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NCDMB stakeholder magazine

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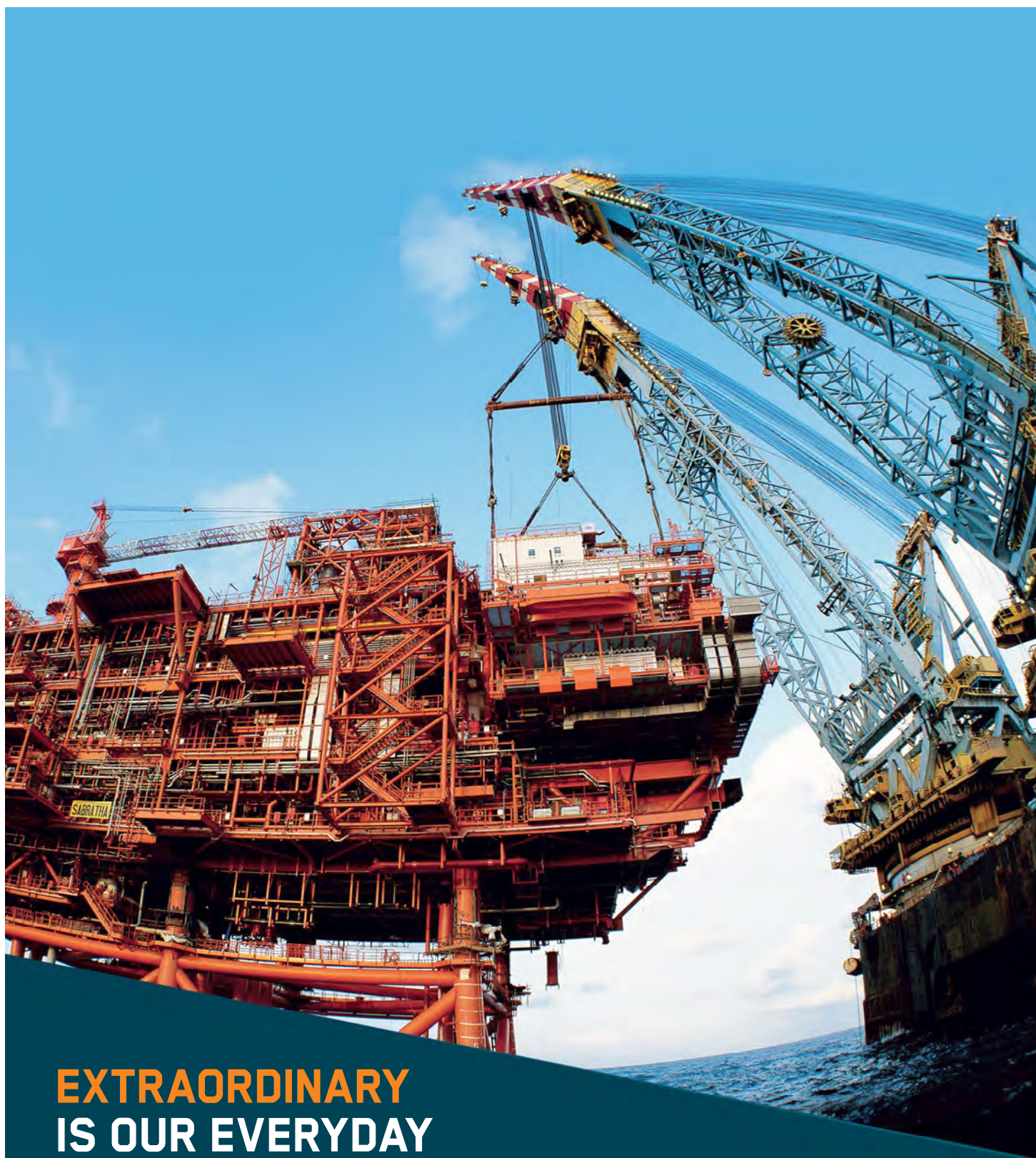


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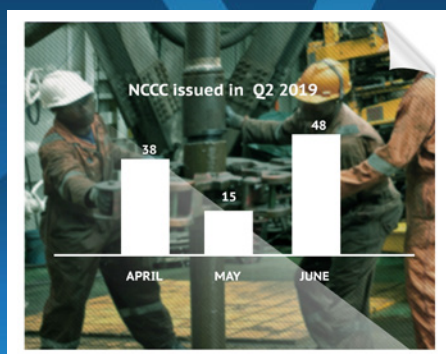
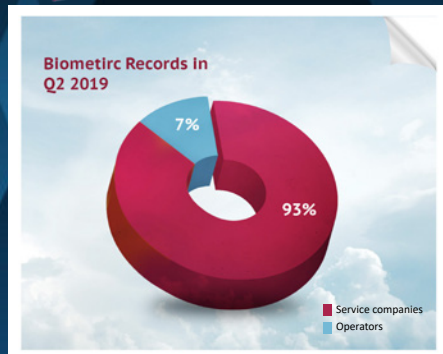
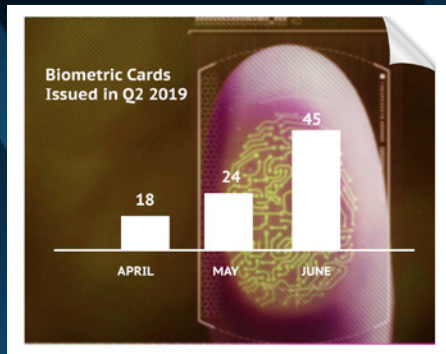
Pushing compliance and catalysing new opportunities

This is precisely what we are doing: regulating and catalysing new opportunities that hold huge potentials to engender value-adding activities in-country. These concomitant actions are required to achieve our goal of 70 percent local content growth in the Nigerian oil and gas industry over our 10-year horizon.

Away from command-and-control regulation with its attendant evasive tactics of some business operators, we gravitate towards harnessing the vast possibilities of working together. On the regulatory front, we reinforce our compliance drive with constant communication and stakeholders' enlightenment of our templates, processes and requirements. And on the promotional side, our goal is to build capacity or spur investment in critical infrastructure, especially in businesses that are not attracting the required level of investments. Both sides provide us the lever to generate employment, grow capacity and drive inclusive economic growth.

Thus, in the pursuit of our strategic objectives in Q2, we started off with the launch of NCDMB compendium of business opportunities in the oil and gas sector. The compendium details over 80 investment opportunities worth about US\$100billion in the funnel of various operating companies in Nigeria, covering a five-year outlook. It is a novel project designed to aid investors to make informed strategic investment decisions about Nigeria's domestic energy market.

The Board's strategic intervention is not limited to modular refineries. It cuts across the entire oil and gas value chain, including gas processing and utilisation, which supports the key objectives of the Petroleum Industry's Seven Big Wins launched by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016. For example, engagements with core investors have progressed significantly to establish LPG Cylinder Manufacturing Plant, LPG depots and gas processing facilities, particularly an inland LPG depot in Abuja to complement the Federal Government's LPG Penetration Initiative.



Source: Strategy and Policy Development Division

Then in April, the Oil and Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria (OGTAN) Conference held in Lagos. The conference was an excellent platform to reinforce advocacy for human capital development in-country with a view to stemming capital flight. Based on our partnership with OGTAN, we enjoined the members to work hard to become top-class trainers to enable them offer most of the industry trainings in-country and reverse the tide of capital flight.

In May, we brought stakeholders together at a workshop in Lagos, where the Board's revised Monitoring and Compliance Enforcement Framework was unveiled. Stakeholders were enlightened on the new parameters. Most importantly, the revised framework brings on board user-friendly smart templates that are short, simple and easy to complete. This, expectedly, will encourage voluntary compliance and timely submission of statutory reports.

Taking cognisance of the importance of collaboration as well as research and development, which are two crucial enablers to sustainable local content, the Board and the Military Defence Headquarters agreed to forge a strong partnership to support the R&D Office of the Defence Headquarters to undertake bespoke research to address the challenging security issues in the country.

Grounded in our conviction that manufacturing of basic oil and gas tools and accessories is key to local content success in Nigeria, we launched the take-off of Phase 2 of the construction of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGAPS) in Emeyal-1, Ogbia land in Bayelsa State. The launch of this phase of construction follows the expedited approval of the contract by the Federal Executive Council. The project contractor was introduced to the community stakeholders in June at a Town Hall Meeting/Stakeholders interactive session in Yenagoa. The Board is encouraged by the host community leaders and youths pledge to cooperate with the Board and the contractor to ensure a smooth and speedy completion of the project. An interface body comprising representatives of the Board, the contractor and community was formed to manage the tripartite relationship for effective communication.

On our catalytic role, the Board has continued to follow our vision, which is "to be the catalyst for the industrialisation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors". Thus, projects that present

substantial potentials for in-country resource utilisation, capacity development, job creation, capital retention and other value additions are often given priority by the Board. This is the *raison d'être* for our equity participation in Waltersmith Modular Refinery Project.

We inked the Shareholders Agreement for Waltersmith modular refinery in June 2018 and witnessed the ground-breaking ceremony last November. At a recent visit in June to the project site at Ibigwe, we were fascinated to see the pace of work and the quantum of Nigerian content performance. We are even more elated by the large number of Nigerians working on various aspects of the project, which shows that the investment is actually helping to materialise President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to create employment for young Nigerians from activities in the oil and gas industry.

In addition, we signed another Shareholders' Agreement this June to formalise NCDMB's partnership with the Azikel Hydro-skimming Modular Refinery located at Obungha Gbarain, Bayelsa State. Like the Waltersmith's, Azikel modular refinery holds similar prospects, in addition to potentially reducing pipeline vandalism and the incidence of youth restiveness in the catchment area. Sooner, the Board will also formalise partnership agreement with another modular refinery in Calabar, Cross River State.

The Board's strategic intervention is not limited to modular refineries. It cuts across the entire oil and gas value chain, including gas processing and utilisation, which supports the key objectives of the Petroleum Industry's Seven Big Wins launched by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016. For example, engagements with core investors have progressed significantly to establish LPG Cylinder Manufacturing Plant, LPG depots and gas processing facilities, particularly an inland LPG depot in Abuja to complement the Federal Government's LPG Penetration Initiative.

As I indicated here in the first quarter, 2019 holds a lot of big promises for the Board and the industry as we continue our local content journey. So, let's brace up to harness the vast possibilities unfolding on our oil and gas landscape.

- Editorial 9
- Trends 10
- Photospeak 26
- Books 33
- Movies/Music 38
- Policy 41



Cover: : Project 100 is one of the most exciting policies in recent times. Its industrialisation potential is huge.



Innovation: Local firms are driving novel, cost-effective ways to safeguard oil and gas assets.



Travelogue:
Yenagoa is
fascinatingly
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offering
pleasures to
titillate visitors.



HSE: An entrenched reading culture at the workplace is key to boosting productivity.

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Editorial

Naboth Onyesoh

Much more than a Monitor

For all intents and purposes, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) is cast in a unique mould. Just as the name implies, its core mandate involves *developing* and *monitoring*. Meaning, it's a regulator with development agenda clearly mandated by its enabling Act. So, it's not like a monitoring app or a compliance tracker deployed to observe local content behaviour in the industry.

Rather, it operates as an intelligent and dynamic organisation, alive to its mission and mandate, which is "to be the catalyst for the industrialisation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors". Like the leaven in bread, NCDMB has lifted everything around the Nigeria oil and gas industry, increased and accelerated in-country capacities as never before.

Local Content Digest has keenly reported these amazing feats of the NCDMB. For example, in the first quarter, we placed the spotlight on the investment opportunities in the industry, embodied in a compendium launched by NCDMB at the second Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF), which held in Yenagoa. This edition tells everything about Project 100: the concept, the objectives, the selection process, the beneficiaries and the areas of trade, the project management office (PMO), the incentives and strategy to realise the broad vision of the project. The story goes deep into the intent and agenda and breathes the hope, which Project 100 inspires.

Besides industry matters, this edition also has some interesting human angle features. Our *Travelogue*, for instance, presents the leisure and pleasure spots in Yenagoa, fantastic allures for travellers and tourists. There's also a piece on the benefits of reading, including pleasure reading, which reduces stress, entertains and ennobles the mind in the *HSE* segment while

NCDMB operates as an intelligent and dynamic organisation, alive to its mission and mandate, which is to be the catalyst for the industrialisation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors. Like the leaven in bread, NCDMB has lifted everything around the Nigeria oil and gas industry, increased and accelerated in-country capacities as never before.

we examined how group sports engender team bonding and overall wellbeing in *Outdoors*. There's a lot more to learn from this edition.

Let me seize this opportunity to express our gratitude to our long standing partners: Saipem, MG Vowgas, Tamrose Ventures and Marine Platforms. Like the aquifer, these companies have been the rich source of underground water that feeds and refreshes our finances to sustain this quarterly publication. I invite other companies to stand up to be counted and to use this platform to showcase their capabilities to the industry.

Happy reading!

Total gets NCCC on Ikike Project

Total Exploration and Production Company has been issued the Nigerian Content Compliance Certificate (NCCC) for the Ikike field development by the NCDMB. Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, issued the document to Mr. Nicolas Terraz, the outgoing Managing Director of Total E&P on the sidelines of the 2019 Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja.

The issuance of the NCCC marks the conclusion of the technical and commercial evaluations on the Ikike project by the NCDMB, National Petroleum Investment and Management Service (NAPIMS) and Total. The NCCC paves the way for the award of contracts for the project and commencement of the execution phase.

The NCCC is the output of the tendering processes on a project and contains the selected contractors as well as Nigerian Content commitments on various scopes. It forms the guidebook for monitoring the execution of the project.

