

The leadership of the companies reeled out various services they provided. They commended the NCDMB for the unusual support for Nigerian businesses to grow and ensure that industries complied with the Local Content Law.

Petroleum contractors pledge support for research in oil and gas

The Petroleum Contractors Trade Section (PCTS) has offered to provide an array of support that would facilitate demand-driven and sustainable research and development solutions for the oil and gas industry. Mr. Tayo Akinkunmi, Chairman of PCTS, made the pledge at the second Nigerian oil and gas industry research and development roundtable convened in October in Abuja. The roundtable was organised by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB).

The PCTS is the custodian of technology in the oil and gas sector. The group’s chairman said

the members would create a window for researchers and innovators to meet with subject matter experts who would help them to better understand the oil and gas sector, define research problems and priorities, to guide R&D efforts. He said PCTS would also provide researchers with the acceptance criteria for R&D efforts, testing plans and validation methodologies, and access to testing and qualification facilities.

Member-companies of the PCTS include Baker Hughes, Schlumberger, Halliburton, Bristow, Julius Berger, NigerStar7, TechnipFMC and Tenaris. The companies would also provide advisory on go-to-market strategies and targeted funding.

Mr. Patrick Daziba Obah, Director of Planning, Research and Statistics at the NCDMB, said the event was organised to assess the level of the Board’s R&D activities, analyse current energy trends and identify what could be done to improve the landscape.

A key outcome of the event was the need for researchers to develop competencies in writing viable R&D proposals. Obah affirmed the Board’s willingness to partner other organisations to promote research and development. He said the Board was collaborating with institutions of government and the private sector, adding that this contributed to the impressive strides that had been recorded in Nigerian content development.

Buhari confers Wabote with National Excellence Awards in Public Service

President Muhammadu Buhari has conferred the *Distinguished Capacity Development Award* on Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Ex-

ecutive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB).

The award was bestowed on Wabote in October at the Nigeria Excellence Award in Public Service (NEAPS) in Abuja. The award was for the outstanding strides he accomplished in human and infrastructural capacity development since he was appointed the helmsman of NCDMB in September 2016.

Forty-three other distinguished public offers also received awards. They include the leadership of the National Assembly, former President Goodluck Jonathan, governors, ministers, heads of agencies and service chiefs. President Buhari explained that the national recognition was intended to motivate public officials to dedicate themselves and perform diligently in office. He noted that the awardees were recognised for exhibiting transparency and accountability in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Mr. Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation said the nominees were selected independently by a team of assessors.

Engr. Wabote and Mr. Mele Kolo Kyari, Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC Limited) were the only recipients from the oil and gas industry. The GMD was recognised for outstanding reform initiative.

Wabote Advocates African Content, collaboration in projects

African oil-producing countries should collaborate, particularly in human capacity development, joint development of energy projects and research and development (R&D). This



FACILITY TOUR: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Oil and Gas Stakeholders’ during an inspection tour of Total Support Energy Group in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

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was the key message of Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), at the 2022 Africa Energy Week (AEW) in Cape Town, South Africa, in October.

He urged African oil producers to break barriers that restrict them from deepening African Content practice and economic collaboration. Some of those barriers are language, currencies, immigration and bias towards the dictates of colonial masters.

The NCDMB boss urged African leaders and businesses to recognise that poverty does not discriminate against race, religion, or gender; hence, join hands within the continent and across the globe to tackle common challenges.

Wabote expressed delight with the emerging collaborations amongst countries and institutions in Africa, especially in infrastructure projects and provision of funding. Other ongoing cooperative initiatives include the formation of the African Petroleum Producers Organisation (APPO), the African Local Content Roundtable and the recent effort by APPO to establish an Africa Energy Fund.

The NCDMB boss explained that six essential parameters are needed to achieve sustainable Local Content programme. They include an enabling regulatory framework backed with the appropriate legislation, baseline and periodic gap analysis to determine gaps that require closure in the areas of skills, facilities and infrastructure, and thirdly, structured capacity-building intervention to spur the development of in-country capacities and capabilities.

Others are funding and incentives, research and development, and, lastly, access to market, which is necessary to ensure patronage and utilisation of capacities and capabilities developed.



Barr. Esueme Dan Kikile, Manager, Corporate Communication Division, NCDMB with Mr. Ayotomiwa Elesho, a second year Political Science student at the University of Ibadan/Winner of the 6th Annual NCDMB National Undergraduate Essay Competition, at the Award and Prize giving ceremony in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.



Cross-section of trainees during the close-out ceremony of 1,000 youths training on mobile phone repairs, hardware, software and entrepreneurship development under its Youth Empowerment Programme in Calabar, Cross Rivers State.

NCDMB to collaborate with Quantity Surveyors for Nigerian content growth

Skills and competencies of quantity surveyors will be useful in cost management and local content expansion in Nigeria's oil and gas industry. That was the kernel of the presentation by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) at a workshop organised in October by the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors (NIQS) in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

The NCDMB boss stated that the value propositions of quantity surveying needed to be identified and utilised to deepen Nigerian Content and capital retention. The Executive Secretary, who was represented by Dr. Ginah

O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communications and Zonal Coordination, assured the NIQS that the Board would collaborate with their members as the agency strove to attain 70 percent local content by 2027, as set out in its Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Roadmap. Mr. Michael Shonubi, President, Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors, said the workshop was necessitated by the need to deepen the skills and competencies of practitioners to enable them participate more effectively in the highly technology-based oil and gas sector in Nigeria and abroad.

1,000 Cross River youths graduate from mobile technology training

1,000 Cross River State youths have received training in mobile phone repairs, hardware, software and entrepreneurship development under the Youth Empowerment Programme of

the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). The training was held in Calabar, Ikom and Ogoja and it was the sixth in the series, after similar interventions in Kano, Kaduna, Cross River, Bauchi and Yobe states, in which about 3,900 youths participated.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary NCDMB, said the Board conducted the training to empower Nigerian youths so that they could contribute to national development. He said the programme would provide lifelong support for youths who desired to be empowered in high-impact economic sectors, including oil and gas, information and communication technology, agriculture, construction

ing the capacity building and job creation objectives of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act.

Mr. Akintunde Adelana, the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation at NCDMB, conveyed the commendation when he visited the firm in October in Lagos with some staff members of the Board.

He said Crestech Engineering partnered the Board to sustain the Nigerian Content Drive in Human Capacity Development by selecting four graduates from the NOGICQS portal in September 2021 to undergo 12 months of training in Process Engineering Design, Electrical Engineering Design, and Civil/Structural



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Prof. Ivora Esu, Deputy Governor, Cross River State during the close-out ceremony of 1,000 youths training on mobile phone repairs, hardware, software and entrepreneurship development under its Youth Empowerment Programme in Calabar, Cross River State

and others. He noted that most members of the society use mobile phones and would always need maintenance services. Wabote said the skills the trainees acquired would always be in high demand. He canvassed for a roadmap that would boost local manufacturing of embedded systems and mobile phone technology, assembly, and manufacturing of integrated circuitry, electronic components and mobile devices.

Hon. Legor Idagbo, Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring, commended the NCDMB for training youths of the state. He affirmed that the selection process was fair and advised the trainees to use well the knowledge they had acquired.

Crestech lauded for capacity building, jobs creation

Crestech Engineering Limited has received kudos from the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) for support-

Engineering. The director recalled that following the completion of the training in September 2022, three of the four trainees were absorbed by the company. He said the commendable action of Crestech Engineering fulfilled the objectives of the on-the-job training programme of the Board and contributed to meeting the targets of the Nigerian Content 10-year Strategic Roadmap.

Adelana urged other local and international service companies to emulate Crestech Engineering and support the NCDMB in developing critical capacities and creating job opportunities in the oil and gas industry.

In its remarks, Mr. Olugbolahan Sobande, Managing Director of Crestech Engineering, praised the Board for the numerous achievements it had recorded and for the opportunity to contribute its quota towards developing the Nigerian Content in the oil and gas industry.

UI student wins ₦1m in essay competition

A second-year student of Political Science at the University of Ibadan, Mr. Ayotomiwa Elesho has won ₦1million prize in the sixth Annual National Undergraduate Essay Competition sponsored by the NCDMB. Winners of the essay competition were celebrated at a ceremony in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in September.

The essay by the 23-year-old was adjudged the best among over 2,000 entries submitted by undergraduates who must be in their first and second year in their university studies. Other finalists included Victor Sunday, a 200-level law student at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, was the first runner-up and winner of a cash prize of ₦700,000; and Douthimbraladei Timothy Frank, a 100-level student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Federal University of Otuoke, who came third and won a cash prize of ₦500,000. The participants based their essays on *Strategising for Transformation to Clean Energy Landscape: The NCDMB Intervention*.

Mr. Esueme Dan Kikile, Manager, Corporate Communication at NCDMB, described the essay competition as one of the Board's interventions to improve the standard of education and promote proficiency in writing, awareness about local content and its benefit to the economy. He said the competition provided an opportunity to inculcate local content consciousness among undergraduates in Nigeria.

Sen. Inatimi Rufus Spiff, Chairman of the award ceremony, said the topic for the competition was timely as the effects of climate change was ravaging the global community, making nations consider alternative sources of energy. He also commended the Board for enhancing local participation in the oil and gas industry.

Wabote lauds Sylva's national honours award

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has commended Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, for the national honour of the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) conferred on him by President Muhammadu Buhari in October. Wabote noted that Sylva was fully deserving of the honour, considering his numerous accomplishments that had improved the nation's economy.

Some of the achievements include working with the National Assembly to ensure the enactment of the Petroleum Industry Act 2021; launching the Decade of Gas Initiative in 2020 and the National Gas Expansion Programme (NGEP), aimed at improving domestic LPG consumption; and deepening the use of alternative fuels, such as CNG, for vehicular use.

Others include improving the harmonised data

reporting to Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and provision of comprehensive technical support for Nigeria's representation at OPEC, and catalysing the Final Investment Decision (FID) that led to the development of the US\$7billion LNG Train-7 project and championing Africa's position for a multi-dimensional approach to energy transition using gas as a transition fuel.

The Minister is currently pushing for the resuscitation of the Brass LNG project abandoned over 17 years and launched the Nigerian Gas Transportation Network Code (NGTNC) programme.

He added that the Minister conceived the Nigerian Gas Flare Commercialisation Programme (NGFCP) to support the nation's effort to achieve zero routine flaring by taking gas at flare and auctioning same to third parties for commercialisation and worked for the increase in national gas reserve position to the current 206.53 trillion cubic feet (TCF) to support government's gas revolution and expansion programmes.

NCDMB sponsors workshop on petroleum statistics

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has sponsored a workshop for the development of a Consultative Committee on Petroleum Statistics (CCPS) framework. The workshop was held in August at the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) headquarters in Abuja.

The workshop was aimed at developing and adopting the CCPS framework. Key members of the CCPS are the Ministry of Petroleum Resources (MPR), agencies in the MPR, and other government institutions connected with the nation's economy and data collection and management.



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB performing the ground-breaking for Shell Petroleum Development Company Joint Venture Partners (SPDC JV) Projects at Government Technical College (GTC) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.



Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Engr. Obioha Okoroafor, Managing Director, Hobark International Limited/Chairman, Uniterm Nigeria Limited (3rd right) and Mr. Austin Omobhude, Managing Director/CEO, Uniterm Nigeria Limited (2nd left) during the commissioning of Uniterm Nigeria Limited facility in Port Harcourt, River State.

The CCPS was established to harmonise the statistical production efforts of the various agencies under the MPR and ensure minimum waste of scarce resources employed in statistical data production in the oil and gas sector.

The effort is underpinned by the fact that a well-planned data governance framework covers strategic, tactical and operational roles and responsibilities, which ensures data is trusted, compliant and confidential. The oil and gas sector, being the live wire of the nation, requires trusted data to empower the users and improve business experiences to guide stakeholders in taking sound business and investment decisions. Robust and reliable statistical information also supports the government

decision-making processes as well as proper placing of oil and gas programmes.

Apart from the agencies under the MPR, other members of the CCPS are: the Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN), National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Federal Ministry of Industries, Trade & Investment (FMITI) and the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

NCDMB is best in ease of doing business ranking

The latest Executive Order (EO1) performance ranking for Ease of Doing Business from January to June 2022 has put the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) as the best among all ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) in the country. The report was compiled by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), under the Office of the Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria. NCDMB came tops with 81.48 percent, according to the report released in August.

PEBEC was established in 2016 by President Muhammadu Buhari to address bottlenecks and bureaucratic constraints to executing business in Nigeria.

The ranking shows that NCDMB has delivered quality, efficient and effective service in the first six months of 2022 to its diverse stakeholders. The Board moved from the 27th position in 2019 to being the most improved MDA in the country and the third position in 2020, and now the first position.

Reacting to the development, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said the trend of the ranking showed the impressive level of work that has been put into delivering quality service over the years. "With the right attitude, training, and support, we have achieved the number one spot," he said. Wabote urged the staff not to rest on their oars but continue to give their best, and remain committed to delivering quality service to stakeholders by exploring areas of improvement.

NCDMB, ICPC inaugurate new anti-corruption unit

An Anti-Corruption and Transparency Unit (ACTU) committee is now in place at the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The management inaugurated the unit with the support of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, commended Prof. Bolaji Owananoye, SAN, Chairman of ICPC, for extending the anti-corruption and transparency crusade to government establishments by creating the ACTU committee in each organisation. He said the move had helped to enlighten civil and public servants about the ills of corruption, while also empowering them with the creation of a channel for whistleblowers to report corrupt practices. "ACTU will further deepen our level of compliance and conformity with the laid-down ethical standards of transparency and accountability, among others," he said.

He noted that the fight against corruption was not a sprint and would need to be pushed with constant vigour and unwavering determination for its benefits to be realised.

Mrs. Ekere Usiere, Resident Anti-Corruption Commissioner for Rivers State, explained that the main duties of ACTU are to study the system and review corrupt-prone processes and procedures, educate and enlighten staff on and against corruption. The unit is also expected to undertake preliminary investigations, where petitions are received, and develop a code of ethics for compliance by the workers, among other functions.

Mr. Akintunde Adelana, new ACTU Chairman and Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate at NCDMB, promised that his team would work to ensure full compliance in the Board. Other newly inducted ACTU committee members include Mr. Suleiman Ozimede, Ms. Fateemah Mohammed, Mrs. Seleke-Ere Owoupele, Dr. Ademola Kaka and Mr. Ilu Ozekhome.

APPO visits NCDMB, NOGaPs, seeks collaboration in capacity building

A delegation from the African Petroleum Producers Organisation (APPO) in July paid a study visit to the headquarters of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Board's flagship project, the Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGaPs) in Emeyal-1, Ogbia, Bayelsa State. Dr. Najah M.O. Terha, Director of Research

not only be within borders, but opportunities should also be beyond borders," he said.

Coleman opens fibre optic cable factory, targets African market

Coleman Technical Industries Limited (CTIL), an oil and gas service company, opened its fibre optic cable manufacturing factory in July with a plan to take advantage of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and play big in the African market. The company is re



Human Capacity Development: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB (8th right) with Mr. Benno Touw, General Manager, Projects & Engineering, SPDC in a group photograph with other stakeholders at the ground-breaking ceremony of SPDC JV Projects at Government Technical College (GTC) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

at APPO, led the team. He said the purpose of the visit was to assess oil and gas training and research centres and institutes in Nigeria, with respect to their capacity, quality of programmes and future expansion requirements where necessary. The team also wanted to ascertain the willingness of the centres' management to serve as regional APPO centres of excellence, and collaborate with peer institutes in other APPO member-countries in the field of technology development and training.

The visit was also in line with APPO's mission to promote cooperation among member-countries by encouraging synergies and sharing of experiences through regional training and research centres in Africa to address major challenges of energy transition.

Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research and Statistics at NCDMB, received the delegation and explained that NCDMB had, since its inception in 2010, shared experiences with other African nations on the operations of local content and how to implement the policies successfully. He added that the NCDMB had also set agenda for a common Local Content programme for Africa.

"We at NCDMB are happy with this meeting because we believe that opportunities should

owned for manufacturing different specifications of high voltage and low voltage cables for the oil and gas industry and allied sectors.

The world-class facility is the first of its kind in the West Africa sub-region and fifth in Africa. It is expected to support the development of Nigeria and West African digital economy.

Engr. Paul Zuhumben, General Manager, Project Certification and Authorisation Division, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), represented the Board at the event. He said the company had successfully leveraged the Nigerian Oil & Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act to invest in difficult terrains that were not possible prior to the enactment of the Act. He encouraged other Nigerian businesses to emulate Coleman by positioning themselves to take advantage of the provisions of AfCFTA. He assured all that the Board would continue to support the investment and ensure patronage by project promoters and stakeholders in the oil and gas sector in order to sustain the operations of the facility.

Mr. George Onafowokan, Managing Director of CTIL, highlighted the company's firm belief in local content and building capacity to generate wealth and create jobs. He said the facility



Mr. Akintunde Adelana, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation NCDMB and senior personnel of NCDMB with Mr. Olugbolahan Sobande, Managing Director of Crestech Engineering, after a working visit of the NCDMB officials to the company.

would create about 800 direct jobs and over 2,000 indirect jobs. He added that the company was set to commence work on the second phase of the factory, to meet market demand for fibre optic cables.

Caverton gets commendation on integrated offshore support service

Caverton Offshore Support Group has received kudos for growing into a fully integrated offshore support company, servicing sub-Saharan Africa. Engr. Paul Zuhumben, General Manager, Project Certification and Authorisation Division (PCAD) at the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), gave the commendation during an inspection visit to Caverton Boat Fabrication Yard at the Badore Ferry Terminal in Ajah, Eti Osa Local Government Area of Lagos State.

The GM expressed delight at the company's achievements, especially in capacity building to create in-country value and job opportunities for Nigerians. He also praised the company for its industry best practice and for getting certification and classification by Bureau Veritas. He said the company's investment in a boat fabrication facility was a proof of technology transfer and advised the firm to go into research and development, such that some raw materials, which are currently imported, would be sourced in Nigeria to increase in-country spend and further create direct and indirect employment.

Engr. Zuhumben said the key essence of the marine vessel categorisation scheme was to identify Nigerians with genuine titles to vessels, stressing that the scheme had become successful as over 40 percent of marine vessels operating in the oil and gas industry currently belong to Nigerians.

Mr. Rotimi Makanjuola, Chief Operating Officer of Caverton Marine Limited, announced that the company was a huge beneficiary of local content development. He said some of the Board's policies had encouraged Nigerian

companies to reach their potential and compete locally and internationally. He said the company took standardisation seriously and had achieved the highest level of quality assurance. Mr. Makanjuola described the Caverton prototype Waterbus as a good product, which would still be improved upon as the firm remained committed to developing local capacity.

Shell, Exxon, NAOC partner in oil & gas parks

Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Exxon Mobil Nigeria and Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) have made significant investments in support of the ongoing development of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Parks Scheme (NOGaPS). Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), announced this in July at the Nigerian Content Sensitisation Programme for Law Enforcement Agencies, organised in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.



NCDMB staff with the organisers of the NCDMB-sponsored vocational skills training for 20 Bayelsa State teenage mothers held at the Bayelsa State Institute of Tourism and Hospitality (BSITH) in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

He said Shell funded the provision of power and utility cables deployed in the oil and gas park at Emeyal-1, Bayelsa State, while Exxon Mobil provided the electrical infrastructure for the park at Odukpani in Cross River State. Also, NAOC partnered the Board to develop the 10-megawatts gas power plant that will supply power to the Bayelsa Park, the Nigerian Content Tower and some strategic infrastructure belonging to the Bayelsa State Government.

Engr. Wabote said the Board had signed an agreement with the Gas Aggregation Company of Nigeria (GACN) to establish a gas-fired power plant at the Odukpani Park. He said the power facility would begin operations in early 2023. The Executive Secretary also said the Board had started inviting interested manufacturing companies and other firms to apply for spaces in the parks.

The parks would domicile equipment components manufacturing to meet the needs of the oil and gas industry and sectorial linkages as well as create jobs for the nation's teeming youths. The Board is also developing oil and gas parks at Oguta in Imo State, Onna in Akwa Ibom State, Ilaje in Ondo State and in Delta State. When completed, the parks would be managed by professional facility managers to guarantee their sustainability.

Ministerial Regulations to improve compliance

Seven Ministerial Regulations that will aid the implementation of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act were unveiled by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) at the 2022 Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja in June. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said the regulations were made by the Minister of State for Petroleum,



L-R: Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Prof Kayode Adebawale, Vice Chancellor, University of Ibadan at the handing over ceremony of University of Ibadan Vocational School constructed by the NCDMB.

Chief Timipre Sylva, in line with Section 40 of the NOGICD Act.

They include Regulation on Training in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry, Regulation for the further Growth of Indigenous Capacity, and Regulation on the Registration of Oil and Gas Professionals with Nigerian Professional Bodies. Others include Regulation for the Establishment of Operations in Nigeria 2021, Regulation for Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Technology Transfer, Regulation for Nigerian Oil and Gas Research and Development and Regulation for Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Enforcement and Compliance.

Barrister Naboth Onyesoh, Head of Legal Services Directorate at NCDMB, explained that Nigerian Content regulations have direct nexus with sections of the NOGICD Act and were designed to support the Board in the implementation of key sections of the Act.

The Oil and Gas Insurance Guidelines, developed in collaboration with the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), were also presented at the annual event. They guide the insurance of assets and liabilities in the oil and gas industry. Sections 49 and 50 of the NOGICD Act require players in the Nigerian oil and gas activities to engage local insurance companies for insuring their assets and liabilities.

As part of the NOG, NCDMB sponsored an invitational golf tournament at the IBB Golf and Country Club in Abuja. It featured golfers from the oil and gas sector and associates. Wabote said the tourney was intended to warm up all attendees to the conference, bring alive the game of golf to make it popular among oil and gas workers.

Grephil Nuts & Bolts opens factory in PH

Grephil International Limited opened a factory dedicated to the manufacture of bolts, nuts, fittings, flanges and carrying out valve calibration, sand blasting and related services. The factory was opened in August in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Prince Gregory Ezechukwu, Managing Director, said the company began to domesticate products of its original equipment manufacturers over a decade ago. He announced plans to expand the product lines and services into line pipes, anodes for cathodic protection, assembling of valves, among others, in line with

the Nigerian Content development policy.

The Managing Director acknowledged the patronage the firm enjoyed from the NNPC, NLNG and several international and indigenous oil companies as well as service companies.

Imploring the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) to galvanise more patronage from the oil and gas industry to fully utilise company's production capacity, he commended the Rivers State Government for the enduring peaceful coexistence the firm enjoys with the host community.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secre



Delegates and senior officials from the NCDMB at the Nigerian Content Sensitisation Programme for Law Enforcement Agencies organised by the NCDMB in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

tary of NCDMB commended Grephil International for expanding its operations beyond the oil and gas industry and delivering services to customers in the petrochemical, power and manufacturing industries. He expressed delight that capacities and capabilities that were developed in the oil and gas sector were now being deployed in other sectors of the economy in line with the Nigerian Content 10-year Strategic Roadmap.

He added that “the Nigerian Content growth trajectory requires that investments in local supply-chain are encouraged while opportunities for patronage of the products and services are stimulated using the provisions of the NOGICD Act 2010”.

NNPC to ensure full compliance with Nigerian Content Act

As the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited continues to reposition as a limited liability company under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), its exploration and production subsidiary, formerly known as the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) has promised to make deliberate efforts to comply with the provisions of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act and associated regulations and guidelines. The company is now restructured and known as NNPC Exploration and Production Limited (NEPL).

Key officials of the company made the commitment during a Nigerian Content sensitisation workshop facilitated by NCDMB's key personnel at NPDC's head office in Benin, Edo State.



Participants with officials of NCDMB and ITF at the kick-off ceremony of the vocational/skills acquisition programme organised for youths by the Board in Abuja.

The decision to turn a new leaf followed years of noncompliance with the provisions of the NOGICD Act and other Nigerian content regulations issued by the NCDMB. Several efforts were made from 2016 to 2022 to steer the company into compliance with the NOGICD Act and the Board's processes in its operations without much success, in comparison with other multinational and indigenous operators in the industry. This situation led to a series of queries from the NCDMB to the company, which finally culminated in a request for the Board to carry out a sensitisation workshop for its key officials on salient issues mandated in the NOGICD Act, the Board's processes and expectations from operating companies as enshrined in the Act.

Senior officials of the Board have described the new efforts by the company to comply with Local Content laws as a welcome development. It is expected that NNPC would be at the forefront of NOGICD Act implementation. The senior officials said they “look forward to days in the nearest future when the NCDMB may use NEPL as a reference example of Nigerian content”.

Siemens Energy, NCDMB train 60 Bayelsa Teachers on STEM

Siemens Energy, in partnership with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) recently trained 60 primary school teachers in Bayelsa State. The training introduced innovative teaching of Sciences,

NCDMB's six magical years

NCDMB's six magical years

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education to the young generation and was held at the NCDMB headquarters, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

The programme is called Experimento Initiative, which is an international education programme offered by Siemens Stiftung and Empowering Africans Through Education Initiative (EATEI). It applies modern approaches to STEM education and provides educators with practical training and continuing education opportunities as well as high-quality teaching and learning experience.

Engr. Samuel Abolade, Local Content Manager, Siemens Energy, explained that the company's objective was to become a hub for human capital development in the world. He said the training would improve learning as well as research and development by exposing Nigerian kids to develop a keen interest in STEM education to compete with best across the globe.

Mr. Augustine Timbiri, Deputy Manager, Capacity Building Division at NCDMB, explained that STEM education is critical to the attainment of the Board's mandate with regards to manufacturing and development of Nigerian materials, products, technologies and solutions required for the growth of Nigerian Content in the Oil and gas industry and its sectorial linkages.

