

10TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION 2020

Local **CONTENT** Digest

NCDMB stakeholder magazine

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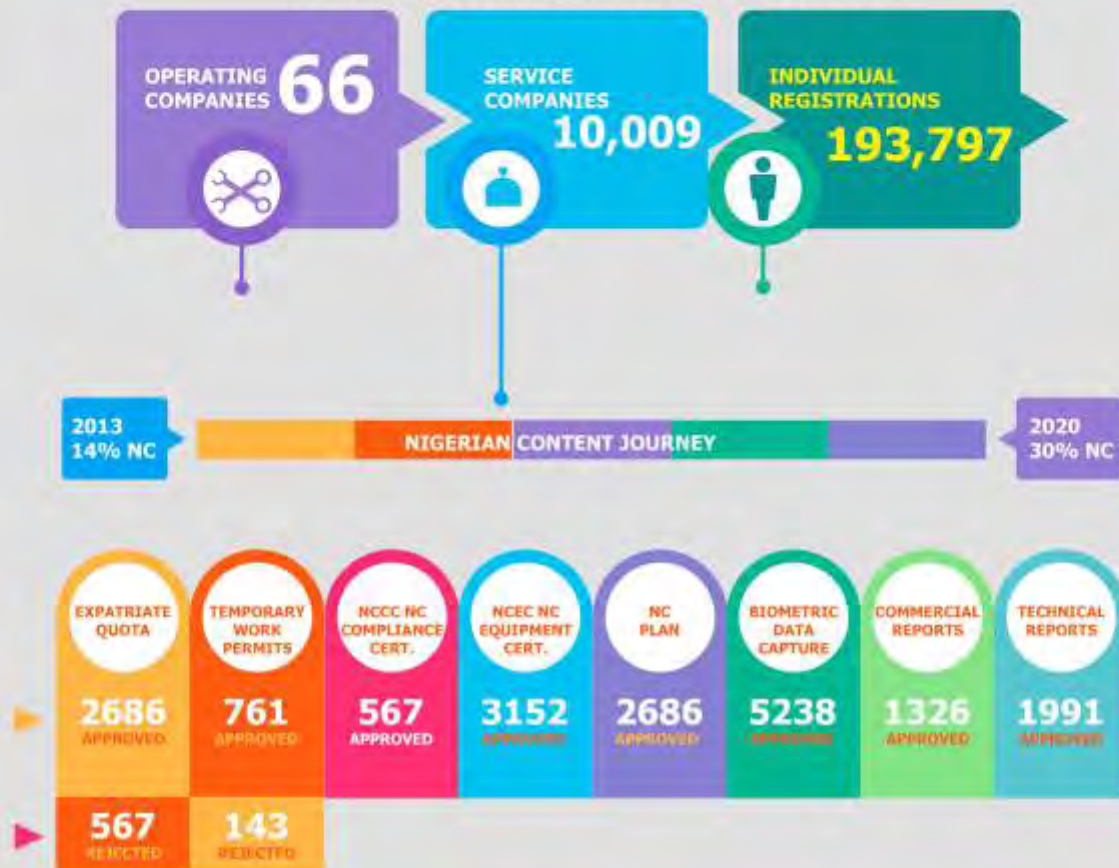
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Technical Operational Data (2010-2020)



CERTIFICATES 2010-2020

YEAR	NCP	NCCC	Commercial Reports	Technical Reports	Biometric	EXPATRIATE QUOTA (EQ)	EQ Rejected	TWP	TWP Rejected	NCEC
2010		8	39	145	1722-Operator					
2011		67	122	153	3516-Service Companies					
2012		6	131	170						
2013	1242	27	158	183		914	1003			
2014	255	1	83	179		1,693	1,668			1004
2015	146	19	91	122		1,500	922			158
2016	172	46	94	226		1054	676			353
2017	183	28	109	233		938	621	80		398
2018	309	107	219	306		961	417	347	29	626
2019	251	161	212	234		828	157	263	93	541
2020	128	97	68	40		123	85	71	21	72
Total	2686	567	1326	1991	5238	8011	5549	761	143	3152

Business survival after COVID-19 lockdown

It's not the strongest of species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change – Charles Darwin

Over a century ago, the Spanish Flu of 1918 swept across the globe. That pandemic killed over 50 million people and reshaped the state of affairs worldwide.

History has repeated itself this year. Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic suddenly emerged and spread rapidly around the world, taking everyone by storm. What began like a distant echo in Wuhan, China, late last year, has spread swiftly across the globe, leaving in its wake a trail of death, despondency and disruptions. How it popped up, the speed of its spread and the high mortality rate, caught countries and leaders off guard, instilling morbid fear in all.

Thus, response across nations was to shut down businesses, schools, places of worship, airports and borders with heavy restriction of human and vehicular movements. For weeks, everything and everywhere has been on standstill.

With everything on hold and people forced to stay at home, productive activities have ceased while inventories have dried, thus freezing global commerce. These have fractured the global economy, causing unprecedented loss of revenue, jobs and spike in commodity prices with other grim prognosis. The health cost of COVID-19 pandemic is immeasurable and the economic damage is deep and pervasive.

The pandemic affected everyone and everything in some way. As the pandemic ravages on, crude oil prices have tumbled and crashed. It has become a double whammy for the oil and gas industry, making the current downturn more daunting than any previous shock. There are no signs in the horizon that this pandemic would go away completely anytime soon as there is yet no cure or vaccine for it. The hope of vaccine discovery is really so far away.

To minimise the economic impact, countries are rebooting to ease up lockdowns. Soon, businesses will resume everywhere, including Nigeria. But they will return to face new realities with tricky new health protocols introduced to mitigate exposure to and transmission of the virus.

Oil and gas business after COVID-19 lockdown

The world will wake to a changed business environment. Under the emerging order, individuals and businesses will be required to adhere strictly to all COVID-19 health protocols, including hand washing, use of face masks and social distancing. These would entail reconfiguring production lines and office seating arrangement. There has to be deep cleaning of factories and chemical emasculation of office premises. Businesses will have to maintain allowable number of people in offices and shop floors.

The Implication is that lifting the lockdown will not automatically see businesses running with speed. Instead, businesses will learn to stand first - and to walk again - not to run. But to ensure resilience, oil and gas businesses will have to adapt to the new normal in this emerging order.

Thus, even in the post-COVID-19 environment, big offices and physical presence will not be as glamorous as before. On the contrary, technology and innovation will be the new drivers. This explains why working remotely from homes has triggered acceleration in the use of technology. According to a report in *The Economist* of April 11, 2020, Zoom, an online videoconferencing IT service, which used to serve only 10 million customers a day in the beginning of this year, now caters for over 200 million people a day. Similar products and services, like Microsoft's Teams and Skype, are contending with Zoom for market share.

The emerging business scenario, therefore, presents organisations and businesses new possibilities for re-invention and survival. As Charles Darwin, the British naturalist and proponent of evolution, observed, "It's not the strongest of species that survive, or the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change". Indeed, the speed of adaptation to new technologies and creativity will be critical for oil and gas business survival and continuity in the post-COVID-19 lockdown era.

Actions by NCDMB to spur business continuity

During the lockdown, NCDMB quickly adapted and continued critical operations and services to the industry using ICT tools. We responded promptly to all service requests. Working remotely with essential workers, we sustained all essential services, handled urgent matters, addressed emerging issues and provided requisite service to the public.

We are currently in talks with members of the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN), the umbrella body for service providers in the industry, on possible institutional support to engender business resilience and prevent job losses. We are also exploring appropriate fiscal and policy responses to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the IPPG and OPTS group so that no group is left out.

In addition to the various stimulus packages announced by the Nigerian government to cushion the effect of COVID-19, NCDMB has also rolled out palliatives for service companies, particularly beneficiaries of the Nigerian Content Intervention (NCI) Fund. The palliatives include reduction of the interest rate (from eight to six percent per annum), extension of moratorium and tenor extension, effective April 01, 2020 to avert revenue and capital losses. Plans are afoot by NCDMB to introduce new loan products, like working capital and loan for capacity building, among several others, to meet varied interests and needs.

Under COVID-19 gloom, NCDMB fast-tracked all Nigerian content reviews and approvals to speed up the EPC contract execution for NLNG Train 7, thereby helping to break the jinx of project drought in Nigeria's oil and gas sector after Egina. We are actively pushing for other FIDs

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that have been in the offing to be taken, regardless of crude oil price volatility. Knowing that MSMEs are badly hit by COVID-19 pandemic and desirous of facilitating the growth of indigenous oil and gas start-ups, we recommended Project 100 companies to NLNG for consideration in Train 7 project execution.

