

Q4 2017



# Local **CONTENT** Digest

NCDMB stakeholder magazine

## Research and Innovation for Nigerian Content Growth



- AN OVERVIEW OF MG VOWGAS FACILITY



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# Nigerian Content Champion

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Nigerdock has remained at the forefront of developing Nigerian capacity and capability in accordance with the NOGICD Act, achieving a remarkable number of industry firsts for an Indigenous Company. Nigerdock delivers in every aspect of the Act; particularly in skilled job creation and is a leading training and development provider. Nigerdock is recognised in the industry as the “Nigerian Content Champion”.





# Next frontiers of Nigeria Content

How time flies! It's now 12 months since my assumption of duty as the Executive Secretary. It has been an exciting and eventful year. From the outset, we had to take some strategic decisions to sustain the momentum and inject fresh impetus to broaden and deepen local content penetration and spread.

Early this year, we convened the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF) to aggregate industry business plan, which culminated in the compilation of a compendium of investment opportunities in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry. This document is available and accessible either on our website or by hard copy on request.

We automated our e-market platform, the NOGIC JQS, so that processes around Expatriate Quota, Nigerian Content Equipment Certificates, Marine Vessel Categorisation and others can be processed online. This comes with the

benefits of reduced human interfaces, delays and conditions that could encourage sleaze.

We resolved the perennial challenge of access to affordable capital with the launch of US\$200 million Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund). The Fund offers a single digit interest rate with a five-year tenure. The goal is to optimise the capacity and efficiency of our local supply chain and the overall competitiveness in Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

We issued Guidelines to drive R&D implementation. This was followed by the Nigerian Oil and Gas R&D Fair held to sensitise and galvanise the industry and relevant stakeholders to embrace the culture of research and innovation, a key parameter for sustainable local content practice.

We keenly followed through the directive of the HMSPR, Dr. Emmanuel

Ibe Kachikwu, to reduce the protracted contracting cycle in the industry. With our nimble methodology, we concluded the bid evaluations for NAOOC's Zabazaba Deepwater project within an unprecedented period of 14 months.

We pioneered the development and deployment of Service Level Agreements (SLAs), ahead of any other MDA, to accelerate the ease of doing business. Henceforth, SLAs will govern our interface with operators and other stakeholders. The aim is to remove unnecessary bottlenecks and red tapes, which impede approvals and impact bottom-line.

We have begun systematic expansion of our operations to the midstream and downstream sectors. Thus, the Board is now more involved in the business activities of the NLNG and Dangote Refinery. The goal is to grow indigenous capacity and extract more Nigerian Content value from these huge projects.

## First year scorecard

- Compilation and launch of a compendium of investment opportunities in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry
- Automation of the NOGIC JQS platform
- Launch of US\$200 million Nigerian Content Intervention Fund
- Issuance of guidelines to drive R&D implementation
- Reduction of contracting cycle in the industry
- Pioneering of the development and deployment of Service Level Agreements
- Expansion of Nigerian Content to the midstream and downstream sectors
- Firming up of arrangement for the provision of 24/7 power supply to support the Board's oil and gas industrial parks

We firmed up arrangement for the provision of 24/7 power supply to support the Board's oil and gas industrial parks as they materialise.

Looking back at the targets we set for ourselves in 2017, we can confidently state that we have ticked all the boxes. We are, therefore, poised to expand the frontiers in the next couple of years.

Within our 10-year strategic road map, we intend to inaugurate the NCDMB Research Council, determine the proportion of NCI Fund to be set aside to fund research and innovation, operationalise the Board's Centres of Excellence, Adopt-a-Faculty Initiative and begin to enforce R&D provisions of the NOGIC Act. We will also ensure that eligible service companies and

community contractors are able to draw down on the NCI Fund with ease to enhance their productivity and efficiency.

We will stay at the forefront of the advocacy and current legislative dialogue to foster sectorial linkages in local content practice. We are determined to promote regional marketing of some of the infrastructure and capacities being developed in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry, including FPSO Integration facilities.

The new frontiers will include additional in-country capital retention of at least \$14 billion out of the \$20 billion annual industry spend, creation of 300,000 direct and indirect jobs, growth of aggregate in-country value addition from the current 26 percent to 70 percent by 2027. This will involve the completion of at least one of the five oil and gas parks, establishment of two additional pipe mills, local manufacture of LPG gas cylinders, establishment of one dry dock facility in-country, local fabrication of modular refineries, 50 percent FPSO Integration in-country, starting with Zabazaba and 100 percent integration in the next 10 years.

We hope to lead the centripetal forces of inter-agency collaboration to drive collective impact and growth in the development of Human Capital and critical Infrastructure. We will take steps to incentivise remarkable records of Nigerian content performances and support for the Board's programmes and projects. We will not hesitate to sanction bad behaviour.

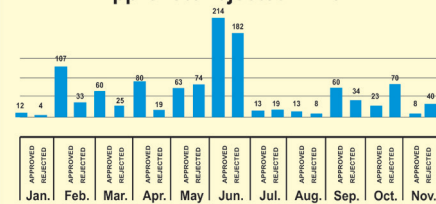
On behalf of the Board, I congratulate you all on these accomplishments and ask that we brace up for the next frontiers.

## 10-year roadmap

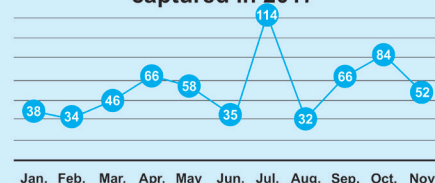
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## Smart Fact

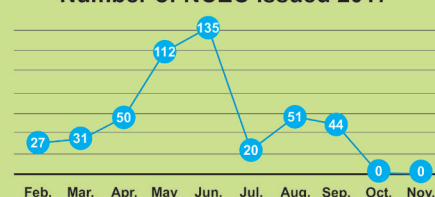
No of Expatriate Quota Approved/Rejected in 2017



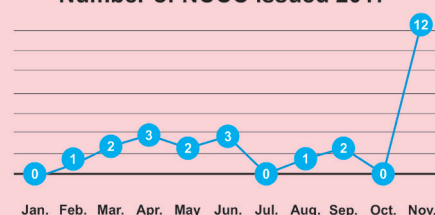
Total Expatriate Biometric Data captured in 2017



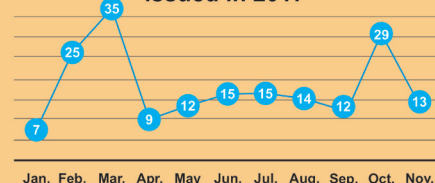
Number of NCEC issued 2017



Number of NCCC issued 2017



Number of NCP issued/Rejected in 2017



Source: Strategy and Policy Development Division

Q3 2017

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# NIGERIA

## - Land of Opportunities



Since 1995, TechnipFMC has been operating in Nigeria, a country of opportunities. Our presence has grown in the past few years, with several key subsea and surface projects now underway.

We have a total workforce of more than 400 employees based between the new state-of-the-art Subsea Services Support Center at Onne, Rivers State, and TechnipFMC's Project Management and Engineering Centre in Lagos.

We have a long, rich history of growth and

excellence in Nigeria and our operations have provided significant opportunities for the country's economy. More than 70 percent of our workforce is made up of Nigerians, and we remain committed to hiring locally.

TechnipFMC continually explores ways to introduce additional capabilities to increase opportunities for Nigerians, while ensuring safe, on-time delivery of products in line with our global quality standards. This leads to continuous investment in best-in-class capabilities for our operations and facilities in-country.

contributed to upgrading our subsea service base facility into an EPC workshop fully outfitted for subsea tree assembly and testing.

Beyond our continued success with heavy fabrication vendors in-country, we have continued to make strides in bringing other capabilities to Nigeria. By expanding the development of our local supply chain, we have increased our in-country manufactured items by producing major components of our subsea trees, including tree panels, frames and anodes along with subsea wellheads.

One flagship project now underway in Nigeria is the Egina field being developed by Total. Started in January 2013, Egina is one of our biggest international projects. Our Nigerian management team oversaw the production of six complex subsea manifold systems that were entirely fabricated in Nigeria, along with other subsea distribution modules, and is currently delivering a total of 44 subsea trees and associated wellhead sets. We have also through this project achieved significant upgrade of our Nigerian sub-contractor facilities, as well as successfully trained Nigerians under the NCDMB HCD program

TechnipFMC continues to make strong efforts to develop more Nigerian talent and close skill gaps at all project levels. For instance, we have partnered with the University of Port Harcourt in developing a master's degree program in subsea engineering.

Continually, TechnipFMC proves capable in running major greenfield projects as a local entity in Nigeria. We truly believe that our ongoing efforts have provided the springboard to new ways of developing and executing major projects using local talent in a more competitive local market environment.

Discover more about how we're enhancing the performance of the world's energy industry.

**TechnipFMC.com**

A long history of growth and excellence in Nigeria, making strong efforts to develop more local talent

18 / years  
benefiting Nigeria

>400 / workforce

State-of-the-art  
subsea facility

3 / local operating  
locations

6 / current projects

TechnipFMC commissioned its Onne service base at the start of the Chevron operated Agbami field development work, our first subsea project. We also invested in the development of our in-country fabrication supply chain, leading to the successful delivery of 12 manifolds and 12 suction piles fully built in Nigeria. This trend continued as we developed the Bonga Northwest project, and the Egina Project which



Editorial

## Editorial management

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

# It's been one eventful year!

There's always excitement that follows the unveiling of each new edition of your magazine. The production schedules are extremely tight - every three months! You can understand why holding the final print fills us with so much satisfaction. The other reason: one of the major objectives of the magazine, documenting the Nigerian Content journey in an easy-to-read and enjoyable format, is also being achieved.

We are very grateful to Engr. Simbi Wabote, our CEO who, when presented the idea of the magazine, immediately saw the need for such a platform. He further supported us by providing strategic guidance and engaging with industry players for support.

*Local Content Digest* has been chronicling milestones and trends in the industry, keeping everyone on the same page. We are getting better because of the feedback you, our esteemed reader, gives us.

We close the year with the Executive Secretary listing the major achievements of his one year in office. Activities have been at a frenetic pace. If the first year is an indication of what lies ahead, then we can be rest assured that even more will be achieved. The 10-year roadmap is a great indicator.

I always look forward to *Pacesetters*, a segment which celebrates the domiciling of skills and knowledge. Isaac Akintoye, an internationally certified Pigging Coordinator with DSV Pipetronix, is featured in this edition. He rose from the pool of drivers in the company.

*Our stakeholders have been immense. They've supported us with advertisements; some committed to multiple pages over several editions. Saipem, LADOL, Nigerdock, Marine Platforms, Samsung, Century Energy, BHGE, Starzs, Megastar, MG Vowgas, Aveon Offshore, TechnipFMC, Gramen, thank you.*

Isaac's inspiring story is that of determination.

This holiday edition is packed with entertaining content. Celebrity Chef Miyonse dishes his knowledge for free, urging readers to prepare a special meal this holiday. Adding more spice is a selection of movies, music, books and the biggest street parties to attend. There is also the advisory on squash and the pivotal role of insurance in safeguarding our assets.

Our stakeholders have been immense. They've supported us with advertisements; some committed to multiple pages over several editions. Saipem, LADOL, Nigerdock, Marine Platforms, Samsung, Century Energy, BHGE, Starzs, Megastar, MG Vowgas, Aveon Offshore, TechnipFMC, Gramen, thank you. We look forward to your continued support next year. We urge other companies to support us to keep chronicling the Nigerian Content journey.

We wish you a happy holiday and an exciting 2018.

**Ejiro Dortie, MEI**

## New wave of Nigerian Content implementation begins

A new wave of Nigerian Content implementation has begun. A key target is to retain in the local economy \$14 billion out of the \$20 billion oil industry annual spend. Other aspirations are growing value retention from the current 26 percent to 70 percent and creating 300,000 direct jobs through Nigerian Content activities in the next 10 years.

Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), made the announcement in October at Owerri, the Imo State capital, at the 2nd Nigerian Content Workshop. The new phase of implementation is underpinned by the Board's 10-year strategic roadmap developed recently.

A two-pronged approach will be used to achieve the targets: creating an enabling environment to attract investors and protecting existing and new local investment by effective compliance oversight and monitoring. NCDMB will also deepen local content practice in the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry.

Wabote said the attainment of the 10-year road map will be hinged on five pillars: Technical Capability Development, Compliance and Enforcement, Enabling Business Environment, Organisation Capability as well as Sectorial and Regional Market Linkage.