Mr. Timbiri added that the programme was aimed at addressing the gaps in STEM education in the Nigerian educational system and equipping the trainees with the Experimento STEM training modules and delivery models. It would also advance the capacities and capabilities of teachers in the teaching and delivery of STEM subjects, promote and drive STEM education in the Nigerian educational system and enhance Nigeria's global competitiveness, he added.

NCDMB, Naval Shipyard explore collaboration in ship building and repairs

Senior officials of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), led by Mr. Patrick Daziba Obah, Director of Planning, Research and Statistics, in July met with the management of the Naval Shipyard Limited (NSL), in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, to understand the mandate and activities of each other in the oil and gas industry and discuss areas of collaboration.

The Naval Shipyard was established by Messrs Witt and Bush in 1963. The Nigerian Navy took over its ownership in 1990 and renamed and commercialised the facility in April 2013. Major facilities at the yard include mechanical and fabrication workshops, a carpentry workshop, an operational 50-tonne slipway, decommissioned 200-tonnes slipway and a newly constructed 272m jetty.



Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, GM, Research & Development, NCDMB with Dr. Najah M.O. Terha, Director, Research, African Petroleum Producers' Organisation (APPO) and other APPO members after a facility tour of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGaPS) in Emeyal-1, Ogbia, Bayelsa State.

The facility also has the capacity to design and construct tugboats, ferries, barges and houseboats, ship repair/maintenance; fabrication and installation of gun mounts and ballistic shields; design and construction of boat cradles and construction of GRP boats. Areas of potential collaboration between NCDMB and NSL, which were discussed at the meeting, include facility upgrade, manpower and skills development and access to market. Other senior personnel at the Board in the meeting included Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development, and Mr. Silas Ajimijaye, Manager, Research and Statistics. The Naval Shipyard Limited was represented by Rear Admiral S.J. Oyegade, Commodore B.H. Sabo, Captain I.C. Ketebu and Commander Nasiru.

sent by Rear Admiral S.J. Oyegade, Commodore B.H. Sabo, Captain I.C. Ketebu and Commander Nasiru.

Opokuma Grammar School gets ICT centre

An Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centre and e-learning facility has been donated to the Opokuma Grammar School, Bayelsa State, by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). The centre is fully equipped with desktop computers, projectors, printer, a photocopier, an



NCDMB management and staff with participants at the one-day NCDMB R&D roundtable in Abuja.



L-R: Hon. Wisdom Fafi, Member, Bayelsa State House of Assembly representing Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area (KOLGA); His Royal Highness, King Collins Aranka, King of Opokuma Clan, Opu-Okun (V); Mr. Isaac Yalah, Director, Finance & Personnel Management, NCDMB and Engr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communications and Zonal Coordination, NCDMB during the commissioning of the Information and Communication Technology Centre and e-learning facility constructed and equipped by the Board in Opokuma Grammar School, Opokuma, Bayelsa State.



Some Management and staff of the Board with officials of Singapore Oil company and some Project 100 companies during a business-to-business matching session in Lagos.

e-library, and the entire facility is powered by a 30KVA generating set with a 20KVA backup solar inverter to ensure stable and constant power supply. The facility also has a computer instructor, internet facility and one-year maintenance contract.

Mr. Isaac Yalah, Director, Finance and Personnel Management at NCDMB, said the donation was in line with the Board's mandate of building local participation and human and material capacities in the oil and gas industry. He enjoined the residents to ensure full utilisation and protection of the facility. The director advised the management and staff of the school to encourage the students to use the e-learning tools to boost their knowledge. Hon. Wisdom Fafi, Member, Bayelsa State House of Assembly representing Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area (KOLGA), thanked the Board for donating the ICT centre and assured the donor that the Bayelsa State Government would continue to support the Board in its efforts to attract oil and gas investment opportunities to the state.

King Collins Aranka, Opu-Okun (V), the King of Opokuma Clan, lauded the Board's commitment to reach out to local communities. He noted that the facility would not only serve the students but also help youths in the community to acquire computer literacy. Mr. Femone Daniel, Principal of the school, promised to ensure the safety and proper utilisation of the facility by students and teachers.

20 teen mothers trained in vocational skills

Twenty teenage mothers in Bayelsa State have received a three-month training programme on various vocational skills, including hairdressing, fashion designing, catering, and make-up. The Nigerian Content Development

and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) organised the training for them. The training began in August at the Bayelsa State Institute of Tourism and Hospitality (BSITH) in Yenagoa. It was conceived as a collaboration between the Stand-up for Women Society (SWS) and NYSC's Legal Aid Community Development Service (CDS).

Mr. Timbiri Augustine, Deputy Manager, Capacity Building Division at NCDMB, said the training would empower the beneficiaries to become skilled entrepreneurs and service providers. He said the NCDMB attaches high importance to training and human capital development and expected maximum commitment from the trainees.

Prof. Apuegba Arikawei, Rector of BSITH, com

mended the Board for sponsoring trainings that would build local capacity and reduce youth restiveness in the state. He assured the Board that the institute would ensure effective and efficient delivery of the training, create entrepreneurs, which would lead to the reduction of crime, poverty and other social vices bedeviling the Niger Delta region.

Ms. Eunice Nnachi, Chairperson, Standup for Women Society, Bayelsa State, announced that the training was meant for social integration and supporting teenage mothers. The training, she added, was a springboard for opportunities for other young women in the state. Ms. Esther Ojum, NYSC Legal Aid spokesperson, hinted that the trainees would also be provided with legal information and support.



Facility tour: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with oil and gas stakeholders during a factory tour after the commissioning of Grephil International Limited's factory in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Providing succour to flood victims

Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, accompanied by Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary and staff of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, visited the people and areas affected by the recent flood in Bayelsa State. They went with a message of hope and also delivered essential goods to the people. It was an opportunity to interact with the people and also lessen their pains.





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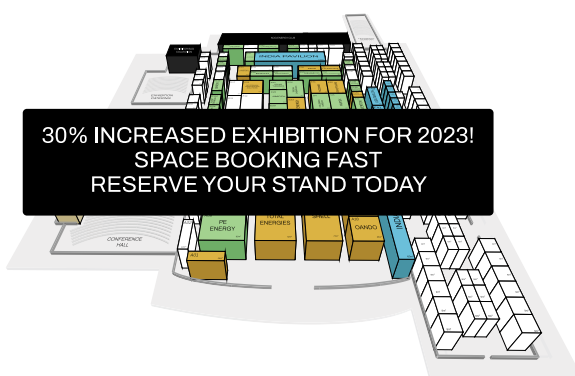
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President Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR) conferring the **Distinguished Capacity Development Award** on Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB at the Nigeria Excellence Award in Public Service (NEAPS) at the State House in Abuja.

From the pinnacle of political authority came the nation's highest award of excellence to Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), barely weeks after the organisation notched up the top ranking for Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria. At the State House Conference Centre, Abuja, October 21, President Muhammadu Buhari conferred the *Distinguished Capacity Development Award* on the agency's Chief Executive, stating that it was "in appreciation of the giant strides in the transformation of Nigeria".

The ceremony, tagged *Nigeria Excellence Award in Public Service* (NEAPS), was organised by the Presidency to honour citizens who, by their ingenuity, industry, drive and probity, have significantly pushed Nigeria's frontiers of socio-economic and technological development. What Mr. President did, feting the Executive Secretary at the event, was a tacit affirmation that the Executive Order (EO1) performance ranking by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) that placed the NCDMB as best among all Ministries, Departments and Agencies for January - June 2022, was well-deserved. With an assessment score of 81.48 percent, the Board climbed from 27th position in 2019 to the top slot.

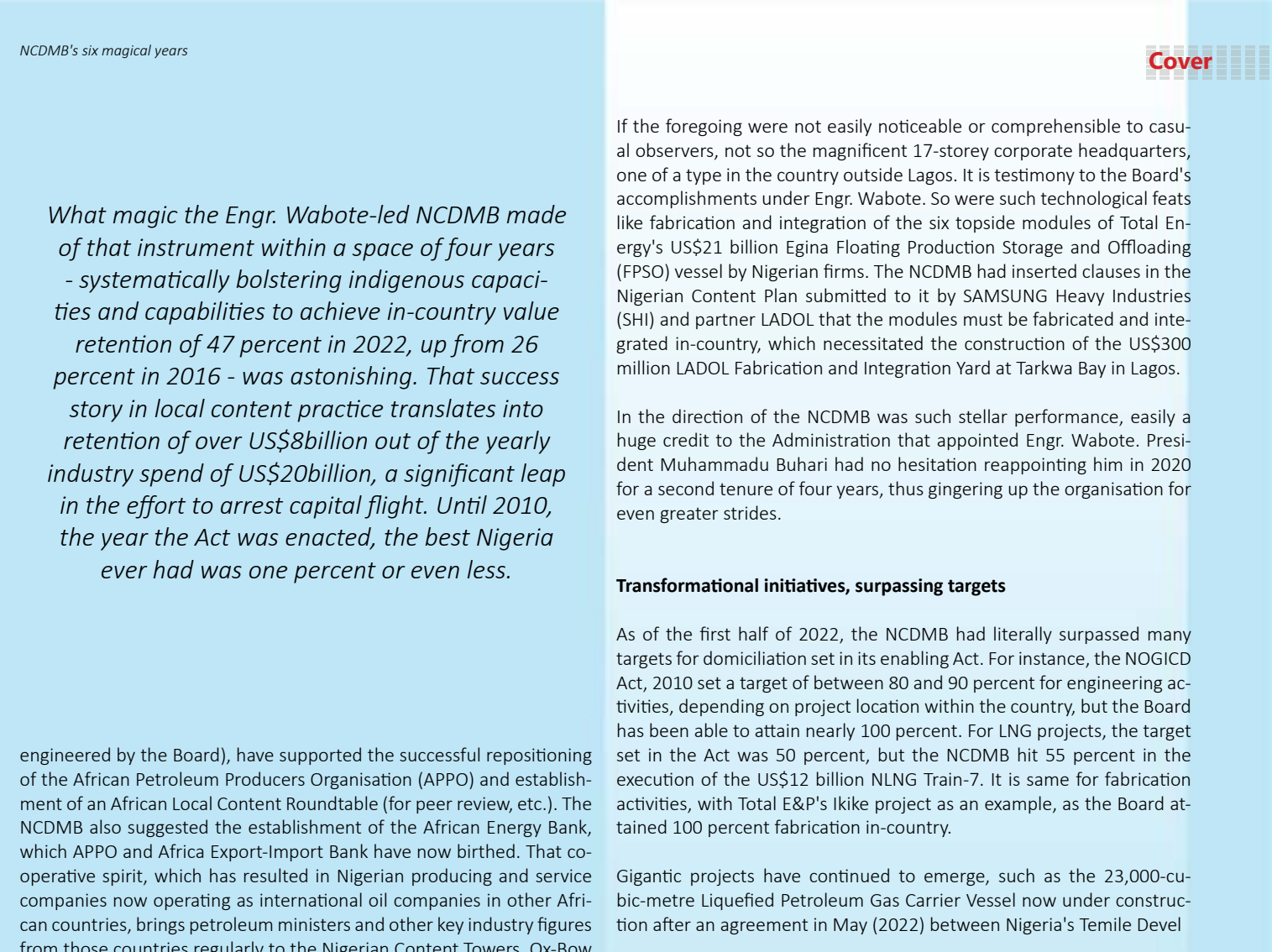
In the handshake between President Buhari and the NCDMB boss and the handing over of a plaque to the latter was a communication indecipherable to many viewers, a profundity of gratitude non-verbalised. Back in September 2016, the President, hard-pressed to salvage Nigeria's blighted oil and gas landscape, saw something reassuring in the broad responsibilities of the COREN-registered engineer in Shell Petroleum Development Company Nigeria Limited, which included procurement and local content development in the company's offices in Dubai, Oman, Brunei, Brazil and Australia before his elevation as Executive Director. He even doubled as General Manager, Business and Government Relations for Shell companies in Nigeria.

The President appointed Engr. Wabote, the Executive Secretary of the NCDMB and then handed to him an instrument, the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, 2010 to translate Nigeria's dreams to reality. That instrument mandates NCDMB to "maximise the share and participation of Nigerians in oil and gas activities; maximise the utilisation of Nigerian-made goods and services and Nigerian-owned assets," and to "integrate oil-producing communities into the oil and gas value chain". It was a tall order but the Board proved capable of delivering on that mandate.

What magic the Engr. Wabote-led NCDMB made of that instrument within a space of four years- systematically bolstering indigenous capacities and capabilities to achieve in-country value retention of 47 percent in 2022, up from 26 percent in 2016- was astonishing. That success story in local content practice translates into retention of over US\$8billion out of the yearly industry spend of US\$20billion, a significant leap in the effort to arrest capital flight. Until 2010, the year the Act was enacted, the best Nigeria ever had was one percent or even less.

Quite remarkably, by NCDMB's well-honed strategy of collaboration and stakeholder engagement, it converted critical industry players in the Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS) and Indigenous Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG) into apostles of Nigerian content. Through avenues like Practical Nigerian Content (PNC), the NCDMB created a unique platform for operators and service companies to exchange information on opportunities and capabilities. Hear the OPTS Chairman and Country Chair, Shell Nigeria, Mr. Osagie Okunbor: "It's been excellent. A lot of credit goes to the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board and its leadership; its Executive Secretary....Also, I would like to give credit to the players in the industry. I think all round, we have all embraced this (NOGICD) Act."

As with the stakeholders here in Nigeria, Africa's petroleum producing countries, through their ministers and key industry players, have seen a pathfinder in the NCDMB and, in their cooperative activities along the lines of sectorial and regional market linkages (conceptualised and



L-R: Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Malam Mele Kolo Kyari, Group Chief Executive Officer, NNPC Ltd; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Adewale Tinubu, Group Chief Executive Officer, Oando and Mr. Osagie Okunbor, Country Chair, Shell Companies in Nigeria at the 2022 Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja.

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engineered by the Board), have supported the successful repositioning of the African Petroleum Producers Organisation (APPO) and establishment of an African Local Content Roundtable (for peer review, etc.). The NCDMB also suggested the establishment of the African Energy Bank, which APPO and Africa Export-Import Bank have now birthed. That co-operative spirit, which has resulted in Nigerian producing and service companies now operating as international oil companies in other African countries, brings petroleum ministers and other key industry figures from those countries regularly to the Nigerian Content Towers, Ox-Bow Lake, Yenagoa, for technical guidance in local content practice.

If the foregoing were not easily noticeable or comprehensible to casual observers, not so the magnificent 17-storey corporate headquarters, one of a type in the country outside Lagos. It is testimony to the Board's accomplishments under Engr. Wabote. So were such technological feats like fabrication and integration of the six topside modules of Total Energy's US\$21 billion Egina Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel by Nigerian firms. The NCDMB had inserted clauses in the Nigerian Content Plan submitted to it by SAMSUNG Heavy Industries (SHI) and partner LADOL that the modules must be fabricated and integrated in-country, which necessitated the construction of the US\$300 million LADOL Fabrication and Integration Yard at Tarkwa Bay in Lagos.

In the direction of the NCDMB was such stellar performance, easily a huge credit to the Administration that appointed Engr. Wabote. President Muhammadu Buhari had no hesitation reappointing him in 2020 for a second tenure of four years, thus gingering up the organisation for even greater strides.

Transformational initiatives, surpassing targets

As of the first half of 2022, the NCDMB had literally surpassed many targets for domiciliation set in its enabling Act. For instance, the NOGICD Act, 2010 set a target of between 80 and 90 percent for engineering activities, depending on project location within the country, but the Board has been able to attain nearly 100 percent. For LNG projects, the target set in the Act was 50 percent, but the NCDMB hit 55 percent in the execution of the US\$12 billion NLNG Train-7. It is same for fabrication activities, with Total E&P's Ikike project as an example, as the Board attained 100 percent fabrication in-country.

Gigantic projects have continued to emerge, such as the 23,000-cubic-metre Liquefied Petroleum Gas Carrier Vessel now under construction after an agreement in May (2022) between Nigeria's Temile Devel

opment Company Limited and South Korea's Hyundai Mipo Dockyard (HMD). In demonstration of the robustness of its entrepreneurial zeal, Temile Development Company inked a separate deal with Nigerian LNG Shipping and Maritime Limited (NSML), a subsidiary of Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), for technical supervision of construction work on the vessel.

For the advanced state of technological capabilities attained by indigenous service companies under the extensive and capital-intensive nurturing provided by the NCDMB, a favourite reference point is Lagos-based GIL Automations, which recently showcased its array of services in switchgear manufacturing, panel solutions, process management and flow control, in addition to automation services, its original area of specialisation. At the commissioning of its newly completed cable tray and switchgear factory last October, industry players marvelled at the company's capabilities across a wide spectrum of industrial operations- from oil and gas to the many competencies highlighted above.

Looking back at the grounds covered in pursuit of capacity development and domiciliation, the Executive Secretary enthused: "Our biggest accomplishment is changing the mindset of the stakeholders we engage with during our operations and instilling faith in local content and local capabilities. We successfully got Nigerian entrepreneurs to dream bigger dreams, think big and make huge investments in the industry."

Capacity development: What NCDMB taught the World

To meaningfully extract value from an extractive industry dominated by foreign capital, expertise and technology, to give Nigeria economic benefits beyond the Joint Venture-type resource revenues, which had earned her the unenviable repute of a rentier state, the starting point for the NCDMB was thorough appraisal of the state of the oil and gas industry. As Chief Executive Officer, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote had the regulatory framework already developed by the NCDMB to work with, along with institutional resources. His words: "My immediate priority upon taking office was to lead the NCDMB in discovering new opportunities in the challenging circumstances, identify what could be done differently to break new grounds within the context of the organisation's mandate. Fortunately, we had a strong foundation to build on."

Indeed, the pioneer Executive Secretary, Dr. Ernest Nwapa, had left a strong foundation for effective implementation of the NOGICD Act through the top-flight personnel recruited during his tenure. He had also bequeathed a superb foundation for the 17-storey corporate headquarters of the Board.

Having identified "what could be done differently to break new grounds", Engr. Wabote teamed up with personnel of the Board and consultants of repute to develop what has come to be known as Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Roadmap. Gaps in human resources and infrastructure that had been flagged in the course of the earlier appraisal of the state of the industry had to be addressed through painstaking implementation of the roadmap. Central to the Board was capacity development- how to grow the capacity and capabilities of indigenous service companies, technically-oriented citizens, and oil- and gas-producing companies to be able to provide the quality of services and operational tools as well as other inputs required in such a high-tech industry as oil and gas.

In the roadmap, which highlights short-, medium- and long-term targets for indigenous capacity development, are five pillars and four enablers to guide the organisation in navigating the maze of sector-specific possibilities.

Under Pillar 1, Technical Capability Development, the focus of the organisation is to "Extend and deepen in-country technical capability in the oil and gas industry". This component of the vision of the NCDMB has yielded major outcomes, some of which are listed below:

i. Nigeria Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGAPS), a scheme under which six industrial parks are being developed to provide shop floors for indig

As of the first half of 2022, the NCDMB had literally surpassed targets for domiciliation set in its enabling Act. For instance, the NOGICD Act, 2010 set a target of between 80 and 90 percent for engineering activities, depending on project location within the country, but the Board has been able to attain nearly 100 percent. For LNG projects, the target set in the Act was 50 percent, but the NCDMB hit 55 percent in the execution of the US\$12 billion NLNG Train-7. It is same for fabrication activities, with Total E&P's Ikike project as an example, as the Board attained 100 percent fabrication in-country.

enous service companies to manufacture tools, spare parts and other pieces of equipment used in the oil and gas industry. The parks have been conceived to actualise NCDMB's Equipment Component Manufacturing Initiative (ECMI). Among the companies are many which have been functioning as representatives of original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) abroad.

In these world-class parks, all amenities and facilities required for maximum productivity are being provided. Two of them - at Emeyal-1 in Bayelsa State and Odukpani, Cross River State- are to be commissioned in early 2023. Others at Onna, Akwa Ibom State, and Ilaje, Ondo State, are at various stages of completion. For companies in the parks, regular work flow from operators in the oil and gas industry is guaranteed. In addition to these benefits, the NCDMB has instituted a \$50million fund to aid Nigerian service companies dedicated to equipment manufacture.

ii. Project 100 Companies is an initiative of the Board to identify and grow 100 oil and gas start-ups into world-class service firms through strategic interventions that take the form of capacity building, funding and facilitation of access to markets. Selection of the start-ups is by a highly competitive and transparent process managed by KPMG. In fulfilment of its self-imposed obligation to facilitate access to businesses, the NCDMB got a number of the firms engaged in NLNG's multibillion dollar Train-7 Project, among others.

Mrs. Funke Ogbue, Chief Executive Officer of ZIGMA Limited, whose company is among the beneficiaries, said of Project 100: "The whole scheme is designed to make the Nigerian companies become the next Schlumberger or the next Halliburton."

iii. Equity Investments in Modular Refineries, LPG Cylinder Manufacturing are of strategic importance- to catalyse in-country processing of crude oil and also Federal Government's *Decade of Gas programme*. The NCDMB has equity holding averaging 30 percent in Waltersmith Refining & Petrochemical Company Limited, Ibigwe, Imo State; Azikel Hydroskimming Modular Refinery, Obunagha, Bayelsa State; LPG Storage and Loading Terminal, Koko, Delta State; LPG Composite Cylinder Manufacturing, Polaku, Bayelsa State; LPG Cylinder Manufacturing, Alero, Epe, Lagos State and CNG Mother Station, Egbokor, Edo State.

iv. Sponsorship of Marine Cadets for International Certification, a programme under which over 100 youths selected from different parts of the country through rigorous exercises were sent overseas for training to acquire appropriate maritime exposure and certification. At the completion of the 12-month programme, which took them to countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, United States and China, they obtained certificates of competence. Many are already working aboard

i. Service Level Agreement (SLA), a document that commits all companies in the oil and gas industry to compliance with provisions of the NOGICD Act, 2010, and the NCDMB to timely approvals or responses to matters submitted to it for consideration. Available records indicate that SLAs have shortened the tendering cycle in the industry from 36 months to nine months as a result of this innovation. This has also resulted in reduced costs in aspects of oil and gas operations, including unit cost of oil production.

ii. SERVICOM Unit of NCDMB, inaugurated by the National SERVICOM Office in 2017, reinforces service delivery, making timely and efficient service part of corporate culture.

Pillar 4, Organisational capability, commits NCDMB to "Build effective internal structures in terms of people, skills, processes and systems to support the Board's operations." Comfortable and conducive work spaces, quality working tools and facilities conducive for physical and mental fitness are provided to keep workers at their productive best, even if they are to work remotely at any given time.

Pillar 5, Sectorial and Regional Market Integration, aims to "Increase industry contribution to the national gross domestic product (GDP) and (to) facilitate access of Nigerian-made goods and services to regional markets. In line with this strategy, the NCDMB has had fruitful interactions with sister agencies of government as well as oil and gas industry players in order to improve patronage of indigenous service companies, particularly those under the Project 100 Companies initiative.

Under Enabler 1, Funding, the NCDMB has been able to boost the capabilities of indigenous service companies for effective participation in oil and gas sector activities through the following:

i. Nigerian Content Intervention (NCI) Fund: The Board has made over \$500million available for single-digit credit to such companies. Over 90 percent of the fund has already been accessed through the Bank of Industry (BOI) and NEXIM Bank.

ii. Research and Development Intervention Fund: To advance research work aimed at developing home-grown technology and solutions to local challenges, the NCDMB under Engr. Wabote established the Nigerian Content Research and Development Council, and instituted a \$50million Nigerian Content Research and Development Fund (NCRDF) for its work.

Related activities of NCDMB

1. R&D Centres of Excellence, geared to stimulate rigorous scholarly investigations into diverse areas of interest, particularly engineering and technology, to expand knowledge and provide solutions to teething societal problems. To that end, the NCDMB established Research and Development Centres of Excellence in five universities across the country- Federal University of Technology, Owerri, and sister institutions in Minna, and Akure. It also did same at Niger Delta University, Amasoma, Bayelsa State, and Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola.

2. Upgrade of Vocational Colleges, ICT Centres. A multibillion naira facility, University of Ibadan Vocational School, was initiated and built at the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, by the NCDMB. Equipped to produce top-rated craftsmen and artisans, the school was declared open by Engr. Wabote in August 2022. Also, the Government Technical College, Abak, Akwa Ibom State, was renovated and equipped. Technical College, Amoli, Enugu State, was similarly renovated and equipped. Across the country, over 35 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Centres and science laboratories of secondary schools have been built and equipped.

For an organisation that has had a blitz on Nigerian content development, upping in-country value retention in the oil and gas sector from 26 percent in 2016 to nearly 50 percent in 2022, with large numbers of indigenous service companies moved from the fringes of the industry to the centre as big-time players, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote's NCDMB is deservedly a candidate for special honours any day. The Distinguished Capacity Development Award received by the Executive Secretary is significant as the underlying performance has restored to Nigeria huge economic benefits hitherto appropriated by external business interests.

Impact well and truly appreciated

Stakeholders are unanimous that the NCDMB, under the leadership of Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote has performed exceedingly well in the strategic task of domiciling oil and gas industry activities and thus engendering steady industrialisation and wealth creation on an unprecedented scale.

Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, immediate past Minister of State, Petroleum Resources, at the 2018 Practical Nigerian Content (PNC) Workshop organised by the NCDMB, declared that the most significant achievement of NCDMB at the time was "its transition from being merely a policymaker and regulator to a project promoter". It was in reference to the capacity building initiatives and funding through the NCDF, NCIF, among others, which enabled indigenous firms to compete for and win contracts locally and internationally.

Engr. Tony Attah, former Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas, believes the NCDMB boss is one of the best things to have happened to the oil and gas industry: "We have experienced the Executive Secretary, positively, and perhaps there is nobody else, at least in Africa, who understands local content more than he does. In Shell, he was recognised and exported to Dubai to help them on local content. From there, he went to Oman, Brazil and then back to Nigeria."