The Executive Secretary commended Total for reaching the milestone, which is coming after the conclusion of the Egina Deepwater Project. He noted that Total would be spending about US\$500million executing the Ikike Project and it is expected to deepen Nigerian Content implementation, create huge work opportunities for local service companies and thousands of job prospects for qualified young Nigerians. He said: "Today marks the official kick-off of

Total Ikike Project in Nigeria. It is one of the projects we talked about during the 2019 Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair. They have also started working on the Preowei Project."

Wabote also commended Mr. Terraz for his sterling accomplishments as Total's helmsman, urging the incoming MD, Mr. Mike Sangster, to build on the achievements of his predecessor.

The Ikike field is located in the OML 99 licence offshore Nigeria, with Total being the operator with a 40 percent stake. The project is expected to be developed as a tie-back to Amenam (5 wells) platform. The field is estimated to hold reserves of 70 million barrels of oil equivalent.

Phase 2 of Bayelsa Oil and Gas Park begins

Phase 2 of the construction of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Parks Scheme (NOGAPS) in Emeyal-1, Ogbia in Bayelsa State, has been launched by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB).

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB announced this during a town hall meeting with community stakeholders of the project in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

He said the contract for the new phase was approved by the Federal Executive Council and that it underlined President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to ensure comprehensive development of the Niger Delta region, spur incubation of manufacturing of oil equipment in-country to generate employment for young people.

The new phase would include construction of pavements, walkways, parking lots, concrete-lined drainages and service ducts, among others. The Executive Secretary said the 25 megawatts (MW) independent power plant (IPP) being constructed in partnership with the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) to supply electricity to the park and other dedicated facilities would be completed in July 2019.

The Executive Secretary said the community's support during the sand-filling and fencing works gave the Board the confidence to continue to the next phase of the project.

He confirmed that O.K. Isokariari & Sons won the bid for the second phase of the NOGAPS project and that the contract made provision for hiring a minimum of 80 percent of all unskilled labour from the host and immediate

communities for the project execution, a minimum of 50 percent of the semi-skilled and 20 percent of the skilled labour requirements, except where there is no response from the communities to such advertised positions.

Community suppliers would also participate in the supply of sand, granite, water, fuel and other construction materials to be determined by the contractor and they would be subject to the quality required and fair market price, he added.

King Dumaro Charles-Owaba, the Obanobhan III of Ogbia Kingdom, suggested the setting up of a monitoring committee to be composed of representatives of NCDMB and the community stakeholders. Such persons, he said, would liaise with the Board, the contractor and community stakeholders.



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB in a group photograph with community stakeholders after a town hall meeting to mark the commencement of the second phase of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Parks Scheme (NOGAPS) in Emeyal-1, Ogbia, Bayelsa State.

Waltersmith's Modular Refinery commences Q2 2020

The 5,000-barrels-per-day modular refinery being developed by Waltersmith Refining & Petrochemical Company Limited with equity investment from the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) will be completed in May 2020.

The progress of the project stands at 65 percent, seven percent ahead of the original schedule. The engineering and procurement components have also been completed with construction at 60 percent.

This date and progress on the project were confirmed by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, during a visit to the project site at Ibigwe, Imo State, in June. Wabote said the Board's investment was channeled in the right direction. He

hailed the contractors - Lambert Electromac and Zerock - for their remarkable pace of execution, dedication and expertise, particularly for continuing the project despite the onset of the wet season.

The Executive Secretary expressed delight about the high number of Nigerians working on various aspects of the project. He noted that this underscored President Muhammadu Buhari's commitment to creating jobs for young Nigerians within the oil and gas industry. "I hope similar projects would come on stream pretty soon to generate employment for Nigerians," he said.

In line with the succession plan requirements of the Nigerian Content Act, Wabote urged

the contractors to train and absorb more Nigerians in senior management positions and make them permanent members of their companies, even after the project phase.

Mr. Abdulrasaq Isah, the Chairman of Waltersmith, affirmed that the company was satisfied with the quality of work from the contractors. He noted that Waltersmith had been steadfast in its obligations to the firms. "We expect you to remain consistent with us as well. We are very happy with what we have seen and we are looking forward to commissioning and beginning to sell diesel and kerosene from this site in May 2020," Isah said.



(R-L): Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Abdulrasaq Isah, Chairman, Waltersmith Limited and Mr. Danjuma Sale, Executive Vice-chairman, Waltersmith Limited during a facility visit to Waltersmith Refining and Petrochemical Company's 5,000bpd Modular Refinery at Ibigwe field in the Ohaji/Egbema Council Area of Imo State.

Patronage of local goods will create jobs - Wabote

Patronage of locally manufactured goods will boost job creation in the country, Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, has said.

He stated this when he delivered a speech, with the theme: *Patronage of Made in Nigeria Products: A sure boost to job creation and economic growth*, at the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN), Cross River/Akwa Ibom chapter.

Wabote, who was represented by Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, the General Manager, Corporate Communication/Zonal Coordination Division, posited that for the nation's economy to grow and generate jobs, the manufacturing sector must be vibrant and locally made goods must

be consumed by the populace. He warned that continued preference for foreign products and services would lead to the closure of many manufacturing firms and job losses.

Ginah said the implementation of the Nigerian Content Act in the oil and gas industry had led to a phenomenal increase in the production and utilisation of locally manufactured goods, development of indigenous technology, reduction in capital flight, increased local ownership and control of key oil and gas assets and job creation. "We recommend that the executive arm of government and the National Assembly should collaborate and support the clamour to extend the Nigerian Content Act to other critical sectors of the economy like power,

construction and information communication technology," he said.

He cautioned against creating multiple regulators of local content in Nigeria, stressing that the NCDMB should be empowered to regulate local content in other sectors of the economy. "NCDMB has shown capacity and stands as a worthy example of how local content can be implemented to create jobs, ensure patronage of local companies and boost the economy. We can modify our templates to suit other sectors. This is the prudent way to expand and entrench local content regime in Nigeria," Ginah said.

Uganda to adopt Nigeria's Local Content Policy

Ugandan plans to model its Local Content implementation after the successful example in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry.

A nine-man delegation from four agencies in the Ugandan Petroleum industry visited the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in June to understudy the implementation of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act.

Mrs. Betty Namubiru, the leader of the delegation and Head of National Content, Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), said Uganda discovered oil in commercial quantities in 2006 and had a reserve base

of about 6 billion barrels. She added that her nation was developing its oil and gas facilities, perfecting its policies and conducting studies on the best methodology to adopt in extracting and managing its petroleum resources. She noted that the Ugandan oil sector needed an investment inflow of US\$35 billion and was expecting \$20 billion over the next three years.

The visit was to enable the officials understand key areas to focus on in their National Content drive so the nation could derive maximum in-country value from the projected investments. She added: "Uganda has a long standing relationship with Nigeria and this is just the beginning because our

oil and gas sector is just evolving. We want to learn more about the steps you took in setting up your 10-year roadmap to grow Nigerian Content to 70 percent."

Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, the General Manager, Research, Strategy and Development, NCDMB, welcomed the delegation. He said Nigeria is one of the leading nations in global petroleum industry and is very advanced in the area of Local Content. The GM stated that Nigeria was happy to share its extensive knowledge on Local Content practice and provide guidance to Uganda and other African countries in their quest to improve Local Content implementation.



Senior staff of the Board with delegates from the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) in a group photograph during a benchmarking visit to the NCDMB headquarters in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Human capital development key to national transformation - Gowon

General Yakubu Gowon, a former Military Head of State, and other key stakeholders in the oil and gas industry have called for increased development of human capacities to enable Nigeria strive for national development. They spoke in April at the second Oil and Gas Trainers Association's Annual Conference and Exhibition in Lagos.

Gowon said more efforts must be devoted to building human capabilities in leadership and entrepreneurial skills for the nation to achieve economic competitiveness at the regional and global levels. Nigeria, he noted, would only derive maximum value from the oil and gas sector if there was continuous growth of indigenous capacities.

He said: "Globalisation and the knowledge economy have become matters of existential considerations for nations and organisations alike. It is imperative that we place pivotal premium on human capital development."

Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), said: "We have taken specific steps to train maritime cadets, secondary school teachers, agricultural entrepreneurs, pilots, technicians, engineers and environmentalists with over six million training man-hours delivered." He commended OGTAN members for their efforts towards addressing human capital development needs of the oil sector and

advised them to improve their capacities to reduce the spend by the industry on overseas trainings.

Dr Mayowa Afe, the President of OGTAN, noted that training and acquisition of necessary skills were a prerequisite for socio-economic transformation. He emphasised that "our wealth is not oil and gas but the human capital that we are endowed with by God".

The OGTAN president described the NOGICD Act 2010 as one of the best developments in the country. He called for more opportunities to be given to indigenous trainers and involvement of OGTAN in the council of various agencies of the Federal Government.

NCDMB introduces revised monitoring templates

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has introduced its revised Monitoring and Compliance Enforcement framework to industry stakeholders in Lagos.

Mr. Akintunde Adelana, the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, NCDMB said the Board revised the monitoring and compliance enforcement framework with a view to making its templates and processes user-friendly, more objective, simpler and easier to complete. He added that the templates had been tested and that they

would impact Nigerian Content processes greatly.

Adelana explained that the templates were designed "as part of the strategic roadmap of the Board to grow Nigerian Content to 70 percent. "We cannot achieve the target by using the old templates that were deployed since the establishment of the Board in 2010, hence the revision of the various reporting templates," he said.

The director advised the stakeholders to provide the Board with qualitative and accurate data, which will help to assess how

the country is performing in the area of Nigerian Content implementation. He added that the Board expects timely submission of statutory reports and had designed a system that would reward companies that comply with the provisions of the NOGICD Act.

Adelana also said the delay and non-submission of statutory reports by oil industry operators and service companies would soon constitute non-compliance with provisions of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act.



Officials of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and Ministry of Justice after a stakeholders workshop on Local Content in Dubai.

Operators rate NCDMB high on SLA implementation

Major operating companies have rated the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) high in the implementation of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) introduced to manage the tendering processes in oil and gas projects.

The Board signed SLAs with the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Limited in May 2017; Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS) - on behalf of major operating companies in May 2018 and a third with the Independent Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG), the indigenous firms in October 2018.

Under the SLAs, the companies would submit necessary documents to the Board for reviews and

approvals before they embark on their projects. On the other hand, NCDMB pledged to review and respond to the documents on specific timelines. The companies were permitted to proceed with their project execution if NCDMB failed to keep to the timelines. The intent was to ensure that companies comply with the Nigerian Content Act, shorten the industry contracting cycle to six months and cut costs.

At a recent review meeting spearheaded by the NCDMB's Projects Certification and Authorisation Division (PCAD) with SNEPCo/SPDC, it was indicated that NCDMB scored 80 percent performance in relation to the terms of the SLA. Results from a similar review with First E&P, an indigenous

company, indicated that NCDMB performed above 75 percent, while the review with Chevron Nigeria Limited indicated 80 percent performance. Also, the review with Addax Nigeria Limited indicated 95 percent performance for projects within the SLA agreed timelines.

Similarly, the Board held a SLA review meeting with Total Nigeria and it was agreed that there had been significant improvement in documents certification timelines since the introduction of the SLA. However, there was need for the Board and Total to synchronise their document tracking system to ensure SLA performance and resolve challenges.

'9th National Assembly "Il amend Nigerian Content Act'

An important agenda of the Ninth National Assembly would be to quickly amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act to cover sectors like manufacturing, construction and Information Communication Technology, Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola, former Chairman of Senate Committee on Local Content, has said. Such an amendment would address the challenges in those sectors, which are still dominated by foreign players, he said.

Adeola spoke at a session organised in Abuja by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) for outgoing members of the Senate Committee on Local Content to review its activities and set agenda

for the new National Assembly members.

The senator suggested that NCDMB should be empowered in the area of manpower so that it can effectively regulate international and local oil and gas companies. He noted that some of the companies were flouting the Nigerian Content Act in their operations. Adeola said the implementation of the Nigerian Content Act had enabled many Nigerians to benefit from the oil and gas industry, especially in areas such as assets ownership, capacity building and acquisition of critical skills.

Nigeria, he said, has a lot to gain from the faithful implementation of the NOGICD Act 2010 and suggested that the Local Content Fund should be made more accessible to

industry stakeholders who remit their one percent contribution into it.

Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, hailed Senator Adeola for the strides he recorded as the Chairman of the Local Content Committee. He noted that the Committee was set up for the first time under the Eighth Senate; notwithstanding, it kept major industry players on their toes by not relying solely on information from the Board, but reviewing industry activities independently.

He promised that recommendations from the Committee would propel the Board in the pursuit of its 10-year strategic roadmap to increase Nigerian Content performance to 70 percent by 2027.

NCDMB donates ICT Centres in schools

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) recently inaugurated Information and Communication Technology Centres in seven schools between January and June 2019, in line with its mandate to build human capacities for the oil and gas industry. Some of the benefitting institutions include Senior Science Secondary School, Ndon Eyo in Onna Local Government Area (LGA) and Comprehensive Secondary School, Atai Itoro, Abak LGA, Government Secondary School, Ifiang-Nsung, Bakassi LGA all in Akwa Ibom State, as well as Ilupeju Secondary School, Lagos.

Each centre was equipped with state-of-the-art computers, a projector, printer, photocopier, power generating set and a backup inverter to ensure stable and constant

power supply. The Board also engaged a computer instructor for each centre, in addition to providing internet access as well as putting in place a maintenance contract.

Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, the General Manager, Corporate Communication & Zonal Coordination at NCDMB, said: "The initiative is intended to enhance information technology literacy among secondary school students in a conducive environment."

He said the Board ensures that the ICT Centres are certified by the Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN) before they are handed over to the management of the schools. This is so that students trained at the centres can be certified with Computer Appreciation

Certificates at the end of their courses.