As part of the plans, the Board will deepen in-country technical capability through the completion of five oil and gas parks and the establishment of two additional pipe mills and local manufacture of LPG gas cylinders. The Board will also collaborate with stakeholders to establish a dry dock facility in-country, start local fabrication of modular refineries and accomplish 50 percent FPSO integration in-country in three to four years and 100 percent integration within 10 years.

The Board also plans to market key infrastructure being developed, such as the FPSO Integration facility, to neighbouring oil and gas countries while linkages to other sectors, like power, ICT, construction, mines and steel, will continue.



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, leading a delegation of NAPIMS and DPR officials on a visit to Total R&D Centre in PAU, South of France.

## 'NCDMB met all 2017 targets'

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) accomplished all the targets it set for 2017, Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary, has said.

Wabote gave the assessment at the 2017 Practical Nigerian Content (PNC) workshop in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital. He said the objectives set by industry stakeholders at the 2016 PNC and the ones set internally at the beginning of the year were met. "We have gone through all of them and we ticked the boxes."

The Executive Secretary, who recently clocked one year in office, said the Board had streamlined its internal processes and was "positioned to review contracts

within 100 days, provided submitted documents are in line with the NOGICD Act." He added: "We have demonstrated this in the last one year as evidenced in the unprecedented completion time of tendering process for the Zabazaba project."

The Board has also expanded its operations to the midstream and downstream sectors of the oil and gas industry. "We are now part of NLNG business activities. We visited Dangote Refinery where we agreed on steps to involve more Nigerian companies with capacities in the development of the project to meet cost and schedule timelines. A compendium of ancillary businesses required to sustain operation of the refinery is being developed to

support the operational phase of the 650,000 barrels/day refinery," Wabote added.

On sectorial linkages, he said the Board was at the forefront of advocacy for the utilisation of in-country capacities beyond the oil and gas industry.

"We have local capacities in manufacturing of pipelines, cables, paints, etc that can be utilised in the construction and power sectors of the economy. Our service providers are also being encouraged to venture into the construction sector to utilise their equipment and project delivery expertise," Wabote said.



Some delegates to the 2017 Practical Nigerian Content (PNC) Conference at the site of ExxonMobil's Technical Training Centre in Eket, Akwa Ibom State.

## Trends

## Indigenous producers to sign SLA with Board

Members of the Indigenous Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG) are poised to sign a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). The SLA will be akin to the one executed by the Board and the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Company (NLNG) in May 2017 and will guide IPPG members to comply with the Nigerian Content Act.

Under the SLA, the Board will keep to a defined response time for reviews and approvals of contracting documentations submitted by members of IPPG. The SLA will consider the capacity of the indigenous producing companies and provide necessary concessions, as maybe necessary.

These resolutions were reached at a meeting in November between Engr. Simbi Wabote, the

Executive Secretary, NCDMB, and members of the IPPG in Lagos.

The independent producers also promised to partner the Board to equip the Petroleum Technology Development Fund's Vocational Training facility in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, to impart key skills currently lacking in the industry.

Wabote noted that the Nigerian Content Act is applicable to every player in the Oil and Gas industry. "Some Nigerian companies assume erroneously that being wholly indigenous makes them compliant.

The Executive Secretary advised the indigenous producers to partner the Board to develop Research and Development centres of excellence in-country so that the problems encountered in

their operations could be resolved locally. "The international operating companies have huge R&D facilities in their home countries. We can only set up R&D centres in Nigeria with the support of indigenous producers," Wabote said.

Mr. Ademola Adeyemi-Bero, the Chairman of IPPG, pledged the readiness of members of the group to comply with the provisions of the Nigerian Content Act. "We want to participate in the Nigerian Content journey and we are ready to engage with the Board to take our projects to the next level," he said.



## Kachikwu directs training for pipeline vandals, illegal refiners

Youths who have been involved in pipeline vandalism, illegal refining and other illicit activities in the oil and gas industry will get reformatory trainings jointly organised by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) and Petroleum Training Institute (PTI).

Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, directed the agencies in October to develop the training, which will transform such youths into productive beings.

"We need a middle-level specialised

system of training people in the oil industry, that is not necessarily tied to degrees. We need to capture a lot of those in the hinterlands who have finished WAEC (West African Examination Council, Senior School Certificate Examination) or their first diploma and don't know where to go, so that they can have unique skills sets. We need to bring them to finishing schools," Kachikwu said.

The minister directed the use of existing industry facilities in Port Harcourt and Kaduna for the planned trainings and other industry capacity building programmes.

On NCDMB's strategies for addressing non-compliance with provisions of the Nigerian Content Act, the Minister said focus should not only be on identifying and penalising defaulters. He stressed the imperative of understanding why some companies fail to comply.

"The Board needs to develop corrective visitation programmes to institutions that have not complied. Do an audit of the issues and jointly develop models, giving specific timelines for delivery and create incentives for those who comply and penalties for those who blatantly refuse to comply."

## NCDMB, NAOC partner Bayelsa on IPP

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) and Bayelsa State government are collaborating to build a 25 megawatts (MW) independent power plant (IPP) in the state.

The IPP will supply electricity to the Nigerian Oil and Gas Park being developed by the Board at Emeyal 1, Ogbia Local Government Area. It will also supply power to the Bayelsa Government House, the state hospital, NCDMB new headquarters and the Bayelsa Airport. "We are developing it on the back of NAOC's Zabazaba deepwater project and the design has

been completed," Engr. Simbi Wabote said.

The Executive Secretary added: "We are working to complete our headquarters building by December 2018. If we can have it powered by an IPP, companies will set up offices in our building and we will change the narrative about the state." Wabote spoke at an event in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital,

In return for the Board's intervention, Rt. Hon. Seriake Dickson, Governor of Bayelsa State, pledged support for the implementation of the Nigerian Content Act. He described Engr. Wabote as a competent oil and gas professional and worthy ambassador of the state.

Gov. Dickson advised industry stakeholders to take advantage of the Board's programmes, particularly the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund). "This special Fund with affordable interest rates is a wonderful initiative. I urge our oil and gas businessmen to take advantage of it."

The Board's oil and gas parks scheme that is currently being developed at Emeyal 1 in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State is a complimentary investment and not in competition with the state's industrial park, added the Governor.

(L-R): Senator Solomon Adeola, Chairman, Senate Committee on Local Content; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Dr. Dakuku Peterside, DG NIMASA at the 2017 Practical Nigerian Content (PNC) Conference.

(R-L): Mr. Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, Commissioner for Lands, Housing and Survey; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Dr. Dakuku Peterside, DG NIMASA along the Isaac Boro Expressway, Yenagoa



## NCDMB kick-starts graduate agro-entrepreneurial training

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has kick-started the Graduate Agro-Entrepreneurial Training (GAET), to train participants in poultry farming. The pilot phase had 120 trainees and it lasted two weeks at Okitipupa in Ondo State.

The scheme is part of the Board's human capacity building initiatives and it is aimed at empowering graduates from oil producing states with agric-entrepreneurial skills in line with the Federal Government's economic diversification policy.

Engr. Frank Ibi, Manager, Capacity Building, NCDMB said the training

was imperative because only a limited number of people could work in the oil and gas industry.

He said the GAET programme was designed in line with the Ondo State Government's Outgrowers Scheme. Upon completion, the beneficiaries will serve in the proposed Broiler Processing and Rendering Plant, which has capacity to process 2,000 birds per hour.

Ibi said the programme will equip trainees with basic skills for self-reliance and successful candidates will be issued NABTEB certificates and provided grants.

"NCDMB will provide working capital/grant in form of inputs to enable the graduates to start large scale commercial production of chicken and begin to contribute to the national gross domestic product," he said.

Engr. Olusoga Oduselu, General Manager, Nigerian Content Development, Chevron Nigeria Limited, applauded the Board for its capacity building interventions, which he said had deepened indigenous capabilities.

"Your facilitation of this training is a testimony of your commitment to your mandate of building local capacity within the Oil and Gas sector," he said.

## NAOC invests \$5.4b on Nigerian Content

The Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) has spent \$5.4 billion to develop Nigerian Content in the last six years, Mr. Massimo Insulla, the company's Vice Chairman, has said. Insulla spoke in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, at a workshop for vendors. He said the funds were utilised to expand operations and grow Nigerian Content.

"We are implementing a number of projects including our Zabazaba Deep Offshore project, IPP Phase 2 project, on-going feasibility for the construction of a brand new 150,000 barrels of crude oil per day refinery, support for the refurbishment of Port Harcourt

Refinery, Efficiency of the National Grid and Alternative energy mix."

The company is also constructing a mega marine laboratory at the Rivers State University of Science and Technology and is part of an internship arrangement with PETAN/NCDMB to provide mandatory Practical Sea Time Experience for cadets using vessels owned by PETAN members. Insulla listed other contributions as the training of 280 seafarers and the current internship of five geoscientists and 10 subsea engineers in collaboration with NCDMB.

He said NAOC committed to providing electricity to the Board's Oil and Gas Park being developed at Oguta, Imo State, and had embarked on various project-based trainings, which over 204 trainees nominated from the NOGIC JQS and host communities had benefited from. The NAOC Lead also said the company started a Vendor Finance scheme in 2014, in collaboration with Stanbic IBTC and Zenith Banks. The scheme provides opportunities for the company's contractors to access funds on favourable terms. "We shall be signing another Memorandum of Understanding on the scheme with UBA, where the bank has committed enormous resources."

Works and Infrastructure, Bayelsa State with commissioning speed bumps erected by NCDMB



Top management of NCDMB, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) and Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) after inspecting PTDF's vocational training facility in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.



## Service firms get training on upgraded NOGIC JQS

Ahead of the February 2018 deadline to digitalise core operations and eliminate paper applications, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) recently organised trainings for personnel of service companies on the use of the upgraded NOGIC JQS platform.

The training held over five days in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. It drew several participants. Operating companies had their sessions earlier in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The NOGIC JQS portal is used by the NCDMB to manage key processes, including Capacity Building, Expatriate Quota Processing/Applications and NCEC Processing/Applications. It is also used for Marine Vessel Categorisation, Monitoring and Research and Development. The concluded upgrade of the NOGIC JQS platform and current digitisation of the processes are aimed at reducing human interfaces and delays.

The NOGIC JQS portal was created in

line with Section 56 of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act.

Mr. Babatunde Akhihero, the Supervisor, NOGIC JQS, explained that the primary objectives of the trainings were to make industry stakeholders familiar with the usage and functions of the portal. In addition, it will put in place a transition plan for migrating the Board's key processes from manual to an automated system.

## North-east reconstruction: Board to build 90 homes

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has concluded plans to construct 90 homes in the North-east region. This is part of the Oil and Gas industry's contributions towards rebuilding areas that were devastated by the activities of the Boko Haram sect.

The Board is using the 'Down To Earth' (D2E) model in the intervention, which will lead to the acquisition of two Hydraulic Compressed Earth Block (HCEB) Oskam machines, to be used in moulding blocks from clay. The blocks will be used to construct the 90 homes, which will have utilities, a medical centre, school and community gardens.

Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Corporate Services and Logistics, who doubles as NCDMB Lead on the intervention, said the Board will train youths from the region on the use of the HCEB machines with the objective of creating employment opportunities in the sub-region.

Halilu added that the Board had conducted a detailed study of the HCEB machine and found that it is

very durable. "The usage is simple and training of operators takes one month. Buildings erected with clay blocks could vary in design, in accordance to usage, culture and community acceptance."

Another key project undertaken by the Board include the Fair Chance Initiative, under which 107 internally displaced persons will be trained on different crafts and some of them eventually engaged in the construction of the 90 homes. The trainees will be provided with starter packs and linked to the virtual market.

NCDMB will also construct a vocational centre, deworm, in addition to administering Vitamin A supplement on 50,000 pupils in primary schools in the six North-east states.



*HCEB Oskam machine in use in Bamako, Mali. A similar model will be procured for rebuilding in the North-east region.*

## Gas cylinder manufactures to access NCI Fund

Investors willing to manufacture cooking gas cylinders in Nigeria can access finance from the \$200 million Nigerian Content Intervention Fund as well as enjoy other institutional support from the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), it has been learnt.

This assurance was given when NCDMB officials participated in the 2017 World Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) Forum in Marakech, Morocco. They presented

the opportunities to foreign and local investors.

Part of the Board's LPG penetration strategy is the focus on gas cylinder manufacturing and liaison with the Nigerian LP Gas Association (NLPGA) to develop sensitisation programmes and strategies for actualisation. Engr. Bamidele Abayomi, STA/GM Strategy and Special Projects said part of the Board's mandate is to encourage investments in-country. The Board is

open to potential investors who may want to partner it to establish an LPG cylinder manufacturing plant, he said. The Board would act as a catalyst by making available funds to kick-start the manufacturing plant, he added.