Mr. Godwin Izomor, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Vowgas Group, whose firm ranks as one of Nigeria's foremost engineering and fabrication firms, is exceedingly appreciative of the contributions of the NCDMB to business development. His words: "Accolades will go specifically to our pragmatic and dynamic Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Wabote, and his team (NCDMB Management) for the giant strides achieved during his tenure. Without the NCDMB, we wouldn't be where we are today as a company." Among the latest accomplishments of his company is the assemblage of the first ballistic airboat in Nigeria.

At the 2022 Customer Service Week of the NCDMB in October, the message from the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), represented by Mrs. Stella Dappa-Fombo, was: "You are doing excellently well. The Commission is particularly impressed with NCDMB's effectiveness in eliminating expatriate quota violations." At the same event, the Petroleum Contractors Trade Section (PCTS), represented by Mrs. Anehitu Emeya, said: "We are very pleased with service delivery by the NCDMB."

Words on Marble ...

"It's been excellent. A lot of credit goes to the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board and its leadership; its Executive Secretary....Also, I would like to give credit to the players in the industry. I think all round, we have all embraced this (NOGICD) Act."

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"The most significant achievement of NCDMB at the time (2018) was its transition from being merely a policymaker and regulator to a project promoter," in reference to the capacity building initiatives and funding through the NCDF, NCIF, among others, which enabled indigenous firms to compete for and win contracts locally and internationally.

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"Our biggest accomplishment is changing the mindset of the stakeholders we engage with during our operations and instilling faith in local content and local capabilities. We successfully got Nigerian entrepreneurs to dream bigger dreams, think big and make huge investments in the industry."

-Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB



R-L: Mr. Isaac Yalah, Director, Finance & Personnel Management; Mr. Akintunde Adelana, Director, Monitoring & Evaluation; Mr. Olalekan Olufemi Ogunleye, Deputy Managing Director, Nigeria LNG; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary; Dr. Philip Mshelbila, Managing Director, Nigeria LNG; Mr. Terhamba Makeri, GM, Human Resources, NLNG and Mr. Andy Odeh, GM, External Relations & Sustainable Development, NLNG after the courtesy visit of the Nigeria LNG management to the Executive Secretary, NCDMB at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Under the superintendence of the Board, the entire oil and gas industry is steadily shaping up in the image of Nigeria's dreams.

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A vision that must berth

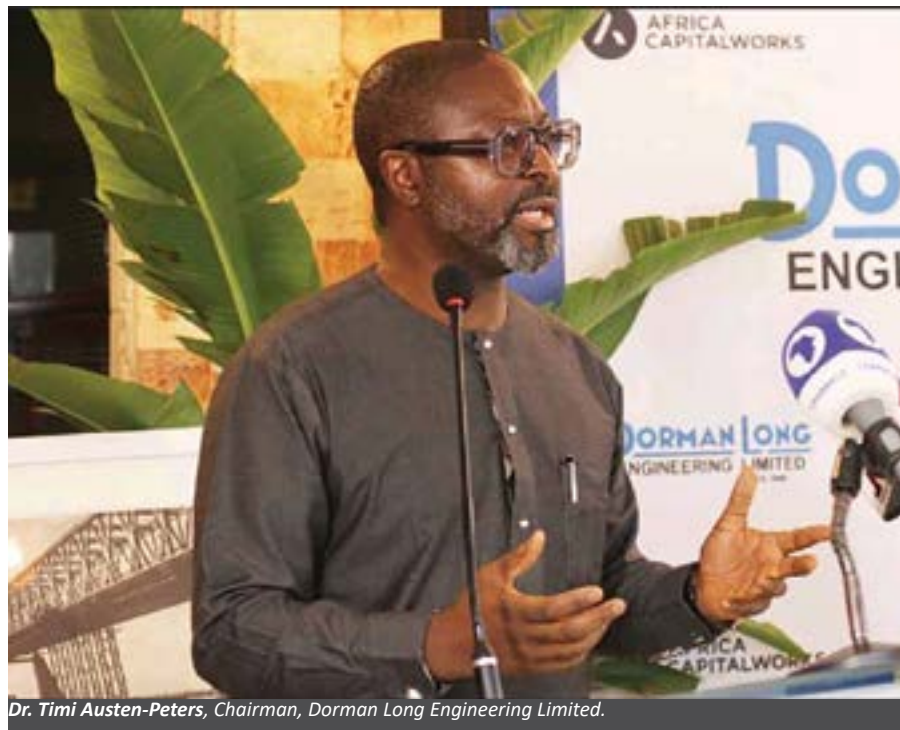
For an organisation that has had a blitz on Nigerian content development, upping in-country value retention in the oil and gas sector from 26 percent in 2016 to nearly 47 percent in 2022, with large numbers of indigenous service companies moved from the fringes of the industry to the centre as big-time players, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote's NCDMB is deservedly a candidate for special honours any day. The *Distinguished Capacity Development Award* received by the Executive Secretary is significant as the underlying performance has restored to Nigeria huge

economic benefits hitherto appropriated by external business interests.

In the march to 2027, the terminal date of the NCDMB's 10-Year Strategic Roadmap, many more accomplishments are expected, judging from the pace of ongoing projects, programmes and activities - 70 percent Nigerian content is realistic. That is one dream that must berth. But there is a lot more to the exertions of the NCDMB boss: He has pointed the nation to information and communication technology (ICT), construction and power, as sectors to which local content practice needs to be extended, a proposition immediately reinforced by the Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (NIBRI), which has reported that over 90 per cent of materials used in the construction industry are imported. This vision, too, of Engr. Wabote, may it berth.



Dianam Dakolo is a content consultant in the Corporate Communication Division of NCDMB.



Dr. Timi Austen-Peters, Chairman, Dorman Long Engineering Limited.

NCDMB has been the game changer in the oil and gas industry

Dr. Timi Austen-Peters, the Chairman, Dorman Long Engineering Limited, credits NCDMB with transformations in the industry while expounding on the company's major projects.

Impression about NCDMB's role in creating opportunities for indigenous companies

NCDMB is the game changer between how we used to be and where we are today. Initially, Nigerian service companies were given work almost as a favour or ticking a box. "We need a Nigerian company: this one is trying a bit, let him build one or two things." But today, due to the strong enforcement of the Nigerian Content Act by the NCDMB and the articulation of the various spaces and scopes of work that are available to us, we now find that we are competing on a level-playfield with companies that are coming from outside Nigeria. In many cases, we are actually beating them to pricing. This is because we have a long and extensive experience of working here and our workers are indigenous: they don't have to travel to London every often; they don't have to worry about expensive hotels and so on. We are able to compete on price and not just being a local company.

How NCDMB can further help Nigerian service companies

NCDMB can just do more of what it is doing. NCDMB makes sure that there are opportunities for Nigerian companies. They identify projects and they ensure that if there's in-country capacities, such capacities are used before they allow expatriates to get involved in that space. So, whether it is fabrications and making of pressure vessels - for which there's plenty of capacity in-country - NCDMB makes sure that those capacities are used first.

We also have a galvanising plant, which we invested in specifically for projects, such as NLNG, fertiliser plants, refineries, and large-scale projects. For many years, there were no such projects. We are very proud to say that when NLNG Train-7 was coming, NCDMB made sure that the scope on galvanising was going to be done in-country because there's a facility that could do it.

So, NCDMB should just do more of what it's doing. Now that it has also gone into providing financing, that closes the loop. We have the experience, there is the opportunity and you need the funding to make it happen. With the fund and all sorts of initiatives that are going on, including the African Petroleum Producers Organisation (APPO), NCDMB is able to make that possible. That is fantastic.

History of Dorman Long

The company is about 70 years old. We started with the Niger Bridge; we built most of the warehouses in Ikeja, in Port Harcourt, and we went into tanker bodies. We were one of the first to get into the oil and gas space as an indigenous company doing tanks, tanker

NCDMB's six magical years

bodies, unitisation projects, pressure vessels. Later, we got involved with all the trains of the NLNG as well as refinery work. That is a short summary of the kind of work that we do.

Existing capacities of Dorman Long facilities

We are very proud. We have three large yards in Lagos, totalling 75,000sqm. The space that is covered is about 24,000sqm. Under one of them is the galvanising facility as well as extensive welding lifting capacity. In another one, we have possibly the thickest rolling capacity in the country. We can do up to 155millimeters and the other one is the Naval Dockyard where we have an extensive laydown area where we are building many of the things you have heard Dorman Long doing, like offshore jackets and large offshore installations, for the oil and gas industry.

We have a lot of capacity, and we are also particularly proud of our work force. We have no fewer than 500 workers and only five are expatriates. Yet, we are able to do all the work that was previously the exclusive preserve of expatriates and foreign companies. We are a Nigerian company, and we are very proud of being Nigerian, and the workers are Nigerians as well.

How PETAN companies access credit facilities and grow capacities

PETAN members are like every other company. To look for money, you have to prepare your business case, your business plan and apply to the various funds that are available - whether it's the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund), Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), commercial banks or the Bank of Industry (BoI). In applying for a facility, you have to go through all the normal due diligence. PETAN companies are not given any special favours. But, by being a PETAN member, you are likely to be better organised and more advanced than people who are not subject to that kind of peer review. Within PETAN, we check each other. If somebody is doing something wrong, we tell the company. If somebody needs help, we tell them. If we need to collaborate, we collaborate. That gives us a slight advantage. But it's not some automatic advantage that is given to us by law or regulation.

How Dorman Long builds the capacity of workers

There is a particular facility that we still manage and maintain till today. It started with about 90 expatriates and five Nigerians. Today, it's 90 Nigerians and maybe two expatriates. We make sure that for everything that is being done by an expatriate, there are at least three, four, five Nigerians that are learning to do that work and we make sure that there is a clear succession plan put in place with transfer of skills, transfer of experience and all of the necessary things to make sure that we remain an indigenous, proudly Nigerian company.

NCDMB's six magical years

digital INVESTMENT ASSET 101

Are NFTs, FTs the new gold mines?

Humans have always desired to store up value. And for centuries, man has been creating asset classes where value is stored: money, real estate, artwork, commodities, precious metals, stocks, bonds, among others. As the world migrates to a digital economy, the need to create digital assets became imperative, giving birth to fungible tokens (FTs), crypto currencies, like Bitcoin, Ethereum, Binance Coin; asset-backed security tokens, equity and debt tokens; and central bank digital currencies. A recent trend in digital investment assets is the creation of non-fungible tokens (NFTs). NFTs and FTs are real assets traded by real people and businesses.

A report by MarketsAndMarkets, a research and consulting firm, put "global digital asset management market at US\$3.68 billion in 2021". The market is expected to grow at "a CAGR (compound annual growth rate) of 14.2 percent" over the next six years to \$9.32 billion in 2028. These are not mythical numbers. And certainly, sportswear giant Adidas, brewer Anheuser Busch, parent company of Budweiser, co-founder of Twitter, Jack Dorsey, Liverpool Football Club, the renowned Christie Auctions & Private Sales, Nigerian digital artist Prince Jacon Osinachi Igwe, Microsoft, Swiss insurer AXA, and Tesla, well known brands and personalities who are key players in the digital investment asset market, cannot be said to be myths.

Budweiser made \$4.8 million from its NFT collection in one day. American digital artist Mike Winkelmann (Beeple's) artwork was sold for \$69.3 million in 2021; an NFT of co-founder of Twitter, Jack Dorsey's first tweet, "just setting up my twttr", was sold for €2.5 million. And Liverpool Football Club recently signed an MoU with Sorare, French blockchain-based sports startup, to expand its crypto footprint. Osinachi attracted worldwide attention in 2021 when he sold \$75,000 (about ₦54 million) worth of NFTs in 10 days.

What are NFTs and FTs? "Fungible tokens or assets are usually crypto currencies that are divisible and non-unique." A fungible token, like Bitcoin, is interchangeable. Like the naira, 1 BTC is worth 1 BTC, no matter where it is issued. Commonly, NFT is a non-fungible token, that is, "a non-interchangeable unit of data stored on a blockchain, a form of digital ledger that can be sold and traded". NFTs are

usually digital files, such as photos, videos, and audios.

Non-fungible tokens are verifiable assets that have unique identifiers and attributes from which they derive their worth. NFTs are individualised digital commodities which can only be exchanged for themselves. Unlike Bitcoin or Ethereum, which have equal values, each NFT may represent a different underlying asset and have different values. So, an NFT with Messi's artwork as the underlying asset will have a different value to a video with Queen Elizabeth's burial as the underlying asset.

NFTs are the big money spinners now in the digital world. It is estimated that about \$80 million NFT sales are brokered daily. Individuals and smart businesses are, therefore, taking advantage of this opportunity to create new revenue sources. "It's a massive market. It's basically digital art or any asset in the virtual world or in the virtual economy that can be tied to the blockchain and can be bought and sold," said Uyi Amokaro, Co-founder of WeAreMasters, a digital marketplace specialising in African crypto collectibles and NFTs.

Digital assets, be it FT or NFT, are built on Blockchain technology. Simplilearn defines blockchain as a "method of recording information that makes it impossible or difficult for the system to be changed, hacked, or manipulated. Blockchain technology stores transactional records, also known as the "block", of the public in several databases, known as the "chain," in a network connected through peer-to-peer nodes. Typically, this storage is referred to as a "digital ledger".

Every transaction in the ledger is authorised by the digital signature of the owner. This helps to authenticate the transaction and protect it from manipulation. The information the digital ledger contains is highly secure.

"Conventionally, you need the approval of regulatory authorities, like a government or bank for transactions. However, with blockchain, transactions are done with the mutual consensus of users resulting in smoother, safer, and faster transactions." For instance, an account owner in a bank has his personal details stored in the bank's database, which can be compromised at any time. In blockchain, however, your information is stored in millions of connected devices, and a hacker must have access to those devices to succeed.

Cold shoulder amidst allure

This lack of a centralised warehouse or control is why many, including governments, are still sceptical about digital assets and investments. In 2021, the Central Bank of Nigeria banned financial institutions from engaging in crypto currency transactions for fear of terrorists using it to finance their operations. "The question that

Bitcoin and other crypto currencies are fast becoming mainstream. Mastercard and Visa, two payment processing giants, process crypto debit card transactions. With a crypto card, one can buy Microsoft products, Tesla vehicles, AXA's insurance products, high-end watches, like Rolex and Patek Philippe from BitDials, an on-line luxury retailer, and many other products.

one may need to ask, therefore, is why any entity would disguise its transactions if they were legal," Osita Nwanisobi, Acting Director, Corporate Communications, CBN, had said in justification of the ban.

Despite this ban, FTs and NFTs assets and investments are not illegal in Nigeria. Many Nigerians, like Amokaro, Ferdy 'Ladi Adimefe, and Osinachi are taking advantage of the opportunities in the space. The ban simply forbids financial institutions under CBN's watch from participating in it. Nigerians can legally invest in digital assets through offshore institutions. "I think African artists are fast embracing the NFT space and getting on board," says Adimefe, Founder/CEO of Magic Carpet Studios, a company assisting African artists jump on the trend.

Bitcoin and other crypto currencies are fast becoming mainstream. Mastercard and Visa, two payment processing giants, process crypto debit card transactions. With a crypto card, one can buy Microsoft products, Tesla vehicles, AXA's insurance products, high-end watches, like Rolex and Patek Philippe from BitDials, an online luxury retailer, and many other products.

The NFT market continues to experience astronomical growth and it is natural that smart businesses will want to take advantage to boost their income. A report by Nonfungible.com, in partnership with a research firm L'Atelier, showed that "sales of NFTs jumped by 21,000 percent to more than \$17.6 billion in 2021, up from \$82 million a year earlier." It is clear that digital assets are the future, and governments are beginning to find ways to play in the industry through central bank digital currencies.

However, as promising as NFTs and FTs are, like conventional assets, they come with risks. This calls for closer understanding of the market by interested investors.



PIONEERS OF MODULAR REFINERY

How we built the biggest private modular refinery

"Today, there are people who have now started building modular refineries and have piggybacked on our own experience. They are using our experience as a learning curve in order to be better. We are proud that we pioneered this space and we are still in the forefront. We are the largest private refinery in Nigeria today and we will continue to do that."

Mr. Gbite Falade, a first-class graduate of Electrical/Electronic Engineering from the University of Ibadan, with an MBA from Warwick Business School in the United Kingdom, has had an eventful career as Chief Operating Officer, Oando Energy Resources; Chief Operating Officer, OilServe Group; and currently Managing Director, Niger Delta Petroleum Resources (NDPR). In this interview with **Local Content Digest**, he provides insights into topical issues in the industry, including the NDPR Group, which has footprints in the upstream as NDPR, plays in the midstream as NDGas and in the downstream as NDRRefinery.

The experience of NDPR as the first private company to own a modular refinery in Nigeria

It's been a fantastic experience from an entrepreneurship point of view. We started off as an upstream player and pioneered the marginal field concept. We started with a small field that we grew the production to a certain level and at an appropriate time, we ventured into building a modular refinery. The whole idea around building the refinery was to provide quality downstream products that we can use and sell. It was also part of our own input to the energy security for our country.

In 2010, we inaugurated a 1,000-barrel per day topping plant that produced basically high quality diesel (AGO) that we use in our operations and then offered to sell to other people as well. As time went on and as we began to see the gap that existed in the downstream availability of products, we took the bold decision to invest and enlarge the capacity from 1,000 barrels per day to 11,000 barrels per day.

Basically, we added two trains, with each producing 5,000 barrels per day. With the expansion, we could produce more than just diesel

(AGO), in addition to some other products as well. The additional 10,000 barrels per day could produce AGO, produce kerosine (DPK), HFO, NAPH-TA and MDO. It's been a fantastic experience for us.

Even though we've expanded our capacity, what is becoming glaring each day is the massive shortage that exists. We are not even able to produce enough for people who are coming to offtake the products. What we have done over time is to optimise the operations capacity of our plant. We have integrated and upgraded our associated logistics support for evacuation, our associated logistics for commercials and even sustainable development within our local communities.

It's been an interesting experience; it's been challenging. There were moments we had gone without being able to produce: there were moments we found certain parts of our plants and facilities not being sufficient. But what we have continued to do is to improve on these. Bear in mind that prior to our venturing into modular refining, there was no capacity in the private sector in Nigeria for refineries. So, we learnt a lot of things as we went on.

Today, there are people who have now started building modular refineries and have piggybacked on our own experience. They are using our experience as a learning curve in order to be better. We are proud that we pioneered this space and we are still in the forefront. We are the largest private refinery in Nigeria today and we will continue to do that.

How we have handled the challenge of products transportation

We have a big challenge with this. If we are operating at installed capacity in our own plant today, we will be evacuating in excess of 50 trucks every day and every one of them has been evacuated via trucks that ply our roads. We do not have the road infrastructure to support that vol-

ume. What has been our own experience? In order to sustain our business, we have been investing in repairing and fixing access roads that lead to where our refinery is located, fixing state roads and even roads that were built just to make sure that evacuation can take place.

It's not a sustainable model. In more advanced climes, they make use of rail cargoes to move bulk petroleum products to locations where they can get reticulated to the last mile with trucks. There is need for backbone infrastructure for evacuation of products. It is good that we are now having major artery of railways being conceived in Nigeria. We need to consider how quickly spurs can be extended from those major rails to coordination centres, evacuation centres, like our own refineries, so that we can move some of these refined products by rail.

Also, I think we have not done enough in harnessing the waterways. There is no reason that the waterways cannot also be the biggest platform for the evacuation of our products through barges, through vessels,

that they leverage proximity to where the feedstock supply is coming from and satisfy local needs within a certain radius. If you imagine what it would mean if everybody were to be trucking their products from Lekki, where Dangote is building its refinery, and taking it to everywhere across the country, it's not going to be economical. The proliferation of modular refinery in certain geographical locations adds to the robustness of refinery capacity and ability to reticulate it across the entire country.

Modular refineries make up a critical element, in terms of set-up and installation. Modular refineries take a shorter timeframe to set up, to build, than bigger refineries. Where you're looking at financing, it is easier to finance a 5,000-barrel, a 10,000-barrel than to finance a 500,000-barrel refinery. There has to be a mix of the modular refineries and the big ones.

Again, for upstream players who are looking at building an edge around evacuation of their products, it is not a bad idea to have a combo, like we do. It makes sense to have an integrated upstream and downstream where part of your production can be devoted to refining. That way, you create a natural evacuation and monetisation path for your upstream products that you produce and you don't have to be totally dependent on needing to export to generate



to hinterland depots where they can then be reticulated. Bottomline today: we are evacuating via roads, but it is not sustainable. The pressure on the road is too much.

Modular refineries are springing up across Nigeria. Are they the solutions to Nigeria's petroleum needs?

It's part of the overall mix of strategies. I do not believe that modular refineries alone would be the panacea for our refining needs, but they form a critical element of it. There is a place for the big capacity refineries, like what Dangote and BUA are doing. The beauty of modular refineries is

revenues.

From a diversity and redundancy point of view, modular refinery is a good element of our refinery architecture and it's also a good hedging integration investment for an upstream player.

Multifaceted strategies for combating vandalism of products

That the challenge has persisted this long speaks about the challenge of addressing vandalism of crude products in pipelines. The socio-economic development it creates in the host areas where the pipelines are located creates incentives for individuals to target those lines, to harvest the products and make

some money out of their illegal act. I think a lasting solution must be resident in first of all finding a way to generally uplift the socio-economic conditions of the nation and, more importantly, the economy of the host communities. I think the model that would work is one that has a community involvement to safeguard the pipelines. The community involvement means that the community sees itself as a critical stakeholder in the continuous operation of the pipelines.

It is about designing a framework that ties economic fortunes of the community to the continuous operations of the companies so that the community is up in arms when they see intruders coming in to vandalise and steal from there. I think it's one of the reasons the Host Community Trust Fund, as enshrined in the Petroleum Industry Act, is spot on. This is because it creates a very symbiotic relationship between the fortunes of the communities: you make money to the extent to which the operators make money. As Niger Delta Petroleum Resources, we pioneered the concept of host community trust fund that devotes a certain percentage of our profit to a fund and it is then used to develop infrastructure projects for the wellbeing of the communities.

First and foremost, we need to win the hearts and minds of the hosts. We need to work with the communities where they see themselves as owners of those pipelines and they see their fortunes intrinsically linked to what goes on in that pipeline. Then, it becomes a whole lot easier. There are some other strategies, which include deploying technology to give you real time surveillance and real time awareness of what's going on. That can be deployed. But if you deploy technology without the hearts and minds of ownership and connectedness to what goes on in the pipeline, you're not going to make any headway out of it.

I also believe that as upstream players continue to make necessary investments downstream, like modular refineries, they bridge the gap between when they produce from the well, process at the flow station and take to the point of sale. In that sense, they can take the products straight to their refinery, co-located with them and eliminate the possibility of a pipeline where people could tap from. Those are ways by which we can win the battle around vandalism.

Also, I think that some awareness around the dangers of these sort of crude theft would be important as well. Many people have lost their lives as a result of trying to illegally syphon from our crude pipeline and product pipelines. The more awareness we create about the devastating impact

of this on people, hopefully, the better in winning the hearts and minds. But, essentially, let us find an arrangement that ties the fortune of the host community to the sustainable operations of the pipeline. That alignment has to be economic in nature. That economic nature then provides the platform for socio-economic development and gets more people engaged, gainfully employed and, hopefully, we can then stem the incentive of individuals targeting the products in the pipelines.

The challenge of sourcing foreign exchange for business.

When you look at the foreign exchange challenge that we face, arguably over 90 percent of our development cost is denominated in FOREX. We buy the equipment parts, we buy the plant members in FOREX and then we get into production. And because it's a downstream product, we sell in naira. So, we have that challenge (where) because of the continuous sliding relationship between our naira and the United States dollar that we procured to do the development, we find ourselves in that situation where we are making money in naira but we are not able to access the FOREX to repay the financing with which we carried out the development. It's a big problem for us. I think in recognition of the import substitution that we're achieving through refined products locally, the CBN (Central Bank of Nigeria) needs to create a special dispensation for us to allow us to access the FOREX window at rates that make sense for the investment that we

"It's been an interesting experience; it's been challenging. There were moments we had gone without being able to produce: there were moments we found certain parts of our plants and facilities not being sufficient. But what we have continued to do is to improve on these. Bear in mind that prior to our venturing into modular refining, there was no capacity in the private sector in Nigeria for refineries. So, we learnt a lot of things as we went on."

- NDRefinery

have undertaken, to make sure that the risks we have taken to make this investment do not come back and boomerang on our face.

We need to be considered as a special category of investors whose activities are helping to strengthen the naira because the more products that we produce, the more we eliminate the need for importation, and we eliminate the need to spend the scarce FOREX for the purpose of importation. What we are saying is: give us a cushion that creates the further incentive to continue to make this investment so we can honour the obligation of repaying the debt that we have undertaken to fund the development. Otherwise, things get to a point where they break down.

It's great to clamour for a private investor to come into the local refinery sector, but we need to look at the exchange rate, we need to look at the currency mismatch that is not encouraging people to make that investment. The challenge is that when our financiers are receiving their repayment, they want it in dollars, not in naira, and we are making our money in naira.

We are hoping that the authorities, especially the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Federal Ministry of Finance, can find an arrangement that allows us to continue to deepen energy security for the country, sell in naira but give us a window that allows us to get the needed FOREX to pay back the financing that we used to carry out the development.

Waste *to* Wealth

Bunorr is converting used engine oil to base oil



Dr. Mason Oghenejobo, Chairman of Bunorr Integrated Services Limited, talks about converting used engine oil to base oil and other products, as well as NCDMB's Strategic investment in the project.

Operations of Bunorr Integrated Energy Limited

Nigeria today consumes about 600 million litres of engine oil every year. This means it generates used engine oil, which is black oil. That black oil can damage the environment. One of the things we set out to do is to collect that oil and process it into useful products. One thing that makes our company unique is that we are entering a space that has not been entered before in Nigeria.