Similarly, NCDMB recently held a youth sensitisation and enlightenment workshop in Asaba, the Delta State capital, to educate young Nigerians about the mandate of the Board and how they can benefit from Nigerian Content human capacity initiatives and participate in the oil and gas industry.

Ginah told the participants that thousands of young Nigerians had been trained and attached to projects in the oil and gas industry to enable them gain requisite industry experience and permanent employment. He advised youths to register on the Board's NOGICQS database so that they could be considered for the capacity development initiatives.



Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communications/Zonal Coordination with officials of the Rotary Club Yenagoa after the inauguration of boreholes drilled in 10 public schools in Yenagoa. The facilities were installed using the biosand filter technology.

NCDF defaulters will be blocked from projects

Operating and service oil and gas companies that default in remitting one percent of the value of their contracts to the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF) would be blocked from participating in the industry tendering processes by the NCDMB. Such companies will also be suspended from getting statutory clearances such as the processing of Expatriate Quota applications.

Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, stated this at the 2019 Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja. He explained that the Board “reserved the right to refer such economic sabotage to the Economic & Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for further action, in line with our Service Level Agreement”.

Contribution to the NCDF was made mandatory under Section 104 of the Nigerian

Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD Act). Some companies have continued to contravene this provision: through non-deduction of the statutory fee, non-remittance of amount deducted at source and misinterpretation of the applicability of the provisions.

He said the level of infractions by some firms had been revealed with the deployment of the NCDF Remittance Forensic Audit in November 2018, using third party chartered accounting firms.

Wabote hailed operating and service oil companies that have started addressing their infractions, saying: “A greater commendation goes to those who diligently make their remittances accurately without any compulsion from the Board.” He said the NCDMB could discuss with debtor companies

on implementing structured payment plans but would not write off any indebtedness.

Wabote said the NCDF had enabled the Board to roll out the US\$200m Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund), partner with project promoters to establish modular refineries and exit appropriation to become a self-funding agency of government.” He added that the NCDMB has also used NCDF to progress the construction of its new headquarters building in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, industrial parks, provide support for Project 100 beneficiaries, fund human capacity development programmes and deliver other initiatives.

He said NCDMB disbursed \$160 million out of the \$200 million NCI Fund as loans to oil companies for the development of capacity, among others.



Engr. Simbi Wabote and management of the Board in a group photograph with Graduands of the Officers' Career Enhancement Programme (OCEP) at the graduation ceremony in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Imported barite to be banned in oil industry

The NCDMB has unveiled new guidelines on the use of locally manufactured barite in the oil and gas industry. This happened at an event recently in Abuja where Mr. Patrick Obah, Director Planning, Research and Statistics NCDMB, represented Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary. He said: “With the approval and implementation of this Guidelines, the use of imported barite in the oil and gas industry will no longer be supported by the Board. We will work with the industry to ensure the rapid actualisation of measures required to enforce total ban of the use of imported barite and

drilling fluids in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, in line with the provisions and aspirations of this guideline and the NOGICD Act of 2010.”

Dr. Ama Ikuru, the General Manager, Capacity Building Division of the Board, explained that the guidelines were meant to support Nigerian companies involved in the production, procurement, supply and utilisation of the products. The guidelines will also attract investments to the barite and drilling fluids supply value chain, the Nigerian oil and gas industry and the mining sector. He added that the effective date for implementation is

January 1, 2020, to enable the companies get the required certifications that would enable them participate under the guidelines.

Mr. Stephen Alao, the President of Association of Miners and Processors of Barite (AMAPOB), praised the Board for launching the guidelines to support the activities of the group, in addition to ensuring patronage of local barite and drilling fluids. He pledged the group's readiness to provide quality products that will serve the industry.

Contributors: Naboth Onyesoh, Obinna Ezeobi, Nyoki Ita, Teleola Oyeleke, Ifeanyi Nwokemodo, Chinomso Nworgu

PROJECT 100

Nurturing oil and gas companies for industrialisation

Project 100 is a creative and bold Local Content initiative that has the potential of transforming select indigenous oil and gas firms into world beaters and consequently industrialise the economy.



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Dr. Eruani Azibapu, President/CEO, Azikel Group after signing the Shareholders Agreement marking NCDMB's equity investment in the 12,000 barrels per day Azikel Modular Refinery in Obunagha, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

One developmental model that deserves to be replicated in Nigeria is how the South Korean government supported Samsung and some other local firms during their cradle days and how the German government patronised Julius Berger and enabled the companies to morph from start-ups into huge multinational corporations and great ambassadors of their nations.

Project 100 was conceived by Dr Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, immediate past Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, and is modelled after the South Korean and German templates. It was launched in Abuja on January 31, 2019 by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Ministry of Petroleum Resources. The idea, according to Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, is to “look at 100 wholly-owned Nigerian oil and gas service companies and nurture them to the Next Level, enhance their capacities and support them financially, using the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund).”

He added: “We will also support them by way of capacity building and looking for opportunities for them to access work within the oil and gas industry, such that we can improve on their service delivery, improve on their safety capability and improve their quality of service to the industry.”

Strong business case for Project 100

Generally, stakeholders in the oil and gas industry applaud the achievements so far recorded in the last nine years of implementing the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act. The successes are visible in the growth of Nigerian Oil and Gas Service Providers (NOSPs), capacity building and jobs for

Why are we not able to lead investors and producers that are rampaging all over Africa? Why are we not taking over from the multinationals who have been here for over 50 years? Why haven't we generated one single major oil company that can transcend operations all over Africa? Why have we continued to accommodate decaying infrastructure in the oil and gas sector? Why are we today facing the threats of divestments by some of the multinationals? Why are we bold policy shy? The reality is that we are still at the tipping edge of development in the sector.

-Dr Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu

The initiative will grow 100 indigenous medium scale companies into large scale players that can generate over ₦500 million per annum in turnover, create high impact through local content development, local industry mobilisation, economic transformation, industry innovation, job creation, wealth generation and social responsibility.

-Mr Abdulmalik Halilu, GM, Planning, Research and Development, NCDMB



Officials of the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, staff of NCDMB and CEOs of some Project 100 companies sponsored by the NCDMB to the Global Petroleum Show (GPS) in Canada, where they accessed new business opportunities and showcased core capabilities to international stakeholders.

citizens, increased indigenous ownership of key operational assets, increased retention of industry spend in-country and improvement in the oil and gas industry's contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

But despite these accomplishments, some analysts insist that the sector is still performing well below its huge potentials. Kachikwu is one of the proponents of this view and the rhetorical questions he posed at an oil industry event in April showed the direction the industry should be headed. "Why are we not able to lead investors and producers that are rampaging all over Africa? Why are we not taking over from the multinationals who have been here for over 50 years? Why haven't we generated one single major oil company that can transcend operations all over Africa? Why have we continued to accommodate decaying infrastructure in the oil and gas sector? Why are we today facing the threats of divestments by some of the multinationals? Why are we bold policy shy? The reality is that we are still at the tipping edge of development in the sector."

Wabote echoed a similar sentiment in an interview in January. He said: "If you ask the big international operating companies why they prefer to use international service companies, they

will tell you that those international service firms provide quality work on schedule without any HSE issues. So, the question is: why can't the Nigerian service companies do the same? It is probably because most of them are busy looking for opportunities so they do not train most of their staff in terms of quality delivery, HSE management, project management and even project delivery. And that is why NCDMB wants to enhance the capacity of local companies in those areas."

Project 100 is expected to address some of Kachikwu's questions. Mr Abdulmalik Halilu, the General Manager, Planning, Research and Development of NCDMB, noted that the initiative will grow 100 indigenous medium scale companies into large scale players that can generate over ₦500 million per annum in turnover, create high impact through local content development, local industry mobilisation, economic transformation, industry innovation, job creation, wealth generation and social responsibility.

The Board is driving the initiative because, according to Wabote, "part of the reasons for setting up NCDMB is to see how we can support Nigerian business to start, remain and grow in business as well as deliver quality service to the oil and gas industry."

At the launch of Project 100, Kachikwu said: "We have reached

The selection process started from a pool of over 8,000 companies registered on the NOGICJQS, out of which only about 2,000 were active with up-to-date information. KPMG used different parameters, which included compliance requirements for the sector and response to requests to submit data. Eventually, it arrived at the final 60, which made the cut for the pilot phase. A second set of 40 would be selected thereafter to make up the targeted 100 companies for the programme.

-Mr. Segun Sowande, Partner and Head of Management Consulting, KPMG



Beneficiaries

1 Adroit Investment Limited Fabrication and Construction	2 Ankor Pointe Integrated Limited Fabrication and Construction	3 Jahcon International Limited Fabrication and Construction	4 B2 Oil & Gas Project Limited Fabrication and Construction
5 Milat Nigeria Limited Fabrication and Construction	6 Olu Tee Engineering International Limited Fabrication and Construction	7 Bridgside Nigeria Limited Fabrication and Construction	8 Oilfield Management Services Limited Drilling Services
9 EST Master Construction Limited Fabrication and Construction	10 Hollifield Industries Limited Fabrication and Construction	11 Everest Engineering Services Limited Marine Services	12 Zigma Limited Marine Services
13 Cle-parinna International Limited Fabrication and Construction	14 Fleet Offshore Global Maritime Services Limited Marine Services	15 Energeria Limited Drilling Services	16 Sprova Nigeria Limited Logistics Services
17 Libertine Global Solutions Limited Marine Services	18 Skymark Energy & Power Nigeria Limited Transportation Supply Disposal Services	19 Independent Project Monitoring Company Limited Petroleum Engineering And Geological Studies	20 Wartadef Limited Marine Services
21 Nine Angle West Africa Limited Fabrication and Construction	22 Sage Integrated Marine Services Limited Marine Services	23 Weltek Limited Fabrication and Construction	24 Fairtex Integrated Services Limited Fabrication and Construction
25 Henry Wilson Limited Fabrication and Construction	26 Ellaleon Ventures Limited Fabrication and Construction	27 Techniques International Corporation Nigeria Ltd Drilling Services	28 Geoterrain Nigeria Limited Exploration Services
29 Loitte Engineering Limited Marine Services	30 Encapsulate Nigeria Limited Marine Services	31 Mafuta Energy Services Limited Drilling Services	32 Harrybeat International Services Limited Fabrication and Construction
33 Nymagx Energy Services Limited Fabrication and Construction	34 Jomason Resources Ltd Fabrication and Construction	35 Alpatech Engineering Nigeria Limited Fabrication and Construction	36 Narag Energy Solutions Limited Fabrication and Construction
37 Oasis Corporate Systems Limited Fabrication and Construction	38 Eazroc Limited Fabrication and Construction	39 Anzor Nigeria Limited Drilling Services	40 Gamstec Integrated Services Limited Fabrication and Construction
41 Gemstone Energy Services Limited Fabrication and Construction	42 Beam Energy Limited Fabrication and Construction	43 Jite Projekts Limited Fabrication and Construction	44 Rit-beulah Engineering Services Limited Fabrication and Construction
45 Gmunu Limited Engineering Services	46 Geoville Consulting Limited Fabrication and Construction	47 Faithplant Global International Services Limited Fabrication and Construction	48 Karsto Global Resources Limited Fabrication and Construction
49 Nowerox Nigeria Limited Marine Services	50 Rojel Nigeria Limited Fabrication and Construction	51 Cardinal Integrated Projects Enterprises Limited Marine Services	52 Blisstun Nigeria Limited Marine Services
53 Kurusu And Associated Industries Limited Marine Services	54 D-well Engineering Nigeria Limited Consultancy Services	55 Gredor Nigeria Limited Fabrication and Construction	56 Utis Energy Services Limited Marine Services
57 Nec Technical Systems Limited Fabrication and Construction	58 Flind Nigeria Limited Fabrication and Construction	59 Folstaj International Limited Drilling Services	60 Total Quality Integrated Services Limited Drilling Services

a point where we can take over the leadership in the industry. We will work with various governments, we will look at accessing all the executive order advantages that have been issued and import duty waivers. It will depend on the project, on the company.”

Dr Folasade Yemi-Esan, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, is confident that the initiative would make a positive impact on national development. Wabote corroborated her view, describing Project 100 as another important milestone in the nation’s journey to entrench local content in the oil and gas industry.

Chief Pedro Egbe, the Managing Director of Weltek Limited, one of the first indigenous oil and gas service companies, termed Project 100 as an effort by the Board to return to the original concept it was set up for, which was to upscale local companies.

Only the best made the cut

There have been questions around the criteria for picking the beneficiaries. This is expected, given our environment where other interests sometimes trump merit. To pre-empt this concern, NCDMB engaged KPMG, an international management

consultancy, to implement a transparent and objective process of selecting beneficiaries from the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Joint Qualification System (NOGIC-JQS portal). Segun Sowande, the Partner and Head of Management Consulting at KPMG, explained that the company started from a pool of over 8,000 companies registered on the NOGICJQS, out of which only about 2,000 were active with up-to-date information. The consultancy used different parameters, which included compliance requirements for the sector and response to requests to submit data. Eventually, it arrived at the final 60, which made the cut for the pilot phase. A second set of 40 would be selected thereafter to make up the targeted 100 companies for the programme.

The beneficiaries were asked to highlight their priority areas of need. Interestingly, 80 percent of their requested interventions were non-financial. The primary needs of the companies, according to Sowande, included technical and business management and improved capacity to run effectively as well as be competitive. They also wanted an improved process and access to technology and market.

As part of the project, the Executive Secretary said the Board would deploy the incentives stipulated in the Nigerian Oil and



IIKIKE FIELD DEVELOPMENT: Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Mr. Nicolas Terraz, outgoing Managing Director, Total Exploration and Production Company, at the ceremony marking the issuance of the Nigerian Content Compliance Certificate (NCCC) for the Ikike Field development to Total E&P in Abuja.