According to Abayomi, NCDMB also plans to increase LPG storage capacity in-country. To achieve this, he said the Board will partner potential investors particularly in the South and Eastern parts of the country.

*Contributors: Obinna Ezeobi, Teleola Oyeleke, Farid Blell, Ifeanyi Nwokemodo, Vincent BalaTeku, Osayogie Nosakhare*

**A LINE HAS BEEN DRAWN.**

**BETWEEN THE SAME WAY**

**BETWEEN A COMPANY**

**BETWEEN MAINSTREAM**

**TODAY, A LINE HAS BEEN DRAWN.**

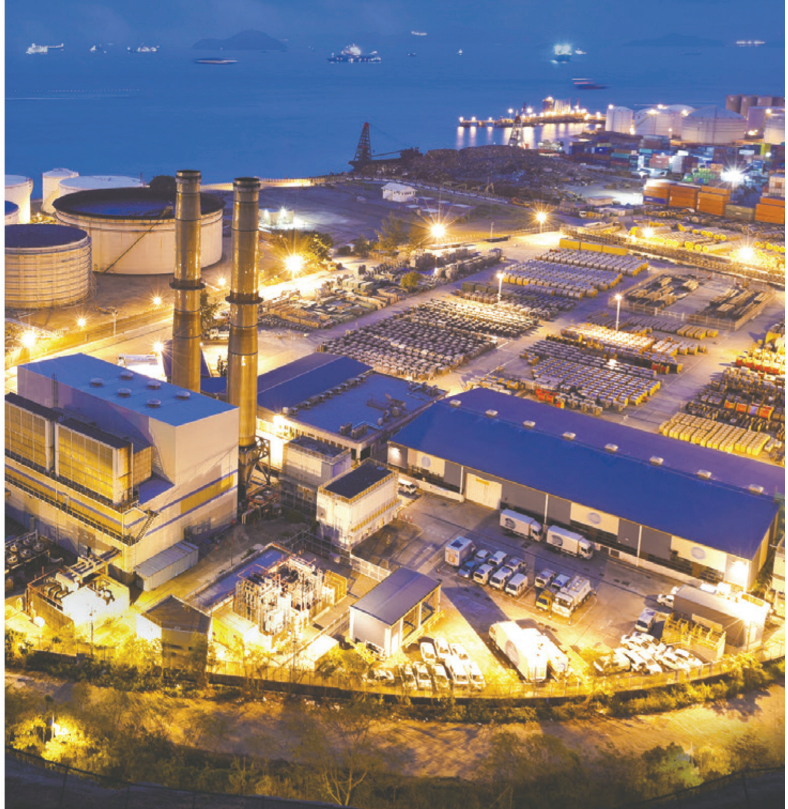
**AND THE PAST IS ON ONE SIDE**

**AND A NEW WAY.**

**AND A CHANGE AGENT.**

**AND FULLSTREAM.**

**AND WE'RE ON THE OTHER.**



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# Energising research and innovation for sustainable Nigerian Content growth

*Research activities and capabilities have long been given less attention than they deserved in over 60 years of oil exploration in Nigeria. The recent R&D Fair organised by the NCDMB signalled a new turn that will have a long term impact on innovation and local content in the industry.*

Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources succinctly captured the attitude to research and development (R&D) in Nigeria, when he said: "The Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry has operated for about 60 years but adequate attention has not been paid to developing local research capabilities."

engender sustainable local content practice in the Oil and Gas Industry, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) organised a three-day Oil and Gas Fair on research and development in Lagos, from September 25 – 27, 2017. The theme of the fair was: *Enhancing Value Creation, Technology Development and Economic Growth through Research and Development*. The fair drew a large number of industry players, the academia, lawmakers, regulators,

16 In the quest to reverse this trend, localise knowledge and

exhibitors, inventors and other stakeholders.

The event was symbolic for many reasons. It was novel in the history of Nigerian oil and gas industry. It also rekindled interest and hope in the possibility of entrenching an R&D culture in-country and signalled the resolve of NCDMB to spur innovation in the Oil and Gas Industry.

Senator Tayo Alasoadura, the Chairman, Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), said the timing of the fair was most apt, considering that “some major oil consuming countries have set deadlines to discontinue the use of petrol and diesel engines, starting from 2030”. Mr. Ifeanyi Nwabuogu, Managing Director, Schlumberger and Secretary of the Petroleum Contractors Trade Section (PCTS), also lauded the initiative to convene the R&D Fair. He said: “A nation that will develop must keep searching until it finds that which distinguishes it from her peers and gives her competitive edge among the comity of nations.”

R&D is pivotal to the Oil and Gas Industry. From inception, the application of science, technology and innovation underpinned every facet of the industry, making oil and gas extraction and transportation easier, safer, cleaner and increasingly less costly. Shale gas revolution, hydraulic fracking and 4D seismic, among many others, are excellent examples of impactful R&D end-products.

There is no questioning the fact that R&D drives costs down and increases efficiency. Indeed, sustainability of the industry depends largely on technology and innovation. This explains why service companies commit huge resources annually to R&D to remain competitive. Despite the huge spend on R&D by operating and international service companies that have presence in Nigeria, none of them has a research centre in the country. Kachikwu said: “The international operating and service companies in Nigeria took almost all their research

problems back to their home countries or to centres across the globe, without checking with local universities or centres.”

Thus, prior to Nigeria’s local content policy, over 95 percent of the industry spend was outside the country, resulting in over US\$380 billion capital flight and export of over two million jobs. In 2012 alone, the annual spend on foreign software in the industry rose from ₦200 billion to ₦400 billion.

The huge capital flight through R&D left Nigeria worse off, contributing to acute unemployment, a weak currency, widespread poverty, lack of critical infrastructure, low industrial capacity, weak educational institutions and a fragile economy.

### A timely intervention

The essence of the fair was to domicile R&D in-country, localise industry knowledge, drive innovation and stem the tide of capital flight. In his welcome address at the fair, Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary of NCDMB said: “R&D is one of the key parameters for sustainable local content practice.” Mr. Bank-Antony Okoroafor, the President of Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN), reinforced the same view, saying: “We cannot talk local content without R&D. We will always be a dependent country if we do not pay attention to R&D.”

The fair was designed to galvanise the industry to engage critical stakeholders with a view to domiciling R&D activities and investments in-country. It provided a platform for stakeholders in Nigeria’s R&D ecosystem to explore ways to kick-start the development and deployment of indigenous technological solutions and innovation. It also created a venue for developers of indigenous tech solutions and users, researchers, sponsors and investors. Besides, it sought to foster sustainable collaborations and partnership for R&D undertakings and bridge the gap between the industry and



(L-R): Mr. Gbite Adeniji, Senior Technical Assistant to the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board; Senator Tayo Alasoadura, Chairman, Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) and Mr. Osagie Okunbor, MD, SPDC and Chairman, Oil Producers' Trade Section, at the Research and Development Fair in Lagos.



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with NICON Insurers Committee led by Mr. Mohammed Kari, Commissioner for Insurance.

Nigerian universities.

Nigeria's productive capacity is very low. The reasons are legion. They include the fact that R&D activities are at par with the country's low industrial capacity. In the world ranking of R&D spend by countries, from 2010 – 2013, Nigeria was not ranked at all, an indication that such activities in the country were inconsequential. South Africa made the top 45 rank, with Israel leading in 2013, followed by Korea, Japan, Finland, Sweden, Taiwan, China, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and the United States of America, in that order. The ranking polled only countries that spend more than \$100 million annually.

This clearly explains why Nigeria's productive capacity is very low. A country that has over 123 universities, over 20 research institutions, endowed with very intelligent folks yet lags behind on many fronts, including innovation, is a puzzle.

A number of factors have been adduced to Nigeria's low R&D intensity. They include inadequate facilities and critical infrastructure, a weak framework for the protection of intellectual property, inadequate funding and the misalignment between research focus by the academia and industry needs, unclear target or R&D policy objectives. Other reasons are inadequate educational infrastructure and curriculum, brain drain and lack of credible collaboration and sustainable partnerships.

Some of the actions by government agencies and industry stakeholders to support R&D in the past include endowment of professorial chairs, establishment of special institutes for oil and gas studies, like the Institute of Petroleum Studies (IPS) in the University of Port Harcourt, the Centre for Petroleum and Energy Studies in the University of Ibadan and the establishment of Centres of Excellence, among other initiatives. Others are donations of buildings, equipment and infrastructure to universities and research and training institutions. Commendable as these might seem, they pale into insignificance because they have been incongruent, without clear strategic plans and central coordination.

#### Bearing a torch to light the way

The NCDMB is providing leadership in R&D discourses, stimulating interest and national consciousness. It is also defining and determining critical areas of research focus and clusters, fostering collaboration between the industry and universities.

The Board recently issued R&D guidelines to ensure compliance with the NOGIC Act. It has also demarcated research areas and clusters for the industry. In addition, the Board selected Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Nigerian universities and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Imperial College, London, to support and mentor the Centres. The Centres are: the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (Imo State); Federal University of Technology, Akure (Ondo State); Federal University of Technology, Minna (Niger State) and Niger Delta University, Wilberforce, Island (Bayelsa State).

GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2016				● 2015	● 2016
Rank		Country	Rank		Country
1	1	Switzerland	11	14	Hong Kong (China)
3	2	Sweden	16	15	Canada
2	3	UK	19	16	Japan
5	4	US	15	17	New Zealand
6	5	Finland	21	18	France
7	6	Singapore	17	19	Australia
8	7	Ireland	18	20	Austria
10	8	Denmark	22	21	Israel
4	9	Netherlands	20	22	Norway
12	10	Germany	25	23	Belgium
14	11	Republic of Korea	23	24	Estonia
9	12	Luxembourg	29	25	China
13	13	Iceland	81	66	India

Source: Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization

The Board is vigorously pursuing its Adopt-a-Faculty Programme. It has signed an MoU with the National Universities Commission to enable it to carry out extensive curriculum redesign and enrichment of the selected programmes.

Other actions include creation of NCDMB Research Council, selection of top-notch research proposals, award of a pilot grant of ₦56 million to foremost researchers and sponsorship of R&D journals. The icing on the cake is the Board setting aside a certain percentage of the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund to exclusively fund R&D.

The fair was quite revealing and exciting as a number of indigenous technologies and innovative products were exhibited. These include Waste-to-Wealth recycling devices, environmental remediation solutions, local electro-plating

of scrap metals and production of anodes, locally sourced natural graphite useable as anodes for cathodic corrosion control, development of nano material, radar video solution and home-made software for end-to-end well and reservoir management.

#### Indeed, the torch is lit

To foster an R&D culture in Nigeria, there has to be a change in paradigm. This calls for a strategic investment because R&D activities are not corporate social responsibility. Engr. Emeka Ene, a former PETAN Chairman, put it even more aptly when he said R&D can only work if business is in the mix. "If you don't have a business model tied to R&D, it will just be a waste of time," he added.

This is true as innovation does not just happen nor occur by fiat. It is a strategic investment, involving huge capital and a long gestation period. It demands entrepreneurial mindset

## Senator Alasoadura on the future of the oil industry



Senator Omotayo Alasoadura

#### **Some countries plan to stop the use of petrol driven cars. How much will this affect global oil demand and our national revenue?**

We still have some years to do intensive mining of oil and get as much as we can and diversify the economy. If we are able to use what we can get between now and then in developing our infrastructure, developing the country generally, then we won't feel the impact. If people are moving from biofuel to other sources of energy, we will not sit back. Whatever they are doing, we will also partake. But there was a time nobody knew about oil, nobody was using it. So there could be other

areas where oil would be useful.

#### **Recently, some militant groups threatened to resume hostilities. What should government do to forestall disruption of crude oil production?**

If the Federal Government engages with these people who have issues, I'm sure we can calm their nerves. These engagements have to be continuous. I understand the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources will be going to the Niger Delta states to start engaging people, letting them know what government has done so far, letting them know the plans of government such as the Host Community Bill we are planning. We are going to do public hearing about it. I want people from the oil producing communities to come and tell us what could be done. We want to see smooth relationships between oil companies and their host communities. We want to interface with them on what is possible, so that at the end of the day, we will all be on the same page.

#### **What is the Senate doing to ensure that funds voted for the Niger Delta and agencies like NDDC are well utilised?**

I am a member of the Senate Committee on Niger Delta and we had gone round some states to see how effective NDDC has used the funds they had in the past. What we discovered was mind-boggling: lots of uncompleted buildings, lots of projects that were designed to fail. What we are saying is that from now on, all designs must be seen and approved by the powers to be and they (communities) must also be considered. How do you expect a road project in a riverine area to succeed when you did not even plan for drainage in an area that is already water-logged? Such roads will not last one year. Those are the things that have militated against the development of the Niger Delta and we are going to ensure they don't reoccur.