Base oil with which they make engine oil in Nigeria is all imported 100 percent. What we are trying to do is to save Nigeria that cost of importation and save Nigeria from the environmental challenges of wasting used engine oil. Engine oil is a critical national asset. The easiest way to bring a nation down is to starve the nation of engine oil. When you don't have engine oil, it means that your machinery cannot work, the entire machinery, including the military equipment, will all be shut down.

Today, the world we live in is such that given

COVID-19, given what is happening in Russia, you need to be self-dependent in certain vital products. One of them is engine oil. That is what Bunorr is trying to do for Nigeria- to produce base oil with which you make engine oil, which will save the nation from having environmental hazards, save the nation the cost of importation, foreign exchange, save the nation the challenges of not having base oil and engine oil that will be detrimental to the development of our country. These are the reasons we set up the company.

How the company has grown capacity over the years

When we started, we knew that the challenges we were going to face would include technical. The second would be collecting the raw material, and then financial. We started off by having people in critical areas. We started small with three or four persons in technical areas: we have a technical adviser who has experience from the refinery area and then we have a chemist for raw material collections and then we have a finance person and HR staff member to bring in more people.

We've grown that staff strength today to about 40 persons covering key areas of HSE and environment, security, operations, communication and media as well as HR. We are set to inaugurate the main base oil plant and we will grow that capacity to about 60 staff members.

Most of our workers come from our operating environment and we also employ lots of local workers who do most of the base work that we have here in the factory. And because of the work we do is very technical, we ensure that we have people that are competent. We take the people we recruit through a lot of technical tests and when they come in, we also expose them to trainings. That's how we've grown capacity. We are at the stage where we will be able to inaugurate our plant; we have the staff to do that. The Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) will be coming soon and that will enable us to inaugurate the plant and then train the staff in operating the plant that we have.

"When we started, we knew that the challenges we were going to face would include technical. The second would be collecting the raw material, and then financial. We started off by having people in critical areas. We started small with three or four persons in technical areas: we have a technical adviser who has experience from the refinery area and then we have a chemist for raw material collections and then we have a finance person and HR staff member to bring in more people."

How the NCDMB impacted the growth of Bunorr Integrated Services Limited

Without NCDMB, we won't be where we are today. This is because there is a limit to our capacity in terms of funding. But NCDMB came through, not just with funding; they came in with structure and guidance. They helped us to position the company for growth in terms of having a proper board, management, policies, processes that work and they come from time to time to check. Without NCDMB, we would not have developed this factory to where we are today.

We are very grateful to God and to the government and the NCDMB that saw what we were doing and thought it that this was something that

needed to be supported for the good of our nation. We have enjoyed peace in Rivers State and the environment where we've established this company. We've been here for seven years and there has been no single incident from anybody in this environment.

We thank God that we have gone this far and we are about to inaugurate the plant and start production. We thank the government and NCDMB and the entire staff, especially the Executive Secretary for seeing the value in what we are doing and helping us to get to this stage.

Projects being executed by the company presently

We take the raw material, which is used engine oil, and we can produce several products from it. Our main product line is base oil, and that is what you use to produce lubricants: engine oil, gear oil, transmission oil and hydraulics. You can also produce grease from it, and you can also produce waxes. That's our main product line.

We also have equipment that can use the raw materials to produce diesel. We do produce diesel for our internal consumption because we are off grid. We don't have any national power here. All the power we are using here is internally generated from generators and the diesel we produce is what we use.

Our main project right now is to produce base oil. We have inaugurated the diesel plant. That's what has been keeping us going. We are now at the stage of inaugurating the base oil plant within the next two months.

Challenges facing the company

Our main challenge is in the raw material area. Nigeria needs regulations to stop people from dumping engine oil wherever they want to dump it or misuse it because it destroys the environment. If there is a regulation like what exists in other nations, like South Africa, the United States of America, and Europe, then people will not dump used engine oil the way we do in Nigeria. They would go to collection centres. That will help our business, in terms of being able to reprocess the reusage for the national economy. That is one of the areas where we have challenges. We are doing our best in terms of collections. We

Bunorr Integrated Services facilities.



have a base in Port Harcourt, we are developing one in Benin, and we also have a base in Lagos. But we need legislation to enhance collection of the raw material. The other area where we also have a challenge is staffing. We need good people to run this kind of project.

Future outlook for your company

The future is great for us. The approval we have from government is to establish a 200,000-litre per day plant in this place. What we are establishing now is about 20 percent of that. Next year, we'll grow to about 40 percent of our approved capacity. Beyond that, we can also blend and market our products in the African market.

Africa is very hungry for base oil; Africa is very hungry for lubricants. Our company boasts not only being able to meet Nigeria's requirement; we can also supply the African market where there is a huge demand for base oil and lubricants.

"Without NCDMB, we won't be where we are today. This is because there is a limit to our capacity in terms of funding. But NCDMB came through, not just with funding; they came in with structure and guidance. They helped us to position the company for growth in terms of having a proper board, management, policies, processes that work and they come from time to time to check. Without NCDMB, we would not have developed this factory to where we are today. We are very grateful to God and to the government and the NCDMB that saw what we were doing and thought it that this was something that needed to be supported for the good of our nation. We have enjoyed peace in Rivers State and the environment where we've established this company. We've been here for seven years and there has been no single incident from anybody in this environment."



Tour of Bunorr Integrated facilities by NCDMB.





1. L-R: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Dr. Philip Mshelbila, Managing Director, Nigeria LNG Limited during the courtesy visit by Nigeria LNG management to Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoo, Bayelsa State.

2. Top Management and staff of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Management of the Nigeria LNG during NL-NG's courtesy visit to the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoo, Bayelsa State.

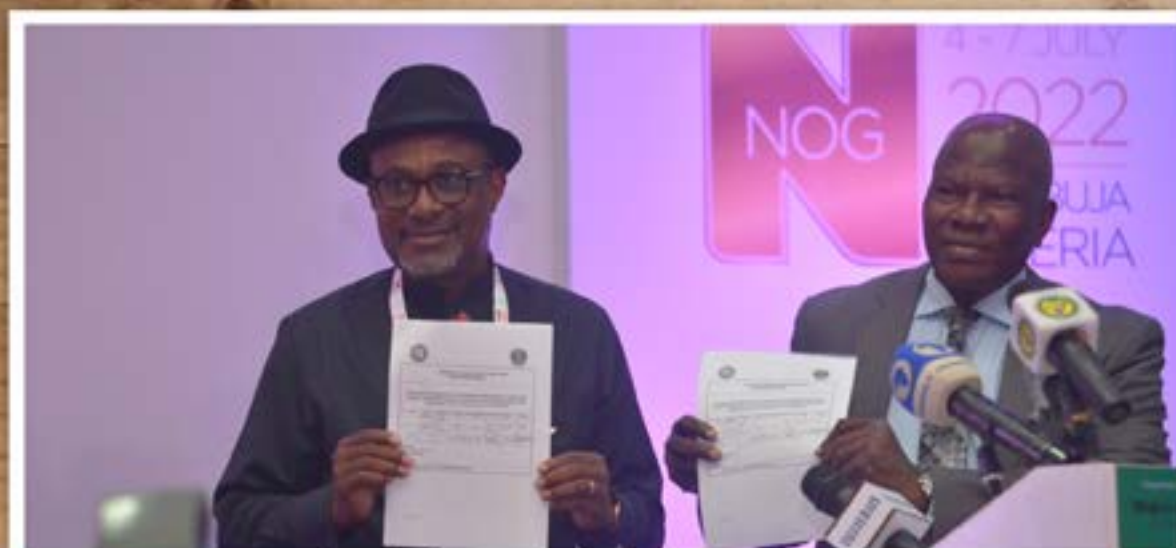
5. R-L: Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Engr. Ernest Nwapa, Pioneer Executive Secretary, NCDMB at the 2022 Annual Nigeria Oil and Gas Conference held in Abuja.

6. Barr. Naboth Onyesoh, Head, Legal Service Directorate, NCDMB (4th right) in a group photograph with stakeholders at the 5th Annual Valuechain Lecture and Award in Abuja.

3. Prince Gregory Ezechukwu, Managing Director, Grephil International Limited with Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB at the opening of the company's factory in Port Harcourt, Rivers State in August. The facility is dedicated to the manufacture of bolts, nuts, fittings, flanges, among others.

4. NCDMB staff with Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, after he was conferred with National Excellence Award in Public Service by President Muhammadu Buhari, in Abuja.

7. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Dr. Ginah Otonye Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communication and Zonal Coordination, NCDMB (left) with Members of the Host Community (HOSTCOM) in a group photograph during a courtesy visit to the Nigerian Content Towers, Yenagoo, Bayelsa State.



8. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Mr. Sunday Thomas, Commissioner, National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), presenting the Oil and Gas Insurance Guidelines at the 2022 Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja. The Guidelines were jointly developed by the two agencies.

9. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with HRM King W. S. Joshua Igbugburu X, the Ibenanaowei of Bomo Clan during a courtesy visit to the Palace Annex in Yenagoo, Bayelsa State.

12. Cross section of participants at the kick-off ceremony of NCDMB sponsored vocational skills training for 20 Bayelsa state teenage mothers at the Bayelsa State Institute of Tourism and Hospitality (BSITH) in Yenagoo, Bayelsa State.

14. Participants at the 2022 Annual Expatriate Quota Workshop held in Lagos

10. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Prof. Abdul-Rasheed Na'Allah, Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja, and other staff of the university during a courtesy visit to the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoo, Bayelsa State.

11. Cross-section of participants at the 2022 Annual Nigeria Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja, listening to a presentation by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB.

13. CAPACITY BUILDING: Engr. Timbiri Augustine, Deputy Manager, Capacity building, NCDMB with basic school teachers in Bayelsa state during the Phase 2 of the Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education training at the Nigerian Content Conference Hall, Nigerian Content Towers, Yenagoo, Bayelsa State.

Office romance impact on health and productivity

A two-edge sword, if well handled, could lead to surprising results.

Available data suggests that office romance, the love relationship between two people employed by the same employer, is on the rise. Numerous research point to this tendency. Studies on office romance conducted by Vault.com, Reboot, CareerBuilder, and Gist Mate Nigeria all come to roughly the same conclusions.

About 65 percent of employees are said to be in romantic relationships; 36 percent of the 65 percent in romantic relationships are married. That is, about half of the office lovebirds are cheating on their partners. About 44 percent of employees have had a fling while on a business trip while 18 percent have had random flings in the office. An astonishing 72 percent of employees say they would gladly engage in office romance, office policy or not.

From the above research result, it is clear that office romance comes in different shapes and forms. There are the casual ones, with no strings attached, the 18 percent who had random romance and the 44 percent who made out during business trips. There are also the married group and the singles whose romance may lead to marriage. To put this in perspective, we need to understand what romance means. The Collins dictionary defines romance as “a relationship between two people who are in love with each other but who are not married to each other.” So, romance involves love, flirting, sex, and all that is in between, and it is consensual. A platonic relationship with a colleague is not office romance, neither is a one-sided admiration or sexual harassment.

The studies above also showed that 84 percent of employers are totally against office romance. That is, eight in 10 employers would discourage it. “It’s an HR (human resource) nightmare waiting to happen where the employees could both be fired,” says a Human Resource Manager, Mayowa M Oloyede. Despite this opposition, and the possibility of job loss, the trend keeps rising.

What is driving the rise in office romance?

Humans are social beings who have physical, social, mental, psychological and sexual needs that can only be satisfied through engagements and interactions with other people. We also need other people for validation. If we do the calculation, then it becomes clear why office romance is on the rise. In modern society, a huge part of an employee’s active day/life is spent in the office, from 8.am or 9.am to 5.pm, closely quartered with co-workers.

A day is 24 hours. Daytime/bright period and night-time/dark period is split into 12 hours each. The period when the day is bright enough for people to see and be seen clearly by others under natural light is between 6.am and 6.pm, 12 hours. Technically, humans have this bright/wakeful period of the day to see and admire others, and then decide on a course of action. Eight hours of that period each day, 8am-5pm, is spent five days in a seven-day week in proximity with co-workers in the office. Let’s assume the individual sleeps by 10.pm. If we add the period between close of work at 5.pm and 10.pm, it is still less than the eight hours spent in the

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office. Between 10.pm and 4.am/5.am/6.am we are in bed sleeping.

In the eight-hour period in the office, we see each other’s strength and weaknesses; we hear each other talk; we see each other walk; we see and share in each other’s triumphs and mistakes; we laugh together; we fight; and we encourage each other. We are generally in each other’s faces for eight hours, what is called “see finish” in Nigeria. As humans, we start to naturally develop feelings for each other over time. This is why, despite employers’ opposition, and in spite of the rules forbidding such dalliance and the consequences, if caught, office romance continues to thrive.

The banking industry has strict rules against office romance, but that has not stopped it. Remember the case of the helmsman of a bank and his married subordinate in 2017? Or, a former police chief enmeshed in romance with a subordinate? Outside Nigeria, we all remember President Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky, United Kingdom’s Health Secretary Matt Hancock and his aide, and CNN’s Jeff Zucker’s case.

Organisations frown at office romance because of ethical issues relating to conflict of interests. Office romance often leads to favouritism, creates bad blood, causes distraction, leads to disrespect, office gossip and distraction, reduces productivity, and ultimately affects the bottom line. Equally critical is the fact that an employer may be liable, if such romance goes awry. A legal practitioner, Opatola Victor, said in such situations, “the risks faced by companies can range from sexual harassment suit to unfair termination suit.”

Legal experts, Afolabi Elebiju, Titilade Adelekun, and Blessing Agoruah inferred that while there is no specific law that addresses office romance, the code on conflict of personal interest of directors, as specified under Section 306 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2020, and Para 25.2 of the Nigeria Code of Corporate Governance 2018, could be extended to cover office romance. To that extent, a company may “regulate office relationships” through a written policy, a “Love Contract”, or “Consensual Relationship Agreements”.

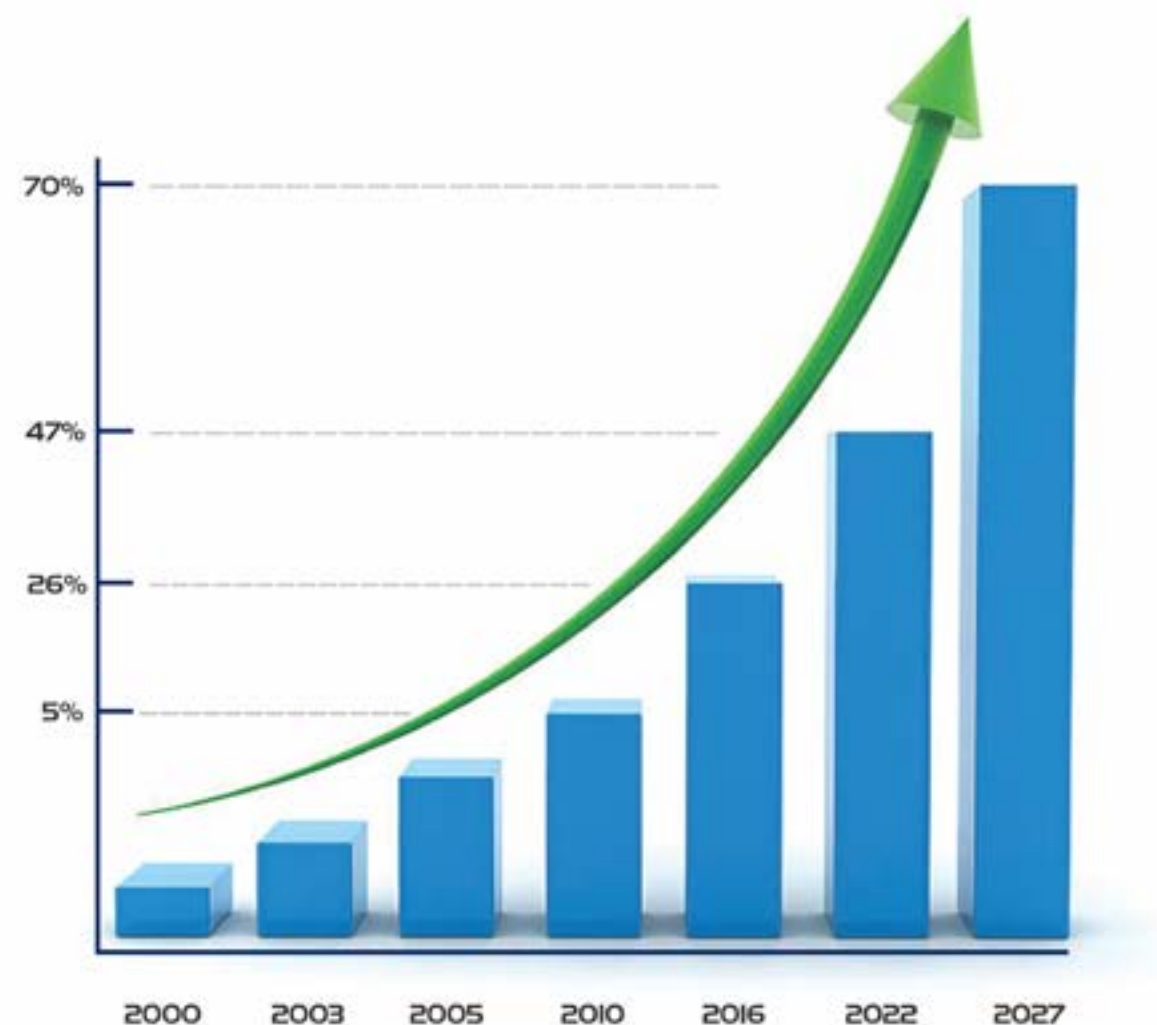
However, in so doing, according to Victor, the company must be mindful of “employees’ constitutional right to privacy”, as guaranteed under Section 37 of the 1999 Constitution. Organisations outside Nigeria have very strong policies on office romance to protect the brand, especially in the wake of the MeToo movement. There is still relative laxity about office romance in the country.

Office romance is, however, not all gloom and doom. When all is rosy, benefits could include a healthy glow, which will translate to increased commitment, enhanced creativity, reduced staff turnover, enhanced productivity leading to career advancement and financial benefits.

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

TOTAL ENERGIES' INVESTMENTS IN NIGERIA ARE DRIVEN BY IMPLICIT BELIEF IN THE COUNTRY

Mr. Victor Bandele has spent nearly 30 years with TotalEnergies, getting involved in reservoir engineering, management of assets, racking up many other experiences in Nigeria and at the company's headquarters in Paris, France. He served as the Director of Joint Ventures (JV) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, for five years before he was appointed the Deputy Managing Director, Deepwater Assets. He speaks on a wide range of industry issues in this interview with the Local Content Digest.

Victor Bandele
Deputy MD, Deepwater

Motivation behind TotalEnergies investments in Nigeria in the past few years, such as Egina and Ikike, at a time many multinationals stopped new projects

Our commitment did not start in the last few years. It dates long before then. TotalEnergies has been very active in Africa, starting from the day we were called Elf, before we merged with Total to become TotalEnergies and finally Total. The company has always leveraged opportunities, leveraged on the capacity of the country and the capacity of the people, especially internally. It's a company made up of very enthusiastic staff.

If you look back, you could see how many deep-water projects that have been sanctioned and executed in Nigeria. Of all those, TotalEnergies has been influential or been the operator of three major developments. We can count on Akpo, which was put on stream in 2009; Usan, which came on board in 2012; and Egina, that came onboard in 2018. These are very capital-intensive projects. Our commitment dates beyond six to seven years.

In recent times, we have projects that many people don't talk about all the time, but they are very important, like the OML 58 upgrade, the Ofon Phase 2, which eliminated flaring in two OMLs offshore and, recently, we have the Ikike project that was put on stream a few months ago. It's been a culture for us and what is key in all these is

the belief that Nigeria is a country that faces its own challenges- there are challenges in Nigeria, just like we have in almost every other country in the world.

TotalEnergies has footprints in all continents in the world and we are present in all phases and branches of the energy businesses. So, you have TotalEnergies in the upstream, in the downstream, in the midstream, in refining, in chemicals, and all sorts.

Every part of the world has its own peculiar challenges. Nigeria has its own, but what we are saying is that since independence, TotalEnergies has been present even before the civil war, seeing how the people reacted, came back. There is the belief that whatever challenge we are facing today, it's a temporary problem. The country is able to turn them into advantages. We believe that we shouldn't allow the cyclic spikes in issues to be driver of our business. Rather, we look for the value, we look for the capacity, and we look at the resilience of the people we have on the ground. All these elements help to make the judgement, to balance the risks and the values. That's what gives this edge.

If we were doing Ikike when it was initially planned 15 years ago, maybe we would have gone with a big platform. But we've been adapting ourselves to the realities of the day. The Ikike that has been put on stream today is a minimalist project. We did a lot of research and update in that project to come up with a smaller package that takes care of more than

70 percent of what we initially planned. This is the kind of evolution, the kind of thing that we do to each project, to bring value to the table.

Our strategy is simple. Every time, we challenge our teams; we have other projects. Nigeria is not shy of projects. We have a portfolio of projects that we can embark on in oil and gas. We are perpetually evaluating the projects, adapting them, making sure that they meet economic considerations, making sure that they meet environmental realities. For example, today, we do not permit ourselves to develop any project that is going to involve gas flaring. The projects that we've done in the last 10 to 12 years, even before we took the global commitments, we had taken commitments here that we were not going to put on any new projects that would involve gas flare. Egina is flare zero; Ikike is flare zero; and even Akpo is flare zero. Since 2009, we stopped executing projects that have anything to do with flaring.

We still have projects, initiatives, like Ubeta and Preowei, which are undergoing studies, undergoing optimisations, what we call the fire test, to make sure that they are able to deliver the value that we expect from them, and we are bringing all these into play. Collectively, TotalEnergies is benefitting from excellent partnership. We have partners, and they are very involved. In the deep-water, we have partners like NNPC, Prime130, SAPETRO, and others. They challenge us. It's a symbiosis- we will make sure that all parties are satisfied, are contributing and supporting. All the projects that we bring on board need to go through the acid test of all these companies. That is the power behind us.

TotalEnergies' strategies and plans in Nigeria in the face of global clamour for Energy transition

For sure, energy transition is real. We see it everywhere. We have evidence of global warming and we need to control it. TotalEnergies is a responsible company. At a time, we branded ourselves as the responsible company. We are responsible; that's why we align with the global demand to control carbon emissions. How do we do that? We believe that in Nigeria, in Africa, there is still a bigger question of energy security. You need, first, to secure energy, to make sure that energy is accessible to people before you even start to say how you make it cleaner. But we are doing both simultaneously in TotalEnergies. I mentioned that we have not brought in any project that involves flaring for a long time. Today, we have a big team that is monitoring our greenhouse emissions and making sure that every year, we reduce the global carbon emissions, and we reduce the greenhouse effect of our operations on a continuous basis.

We make sure that our production is much more responsible, much cleaner. Then, the next thing to do is research and development. We are fully committed to the development of new skills, new technology, to make sure that the next FPSO that we are going to commit is not going to be same as Egina. It will be one that meets the objectives of today, and we have people that are working on that. Within this country, we are making a commitment that any time we are bringing a new project that is oil and gas related, we will have an addendum or an attached projects which is renewable.

When I talk about Preowei and Ubeta, the concepts of these projects have something that is renewable that is coming along with them. We are phasing out all the things that are generating too much carbon emission and replacing them. For example, in downstream where we are the biggest player in Nigeria, all our filling stations - about 530 of them - are gradually being converted into solar powered stations. More than 25 percent have been converted already and we are moving on. That's the way it would be.

When you look at our footprints, we first organised to have less emissions, more responsible and cleaner energy. Today, we don't have any emission or continuous gas flaring on our onshore fields. We don't have any continuous flaring in our deep offshore fields. In our joint venture offshore, we have four or five fields; only one has continuous flaring. We have a target of phasing this out by 2024 to 2025. It's a deliberate action that we have taken, that we will have to be cleaner and up to date. We believe that in Africa, we need to secure energy; we even need to bring up new projects. But we need to bring them up in a more refined way, in a better and cleaner way. This is our objectives.

We are always dialoguing with our headquarters and making sure that we partake in all the research that is going on there. We have a digital factory in Paris. I have staff in my company here that are going to be attached to some of the projects that they do there, and they come back with very good knowledge base on how to optimise our projects. It's a continuous process for us. Because we are there for the long stretch, we are taking it seriously.

No plans to defer projects in Nigeria because of the transition

Rather than to defer, we would challenge the project to make sure it is compliant. Another strategy, which is key, is exploring new opportunities. Now that everybody is clamouring for renewables, we are in the forefront of that. Before other companies started to adopt energy base as their names, we bought the second biggest solar company in the world. It is called Sunpower. The company is part of our DNA today and part of our matrix. We have people that have been working on optimising that and bringing it to reality.

Today, we are not a starter in solar panel technology. That's why in Nigeria, we have solar solutions that are present in all our downstream locations, and so on. We are rebranding, not by name only, but to emphasise our commitments. That's why we are bold to come out as the first to really state it that we are a total energy

company. That is why we call ourselves TotalEnergies. We are not just a singular energy company, we are focussed on energies in all areas. When you look at our logo, it's demonstrating that we are into oil and gas, we are into hydrogen, we are into biofuel, we are into solar, we are into all these very good energy mix. That's what will make us stronger than any other company. That's why we'll be sustaining our position and improving on our status.

Strategic lessons from developing Egina and Ikike that could help other IOCs

The first is giving responsibilities to people that can actually deliver. We take a long time to access the quality of the people that are in charge of our projects. That is fundamental. Another point is collaboration. The foundation of each of these projects that we have talked about - basic engineering, engineering studies, the things you would do a long time before you take Final Investment Decisions (FID) - we ensure that there is a lot of collaboration at that point. We have lots of discussions, first, with our partners, stakeholders. But importantly, we have a lot of discussions with NCDMB where we tell them the full scope of the work, what we want to accomplish, the extent of work needed to be done, and they advise, based on the things they have seen across industries, what they think is doable in-country. We agree on things that are not doable in-country yet. We agree on the strategy that we are going to adopt, and we try to be as transparent as possible in making sure that all the stakeholders are on board and are contributing.