In furtherance of our R&D initiative for a dedicated research council, NCDMB has set aside US\$50 million grant research to catalyse research and innovation. Additionally, we have launched **NOGTECH**, a new hackathon platform to spur creation of local tech solutions and innovation in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

We are encouraged by the ongoing legislative processes in the Ninth National Assembly to amend the NOGIC Act to infuse fresh impetus in local content compliance. We are similarly excited to see the energy and determination by the current national Assembly to extend local content regime to other key sectors of the Nigerian economy. When these actions materialise, they will lead to a happy denouement in the Coronavirus outbreak in Nigeria

The world has changed. Forever

There's no gainsaying that COVID-19, like the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic, is radically altering the way we live and do business worldwide. For us in the Nigerian oil and gas industry, the emerging milieu calls for rapid change in our worldview and large-scale shift to technology. This is the way to reduce human contact and large physical gathering to mitigate infection and spread of the deadly virus. Continuing oil and gas business would necessitate increasing adoption and extension of existing and emerging tech solutions and applications in finance, defence, oil and gas to logistics and communication.

We have to come to terms with the reality that the days of global supply chain, nay reliance on other nations for key supplies, are over. The time is ripe to develop and strengthen our local supply chains with greater intensity and total commitment. Herein lies the hope of our national survival.

As I hinted during my recent webinar with Oil and Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria (OGTAN), the new normal for skills enrichment is tele-education, virtual trainings and machine learning. COVID-19 will speed up adaptation to disruptive technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Automation, Robotics, and Machine Learning as well as Internet of things (IoT), Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR) and Big Data. These will drive cost optimisation, efficiency and survival. No doubt, some traditional skill sets will give way for new skills and jobs to emerge. But the industry has to adjust and brace up for these cataclysmic changes in the horizon.

In the emerging business order, ingenuity and nimbleness, not necessary deep pocket, will account for oil and gas business survival after the COVID-19 lockdown.

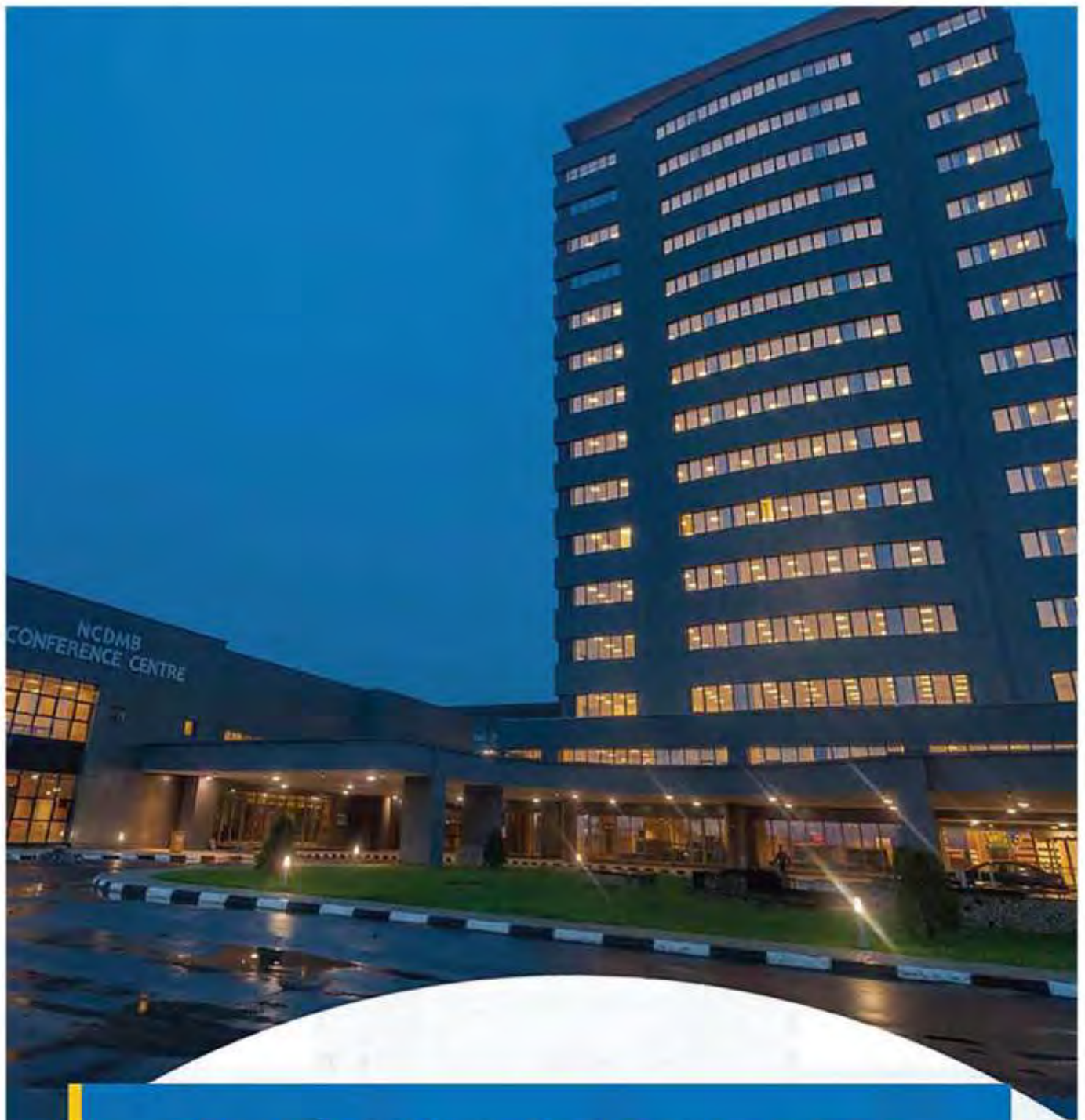
Under COVID-19 gloom, NCDMB fast-tracked all Nigerian content reviews and approvals to speed up the EPC contract execution for NLNG Train 7, thereby helping to break the jinx of project drought in Nigeria's oil and gas sector after Egina. We are actively pushing for other FIDs that have been in the offing to be taken, regardless of crude oil price volatility. Knowing that MSMEs are badly hit by Covid-19 pandemic and desirous of facilitating the growth of indigenous oil and gas start-ups, we recommended Project 100 companies to NLNG for consideration in Train 7 project execution.

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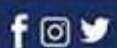


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Egina Project

Advancing Nigerian Content to record levels

EGINA



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Local Commitment



Local Contractors on Egina Project



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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.



Editorial

Naboth Onyesoh

Special edition for a unique Anniversary

In *Things Fall Apart*, Chinua Achebe alludes to a certain year in the history of Umuofia community: "Nothing happened at its proper time; it was either too early or too late. It seemed as if the world had gone mad." The outbreak of the Coronavirus made it seem as though everything in the world had gone awry. In NCDMB, events scheduled for Q1 & Q2 of 2020 were altered: the 10th year anniversary celebration, R&D Fair, quarterly production and distribution of the *Local Content Digest*, just to mention but a few.

Thus, the *Local Content Digest* was not published until now. An African proverb says, "When the drumbeat changes, the dancers also change their dance steps." We had to combine the first and second quarter reports, forming a special edition to mark the 10th anniversary of the Local Content Act. It is really special both in quantity and quality - bigger, richer and more radiant.

The anniversary edition expectedly leads with the story of 10 years of local content drive in the Nigerian oil and gas industry. It chronicles the remarkable accomplishments, jobs and opportunities created, in-country value and capital retention, capacity development and impressive growth in the participation of Nigerians in the industry, unlike before the NOGIC Act. It's a cheering report of solid achievements worth celebrating; more so, the successes recorded in the oil and gas industry have aroused unquenchable desire to expand local content practice to other key sectors of the Nigerian economy.

To speed up localisation of knowledge and engender innovation in the next wave of Nigerian Content implementation, the Board recently launched *NOGTECH*, a Science and Technology Innovation Challenge to complement the Board's Research and Development initiative. The report of this hackathon programme is fully covered in this edition.

Milestone in this edition features Mr Osagie Okunba, Country Chair, Shell Nigeria Group. The interview offers deep insight into the prospects for Bonga South West, the pioneering role of Shell and other IOCs in catalysing local content objectives in the oil and gas industry.