*Senator Omotayo Alasoadura is the Chairman, Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources Upstream*



(L-R): Mr. Bank-Anthony Okoroafor, Chairman, Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN); Engr. Simbi Wabote; Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Rep of Imo State Government; Senator Tayo Alasoadura and Mr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, MD, New Planets Projects at the 2nd Nigerian Content Workshop in Owerri, Imo State.



Members of NCDMB Governing Council; members of top management of NCDMB and staff of CWC at the end of the 2017 Practical Nigerian Content Conference in Uyo, Akwa Ibom.

*The Board recently issued R&D guidelines to ensure compliance with the NOGIC Act. It has also demarcated research areas and clusters for the industry. In addition, the Board selected Centres of Excellence (CoE) in Nigerian universities and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Imperial College, London, to support and mentor the Centres. The Centres are: the Federal University of Technology, Owerri (Imo State); Federal University of Technology, Akure (Ondo State); Federal University of Technology, Minna (Niger State) and Niger Delta University, Wilberforce, Island (Bayelsa State).*

and proper funding. Without proper funding, R&D is a pipe dream. Geoffrey Nickelson of 3M, who is better known as the inventor of the Post-It-Note, said: "Research is the transformation of money into knowledge" (but) "innovation is the transformation of knowledge into money."

To turn innovation into money, the product has to be patented and deployed. Developing and deploying tech solution requires collaboration: the Industry, government and the academia. Professor Joseph Atubokiki Ajenka, a foremost researcher and former Vice Chancellor of the University of Port Harcourt, proposed the Triple Helix Plus + model as the way to go. This model underscores the benefits of collaboration among the industry, the academia and the government.

A strong message that resonated at the Fair is that R&D has to be championed by Nigerian service companies. PETAN companies are therefore expected to pick up the gauntlet. A closer synergy is also needed by various government agencies, especially those under the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Ministry of Science & Technology, Education, ICT, Power, Works & Housing, etc. Inter-agency collaboration is vital for collective impact.

With the Board poised to enforce the R&D provisions of the NOGIC Act, all is set. The proportion of the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund to be set aside to support R&D will soon be announced. The Board is taking strategic steps to remove the barriers between the academia and industry, which has long stymied innovation in Nigeria. Soon, the Board's Research Steering Committee will come on stream to coordinate R&D. Stakeholders need to brace up for the phenomenal changes about to unfold in the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry.

**Naboth Onyesoh**, is a Chief Supervisor with the Public Affairs Division of NCDMB. He has Master's Degree in Petroleum Law and Fiscal Systems.



# Chef Miyonse's Special Holiday Dish

Miyonse Amosu, who attained celebrity status at the last edition of Big Brother Africa, is a renowned chef.

A graduate of Mass Communications from the University of Lagos, Miyonse's culinary journey started at his mother's kitchen where his sister introduced him to the rudiments of cooking. "I was further encouraged by my friends to take cooking seriously. This spurred me to acquire professional skills. I attended Red Dish Chronicles Culinary School in 2015. Upon graduation, I was retained as an instructor. I found my passion and followed it," he added.

He does private dining. "I mostly offer my services on request. I also train people in their homes. I realise people are too busy; I'm able to work with their schedule. I am also into event catering.

"This holiday, as friends and families come together to celebrate, availability of good food is essential. Let me introduce you to my special Christmas dish - Plantain Sloppy Joe, a colourfully delicious and filling dish. It is an incorporation of quite a number of Nigerian ingredients with a continental touch," Chef Miyonse said.

## Ingredients

- Plantain
- Black pepper
- Salt
- Olive oil
- Grounded beef / minced meat
- Garlic
- Celery (optional)
- Carrot (optional)
- Seasoning
- Paprika
- Onions
- Adobo seasoning

## Preparation

- First, you need to cut your plantains into equal halves, length-wise.
- Grill or fry the plantains. If you are grilling, add a bit of black pepper and salt, then grill in the oven for 15-20 minutes at 200°C.

## Minced meat mix procedure

- Mince your garlic, onion and set aside.
- In a wok or pan, pour olive oil, add minced garlic and onions and cook for 15 seconds.
- Add chopped celery and carrots. This is, however, optional.
- Then, add your ground beef/minced meat and let it cook for about 15 minutes till it's pale.
- Add your salt, black pepper, a pinch of adobo seasoning and smoked paprika. Stir together.
- Add your ketchup and chilli sauce, stir together for about two minutes and then take off the heat.

Your colourful, delicious and filling Plantain Sloppy Joe is ready.

You can serve by layering your lettuce on the plate. Your first half of plantain then goes on the plate. Pour your minced meat mix onto the first layer of the plantain. Top this with the second half of the plantain. Use your skewer to hold the plantain together and you have a yummy dish.

Serve this delicious meal this festive period and everyone would call you a pro.



Miyonse Amosu





# CENTURY GROUP, NIGERIA'S INDUSTRIAL POWERHOUSE

## SOLVING PROBLEMS, ENABLING PEOPLE AND CREATING VALUE

Century Group (CG) is an African brand with a global focus and expertise in diverse services and customized oil field solutions, built on a strong foundation of partnerships, collaboration and integration. We are a business to business company found on the promise to create value, enable people, and solve problems. We operate in the energy and non-energy sectors through seven main subsidiaries: Century Energy Services Limited - the flagship subsidiary, Century Exploration and Production Limited, Century Ports and Terminal Limited, Century Data Integrated Services Limited, Century Real Estate and Logistics, Elmina Petroleum and Global Manning Resources Limited.

Expressing the Group's performance in actual numbers, CG contributes circa 10% of the national daily production, i.e. the equivalent of about 200,000 bpd, through the provision of technical support services for Four (4) FPSO's, Five (5) Swamp Area Flow Stations, 1 MPOU + 1 FSO, 1 Logistics Base (KI) and working Ten (10) Oil Fields. Beyond the numbers, are the outstanding people from diverse parts of the country that constantly ensure that client expectations are met. Every new venture is an avenue for us to efficiently impact our environment through cost-effective solutions peculiar to the venture. Century Group is a testimony of the capacity and potential of the Nigerian Local Content as we are a 100% Nigerian company.

In over 15 years of our existence, through innovation and ingenuity, CG has had her services aggregate the full spectrum of activities in the Oil & Gas Industry. We have also impacted our space positively by creating value, delivering cutting-edge and winning models that have ensured a continuous open-book, cost-effective operations, with steady facility up-time in all our Offshore Oil Fields, Swamp and Land Oil Fields activities, which have ultimately given client satisfaction, to which we have very valid or verifiable testimonials.

Our mission in CG is simple - it is to be a reference point in excellent service delivery to our clients and stakeholders and to continue to use new technology, develop new businesses in oil and gas and across other industrial sectors, facilitating job creation, skills development and industrial growth in Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa, and across the globe.



Our vision is to be the leading global industrial group, actively involved in solving problems, enabling people and creating value, which is what Century Group is anchored on.

Our core values are centred on Integrity, Service Excellence, Commercial Awareness, Teamwork and Local Capacity development.



### Corporate Social Responsibility

In CG, we are dedicated to running our business in all fairness. We bring unparalleled professionalism, good governance and global best practices to the way we run our business.

Local and International operators continue to choose CG's innovative, cost effective approach to business and premium support services. Every new venture affords us in CG the opportunity to do what we do best, which is minimise downtime, maximise operational efficiency and focus on health, safety and the environment (recording laudable safety milestones). Our unwavering commitment to put the community first, in line with our "solving problems, enabling people, creating value" mantra, is yet unrivalled. We strive to reduce insufficiency in communities, develop local capacity by creating opportunities for the youth.

Our Social Investments in the communities where we operate span Health, Education, Sports, Agriculture, Capacity Building programmes through training programmes in aspects of the Oil and Gas operations, Skills Acquisition programmes and several other Economic Development projects. We also integrate social investment programmes that cater for People Living with Disabilities/impairments in the community. Our cordial relationship with the communities ensures peaceful co-existence and successful operations.

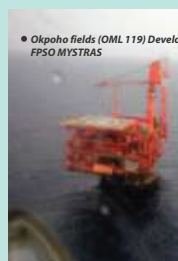
The crux for us at CG is to continue to improve the quality of life of the people, increase their literacy level, build capacity, develop their hidden potentials, maintain lasting relationships and protect the environment. Through our various capacity development projects, we have enabled many youths, successfully change their mind-set and given them a genuine sense of ownership that awakens their innate need to protect than to destroy.

### Kidney Island

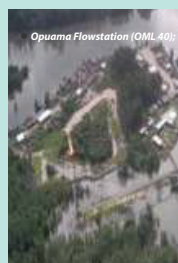
### Our Projects



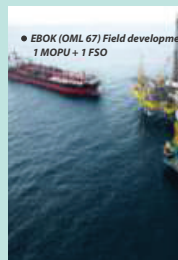
Okoro-Setu field (OML 112) Development  
FPSO Princess Aweni



Okpoko fields (OML 119) Development  
FPSO MYSTRAS



Opuama Flowstation (OML 40)



EBOK (OML 67) Field Development  
1 MPOU + 1 FSO



Port Logistics Base



● FPSO Nystras

#### Port of Kidney Island Management (SPDC Facility)

CG was awarded by SPDC in July, 2011, a ten-plus-five years License-To-Operate (LTO) for the management of the Kidney Island Support Base. The Port of Kidney Island provides storage facilities, a pipe yard, open storage areas, warehouses, a chemical shed, pipe maintenance facility, office accommodation and ancillary support base services, including stevedoring, materials & inventory management, road haulage, marine agency and supply chain management solutions (SCM). The facility is managed by Century Ports & Terminals Limited (CPTL), a subsidiary of CG. Kidney Island has been effectively managed by CPTL, improving from less than 50% uptime to 99.9% and also with a track record of improved revenue.

#### Pennington Terminal (Chevron/Conoil Facility)

Instrumental in the restoration of operations in 2008 after three (3) years of *force majeure*, and has remained operational ever since.

#### Atala Marginal Field

As a Financial and Technical Partner to the Joint Venture, Century Exploration and Production Limited (a subsidiary of Century Group) led the successful re-entry and completion of Atala-1 Well in 2014, after eleven (11) years of farm-out to Bayelsa Oil Company by Shell Petroleum Development Company.



● OYO field (OML 120/121) Development FPSO Armada Perdana



● AJE Field (OML 113) Development FPSO FRONT PUFFIN



● Batan Flowstation (OML 42)



● Okono FPSO



*Century Group is an African brand with a global focus and expertise in diverse services and customised oil field solutions, built on a strong foundation of partnerships, collaboration and integration. We are a business to business company founded on the promise to create value, enable people and solve problems.*

**-Mr. Ken Etete, Group Chief Executive Officer, Century Group**



*Century Group is currently running the O&M services of Kidney Island (KI) and we have established a first class Offshore Supply Base offering shared services to the Oil & Gas Industry benchmarked on global best practices with enhanced cost efficiency, without compromising on quality and safety standards.*

**-Mr. Alaba Owoyemi, ED-Commercial, Century Group**



*Part of the successes recorded is hinged on our employees, contractors and vendors strict adherence to the safety rules given, which are in line with international and industry best practices/standards.*

**-Mr. Andy Eyre, MD, CESL**



*Century Group Community Relations strategy is to ensure the sustenance of a good working relationship with the community, improve the quality of life of the people by helping to increase their literacy level, building capacity of the youths and protecting the environment as this will redirect the need to protect than to destroy.*

**- Data Jaja, Corporate Affairs Manager, Century Group**



*Squash builds a player's physical and mental strength. But beyond that is its ability to foster longer-lasting relationships and intimacy among players. This perhaps may be due to the enforced closeness of players on the typically small and enclosed playing court.*

# Squash, the fat burner and magnet for intelligent people

***Squash holds incredible benefits for you. It may surprise you to know that you are a natural for the sport.***

**S**quash is an incredible racket game of power, grit, pinpoint concentration and precision. It has been played around the world for centuries. It is played in a small four-walled court, with players alternating in striking a hollow rubber ball against the wall. Because of the relatively small playing area and the speed and spin of the ball, a player's aerobic and anaerobic fitness level as well as eye-hand coordination must be top-notch.

Despite being played by close to 30 million people around the world, squash is still not as popular as similar sports such as tennis. However, it is a sport that builds fitness and helps to burn faster those stubborn extra fats, particularly around the waist. The game works on all the muscle groups as a player is compelled to run or sprint after balls, leap, spin, stop, bend or jump to retrieve shots. In a typical squash game, a player's joints and ligaments are able to stretch, helping him or her to promote nimbleness and suppleness and blood flow in the body.