"Our strategy is simple. Every time, we challenge our teams; we have other projects. Nigeria is not shy of projects. We have a portfolio of projects that we can embark on in oil and gas. We are perpetually evaluating the projects, adapting them, making sure that they meet economic considerations, making sure that they meet environmental realities. For example, today, we do not permit ourselves to develop any project that is going to involve gas flaring."

We still encounter problems in the process of the projects. But because you started with good collaboration, the stakeholders have joint ownership with us. When we go through the storms, they are always with us. That is the fundamental key that has helped those projects to be assured. We get lots of support from even stakeholders that people do not consider extremely important, like government security agencies. You need to secure your base. Every stakeholder in the business has always supported one way or the other. I think collaboration and support from the stakeholders is key.

Another element is that by the time we are starting one project, we are already looking forward to the next. That motivation is key for the staff, the people working on the project and the people that are seeing the projection. After Ikike, I will not be looking round the room wondering what will be next because as Ikike was being done, we've lined up the baby of Ikike - something that can ride on the benefits of Ikike and the team is

aware of it. That motivation also carries them along. Those are the things people don't take on board but which are very critical to the success of projects.

The fact that we are even operating with strict HSE constraints that we set for ourselves makes the contractors that work with us to have confidence that if you are working with Total, not only are they desperate for the project to be finished, they are also desperate for you to go home after your project and meet with your family. I am proud to say we delivered Ikike project without one Lost Time Injury (LTI). This is symbolic. We have lots of contractors that worked on the site. We try to carry everybody along, explain our values, intents, commitments and core values. This is where safety and other elements are crucial. They help in the delivery of projects and help the sustainability of projects that we embark on.

Total's R&D footprints in Nigeria on the back of operations

In Port Harcourt, we have an institute that is called Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS). It has been in place for years - fully sponsored by TotalEnergies. It's a development, but it's a bit of research. I have staff that finished from IPS, that were recruited into TotalEnergies today; some have been deployed in other subsidiaries of TotalEnergies worldwide. These people are going to be the leaders, coming after people like myself, and they are really top quality.

That's part of Total's footprint, and it's symbolic. We do it, not only to benefit TotalEnergies. Many of our competitors, other IOCs, many other companies in Nigeria and in the oil and gas industry, have benefitted. It's the first point of call if you want to recruit quality workers in Nigeria for the oil and gas business. We also have a scheme in-house where we take lecturers from higher institutions. We do some checks and we select some of them and they go through the Massachu-

EGINA, TotalEnergies' flagship project that contributed to significantly raising local content bar.

setts Institute of Technology (MIT). They stay for some time and return to their institutions without any commitments to TotalEnergies. We do these just to make sure that the lecturers can see the best that happens elsewhere. Everybody knows that MIT is one top school. When they go back, they are able to impact their institutions with what they have learnt. We also have scholarships. Some of the people we gave scholarships about 20 years back are in top places in Nigeria today. Some of them are in the industry and some of them are leaders in their trade.

We have pockets of research in conjunction with some universities. For example, we want to develop barite technology, to refine barite that we can use in the industry. We have things that are all scattered across the country and we are developing more. Talking about renewable energies, in TotalEnergies in Nigeria, we have a dedicated staff we call Explorer Renewables. He is already looking at how to explore opportunities for renewable energy that we can practise in Nigeria. These are things that are inherent in TotalEnergies. It's the source of our strength.

IOCs reluctance to start new projects after enactment of Petroleum Industry Act (PIA)

Our industry is very long-term. I think we underestimate the processes that go on before decisions are taken. When you take a position that the PIA is favourable, it's not immediately that you are able to launch projects. There are many benefits in the PIA. One is that many companies are now in the process of converting to the PIA terms. The Act gives room for up to one year to convert. Some companies need to renew their licences. All these activities are going on in the background and it is not so obvious to the populace that things are moving.

For example, TotalEnergies is in the process of renewing our licences. It's difficult to take a decision on a licence that you have not renewed. It's a combination of these activities and the fact that the economy, generally world-wide, is a bit down. People around are really weighing and measuring the value versus the risks, versus the timing of these projects.

But I am positive that the PIA is an improvement over what we used to have because there is more clarity. We know the terms that we are going to be operating with and the regulations are coming out. We've not seen all the regulations. As they come out, people are analysing, evaluating, and seeing how

it will impact the business. I think, collectively as a people, it's obvious that the PIA is one step. There are other socioeconomic elements that come into play to make projects viable. People will talk about the security, the general ambience, about the sustainability that has been laid out. A lot of other factors are important to make sure that people take the step to develop. I'm aware, as a player. I see that companies are not sleeping. Recently, there was a marginal field round and there was a lot of participation.

If people don't have visibility, they would not have done that. It's not to say that everything is rosy, but I can assure you that the industry is not asleep at this time. The industry is very alive, and people are really weighing things. We need to just collectively make sure that all the conditions precedent with the enabling environment are right. It's not only the PIA. I also think security is one major important issue. If all those things are put in place, I am sure that everybody wants to invest in where they will be able to cash in and make profit from their investments.

Sustainable solutions to curbing oil theft and pipeline vandalism

There are dimensions: short-term, mid-term and the long-term. The short-term is really important. Today, we have OPEC quota of 1.83 million barrels per day of oil to export. I believe that Nigeria, if we put all our acts together, we might even be able to produce more. But today, we are only able to produce around 1.3 million barrels. We have a gap. I will not ascribe 100 percent of this gap to security problems. Security has a significant component of that, the other component is that when you don't invest, there will be depletion. It is a natural trend.

If you don't put on new projects that we have talked about before, the previous one will decline. It's not going to continue to produce at the same rate. But the component of security is not small. Tackling that problem is important. I think, recently, if you look at it, we've had the repercussion of not producing up to our peak. We are seeing it economically as a country. We are seeing it even in infrastructure, and we are seeing it in all areas. If the pipeline for oil is not available and you do not produce oil, you will not get gas. Most of our gas fields are associated gas. If you block the oil, the gas is being blocked. If you are not sending gas to domestic channel, if you're not sending gas to the power plant, then we will have shortage of electricity. If you're not supplying gas to the NLNG, its values are also depleting.

In fact, when you look at it, you will see a chain reaction and it has a lot of impact on our economy. This one calls for urgent action. Government is doing everything possible. It's mostly a government action because oil companies do not have the rights to carry guns and whatever. It's really the government rising up, and they are doing it. We are seeing the impact; maybe not in the pace we want, but I think something is being put in place.

On our side as stakeholders, we need to realise that going forward, we need more of technology for solving these problems, and we need a more robust monitoring system. Robotics have been proposed. All the companies are looking at methods of ensuring security around the pipeline and surveillance - how to take care

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of things. Those actions, I call them mid-term. A long-term solution is what every one of us needs to be thinking about. And that is: nobody wants to die. If there is more sustainable empowerment of people, then the number of people that will be involved in this kind of crime will be reduced; or, the people around have more capacity to fight those that will be interested. Everywhere I go, people ask me why Nigeria is producing significantly less than the capacity that has been allocated to us as quota. I think we would get there, and I'm looking forward to that day.

Aspirations in the role as DMD Deepwater TotalEnergies

My aspirations are many. The one that is less obvious is key for me. I want to see a TotalEnergies that is stronger, robust, that has many more footprints in Nigeria. It is a tough battle. Any project I bring on the table today, I am going to compete with projects in Mozambique, in Gabon, in Congo, in Angola, everywhere else. Outside of Africa, my projects are being challenged by other projects. For me to be able to have projects in Nigeria that would be sanctioned, the projects must be valuable, have low CAPEX and low emissions. The emission element is becoming very key. To do that, the totality of my staff needs to be on-boarded.

When I say I want to increase the footprint in Nigeria, I think it is a big responsibility. But I really trust the population that I have. I would also like to see a TotalEnergies become a very big stakeholder in renewables in Nigeria, and this aspect is already initiated. We are in the forefront, compared to the others. I want to see when I leave TotalEnergies. I want to be able to look back and see a lot of younger people taking responsibility, taking charge of things that are adding value to the company and the country.

Building economic prosperity through strategic vocational education investments



Nigeria's unemployment data is stark and worrying: 23.2 million persons were unemployed at the end of 2020- about 33.3 per cent of the 67 million labour force, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). The labour force refers to persons aged 15-64 and they are able and willing to work.

Some of the principal reasons for the staggering rate of unemployment are the low skills base of a large portion of the population and the limited number of equipped institutions where youths can get trained and certified in key technical skills required in the economy, especially in the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors.

These factors were confirmed by a pilot study sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in 2018 across Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Rivers states. The study was intended to examine the state of technical and vocational education and unravel the cause of the shortage of qualified Nigerian artisans needed for the execution of projects in the oil and gas industry. The report shows that infrastructure and facilities in over 100 technical schools were in a dilapidated state and the teachers and students were poorly trained and motivated. An immediate upgrade of facilities in vocational schools across the country and retraining of technical teachers was recommended.

The NCDMB set out to reverse the ugly trend, in furtherance of its

capacity building mandate and the technical capability pillar in the Nigerian Content 10-year Strategic Roadmap. The Board's efforts required the inclusion of Integrated Institutional Strengthening and Upgrade into its Human Capacity Development (HCD) guidelines. "The guideline sets aside 60 percent of the HCD commitment of major projects in the oil and gas industry for the upgrade and provision of facilities in institutions that train the workforce for the oil and gas industry," Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said.

The remaining percentages of the HCD budget are to be allocated to other human capacity programmes. The overarching intent of the guideline is to accomplish the Nigerian Content mandate and the Federal Government's agenda to lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty. Wabote notes that NCDMB places high premium on technical, vocational education and training institutions (TVETs) because they are important in the development of skilled craftsmen. The availability of such personnel reduces the dependence on foreign artisans, capital flight and deepens the practice of Nigerian Content.

Standout projects, collaborative approach

So far, the new HCD guidelines have been implemented successfully with impressive results. First, the Board upgraded Government Technical College, Amoli in Enugu State and handed it over to the state government. NCDMB also renovated, upgraded, and commissioned ultra-modern



• Commissioning of vocational Centre, University of Ibadan, constructed and equipped by the NCDMB.



Ground-breaking for TotalEnergies' Exploration and Production Nigeria Project at Government Technical College (GTC) in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.



World-class machinery procured and donated to Government Technical College, Abak in Akwa Ibom State.

woodwork and carpentry workshops at Government Technical College, Abak in Akwa Ibom State. Elder Friday Emmanson Udoka, Principal-General of GTC, Abak, enumerated other assistance the school received from the Board to include the training of two science teachers and provision of three computer-oriented machines for teaching science subjects and other related subjects. Currently, the state-of-the-art factory at GTC Abak is producing wood works, furniture and armoured doors.

To ensure sustainability of the facility, the Board instituted a public-private collaboration arrangement with Akwa Ibom State and a specialist modern furniture production firm from the Abak community. Under the arrangement, a percentage of the proceeds from the facility will be ploughed back to achieve self-sustenance.

Another standout project is the ongoing collaborating by the NCDMB, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) and TotalEnergies to transform Government Technical College (GTC), Port Harcourt, Rivers State, into a centre of excellence for the training of craftsmen that will support activities in the oil and gas industry and the wider economy. In August, TotalEnergies started the construction of a 25–classroom block, 200–bed students’ hostel and another technical workshop within the school. The NCDMB also commenced the upgrade of the Teachers’ Quarters and the Principal’s Official Quarters in the same school. The ground-breaking event was attended by Mr. Guillaume Dulout, TotalEnergies’ Deputy Managing Director, Joint Venture Assets. He stated that “the projects are designed to upgrade standard of infrastructure in the school, create good learning atmosphere, improve standard of living for the students and equip vocational students with life skills”. He highlighted the company’s full alignment with the initiatives of the NCDMB to develop technical expertise and professionalism in the Nigerian oil and gas sector.

A few weeks later, the Executive Secretary of NCDMB performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the projects undertaken by SPDC at GTC Port Harcourt. The scope includes the construction of four-units of world-class technical workshops and an information and communication centre. The projects are in fulfilment of SPDC’s commitment to NCDMB’s human capital development programmes.

Wabote expressed the hope that the construction works would bring back the glorious days of the GTC, such that the students and trainees would lead the charge for the creation of jobs and wealth generation. He commended SPDC for investing in the project, noting that the foremost oil and gas firm remained consistent and dependable in human capacity development. He also enjoined SPDC to ensure that its projects at the school were completed in record time and to insist that world-

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class industrial equipment were installed so that the students could acquire the requisite skills that would get them ready for field operations.

The NCDMB boss called for a sustainability and maintenance plan that would support the workshop, provide vital spare parts for the machines and train teachers and instructors on the use of equipment that would be installed in the school. Mr. Benno Touw, General Manager, Projects and Engineering, SPDC, assured the people that the company would continue to support Federal Government’s aspirations to increase Nigerian Content in the oil and gas industry. Mrs. Amadi-Nwaso Nkechinyere, Director, Secondary Education, Ministry of Education, Rivers State, praised NCDMB and SPDC for the project and assured them that the state government would continue to provide an enabling environment to ensure that the projects were completed on time.

Another remarkable institutional strengthening and upgrade project executed by the Board is the University of Ibadan Vocational School, which was completed and handed over to Prof. Kayode Adebawale, Vice Chancellor of the university, in August. The scope of work included the construction of three workshops and three classrooms, for mechanical, electrical and welding and fabrication trades, as well as offices for the centre’s director, administration staff and receptionist. Other Board’s projects included a generator and gate house, borehole, and water storage facility, fencing and landscaping of the centre’s premises, provision and installation of 500KVA generator and training of technical teachers to use the installed equipment.

The Executive Secretary described the event as an important milestone in Nigerian content development. He said the strength of Nigeria’s economy and prosperity lies in the hands of craftsmen, artisans and gifted workmen. He noted that the University of Ibadan is located in Oyo Central Senatorial zone, which is represented by Senator Teslim Kolawole Folarin, who serves as the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Local Content and had supported the activities of the NCDMB immensely.

Investing today for future prosperity

Eng. Wabote charged the vocational school to produce top-rated craftsmen, artisans, and gifted workmen who would help the nation to rely fully on Nigerian-made products and wean itself from dependence on imported goods and equipment. The responsibilities of the university community and stakeholders are to ensure adequate maintenance of installed facilities, support towards sustainability, and appointment of high-quality personnel so that the huge investment would be maximised in the best interest of generations of youths from the area and beyond, he added.

Senator Folarin expressed delight that he facilitated the establishment of the multi-billion-naira hi-tech skills acquisition centre, which would train many people in Oyo State in different skills across oil and gas and other sectors of the Nigerian economy.

Similar upgrades of vocational institutions sponsored by the Board are ongoing at the Nigerian Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State; the University of Port Harcourt; Rivers State University and the Government Craft Development Centre in Bassambiri, Bayelsa State.

Nigeria’s unemployment data might be grim presently, but the Board’s concerted efforts to revamp technical and vocational education offer a glimmer of hope of transformation.

- Ifeanyi Nwokemodo



Celebrating NCDMB’s success story in customer service delivery

The week set aside globally for service delivery was marked by the Board in many unique ways.

It was a week unlike any other at the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) at Swali, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The Management and staff stepped back from workplace routines to give expression to little known aspects of corporate reality. Celebration of Customer Service Week 2022 (4-7 October) assumed dimensions of festivity that underlined the Nigerianness of a workforce whose dynamism has created a pace setter in ease of doing business and emblazoned the skyline of Yenagoa with an imposing, iconic edifice as its corporate headquarters.

By its accomplishments, NCDMB is in a class as one of today’s leading brands and many would think that managers and a workforce of alien backgrounds are behind its effectiveness and efficiency in actualising its core mandate and targets in service delivery. Employees of all cadres decided, for an entire week, to dress, sing and dance with drumming; eat, and do so many other things in ways depictive of their Nigerian background.

Customer Service Week is a creation of the business world, particularly corporate entities across the globe, to accord due recognition to the contributions of employees who serve and support customers and are, therefore, deserving of rewards. In good and bad times, their constancy in service to achieve customer satisfaction is assured. In a nutshell, Customer Service Week is to boost the morale of employees and to make the world appreciate the value of customer service.

Customer Service Week tinged with unique Nigerianness

Sights and sounds of Nigeria, in the shape of traditional attires and accoutrements, artworks, songs and dance steps, drum beats, and cuisines, were enacted in stage performances and interspersed with historical excursions that brought out the innate character and propulsive power of the organisation. From the Nupe, Ibibio, Bini, Kalabari and Tiv, virtually all definitive elements of Nigeria’s cultures were on display for hours on Day One at the Nigerian Content Tower.

The procession into the 1,000-capacity Conference Centre in groups with the accompaniment of music and masquerade displays, set the tone for a carnival atmosphere as the audience hailed, howled, ululated and clapped. It was a parade in colour, elegance and grace that held

many spellbound throughout the duration of the shows.

Humour was not lacking in the performances. The spokesperson for Benue, for instance, claimed that their citizens “are known for their hospitality and warm nature towards other Nigerians. In fact, it is said that they are the only tribe that actually mean it when they tell you, ‘Come and eat’.”

It was a fitting start to a week in which the NCDMB sought to gauge and bolster employee enthusiasm and capacity for quality service delivery through sundry activities.

Action later shifted to the grounds of the Golden Tulip (Royal Castle) behind the Government House, Yenagoa, venue of the Inter-DDD Football Finals Competition. It was a Futsal-type interdepartmental competition. Each team had five players and a goalie, and the duration of a match was 50 minutes. Beryl carried the day with a lone goal. Players of Teams Beryl, Amber and Coral received medals.

Day 2 began early with a two-kilometre group walk on the grounds of the Nigerian Content Tower.

A welcome address by the Executive Secretary was presented by Mr. Akintunde Adelana, the Director, Monitoring and Evaluation. He thanked the staff for active participation in the activities, noting that the synergy was superb in the cultural performances. “Teamwork,” he emphasised, “enhances customer service.”

On how NCDMB developed the capacity to command industry-wide compliance and cooperation in actualising its core mandate as set out in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, the Executive Secretary said its Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement enabler, under which workshops, exhibitions and targeted events have been organised, has been astonishingly productive.



In paper presentations, the subject matter was dissected by eminent resource persons. *Delivering Exceptional Customer Service: Effective Communication, Emotional Intelligence, and Stress Management* by Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo, was segmented into five parts: Pillars of Customer Service, Focal Points in Customer Service, Effective Communication, Emotional Intelligence, and Stress Management. For the pillars, he highlighted attitude, interest, action, verbal language, body language, and tone of voice. Each of these is a means to make a positive impression on a customer.

Emotional intelligence, according to him, is "a range of skills that helps us recognise, understand and manage our own emotions as well as put all skills to work in order to recognise, understand and influence the emotions of others". He added: "When you are emotionally intelligent, you achieve increased loyalty, happier employees, and boost in value creation."

In *Personal Financial Planning* by Mr. Isaac Ebewe, workers received lessons on income, savings (for retirement and emergencies), expenditure and investments, with emphasis that financial security is critical to productivity, in customer service and other tasks. *Work Life Balance: Giving Your Best at Home and at Work with Your Health in Focus* by Dr. Olumuyiwa Oludayo centred on appropriate adjustments to be made to minimise encroachment of one area on the other, for example, work-related activities on personal life (in such areas as family and leisure). To enjoy good health and be at one's most productive, that balance is necessary.

Talents? They abound at the NCDMB. Rebecca Ogbe, Zuwairat Oze-kome, Ifeanyi Ukoha, Khadijah Jekhine, Lontana Onyekachi, Rosemary Obaseki, Simeon Esiekpe, Linda Wilfred, Maureen Obukofe, Godswill Chukwuemeka Ogeh, Nkechinyere Udu-Nwachi, Cityfaith Zorasi, Obinna Agbugba, Tomisin Eyimofe, Otekikuma Enenibio, and Attah Solomon.

First was Rebecca Ogbe, for the song *Girl on Fire* by Alicia Keys, followed by a duet, Dolly Parton's and Kenny Roger's *We Got Tonight*, rendered by Zuwairat Osekome and Ifeanyi Ukoha. Zuwairat did to that song what Whitney Houston did to Dolly Parton's *I Will Always Love You*. These singers were dynamites, breathtakingly good, evoking memories of the virtuosity of the original artistes.

NCDMB's success story in customer service delivery

Day Three was even more loaded. Fittingly, it began with a paper by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary, titled: *Accelerating*

Nigerian Content Development Through Effective Customer Service. He reiterated a fundamental truth: "A satisfied customer will assume the role of an organisation's brand ambassador and will remember to tell people about his or her good experience." That logic informed two pillars of the organisation's Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Roadmap, namely: Organisational Capability, which focuses on internal customers, being the employees, and Enabling Business Environment, that targets external customers.

Engr. Wabote said a comfortable work space, top-grade working tools and capacity building have been prioritised because "the industry we regulate requires that we build the competencies of our staff" to match global standards. By systematic implementation of the pillars and enablers, including NCDMB's signature Service Level Agreement (SLA), the Board has "significantly reduced the aggregated cycle time of our touch points in the industry contracting process".

On how NCDMB developed the capacity to command industry-wide compliance and cooperation in actualising its core mandate as set out in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, the Executive Secretary said its Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement enabler, under which workshops, exhibitions and targeted events have been organised, has been astonishingly productive. Notable among such activities are: Practical Nigerian Content Forum, Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunities Fair, Research and Development Fair, Expatriate Quota Management Workshop, Sensitisation Workshops on Vendor Development Programme, among several others.

Great partners for success

In a paper, *Customer Service As a Panacea for Professionalism and Client First Attitude*, Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, the Director General, National Council for Arts and Culture, noted that when a client receives utmost attention, it lifts corporate image and patronage. He enjoined corporate managers to always appreciate subordinates even through gestures such as handwritten thank you notes.

From the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) was Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, who spoke on: *Customer Service as a Bedrock for an Effective Public Service*. She commended NCDMB on its recent success in the Presidential Executive Order, EO1, on the Promotion of Transparency and Efficiency in the Nigerian Business Environment Annual Compliance Ranking (January 2022- June 2022) as *Best Performing Agency*, and challenged the organisation to continue to strive for better performance.

Mrs. Nnenna Akajemeli, the National Coordinator of SERVICOM, said the theme for the Customer Service Week 2022, *Celebrating Service*, meant





"celebrating those who provide service". Commending NCDMB for its exceptional performance thus far, the SERVICOM boss urged its Management not to become complacent, and to always have it in mind that, "A mystery shopper will visit you."

From Mrs. Anehta of the Petroleum Contractors Trade Section was the feedback: "We are very pleased with service delivery by NCDMB." The petroleum contractors noted that the organisation's digitalised processes have eliminated bottlenecks and reduced turnaround time. The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, represented by Mrs. Stella Dappa-Fombo, said the NCDMB is doing so well in regulating the hiring of expatriates in the oil and gas industry. "You are doing excellently well," she declared.

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria, represented by its Director for the South, Engr. Sam Ayuba, called attention to the 17-storey corporate headquarters of NCDMB. He said it was exemplary of the organisation to have used over 90 per cent local content in its construction. Sir Innocent Uzoechi, of the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Agency (NEPZA), expressed a desire for closer institutional collaboration.

It was a most memorable climax to events that began on October 4, and the staff most proudly and boldly made their identity known. Ms. Doris Opuwari, acting General Manager, Human Resources, did an equally remarkable job of Vote of Thanks.

- *Dianam Dakolo*



As part of celebrations marking the 2022 Customer Service Week, staff of NCDMB participated in a road walk at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoo, Bayelsa State.

Nutrition specialist Jamila's take on *sinasir*



She is a lot rolled into one fantastic package – nutrition specialist, public health professional, wellness coach, food and lifestyle blogger, host of *Maggi Diaries* on TV and radio and currently studying to earn a doctorate in Nutrition. Jamila Lawal is well qualified to advise on what to eat, and when.

Her take on Nigerian foods is quite interesting. As a food and lifestyle coach, she advocates living a balanced and healthy lifestyle in creative and exciting ways without compromising the quality of life and taste of food. She enjoys teaching nutrition, creating food content, living a healthy and active lifestyle, and mothering her 11-year-old son.

A lover of books and nature, Jamila loves to experience other cultures through food and travels. She recommends *sinasir*, a delicacy more popular in the northern part of the country. *Sinasir* is Hausa for rice-based pancake. It is prepared with the soft variety of rice.

Method

- Blend all the ingredients together and pour into a large bowl.
- Cover with cling film and place in a warm place to proof for 1 hour.
- Remove cling film and whisk to remove air bubbles.
- Heat a non-sticky frying pan and brush on a little vegetable oil.
- Scoop batter and pour into the frying pan.
- Cook on low heat until the top is done and set. This takes about 3 to 4 minutes. Do not flip.
- Plate them in twos on a round plate with the cooked part on the bottom and cover with the next masa, but this time, with the cooked part on the top such that they form a sandwich.
- Continue this process until you exhaust all the batter.

Serve warm with honey, *yaji*, or *miyan taushe*.

Below is Jamila's recipe on preparing *sinasir*.

Ingredients

- 2 cups of rice soaked (overnight or two hours minimum)
- ¾ cups rice cooked 12- 15 minutes
- 1½ cup of water
- 2 teaspoons of yeast
- 2 tablespoons of sugar
- ½ teaspoon of salt
- 2 tablespoons of yoghurt
- ½ of small onion chopped
- ¼ teaspoon of baking powder



LEONE & GREY
— STYLE & CONFIDENCE —

MAKING BIG STATEMENTS IN MENSWEAR



Sherifa Amira Shuaibu is the Founder of menswear fashion brand, Leone and Grey. A graduate of Food Science and Nutrition from The Federal University of Technology, Minna and currently running an MBA programme at the Lagos Business School, the 27-year-old entrepreneur is excited about making a statement in male fashion and showing commitment to empowering women through fashion.