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Travelogue uncovers the awe-inspiring hanging lake in Africa, the Iyake Lake, located in Oyo State. Worldwide, there are only two hanging lakes - the Iyake Lake in Oyo State and the one in Colorado, United States. Iyake Lake is excellent for hiking and sight-seeing. Though our crew found the site a work-in-progress, it's exceedingly fascinating and worth considering as a tourist destination in Nigeria. Under *HSE*, readers will find useful hints on how to fix recurrent back pain, which seems to be ailing many people and hurting productivity.

There's lot more in this edition, trust me. Just grab a copy and read about industry news like the contract for NLNG Train7, inauguration of new NCDMB Governing Council and other interesting oil and gas developments in the last six months.

Finally, very special thanks to the companies that supported this particularly edition - Shell Nigeria, Gil Automations, NAOC and our longstanding partners: Saipem, MG Vowgas, Aveon Offshore, Megastar, Tamrose Ventures, for their constancy right from the beginning, even against all odds. Your partnerships with us do eloquently testify to your commitment to Nigerian content philosophy and propagation.

- Naboth Onyesoh (Editor-in-Chief)

NCI Fund beneficiaries get lower interest, extended tenor

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has given beneficiaries of loans under the Nigerian Content Intervention (NCI) Fund fresh palliatives to spur business continuity and overcome the difficulties created by the coronavirus outbreak.

The palliatives include a huge reduction in the interest rate from eight to six percent per annum, extension of the moratorium and tenor. These palliatives took effect from April 01, 2020. Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, explained that the palliatives would reinforce the

economic stimulus packages of the Federal Government. He said NCDMB would continue to support businesses in the oil and gas industry, to help them surmount emerging operational difficulties.

He said all running loans with outstanding tenor within three years will be extended by six months, while all running loan facilities with a tenor above 12 years will get extra 12 months tenor. Similarly, there will be moratorium extension on all running facilities under manufacturing, asset acquisition and contract financing with outstanding tenor not exceeding three years by six months

and by 12 months for all applicable running facilities.

The five loan products under the NCI Fund are manufacturing, asset acquisition, contract financing, loan refinancing and community contractor financing. There have been no disbursements yet under Community Contractor Financing till date.

The Board also confirmed that about 91 percent of the US\$200 million NCI Fund had been disbursed to 26 beneficiaries and many of them had started repaying. This indicated that the current success rate of the Intervention Fund is above 95 percent.



(R-L): Barr. Mohammed Umar, Director, Legal Services; Mr Patrick Daziba Obah, Director, Planning Research and Statistics; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr Tunde Adelana, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation; Dr Mark Osa Igiehon, Lead Consultant, Aberdeen Commercial Solutions Limited and Mr Kingdom Unwene, Manager, Procurement at the launch of NCDMB Procurement Policies and Procedures Manual (PPPM) in Yenagoa, Bayelsa state.

Project 100 companies recommended for T7 projects

From the Nigerian Content Monitoring and Development Board (NCDMB) came a word of advice for the Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG): engage Project 100 companies in the execution of Train 7 project and other related services.

The NCDMB gave the advice via a recent letter, titled: *Introducing Project 100 Beneficiaries for Consideration on NLNG Projects*. The Board also attached the list of the Project 100 companies, the services they offer to the oil and gas industry and their track records.

Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, said Project 100 was conceived to

identify 100 start-ups in oil and gas and support them with special interventions to bolster their incubation, maturation and growth into world-class service companies. He said the programme was introduced as part of the Board's mandate to develop the capacity of the local supply chain for effective and efficient service delivery in the oil and gas industry.

The first phase began in January 2019. Sixty companies were selected through a transparent process conducted by KPMG, an international consultancy firm. The benefits of the scheme include special interventions, access to market opportunities, access to capacity building,

funding, policy prescription, research and development and business insight.

The Board has been supporting the companies and is committed to offering other institutional assistance to aid the companies' maturation into world-class status.

As part of access to market intervention, Wabote said NCDMB would regularly recommend Project 100 Companies to project promoters and big EPCI companies, for independent assessment of their capabilities for business opportunities.

NCDMB outlines development initiatives for communities

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) is implementing several initiatives to develop oil producing communities and improve their economies. Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, outlined the interventions in a presentation he made to the National Defence College Course 28 in February.

Represented by Mr Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development, the Executive Secretary explained that NCDMB established the Community Contractors Fund under the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund.

This allows community contractors to access up to ₦20 million for contract execution in the oil and gas industry at five percent interest rate.

Wabote added that NCDMB was also developing the Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGAPS) in four strategic locations in the oil producing states for manufacturing equipment, components and chemicals, as well as training youths. Each park is projected to generate 2,000 jobs when operational.

He also identified the gas metering and distribution facility, which the NCDMB is catalysing

in partnership with Shell Nigeria Gas (SNG) at Polaku, Bayelsa State, to create over 30,000 jobs from the several gas-based industries that will set up along the gas corridor.

The Board is also providing support for the establishment of two modular refineries in oil producing states, which would induce local refining, add value to crude and reduce refined products importation. It will also mitigate pipeline vandalism, crude oil theft and illegal refining, while helping to create jobs and jump-start economic activities in the local communities.

Shell partners NCDMB on gas facility at Polaku

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has signed an agreement with Shell Nigeria Gas (SNG) for the lease of one hectare of NCDMB's land at Polaku, Bayelsa State for the development of a Pressure Reduction and Metering Station. The agreement was signed in Abuja in March by Engr. Simbi Wabote, the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, and Mr Ed Ubong, Managing Director of SNG.

The facility will be used to distribute part of the gas from Shell's Gbarain-Ubie Gas Plant for domestic utilisation.

Wabote said the Board decided to use part of its Polaku land to catalyse the distribution and availability of natural gas to domestic gas users within Bayelsa and neighbouring states, in line with NCDMB's vision to be a catalyst for the industrialisation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors.

He said: "With the extension of the gas pipeline network by SNG, more businesses can be supplied with natural gas, thereby creating employment and enabling impactful economic activities. We expect 30,000 direct and indirect jobs to be created in

construction, manufacturing and services sector within the next two years."

The MD conveyed Shell's excitement at developing the project, saying the company is the pioneer and leader in the delivery of domestic gas.

Mr Hans Nijkamp, Chairman of SNG, said: "Everywhere we have distributed gas, we have seen the explosion of economic activities. That is Shell's domestic agenda for gas in Nigeria. We have growth plans and we are very excited to work together with NCDMB."



L-R: Mr Ed Ubong, Managing Director, Shell Nigeria Gas; Mr Bank-Anthony Okoroafor, former chairman, PETAN and Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, during a tour of exhibition stands at the Fourth Sub-Saharan Africa International Conference (SAIPEC) in Lagos, February 2020.

NCDMB invests US\$25m in DUPORT Energy Park, ERASKON Oil blending plant

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has invested a total of US\$25million in two companies - Duport Midstream Company for the establishment of an Energy Park in Egbokor, Edo State and Eraskon Nigeria Limited, for a lubricating oils blending plant in Gbarain, Bayelsa State.

The Board's investments are expected to catalyse industrialisation and generate about 1,500 direct, indirect, and induced employment opportunities, in addition to several other spin-off economic activities where these projects are located.

The planned Energy Park comprises a 2,500bpd modular refinery, 30mmscfd gas processing facility, which will include a CNG facility and 2MW power plant. Similarly, the lubricating oils blending plant will be the first of such plant in Bayelsa State and will have the capacity to produce 45,000litres per day and enhance the availability of engine oils, transmission fluids, grease and other products.

Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, signed the Shareholders Agreements and Share Subscription Agreements at the Board's liaison office in Abuja while Dr Akintoye Akindele, Managing Director of

Duport Midstream Company and Mr Maxwell Oko, Managing Director of Erakson Nigeria Limited equally signed for their firms.

Engr. Wabote said the investments were part of the approvals granted recently by the Board's Governing Council chaired by Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources. He added that the investments were coming under the Board's commercial ventures programme and was in sync with NCDMB's vision to serve as a catalyst for the industrialisation of the Nigerian oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors.



NCDMB supports fight against COVID-19 pandemic



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB handing over a letter communicating the Board's donation of ₦70 million to Mr. Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation and Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19.