When Project 100 is placed on the canvas of some policies of the current government, the future of beneficiary companies looks bright. The NOGICD Act, Executive orders 03 and 05, which mandate ministries and agencies to give preferential treatment to Nigerians in employment as well as procurement of goods and services, will engender an environment conducive for the select companies to thrive. The business support initiative offered the beneficiaries by the Board will trigger job creation for the youth population and wealth creation for the businesses.

-Mr. Adewole Ojo, Principal Partner, Four Points Communications

Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act and liaise with the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission to harness all applicable incentives. He affirmed that the Board has strategies for Human Capacity Development and would deploy the NCI Fund for leadership, technical, and vocational trainings.

Pedestal for growth and wealth creation

On March 6, 2019, a multi-stakeholder Project Management Office (PMO) was inaugurated to drive and manage the end-to-end implementation of the Project 100 interventions (Supplier Capacity Development Programme - SCDP). The PMO is domiciled within the NCDMB and is supported by KPMG. Members were drawn from the Ministry of Petroleum Resources (MPR), the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS) and Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF).

Wabote's urged the PMO to identify the various areas of interests of the beneficiaries and provide them opportunities in collaboration with the National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), a subsidiary of NNPC. He stressed that "while we would engage in public tendering, we have to specially look for opportunities. We also need to engage the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) and other organisations that carry out procurement outside the Nigerian Petroleum Exchange (NIPEX) System. Project 100 companies must be included in the bidders list of such organisations."

In the implementation schedule produced by the PMO, Project 100 is being implemented in five primary phases – Selection, Preparation, Development, Implementation and Impact Assessment, with a number of activities occurring simultaneously.

The office listed some of the activities already concluded to include successful completion of self and on-site assessment of the beneficiaries to identify improvement areas within their businesses as well as the co-creation of unique development plans to build their capacity and capability; sponsorship of beneficiaries to the Nigerian Oil & Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF) 2019, a platform for delivering a number of key Project 100 interventions, including access to market, business insights and partnership opportunities. The PMO also collaborated with the Ministry of Petroleum Resources (MPR) in sponsoring select beneficiaries to the Global Petroleum Show (GPS) 2019 in Canada, which gave the beneficiaries an avenue to access new business opportunities, showcase their core capabilities and expertise to key oil and gas industry stakeholders.

On the capacity building plane, the PMO deployed a two-

week Subsea Systems and FPSO training to all beneficiaries. "The beneficiaries were able to develop deeper knowledge and understanding of the offshore operations and activities as well as their importance to other disciplines in the industry," the Office said. The PMO also organised a one-day business clinic for beneficiaries, which provided practical insights and the opportunity to obtain first-hand guidance from seasoned entrepreneurs on strategies for overcoming business challenges and managing resources for business success in the Nigerian business environment.

Continuous assessment and support key to growth

The Board plans to assess the impact of the programme, using certain key performance indicators. Halilu listed the KPIs to include "percentage increase in business turnover, percentage increase in employment, percentage increase in local content level from contracts executed and percentage increase in personnel training and certification".

Plans are afoot to start targeted interventions to beneficiaries based on the co-created development plans as well as the subsequent monitoring and evaluations. Efforts would also be made to deepen existing relationships and develop new partnerships with major international oil companies, Nigerian oil companies, marginal field operators, NAPIMS, original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), oil and gas associations, local and international academic and research institutions, financial institutions and other MDAs.

As Adewole Ojo, Principal Partner, Four Points Communications, puts it: "When Project 100 is placed on the canvas of some policies of the current government, the future of beneficiary companies looks bright. The NOGICD Act, Executive orders 03 and 05, which mandate ministries and agencies to give preferential treatment to Nigerians in employment as well as procurement of goods and services, will engender an environment conducive for the select companies to thrive." The business support initiative offered the beneficiaries by the Board will trigger job creation for the youth population and wealth creation for the businesses.

If Project 100 becomes a success as it is planned to be, the Board would have set a good trajectory. Perhaps the next focus will be engaging indigenous operating companies (E&P companies) to support beneficiary companies of Project 100.

Hopefully, Nigerians would look back in 50 years and point to Project 100 as the catalyst of our industrialisation. Hopefully.

Obinna Ezeobi and Nyoki Ita, are both members of staff of the Corporate Communications/Zonal Coordination Division of the Board.

Oxifree metal protection offers new, more cost-effective ways of protecting oil industry assets

What motivated your company to acquire this technology?

Romson Oil Field Services Limited has been a key player in the oil and gas industry for more than two decades and had observed clients' facilities and the corrosion management systems in place. We sought to provide a corrosion control method that would be cost-effective and durable. Oxifree Metal Protection was the best among the available options.

How is this technology a pacesetting idea?

The protection duration time of this product guarantees five to 10 years corrosion protection on your assets, especially complex structures, such as flanges, valves and CUPS on process piping, and long-term storage of equipment in normal atmospheric conditions. This technology has zero waste and any unused material is reused or stored for the next application. It also requires no shutdown of facility.

The technology is undergoing acceptance globally and it is being adopted by major IOCs and NOCs to reduce maintenance cost on their facilities.

F i r s t

Nigerian OXIFREE technicians are now capable of training other Nigerians on its application and provide options of training maintenance personnel in other companies for minor inspections. The utilisation highlights the Nigerian oil and gas market as a centre for innovative technology by creating new employment opportunities for Nigerians with vocational skills.

How is Oxifree Metal Protection better than other options?

The market is saturated with a lot of coating solutions. These solutions, however, come with huge costs and lots of labour requirements. This technology has zero waste; excess material is simply placed into the machine to be heated for re-use, whereas other coating applications generate hazardous waste, thereby incurring cost for disposal.

It is easily applied, unlike other coating systems. It dries within two minutes while other coatings take more time to apply, thereby increasing man-hour cost.

The nature of this technology enables easy inspection; it also enables easy recoating and is complementary to existing coating systems.

It requires less personnel while other applications require more personnel during application.

How would this technology improve pipeline integrity and reduce breakages?

The integrity of the pipelines is improved because an effective barrier is created between the main causes of corrosion (moisture and air) and the assets. Pipeline breakages due to corrosion is eliminated because the products arrest corrosion, which is a leading cause of metal loss and pipeline failures.

Is this technology better deployed on new pipes or existing pipes?

This technology can be deployed on both new and existing pipes. It encapsulates a structure and prevents moisture and other ingress from reaching the assets, thereby preventing corrosion. It also arrests corrosion that may be present on the asset. It is deployed on pipes and pipe fittings, flange assemblies, bearing housings, wellheads, valves and pipe supports

How many persons have been trained on this technology?

Currently, seven people have been trained and employed with more trainings scheduled as work scope increases.

Abiodun Ayemoba is the Operations Manager, Romson Oil Field Services Limited.



Importance of Nigerian Content Plan in oil and gas projects

The Nigerian Content (NC) plan is a key requirement of the Nigerian Content Act. For every project in the oil and gas sector, the first document that you give to NCDMB is the NC plan.

The plan defines the scope of the project and what must be done in-country, in fulfillment of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, with regard to the targets that are set therein. It is a document that is prepared by the operating company, and until the Board certifies it, the company cannot move to the next phase of the project.

For instance, we say 80 percent of engineering total man-hours must be domiciled in Nigeria. In the plan, we are informed about the total man-hours that will be achieved on each scope. The company has to present that mandatory document. If an operator does not key into it, the project cannot commence; if it takes off, the project will be sanctioned, in line with Section 68 of the Nigerian Content Act.

Project certification and the revised monitoring template

Measurement, tracking performance and feedback are very important. If you want to improve in what you are doing, you must have that feedback. If you look at matrix of responsibilities in the Board, Project Certification and Authorisation Division participates right from the beginning up to the level of Nigerian Content commitments certifications. When you finish preparing those documents and you agree with them, they become documents of implementation, which pass to the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate.

How will you be able to determine that the project is handled in such a way that the commitment you agreed upon is being adhered to?

We don't wait till the end of the year or the end of the project before this information is made available. That is the essence of the monitoring template. In the template, you are supposed to measure at each stage what must be achieved. That is why it is always good to explain to the stakeholders so that they understand what is expected of them at the execution phase. The monitoring is coming to check the extractions from the Nigerian Content commitments certificate that has been issued to them.

If you were to implement the 360 degree feedback, we begin to look at the template to see what you achieved, what you were unable to achieve and why you did not achieve it. This then will be used as a basis for the next project when looking at the NC plan. It will help us to see new areas that have developed and areas of commitments. That then becomes an input to the Capacity Building Division to check areas where there are capacity gaps and why we didn't achieve it from the measurements and completion of templates that we have

and what intervention we need to build capacity in that area to ensure that the commitments we have are not just for the purpose of books but to also ensure they are practicable and realistic.

Lessons learnt from Egina and future EPC projects

There were doubts about the capabilities of Nigerians to execute certain aspects of the Egina project, but look at the live examples of the SHIMCI yard within the Ladol Free Zone in Lagos. The yard is one of the best in the world and the activities there created a lot of jobs. We have been able to develop capacities that can integrate six modules and a lot of tonnes of fabrication. Our fabrication capabilities have been well established.

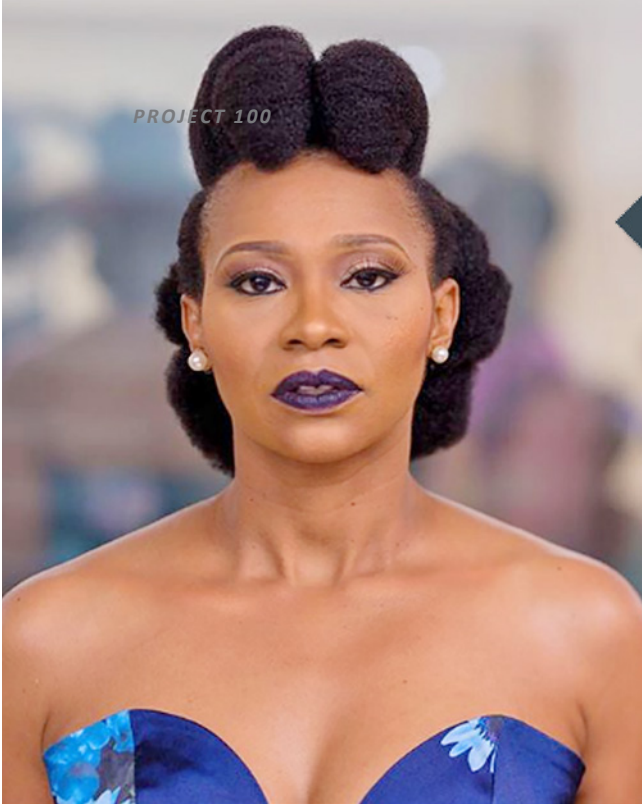
Going forward, importing welders, as it was done with Egina, will not be possible on Zabazaba or other upcoming projects because we have had some certification. In engineering, we have the likes of Delta Afrik, NETCO and IESL. The number of man-hours domiciled in-country for the project was high, as well as the number of Nigerian engineers' participation. This is very important. That is why we are looking to having Zabazaba come on board because it will be a huge opportunity to increase their level of participation and expertise. There is nothing you can do without human capacity and that is one thing with engineering. If you look at how we have developed the use of Nigerian cable and its qualifications, we qualified some cables for low voltage, umbilical, hydraulic links, etc. These are capacities that have been developed. We have companies like MW VOWGAS that opened new facilities on the back of the project and now they have capacity for fabrication and construction of vessels. Egina also availed us expertise in paint. We exported paints to South Korea. This has increased our capability and we are thus saying all paints for projects in the industry must be procured in-country. These are some of the benefits of Egina, which will help us increase our participation on Zabazaba.

Local cable manufacturing

In cable manufacturing, we have the Coleman, MicCom and Kablemetal, which have been certified by international certification bodies, including ISO. In sacrificial anodes, Metek performed very well in Egina. There is thus a policy that all anodes must be purchased in-country. There is a lot of experiences and knowledge that was passed on in Egina that we can use as benchmark for upcoming projects.

The responsibility of government is to ensure that we provide the right environment for businesses to thrive. The Board is promoting the interaction between vendors and major EPC contractors to select who to work with.

**Paul Zuhumben, General Manager
Projects Certification and Authorisation Division, NCDMB**



Beautiful, ageless Nse Ikpe-Etim's recipe for healthy living

The impact of time has always been a challenge. How can we remain young, possibly forever? Some people, though, have found the way to the fountain of youth and are not yielding to the implacable pull of age.

Award-winning Nollywood thespian cum producer, Nse Ikpe-Etim, who burst into the limelight in 2008 with the blockbuster *Reloaded*, has a recipe for simply and naturally staying healthy and youthful. In this do-it-yourself, healthy recipe, Nse says it has kept her radiant for years.

Have you ever wondered how she has remained young and adorable? Born in 1974, the AMVCA award-winner's youthfulness has continued to delight. Nse recently launched her beauty line, *Eden's Theory*, giving life to prescriptions.



Nse's recipe for staying healthy

Ingredients

Water, turmeric and lemon

Preparation

Simply pour your safe-drinking water in a clean and well-rinsed bottle water depending on your choice of quantity. Then add your fresh lemon and turmeric. That's it...very simple! According to Nse, this signature drink helps to balance her PH and acid levels, which invariably helps to reduce sicknesses.

Health benefits of turmeric

Turmeric, especially its most active compound curcumin, has many scientifically proven health benefits, such as the potential to prevent heart disease, Alzheimer's, brain diseases and cancer. It's a potent anti-inflammatory and antioxidant and may also help to improve symptoms of depression and arthritis.