In 2003, *Forbes* voted the game as "the number one healthiest sport" to play, in recognition of its ability to condition a highly beneficial health and fitness levels in

players. "The strength required in a game of squash will help you tone your legs, arms and abdomen while the cardio involved in the fast-paced game of squash will also help to maintain a healthy weight," says Samir Becic, a leading, globally recognised fitness trainer.

Indeed, squash builds a player's physical and mental strength. But beyond that is its ability to foster longer-lasting relationships and intimacy among players. This perhaps may be due to the enforced closeness of players on the typically small and enclosed playing court. One has a feeling he is in a room as the court is no bigger than a standard bedroom, measuring 9,750mm in length, 6,400mm in width and 5,640mm in height.

Because of the players' proximity on court and being an indoors sport, with opportunity to play the game all-year round, no matter the weather condition, squash players are known to have an almost tribal loyalty to the sport, preferring to play it all the time, as against engaging in other sports, even for relaxation.

For instance, an athlete may take up football, basketball, golf or other sports

as a pastime off-season: Usain Bolt plays football as a hobby; footballer Zlatan Ibrahimovic is a blackbelter in taekwondo; Argentinean football legend Gabriel Batistuta is a professional polo player.

One hardly finds such mix among squash players; they love to stick to squash. "I could play squash every day," says top squash player Gregory Gaultier. These regular contacts with players and other people on the circuit help to build stronger ties outside the court, better social skills and confidence. "Yes, it does give you confidence," says Ramy Ashour of Egypt, ranked world number one player in the sport in 2014.

One other surprisingly unique thing about squash is that it is a game of intellectuals. Squash players are said to be highly educated. A report says 98 percent of players are university graduates and 57 percent have further graduate degrees. If you need to burn those stubborn fats quickly and interact with intelligent people, squash may be just what you need. If you need further proof, go to *Youtube* and watch former President Olusegun Obasanjo, at 79, engaged in a very demanding round of squash.

## Insurance ...helps you to have your cake and, well, eat it



*The benefits of insurance are many. The greatest benefit, however, is that assurance that all that you hold dear are safe.*

One of the biggest complaints in the country today is about the uncertainty of the future. But talk to the average Nigerian about insurance, and he goes: 'Nothing can possibly go wrong. God is in control'. Things can, and do go wrong and when they do, you do not want to be caught holding the wrong end of the stick.

We all have great plans for ourselves and our families: quality life and fine education for the children, establishing a scholarship or charity in our name, among other noble goals. But consider, for instance, perhaps due to ill health, you can no longer provide for your family. What then happens to those great plans of yours?

Consider also the unfortunate homeowner who lost his home to a fire. The home can be rebuilt at no cost to him if he had a policy on fire or building. Or consider the undignified spectacle of engaging in a fight on the road because your ₦2 million or ₦25 million vehicle was crashed into and damaged by an impenitently reckless commercial bus driver. That would not have been necessary had the vehicle been insured. This is because you know the insurer would fix it.

Every day, on our roads, in our homes, offices, schools, leisure and religious centres, we witness or fall victims to carnages, fires, accidents and deaths at huge costs to ourselves, friends and family members because most of us are not assured. Such exposure is why insurance is a very vital investment vehicle for every

income earner.

It should be obvious by now why you need to be assured. Insurance is intended as a financial protection for an individual's valuable possessions, such as vehicles, houses, priceless artifacts, health and even his life, against the unexpected. Insurance, which is "selling a promise, a promise that provides indemnity (compensation) when certain mishaps or certain injuries are suffered," allows you to maintain your lifestyle at all times. Insurance has two broad types: general or non-life and life, and operates on claims margins – the difference between the premiums generated and the amount paid out to settle claims. Insurers "create a pool of funds where they indemnify (compensate) clients who suffer and restore them back."

As a financial protection, insurance allows you to maintain your normal lifestyle, in the event of the unexpected happening, and gives your loved ones that level of comfort, even when you are no longer there to provide it. The country's not-too-smooth roads, which lead to avoidable accidents, dictate that you need to cover the risk of losing your vehicle or your life. Potential of being affected by the activities of criminal gangs means that you need a policy against losing your valuable possessions.

Usually, when you take a non-life or property policy, the premium is between five and 10 percent of the value of what you hope to insure. Insurers also collect

what they call five percent excess charge. According to them, this places a duty on the assured to live responsibly "if he knows he is going to bear part of the burden of a loss." The actuary employed by the insurance company determines these relatively small sums (premium) you pay regularly. The sums paid allow you or your family to benefit from a large cash payment if you crash your car, lose or damage your house or its contents. "The insurer agrees, for a consideration, to pay for the loss in the amount specified in the contract (policy)." For instance, an insured car owner, whose vehicle got stolen or burnt, gets an immediate replacement from his insurer.

However, to get indemnified, the insured must make a claim. Your policy document is required here. Thus, it is important you keep your policy document safe because without it, claiming becomes difficult. The claim is investigated by the insurer, usually within 90 days, and if genuine, a claim settlement is concluded. If the claim profile is high, as in properties, the insurer often contracts a loss adjuster to determine the degree of commitment to the assured. Same goes for an insured breadwinner who becomes disabled or dies.

To make the best of your investment in insurance, you need to get a policy tailored to your needs and means, so that you do not get financially strained.



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1. Mr. Daziba Patrick Obah, Director, Planning Research and Statistics NCDMB, with finalists of the 1st NCDMB Oil and Gas Essay Competition for undergraduates in the Niger Delta region.
2. (L-R): Mr. Gbite Adeniji, STA to the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Dr. Edu Inam, Director, R&D, University of Uyo and Senator Tayo Alasoadura, Chairman, Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) at the launch of Nigerian Oil and Gas R&D Journal.
3. Cross section of participants at the Nigerian Oil and Gas Research and Development Fair in Lagos.
4. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with executives of Ijaw Youth Council, Central Zone, after a courtesy visit to the Board.
5. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Rick Perry, United States Secretary of Energy and Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources at the Africa Oil Week Conference in Cape Town, South Africa.
6. Trainees on the Egina UFR project with officials of NCDMB and Saipem at the close of the programme in Port Harcourt, Rivers State in December.



6

# Photospeak



7. (L-R): Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Gov. Godwin Obaseki of Edo State and Hon. Henry Idahagbon, Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Edo State, discussing possible areas of collaboration between NCDMB and Edo State.

8. Delegation from the Federal University of Petroleum Resources (FUPRE), Warri and NCDMB Management after a courtesy visit to the Board.

9. (L-R): Engr. Paul Zuhumben, General Manager, Projects and Operations, NCDMB; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Xie Wensheng, MD, China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC); Engr. Abayomi Bamidele, STA to ES/GM Strategy and Special Projects and staff of CNOOC after a meeting in Lagos.

10. Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Corporate Services and Logistics, NCDMB presenting seats donated by the Board to Mr. John Angese, Chairman, Nigerian Union of Journalist (NUJ), Bayelsa State Chapter.

11. (L-R): Mr. Massimo Insulla, Managing Director, Nigerian Agip Oil Company; Hon. Seriake Dickson, Governor of Bayelsa State and Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB at the NAOC Succession Planning Workshop in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

12. Trainees of NCDMB Graduate Agro-Entrepreneurial Training (GAET) at the programme's close out ceremony.



**Marine Platforms is one of the success stories of Nigerian Content in the maritime sector. Mr. Taofik Adegbite, Managing Director, in this interview, discusses the operations and challenges of the sector.**

**How has the implementation of the Nigerian Content Act impacted your company's growth?**

It will be fair to mention that some of the International Oil Companies had Local Content development plans in place prior to the Act, but it was more of "moral suasion/do-good factor". The Act definitely energised Local Content development since non-compliance became illegal. We are, by every means, a major beneficiary of the Act, especially because it gave us the opportunity to venture into deepwater field maintenance/IRM opportunities, which had been an exclusive preserve of international companies.

**How difficult was it for your company to win the confidence of IOCs in terms of the required quality service delivery?**

We are in the subsea installation area of the marine sector. This is of course very technical. We deal with very expensive assets with serious environmental hazards. Our strategy has always been to aggressively invest in people and assets. However, other key factors

are very sound corporate governance, certification of our quality assurance, safety and environmental policies by DNV. On the soft side, our credo is that 'we sit on the same side of the table with our clients'. Their problem is our challenge.

**One of the biggest challenges affecting the training of Nigerian seafarers is the lack of sea time experience. How can this be addressed sustainably?**

There can be no seafaring experience without working marine vessels and there cannot be working marine vessels without job opportunities and right funding to acquire vessels. In view of the aforementioned, we hope the industry situation will improve, thus creating opportunities for more marine vessel requirements and banks' renewed confidence to finance marine vessel acquisition by indigenous ship owners.

**A few years ago, West African Ventures started the construction of aluminum vessels at Onne but discontinued production. How can local vessel manufacturing be sustained?**

Sustainability of any business is principally based on the market. While I do not know the particular reason WAV stopped production, my best guess will be that there were not enough demands for their vessels or they could not produce competitively against foreign manufactured vessels.

# Taofik Adegbite on opportunities Nigerian Content avails Marine Platforms



**Do you think Nigerian Content efforts should be focused on growing local manufacture of vessels or other areas of maximising Local Content in the marine sector?**

Because foreign vessel manufacturers have easier and cheaper access to steel, cheaper funds and major scale advantages, local manufacturing will be unviable. We are of the opinion that we should first learn how to successfully operate vessels, and then we progress to maintenance and repairs before venturing into ship building. I am sure you are aware that none of the numerous foreign ships calling our ports do repairs and maintenance here, not to talk of dry-docking.

**Many investors in this sector have complained about the Temporary Import Permit. How prohibitive is this to your business?**

The Temporary Import Permit (TIP) against Full Duty Paying (FDP) will kill any equipment capacity building initiative we can ever think of as a nation. The man with TIP is at a clear cost advantage over the local company that has paid 10 percent of equipment value as duty against TIP of ₦5 million per occurrence. TIP vessels should be considered, if and only if there were no capable vessels or equipment that is FDP.

**According to records, 37.56 percent of vessels operating in-country are now Nigerian owned. Does that satisfy ship owners, being a marked improvement from the situation in 2010?**

Sadly, most ship owners are in terrible situation now because most of the vessels are idle: no jobs, loans going bad with banks, etc. Therefore, while we celebrate increase in locally owned tonnage, we have a terrible situation with no job opportunities for most of them. Moreover, a lot of us do not buy right; hence, operators are reluctant to employ our assets.

**There is a proliferation of expatriate crew on vessels working in Nigeria. How will this be addressed?**

We are addressing this by aggressively training local personnel on our vessels to take over from foreign crew. This will happen when they have demonstrated capacity and are certified for such positions. Currently we have succeeded in training some of our Maritime Academy of Nigeria, Oron, recruits to the level of Third and Second Officers on board our vessels.

**It has been alleged that some marine vessel owners falsify document to get ahead in tenders. How true is this?**

I am not aware of this and it is not expected because there are open verification channels to confirm ownership claims and documents' authenticity. I am aware that NCDMB and NIMASA are working very closely to avert such unethical conduct.

**There have been suggestions to extend the tenure of industry contracts from the standard 2+1 to a longer duration. What is your position on the proposal?**

Contract tenure extension will definitely help to pay back the very huge investment required in ship acquisition.



Taofik Adegbite, MD, Marine Platforms

**How has the crash in crude oil prices affected vessel owners, like Marine Platform?**

The crude oil crash is a bitter pill in our mouth, as it is with everyone. We all are looking inwards to cut cost and reach out to other stakeholders. Skye Bank has been extremely supportive, among others.

*It will be fair to mention that some of the International Oil Companies had Local Content development plans in place prior to the Act, but it was more of "moral suasion/do-good factor". The Act definitely energised Local Content development since non-compliance became illegal. We are, by every means, a major beneficiary of the Act, especially because it gave us the opportunity to venture into deepwater field maintenance/IRM opportunities, which had been an exclusive preserve of international companies.*

# Is climate change a hoax?

The race to slow down the rate of climate change is in full throttle worldwide. Empirical evidence has shown that Earth's average temperature rose by about 1°C degree in the last century (the 20th Century). That may not sound like much. But wait a minute and you'll then see why you should be alarmed and why world leaders meet yearly to discuss the climate and agree on action plans to slow the change or eliminate it, if possible.