Mr. Patrick Daziba Obah, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, NCDMB handing over the Board's COVID-19 relief items to Rt. Hon. Konbowei Benson, Secretary to the Bayelsa State Government.



Rt. Hon. Konbowei Benson, Secretary to the State Government, Bayelsa State receiving the food items from Mr. Patrick Daziba Obah and appreciating the Board for its support.



Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communication and Zonal Coordination, NCDMB handing over the Board's COVID-19 relief items to Prof Chike Princewill, Hon. Commissioner for Health, Rivers State to help curb the spread of the pandemic.



Mr. Patrick Daziba Obah handing over some palliatives to Bayelsa State Government as part of the Board's Corporate Social Responsibility to help stem hunger as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown.



Some of the food items donated to Bayelsa State government as COVID-19 palliative.





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

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

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TOYOTA





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

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

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

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

POWERING NIGERIAN CONTENT

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

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

POWERING NIGERIAN CONTENT

Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited



Co-venture partners



10 YEARS OF LOCAL CONTENT

Driving innovation, jobs creation and economic growth

Charting a new path for economic growth and development, the enactment of the Local Content Act in 2010 has led to huge impact that has far-reaching effects beyond the oil and gas industry and across Nigeria's borders.



With all its ugliness and pain, the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in Nigeria literally amplified the criticality and foresight of Nigerian government for enacting local content practice in the oil and gas industry 10 years ago. As it were, COVID-19 drove home the message and urgency of building local capacities and capabilities, particularly in the key sectors of Nigeria's economy. Thus, the deadly virus exposed the vulnerability of depending on foreign inputs and supplies for national survival, which is exactly what the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act 2010 was designed to address and avert in the petroleum industry and linkage sectors.

Boss Mustapha, Nigerian lawyer and Secretary to the Government of the Federation, who is also the Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on COVID-19, alluded to this bright side of the Coronavirus pandemic in an interview with this magazine in May, hinting that the Federal Government was taking quick steps through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to support and stimulate local productive capacity. The fresh awakening by COVID-19 as well as the Executive Orders issued by the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari demonstrates continuity in government, especially with a viable national economic agenda.

April 22 marked the 10th anniversary of local content practice, legislated into existence by the NOGICD Act 2010, which was signed by former President Goodluck Jonathan. This Act ushered in the most transformative economic legal regime in the history of Nigeria's energy sector. The anniversary is reminiscent of self-emancipation from foreign dominance of the nation's hydrocarbon business. Annually, April 22 evokes the pleasant memory of a day Nigeria decided to rewrite the history of its hydrocarbon development, signaling a permanent shift from rent-seeking proclivity to in-country value addition via domiciliation and domestication of oil and gas activities.

In plain terms, the NOGICD Act is oriented to reverse over 50 years of total foreign dependency in Nigeria's oil and gas industry. According to Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), foreign dominance of the industry's activities resulted in huge capital flight of about US\$380 billion and two million job losses.

Despite the initial misgivings about the Act, the management of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, the agency vested with the onerous task of implementing it, gingerly enforced the requirements with commendable gusto and gravitas. Thus, 10 years on, local content practice has been entrenched as an unavoidable element of overall project development and management philosophy in Nigeria's petroleum industry, affirming the thesis by Victor Hugo, the French writer that "Nothing is more powerful than an idea whose time has come".

10 years of phenomenal growth

Prior to the Act, most critical services in the industry were performed by foreign companies, most times overseas. Today, all these services are now handled in-country by indigenous service companies, including 80 percent of conceptual, front-end and detailed engineering as well as other high-tech services in the deep and ultra-deep offshore operations.

Another indicator is that the number of Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) member-companies, being the association of leading indigenous services firms, has grown from 44, prior to the NOGICD Act, to 93 in 2020. Similarly, over 8,000 service companies are captured on the NCDMB's Joint Qualification Standards (JQS) portal, as firms that provide oil and gas-related services in Nigeria and other parts of the Gulf of Guinea.

On this development, Engr. Bank-Anthony Okoroafor, immediate past Chairman of PETAN, said: "There is no area in the oil and gas value chain that you wouldn't find competent Nigerians performing services, and you will see the number of jobs created and value of retention in-country. The journey has been fantastic."

Today, five cutting-edge fabrication yards operate in Nigeria, each with capacity of about 60,000 metric tonnes per annum, in addition to several other manufacturing yards that dot the country. Local firms, like Aveon Offshore, Nigerdock, FMC and Saipem, now have the capacity to fabricate Christmas trees, topsides, subsea production systems, manifold systems, among several others. Some indigenous companies have even ventured outside the country and many others plan to leverage on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to launch out. Before the Act was enacted, local content in the local industry was less than five percent, but between 2010

In the early years of NCDMB, Dr. Ernest Nwapa, pioneer Executive Secretary led his team, comprising mostly secondees from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to design strategies, procedures and tools for implementing the new law. The Board commenced the implementation of Capacity Development Interventions (CDIs) and compliance enforcement, including the issuance of requisite approvals and certificates, like the Nigerian Content Compliance Certificate (NCCC) and Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC), among other statutory certifications.



Inauguration of NCDMB new Governing Council (L-R): Mr. Nicolas Odinuwe, representing the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN); Mrs. Peace Oyanbo Owei, representing the Ministry of Petroleum Resources; Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB; Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Engr. Farouk Sa'id, representing the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and Mr. Olorundare Thomas, representing the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM).

and 2015, we moved it to about 25 percent and, today, it's about 30 percent," Engr. Wabote said.

A rich history of achievements and driving economic growth

In the early years of NCDMB, Engr. Ernest Nwapa, pioneer Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, led his team, comprising mostly secondees from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), to design strategies, procedures and tools for implementing the new law. Thereafter, the Board started to implement Capacity Development Interventions (CDIs) and compliance enforcement, including the issuance of requisite approvals and certificates, like the Nigerian Content Compliance Certificate (NCCC) and Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC), among others, to drive data-related operations. The Board set up the NOGIC IQS platform to manage Expatriate Quota, Vessel Categorisation, Capacity Building and similar roles.

Arc. Denzel Kentebe took over the rein of office in April 2015. Although his term was suddenly truncated when he was already poised to unleash his energy and vision for the Board, he still made appreciable progress by steadying the ship and sustaining the momentum for about eight months before he was replaced by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote as the Executive Secretary in the last quarter of 2016.

When Engr. Simbi Wabote took over in the last quarter of 2016, the rhythm changed. Local content practice achieved a much higher pinnacle. Drawing from a rich pedigree of cross-functional abilities and wide breadth of experience, spanning over 20 years in Shell Petroleum Development and Production Company (SPDC), Engr. Wabote began to initiate and drive rapid changes. He started by resetting, simplifying and automating the internal processes. He took down unnecessary bottlenecks and cut red tape. He introduced business agility to propel speed in service

delivery. It was a phenomenal change.

Within the first one year in office, he had reorganised and repositioned the Board for higher efficiency and productivity by automating and optimising its processes and implementation tools. He insisted on simplifying reporting templates and shortened the turnaround time for all the Board's touchpoints in tendering process. He initiated the use of Service Level Agreements (SLAs), way ahead of any other Federal Government agency, to ensure ease of doing business. He developed a 10-year strategic roadmap, designed to increase Nigerian content level to 70 percent by 2027, with clear performance indicators, which include the creation of 300,000 jobs, retain at least \$14 billion out of annual industry spend and activate manufacturing of vital oil and gas tools and spare parts in Nigeria.

In less than four years, Engr. Wabote has not only increased the momentum of local content practice, but also completely transformed the Nigerian oil and gas landscape, raising the bar of local content performance in the oil and gas industry. This explains the growing call for extension of local content to other sectors of the economy. Happily, this clarion call has been picked up by the Ninth National Assembly, leading to the commencement of legislative process for enacting another law to extend local content practice to construction, power, mines and ICT.

Documenting the passel of achievements of Nigerian Content implementation in the past decade might sound like the fable of five blind men who were led to touch an elephant. As the story went, they narrated different versions of what the elephant looked like based on the part each one of them touched or felt. Nevertheless, we have highlighted a few of the achievements of the Board in the last 10 years.

Integrating FPSOs in Nigeria

Perhaps the biggest achievement is the development of the SHI-MCI Floating, Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) integration quay and the actual partial integration of the TOTAL E&P Egina FPSO in 2018.