Health benefits of lemon spices

Research has shown that lemon spices have many potential health benefits. Besides, adding lemon to your water may help you to drink more throughout the day and keep you hydrated. Staying hydrated is critical to good health; so, adding lemon to your water is a win-win.

Health benefits of water

Water helps to maximise physical performance. Hydration has a major effect on energy levels and brain function. Nse advises that drinking water regularly may help to prevent and treat headaches. According to the ace actress, safe-drinking water has several benefits, including:

- It may relieve constipation
- It reduces the risk of kidney stones formation
- It helps prevent hangovers
- It helps to accelerate weight loss

Follow Nse's unique recipe, stay healthy and maintain a glowing skin.



Group sports are excellent for socialising and overall wellbeing

There is no better place to build camaraderie than in teams.

Fitness experts are quite bullish in promoting a lifestyle that incorporates one sporting activity or another because sport requires physical activity, which is essential for fitness and healthy living. A clinical psychologist and fitness expert, Bunmi George, says: "Healthy living requires the right types and amounts of food, drinks and exercise to keep your body healthy."

Any type of sporting activity is beneficial to health and wellbeing. However, research has shown that team sport is far more beneficial. A study in the United States found that "athletes who play team sports are healthier — and more satisfied with life". It is no coincidence that the most popular sports across the world are team sports: football, with over four billion fans, cricket 2.5 billion fans, and field hockey two billion fans.

The benefits of group sports are immense. Such benefits, no doubt, leave an individual with renewed physical and mental zest that will make them better performers even in the workplace. The informal setting of a sporting activity is very relaxing and therapeutic.

People take to sport for different reasons: as a career, to lose weight, to keep fit, to socialise, to make friends, for business, among several others. Whatever your reason for taking to sport, you should consider team sport for the best outcome. What are some of the benefits of team sport?

Strength to remain focused and committed

There is nothing as refreshing and reinvigorating as sharing time with friends and even like-minded strangers in a gym, a playground, or in a sporting arena. The team acts to build up each other through valuable feedback, encouragement and assistance, says Esta Morenikeji, a fitness training expert.

These days, across neighbourhoods, you find friends or neighbours organising themselves into exercise groups. When you participate in group sports, you are not easily bored or discouraged. When you feel like quitting, you are propped up by others and vice versa. And in a group, it is easy to measure your progress against other members of the team.

Opportunity to meet people and make new friends

As a member of a team, there is an opportunity to meet new and exciting people and make new friends. In a team sport, you rub shoulders with every conceivable person across the social divide. Team sports have been known to throw strangers who eventual develop lifelong friendships together. Sport has a way of making people less tense and more receptive to strangers and to building relationships. According to George, whatever your reason for taking to sporting activity, "a team approach" is always the best.

Enhancement of communications skills

In a team sport, communication is essential to ensuring that every member understands the common goal. It also creates the room for constant interactions and exchange of ideas, knowledge sharing and the like, to ensure the team remains cohesive and motivated to overcome competition. Clarity of information and instruction is important in team sport, particularly in the heat of a game or match. In team sport, you develop important social skills, which help you to relate well with people even outside the sporting arena.

As an IQ booster

A study in the United States found that "97 percent of team athletes graduated from high school", which is 10 percent higher than students who did not participate in team sports.

In a team sport, communication is essential to ensuring that every member understands the common goal. It also creates the room for constant interactions and exchange of ideas, knowledge sharing and the like, to ensure the team remains cohesive and motivated to overcome competition. Clarity of information and instruction is important in team sport, particularly in the heat of a game or match. In team sport, you develop important social skills, which help you to relate well with people even outside the sporting arena.

Lower risk for heart disease

Surprised! Yes, indeed team sport can greatly enhance your cardiovascular health. According to Helga Van Herle, MD, associate professor of clinical medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California in the United States, "Team sports are a fun way to get in your exercise for cardiovascular health because you get to do it in a group as opposed to doing it alone, plus it's a great stress reliever, which helps to lower your risk for heart disease".

Networking opportunity

Outside of work, there is no better way to network, even for career growth, than to be in a team with other individuals. You are more likely to be successful at networking as a member of a sporting team. Being an informal gathering, people tend to be less suspicious of strangers. Since you share common pastime with a potential networking target(s), they are more relaxed to discuss trends and developments in that particular sport, and you can then progress to other areas of interest.

Consider a team sport, like football, and the kind of international connections that stars like Segun Odegbami, Jay Okocha, Mikel Obi and Finidi George, have built over the years. As you start your next fitness regime, you may want to explore the added benefits team sport may bring your way.



1. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB presenting an Appreciation award conferred on General Yakubu Gowon, GCFR, Chairman/Guest of Honour at the Oil and Gas Trainers' Association of Nigeria (OGTAN) Conference 2019.

2/3. Members of the immediate past House of Representatives Committee on Local Content with NCDMB management staff during their visit to the Board's HQ building project in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in April.

4. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; senior management with Dr. Eruani Azibapu, President/CEO, Azikel Group of Companies (middle-right) with staff of Azikel Refinery after the signing of the Shareholders Agreement at the Board's HQ in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

5/6. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with members of the Senate Committee on Local Content (8th National Assembly) at a Local Content Strategy Session organised recently in Abuja.





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7/8. R&D PARTNERSHIP: Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with AVM Jumo Osahor, Director-General of the Defence Bureau for Research and Development during a courtesy visit to the Board to partner on how R&D can aid national security and development.

9/10. COLLABORATION: Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Rear Admiral S.S. Garba, Flag Officer Commanding (FOC), Central Naval Command, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State with Management and Senior Officers' of the Central Naval Command during a courtesy visit to the NCDMB office in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.



9



10

**Dr. Eruani is highly optimistic
Azikel Modular Refinery will be
the best and most innovative**



NCDMB's equity investment into the 12,000 barrels per day modular refinery is a tonic for the landmark investment, Dr. Azibapu Eruani, President Azikel Group, says in this interview.

How symbolic is NCDMB's equity investment in the Azikel Modular Refinery?

This is a very special moment for the Azikel team and we extend sincere greetings to the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board for buying into our objectives. The Board is primarily a regulatory body, but it has started to catalyse the industrial needs and industrial growth of the nation and Niger Delta states. So, bringing all of that into reality by signing a partnership with the Azikel Petroleum is something we are very proud of, and we are committed to ensuring that we produce refined products in Bayelsa State and in Nigeria.

We have made very dramatic and remarkable efforts. Having the NCDMB collaborate with us guarantees that our efforts have been appreciated by the Nigerian state and the state is making real their efforts and desires to ensure that petroleum products are sufficient in Nigeria. The Board's participation is not just in equity but also moral. It will open other doors and reposition Azikel Refinery as a model for others to follow.

Upon the completion in the next few months, other companies will be convinced that NCDMB has indeed brought joy and reality into what it stands for.

How did NCDMB find your company worthy of partnership?

We have always been aware of what NCDMB stands for, but in the past few years, there has been renewed and reinvigorated enthusiasm from the Board. I commend the dynamism and innovation of the Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Wabote. He has been to the project site in Bayelsa. He has also been to the manufacturing location in the United States. That is a testament to the Board's highest level of due diligence, to be sure of what exactly what we are doing.

The Azikel team is committed to this project and we will not let our partners down. We are going to bring to reality petroleum products refined in Bayelsa State and Nigeria.

■ **Dr. Azibapu Eruani**

You know that the Nigerian state has been into oil and gas production for a very long time but with limited capacity in refining. That value chain has been missing in the Nigerian downstream sector and we are committed to reviving it. We want to ensure that petroleum products are produced at home. This will bring more people into the work space.

What informed your company's investment in modular refinery?

The Azikel Group is a conglomerate of four major companies: Dredging, Aviation, Petroleum and Power. Our critical drive is propelled by industrialisation, creating wealth and achieving financial freedom for Nigerians. We are committed to building industries for our people, reposition the Nigerian economy to a self-sustaining state, particularly the infrastructural needs and the energy and petroleum subsector.

Of course, you know that the Nigerian state has been into oil and gas production for a very long time but with limited capacity in refining. That value chain has been missing in the Nigerian downstream sector and we are committed to reviving it. We want to ensure that petroleum products are produced at home. This will bring more people into the work space.

We are going to be creating labour and employment at several levels. We are creating wealth at different levels, particularly in Bayelsa State, and most importantly serving as a role model for Bayelsans. I am a young and successful Bayelsan and I am investing in Bayelsa State. You can tell that Bayelsa State is yearning for more investment and the Nigerian state is also attracting more investors.

Like you know, the Azikel Board comprises of multinational investors, particularly from Nigeria and the United States. The paradigm is changing. We have a team of expatriates that live in Bayelsa state, they enjoy their life in the state and we are changing the paradigm of driving the economy of Bayelsa State.

How far has the project gone?

We have progressed very remarkably. As for numbers we have progressed to 75 percent completion. We are the number one and we are assuring Nigerians that in the next few months, we will be refining petroleum products in Bayelsa State. We have some very

good contractors working for us. We have top-notch technology providers and designers who have got a lot of experience doing this and they have built world-class scales.

I am very confident about the companies we are using that we will get top-notch designs and of course we are monitoring them very closely to ensure that we are getting the right products for our facilities here in Bayelsa state.

What is the level of participation of local companies and indigenes in the construction activities?

We are quite active right now and it's all local contractors on site. As we get into more mechanical construction, there will be even more contractors involved in different specialties.

Right now, we are erecting some buildings: the administration building, the operating building and putting in the maintenance building; starting to put piles for the tanks where we keep the feedstock. All those are being done by local contractors. So, it's all local contractors right now and it will only grow as we get into more of the mechanical and electronic aspects.

What is the duration of the project?

It's a two-year project and we have been working on it for a while. We are starting to really pick up some momentum, making some very good progress. As you know, we are the best modular refinery. We have the most innovative technology and we are reaching the completion line in a few months. Our modular refinery will have the lowest level of gas emission, the lowest level of environmental hazards and it will protect the environment. The level of technology being deployed classifies our products as the very best – from minimum grade of Euro Grade 5. All the products will have that minimum grade and as we commence production, we are going to step up to Euro Grade 6.



From uncertain early steps, Eres' job at SINOPEC has placed his career on a sure path

When Eres Akaweingha was concluding his participation in the National Youths Service Corps (NYSC) in 2008/2009, he was rightly worried that he might be joining the large army of unemployed Nigerians, currently standing at a staggering 20.9 million, according to the data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). At a stage, he considered applying for scholarships to undertake a postgraduate degree programme and take up a career in the academia lecturing.

Driven by the desire to gain practical experiences in his course of study, the 2007 Chemical/Petrochemical Engineering graduate from the Niger Delta University (NDU) in Bayelsa State opted for a series of short-term trainings in oil and gas. Those efforts could only fetch him contract jobs which usually did not last beyond a few months. One of the companies he had a stint with was Mc Jems Safety & Maritime Ltd in Bayelsa State.

Although he was engaged, the Bayelsa-born Eres knew he was underemployed. He also believed strongly that his Second Class Upper Division would fetch him better opportunities, so he continued to seek information that would help him realise his dream career.

In 2013, Eres' good fortune began when he was fortunate to be among the nominees

"After my registration, I updated my account and uploaded my credentials. I was contacted five months later and informed that I had been shortlisted to participate in a training sponsored by Sinopec International Petroleum Exploration & Production Company in partnership with the NCDMB, as part of the Board's Human Capacity Development (HCD) programmes," says Eres. By the way, registering on the NOGICJQS portal is free, as Nigerians are not required to pay for uploading their credentials and registering on the portal.



Eres Akaweingha

Petroleum Exploration & Production Company in partnership with the NCDMB, as part of the Board's Human Capacity Development (HCD) programmes, says Eres. By the way, registering on the NOGICJQS portal is free, as Nigerians are not required to pay for uploading their credentials and registering on the portal.

The young engineer was trained alongside four others at the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI), Effurun, Delta State. The one-year training focused on geosciences, rig systems, well completion and production, rig equipment maintenance, flow station practice and entrepreneurship. Eres recalls that the training equipped him with relevant skills and broadened his horizon for real life experiences in the oil and gas industry.

"The trainings were purely hands-on and different from the theories learnt in school. The practical sessions were rigorous, to some extent," he added. The exertions of the training, however, did not deter him. Eres said: "I had high hopes that once the training was concluded, I would become employable. But I never expected to be retained."

On completing the training, Eres was adjudged the best trainee. This earned him an employment with Sinopec, marking the take-off of a career in the oil and gas industry. He currently works as an Assistant Engineer, Pipelines & Technical Support (OML -14 Oil & Gas Production). "I feel fulfilled being equipped with the relevant skills to work in the oil and gas industry," Eres added, while reflecting on how his career has moved from the uncertain steps to being rooted in the industry.

The 35-year-old urged other young Nigerians to take maximum advantage of training opportunities provided by the NCDMB. He said they could provide a veritable platform to start life-long, fulfilling and highly rewarding careers in the oil and gas industry.

-Teleola Oyeleke



Eres Akaweingha at the NCDMB training

of the Bayelsa State government sent as delegates to the Practical Nigerian Content Youth workshop, organised annually by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and CWC of London. The event held in Yenagoa, the state capital.

The Youth PNC is held simultaneously with the main PNC Conference in the third quarter of every year. It provides a platform for enlightening young Nigerians on the Board's mandate and how they could take advantage of opportunities in Nigerian Content human

capacity building.

He listened intently during the presentations at the Youth PNC, learning about registering on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Joint Qualification System (NOGICJQS), where qualified candidates normally get selected for capacity building opportunities and attachments to live projects in the oil and gas industry.