Scientists have discovered by studying the Earth's climate record that the average temperature remained stable (that is, maintained the same level) over lengthy periods of time, perhaps centuries, prior to the 20th Century that it suddenly rose. The major reason for the alarm is that "small changes in temperature correspond to enormous changes in the environment," several studies have shown. Increasingly, the world is witnessing more frequent and deadlier disasters such as hurricanes, landslides, tornadoes, mudslides, earthquakes, heatwaves and flooding due to this "enormous changes". Remember the recent Category 4 Hurricane Harvey that devastated many cities in the United States or the recent mudslide in Sierra Leone, where thousands died; or the great tsunami a few years ago across Asia that left more than 230,000 dead and millions homeless in its wake, according to Oxfam. If you think Nigeria is immune to such disasters, then you may simply be playing the proverbial ostrich.

Flooding and landslide are more rampant now in the country. Remember the recent one in Lagos this year, when heavy rains triggered flooding on Lagos Island, from Marina to Lekki. Many lives and property were lost to the flood. Also this year, over 100,000 people were displaced in Benue State while hundreds of lives were lost due to heavy flooding. There was a landslide and flooding in Cross River in 2012; it was attributed to

the blockage of River Kaala after four days of torrential downpour.

Last year, residents of Ubaha village, Anambra State, and its environs fled their homes when a major landslide destroyed roads, cutting off communities from the rest of the state. Heatwaves regularly kill Nigerians in communities up North. Remember the severe heatwave three years ago across the country that was so severe you could almost cut the heat with a knife? It was a very uncomfortable experience for many of us and it also shot up expenses in fueling generators to power air conditioners and fans.

It is imperative to stop the global temperature from rising further. To underline the seriousness of the race, in 2015, leaders from 195 countries met in France to discuss the climate. There had been such other meetings or agreements in the past, like the Bonn Agreement, Kyoto Protocol, Basel Protocol, etc.

The Paris Climate Conference or COP21, which came into force last November, agreed to limit global warming to well below 2°C. Among other things, countries agreed to desist from actions that trigger temperature increases. One of them is to reduce their industries' carbon emission rate.

So, where do you come in? The mudslide in Sierra Leone was linked to the massive deforestation in that area while flooding in many places in Nigeria can be directly linked to clogged drainages from plastic bags and bottles, tin cans, among other items, that were indiscriminately disposed, with some finding their ways into drainages. Plastic bottles take hundreds of years to decompose, so they could be lodged in gutters and bodies of water for years, causing havoc. In your own little way, be more environmentally friendly; do things that will reduce your carbon

emission. When each of us shows a little more concern for the environment, this will add up in ripple effects to benefit the Earth.

Stop indiscriminate disposal of non-biodegradable materials, like plastic bottles, aluminum or tin cans and plastic bags. Learn to switch off household devices when not in use to conserve energy. Reduce carbon monoxide emission from your generators by switching to renewable energy, like solar or fuel efficient generators. Use energy-saving bulbs in your home and offices. If you can, drive your car less to reduce emission. Whatever you do, you must not be unconcerned about Earth's rising temperature. It will come back to hurt us in ways that may be very devastating.

## Practical ways you can slow down climate change

- Switch off and unplug appliances when not in use
- Use energy-efficient lighting
- Buy energy-efficient appliances
- Insulate, install efficient windows and doors and plug leaks
- Install programmable thermostats
- Go solar
- Install a renewable heating and cooling system
- Switch to green electricity
- Walk or ride your bike
- Car share or use public transport
- Buy an electric vehicle
- Skip the airport
- Start an eco-food revolution by embracing a low-meat diet

[www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org)



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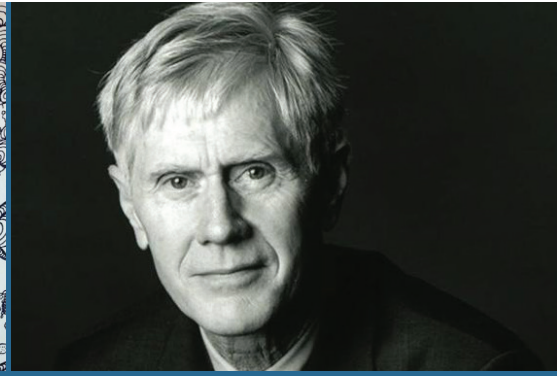
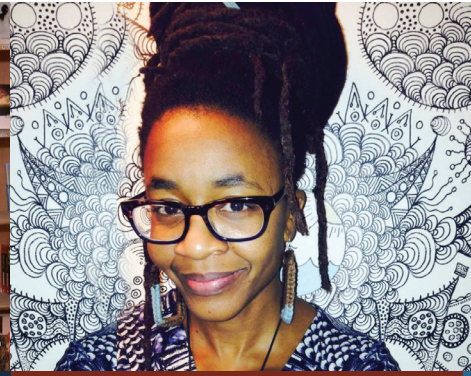
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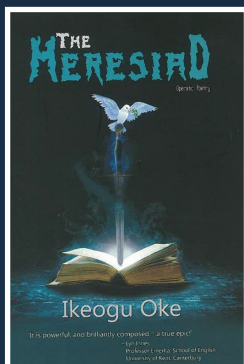
## *The Heresiad*

- Ikeogu Oke

Ikeogu Oke's epic and eclectic collection of poems, *The Heresiad*, was named winner of the 2017 edition of the Nigeria Prize for Literature. Published this year by KraftGriots, the sheer ambition of this operatic poetry - song, music and drama, in brilliant compositions - riveted in their ability to make written words sing. The breadth of themes treated, and allegiance to conventions such as form, rhyme, and musicality make it a must read.

According to one of the blurbs in the book, *The Heresiad* "employs the epic form in questioning power and freedom" and "probes metaphorically the inner workings of societies and those who shape them." The author furthermore claims that the book was written to make a case for unhindered intellectual and creative freedom, for mutual respect and harmony between faith and thought, otherwise religion and intellectualism.

This work showcases a commitment to innovation, joyful experimentation and social commentary in a provocatively delightful way as it successfully bridges the genres of poetry, drama and music. It makes a fine case for free speech and the responsibility of the writer in a modern society through allegory and an enchanting imagination.



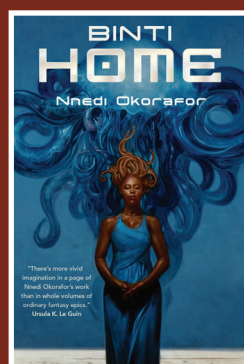
## *Binti: Home*

- Nnedi Okorafor

What do space ships and ancient cultural traditions have in common? *Binti: Home*, a 164-paged science-fiction novella by Nnedi Okorafor, whose other novel, *Who Fears Death*, was selected for screen adaptation by producers of the epic TV series on HBO, *Game of Thrones*, is the answer.

In *Binti*, we follow the eponymous character's story of adventure, trauma, transformation and communication as she travels from her Himba roots on earth to faraway Oomza University, where people from across the galaxy go to study. In *Home*, the author sends her heroine back to Earth on a quest to reconcile the new, conflicting parts of herself with her roots.

If you are seeking sexy, edgy Afropolitan in space with a solid combination of extra-terrestrial adventure and age-old African diplomacy, *Binti: Home* is what the doctor orders.



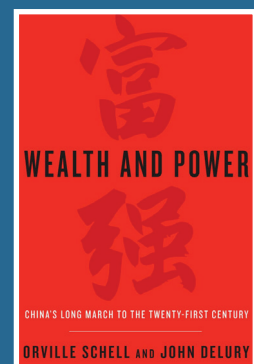
## *Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-first Century*

- Orville Schell and John Delury

Ever wondered the secret of the Chinese take-over as a pre-eminent geo-political force in the 21st century and the world's fastest-rising superpower? *Wealth and Power* provides an engaging narrative of the intellectual and cultural origins of China's modern rise through a series of lively and absorbing portraits of iconic modern Chinese leaders and thinkers.

*Wealth and Power* is an examination of the lives of 11 influential officials, writers, activists and leaders, including Wei Yuan, the 19th Century scholar and reformer, Liu Xiaobo, human-rights advocate and Nobel Peace Prize laureate as well as Empress Dowager Cixi, Mao Zedong and Sun Yat-sen. The book showcases their determined pursuit of wealth and power and the intellectual antecedents of today's resurgent China.

Reading *Wealth and Power*, you are reminded of the great documentary series, *The Men who built America*, and it leaves you with a better understanding of China's place today's world and why it acts the way it does. It reveals how a dynasty in decline, marked by intellectual upheaval, foreign occupation, civil war and revolution got its groove back and how the country will shape the future of life as we know it.





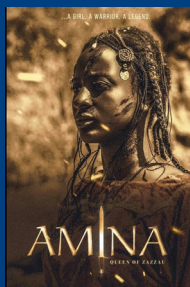
## The Wedding Party 2:

### Destination Dubai

*The Wedding Party 2* is the sequel to Nigeria's highest grossing movie and romantic comedy, *The Wedding Party*. It follows Nonso, who has continued his romance with Deirdre. Nonso proposes by accident, while on a dinner date, and sets off a chain of events too powerful to stop.

We see a clash of culture after a near-disastrous introduction ceremony in Lagos. Both families reluctantly agree to a wedding in Dubai, setting off another colourful, chaotic and memorable journey to everlasting love.

Directed by Niyi Akinmolayan, *The Wedding Party 2* is star-studded: Patience Ozokwor, Chiwetelu Agu, Sola Sobowale, Omoni Oboli, Seyi Law, Chugurl Daniella Down, RMD, Ireti Doyle, Ali Baba, Enyinna Nwigwe, Saka, among others.

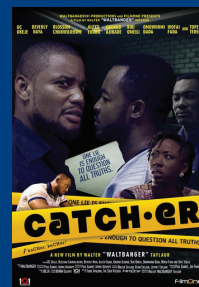


## Amina

Following his epic treatment of civil war history and award-laden star-trek in '76, Director Izu Ojukwu collaborates with the producer of *Living in Bondage*, Okey Ogunjiofor to serve up Queen Amina, the warrior Queen of Zazzau in full colour. The movie stars Lucy Ameh, Ali Nuhu, Yakubu Mohammed, Clarion Chukwurah, Magaji Mijinyawa, among others.

*Amina* expertly chronicles the many hues to the life of this legendary and exceptional woman; the pain and the agony caused by the betrayal of cherished lovers; the ferocious savagery in the face of all battles and enemies; the cunning manipulation at will of the nobles and sovereigns of kingdoms and the tender concern over the downtrodden talakawas (the poor).

If you are looking for well-choreographed action scenes, stunning visuals, gritty fight scenes, and palace intrigues with a healthy dollop of Nigerian history, *Amina* is a must-see this season as it would undoubtedly inspire women to heroism and patriotism.

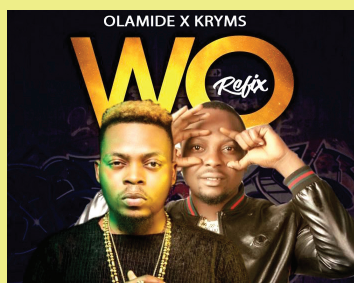


## Catch.er

*Catch.er* is a crime thriller or whodunit whose premise is built around the murder of an ambitious career woman on her wedding anniversary, and her husband becomes the prime suspect. However, a police investigation throws up other individuals in her life who may also have a strong motive.

This Walter Taylaur helmed piece is also a star-studded ensemble of award winners like three past AMVCA leading men -OC Ukeje, Blossom Chukwujekwu, Tope Tedela, as well as Beverly Naya, Alexx Ekubo, Gbenro Ajibade, Kiki Omeili, Omowunmi Dada, Wofai Fada, among others.

*Catch.er* uses deft angles, realistic lighting and an interesting mystery that catch and hold the viewers' attention until the credits rolls.



## Wo - Olamide

The king of the streets returned with a loud bang with *Wo* and set the clubs, cars and cities on fire. The jam has got street cred as well as so much sauce and juice. Produced by YBNL's in-house producer, Young John, *Wo* is a groovy up-tempo beat tailored for every party – from the parlour to the events and a good workout session for the fit-fams.

Olamide has also transformed an everyday Yoruba word, which means 'look' into a sing-along lyric with validation coming from fellow music act, Wizkid, who has also been hugely successful this year, saying that *Wo* is the "biggest Naija song" in 2017.

You might not understand the lyrics, if you are not Yoruba, but you are sure going to move every part of your body to this epic jam



## Joromi - Simi

*Joromi*, the lead single in Simi's album, *Simisola*, uses a catchy formulaic call and response chorus inspired by Sir Victor Uwaifo's *Joromi*, a heavy thematic pre-occupation with love and her unique and sonorous vocals to deliver a nostalgic jam.