It happened because NCDMB insisted that every big oil and gas ticket project must leave a legacy. Incidentally, the TOTAL E&P's Egina deep water field development project was the first major project to begin after the NOGICD Act and the Board inserted in the Nigerian Content Plan that the FPSO must be integrated in-country. That singular decision compelled Samsung Heavy Industries Limited and LADOL, the FPSO lead consortium, to set up the SHI-MCI yard, the first of its kind in the Gulf of Guinea. Six of the modules of the Egina FPSO were fabricated by different companies in Nigeria, including Nigerdock, and

later integrated at the SHI-MCI yard, which is now available for future FPSO construction, integration and maintenance.

Several other components of the FPSO were manufactured in Nigeria, including the Offshore Loading Terminal (OLT) Buoy, fabricated by Aveon Offshore, in Port Harcourt. Similarly, all the paints used for the FPSO were made in Nigeria and shipped to South Korea, where the primary parts of the FPSO were completed and painted before sailing back to Nigeria.

Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, said: "Egina achieved very high record levels of Nigerian Content and we are hoping that the next stop will be Bonga South West. They promised to achieve more local content participation. NLNG Train 7 will take us to another level."



17-Storey Local Content Tower

Another major achievement is the NCDMB 17-storey ultramodern office complex in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital. It was executed within five years by Megastar Technical & Construction Limited, an indigenous civil construction company, using mostly materials that were sourced locally. The project generated over 250 direct and indirect jobs and created opportunities for artisanal skills development and utilisation. This complex will be supported with a 10MW independent gas-powered plant, jointly constructed by NAOC and NCDMB. The power plant would provide 24/7 electricity to the office, the oil and gas park in Bayelsa and a few other users in Yenagoa on pay-as-you-go basis.



High tech pipe mills

The establishment of two world-class pipe mills is also significant. The mills manufacture HSAW line pipes, which are in high demand in the industry. The SCC Pipe-Mill is located in Abuja, with an installed capacity of 270,000MT per annum and the Yulong Pipe-Mill is in Lagos, with capacity to manufacture 400,000MT HSAW line pipes per annum.



**In-country pipe coating**

Prior to the NOGICD Act, line pipes used in Nigeria's oil and gas industry were all imported, fully coated. Following the establishment of about five world-class pipe coating plants in Nigeria, NCDMB issued a circular in 2018 banning importation of coated pipes, which has resulted in capital retention, job creation and skill enhancement for Nigerians.

High quality electrical cables

Similarly, all electrical cables used in the Nigerian oil and gas industry were previously imported. This, too, has stopped. Electrical cables required, both for marine and onshore oil and gas operations, are now manufactured in-country.



True industrialisation starts with NOGaPs

Between 2012 and 2013, NCDMB started conceptualising the oil and gas parks. The goal was to spur manufacturing of critical oil and gas tools, equipment and accessories in-country. Companies that operate from the parks will be provided with steady electricity. This is expected to significantly promote in-country manufacturing and technology transfer from original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) to their local partners.

Civil construction works have reached advanced stages in the three pilot locations – Odukpani (Cross River), Emeyal-1 (Bayelsa State) and Ikwe, Onna LGA of Akwa Ibom State. They are expected to come on stream on or before 2023, with the potential to create about 2,000 jobs each when fully operational. On May 20, 2020, the Federal Executive Council approved ₦2.9 billion for the provision of water and fire service equipment at the Odukpani Park, proof of government's unflinching support for the park project.





HISTORIC MoU: (L-R): Dr. Ibe Kachikwu, former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Mr. Olukayode Pitan, Managing Director, Bank of Industry after the MOU signing of implementation of the \$200 million Nigerian Content Intervention Fund in Abuja, August 24, 2017.

\$200m Nigerian Content Intervention (NCI) Fund

In 2017, the Board launched the \$200 million NCI Fund, managed by Bank of Industry (BoI), with a view to driving down cost of funds in the industry and enhancing local supply chain efficiency and competitiveness. The NCI Fund provides low interest facility for indigenous service companies. It has been highly subscribed, with over 90 percent of the fund already accessed.

Increase in asset ownership

Before 2010, Nigerians owned less than five percent of rigs and marine vessels in the industry. This has increased to 40 percent today. Indigenous asset ownership profile of security patrol vessels (SPVs), platform supply vessels (PSVs), line handling tugs (LHTs), anchor handling tugs (AHTs), crew boats, among many others, has increased significantly through the application of marine vessel utilisation procedure and provision of funding from the Nigerian Content Development Fund.

There has also been an astronomical increase in the number of rigs acquired by Nigerians since 2010, following the rigorous enforcement of the provision of the Act, which stipulates that oil and gas drilling operations on land and swamp should be reserved exclusively for indigenous service companies.



**\$50m R&D intervention fund**

NCDMB also developed an R&D framework and launched a \$50 million Nigerian Content Research and Development Fund to drive and boost the growth of indigenous technology and innovation. The Board established an R&D Council, comprising stakeholders from the industry, academia and R&D ecosystem. The essence of this initiative is to rekindle interest in R&D, develop and deploy home-grown solutions and lead innovation.

Deepening human capital

NCDMB has also excelled in its Human Capacity Development Initiatives (HCDIs) designed to close identified critical skills gaps in the industry, reduce reliance on expatriates, stop capital flight and create jobs for Nigerians. The Board's HCDIs run on two tracks: the first is on the back of ongoing projects and the second is direct interventions. In 10 years, NCDMB has successfully achieved over nine million training man-hours for Nigerian youths. Through direct interventions and strategic partnerships, NCDMB has generated over 198,000 direct and indirect jobs for Nigerians.

The Board collaborates with industry stakeholders to address identified critical skills gap. For example, in conjunction with Charkins Maritime & Offshore Services, the Board sponsored the training of 20 Nigerians as marine cadets for 12 months in the United States of America, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and China, giving them international sea-time experience required for qualification to man vessels. The goal is to reduce reliance on foreign marine cadets. Plan is afoot to sponsor another set of 40 marine cadets next year to gain international sea time experience.

Similarly, the Board partnered with AOS Orwell to train 50 young Nigerians in smart electrical engineering at the Lagos Energy Academy and ensured that most of the trainees were employed. Since 2017, NCDMB has been operating the 60:20:20 training model, which implies that 60 percent of trainings the Board provides is for specialised skills in critical demand by the industry; 20 percent for skills enrichment while 20 percent is for essential skills. By so doing, the Board ensures that at least 60 percent of people trained under its HCD intervention is guaranteed instant employment upon completion of the training.



Catalysing businesses

NCDMB also stands very tall in catalysing oil and gas investments. With the outbreak of COVID-19 and associated lockdowns, the Board rolled out a number of incentives and stimulus packages to engender resilience and business continuity for service companies. The objective of the stimulus package is to prevent job losses and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on local businesses.

NCDMB also came up with the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF). The second edition was held in 2019, culminating in the publication of a compendium of oil and gas opportunities in Nigeria, with a five-year outlook.

In line with its catalytic role and desire to promote effective resource utilisation, NCDMB took equity investment in Waltersmith and Azikel refineries with a clear exit strategy. The Waltersmith Modular Refinery is planned to come on stream before the end of 2020.

The Board has also entered into other similar investments: with Rungas for the establishment of LPG cylinder manufacturing in Polaku, near Yenagoa; with Chimons Gas Limited for the establishment of a 168,000 MT/per annum LGP loading and offloading terminal in Koko, Delta State and with Bunorr Integrated Energy Limited, for the establishment of a 48,000 litres/day plant in Port Harcourt for the production of base oil.

The Board also launched a revised and simplified Nigerian Content Reporting template and executed Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with NLNG, OPTS and IPPG.



Garlands@10

There is a consensus among industry stakeholders that the first 10 years of Nigerian Content Act have been a resounding success. Thus, in faraway Cape Town at the 2018 African Oil Week, Engr. Simbi Wabote was decorated with a global local content award for exemplary local content leadership. At the award ceremony, there were profuse testimonies about the pragmatic approach of Nigeria's local content enforcement and that it is worthy of emulation by other nascent oil and gas provinces. In 2019, NCDMB again won the *BusinessDay Award* of the Most Transformational Government Agency of the Year, recognising the Board's innovative programmes and processes for enabling business.

On the catalytic role of NCDMB in the establishment of the FPSO integration facility in Nigeria, Dr. Amy Jadesimi, Managing Director, Lagos Deep Offshore Logistics Base (LADOL), said: "It's been a triumph for local content. We have created 3,000 jobs so far. Going forward, we expect to create 50,000 jobs directly or indirectly due to the multiplier effect of what we do at LADOL."