"After my registration, I updated my account and uploaded my credentials. I was contacted five months later and informed that I had been shortlisted to participate in a training sponsored by Sinopec International

Reading culture a boost to productivity

Digitalisation has changed today's workforce immeasurably. And it will continue to define the future workforce. But the thing with digital transformation is that it has to be fast-paced and fluid to keep up with the speed, uncertainty and complexity of innovation. What today is new technology becomes obsolete in the time it takes to switch on a phone. Thus, a business that is not fluid may be caught holding the wrong end of a stick.

Consider, for instance, a few years ago, if you were new in Lagos or Port Harcourt or other cities, towns in Nigeria, you navigated your way around with difficulty, having to rely on people for direction. Then two, three years ago, Google could show you a general direction. But today, with Artificial Intelligence, Google practically holds your hand and takes you to a desired location, even if you are new to the place. The Map converses with you and will not only tell you how to get to a location, but it will also tell you the shortest and freest route.

To adapt to the new reality, businesses are increasingly engaging a knowledge-based workforce, one that is adaptive in learning to keep pace with changing technology. "The speed at which knowledge is created and destroyed continues to grow exponentially, and constant innovation has become an indispensable requirement for survival for organisations and people," says Spaniard José Miguel Bolívar, a human resource expert, lecturer and researcher.

Adaptation comes with knowledge and knowledge comes with constant "learning, unlearning and relearning". Peter

Drucker, an American management consultant, said knowledge workers are "high-level employees who apply theoretical and analytical knowledge, acquired through formal education, to develop new products or services". In today's workforce, reading to acquire knowledge is second nature; a reading culture is well entrenched.

This has its benefits, for the business and for the individual. The most obvious being the acquisition of more knowledge and expertise, which leads to higher productivity. Also, reading improves confidence and self-esteem, improves imagination and creativity as well as helps you to know more about the world, including facts, among other numerous benefits.

However, like most other things in the 21st century, workplace reading culture is becoming so entrenched, it is getting "automated" that the full benefits of reading are sometimes lost; employees are so strung up, having to keep up in a dizzying spell of deliverables in the fast-paced business environment.

Reading expert Nicola Morgan recommends we step back and reassess how we consume books in the workplace. She advocates reading for relaxation, which she termed readaxation, as a sure stress buster and as an effective engagement tool for employees to keep them highly productive. According to Morgan, "Readaxation is the act of reading for pleasure as a deliberate strategy for relaxing stress levels. It acknowledges that relaxation is not a luxury but an essential part of physical and mental wellbeing and health."

Some of the key benefits of reading for relaxation in the workplace, experts agree, include the ability to connect with other colleagues,

particularly for the introverts; it provides a therapeutic effect, while also slowing mental decline. For instance, a research by the University of Sussex's MindLab showed that "reading for as little as six minutes a day can relieve stress by up to 68 percent".

Not many workplaces in Nigeria have latched on to the growing reading culture trend, thus missing out on the myriad of benefits accruable to the business from such activity. A United Kingdom-based Nigerian international award-winning author, Ibitola Adebayo, who spoke recently on this, said: "Studies have shown that 40 percent of Nigerian adults never finish reading a fiction book from cover to cover after leaving school, and that over 30 million Nigerians have poor reading skills."

In a recent interview, a human resource practitioner, Nireti Adebayo of Whyte Cleon Limited, advised that to boost productivity in workplaces, it is essential to fully engage the workforce. Some of the suggested approaches to help achieve full engagement include the need for education, extensive reading and knowledge sharing vertically and horizontally.

As the typical workplace becomes increasingly complex due to digitalisation and with processes changing with the speed of light, it is clear that businesses will need to inculcate the one thing that can help them to cope well with the changing times – reading. Either for knowledge or for relaxation, businesses can no longer shy away from a strong reading culture in the workplace. Let's face it: with new technology springing up literally everyday – employees have no recourse to experience; it is new – knowledge acquisition via reading becomes a must.

Readaxation, a new trend, is at the core of the most effective workforce in the modern era.

Thriving under recession

Economic downturns are naturally scary. They, however, present great opportunities to invest.

The year 2008 was an eye opener for many Nigerians. It was the year the full force of the subprime financial crisis in the United States gave many unsuspecting local investors a kick in the teeth. Billions of invested funds were lost and many lives were destroyed as a result. Before the collapse, many had believed their investments were safe – they had been led to believe so by capital market regulators and many financial experts.

That year, many truly understood the term “global village”; that the world is indeed interconnected and that they are not insulated from economic and financial vagaries in other economies, no matter how far away the economy may seem.

With the 2008 scenario in mind, one will be guided to tread cautiously this year, and even in the near term, as global economic outlook for the year is gloomy. Many institutions have predicted a slowdown in economic growth across the world this year. The key drivers of such slowdown will be the Sino American trade disputes, the protracted Brexit deal, environmental risks, among others.

The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects 2019 projected that “global growth is expected to remain at 3.0 per cent in 2019”, even lower than the International Monetary Fund’s projection of 3.3 percent and much lower than the 3.6 percent achieved in 2018. The IMF said back in April that “global economic activity slowed notably”, starting from the second half of 2018 while the UN said there was “an increase in downside risks that could potentially exacerbate development challenges in many parts of the world”. The bottomline is that many economies, including Nigeria, could fall into financial difficulties.

The key question, however, is how do you manage your finances to ensure they last you beyond a recession while maintaining the same quality of life? To survive a

recession, planning needs to have started before it comes. We spoke with or gleaned the opinions of personal finance experts about this and below are five time-tested approaches they advise you take.

Do a house keeping

Housekeeping is simply to get an overview of what you spend money on daily, weekly, monthly, yearly. What this does is to help you see at a glance the necessities and the frivolities that you spend money on regularly. Once you know this, it becomes easier to streamline your spending by cutting out the frivolities. And don’t be deceived, we all spend money on frivolities, either knowingly or inadvertently. Nimi Akinkugbe, a financial expert and private wealth manager, advised that you should “start to write down every single thing that you buy, for a whole month”. According to her, that will give you “a clearer idea of what you need to cut back on or do without altogether to save you money that can be put to good use”. Financial analysts at Stanbic IBTC advised that you should “let every naira you spend move you forward”. How? By “always seeing the real value of money and how far it can go. Buying lunch of ₦500 every day may seem easily affordable but when it is multiplied by a month and then by a year, you begin to get the true picture of how much you spend”.

Savings

This is a no-brainer. It follows directly from point one. The extra cash freed up from your house-keeping can be saved. Save every extra kobo you can spare. This helps you to build up a tidy financial nest and will come in handy when you truly have need for it, says a United Kingdom-certified financial analyst, Ambrose Omordion of Investdata.

Investment

Savings is good, but investing is better. According to Stanbic IBTC financial analysts,

Housekeeping is simply to get an overview of what you spend money on daily, weekly, monthly, yearly. What this does is to help you see at a glance the necessities and the frivolities that you spend money on regularly. Once you know this, it becomes easier to streamline your spending by cutting out the frivolities.

“every naira is an investment. Never underestimate ₦1; rather, see it as that little drop that can make a mighty ocean”. Choose an investment window you understand, like equities, bonds, real estate, to invest in, and watch your money grow. Omordion warns, however, that you must ensure you invest in fundamentally sound assets.

Budget

Budgeting is very important to your surviving a recession. “One of the best ways to ensure that your expenses are not out of control is to budget,” says Akinkugbe.

Spend less than you earn

“This is the cardinal point for a healthy personal finance; you should always spend less even when you earn more. This way, you have enough money left to save, invest and use to take care of emergencies,” says Stanbic IBTC analysts.

The bottom-line, Omordion says, is that recession represents a great opportunity to grow one’s finances. It is that period when one can get value on the cheap; prices of goods and services are forced down, allowing you to build a tidy asset portfolio at a bargain.



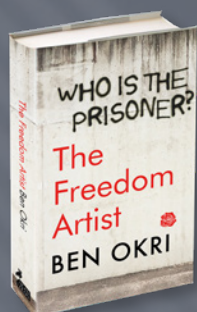
The Freedom Artist - Ben Okri

The 1991 Man Booker-winning author of *The Famished Road*, Ben Okri, in a new book titled: *The Freedom Artist*, interrogates the notion of the human condition as a prison and conducts a penetrating examination of how freedom is threatened in a post-truth society while making an impassioned plea for freedom and justice.

The plot revolves around a young woman, Amalantis, who is arrested for asking a question - *Who is the Prisoner?* When she disappears, her lover, Karnak, goes looking for her. He searches desperately at first, then with a growing realisation that to find Amalantis, he must first understand the meaning of her question. Karnak's search leads him into a terrifying world of lies, oppression and fear at the heart of which lies the Prison. Then Karnak discovers that he is not the only one looking for the truth. To survive, and to answer the girl's question, Karnak, like all of us, has to accept the challenge and fight back.

The Freedom Artist, Okri's 11th novel, has been described as a "multilayered allegorical narrative that cuts to the heart of our current political and cultural challenges while maintaining a mythical, mesmeric flavour that makes the reader feel these are stories they have always known".

Okri, who is known for writing in a genre that has been described as magical realism, claims that this novel is "written in three languages: the language of fable...of truth ... and of our secret predicament". *The Freedom Artist* is definitely and surely going to stretch your mind.

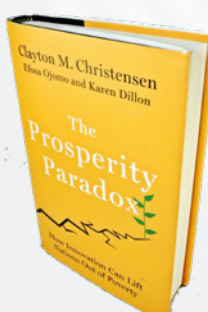


The Prosperity Paradox: How Innovation Can Lift Nations out of Poverty - Clayton Christensen, Efosa Ojomo, and Karen Dillon

Solving the challenge of global poverty has been one of the world's most vexing problems. Why do investments in economic development fail to generate sustainable prosperity? Over the years, from education to healthcare, infrastructure to eradicating corruption, many solutions that have been applied rely on trial and error with the hope that if we can flood these problems with the right resources, change should happen. Sadly, hope is never an effective strategy, especially when dealing with social issues.

Christensen, who is a Professor of Innovation at the Harvard Business School, along with his co-authors, are suggesting a counterintuitive approach to economic development and show the role innovation can play. They pose the following question: "What if, instead of trying to fix the visible signs of poverty, we focused instead on creating lasting prosperity?"

Arunma Otegh, a former DG of Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) describes the book as "a timely must-read on the mindset change that turns poverty into opportunity and enables the creation of sustainable prosperity...I saw first-hand how the innovative approaches described in this compelling, easy to read primer empowers development practitioners and businesses to seek out these profitable opportunities". For policy makers, politicians and everyone who wants to see a better world, we can certainly find interesting answers in this read.



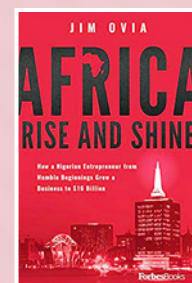
Africa Rise and Shine: How a Nigerian Entrepreneur from humble beginnings grew a Business to \$16 billion - Jim Ovia

Jim Ovia, one of Africa's successful entrepreneurs and Chairman, Zenith Bank Plc, delivers a gem of inspirational insights in this book that leaves the reader educated, inspired and also entertained. *Africa Rise and Shine* reads like a guide to entrepreneurial success and insights into the African business landscape.

In the May 2000 issue of *The Economist*, Africa was branded the "hopeless continent and portrayed as a space ravaged by wars and coups, poverty and famine". This was all the tonic that Jim needed to deliver a compelling narrative that burnishes this sullied representation of Africa.

Here are a few inspirational capsules that Jim serves in *Africa Rise and Shine*:

There is the need to always for entrepreneurs to listen to their instincts because it can never deceive them. Entrepreneurship is not an easy ride. But despite the adversity you will surely face, you must be determined until success is achieved. Never undermine the importance of a powerful brand. From the beginning, design a brand that can stand out and drive success. Never be deterred by the limitations. You must identify the local problems within your local environment and start solving them first. Do not be quick to launch your product/service. Ensure to do your research well before starting. You must network if you want to succeed as an entrepreneur. Be passionate about what you do and lastly, be very grateful.



A deep dive into Yenagoa's leisure offerings

Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, is generally seen through the prism of oil and gas. But having fun in the city could leave a life-long impression

Imagine waking up at the exotic Royal Tulip Castle on the breathtaking island across the Epie Creek, surrounded by the lush green forest reserve, a golf course and the Yenagoa Polo Club and still don't know where to hang out alone or with friends. Hold that thought; I shall return with help.

Yenagoa, where the story of Nigerian oil and gas industry began, has come a long way. It has evolved from its humble beginning as a fishing settlement to a hub for oil and gas activities. This is eloquently expressed in the impressive 17-storey head office building of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), a beautiful sight in the city's skyline.

The city is by far more than crude oil. Before crude oil discovery, Yenagoa flourished in the palm oil trade. There is still a Bayelsa Palm Estate, to help one reminisce about those glory days of old.

Yenagoa is also Nigeria's capital, no strike that, the world's capital of a wide range of plantain based meals, ranging from *kekefiai* also known as KKF, (plantain porridge), *bole* (roasted plantain) *poumo abanga* (pressed fried plantains), among other taste bud-delighting varieties; the streets of Yenagoa are dominated by many *bole* joints. The major roads and inner city roads have these joints that won't disappoint you with their *bole* offerings. So, if you are looking for a place to eat *bole* with groundnut, just keep moving because Yenagoa is not the city for you. Back here, we only do *bole* with well spiced barbequed fish alongside peppered sauce.

Like most urban settlements, Yenagoa is a melting pot of peoples and cultures. These have helped to shape all aspects of the city. For instance, a Yoruba will find an *amala* and *ogufe* meal that meets the high standards he is used to in, say, Surulere in Lagos.