What inspired you to choose fashion designing as a career?

I've always been passionate about the creative process, creating styles to fit different personalities; the colours, the process of designing and fabric selection. These were enough reasons to start a career in fashion.

What does fashion mean to you?

Fashion, for me is the freedom of expression, showing who you are through your style and being confident in whatever style you choose.

Why the interest in designing men's wears?

I chose menswear because it is just not the

norm and I love interesting challenges. It is also a lot more straightforward and gives me the opportunity to express my creativity seamlessly.

What is the favourite part of being a fashion designer?

The satisfaction on my clients' faces when the style and fit is just right. They show so much gratitude even though they are paying for the services. This right here gives me a sense of fulfillment. Also, seeing my sketches come to life, better than I expected, because it's one thing to imagine and create a design, it's another to have it tailored as envisioned.

How have men responded to a female fashion designer making their wears?

I can summarise the perception of our designs in three words: simple, classy and unique. The reception has been amazing. We can always hope for the best.

The designs you create are no doubt great, but who and which things were your inspiration while creating such designs?

A lot of things come into play during a design process. My inspiration sometimes comes from my clients' needs, personalities and expectations from our brand. Also, any interesting art piece in any form, whether natural or artificial, can inspire me to create a design and my colour combinations come from nature and everything around me. Working with a mood board makes the process smoother, it brings together all my ideas and pictures of things and people that inspired the particular project.

What skills are necessary for a successful fashion designer?

The passion, firstly; then a very good creativity level, the ability to keep up with trends - socially and economically - people management, financial management, social discipline and general customer service management. Also, it is very important to understand your brand personality.

What are some of the challenges that you are sometimes faced with in the business of fashion designing? Does being a female designing men's wears pose any challenge?

Theft of intellectual property and dealing with misogynists that tend to look down on me or my work because I'm a woman. I often have to put in double effort to prove that I deserve a seat at the table.



NCDMB's six magical years

NCDMB's six magical years



"The satisfaction on my clients' faces when the style and fit is just right. They show so much gratitude even though they are paying for the services. This right here gives me a sense of fulfillment."

With the advances in technology, how have you been able to keep up with trends?

With fashion apps and social media, it is easy to keep up with trends. I follow pages that align with my fashion perspective and sign up to their emailing lists. So, I'm always kept in the loop of what's happening. When it comes to style and design upgrade, we try to keep at our best by employing the use of latest machines with advanced technology to improve the quality of designs we create. We have a lot of fashion blogs, magazines, similar brands social platforms and TV channels we keep up with to stay updated and we never miss a new trend.

What do you think about work ethics and what kind of ethics do you believe in following while working with fashion?

Respect your competitor's intellectual property. In as much as no idea is unique, I always try to tweak designs to make them my own, add my own flavour. In addition, it is important to be as transparent as possible in your dealings with all stakeholders and create a good working environmental and culture for employees to boost productivity. Lastly, always save for rainy days because in business, regardless of the sector, there will always be highs and lows.

Does your background have any influence on your designs?

Yes, I'd say so. I'm the only female child of my parents and this has greatly influenced my designs, watching what my brothers liked, their fashion sense, what they looked for in an apparel...details and comfortability.

What do you consider the important facets of the fashion industry?

I'd say creativity, media and marketing. How your work is portrayed has a great impact on who can align with your work or story as an artist; how you capture the details of any design and how you pass the message.

What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?

I'd say my greatness strength is being able to learn from others, taking people's suggestions, especially the people that work with me. They might see things from an angle I couldn't. As for weaknesses, not being as creative as I'd like to. Working in menswear doesn't leave room for more creativity because men are simple and tend to go for what they are used to more often than not.

How would you relate past and present fashion trends?

Fashion is basically repetition; nothing is new with fashion. They just continue to be recycled over the years.

Where do you see Leone and Grey in five years from now?

Global. We hope to have started exporting our creative pieces.



SIGHTSEEING

It's (almost) unbelievable
the loads of benefits
sightseeing delivers

Fun, therapeutic, energising, name it; the list is lengthy.

Sometimes, we work so hard that we forget how to unwind or slow down to recharge our energy and get our creative juice flowing again. But, if you finally slow down and wonder what to do to get your mojo back, then you need not look further than sightseeing.

Sightseeing can be both fun and therapeutic, and its ability to rejuvenate the physical and the mental health is astonishing. That well deserved vacation you have been pushing aside for so long, now is the time to take it and have a change of scene. Go somewhere new and do something new. Visit the Taj Mahal in India, for instance, and behold the power of love. Or, take a trip to the Netherlands to experience the ingenuity of man. Even better still, how about travelling next door to the Park Vega Waterpark right there in Agbor, Delta State, to get the adrenaline pumping with excitement as you slide down a water ramp.

You really need to go sightseeing. Several studies have shown the wonders sightseeing could do to one's health. A joint study involving the United States Travel Association and a centre for the elderly found that "women who vacation at least twice a year show a significantly lower risk of suffering a heart attack than those who only travel every six years or so". And "men who do not take an annual vacation show a 20 percent higher risk of death and 30 percent greater risk of heart disease".

Another survey showed that travellers reported "feeling less anxious, more rested and in a better mood". The most interesting part is that this feeling persists long after the trip. Travelling also expands your horizon. Debbie Egwuogu, CEO of Waka with Debbie Tours, says travelling "turns you into a knowledge bank...and opens you to diversity both human and cultural." Indeed, nothing enhances creativity better than exposure to

new things, places and people.

A study by the Cornell University in the US found that people "experience a direct increase in happiness from just planning a trip". The anticipation of going on vacation often gives a relaxing feeling. You know you will be able to relax from projects and deadlines, and that feels liberating.

Many today struggle with depression. Over the past five years, for instance, there has been an alarming increase in suicide rate among Nigerians linked to societal pressures. A change of scene could work wonders for the busy executive who is feeling overwhelmed with work, family or economic issues. Studies have shown that holiday travels could lower the risk of depression. Visiting a new place and exposure to new things could stimulate the brain to pick up new ideas or a new language. This is good exercise for the brain, which will help improve your mental health.

A vacation may be just what you need to get rid of that stubborn paunch. A hike during your holiday, regular strolls on the beach, or visits to the local gym in your holiday destination will help you shed that extra fat and keep you in top physical shape, which is good for your heart.

Vacationing away from your base and leaving the worries of work behind is one sound way to relax. According to Dr. Osahon Enabulele, "Nigerians don't rest, especially those in commercial hubs." Dr. Enabulele said a lack of rest is a leading cause of "the high rate of hypertension in the country".

Now that the jury is out on the link between sightseeing and your health, it is hoped that you would kickstart your holiday plans right away. But, if you are like many who no longer see the notion of international travel as thrilling and as mysterious as it used to be, especially given the difficulty in accessing FOREX, then perhaps, you may wish to consider alternatives to travelling overseas.

There are hidden holiday gems across the country to pick from. Some of the little spoken about holiday destinations in the country are Park Vega Waterpark. It is said to be the largest water park in West Africa, built to international standards. The Okpoama Beach in Brass, Bayelsa

Many today struggle with depression. Over the past five years, for instance, there has been an alarming increase in suicide rate among Nigerians linked to societal pressures. A change of scene could work wonders for the busy executive who is feeling overwhelmed with work, family or economic issues. Studies have shown that holiday travels could lower the risk of depression. Visiting a new place and exposure to new things could stimulate the brain to pick up new ideas or a new language. This is good exercise for the brain, which will help improve your mental health.

State, has become the favourite destination for those that desire a serene, peaceful location for their holiday. The beach is perfect for relaxation, picnic, hangout and water sports. You could lie on the beach and watch some of the most spectacular ocean waves. And talk about the local cuisine, consisting largely of fresh fish meals, and your perfect holiday is complete.

The Nelson Mandela Gardens is a world-class nature resort just around the corner in Asaba, Delta State. Located within the Asaba International Airport, the resort was established in honour of the late South African President. It has a remarkable aerial view that is shaped like the map of Africa using 95 trees, representing the 95 years of Nelson Mandela.

The Obudu Cattle Ranch, located in the deep tropical forests of Cross Rivers State, needs no introduction. There are enough exciting activities at the resort to keep one engaged for weeks. Other destinations in the country include the Olumo Rock in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Lekki Conservation Centre in Lagos; the Idanre Hills in Ondo State; the Ibeno Beach in Akwa Ibom; the Ngwo Pine Forest or Awhum Waterfall in Enugu, among many others. There is certainly no shortage of interesting holiday destinations in the country.

For more fun, you may want to convince your HR to organise your next office retreat at one of these destinations. The benefits of group vacation include safety; knowing that you are not alone will help you relax more; widening your network of friends; knowing and appreciating your colleagues better; taking better photos; and most important, viewing the adventure through a new perspective.

Research suggests that constantly learning new things can increase life expectancy. Put differently, regular sightseeing adventure presents you with all you need to live a long, healthy and fun-filled life.

OLAMIDE BADOO

From hit maker to artiste maker

"I love music and love to see people that can actually do music very well being heard. My only competition in life is the man I was yesterday. So, I don't really bother (myself) about who I'm better than, or who's better than me. I'm more bothered about if I can be way better than I was yesterday. That's the most important thing for me." These words by Olamide, who has gone by monikers that include BaddoSneh, Baddest Guy Ever Liveth, Young Erikina, or just Baddo, provide a clear insight into the workings of the mind of unarguably one of Nigeria's biggest music entrepreneurs.

Born into a polygamous home on March 15, 1989, Olamide Gbenga Adedeji grew up on the streets of Bariga, Lagos, the same area that produced music stars like 9ice, ID Cabasa and others. His love for music was already becoming evident even at the age of 10. Olamide later dropped out of Tai Solarin University of Education where he was studying Mass Communication.

In 2010, a 21-year-old emerged on the music block under the banner of Coded Tunes with a debut hit single, Eni Duro. From that point, there has been no looking back for the rapper, singer and talent manager who MI Abaga once described as "the greatest of all time". In 2011, he released his first album, Rapsodi while signed to Coded Tunes, after which he floated his record label in 2012, which is where he has released his last eight albums. Part of this truism can be found in his ability to consistently deliver hit tracks and his willingness to support, blood and give other artistes a leg up. As an artiste,

Olamide has delivered hit jams such as Omo to Shan, Povert Die, Shakiti-Bobo, Pawon, Oil and Gas, Hate Me, First of All, Wo, Science Student, Fada Fada, among many others while his entrepreneurial streak led to the establishment of his own record label, christened Yahoo Boy No Laptop Nation, aka YBNL, which, in turn, has reproduced after its kind by spotlighting artistes like Adekunle Gold, Lil Kesh, Fireboy DML and Asake.

CDQ, Adekunle Gold, Chinko Ekun, Zlatan, Naira Marley, Lil Kesh, Picasso, Viktoh, Lyta, Davolee, Temmie Owasa, DJ Enimoney, Pheelz, Fireboy DML, Asake are among the artistes that have gone through the YBNL School of Music. Meanwhile, artistes like Ycee, Phyno, Pepenazi, Zlatan Ibile, Bella Shmurda, Naira Marley and Portable all received major career boosts on account of collaborative features with Olamide. His uncanny ability to unearth gems stems from his very affable personality and easy-going mien. Also, as a business-driven exec, he is always on the lookout for the next big talent, and his current run with Asake is an eloquent proof of this.

Upon the release of Asake's debut studio album, Mr. Money with the Vibe in September 2022, it claimed the first 12 spots on Apple Music's top 100 chart in Nigeria while also debuting on the Billboard 200 charts at number 66 as the highest debut for a Nigerian artiste's first album on the Billboard charts. Asake has been the most talked about artiste this year in Nigeria with stunning music videos to boot. Ahmed Ololade Asake once said on Twitter that he struck good fortune after just "one call from Olamide" and it produced a buzz tune like "they never see me coming..."

Adekunle Gold or AG Baby, is another product from Olamide's mastering factory. Since he popped unto the scene in 2015 with YBNL, he has not looked back, constantly evolving and experimenting with new sounds. "So, YBNL

NCDMB's six magical years

changed everything for me. Getting signed, they took me to London for the first time. I am grateful to Olamide for all the support and inspiration," said AG, award-winning crooner of hits that include Sade, Orente, Pick-Up, in an interview.

Lil Kesh and Fireboy DML are two other artistes whose stocks keep rising. Lil Kesh, a street artiste moulded in the image of Badoo and whose real name is Keshinro Ololade, joined YBNL in 2014. His entry was heralded by the hit single, Shoki, which was a party banger upon release and would earn him a collaboration with Davido on the song's remix. A Yoruba rapper like Badoo, Lil Kesh has since floated his own record label, "YAGI" - Young and Getting It. When Lil Kesh was overlooked for the Headies Rookie of the year award in 2014, a full-blown war led by Olamide against Don Jazzy, whose protégé at Mavins, Reekado Banks, took home the award, ensued. Reportedly, it took the intervention of Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, to squash the beef.

FireboyDML stands in contrast to Lil Kesh having been signed on to YBNL in 2018 because of his calm and suave outlook and the fact that he is a singer with a very sonorous voice and not a rapper like others. Fireboy DML has since taken the industry by storm and is famous for his foreign features, especially the one with British Pop icon, Ed Sheeran, a remix of Peru. A review of Olamide's biggest hit tracks will be a hard nut to crack considering his consistent prolificacy in delivering the jams since 2011. With his predominantly Yoruba-flavoured rap joints, Olamide has 10 studio albums to his credit: Rapsodi (2011), YBNL (2012), Baddest Guy ever Liveth (2013), Street OT (2014), 2Kings (2015), Eyan Maywether (2015), The Glory (2016), Lagos Nawa (2017), Carpe Diem (2020) and UY Scuti (2021). Olamide has also featured a large roster of A-list acts that include Wizkid, ID Cabasa, Davido, D'banj, Vector, Iyanya, MI, Don Jazzy, Wande Coal, Tiwa Savage and Phyno. "First of all, Take it Inside because na him sing EniDuro and Omo to shan and if you meet Yemi my Lover, tell her to Make us Proud and leave the Story of the gods."

On his unassuming mien and love for moving things under the radar, Olamide, in an interview with CNN, says: "What's key for me is pushing my brand to the extreme and getting the paper (money) right. So, anything else that comes after that is extra. If I see any opportunity to push my brand to the extreme, I would definitely do that, and (any) opportunity to make more paper, I will definitely do that." On the strength of his contributions to the nation's music industry both as a hit maker and talent miner, Olamide deserves a lifetime achievement award or a national recognition. Olamide, who appears to be averse to publicity and known for not granting too many interviews, recently joined forces with US-based company, Empire to scale what he has done locally to global levels. Olamide is clearly the undisputed king of the streets and his best days are still ahead of him.

NCDMB's six magical years



BANDANA
Fireboy ft Asake

Bandana, which might just be undoubtedly the biggest jam of the year, is the product of two YBNL acts – Adedamola Adefolahan (aka Fireboy DML) and Asake, who have both enjoyed a phenomenal run in 2022. Produced by P. Prime, the song is very aspirational and the title is a homage to the Bandana scarves worn over the head by rappers like 2Pac back in the '90s. "They never see me coming... Naija boy wey dey go foreign/Oshey, Mr. Money," has become quite a popular refrain on the dance floor with its anthemic chorus, violin sections and church-like percussion to boot.

Fireboy, who deftly tells his story through the jam while also re-affirming his hit-making status, has delivered a banger that combines his fine lyrical ability with the electric performance of Asake.



ELECTRICITY
Pheelz ft Davido

Fun fact about this song: it was released at the time workers in the public power sector in Nigeria downed tools for a few days. The release seemed auspicious!

Electricity is Pheelz's second official single for the year and it comes months after the release of the wildly successful *Finesse*, which featured BNXXN (formerly Buju). With this collaboration with Davido and an electric performance, Pheelz is getting ready to become a full-blown artiste, it might seem, even as the vibes between both musicians are inspiring. Pheelz says: "Nobody go co-sign. And you know everything I do is nobody else concern," speaking about the lack of support he received at first. Davido then chimes in with his stock in trade, "Love is very sweet, but first you must get the *mula*."

Danceable beats and complimentary vocals make the song a must listen.



RUSH
Ayra Starr

Ayra Starr, whose real name is Oyinkansola Sarah Aderibigbe, makes a grand return with *Rush*, which is taken from the deluxe edition of her hit album, *19 & Dangerous*. The new single also demonstrates her growth from her wave-making *Bloody Samaritan*, which now has a remix with Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child.

With a rhythmic chorus, she announces, "E dey rush, E dey rush well well, E be much, Na God dey make my tap dey rush, The kind money we touch, Everybody dey crush, There's no dulling with us".

According to the 20-year-old Afrobeats star, the song is a "description of where I am at the moment – a place of reflection, zeal and gratitude. E dey rush well well – all that I've dreamt of is happening and I'm in the middle of it all, living my dream and it can only get better." Interestingly, just like Fela, *everybody say yeah yeah* or *Davido's, E Choke, E dey*.

Rush has gained social media acceptance and street credibility. A star of the future is in the offing.



Jade Osiberu is royalty in every sense of the word. Born on August 18, 1985 to Oba Adewale Osiberu, the Elepe of Epe Sagamu in Ogun State, Jade received her secondary school education at the Air Force Comprehensive School, Ibadan, Oyo State between 1996 and 2002. Having studied for her A Levels at the Oxbridge College, Lagos, she moved over to the United Kingdom where she studied Communication Systems Engineering at the University of Manchester.

After her degree programme, she returned to Nigeria and had her first introduction to screen by way of her position as a Trainee Journalist and Producer at John Momoh's *Channels Television* in Lagos. She left the TV station in 2008 to become a Software Developer with Neptune Software Group where she worked on exciting projects around banking applications. A sucker for knowledge, she enrolled at the prestigious Pan Atlantic University for a Master's degree in Media and Communications. During the programme, she interned at Africa's leading advertising agency, Insight Communications, and moved on to GTBank where her journey to Nollywood started from.

Her over six-year stint at GTBank saw her playing roles that included New Media Brand Manager, Strategy Analyst and, finally, Content and Digital Marketing, where the now famous *NdaniTV* was birthed. It was here that Jade began to demonstrate her true potentials as a fine storyteller with the development of a web series, *GidiUp*, in 2014, which featured OC Ukeje, Deyemi Okanlawon, Somkele Iyamah who are all established actors now in their own rights. It should be noted that *NdaniTV*, blazed the trail as a first-of-its-kind content marketing project that burnished GTBank's brand positioning and has now been replicated by UBA with *REDtv* and AccessBank with *AccelerateTV*. At Ndani, Jade would leave her imprimatur on projects like an entertainment show, *The Juice*; web

series like *Skinny Girl in Transit* and *Rumour Has It*, among others. Jade Osiberu's impact in Nollywood is best signposted by the ambitious and ground-breaking nature of her projects and the sense of nascence and freshness that accompany them.

It goes without saying that Ms. Osiberu's place in Nigeria movie firmament is safe, assured and well defined. The groundswell of evidence that backs up this position are undeniable. Jade's first directorial foray into the big screen, *Isoken*, in 2017, was that year's third highest grossing film and ranks as one of the top 30 highest grossing Nigerian films of all time. Premiered in 15 cinemas across the UK, *Isoken* won the *Prix du Public* (Audience Award) at the NollywoodWeek Paris Festival, *Best Film* and *Best Director* at the 2018 Africa Magic Viewers' Choice Awards, as well as *Best Nigerian Film* and *Best Costume Design* at the 2018 African Movie Academy Awards; *Diversity Excellence Award* at the MIPCOM and *Best International Feature* at Bronzelen Film Festival (an Oscar Qualifying Film Festival in Atlanta).

To show that it was no fluke, Jade went on to produce *Sugar Rush*, which holds the record of the highest grossing Nollywood Film released in 2019 and is the sixth highest grossing Nollywood film of all time. Perhaps, to crown it all up, Jade has made history as the first filmmaker from Africa to ink an overall deal with global streaming behemoth, Amazon Prime for three years, sitting pretty with renowned stars like Viola Davis, Priyanka Chopra and Phoebe Waller-Bridges.

According to Amazon Prime Execs, "Jade Osiberu is an exceptional and compelling storyteller, and over the last few years, she has delivered stories with a unique flavour and fresh point of view. We are constantly delighted by her talent for weaving her visual magic and voice into heart-stopping storytelling and characters that sear into our memories, and together we will create authentically African hits for our Prime Video customers worldwide." Talk about a glowing and eloquent testimonial.

Jade has worked as a writer, director, producer of several film and TV projects that include *Isoken*, *Everything Scatter*, *Nigerian Trade*, *Sugar Rush*, *Ayinla*, *Brotherhood* and *Gang of Lagos*, a crime thriller which is set to launch on Amazon Prime Video as its first Nigerian original. In *Isoken*, a romantic comedic film, which we have reviewed in a past edition of *Local Content Digest*, Osiberu takes on the patriarchy by examining themes of marriage, societal expectations, communal and

family values. The movie features a predominantly female cast- Tina Mba, Lydia Forson, Dakore Akande, Funke Akindele, Mark Rhys, Patrick Doyle and Damilola Adegbite.

Sugar Rush, which was initially banned by the Film and Video Censors Board from being exhibited at the cinemas, follows three sisters - Bimbo Ademoye (Bola Sugar), Bisola Aiyeola (Sola Sugar) and Adesua Etomi Wellington, on a comic race against time to recover a large sum belonging to a dreadful crime lord. Directed by Kayode Kasum, the film provokes bellyful laughter by taking the audience on a fun ride with a sprinkle of politics, fiction and crime.

Having done a rom-com and pure comedy, Jade takes on a serious hue with producing *Ayinla*, which tells the story of Apala music star, Ayinla Omowura. Directed by the legendary Tunde Kelani, *Ayinla* is shot in predominantly Yoruba and is set in the late 1980s, as a period piece. Jade, not resting on her oars, has ventured into the crime thriller genre with her latest project, *Brotherhood*, and has received critical acclaim for this effort.

It is pertinent to state that Nollywood does have an impressive slate of female directors who are doing phenomenal work in the industry. Some names that deserve flowers include Ema Edosio, Kemi Adetiba, Bunmi Akajaiye, Mildred Okwo, Patience Oghre-Imobhio, Adeola Osunkojo and then actors-turned directors, like Tope Oshin, Emem Isong, Genevieve Nnaji, Omoni Oboli, Blessing Effiom Egbe and Judith Audu. On the global scene, it is instructive to also note that female directors have won back-to-back best director awards at the last two editions of the Oscars with Jane Campion and Chloe Zhao. For Jade Osiberu, the future looks really bright, judging by her prodigious output and the strength of thematic fares which she engages with. Truly, we are witnessing the emergence of a truly blockbuster queen.

All hail the queen.



Anikulápó - Kunle Afolayan

If you are looking for a proud celebration of our traditional heritage and culture, Kunle Afolayan's epic, *Anikulápó* is the film for you. This is a project that loudly projects the Yoruba cultural nuances of the 17th Century Oyo Kingdom and is woven around didactic moral lessons about pride, greed, lies and broken trust, amongst others.

Anikulápó follows the story of an aspiring cloth weaver, Saro, from Gbo-

gan. In search of greener pastures, he moves into the old Oyo Kingdom at the turn of a festival. There, he is welcomed with open arms and becomes rich as he caters to the sexual needs of his benefactor, a wealthy businesswoman named Awarun. A chance entry into the palace and a steamy relationship develops with one of the king's wives, Arolake.

With a total running time of 2:22, the film is star-studded with Kunle Remi, Sola Sobowale and Bimbo Ademoye as well as veterans Taiwo Hassan, Faithia Balogun, Adebayo Salami, Kareem Adepoju. Hollywood actor Hakeem Kae-Kazim makes an appearance as well as Kunle Afolayan's daughter, Eyiemi, a third-generation artiste from the Ade Love dynasty.



Elesin Oba - Biyi Bandele

Elesin Oba, *The King's Horseman*, is an adaptation of Wole Soyinka's play, *Death and the King's Horseman*, to the big screen. Written and directed by the prodigious Biyi

Bandele, who is now late, the film, which was inspired by true life events, is also set in the Oyo Empire, however, around the 1940s.

As is the premise of the main text, *Elesin Oba*, the king's chief horseman, succumbs to the lure and allure of beauty and sexual desire on the very evening he is set to die in order to fulfil his lifelong debt of ritual suicide to accompany the dead Alaafin to the realm of the

ancestors, he derails from a very important generational and spiritual transaction.

Starring Odunlade Adekola as Elesin Oba, Shaffy Bello as Iyaloja, and acclaimed musician Olawale 'Brymo' Olofooro as the Praise Singer, making his screen debut. They are joined by Deyemi Okanlawon, Omowunmi Dada, and veteran actors Jide Kosoko and Kevin Ushi, with special guest appearances by acting legends Taiwo Ajai-Lycett and Ajoke Silva.

A British critic describes it as a "rich, engrossing and distinctive approach to African storytelling, and bustling, vibrant fable, which explores honour and duty, shame and the British tendency to stomp all over the cultural sensitivities of the places where they rule."



Brotherhood - Loukman Ali

Remember watching Nollywood action films back in the day, and you would cringe at a lot of things? Well, *Brotherhood*, directed by Ugandan Loukman Ali and produced by Jade

unit.

In *Brotherhood*, you are treated to a visual feast of window shattering into numerous flying pieces, a police car flipping in slow motion or a vehicle set ablaze with the toughest guys having battle scars to show for their misdemeanours. The film, which leaves the viewers on the edge of their seats, also takes them through a roller coaster range of emotions with measured doses of fun.

Osiberu, is evidence of growth and progress made.