Mr. Tein George, Chairman, Aveon Offshore, sums it up when he asserts that Nigerian Content Act is the pride of Africa. "We have, perhaps, the most certain local content regulations in Africa. The laws are very clear. The Board has done an outstanding job; it has enforced the law, been pragmatic, fair and reasonable," he says.

The success of Nigeria's local content practice in the oil and gas industry is acknowledged across the African continent. This is why several oil and gas producing countries, including Ghana, Uganda, Kenya, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Niger Republic, and Congo Brazzaville, have continued to engage NCDMB for guidance on developing similar policies in their markets.

Enthused with the successes of local content practice in Nigeria, Engr. Ernest Nwapa, pioneer Executive Secretary of NCDMB, said: "Looking at the strides of Nigerian Content, I see the beginning, I see where I dropped off and where we are today. I see a trajectory that is smooth and close to the vision and that makes me happy."

The journey to the top is fraught with difficulty, but the greatest difficulty lies in maintaining one's place at the top. There is no doubt that NCDMB has earned its way to the top within 10 years. To continue the upswing, the Board is relentlessly pursuing a 10-year strategic roadmap, which effectively started in 2017. The roadmap has five (5) strategic pillars and four (4) enablers. The pillars are: Technical Capability Development, Compliance and Enforcement, Enabling Business Environment, Organisational Capability and Sectorial/Regional Market Linkages. The four enablers to the roadmap are: Funding, Regulatory Environment, Collaboration and Stakeholders' Engagement, Research and Development (R&D). Under this strategic roadmap, the Board aims to grow local content from the current 30 percent to 70 percent in 2027, retain \$14 billion from annual industry spend, generate 300,00 jobs, spur in-country manufacturing and create access to regional market for excess capacities built in Nigeria.

Granted that much has been achieved in the past years, the Board is still poised to achieve even greater feats in the coming years. NCDMB is upbeat and determined to do greater exploits for Nigerians. Like the indomitable traveller in Alfred Lord Tennyson's *Ulysses*, NCDMB is "strong in will" and determined "to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield" any ground in its quest and vision to be the catalyst for the industrialisation of Nigeria's oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors.

Naboth Onyesoh is the Manager, Corporate Communications, NCDMB.



NCDMB past and current leadership (L-R): Arc. Denzel Kentebe, former Executive Secretary; Dr Ernest Nwapa, pioneer Executive Secretary and Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB.



(L-R) Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB after a meeting in Abuja with Dr. Ahmed Lawan, President of the Senate and Senator Teslim Folarin, Chairman of the Local Content Committee in the Senate

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB after a meeting in Abuja with Rt. Hon Femi Gbajabiamila Speaker of the House of Representatives and Hon. Ochiglegot Idagbo, Chairman, House of Reps Committee of Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring





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That BACK PAIN?

Look no further
than your
MATTRESS

*The pain, usually excruciating, is linked to several causes.
A good mattress is an antidote.*

Uche is the star performer in his office. He has several awards and commendation letters to his credit. Then he was struck by an inexplicable pain around his lower back that just seemed to defy solutions. It got so bad that Uche's performance at work began to wane; he sometimes even missed work. Try as he could, Uche simply could not push himself to give as much as he was used to and the drop in productivity was becoming noticeable.

It is difficult to perform at one's best when contending with a stubborn back pain. At some point, Uche even flirted with the diabolic notion that he was being 'attacked' by an envious co-worker.

Lower back pain, the type suffered by Uche, is, sadly, now a fairly common medical condition among workers – male and female – due mainly to an increasingly sedentary lifestyle. Man, by nature, is built for motion and physical activity. It is therefore not surprising that of the over 200 bones in a human body, the feet and the hands together have more than half of the total. This is so to strengthen and support the two most active parts for mobility and physical activity. Unfortunately, when there is little or no motion and physical activity, all parts of the body tend to suffer the inactivity, especially our lower backs.

Today, back pain, a discomfort occurring anywhere on the spine or back, is a common occurrence. But sedentary lifestyle is not the only culprit. Other culprits, according to medical experts, include injuries, fractures, falls, stress and anxiety. Back pain has been identified as one of the leading contributors to reduced productivity.

Absenteeism and presenteeism (reduced performance at work) are fairly common among back pain sufferers, several surveys – unfortunately data for Nigeria is sketchy – have shown.

"Nearly one in four US employees complain about lower-back pain, costing businesses \$51,400 (about ₦20 million) annually per 100 employees in lost productivity and medical treatments," a report by the Integrated Benefits Institute (IBI) showed. Dr Onimisi Salami, a consultant Orthopaedic surgeon, agreed. According to him, in a paper he co-authored with other specialist doctors,

"About 80 percent of adults experience low back pain at some points in their lifetimes. It is the most common cause of job-related disability and a leading contributor to missed work days."

The IBI report showed that "lost work time and underperformance on the job (presenteeism) due to low-back pain costs employers \$34,600 (about ₦13.4 million) per 100 workers." The report added that "employees with back pain are absent four more days per year than those without this ailment and have the equivalent of 4.4 more days of presenteeism annually".

Uche eventually discovered, inadvertently though, that his mattress was the cause of his back pain. Yes, among other causes, your mattress could be the sole source of your back pain. How? If you are using a mattress that has lost its spring, firmness or shape, then you could be susceptible to sleep disorder with attendant discomfort and back pain. According to sleep experts, you could tell if your mattress is the guilty party. "If you go to bed feeling great and wake up miserable, it's a good sign your mattress is causing the back pain." Also, if "you're tossing and turning all night" because you are trying to get a neutral position for your spine, then you need a change of mattress. The recommended lifespan of the average mattress, according to experts, is eight years.

Sleep expert Michael Breus advised that a mattress should not be too soft or too firm to enable an even distribution of pressure to the spine and other parts of the body during sleep. That back pain that saps your energy away at work could be your mattress. And if it is your mattress, then it means you are not getting the quantity and quality of sleep required to make you function at your peak.

If not addressed now, the pain will not only persist, you could be at risk for other more damaging sleep-related ailments. A Nigerian sleep expert, Dr. Olusola Oguntolu of Sleep Inc Limited, explained why this is so. "As you drift off to sleep, the body begins its night shift work: healing damaged cells, boosting the immune system as well as recharging the heart and other parts of the cardiovascular system for the next day," he said. This restoration requires a good night's sleep.

NATURE PROVIDES SIMPLE WAYS TO RELIEVE STRESS

Cortisol, the stress indicator, is eliminated when exposed to the therapeutic effect of nature.

Modern living, especially in the cities, with high octane deadlines, high level wheeling and dealings, constant pollutions from vehicles and machinery, bright flashing lights from LED billboards, constant tailgates and high expectations, continues to stimulate and put undue pressures on people, especially the working population. We know there are several ways one can reduce stress but one proven, highly effective, accessible yet free method to reduce stress, which is often neglected, is embracing nature.

Yes, nature has a strong restorative power over illnesses, anxieties, fears, stress and all manner of physical, emotional and psychological imbalances man may suffer, science has shown. Over several decades, dating back to 40 years, hundreds of studies across the world have shown that nature is a powerful healer and restorer of health and vigour.

In the 1980s, the Forest Agency of Japan began advising Japanese to adopt *shinrin-yoku* (forest bathing) to improve their health and wellbeing. There was no scientific evidence then to validate the advice. So, researchers in Japan went to work. A forest-therapy professional and researcher at Chiba University in Japan, Yoshifumi Miyazaki, was among the first to discover that "spending time in the forest induces a state of physiologic relaxation". Miyazaki discovered that "people who spent 40 minutes walking in a cedar forest had lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol compared with when they spent 40 minutes walking in a lab".

Scientist Roger Ulrich in the United States also discovered the restorative power of nature. In a hospital in Pennsylvania in the US, Ulrich observed that some surgery patients were put in a room with a view of leafy trees to recover while some others were in a similar room except for the leafy trees; they had a view facing a brick wall. Over a period of 10 years, Ulrich discovered that patients with the trees view room leave the hospital about a day earlier than those with a wall view. The trees view patients required significantly less pain medication and reported fewer problems to nurses than wall-view patients.