ARIDOLF RESORT WELLNESS & SPA

If you can't find a space at Asters, visit Stopova Lounge, which is located between Baybridge and INEC Road; Zeros at INEC Junction on the Isaac Boro Expressway or Pizzeria at Okaka by the Express. If you prefer sedate pace, I recommend the Jazz Bar at Imgbi Road.

Now, let's return to the poser in our opening paragraph. I have met lots of visitors who are not yet initiated into the ways of the city. As crooner Tiwa Savage would sing, *I got a key to the city*, I have decided to be your tour guide.

When in Yenagoa, you could choose from a variety of hotels, depending on your budget. Royal Tulip Castle, Aridolf Resort and Spa, Ebis Hotels, Ayalla Hotels, De Brass Suites, Marthocrystal Hotel, Green Villa Homes, Horni Hills Hotel, White Castle and Tantua Place, among many others, offer excellent services.

So, let's say you wake up in Royal Tulip Castle and feel like you want to have a classy light breakfast outside your hotel; there's no problem. This is because breakfast is served at Blozzom Bistro, a fine café. From noon, you have a wider range of choice places – from Kontiki Amusement Park for games and Nostalgia Cinemas for movies. If you are the adventurous type, the Oxbow Lake Pavilion offers boat cruises. Even without a boat cruise, the Pavilion still is a cool place to enjoy cool breeze while taking in the beauty of the lake backing the NCDMB head office building and the Silverbird Galleria still under construction. Then, there is the Karick Sugarcane Juice Stand at Market Square Supermarket for varieties of sugar cane juice.

At lunch hour, you would be torn between Tastebuds at 50 Bay Bridge, Hanni's Kitchen at JTF Road, Opolo, Comfort Kitchen at Baybridge Junction, Mama Boye at Baybridge, Success Kitchen and Mama Ejima, all at

Green Villa Road Biogboro, or the restaurant at Asters, because they all have different delicious meals in their menu that could confuse yet satisfy you. If, however, you value taste more than ambience, then a visit to Yenagoa's best kept secret, the Nembe Women's nameless restaurant at Old Assembly Quarters Road would leave a lifetime impression on you. Here, you will find the city's crème de la crème crouched over low tables devouring Yenagoa's delicacies.

As night beckons, kick off the evening from Aster. If you can't find a space at Asters, visit Stopova Lounge, which is located between Baybridge and INEC Road; Zeros at INEC Junction on the Isaac Boro Expressway or Pizzeria at Okaka by the Express. If you prefer sedate pace, I recommend the Jazz Bar at Imgbi Road. If, however, you just want a feel of the Southeast in Yenagoa, then Ozor Bar, opposite UnlessGod Filling Station at Edepie, is where you would find the life bands playing *ogene* and *ikpokrikpo* music with *isi-ewu* (spiced goat head meal), grilled chicken, including other mouth-watering finger foods. From there you could move to Club Bara, Club 64 Lifestyle and knock yourself out at the brand new Club Dips. How is this for a fun day?

The foregoing is a dizzying tour of the city. I will proceed to detail on what you should look out for in some of these leisure spots.

Kontiki Amusement Park

This is Yenagoa's Disneyland because there is something for everyone. Kontiki is a game resort not too far from the Yenagoa city gate. It's a unique place that is deliberately de-



signed to cater for adults and kids. It has a football pitch, skating rink, rollercoaster, bumper cars' arena, 5D Cinema, arcade games, swimming pool, swings and many more. It is an all-in-one location. This is your perfect location for corporate bonding events and picnics.

Blozzom's Bistro

Blozzom's Bistro Salad Bar and Cafe, located on the serene old House of Assembly quarters road in Ekeki, is one pretty, calm and cozy spot to hangout in Yenagoa anytime of the day. It serves the best cock-tails, mocktails, smoothies, milkshakes, salads and parfait. Fries are made from the special recipes of the lawyer turned chef and mixologist, Blossom Etifa. Bistro's ambience is beautiful and ideal for rendezvous, meetings or visits to spoil yourself when in Yenagoa. Try its special, well-made rich salad with a choice of chicken and prawns.

Tastebuds Restaurant

Tastebuds Restaurant, formerly Mimie Nigeria, is upscale and at the heart of Yenagoa, serving local and continental cuisines. Located at 50 Baybride Road, Kpansia, the place started out serving local dishes, such as *banga soup*, *pulo-fiyai*, native soup, KKF, among others, before venturing into continental dishes, like Chinese fried rice, Jamaican sauce and Italian dishes.

Don't let its international flavour fool you. If you want to have the best feel of Bayelsa specials, like KKF with salt water dried fish, dried prawns, periwinkle in their shell and chunks of pomo served with the best local scented palm oil, *opuru fulo* (prawns soup) or native soup with fresh fish, crabs, lobsters and tiger prawns, then Chef Mimie got you.

Asters

This is currently a Mecca of sorts for fun lovers in Yenagoa. If you haven't visited Asters, then you are not in Yenagoa. Situated strategically on Isaac Boro Expressway between Biogbolo and Yenegue-gene – Asters is a one-stop fun house where you can get what you want, from drinks to snacks and tasty meals. I recommend their *point and kill* barbeque fish or plantain pepper. For major matches of English Premier League or UEFA Champions League, Asters is the place for you.

Nostalgia Cinema

Nostalgia Cinema is a film house at Etegwe in Yenagoa, offering an extraordinary cinema experience with cutting edge technology, the right environment and ambience for movie lovers. Beyond movies, it provides an array of delicacies, ranging from tasty popcorn, snacks, fast food, juice bar and cakes as well as a gaming section, making sure no one is left out. It serves a variety of movies, from blockbuster Hollywood through Nollywood movies. At Nostalgia Cinemas, there is a movie for everyone.

Hanni's Kitchen

Hanni's is a restaurant that seems to have mastered the art of making yummy Ijaw dishes. At its indoors on JTF Road, Opolo base and outdoors at all the events it caters for, the kitchen gives you meals that make you feel at home. Try out the native soup that is often sauced with assorted seafood – from crabs, periwinkles, prawns, water snails and fresh fish.

Fortune Alfred, a social media expert in Bayelsa State, contributed this piece from Yenagoa.

Ace fashion designer **Opusunji Daniel**

says he's constantly in the pool of creativity

With a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Postgraduate Diploma in Management, what inspired the switch to full time designing?

As a creative person, I'm always keen on expressing my creative abilities, which was why I chose to study Chemistry. The unreliability of Nigeria's educational sector spurred me into exploring another platform to express my creativity - which is fashion designing. My postgraduate diploma in management has also become very useful in the day-to-day management of Jahda Global.

How has your work evolved since the emergence of your label?

Nobody lights a candle and puts it under a bushel. The ability to be creative itself means that one needs to constantly evolve. I started out in the fashion industry, working by myself. Over the years, I have been able to build partnerships with international brands, like VLISCO and WOODIN. I have also been able to work with celebrities such as Korede Bello and Timi Dakolo, to mention a few.

What is the biggest lesson that you have learnt since you started your company?

I have learnt that God is the ultimate source of my creativity. I have also learnt to be persistent in all that I do. I never stop and I don't quit.

What is your creative process like?

I find inspiration everywhere; so, I'm constantly in the pool of creativity.

In adding soft touches to cloths, which colours appeal most to you?

The whole world knows you can never get it wrong with burgundy.

What has been the reception for your designs?

I think my designs have been well received. I have got great feedback as well as imitations of the collections that I have dropped so far. As we all know, imitation is the best form of flattery.

You are known for adding new, modern lines to Nigerian traditional wears. What is the inspiration for this?

I love being innovative. I love challenging the status quo of African fashion. I believe we're not at the full expression of fashion in Africa and in the world at large. That is what drives my inspiration.

You recently unveiled the New Man Collection, featuring nets sewn into African prints as well as patterned, uneven ended suits. What inspired this collection?

For the New Man Collection, I drew my inspiration from womenswear and the fact they can add different types of accessories to it. So, I looked for ways to incorporate accessories and embellishments into my designs. For the New Man suit, I wanted to drop a corporate collection different from the norm.

What has been your most challenging moment?

The most challenging moment for me as a designer is the inability to patent my designs. You practically need to guard your designs.

What do you think the future holds for entrepreneurship in Nigeria?

Right now, it is very challenging to be an entrepreneur due to the lack of basic socio-economic supporting infrastructure. The way forward will be to create economic sustainability, as this will help create more jobs and less dependence on the government.

Do you have plans to take your designs outside of Nigeria?

My designs are outside Nigeria already. We're currently working on expanding our influence on the world stage.

What advice would you give to other young designers?

Let me be frank with you, the game is not for the feeble-minded. You must be focused on the goal without distraction and always put your trust in God.

Drawing inspiration from some of the most unusual places, Opusunji Daniel, CEO, Jahda Fashion, is taking Nigerian, nay, African fashion, into uncharted territories.





Joy - Sudابه Mortezaei

Joy, which won the *Best Film Award* at the London Film Festival, is directed by Austrian-Iranian director Sudابه Mortezaei. It serves up a sobering exposé of a Nigerian migrant prostitute, Joy, in Vienna, Austria. She tries to free herself from the sex-trafficking ring to which she is enslaved by debt and superstition. As the eponymous, ironically named Joy, first-time actress Anwulika Alphonsus delivers a solid performance in her portrayal of a character who is determined not to be a victim, even if it means a few moral compromises along the way.

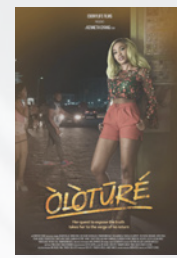
This is a must-see as it uses realistic settings, dialogue mixing Pidgin, English and German and strong performances from cast to tell a compelling narrative of survival in the Africa-to-Europe sex slave trade.



Gold Statue - Tade Ogidan

When was the last time we saw Richard Mofe-Damijo (RMD) and Sola Sobowale as an onscreen couple in the movies? That was 21 years ago in *Diamond Ring* directed also by Tade Ogidan. After a long filming hiatus, Ogidan returns with *Gold Statue*, reuniting them in a comedy adventure drama that follows the adventure of two young men, Wale (Gabriel Afolayan) and Chike (Kunle Remi) in search of a gold statue believed to have been a deity inherited by their generation. In trying to locate the prized possession, they go through a series of unimaginable ordeals that leave their parents shocked.

This star-studded movie also features oldies like Alibaba, Segun Arinze, Norbert Young, Tina Mba, Jibola Dabor and newbies like Bisola Aiyeola, Etinoso Idemudia, Judith Audu, Greg Ojefua, Kenny Blaq and Woli Arole, among other fantastic actors.



Oloture - Kenneth Gyang

Oloture projects the story of a naïve, young and ambitious journalist who goes undercover to expose the shady underworld of human trafficking in Nigeria. Unaccustomed to the harsh realities of her new, seedy environment, crawling with ruthless traders and pimps, Oloture, the titular character finds warmth and friendship with Blessing, Linda and Beauty, three commercial sex workers she lives with. She however finds it difficult to cope. In her quest to uncover the truth, she gets drawn into their lifestyle and trapped in a zone that takes her to the point of no return.

Directed by Kenneth Gyang and written by award-winning Yinka Ogun, *Oloture* features a stellar cast that includes Omoni Oboli, Patrick Doyle, Sambasa Nzeribe, Beverly Osu, Yemi Solade and singer Omawumi.



Burna Boy – **Dangote**

Burna continues to make chart-topping and wave-making jams in 2019. *Dangote*, his first official single for the year, is a fusion of Afrobeat with a sprinkling of dancehall laced on the track. Produced by Kel P, Burna Boy draws inspiration from the name of Africa's richest man and sings of his strong desire to make money and be successful generally. *Dangote, Dangote still dey find money o... I no dey sleep on the money o, Who I be? Wey make I no go find money o...*, Burna asks severally on the track.

Tapping into a well worked formula by gaining inspiration from another of Fela Anikulapo Kuti's classic song, *Palaver*, to tell his Nigerian story – one of strife, youth unemployment, everyday hassles and the unending pursuit for money. Even kids love the feel-good buzz on this track.



Kizz Daniel – **Madu**

Kiss Daniel, the young lover-boy we met for the first time back in 2014 with *Woju* is now all grown-up and is getting freaky with *Madu*. He's also now known as Kizz Daniel. Produced by Lushh, *Madu* is the biggest song on Daniel's recently released sophomore album *No Bad Songz*. In the song as he is wont to do, Kizz Daniel is wooing a love interest - he wants her to call him Zaddy, give her pleasures untold and intends to use money to "scatter her brain", of course with her permission, while asking: *Are you okay?* The fast-paced local drums make this a very catchy jam that has refused to fade.



Asa - **The Beginning**

She's back. The Queen is back. After a five-year break, singer-songwriter, Bukola Elemide, aka Asa, released *The Beginning*, which is expected to be the opening track – on her upcoming third studio album. Soft harmonies, the strength of emotions and powerful lyrics filter through her dexterous rendition of this song many people who are currently in living-dead relationships can empathise with.

This is a song for men and women who don't want to let go of their lovers, even though they have caused each other pains with their actions and words. As to be expected, the music is elevated and beautifully decked with orchestral sounds - a steady play of a grand piano backed up by a sea of stringed sounds that include violins, viola and cellos. You just must listen to the celestial song, which is shoulders above the regular upbeat and scrunched jams in Nigeria's music scene.

PROMOTIONS



♦ **Mrs. Maureen Ohaeri** has been promoted as the General Manager, Facilities & Logistics Division. She was previously the Manager, Facilities & Logistics Division.