*Joromi*, produced by Simi's favourite hit-maker, Oscar, tells the story of a man who is ignoring a lady's multiple signals to notice her. She decides to flirt with this elusive lover, imploring him to take her number. Simi uses a rich mix of pleasant sound effects and instrumentals to drive home a striking and very poignant message – do not be afraid to go after what you want, irrespective of prevailing stereotypes.



## Something Light - Falz & Ycee

*Something light* is a humorous take on girls and the extremely funny behaviours they can conjure during dates or at social get-togethers. For those from the old school, *Something light* is perhaps a fitting tribute to Junior and Pretty's hit single, *Monica*.

In *Something light*, we witness a heavyweight collaboration between comedian, lawyer and rapper, Falz the Badt Guy, and the Jagaban crooner who has all the juice, Ycee. They exhibit poetic justice on this social issue, in a fine blend of comic lyrics and contemporary hip-hop in Falz-stylised faux Yoruba accent.

If in doubt, *You want something light, But you order six wraps, Order meat pie, Order pizza, And you still pack take away for your sister*, shows up pretentious people for what they are.



# It's street party time

*Neighbourhood parties organised at the end of every year have morphed into major, massive street parties, creating a kaleidoscope of colours and mirth while they last.*

We usually look forward to the Yuletide as businesses close for the year. It is the time when the sound of Christmas carol from street corners caresses the ear with rhythmic soothing that lifts the spirit and arouses the jollity of the festivity, when streets, store fronts and offices are adorned with the shining gold, green and red Christmas decors. It is a time when conspicuously displayed banners proclaim one funfair or the other happening in one part of town or the other.

The Yuletide period is undoubtedly unlike any other in Nigeria. It's a time of relaxation, fun, reunions, get-togethers, bonding with friends and family and parties. There is that feeling of euphoria as one is caught up in the activities-filled period. Having worked so hard all year round, we deserve to let our hairs down and thoroughly enjoy the Yuletide.

Without doubt, attractions during this period are the increasingly popular street parties in

major cities and towns across the country. From Benin, Onitsha to Port Harcourt, Calabar and Lagos, carnivals and pseudo-carnivals lift an already exciting period a notch higher. The parties are typically organised by the youth in a neighbourhood not only as a platform for fun but also to renew old friendships or make new ones, showcase talents, scout for partners and show a collective sense of purpose. Funding for such parties is typically through individual contributions or fund raisers among residents in the neighbourhood.

Due to the popularity of the parties, corporate organisations are beginning to see the marketing and sales potential and are leveraging the opportunity via sponsorships. You find some of the more popular street parties entirely or partially bankrolled by local and international brands. MTN, Nigerian Breweries and Globacom, especially, have used street parties to endear their brands to the youth demographic.

State governments have also discovered potential of these parties to boost the image of their states and to attract tourists to contribute to economic growth.

The Calabar Carnival, undoubtedly the biggest street party in Africa, the Lagos Street Party and the Port Harcourt Street Party are just a few examples. The parties are free and encompass dancing, talent hunts, game shows, stand-up comedy, among other activities. One or more popular artistes and Disc Jockeys are often contracted to perform at the parties. Many last through the night. You certainly can't attend all the street parties. We bring you a few that you might look forward to, particularly if you are around the regions where the parties are organised.

### Calabar Carnival

This carnival in Calabar, Cross River State, is the biggest festival in Nigeria and Africa. It's a month-long affair. The carnival starts



December and ends on the last day of the month. It has been compared to the popular Rio de Janeiro Carnival in Brazil. The festival features processions by groups in colourfully, outlandish costumes and unique dance steps. It's a celebration of creativity with a blend of the modern and traditional lifestyle of the people of the state as well as other groups from outside the state and abroad on display. You need to plan far ahead to enjoy the festival of colours, beauty, charm, warmth and fun. Getting a hotel this period could be horrendous as all hotels will be fully booked. You also need to wear trainers, arm yourself with water supply to participate in the entire dance procession.

#### Lekki Sun Splash

Held yearly in Lekki area of Lagos State, this party spans two days and is usually staged at Maiyegun Beach on Lekki Peninsula on Christmas and Boxing days (25, 26 December). It is a music festival with various artistes across the genres, like reggae, juju, fuji, pop, even gospel, performing. It is free and attracts thousands of fun seekers every year. Lekki Sun Splash is perhaps one of the

longest-running street parties: its 30th anniversary is 2018.

#### Lagos Street Party

This is a two-day event organised by the Lagos State government. It has everything from indigenous games, live music, arts exhibitions, paintballing, gladiator challenge, bubble soccer, acrobatics, food tasting and talent hunts, among several other activities that keep participants engaged. Popular music artists are contracted to perform at the party. It holds in mid-December.

#### Port Harcourt Street Party

This carnival-like party often holds between December 13 and 18. Popular and local artistes provide live music. There are drama skits, talent hunts, colourful costumes, cultural displays, marches through the streets of Port Harcourt, and many other exciting activities.

#### Ogwashi-Uku Carnival

Commitment of brands to the sponsorship



of this carnival is testament to its attraction, despite Ogwashi-Uku not being a major city in Nigeria. The town is located in the northern part of Delta State. It is a three-day dance fiesta organised yearly around December 24-26 to promote peaceful co-existence in the community. Activities at the carnival include cultural dances, talent hunt, fashion shows, musical concerts, quiz competitions, dinner parties, football competitions and float processions. It caters for the whole family: there is something for every member of the family to engage in.

**Paolo Sisiano** is a multi-platform design artiste and Creative Director of Sisiano, the high fashion label. Paolo is also an accomplished dancer, who has worked on several high profile Nigerian theatre musicals including *Saro, Saro 2, The Musical* and *Wakaa, The Musical*. He was majorly involved in making costumes for dance production until his friends saw his designs and encouraged him to go into high fashion. Paolo's works have been showcased locally and internationally to wide acclaim. He provides some insights on the evolution of his works.

**Sisiano is a well recognised fashion label. What inspires your designs?**

I would say that my inspiration in fashion design is as a result of wanting to create a modern type of dresser, but with the sophistication of the past. And as a dancer, I would say that my brand is mostly inspired by dance, which is movement.

**What inspired the label, Sisiano?**

My mother, Vivian, inspired the brand. I remember always seeing my mum look very good and stylish effortlessly, as though she wasn't thinking of the looks but just dressing up. There was an ease that came with her appearance.

**What is your ensemble for the Christmas season?**

For Christmas, I'd like to keep the clothes neutral and away from the colours of the festivities of Christmas

**You seem to favour long flowing outfits. What inspires you to go in this direction?**

As a graduate of Textile Design from the University of Lagos and an accomplished dancer, I am inspired to create long flowing designs. Having a dance background as a contemporary major creates my foundation for movement and subtlety.

*Paolo Sisiano*

# Sisiano's rhythm and movement designs

**Nigerian designers are gaining international repute, with young designers, like you, pushing the boundaries. What makes your brand stand out from the lot?**

Since the brand was established in 2013, I've found a way of balancing the brand's aesthetics, part of which is keeping it modern and romantic. The brand has transitioned to a place of confidence and fluidity, showing movement. I would say that it's about having a distinct identity as a brand and remembering the reason I started in the first place

**How challenging has the business been for you, vis- à-vis sourcing fabrics locally?**

I guess when you are an entrepreneur you work with what you are given. So, you have to learn to create with the materials at hand.

**Many have argued that the Nigerian fashion industry still has a lot of catching up to do to meet global standards in terms of finishing and creativity. How does the local industry compare with the global industry?**

In relation to the local industry and the global world, the journey is still very far, but I can proudly say that we have started. Very soon, we are hopeful that we will be on the same page as our counterparts in the global industry.

**Fashion trends change so often and so quickly that it is hard for fashionistas to keep up. One day it's peplum, the next it's colour blocking or old school. How do you keep up with this trend so as to maintain your relevance in the industry?**

We do not work with trends. Rather, we keep reinventing our designs, remaining true to our brand aesthetics

**You are well known for the simplicity and beauty of your colour combinations. In crafting wears, which colours appeal most to you?**

Oh, that's easy as I'm in love with pastels. Beige and blush are (my) favourites. Plus, I always like to see the woman's jewellery.

**The fact that you have been in the fashion business for some time and in that time you have managed to build a recognisable brand speaks a lot about acceptability. How much further can you stretch your designs?**

I don't think it's about stretching. It's remembering why you started; remembering your market and staying focused on the emotions you are trying to get out of the consumer and the watching audience

**What's next for you and Sisiano?**

The journey continues and I'm not telling (laughing). Just watch out for Sisiano!

**Which trends do you envisage will define Nigerian fashion in 2018?**

(It is) the Ankara craze and everyone really trying to be African.

*As a graduate of Textile Design from the University of Lagos and an accomplished dancer, I am inspired to create long flowing designs. Having a dance background as a contemporary major creates my foundation for movement and subtlety.*





**BANK OF INDUSTRY**

*...transforming Nigeria's industrial sector*



# The Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund)

**Promoting economic growth and empowerment in the oil and gas sector**

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in conjunction with the Bank of Industry (BOI) has launched 200 million dollars Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund). The Fund will solve the financing challenges of manufacturing firms in the oil and gas industry. It will also assist firms to acquire assets like rigs and marine vessels.

To benefit, applicants must be contributors to the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF).



Beneficiaries will get a maximum of \$10m, repayable over 5 years at 8% interest rate.

The NCI Fund will also cover contract finance/loan refinancing at an interest rate of 8%.

Community contractors can also access N20m at 5 % interest

## Key Highlights:

- ☑ **Term Loans**
- ☑ **Provision of working capital**
- ☑ **Leasing Facility**
- ☑ **Interest rate;**
  - Asset Acquisition- **8%**
  - Community Contractors- **5%**
  - Contract finance- **8%**
  - Loan Refinancing- **8%**
  - Manufacturing loan- **8%**
- ☑ **Loan Tenor: up to 5 years**
- ☑ **Moratorium Period: 6 - 12 months**

**Interested companies should apply directly to the Bank of Industry.**

Applications can be submitted at the Bank of Industry offices across the country and on [www.boi.ng/ncifund](http://www.boi.ng/ncifund)

Terms and conditions apply

For more information please log into:

[www.ncdmb.gov.ng](http://www.ncdmb.gov.ng) | [www.boi.ng/ncifund](http://www.boi.ng/ncifund)

When Isaac Toluwalaju Akintoye came into the Oil and Gas industry, all he could do was repair and drive his company's cars. Nearly 20 years on, and thanks to Nigerian Content, he has transformed into an international certified pigging coordinator, supervising projects for multinationals.

The Akure North, Ondo state indigene held only a Senior School Certificate when he started as a car technician at Gramen Petroserve Nigeria Limited. A year later, he moved as a driver to DSV Pipetronix, a pipeline integrity assessment, pre-commissioning and commissioning services provider.

At the new firm, Isaac showed interest in technical operations; he utilised every



Isaac at ROSEN Training, Netherlands

## The stuff dreams are made of: Driver-mechanic to pigging coordinator

opportunity to showcase his quest for knowledge and value addition. It was not long before DSV Pipetronix management noticed Isaac's potential and commitment. The company offered him the opportunity to participate in pigging operations in addition to his driving responsibilities.

The young man literally grabbed the opportunity with two hands, exhibiting commitment and versatility in pigging assignments. Soon after, he was transferred to the operations department as a pigging operator. Determined to improve, Isaac enrolled for courses in Defect Assessment and Evaluation for Pipeline fitness. He also studied Mechanical Engineering Technology at a polytechnic in Ogun State.

His new qualifications earned him promotion as pigging supervisor and sponsorship to an overseas training on Intelligent Pigging Handling with DSV Pipetronix's technical partners, ROSEN. There, he learnt the rudiments of launching and receiving various types of intelligent pigging and live tools. He was also exposed to additional trainings in Nigeria and Ghana.

Isaac was elevated again, this time as Project Coordinator, overseeing DSV

Pipetronix projects with clients such as SNEPCo, SPDC, Total, Chevron, WAGPCo, among others, at onshore and offshore locations, a role in which he still excels to date.

DSV's support, which enabled Isaac maximise his potentials, is not isolated. The company also built the capacities of local technicians and engineers to replace most of its expatriate employees, in line with the provisions of the Nigerian Content Act on the domiciliation of skills and facilities. It also domesticated the preparation, maintenance, data evaluation and assembly of intelligent pigging tools in Nigeria.

Now living a life beyond his dreams, Isaac lauded the implementation of the Nigerian Content Act, which has created jobs for qualified Nigerians, including top positions previously reserved for expatriates. He, however, urged the Board to eliminate the discrepancies in pay packages and other welfare conditions between Nigerians and expatriate employees.