The beauty of nature, its freshness and its hidden treasures of plant and animal lives – consider the magnificent rolling hills at the Obudu Cattle Ranch in Cross River, or the enchanting aura of the cloudy hilltops; the cascading wonder of the Gurara Waterfall in Niger State or Owu Waterfall in Kwara

State; the dense canopy of rainforests in parts of Southeast, or the awesome tower of ocean waves in Brass, Bayelsa State – has a therapeutic effect on people. An Associate Professor at the University of Michigan, Dr MaryCarol Hunter, who led a recent study to determine the relationship between stress and nature, said: "We know that spending time in nature reduces stress, but until now it was unclear how much is enough, how often to do it, or even what kind of nature experience will benefit us." He added: "Our study shows that for the greatest payoff, in terms of efficiently lowering levels of the stress hormone cortisol, you should spend 20 to 30 minutes sitting or walking in a place that provides you with a sense of nature."

Today, the positive impact of nature on stress is no longer in doubt. The challenge though is how busy executives can regularly take advantage of nature to reduce stress levels, maintain their wellbeing and recharge their creative juices. Below, we have highlighted, based on experts' advice, ways to incorporate nature into your daily, weekly and monthly schedules.

It starts with filling your home with beautiful shrubs and flowers. Planting special plants and flowers in your home or having a garden in a corner of the compound is one cost-effective and easy way to be close to nature without disrupting your schedule.

Another is incorporating outdoor activities into your daily work schedule. Identify green areas around your office environment and take short strolls around such areas daily, at least 20-minute strolls. And if there is a park nearby, then the better. A 20 minutes break surrounded by nature daily will be highly beneficial, according to Dr Gregory Mowete, a medical practitioner.

In addition, weekend picnics with family or friends to one of several recreation parks springing up in cities across the country is a good way to experience the therapeutic effect of nature. And if we are able, weekend getaways to the countryside where nature is in abundance will certainly help relieve stress and recharge our creative juices. Dr Olurotimi Coker, a consultant psychiatrist, talked about "environmental support" being a "pathway to recovery".

Take to farming or gardening. This not only gives you the opportunity to be close to nature, you actually interact and engage with nature, nurture and groom plant lives.



Nigerian content development achievement of Eni.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TOGETHER WE HAVE GREATER ENERGY



Use of Nigerian Contractors

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

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

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



- Single Phase Skid Mounted Modularized Separator 50,000 BPD (2003) by Dorman Long Nigeria Ltd.
- Low Pressure Production Separator for Oshie Field Development Project (Diameter of Vessel: 2150mm, length of vessel: 9280mm; (2009) by Dorman Long Nigeria Ltd.
- Flare Knock-Out Drums for OB/OB Trains 4 & 5 (Diameter: 4,000mm, Length 24,475mm, length (2009) by Dorman Long Nigeria Ltd.
- Line pipes in Abuja by SCC for Ogbainbiri Kolo Creek Pipeline (March 2012).
- Subsea Pipeline End Manifold (2015) for Abo Phase 3 Project.

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

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

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

Energy for Nigerian Content Development

Access to energy to support the growth of Nigeria's industrial capacity remains the flagship of our commitment to Nigerian content development.

Free supply of about 50MW of electricity through off-grid and direct connections to 91 communities has been a critical enabler in the growth of economic activities, improved quality of life and generation of employment in our operating areas.

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

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

Human Capacity Development Programmes

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

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

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

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

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

Research and Development Initiatives

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

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

Institutional Capacity Development - Centers of Excellence

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



Awards

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

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

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Cyberthieves are everywhere

Looking for your money

The stealthy nature of crimes committed online makes most potential victims unaware of its huge impact.

I doubt if there's any adult Nigerian who does not know about *Yahoo and Yahoo Boys*. Even primary school children know a thing or two about the term. *Yahoo Yahoo* is simply a Nigerian umbrella term for all manner of cybercrime: hacking, phishing, bank fraud, identity theft, carding, extortion, illegal monitoring, ATM spoofing and scamming, among several others.

In the past decade, as financial transactions are increasingly becoming digital, consummated electronically online, via internet banking, ATMs, money transfers, payment cards, online criminality has equally been on the rise. A study by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and McAfee, published two years ago, showed that an estimated US\$600 billion (about ₦91.2 trillion) is lost globally to cybercrime yearly.

The 2018 African cybersecurity study by Demadiur Systems showed that financial institutions and government establishments in Nigeria "spent an estimated of \$270.22 million (about ₦105.4 billion) in the year to prevent cyberattacks. In spite of this huge spending, figures still show that the country loses about ₦200 billion yearly to cybercrime menace.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) said it arrested 263 suspected cybercriminals in 2019. Of that number, 111 of them were convicted and sentenced to jail terms. The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) last year indicted 80 Nigerian internet scammers whom the US agency revealed sent five million fraudulent emails to potential victims in just 10 days!

Cybercrimes continue to grow in intensity, both in volume and value terms, because of its big reward and most importantly because of its stealth nature. According to an expert, Olatunji Gbalajabi, the National Project Manager of Cyber Security Experts Association of Nigeria (CSEAN), "the terrain in Nigeria is quite sophisticated and the rate of the attacks alarming".

We are all susceptible to cyber-attacks. Ernst and Young Technology Advisory Leader, EY West Africa, Dapo Adewole, warned: "Cyber security threats are not limited to people who are not technologically advanced or exposed to the financial services sector, but is a challenge, which everyone is vulnerable to." It is important to take steps to protect yourself against cyberattacks. How?



Strong passwords

Many of our everyday activities are now electronically linked: emails, Whatsapp, internet banking, ATM and electronic shopping, among other activities that the digital economy is spawning. For every activity we engage in online, we leave footprints. As a result, experts advised that we safeguard our identity and protect our online assets. One way is to develop a strong suite of passwords for our different online accounts to ensure cybercriminals do not hack into them. According to experts, a strong password must be at least eight characters long and should be a combination of letters, numbers and symbols.



Password should be extremely personal

Do not ever reveal your password to a third party. The best way to safeguard it is to memorise it. If you must write down your password, ensure it is somewhere secure that can only be accessed by you.



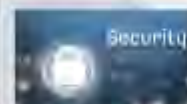
Avoid suspicious messages

The FBI revealed last year that five million fraudulent emails were sent by *Yahoo boys* in 10 days to entrap unsuspecting victims. These are common occurrences in the electronic world. Such emails or pop-ups prompt you to input your username and password. Those are some of the ways scammers phish your online details. Mrs Helen George, a cybersecurity expert, warned: "We must be security conscious. We must know that it is not every link, which somebody sends to you, that you must click." If any message looks suspicious, it probably is. Do not open it. Simply press delete.



Perform regular updates

In 2017, a high-profile data breach occurred at Equifax Credit Bureau, the credit reporting organisation in the US that housed the personal data of over 140 million people. It was later discovered that the software used at that time was out-of-date. Somebody failed to simply update to a newer version. Software and operating systems are regularly updated by the producers to protect against newly released viruses and malware. It is important to perform regular updates on all our mobile and non-mobile electronic devices to block loopholes and new vulnerabilities. "We need to put anti-virus on them (our systems), making sure that it is renewed regularly," says George.



Encrypt your data

This means turning your online information into a code. When your device is hacked, your encrypted data is unreadable. As much as possible, encrypt your stored data. There are software that you can install to do that. Some systems also come preloaded with such software. For instance, the Whatsapp app is encryption-enabled.



Avoid public Wi-Fi

Public Wi-Fi, as the name suggests, is public and is bare of most security features. When you use it, hundreds of others who are also on it can easily eavesdrop on what you are saying or doing online. If you can, avoid it.



1. Engr. Simbi Wabote commissioning the Compact Manifold & Energy Services Limited (CMES) factory in Benin City, Edo State.
2. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Mr Mohammed Adamu, Inspector General of Police after a visit to the Force headquarters in Abuja.
3. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Mr Felix Odika, Comptroller, Nigeria Immigration Service, Bayelsa State Command in Yenagoa, and his colleagues, after a visit to the

Board's headquarters.

4. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Mr Uche Anozia, Commissioner of Police, Bayelsa Command and his team when they visited the Board in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.
5. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with Brigadier-General E.T. Essien, Commander, 16 Brigade, Bayelsa Command after a visit to the Board's headquarters in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.



6. His Excellency, Sen. Douye Diri, Bayelsa State Governor performing the ground-breaking of the oil and gas industry COVID-19 medical infrastructure for the Southsouth region sited in Yenagoa while Mr Chukwuemeka Nwajiuba, Hon. Minister of State for Education; Chief Timipre Slyva, Hon. Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Mallam Mele Kyari, Group Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, look on.