♦ **Barr. Mohammed Babangida Umar** has been promoted as General Manager, Legal Services Directorate. He recently returned from secondment at the Federal Capital Territory Authority (FCTA), where he served as General Counsel and Secretary, Legal Services. His previous position at the Board was Manager, Legal Services. Umar was in February 2019 appointed into the **Body of Benchers**, the highest body of distinction within the legal profession.

FELLOWSHIP



♦ **Engr. Paul Zuhumben**, General Manager, Projects Certification and Authorisation Division, NCDMB, was elected into the cadre of Fellows by the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) on June 26, 2019. We congratulate him on attaining this milestone.

STAR PERFORMANCES

(L-R): **Engr. Obiora Collins Ifeka**, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, overall best participant at the 2018 Officers' Career Enhancement Programme (OCEP); **Mrs. Obioma Iweka**, Finance and Accounts Directorate, 3rd best participant and **Mr. Solomon Attah**, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, 2nd best participant at the OCEP graduation ceremony held in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State in May.



WEDDINGS



Mr. Uche Malachi Uche, an officer in the Capacity Building Division, NCDMB walked down the aisle with **former Miss Chinenye Elsie Ibeawuchi** on 15th June, 2019 at the Holy Trinity Church, Maitama, Abuja. We wish them a blissful married life.

Mr. Chinomnso Nworgu, an officer in the Corporate Communication/ Zonal Coordination Division, NCDMB married his heartthrob, **former Miss Sheyore Majoroh** on 22nd June, 2019 at One and Only Royal Mirage, Marina, Dubai. We pray God to bless their home.



NCDMB invests in Azikel's 12,000bpd modular refinery

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has acquired equity in the 12,000 barrels per day Azikel Hydroskimming Modular refinery being constructed by Azikel Petroleum Limited at Obunagha, Gbarain, Bayelsa State.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary NCDMB, and Mr. Isaac Yalah, Director, Finance and Personnel Management, signed the Shareholders' and Share Subscription Agreements at a ceremony in June in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. Dr. Eruani Azibapu Godbless, President of Azikel Petroleum and Mr. Presley Asemota, Vice President, signed for the company.

The refinery will produce about 1.3 million litres of petrol, diesel, kerosene, mixed liquefied petroleum gas (cooking gas) and a small percentage of heavy fuel oil when completed and operational in 2021.

Wabote said the Azikel modular refinery was the second and largest so far in the Board's portfolio of support for the construction of modular refineries, adding that the partnership has huge prospects in jobs creation, value retention, petroleum products availability and the development of in-country capability. "The project fits perfectly into our vision to serve as a catalyst for the development of Nigeria's oil and gas sector," he added.

The Executive Secretary said NCDMB was also in the final stages of commencing partnership in the development of another modular refinery in Calabar, Cross River State, before the end of 2019. "We are proud to be part of the journey to wean off our dear country from massive importation of petroleum products. Our data analytics show that we can more than

double the contribution of the oil sector to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) if we achieve the current growth trajectory with the refurbishment of existing refineries, completion of the Dangote Refinery and ongoing modular refineries, to bring refining to about 50 percent of our oil production capacity from the current level of below 20 percent," he said.

Wabote added that NCDMB had progressed discussions with partners on the establishment of LPG cylinders manufacturing plant, LPG depots and gas processing facilities. "One of the projects of interest is the establishment of an Inland LPG Depot in Abuja to complement the Federal Government's LPG Penetration Initiative. This project is part of the gas value chain as it utilises condensate, which is one of the bye-products from gas processing," he said.



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with some top management staff of the Board and a panelist after a session at the 2019 Nigerian Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja.

107 IDPs graduate from NCDMB craft training programme

One hundred and seven (107) internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been trained in different crafts under the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board's programme for rebuilding the Northeast region.

Termed the Fair Chance Initiative (FCI), the graduation ceremony to mark the end of the three-month classroom work was held recently in Yola, the Adamawa State capital. It ended with the award of three certificates and starter packs to the beneficiaries.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, said the beneficiaries were selected from Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states and trained on plumbing, electrical, carpentry, mobile phone repair, digital soft skills, soap making and bead making. He said the trainees will be attached to companies that specialise in their trades,

including the NCDMB Neighborhood Project in Borno State. This would enable them to perfect their crafts and undergo mentoring for three months.

He explained that the Board was implementing other interventions in the Northeast, including the Deworming Programme of Future Assured Initiative, which focused on improving the survival rate of children in the region and the NCDMB Neighborhood Project, which targets constructing 90 model homes in Borno State, in settlements which were previously destroyed.

Dr. Folasade Yemi-Esan, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, commended NCDMB for selecting more female participants for the training. She stressed that NCDMB's intervention in the Northeast was part of the oil and gas

industry's contribution to the restoration of the region.

One of the beneficiaries, Miss Jamila Kabiru, from Yobe State, testified that they were dejected when they came into the Fair Chance Programme but their hopes had been restored as they had been provided with skills they can use to earn a living from. She thanked NCDMB for sponsoring the programme and requested that it should be continued to the benefit of other IDPs.

Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, the General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development, NCDMB, underscored the smooth transition between the defunct Presidential Committee for North East Initiative (PCNI) and the successor, North East Development Commission (NEDC), which ensured that there was no break in the execution of intervention programmes.

Essence of Nigerian Content Ministerial Regulations

By Rose Chukwuonwe

The main purpose of the regulations is to strengthen the enforcement capacities of the NCDMB. What is exciting about the Regulations on Enforcement and Compliance is that sanctions are categorised. The Board and stakeholders agreed to categorise offences into minor, serious, chronic and critical offences and we have also marshalled out penalties and fines to be paid for various infractions.

Section 68 of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act requires that we secure criminal conviction before we can punish infractions under the Act. The essence of the new Ministerial Regulation on Enforcement and Compliance is to cure the mischief caused by that section of the Act. Once that regulation is signed off and there is any infraction against the Act, there will be no need to go to court or engage in a full-blown criminal trial or obtain convictions before imposing the penalties. So, when the Ministerial Regulation is signed off, we can just impose penalties without much ado because they have already been accepted by the industry.

The most important thing is the categorisation of offences into various penalties. This would make it easy for the Board to secure compliance from those that commit offences against the Act. Similarly, the Ministerial Regulations on R&D, Transfer of Technology, Administration of Professionals, among others, have enabled the Board to include additional matrix to its compliance monitoring and that is good for Nigerians. A stronger enforcement of transfer of technology and R&D guidelines will mean that more R&D activities will be domiciled in-country and our people will be given requisite budget for R&D. This will make things better for Nigerians.

Recent activities of the Directorate of Legal Services

We have held engagements with our critical stakeholders to finally adopt the Ministerial Regulations. We held the first one and we have done the finally engagement. We also held engagements with the Ministry of Justice; we conducted a workshop with some top officers including the former

Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation and the Solicitor General. We organised workshops on the Nigerian Content Act for them because when we wanted to obtain a few fiats, it appeared that the officials of the Ministry did not fully understand the functions of the NCDMB. So, we decided to organise a full-fledged workshop with them.

We are also organising another workshop that will focus on the lower cadre officers because some of the directors are virtually on their way out of service. There is therefore the need to engage the personnel who would work for years to come. We are also having a collaboration on our implementation framework with the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) on licenses and similar issues. We also signed off on the Third Party Monitors for the Board.

In addition, we signed off the Board's equity investment in Waltersmith Modular Refinery. Recently, we signed off on the Board's equity investment in Azikel Modular Refinery. We also signed off on the Second Phase of construction of NOGAPs. Then, of course, there are the various interventions, litigations and defence, among several others.

Current stage of the Ministerial Regulations

Immediately after the engagements, we adopted some of the inputs from the stakeholders. We held a meeting to that effect and thereafter signed off. We then moved to the Ministry of Petroleum Resources for ministerial approval. The documents were moved to the Ministry of Justice for arrangement of sections and gazetting, after which we will have another launch with stakeholders to formally present the regulations. Currently, we are waiting for ministerial endorsement.

Benefits of collaborating with the Ministry of Justice

The Ministry of Justice now understands the Board's mandate, our initiatives and our philosophy. Following from that understanding, all our correspondences now receive immediate, positive reaction. Recently, the Ministry of Science and Technology tried to prepare another law on



A stronger enforcement of transfer of technology and R&D guidelines will mean that more R&D activities will be domiciled in-country and our people will be given requisite budget for R&D. This will make things better for Nigerians.

Local Content and those arrangements were referred to the Ministry of Justice. When we heard about it, we canvassed our positions that it will be duplicating the NOGICD Act. The new law from the Ministry of Science and Technology was quickly stepped down and we moved on.

Mrs. Rose Chukwuonwe is the Coordinator, Directorate of Legal Services, NCDMB.



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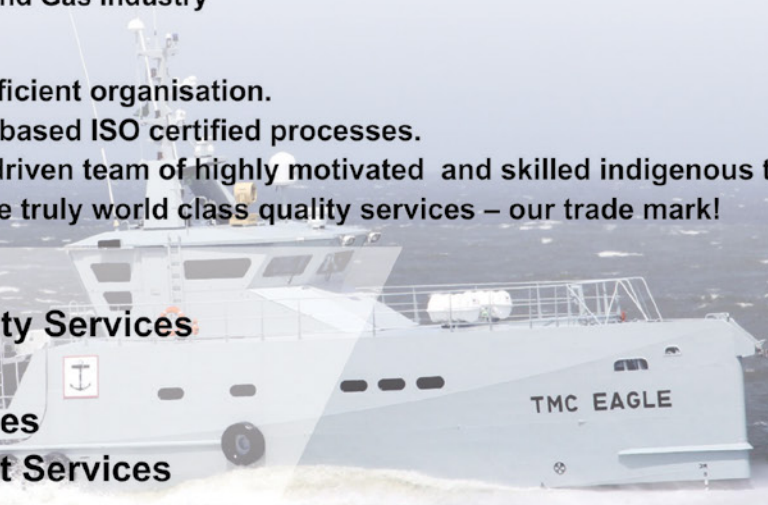
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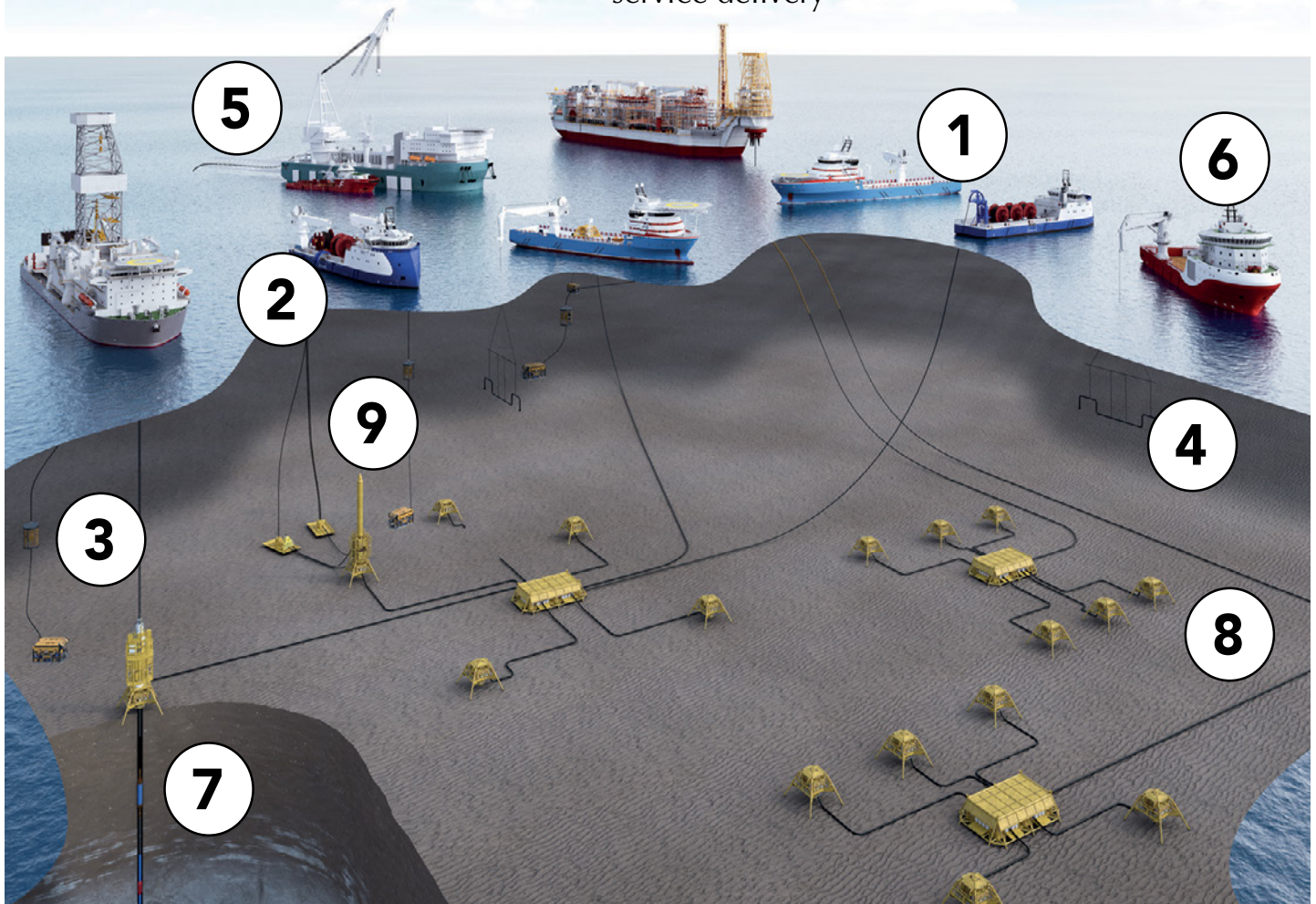
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