BBN star, Tobi Bakre, and talented rapper, Folarin "Falz" Falana, star in this story of twin brothers, Akin and Wale, who find themselves on opposite sides of the law, living with the very different choices they made as a result of their traumatising and difficult childhood as orphans. Akin is a criminal, who has done time in prison at various times, is released for the fourth time and finds himself in the clutches of a dreaded gang of robbers, Ojuju Boys, who specialise in heists. Wale, on the other hand, is a fast-rising police officer who joins the highly specialised SWAT

This film probably has the highest number of Big Brother Nigeria alumni featuring in a single movie with Boma Akpore, Diane Russet, Dorathy Bachor and Seyi Awolowo. There is also Sam Dede, Ronke Oshodi, Zubby Michael, OC Ukeje, Bright Okpocha (Basketmouth), singers- Toni Tones, Omawunmi, and skit maker, Debo Adedayo (Mr. Macaroni).

STRATEGISING FOR TRANSFORMATION TO CLEAN ENERGY LANDSCAPE: THE NCDMB INTERVENTION

Introduction

“Do you know that developed nations today clamour to minimise carbon emissions by lowering the utilisation of fossil fuels because they have run out of hydrocarbon reserves?” This was the question posed to the audience at the 2022 Abuja Society of Petroleum Engineers – Oloibiri Lecture Series and Energy Forum by the Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, Engineer Simbi Kesiye Wabote.

The foregoing query leads to two conclusions. One is the depletion of hydrocarbon reserves in developed nations. Two, these nations are now at the forefront of efforts to limit the global usage of fossil fuels in a bid to lower carbon emissions. Fostered by the efforts of these developed nations, the rest of the world is embracing cleaner forms of energy, and the global energy landscape is gradually changing. The global energy shift, its effects on Nigeria's energy milieu, and, more crucially, the NCDMB's vital role in facilitating a smooth transition to clean energy all take the centre stage in this essay.

The global energy shift and its implications on Nigeria's energy milieu

The worldwide transition to carbon-free energy systems was sparked by the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit in June 1992. The goal of that summit was to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would fend off catastrophic anthropogenic influence on the climate system. This, put lucidly, is the transfer of energy away from sources that contribute to global warming to ones that are safer for the environment. Three years later, the first Conference of the Parties, charged with the achievement of the Earth Summit's objective, was instituted. Since then, 25 COP conferences have taken place, all strongly emphasising the need to shift the globe toward renewable energy sources. What does this imply for Nigeria?

One notable implication is that any resultant nosedive in the price of oil will have a significant negative impact on Nigeria's economy, and worse still, a complete loss of this energy source would be almost unimaginably disastrous for the country. This postulation is no rocket science since the OPEC estimates that around 86 percent of Nigeria's overall export earnings comes from the sale of petroleum. However, the move away from oil and gas is inevitable given the rise in the use of renewable energy sources like solar panels and wind turbines. And if the goal set by the world's biggest economies to produce around 50 percent of the energy from renewable sources is any indication, the demand for carbon fuels, which Nigeria primarily depends on, would be greatly impacted.

Nigeria must thus keep up with the times by strategically planning its switch to clean energy to remain competitive given its significance to the global energy market. But how can this be accomplished?

The address by President Muhammadu Buhari at the 26th COP in Glasgow in 2021 holds the key to the solution. The President suggested a long-term renewable energy infrastructure that would leverage our present gas reserves to balance a system based on renewable energy and guarantee a net zero emission by 2060. This will ensure the utilisation of our gas resources to the fullest extent possible while gradually integrating renewable energy sources to achieve a smooth transition to clean energy by the year 2060. Not surprisingly, the NCDMB, true to its vision to be the catalyst for the industrialisation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors through the effective implementation of the NOGICD Act, has already spearheaded some interventions to aid Nigeria's transformation to clean energy. What are these interventions?

The NCDMB's extant interventions for transformation to clean energy

To begin with, the Board has developed a strategic investment plan to boost local capabilities in Research and Development (R&D), and operationalise the Federal Government policies on energy transition. This strategic investment plan for R&D is to reinforce the President's suggestion that Nigeria leverages its gas resources estimated at around 206 trillion cubic feet to develop the country's industrial, commercial and agricultural bases while transitioning to renewable energy sources. In another effort to operationalise the foregoing suggestion, the NCDMB has made several interventions in the gas value chain. One notable intervention in this area is the commissioning of Butane Energy Limited 100 metric tonnes LPG Storage and Bottling Plant in Katsina State in December 2021, which will help address supply constraints in the domestic LPG market in the Northern part of Nigeria. This is to facilitate the maximum utilisation of our gas reserves as we transition to cleaner energy sources.

Furthermore, the NCDMB, on Friday 17th June 2022, recommended the intensified promotion of quality petroleum education and the development of competent manpower to meet the challenges of the ongoing energy transition and expected boom in the gas sector. This recommendation, which was directly made by the NCDMB boss, Engineer Wabote, at the 3rd Convocation Lecture of FUPRE, would ensure that Nigeria undertakes a systematic development of local capacity and capability to aid an effective energy transition.

At this juncture, it must be highlighted that the NCDMB has undertaken a variety of other admirable interventions that are too numerous to list, all in an effort to enable a seamless transition to cleaner energy. However, these extant interventions can still be augmented. How can this be done?

Augmenting the extant interventions: What more can be done?

First, due to the need to maximally utilise our gas reserves as we move towards renewables, an enabling fiscal environment to attract foreign investment in the oil and gas industry especially in deep-water and gas development should be created. This will allow for the transfer of technology in the form of new varieties of capital inputs and expertise needed in a developing economy like Nigeria. To tackle any infraction with the development of local content that the NCDMB preaches, the board must ensure the total compliance of these foreign investors with the regulations made by

the Minister of Petroleum Resources under Section 47 of the 2010 NOGICD Act. Also, since Nigeria is abundantly blessed with rare earth metals and solid minerals required to produce batteries which are critical for electric vehicles and solar-powered energy of the future, some of the current oil and gas proceeds should be invested into the exploration of these minerals. Deliberate efforts should be made to ensure the development and manufacturing of battery technology by indigenous companies to foster the growth of indigenous capacity. This recommendation stems from Section 41(1a) of the NOGICD Act which supports the full utilisation and steady growth of indigenous companies.

Additionally, with Nigeria's high population and unemployment rate, there is a pool of unemployed graduates who, if trained, will produce value-added products in the renewable energy value chain, such as electric vehicle chargers and solar panels. The NCDMB must, thus, ensure that operators comply fully with Section 30 of the NOGICD Act which demands that they make reasonable efforts to ensure that Nigerians who are not employed because of their lack of training are trained, either locally or elsewhere. Training of the local workforce is crucial as it will ensure that Nigeria sources its technical expertise locally to enable the development and implementation of its energy transition plan at its own pace.

Finally, to ensure the success of the aforementioned recommendations, the government must maintain financial discipline. The sovereign wealth funds from oil and gas proceeds must be wisely invested for future generations, who will then utilize these funds to create better plans for transition to clean energy in tandem with the energy systems of the future. Thankfully, the NCDMB, following Section 90 of the NOGICD Act, has already established a fund into which all interest and revenue accruing from savings and investments made by the Board shall be paid to ensure the achievements of its objectives.

Conclusion

As important as the transition to clean energy is, it must not be arbitrarily done. A gradual shift to renewables by utilising the fullest potential of our gas reserves, and using the proceeds to develop our renewable energy systems, local content, and expertise is our best bet. After all, energy transition does not entail the outright swap of one energy form for the other, but the redistribution of the constituents in the energy mix.

The 2022 (sixth) Edition of NCDMB Annual National Undergraduate Oil & Gas Nigerian Content Essay Competition was won By Ayotomiwa Elesho, 200-Level Political Science student of the University of Ibadan.

Contemporary Nigerian poetry through the lens of the NLNG 2022 Prize

Of the three major literary art forms – poetry, prose and drama – many people will tell you that poetry is, perhaps, the hardest to deal with in terms of appreciation. Just cast your mind back to when you were preparing for your Literature in English module as you prepared for secondary school certificate exams. You see! But poetry is actually the closest to our oral traditions – war chants, enchantments, praise and love songs. This year marked the fifth time nominations were received for Nigeria's biggest literary prize, the NLNG Nigeria Literature Prize.

From its earliest beginnings in 2004, the Prize, which was introduced to enhance the quality of writing in the country, has always rotated around a four-year cycle with submissions for Prose Fiction, Poetry, Drama and Children's Literature, respectively. The cash prize that accompanies the award is also one of the largest across the world as it is currently capped at US\$100,000 from \$20,000 when it began. It should be noted that even at that time, the highest prize money awarded to Nigerian writers, courtesy of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) was pegged at around \$2,500. In 2010, Nigerian writers based abroad were allowed to participate in the competition for the first time.

In 2005, when the poetry prize was first awarded, the award was split between two winners who are now deceased – the late Dr. Gabriel Okara's *The Dreamer: His Vision* and his acolyte, Prof. Ezenwa Ohaeto, with his entry *Chants of Minstrel*. In 2009, there was a huge controversy in spite of the 11-man shortlist as no one was found worthy of the prize. *The Sahara Testaments* written by lawyer and poet, Tade Ipadeola was adjudged the winner in 2013 while the late Ikeogu Oke, in 2017, received the honours for his work, *The Heresiad*.

This year, the Prize judges received 287 entries from which an 11-book long list was chosen. In alphabetical order,

these are: *Augusta's Poodle* by Ogaga Ifowodo; *Coming Undone as Stitches Tighten* by Iquo Diana Abasi; *Dispossessed* by James Eze; *Ife Testament* by Olusegun Adekoya; *Memory and the Call of Waters* by S. Su'eddie Agema; *Nomad* by Romeo Oriogun; *The Lilt of The Rebel* by Obari Gomba; *The Love Canticles* by Chijioke Amu Nnadi; *Wanderer Cantos* by Remi Raji; *Yawns and Belches* by Joe Ushie and *Your Crib, My Qibla* by Saddiq Dzukogi. The list was then whittled down to three in record setting as for the first time in the prize's history, all three finalists – Su'eddie Vershima Agema, Romeo Oriogun and Saddiq Dzukogi are young, fresh voices in the Nigerian literary scene.

Formatively, poetry usually works within a regimented or prescriptive structure as you would have in sonnets and haikus with rhyme schemes and patterns, at other times, the verse flows freely. But then, it is easily recognisable by succession of short lines in contrast to prose that is mostly written in continuous paragraphs or dialogue as in the case of drama. The significance of poetry is perhaps defined by its hold of multiple meanings, strong emotive reactions knowing that the poet does not have the luxury of wasting words.

Poets, like Christopher Okigbo, Niyi Osundare, Tanure Ojaide, Gabriel Okara and Wole Soyinka, have all used poetry to capture the human condition, socio-political landscape, and make meaning of the world around them. In the afterword found in the NLNG prize-winning collection, *The Dreamer, His Vision*, Okara says that the “poet, whose tool is the word, basically, is a visionary, idealist, revolutionary, and a conformist non-conformist, or he is all of these put together in an infinite number of permutations. It is the word, he uses as tool to bring about the transformation and regeneration of the present to meet the demands of his society.” Talk about a theory of social commitment of art, specifically poetry, in dealing with happenings around us.

Furthermore, Ikeogu Oke's NLNG award-winning, *The Heresiad* is described as employing “the epic form in questioning power and freedom” and “probes metaphorically the inner workings of societies and those who shape them... In a world increasingly threatened by encroaching totalitarianism and even bare-faced tyranny and intolerance, the wit, wisdom and message of *The Heresiad* are infinitely crucial.” This is the real power of poetry. Perhaps to drive it home a bit more, during the ceremonials at the inauguration of Joseph R. Biden as United State of America's 45th, as you might recall, a young lady, Amanda Gorman, America's first

youth poet laureate, recited a stirring poem calling for social change. “We learned that quiet isn't always peace, and the norms and notions of what ‘just is’ isn't always justice,” she said. The transformative value of poetry cannot be over-emphasised.

On October 14, 2022, Romeo Oriogun was announced as the winner of the 2022 NLNG Nigeria Prize for Literature. According to the judges, “*Nomad* has a fresh language and a nostalgic engagement with the themes of exile and displacement.” He credits his Literature teacher at Edokpolor Grammar School, Benin City, Mrs. Uweni, for helping him find poetry. In an unprecedented move at the awards, Oriogun offered his two fellow finalists \$10,000 each from his \$100,000 prize money. The 34-year-old belongs to the new generation of Nigerian writers often described as young, irreverent, convention-defying.

Romeo Oriogun is the winner of the 2017 Brunel International African Poetry Prize. To his credit, *Sacrament of Bodies* is his first collection and was published by the University of Nebraska. He has also won the Logan Prize for Poetry, the Poetry Society of America's Alice Fay Di Castagnola Award, The Chukwu Prize for Poetry. An alum of the Iowa Writers' Workshop, he is currently a postdoctoral research associate at Iowa State University.

Nomad has 67 poems that seek to chronicle the travails of a bard's restless spirit. One of the poems, *Beginning*, the aptly-named opener for the collection, paints a vivid picture of what it means to be uprooted from a land you have called home for more than two-thirds of your life. Oriogun's disillusionment is palpable as he writes: “The weight of a country will always be too heavy to leave in a strange park.”

Romeo is credited as saying that “a lot of the poems interrogate history and how we see history, especially those of us who are very young. For me, I have no idea of a lot of things that happened in the past, but I think with poetry, the language has to be present in our own lives and how we understand it. This book is just an attempt to do that”.

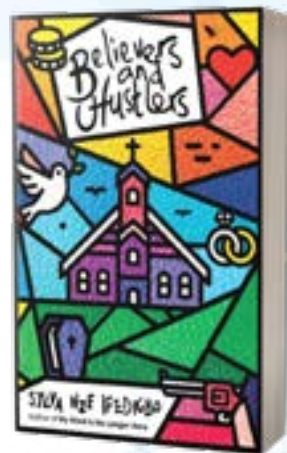


Olanna, the African Warrior
Uchechi Mba-Uzoukwu and Scholars of
the Aretean School

Olanna, the African Warrior is a children's book written by Uchechi Mba-Uzoukwu, a mum of three children whose ages range from three to seven and has a heroine as its main character. The significance of these points find their bearing in the recent United Nations' International Day of the Girl-Child, October 11, which was centred around how girls can be the change makers driving progress in their communities.

The plot of the story is very simple- Olanna is a smart, strong and athletic nine-year-old girl who was trained by her dad to be the best warrior in West Africa. One evening, she gets lost in a deep, dark forest with no help in sight. In following her story, we become co-sojourners on how she overcomes different obstacles to achieve greatness.

Interestingly, the book is a tribute to the All-Female Army, called The Dahomey Amazons, which existed between 1624 and 1904 and are the subject of a recent Hollywood blockbuster, *The Woman King*. *Olanna, the African Warrior*, will help children understand themselves and other children better because they see themselves in these books as they improve their literacy skills and acquire great vocabulary and word usage. At ₦2,500, this is a must read and good investment for your children.



Believers and Hustlers
Sylva Nze Ifedigbo

Believers and Hustlers is fiction - a blend of facts and fiction. The pulsating thriller, which is set in Lagos, the epicentre of mega-churches, sees Ifenna, a young journalist, who takes the job of reporting on a popular megachurch in Lagos but goes off tangent to investigate the death of a pastor during the construction of the church.

Ifenna publishes an expose around Harvest of Joy Church's new cathedral, which is led by Pastor Nicholas Adejuwon and his wife, Nkechi, and he gets fired from the job. The journalist then takes to blogging as a career and is determined to expose the corruption and hypocrisy of the men of God. This journey leads him down a dark alley of secrets, lies, betrayals and deceit.

Published by Parresia Publishers Limited and at 376 pages, the book presents the reader with colourful places and familiar characters - a pastor in love with a dangling gold chain; we see a big grammar-loving pastor whose hair is jheri curled, a pastor who quits a church to start his own because the church elders are against his re-marrying while his first wife is still alive; a sick president who is very reluctant to relinquish power and a reluctant vice president.

If you love drama and action, *Believers and Hustlers* will take you there.



**DisPlace: The Poetry of
Nduka Otiono**
Nduka Otiono

Nduka Otiono is many things - poet, literary scholar and academic - with both continental and international acclaim. He once served for many years as the General Secretary of the Association of Nigerian Authors. In *DisPlace: The Poetry of Nduka Otiono*, understandably the poet straddles the complexities of his identity as a Nigerian who has lived and works at the Carleton University, Canada, for many years while engaging multiple poetic styles and traditions, an awareness of African intellectual history and Western sensibilities.

The reader will feel the poet's sense of physical and psychological displacement through verses like *Rising Song* and *After the Nooze*, which treat social themes - the confessional, exemplified in *The Images Take Wing* and *Through Scorpion-Stings of Suffering*, the elegiac, contained in *Who Can Blow the Smoke Away?* and *In Memoriam: Sole Sister* and the performative, dramatised in *Midnight Voices* and *This Earth is Ours*.

Prof Chris Dunton describes the 134-page collection as imagistic reflections on life, which are at once sonorous, contemplative, bold and defiant.



It has been six years of massive growth of Local Content

Since you became the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board six years ago, you have been credited with several achievements. Which of these achievements do you consider most strategic?

The most strategic, if you look at the software issues, is the development of the 10-Year Strategic Roadmap. That, to me is very strategic in the sense that taking over as the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, I needed to know where the organisation was. I needed to ask myself, where do I want to take the organisation to in the next 10 years.

We then had to sit down, got a couple of consultants and evaluated the current state of the organisation since it was established from 2010, up until 2016. What has it achieved? Has it achieved its objectives? Thereafter, we had to say, where do we want to be in the next 10 years? Which now gave us a clear roadmap on the things that we needed to do. Knowing where we are and trying to understand where we want to be is the most strategic software issue that we've been able to achieve.

On the hardware issue, the most strategic has been completing our head office build-

ing, which is a 17-storey building, which we did complete on record time, despite the COVID challenge, despite all challenges that we faced. In four and half years, we were able to complete that project and moved into that building.

Since when local content was still a policy under the then Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, to date, there has been targets to achieve 70 per cent by 2010. Where are we today?

When the Local Content law came into being, the industry took an evaluation of where we were and came to the realisation that we were at just about five percent. And today, we pride ourselves that we are about 47 percent in terms of the growth of local content from when it was enunciated as a policy.

In 2016, we found ourselves around 26 percent; but today, we're at 47 percent, which is a significant achievement when you look at the process of local content development, which we always say is a marathon and not a sprint. It takes time, perseverance, consistency and focus to be able to develop local content in the oil and gas industry, which is highly technical intensive.

There is a perception out there that the international oil companies (IOCs) do not want to support local content. What has been your experience so far, and how have you been getting them to support local content?

I think that will probably not be true in terms of IOCs not wanting to support local content. If there is any organisation that have supported local content, it's the IOCs. Initially, there was some kind of resistance when it was a policy. They did it on a best endeavour basis as IOCs. Don't forget, the IOCs are businesses. They are here to maximise profit for their shareholders.

When it became law, they had no choice but to comply with the provisions of the law. They had to drop the resistance when it became law in order to support local content development, because they also know that ultimately, local content will bring about cheaper ways of doing business, will link the communities to their businesses and also give them some form of security in doing business in the country.

The honest truth is that the IOCs have been very supportive to the best of their ability. We also know that in implementing the law, you have to use common sense. We are very pragmatic in implementing the provisions of the Act, so that we know what is possible and what is not possible. And then, we put a bit of pressure in certain areas in order to stretch them a bit to do what they are doing. I think where we are having the most challenge is not with the IOCs, it's with the indigenous operators, ironically, which again, is a difficult pill to swallow, especially when we did all we did in promoting local content for their benefit, and now that it is time for them to actually practise it, you then see all manner of sharp practices.

Like you know, local content is applicable to everybody, whether you are indigenous operator or you are international oil company.

Why are the Nigerian producers not complying?

My interpretation of it is that, initially, they felt local content was not for them because they are local companies, hence we should face the IOCs. But that's not correct because the law is for everybody. Secondly, they want to maximise their profit as much as possible without taking cognisance of the reason why they exist in the first place.

Big Interview

NCDMB has been mentoring other African countries on local content implementation, like Togo, Senegal and others. What do you hope to achieve by this?

If you look at the 10-Year Strategic Roadmap I spoke about, it also has regional integration and sectorial linkages as one of the strategic pillars. Now, if you have developed capacity in-country and there are no opportunities to utilise that capacity and there is an opportunity within Africa to deploy it, you want to explore that possibility. That's why today, a lot of Nigerian companies are providing services across Africa because of that platform that we created to diversify their portfolio.

In addition, you also have the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, which, of course, creates that opportunity for Africa to trade among themselves. Rather than allow countries that have just discovered hydrocarbon to look on to Europe or America to provide them service, there is service next door in Africa. That's part of our strategy in order to continuously use the capacity that we have developed in-country.

The Board has set out to achieve a number of goals by 2027. One of these is creation of 300,000 direct jobs; retention of \$13 billion of the estimated \$20 billion spend in the oil and gas industry every year, and other lofty goals. What efforts are you making to achieve these goals?

The effort is very clear. It's part of the Roadmap. Part of the efforts is, if you look at 2016 till now, we have moved from 26 per cent to 47 per cent. It's clearly in the Roadmap and it's all the effort we put in. If you look at our 10-Year Strategic Roadmap, you have short, medium and long term objectives, which we did set for ourselves. And if you take a cursory look at those goals, you will discover that we are very much on track in delivering them.

For example, expanding the manufacturing base in the oil and gas sector, which, today, is pushing us to build industrial parks across the oil producing states. By the grace of God, by first quarter next year, we would commission two of those industrial parks to incubate manufacturing, which is lacking. That is very much ongoing and is very much on track. The other bit, again, is to support the pronouncements of government in terms of policy.

The main objectives of local content in Nigeria are very clear. One is job creation. Two, is retaining in-country value. If you look at Nigeria's population that is growing exponentially, we are more than 206 million people. How do you create jobs for them? You have to also put a skin in the game. You cannot depend solely on foreign companies to come and create those jobs. You have to also look for opportunity to

NCDMB's six magical years

create those jobs. That's why you see us today getting into ventures, to catalyse ventures, as an example.

One of such ventures we catalysed is modular refinery. Today, we have equity investment in Waltersmith Refinery in Ibigwe, Imo State, where we are refining 5,000 barrels of crude oil per day. And that refinery, today, has in its direct employment, about 200 people and then, you multiply that with the indirect employment: truck drivers, filling stations and all that. The indirect effect is unimaginable. You have to put a skin in the game. In the same vein, we took equity position in the expansion of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Programme as part of government's intervention, and created a partnership with Butane Energy to distribute LPG stations in 10 northern states of the federation. Do you know how many jobs that is going to be created?

And if you take our social structure in Nigeria, for every one job you create, you affect 10 members of a family because we take care of our cousins, nephews and the rest of them. When you create one job, you are touching 10 lives. So, imagine 200 jobs and multiply that by 10 and then you talk about the indirect jobs. You must strictly use the **D** that is within NCDMB. It's the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board. How do you develop content if you don't look for opportunity to catalyse the establishment of businesses in the country? And that's ex-

actly what we have done.

NCDMB has successfully organised the Practical Nigerian Content Seminar and the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF) for the past couple of years, where huge investment opportunities and ideas are unveiled. How have these investment opportunities translated to projects execution?

A lot of them have come to light. You remember, it was at one of the PNCs that we talked about Train-7. I'm sure you probably attended and you heard us when NLNG talked about the potential of Train-7. Today, Train-7 is a reality. That's almost a \$5billion project and the project is ongoing as I speak. It's about 30 percent complete and hopefully, in 2026 or so, that project will be completed. That's one example.

Secondly, in one of the PNCs, we talked about the Ikike project of TotalEnergies. Today, Ikike has been commissioned, producing almost 50,000 barrels of oil per day. It's a huge project with a lot of Nigerian participation. You talk about Bonga North as an example. We talked about it at the PNC. SNEPCo is revving up activities in or

NCDMB's six magical years

der for Bonga North to come alive. Most of the pronouncements are gradually being developed. Don't forget, the oil and gas business, from when you discover and you focus on producing oil, it takes about five years. It's a long gestation period to bring production alive. Most of those pronouncements are being realised today, and it's very visible for anybody to see.

At a recent oil and gas conference, you announced that the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund has grown to \$500million. How were you able to achieve this, and what is the report of the repayment?

I make bold to say that the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund, which is being managed by the Bank of Industry (BoI), is one of the successful loan schemes in this country. We rolled out \$350million, which we gave to BoI to manage on our behalf. Today, all that money has been taken up by various businesses in the country and the pay back has been almost 98 percent successful. This has also helped to a large extent in cushioning the effect in terms of doing business in the country, because the interest rate on the back of that fund is just six percent, whether you borrow in naira or

in dollar.

And we are doing the same thing with NEXIMBANK that we gave \$50million, with them bringing in their own counterpart funding of \$50million, in order to support working capital as well as women in oil and gas. Those have been very successful and the testimonies are there to show.

In terms of what we are doing with NEXIM, it took time for it to kick in. All this while, they have been developing the backend because we wanted an on-line process. We didn't want people to be swarming banks to apply for those funds. They needed to build their backend to be able to meet clients' needs. Since the completion, we now started seeing movement in terms of people accessing the funds.

It has been hugely successful, and I think it's also part of the strategic achievements that we have made within the Board.

You also invested in several projects such as modular refineries. Which of these projects have started yielding dividends, and are you not worried that you may have your fingers burnt in some of these businesses?

Like I said earlier, Waltersmith Refinery we took interest in is currently producing, among the only two



Load-out ceremony of the topsides of TotalEnergies' Ikike Development Project at the Saipem Yard in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The project contributed to the growth of local content in the oil and gas industry.

Big Interview

refineries working in the country. The other one is by NDEP. As a matter of fact, we even built tanks within the Waltersmith Refinery to store products but the demand is so high that we don't even have products to store. As you are producing, it's being taken away. Return on investment has been very healthy for us.