For young Nigerians wishing to follow his footsteps, Isaac urged them to enrol for oil and gas certification programmes to boost their chances.

**Ahmed Bashir, MED, NCDMB**

*DSV's support, which enabled Isaac maximise his potentials, is not isolated. The company also built the capacities of local technicians and engineers to replace most of its expatriate employees, in line with the provisions of the Nigerian Content Act on the domiciliation of skills and facilities.*



Isaac putting his training and skills to work



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with wife, Lady Sotonye after his investiture into the Knighthood of Saint Christopher of the Anglican Communion on Saturday, October 14, 2017 at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

## KNIGHTHOOD



Mr. Asangolo O. Dallas, a Supervisor in the Human Resource Division was on September 24, 2017 confirmed as a compound chief, assuming the title, *Obeniyeni of Ogbosi* Compound in Agudama Epie in Yenagoa Local Government Area, Bayelsa State. He was also conferred with the title, *Ovie Mo Konmubo I* of Agudama Epie in recognition of his philanthropic activities.

## CHIEFTAINCY



Engr. Obiora Collins Ifeka (MNSE), an officer in the Monitoring & Evaluation Directorate, wedded his heartthrob, Miss Onyinye Ifunanya Ucheana on October 28, 2017 at St. Michael & All Angels Anglican Church, Nkpor, Anambra State.



Barr. Otekikuma Enenibio, an officer with the Legal Services Directorate, walked down the aisle with Miss Matilda Ndidikama Oriji on November 11, 2017 at Holy Cross Bible Mission (Victory Parish), Rumuokwuta, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

## WEDDINGS

### Movement

**Barr. William Joshua Ariekpar** is now the Manager, Downstream Monitoring. His previous role was Manager, Intelligence Gathering, Investigations and Compliance in the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (MED).

**Mrs. Angela Okoro**, formerly the Manager, Procurement Department has assumed the role of Manager, Treasury in the Finance and Account Division.

**Mr. Kingdom Uwnene**, formerly the Head, Audit Department has resumed as the new Head of Procurement Department.

**Mrs. Ada Ohaeri**, formerly the Manager, Learning and Development, Human Resources Division, has been reassigned as the Zonal Coordinator, NCDMB Liaison Office, Akwa Ibom/ Cross Rivers.

**Ms. Alexis Emelle** has resumed as the Manager, Intelligence Gathering, Investigations and Compliance, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate (MED). She served previously as Manager, Abuja Liaison Office/Governing Council Matters & Government Relations.

**Mrs. Lekoma Sonia Nwineh**, formerly the Deputy Manager, General Administrative Services (GAS) Corporate Services and Logistics Division, is now the Deputy Manager, Learning and Development, HR Division.



# NIGERIAN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING BOARD (NCDMB)

NCDMB CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS: GLASS HOUSE, ISAAC BORO EXPRESSWAY, OPOLO, PMB 10, YENAGOA BAYELSA STATE  
info@ncdmb.gov.ng;www.ncdmb.gov.ng

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Yenagoa, Bayelsa State hereby invites interested reputable Companies with good track record of performance and experience to bid for the procurement of the underlisted items/projects:

LOT NO	DESCRIPTION
Lot 1	Vehicles Safety Accessories
Lot 2	Personal Protective Equipment
Lot 3	Construction of ICT Centre
Lot 4	Renovation Works for Delta/Edo Zonal Office
Lot 5	Local Alternative Internet Service Provision
Lot 6	Upgrade of Econometric Dept Infrastructure in NDU
Lot 7	Procurement of Furniture and Equipment
Lot 8	Automation of Corporate Services and Logistics Processes
Lot 9	Sports Equipment and Kits

### CONDITIONS FOR ELIGIBILITY

All bids must be accompanied with the following:

- Evidence of company registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and support documents showing that the ownership of the company is 51% owned by Nigerian(s) (CO2; CO7)
- Evidence of current three (3) years Tax Clearance Certificate expiring 31st December 2017
- Evidence of similar previous jobs carried out in the last three(3) years including Verifiable Award Letters and Job Completion Certificates
- Bidding companies must have current:-
  - ITF Compliance certificate
  - Pencom Compliance Certificate
  - NSITF Compliance Certificate
- Affidavit declaring the Bidder free of pecuniary interest, falsification and prior conviction of any of the Directors and pecuniary interests in the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board and certifying that all information submitted in the bid to be true and correct
- Interim Registration Report(IRR) as an evidence of registration on BPP's National Database of Contractors/Consultants and Service Providers
- Relevant DPR permit
- Office Presence within the Oil and Gas zone will be an advantage.
- Evidence of Financial Capability from a Reputable Bank including Bank Reference letter
- Evidence of Professional Registration as applicable
- Evidence of Registration on NCDMB's NOGICJQS

- platform
- Other information as contained in the Tender Documents

### 5) COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested Bidders are to **Collect Bid documents** from the Procurement Dept. upon the presentation of evidence of payment of a non-refundable tender fee of N20, 000. This payment can be made via various payment channels or through any bank as stated below: [www.Remita.net](http://www.Remita.net) – Pay a

Government Agency.

- Paste **-023200700100** on launched page under "Name of MDA"
- Purpose of Payment – click "**Payment for Asset Disposal**"
- Complete the form to obtain RRR Number and make payment -before the closing date on this advert.

### 6) SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BID DOCUMENTS

i) The tender documents should be bound with the covering letter duly signed to reach the undersigned by **Wednesday, December 20th, 2017 at 12 noon** addressed to the:-

The Head, Procurement Dept.,  
Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, Glasshouse, Isaac Boro Expressway, Opolo- Yenagoa.

- The Technical and Financial Proposals should be submitted simultaneously in two separate sealed envelopes and both placed in a bigger sealed envelope, clearly marked on the top left hand corner of the envelope according to the tender service as indicated above:
- The tender documents must be delivered in the tender box located on the ground floor, NCDMB Head Office, Opolo, Yenagoa.
- Companies delivering bids are expected to sign the "**Tenders Register**" before delivery in the tenders Box.
- Bid documents will be opened immediately after the close of submission at the Conference Room, 4th floor, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, Glasshouse, Isaac Boro Expressway, Opolo- Yenagoa
- Submitting a tender does not commit NCDMB to awarding contract to any bidder
- For enquiry please contact the undersigned at the address indicated above

*Signed*  
**Head, Procurement**

# The new normal in the oil and gas industry

By Dr. Ibe Kachikwu

The price of crude oil reduced about 60 percent from the heights it reached a few years ago. There is no forecast that it is going to exceed the middle \$60s. What is more important is that one of the drivers for the price reduction, which is the shale crude oil production in the North Sea, has over the last seven years been able to systematically move the production cost from an average of \$70 per barrel to \$32 today. And it continues to show an unbelievable capacity through engineering layering to reduce those numbers.

What we are going to see over the next five years is that shale production will come close to about \$20 a barrel. And what does that say to us as Nigerians? If we cannot produce oil at a cost that makes sense, we have no business doing the oil business. When I talk about the cost of production, it is not a political mantra; it is a survival necessity. Saudi Arabia has been able to bring its production cost to nine dollars a barrel. Most of the Gulf countries produce between nine to 13 dollars. Indeed in Nigeria, ExxonMobil has been able to bring the cost within the Joint Venture Projects to 10 dollars a barrel. So, it's possible.

We are not canvassing a message that doesn't make sense. I hear all the arguments about how delays in contract approvals process contribute to cost. We are working on that. But there must be a policy direction that compensates those who are able to produce at lower costs and punishes those who produce at a higher cost.

Today, Saudi Arabia is discovering new fields, which they are capping, leaving them for future generations. But we are producing literally everything we find and sometimes at ridiculous prices. Some of the intelligence analysis done by my team in the past few months showed astonishing results. We found offshore fields where the returns to government and royalties have

been zero. How do you produce oil at zero returns? There is a burning momentum to focus on cost issues, on internalising advantages of oil production and on companies that are able to show local efficiencies. In fact, local producers, the independent producers are showing some of the best cost environment in terms of production. As we embark on marginal fields and the rest, we must recognise and encourage those who are able to produce, able to reach funding.

## We need to react urgently, fossil fuels becoming irrelevant

There is a clarion call for action and it is emphasised by the simple fact that over the next 25 to 30 years, crude oil today is going to be largely irrelevant. Gas is probably going to be more relevant but even gas itself is going to have a lot of question marks. The world is dramatically looking to new sources of energy that are cheaper, less expensive and easy to find. And over the next five to 10 years, we are going to find that even Nigerian cars are going to become more expensive because people are going to move to electric cars. If we do not find the electricity to power the cars, we will be out in the cold. There is an immediate need for action on all fronts.

## Important Role for IOCs

I call on the International Oil Companies (IOCs) to join us on this movement. It is a movement that is touching how we must refine, how we must replace our infrastructure; a movement that is touching how we ensure that our people internalise the gains of the oil industry. It is a movement that is focused on ensuring that this country adopts the best fiscal mechanisms for getting the best money into the country and expanding our earning frontiers. I ask the oil companies to work with us collaboratively to achieve this.

## NCDMB blessed with good Exec Secs

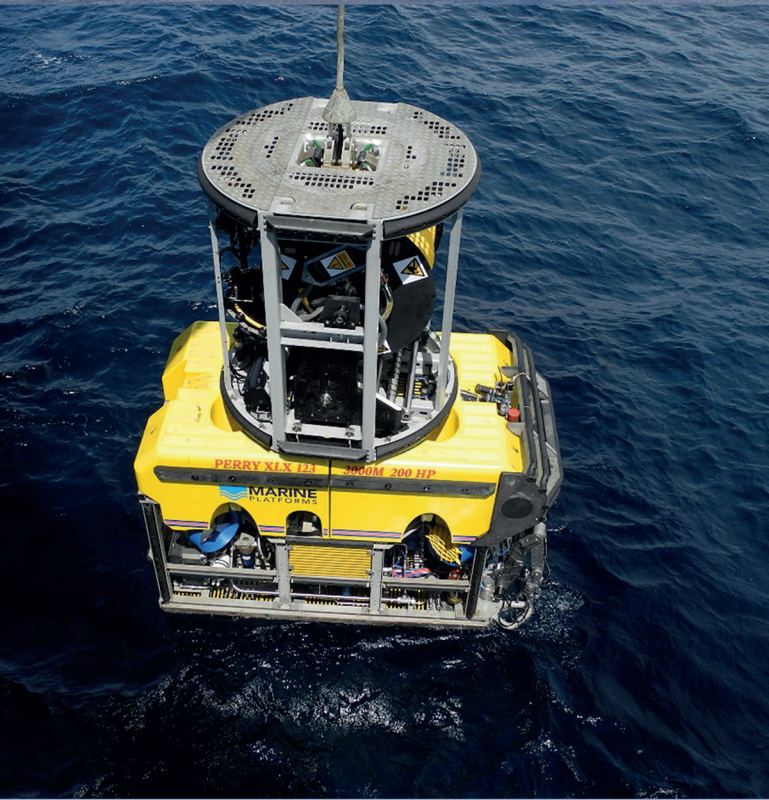
The NCDMB is one of the agencies under my ministry. It has been



blessed in terms of personnel selection, finding persons who are absolutely perfect. The pioneer Executive Secretary, Engr. Ernest Nwapa, did a fantastic job in raising the discourse on local content and raising the commitment of industry stakeholders to focus on giving opportunity to local companies. I have also known the current Executive Secretary in the industry for many years. We've worked collaboratively. The energy and passion he brings to meeting the targets that I set for the NCDMB is almost phenomenal. That is what public service should be. Public service isn't an acronym for lesser service; it is indeed an acronym for exceptional service.

Whenever I meet with the Executive Secretary, we engage but we do not agree on everything. We shouldn't because that would not serve the nation well. We disagree on a few things until we find solutions. That's the way it should be. My duty as a Minister is not to impose ideas but to collaborate and push new ideas. This approach has made the institution stronger. Some of the targets we are setting for the NCDMB are coming from the willingness to collaborate and create.

*Excerpts of extempore speech by Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources at the Nigerian Content Workshop in Owerri in October 2017.*



The growth of local capacity in both human and equipment is a key aspect of the company's objective in its contribution to the nation's building through local content.

We understand that there are a few skillset in Nigeria but in readiness for the future, we are keen on developing the required expertise. We started out with 5 ROV trainees and today, we have trained over 40 ROV Supervisors, Pilot Technicians as well as over 24 cadets. Now we have embarked on a capacity development initiative to train 35 candidates from the Nigerian Content Development Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in Design & engineering, ROV operations, marine engineering and nautical sciences.



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