As for if I'm worried that I may burn my fingers in any of those projects, investments all over the world, if you go and ask capitalists who have invested in various ventures, none of them will tell you that every venture they got into was successful. If you ask people like Elon Musk, who is one of the richest men in the world, if you read his books, he did a lot of investment that did not succeed. But that never stopped him, he kept on knocking at the door.

For us in NCDMB, we look for opportunities. If at the end of the day, we are 70 percent successful, that is a huge success as far as investment is concerned. If you don't venture, you don't gain. You have to be out there to be able to create value.

You remember the story of the biblical talents where money was given to a couple of people. Some of them decided to bury the money while some others invested and doubled what was given to them as compared with those who buried their own because they were afraid of losing the money when they invest it. For us, it's to catalyse as much business as we can, and if at the end of the day, we are successful in 70 percent of it, we pat ourselves on the back because we also do a thorough risk analysis, to say, where is the risk envelope that we are ready to live with because it's business.

You have already highlighted some of the investments you are making in some private establishments. Is this part of the NCDMB mandate?

When you look at NCDMB, I think the framers of the law also know that you cannot ask people to do what you cannot do. Hence, they put that development in it. An example is, you ask companies to employ Nigerians, because that's what the law says and then they come to you and say, we are not able to see Nigerians with the skillsets that we need to be able to produce hydrogen. What will you do? Ask them to stop so that you go and build capacity before they continue with the oil and gas production? Of course not.

As NCDMB, while you are asking them to employ Nigerians, you must participate in building the capacity of Nigerians, so that when they come back to you to say, we don't have people, you say, we have trained a lot of people and here is the data, so you have to use them. That's one.

Secondly, the objective of Local Content, is

"Secondly, in one of the PNCs, we talked about the Ikike project of TotalEnergies. Today, Ikike has been commissioned, producing almost 50,000 barrels of oil per day. It's a huge project with a lot of Nigerian participation. You talk about Bonga North as an example. We talked about it at the PNC. SNEPCo is revving up activities in order for Bonga North to come alive. Most of the pronouncements are gradually being developed."

to create opportunities for employment in Nigeria, giving the growing population of the country. Local Content as it is always said by me in every forum that I find myself, is not a one-side-fits-all. What is Local Content requirements for Nigeria will be different from Local Content requirements in Qatar, as an example. Nigeria is more about employment. Qatar, they don't even have the people to employ. It's more about establishing industries and factories within their country to bring in people in order to generate taxes and the rest of it. These are two different jurisdictions.

In Nigeria, while you require IOCs to be the ones to initiate projects, the question you ask yourself is, what if they don't exist? It means you can never exist. Therefore, you have to put a skin in the game in order to utilise the **D** that has been provided in the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, because people are going to ask you, what have you developed?

Take, for instance, when we got into Waltermith. We acted as a catalyst to get that investment going. Today, they have 200 people employed. Multiply that by six, because for every direct employment you provide in any establishment, you have six as the indirect employment that you create out there. So, you must participate in the process. It's not a question of asking people to do what you have not done. You will demonstrate to them that you have also supported businesses to establish themselves, so we know what we are doing and we want you to do the same with businesses that you do here in the country. That is why we get involved. And we are going to continuously get involved in those businesses that are not in competition.

I think it's important that I make this distinction in the sense that we don't get involved in businesses that are in competition, because we are a regulatory agency.

The opportunity we provide for businesses that are in competition is to keep funds aside that are managed by the Bank of Industry for them to access. We cannot take equity in a vessel that is providing service, because if you do that, as a regulatory agency, we will only be approving for that vessel to be utilised in the industry, which conflicts with our role. But we only support federal government pronouncements on strategic initiatives in the country.

From five percent, we are now doing 47 percent in Local Content. Can you tell us in financial terms, what this law has attracted to the country in terms of investment in dollars?

If I just extrapolate in terms of the yearly spend before now in the industry, it is put at \$21billion year-on-year. Today, we have clawed back \$7billion of industry spend into the country every year. A typical example is the Egina project.

Egina, which is almost \$21 billion, majority of the fabrication was done in-country including topside integration, which was never done in Africa. Egina, like you know, is the largest FPSO in the country - 200,000 barrels of oil per day. That's huge in terms of its production, and it was integrated here in Nigeria. We have clawed back almost \$7billion. Our aim is to get \$14billion into the country with regards to our 70 percent by 2027, because the truth is, you cannot achieve 100 percent local content. It's not possible because you also have to depend on many countries' intellectual property rights, and you cannot manufacture everything. That 30 percent is for what we get outside. What used to happen was that 95 percent of everything was done outside this country, and we have been pushing the envelope, and now, we have attracted this much in terms of monetary value and in terms of percentage.

From when to when was this \$7billion achieved?

The \$7billion is not the Foreign Direct Investment, it's different. What we have done is that we have retained that \$7billion in the country. What Foreign Direct Investment in the oil and gas industry has attracted for that period is over \$60billion. I have mentioned Egina, I have mentioned other projects that are ongoing. But the retention is about \$7billion year-on-year in terms of the \$21 billion spend in the industry. It's important to differentiate these two things.

In July this year, NCDMB unveiled the Seven Ministerial Regulations to promote Local Content compliance and implementation. How are the oil companies responding to this new regulations?

The regulations are not new in terms of implementing the Local Content Act. The regulations only try to address some of the lacuna that we saw within the NOGICD Act. An example of such lacuna is the process of prosecution. If you look at the Act itself, it says that, upon conviction, the decision is to cancel the project or to fine the culprit. But when you look at the word, 'upon conviction,' which means you have to go through the court processes and that will take eternity to get a conviction of any culprit who has breached the provisions of the Act. What the regulation did was to come up with administrative sanctions as a way of ameliorating that legal process in order to get a conviction. Most of the regulations are not new. It's

only trying to fine-tune the lacuna that we saw. I think they (oil companies) embraced it because it's not new to them, and some of the questions they have been asking in the past.

Also in that same July, during the 2022 Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja, NCDMB and the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) unveiled the Insurance Guidelines for the Nigeria oil and gas sector. What informed this initiative?

If you check the Local Content Act itself, it pays a lot of premium to insurance of the oil and gas business. But overtime, we have been trying to get the insurance companies on board to take an active role in providing the desired insurance for the sector. But the oil and gas business insurance is also a bit capital intensive. Most of the local insurance companies overtime are not able to take on that insurance challenge because of the capital involved. I will give you an example. The Egina FPSO was built with about \$21 billion. Imagine you ask a local firm to insure that for you. If you put all the insurance companies together, they will not be able to insure that. But we then realised that the regulatory agency in the insurance sector has been trying to increase the capital base of insurance companies. We felt it was time to work with them actively to enforce the provisions of the Act when it comes to insurance. Hence, those guidelines on how we will go through to actualise insurance, re-insurance, as the case may be.

NNPC is now a limited liability company operating under the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA). How would this new status affect its local content practices?

If for anything, it will enhance its local content practices because before now, it was seen as part of government. You cannot see two government entities wrestling on the pages of the newspapers. But now, it's a private entity and they know that to go out there to borrow money, access funds, you need to be very clean with regards to corporate governance processes. You need to obey the laws of the land and you need to be compliant with the laws that you have in the country and outside this country too, to be able to access funding, which they will do. The onus is on them to realise that, as a private company, you need a bill of clearance from most of the regulatory agencies in order to access funds, and the onus is also on them to do everything they can to comply with those requirements. It will be better going forward. They are trying to get themselves together, having become a limited liability company, there are lots of processes. We are also watching, giving them time to get themselves together and self-regulate because people are out there watching to see how they will operate.

NCDMB's six magical years



Modular Refinery Initiative

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

- Waltermith's 5,000bpd modular refinery, Ibigwe, Imo State.
- Azikel Group's 12,000bpd hydro-skimming refinery, Polaku, Gbarain, Bayelsa State.
- Atlantic International Refinery's 2,000bpd, Brass, Bayelsa State.
- Duport's 2,500bpd modular refinery, Edo State.

Benefits:

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

NCDMB

Nigerian Content
Development and
Monitoring Board

Official NCDMB
www.ncdmb.gov.ng

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

IBENO Beach

tops the places to unwind this holiday

Insecurity ought not to diminish the need to unwind this holiday. It only means travel should be more localised and planned. Here is a list of destinations to pick from.



The end of the year has come once again, unexpected as ever, immediate as always. The holidays beckon and it is the time for preparations with family, friends, perhaps colleagues, because these times are always best spent together. It is the season of love and care and fun-seeking, because after a long year of hard work and serious business, unwinding with close ones is soothing.

Despite some challenges (flood, insecurity, among others), Nigeria remains a place where all sorts of merriment can be derived. It is hard-wired into the people, the ability to find joy in any situation. Across the country, places, events and festivals are ever ready to entertain and occupy. For men, women, parents, children, lovers, there is a place for everyone to unwind across the nation's six geopolitical zones.

In the **North East**, the **Yankari Game Reserve** in Bauchi State is a choice

location, especially for executives who have had a long year in city centres, as it offers a smooth return to nature. The roaming animals, the warm springs, the ancient Marshall's Cave in the jungle, the mini-museum and much more are quite attractive and soothing to the mind and body. It is also ideal for the family. The reserves remain safe and far from any conflict. The entry fee is about ₦1,500 with accommodation ranging from ₦18,000 to ₦60,000. Safari costs an average of ₦6,000 and the springs cost ₦500.

In the **North West**, Kaduna offers **Kofar Gamji Amusement Park** where horse rides, performances, picturesque scenery for photographs, including the Lord Lugard foot bridge for new and long-time lovers, call to vacationists. The entry fee varies but is very affordable, after which other activists within require individual payments. The trees, mangrove, orchards and small islands all strike the aesthetic chord with the River

Kaduna splitting the park into two parts. That park is also safe and a haven of sorts from conflict hotspots.

Moving a little way ahead, the **North Central** captures the cold end of year much more than the southern regions and offers particularly the **Rayfield Holiday Resort** in Jos, one of the safest places in the state and in the country generally. The Government House is located within the same region. The lake at the resort is serene, boat rides are about ₦200 per head. The resort does not, however, serve alcoholic beverages. The golf experience is also another attraction. Do not forget to dress warm; Jos gets really cold.

In the **South West**, **Olumo Rock** stands strong in Ogun State, attracting all from across the country to its extrinsic rocky visage. There is an ecosystem, including meals and activities, at the base of the mountain.

But the true allure of the place is the hiking experience. The gate fee is about ₦1,000, location is secure and safety protocols are advised for the climb. A key part of the experience is hiring of a tour guide, which varies in cost and is often negotiable. The history of the rock is what gives it so much more reverence. A spiritual but not particularly religious event.

Journeying eastwards, the **South East** has the **Ogbunike caves**, a system of many caves linked by small tunnels and passages. Visitors have to take off their shoes before going in and must always exit from a different location than their entry. The intriguing and mysterious caves also house some cryptic bats which add to the air of wonder. The location has a deep history, which also relates to the Nigerian civil war and the local folklore. A tour guide tells intriguing tales and explains why the locals see the place as sacred. Individual visitors pay ₦3,000 entry fee

while tour guides receive between ₦500 and ₦1,000 for a tour around. Groups pay between ₦5,000 and ₦10,000 with tour guides. The caves are away from any dangers and safe to visit.

A survey from a sample of Nigerians recently showed that a large proportion, all pick Akwa Ibom as an ideal place for vacation. While many speak from experience, others have heard the best reviews of Uyo and other places within the **South South** state. A prime spot worth your holiday plans and preparations is the **Ibenu beach**, the longest sand beach in West Africa.

Ibenu Beach

Ibenu Beach is located in Ibenu Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. It stretches for 176 kilometres and runs through about 20 communities, as far as Mbo Local Government Area. It is one of the beaches on the Atlantic Ocean along the shorelines of Ibenu. Ibenu beach offers some connection to the rest of the world as countries like Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon can easily be accessed from there. The Mobil offshore drilling platforms can be also be sighted in the ocean.

The journey to Uyo can be smooth, depending on the departure point. If heading in from the North, flight tickets are currently at an average of ₦65,000. A bus averages about ₦12,000 per person. Within the South, road transportation would be more ideal since it is a shorter distance. Within Akwa Ibom, transportation is affordable with cabs available for as low as ₦2,000 across local government areas.

What to take

For a trip to the beach, some items that would serve you well include a large hat or sunshades or sunscreen to keep the sunlight away. Shorts, shirts, bikinis (the beach allows for free dressing), sun dresses and easy slides. Colorful clothes tend to 'pop' more in pictures. A Bluetooth speaker, a ball and rope would also be good ideas (more on that later).

Activities

There are multiple activities to be found at Ibenu Beach, including beach soccer. You can engage in this with your family or friends, but rest assured there will be others to join in, if required. This is where the ball earlier mentioned comes in. A section is also available for volleyball.

You can also engage in the game of tug-of-war which would require the rope you have brought along. It can also be used to play 'How Low Can You Go?' as it is commonly called, where a group of persons pass under a rope while slanting themselves at an angle to music. The rope gets lower after each round till a winner is crowned. Swimming is also another possible activity but comes with some warning. You are advised to swim only with life jackets as the water can be tricky, even for expert swimmers. Canoe cruises are also available.

Another rather pleasing yet simple activity is playing with sand. Building houses and shapes or simply rolling around in the earth is an underrated pastime. A beach party holds every December 26 and is reported to have between 4,000 to 5,000 people in attendance.

Food

The facilities available at the beach, including shades and food joints are private-owned and affordable. The regular coconut water costs about ₦500. Barbecue fish, for as low as ₦2,000, can be found as well. A major attraction is also the availability of seafood.

Verdict

Ibenu Beach is a lovely spot with a great history and interesting facts about it. After a long year of work, this is the spot to relax and allow your feet to touch the sand, reconnect with nature and let the gentle breeze take you in as the sand grounds you. This should be your destination for the holidays.

Amadin Ogbewe is a writer and journalist based in Abuja.



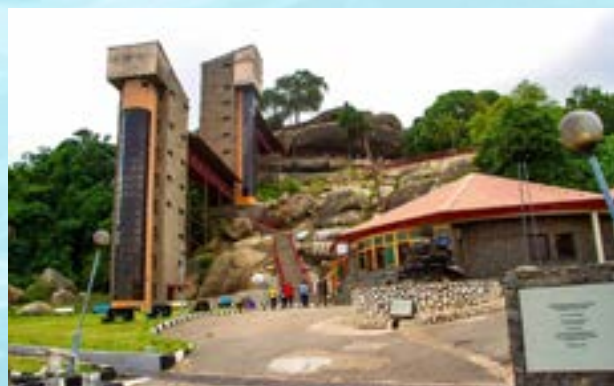
Ogbunike Caves, Anambra.



Yankari Game Reserve.



Rayfield Holiday Resort, Jos



Olumo Rock, Abeokuta



Kofar Gamji Amusement Park, Kaduna



Compliance as Tool for Developing Local Content
The Crestech example

Foremost American businessman and keynote speaker, Steven Covey, said: "Compliance does not foster innovation, trust does. You can't sustain long-term innovation, for example, in a climate of distrust." This allusion exemplifies NCDMB's efforts at the creative ways it engages with stakeholders in the oil and gas industry when local content regulations are breached, creating a win-win situation for Nigeria and the service provider.

Empowered by law to enforce local content practices in the oil and gas industry, NCDMB has been in the vanguard of ensuring stakeholder compliance in tandem with the dictates of the Local Content Act. The Board is quite clear about its objective and is committed to delivering on its agenda. Its collaboration with industry stakeholders is hinged on mutual trust, effective compliance and diligent enforcement.

Creative engagement for socio-economic growth

Violating any aspect of the Local Content Act, or indeed, extant regulations, attracts penalties. Crestech Engineering Limited was recently found to not have fully complied with some regulations, which spurred the NCDMB to redressing the issue. Crestech Engineering, on its part, admitted to this non-compliance, stating its commitment to right the wrong. Engr. Gbola Sobande, Managing Director, Crestech Engineering (CEL), in an interview, laid bare what transpired and the actions taken to redress the situation.

"In 2018, as soon as I became the Managing Director of CEL, we were awarded a contract for providing project management services for the seven critical gas for NNPC, and then we started the work. Much later, we were informed that the expatriate quota should have been processed through NCDMB and not directly with the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Abuja. I think we missed the NCDMB aspect, and when they discovered the error, we were told about the required steps to remedy the situation. We were mandated to train a number of young graduates, which we did. And at the end of the one-year training, we gave them opportunities to pursue careers in Crestech Engineering," said Engr. Sobande.

On his perception of enforcement of local content compliance, Engr. Sobande said: "I think it is fair and the whole idea of saying you didn't comply with the process, now take some graduates and train them, also speaks well of the NCDMB because they could have

reacted in another way. I was particularly impressed that they have remediation requirement for training young Nigerians. That was a welcome development for us. I see the attitude and approach adopted by the NCDMB as positive. Also, I would like to say the regulatory body is very diligent because they monitored the training throughout. They also requested regular reports, which we promptly submitted, and they commented on each report regularly."

He added that it was not just a matter of saying, "We give you four people, go and train them and nothing happens afterwards. So, it was quiet collaborative all through the one year and that also contributed towards the successful programme. With the training, they should expect a career and we expect that in return, they will remain committed to Crestech and their careers will be successful."

The beneficiaries and their testimonies

For **Jude Ezeoko** from Enugu State, the training was an eye-opener. "I am a Civil Engineer and I was assigned to Civil Structured Department. I was self-employed but my story changed when I came across the NOGIC(JQS) plat-

Engr. Gbola Sobande.
MD Crestech Engineering Ltd.

form where I registered. I was surprised when I was called for an interview and was eventually selected by Crestech Engineering. It was an opportunity to actualise my longstanding dream of being a professional civil engineer. The icing on the cake was the employment that came after the training. On the training, Jude said: "It was an awesome experience for me."

Omosalewa Oredola from Lagos State, said the opportunity was a dream come true. "I studied Petroleum Engineering. When I couldn't find a job, I opted for network marketing which was what I was doing until I heard about NOGIC(JQS) and I registered on the platform. I was lucky to be selected for an interview, which I passed. During the training, I was attached to the Process Engineering team. The experience was an eye-opener because it was all practical. I was placed on projects and was able to simulate different process equipment. I also learnt how to use Excel to do jobs like line calculation, valve setting, and a lot more."

Destiny Augustine, a graduate of Electrical/Electronic Engineering from Ondo State, said it was a new dawn. Destiny said he got a mail from Crestech Engineering for a training and, out of about 20 applicants, he was selected. "After years in school studying Electrical/Electronics Engineering, I finally found myself in a department where I can showcase what I learnt. The training provided the opportunity to develop my skillset in AutoCAD. I was also exposed to a lot of trainings, tests and assignments. I learnt so much about singular diagram and deliverables in electrical/electronic engineering and how to use other software, among others. It was a huge experience for me."

An elated Jude said it was a wonderful opportunity to practise as a professional, praising NCDMB and Crestech Engineering for the opportunity to better their lots. A cheery Omosalewa admitted that Crestech Engineering was only mandated to train them, but the offer of employment was a surprise and an excellent example of Crestech Engineering's corporate benevolence. Destiny said the job offer came as a surprise because there was no agreement between NCDMB and Crestech that the trainees must be retained.

Tosin Ayinde is a consultant with Four Points Communications.



- Omosalewa Oredola



- Jude Ozioko



- Destiny Augustine



RETURN

Engr. Adewale Adenugba, former Manager, Projects Certification and Authorisation Division (PCAD), in August returned to his primary employers, NNPC Ltd after 12 years with the NCDMB. Adenugba was part of the core NNPC personnel that came on secondment to the NCDMB after the enactment of the NOGICD Act in 2010. He worked on several projects. We wish him success in the next phase of his career.

FELLOWSHIP

Dr. Ginah Otonye Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communication and Zonal Coordination Division, NCDMB was elected to the Cadre of Fellows by the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), July 22, 2022. We congratulate him on attaining this significant professional milestone.



MOVEMENT

Engr. Okey Egbuta has been redeployed as the Acting General Manager, Conference Hotel Project. He was the Acting General Manager, Facilities and Logistics Division (FLD).

Ms. Lekoma Sonia Phimia has been appointed the Acting General Manager, Facilities and Logistics Division (FLD). She was previously the Manager, Protocol and Logistics (FLD).



WEDDINGS

Engr. Ibrahim Sule, an Officer in the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate wedded his sweetheart, former Ms. (Dr.) Falinyi Wammanda, October 1, 2022 at the Nigerian Airforce Protestant Church, Airforce Base, Abuja. We wish them a happy married life.

Former **Ms. Oghenekevwe Onojeta**, an Officer in the Audit Department wedded her sweetheart, Mr. Tony Oteri on Saturday, October 29, 2022 at the Eku Town Hall, Eku, Ethiope East, Delta State. We wish them a blissful marriage.



OBITUARY

Miss Adeola Omole, Supervisor, Planning Research and Statistics Directorate, died on September 1, 2022, after a brief illness and was buried on Thursday, September 8. We miss her cheerful and hardworking personality, and we remain prayerful for her soul.



Nigerian Content Consultative Forum role in achieving NCDMB's mandate



How we organised the workshop by the Diversity Sectorial Working Group

I manage all the 12 Sectorial Working Groups of the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF) and the Diversity Group is one of the newest. It was created in June 2020 and you can feel the vibrancy. The conference was the second edition and the first one was a test case.

The vibrancy, the participation by the women and the quality of discussions that came out of this conference was a huge success. I am really impressed and the Executive Secretary and the rest of the NCDMB were also impressed.

How the ideas discussed will be articulated

One of the mandates of the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum is to sit with the Sectorial Working Groups, exchange ideas and come up with inputs that will help the Board in articulating policies, guidelines and even inputs towards the review of our programmes. For instance, the aspect of STEM education. That's one area where there is a clear directive from the Executive Secretary that we have to develop a strategy and a policy document to ensure that particular actionable item is pushed to a successful end.

Beyond that, many salient issues have been thrown open regarding the plight of women in the oil and gas business and other aspects of the society as well as cultural issues, and going down to the domestic level. How do people raise their male children? How do they raise their female children? Do they raise them in a manner that will bring the two genders to have the same opportunities and aspirations in the society? These are the very salient issues that have implications on all of us, no matter your career and training. It is difficult for you to operate outside your cultural setting.

How NCCF has helped the Board to achieve its mandate

I think one of the most important things about the NCCF is that it affords the Board the opportunity to tap industry knowledge from professionals. We at the Board do not have the day-to-day running experience of the oil and gas industry. We may have our previous experiences in that environment, but if it comes to day-to-day and practical operations, as long as you are working in NCDMB, you do not have that kind of experience.

We need people who have day-to-day experience, because there is that constant interaction between people and machines and the evolving society. The problems may not be exactly the same with those of yesterday. During our meetings at various sectorial working group levels, we have been able to come up with some actionable points.

If you take, for instance, the Shipping and Logistics Sectorial Working Group, they came up with a lot of recommendations to turn around the shipping sub-sector of the oil and gas value chain. The very first sectorial working group meeting I was invited to participate in, the chairman of the shipping and logistics sectorial working group made a presentation and outlined detailed areas where there are serious leakages leading to capital flight, where there is dearth of capacity and, even when capacity exists, those people do not have access

"I think one of the most important things about the NCCF is that it affords the Board the opportunity to tap industry knowledge from professionals. We at the Board do not have the day-to-day running experience of the oil and gas industry."

to the opportunities and, therefore, cannot participate in the businesses within the shipping and logistics sub-sector of the oil and gas business.

We have articulated these ideas in terms of monitoring vessels to know which ones are Nigerian-owned and which ones are not, among many other activities. These are the kinds of inputs we get into drafting our own policies and they give us a sense of policy direction.

Recent achievements of the Planning, Research and Statistics Directorate

The Nigerian Oil and Gas Joint Qualification System, which is the database for oil and gas industry, is domiciled within the PRS Directorate. That is a databank of all of Nigerians and all companies operating within the oil industries - operators and service companies. That has given quality to the work we do and cut down the time that we use to process things, including applications for expatriate quota.

We ensure that good ideas, research, and development do not stop at the stage of publishing papers. Some researchers have patented their findings but they do not know how to convert their patents or their discoveries or inventions into wealth, perhaps because of the environment and the culture of supporting that probably does not exist. What we have tried to do is to create a supportive culture so that once you have created an idea that is economically viable - because there are KPIs we look out for - we are able to pick that out. We help nurture that idea, incubate it and create start-ups around it so that you will be able to make money from it.

We have this broad chain - from ideation to commercialisation - and to support all of that process through the US\$50million R&D Fund. Another fact is that you need reliable statistics to be able to plan your policies. It must be based on data, and data must be based on reliable method of generating those data.

-Mr. Daziba Patrick Obah is Director, Planning, Research & Statistics, NCDMB.



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ALLOCATION OF SERVICED PLOTS FOR MANUFACTURING AT THE NCDMB NIGERIAN OIL AND GAS PARK SCHEME (NOGAPS) LOCATED AT EMEYAL-1 OGBIA LGA IN BAYELSA STATE AND AT ODUKPANI IN CROSS RIVER STATE

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plot No	Description	Plot Size (m ²)
NBY08	Manufacturing Shop Floor 2	5,440
NBY09	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	13,200
NBY10	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	13,442
NBY11	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	12,510
NBY12	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	11,493.34
NBY14	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	12,744.80
NBY17	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	12,717.57
NBY19	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	11,421.77
NBY20	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	12,484.13
NBY21	Manufacturing Shop Floor 1	12,440
NBY24	Manufacturing Shop Floor 2	7,437.51
NBY25	Manufacturing Shop Floor 2	7,437.51
NBY26	Manufacturing Shop Floor 2	7,437.51
NBY27	Manufacturing Shop Floor 2	7,437.51



**Site Pictures:
NCDMB NOGaPS
site, Odukpani,
Cross River
State.**



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

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



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

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

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

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

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



Towering the Skyline

Proof of Local Content



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

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