7. (L-R): Mr Abdulrazaq Isah, Chairman, Waltersmith Petroleum Oil Limited; His Excellency Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima, Hon. Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons, Equatorial Guinea and Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB during the Minister's visit to Waltersmith Modular Refinery at Ibigwe, Imo State, being developed with equity investment from NCDMB.

8. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB in a group photograph with Members of the Senate Committee on Local Content and House of Representatives Committee on Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring during an onboarding capacity building workshop on Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring.

9. Dr Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building Division, NCDMB and other staff of the division in a group photograph with operators and vendors at a one-day workshop in Port Harcourt, Rivers state.

10. Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB paid a visit to Bayelsa State International Institute of Tourism & Hospitality (IITH), to assess trainees under the NCDMB-sponsored Skills and Business Management Training for persons living with disability in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Shell Bonga South West Deepwater to surpass local content milestone

Mr Osagie Okunbo, Country Chair, Shell Nigeria, views local content as a transformative policy for the growth of Nigerian businesses in the oil and gas sector. He believes the Bonga South West Deepwater project promoted by the company will significantly raise local content levels.

About Shell Nigeria.

We have three or four main companies in Nigeria. You have the one we all know as SPDC, which is an onshore company based in Port Harcourt. We have our deep water business, which is essentially operating out of Lagos. We have the Shell Nigeria Gas, which is the only company by International Oil Companies that deals solely with domestic gas distribution and sales. And of course, we have our interest in Nigeria LNG.

As you know, the history of the oil industry in Nigeria is more or less closely intertwined with the history of Shell. We have been here for over 60 years; we were 60 years in 2018. All through this period, we have been pioneers across every sector of the Nigerian oil and gas business. Apart from our long history onshore, we also pioneered deep water. These days, we spend a lot of time taking a look at our portfolio in Nigeria to optimise our footprint onshore, but also to greatly increase our presence in deep water and gas.

So, you hear a lot of talk about gas these days, which includes gas for export and the domestic market. This is what we have been doing for the upwards of 55 years. As earlier mentioned, the history of the Nigerian oil industry is closely intertwined with the history of Shell.

We have been here this long, and you would find that when you talk about the history of the industry and you speak about the issue of manpower development, our contribution is second to none in the industry. As the Nigerian oil and gas industry expands, particularly as we have a lot more indigenous players - apart from the internationals, if you just look at the footprints, you will recognise that very many of the people who run these businesses and the rank and file of their staff are all ex-Shell people. Certainly in the development of the Nigerian oil and gas industry, Shell Nigeria is in a very prime position.

Shell has played a key role in the development of local content in Nigeria. Can you recall some of your company's standout contributions before the enactment of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act?

We are very strong supporters of the Act, again based on our history. But it is also fair to say also that we were already key contributors to the Nigerian Content long before the Act was enacted.

You see, our history in this space predates the Act. As I said earlier, you cannot talk about human capacity development in the Nigerian oil and gas industry today without mentioning Shell. Same for the development of local contracting capability. This is an area where we have made



■ Mr Osagie Okunbo

our own very strong contributions. Even more recently, we had a fund called Kobo Funds that we designed with Nigeria's leading banks to, essentially, support local contracting capability. On a much bigger scale, you will see that in some of the very big contracting entities, whether in the well engineering rig space or, for example, with Caverton Helicopters, we played a very big role in building capacity. Today, our activities go beyond the Shell business.

In the local content space across board, developing local capacity has been our strong drivers and will continue to be our strong driver.

It has been 10 years since the enactment of the NOGICD Act. What is your assessment of the implementation so far?

It's been excellent. A lot of credit goes to the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board and its leadership, the Executive Secretary and members of the board, the Minister, who is the chair of the board. Also, I will like to give credit to the players in the industry. I think all round, we have all embraced this Act. And for many of us, certainly for Shell, we did not see it as a compliance issue but as a way of doing business. So, to that extent, the collaboration has been good, such that we have recorded great strides since the Act was enacted. There's always room for improvement, and we are striving towards that.

My strong feeling is that we are on the right path. Going forward, I am pretty sure we will do even better than where we are today and get the percentages to the right kind of levels. And there are areas that we pay a lot of attention to in Shell, essentially around the industry. We see this happening, having mentioned variously human capacity development, but also thinking of research and development. This is a key area that we have focused on. Local manufacturing capacity is also a big area and, of course, asset ownership.

Of course, you will recognise that in the last 10 years, we have seen a lot more assets leaving the hands of internationals into local players. In that sense, we are all growing capacity all round. On research and development, this is a strong strategic area of focus for NCDMB. It is an area where we are fully aligned. You will see that we sponsored quite a few research programmes, including research by some Nigerian universities. It is an area we have discussed extensively with NCDMB and why we want to pay a lot of attention to it.

What changes did the Act bring to the Nigeria oil and gas industry and how did that affect the company's operations?

One of the most important things that the NOGICD Act did for the Nigerian oil and gas industry was to codify the laws. We have always had operational guidelines and government directives.

And like I mentioned earlier, especially for Shell Nigeria, we have always seen this as a way of doing business. But the good thing about the Act coming to play was that we now have a set of rules and laws that have been properly codified, which essentially helped us to create the right pathway to implementation.

Also, it brings us a lot closer in monitoring this space. Like I said earlier, in the areas of research and development, human capacity development and local manufacturing; in just promoting that, and asset ownership, I think the Act, the way it has come into being, has helped to essentially chart the way and more importantly, it enables us to jointly sit with NCDMB to monitor implementation and progress.

What has been some of Shell's local content achievements since the enactment of the NOGICD Act?

We have recorded big milestones, in the areas of local equipment sourcing and manufacturing, research and development, in addition to the funds that we created in partnership with Nigerian leading banks to fund and support local companies involved in our business. The NCDMB has its own funds, but in our own way, we have also done our bits to create these funds that provide easier access to indigenous companies to grow their capacity. I mentioned earlier the likes of Caverton Helicopters that we have supported such that today Caverton is as good as any of the international players. Their early successes owe a lot to the collaboration with Shell Nigeria and the support they receive such that Caverton's operations go well beyond that of Shell.

From the prism of Shell, how do you view the Nigerian oil and gas industry in the next five years?

I think it will grow from strength to strength. We have prepared the grounds very well. Like I said earlier, the collaboration with NCDMB actually works very well and it comes from a challenged and support kind of structure, this anchored on the law. We have seen a lot of progress. I always say that to be able to implement the Local Content Act to the maximum benefits of Nigerians, there have to be projects. You only really can grow your pie to have a maximum impact from local content.

Over the next five years we will evolve in terms of legislation, policy and of course, governance. We'd like to see an overarching structure, where policies and laws promote investment. And when there are these big projects coming through the pipelines, we then want to make sure that as these projects come through, local content laws and policies are applied fully. That way, the impact is exponential. That's what I am looking forward to in the next five to 10 years as we beat through everything to grow the industry.

Bonga South West is one of our flagship projects that is in the pipeline. We are working very closely with NNPC (Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation) and other arms of government to bring that project to fruition. It would be the big deepwater project that will happen in the immediate horizon. What we want to do with the Bonga South West project, with respect to the local content, is to surpass the current standards, structures and milestones of local content. We are really looking forward to having this Bonga South West project as yet another evidence of Shell Nigeria's commitment to local content in the oil and gas industry. We intend to surpass current milestones.



Caverton Helicopters has benefitted from Shell's local content strategic investment.

Shell Nigeria is preparing to execute the Bonga South West Deepwater project. What are the Nigerian Content milestones you hope to create with the project?

This is one of our flagship projects that is in the pipeline. We are working very closely with NNPC (Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation) and other arms of government to bring that project to fruition. It would be the big deepwater project that will happen in the immediate horizon. What we want to do with the Bonga South West project, with respect to the local content, is to surpass the current standards, structures and milestones of local content. We are really looking forward to having this Bonga South West project as yet another evidence of Shell Nigeria's commitment to local content in the oil and gas industry. We intend to surpass current milestones.

The NOGICD Act marks 10 years in April. What message do you have for the NCDMB on the anniversary?

First, a big congratulations to NCDMB for what they have attained in a relatively short time frame. I urge NCDMB to continue with strong collaboration with the industry. As we have seen, it's when we have significant projects in the pipeline that we can have a much more effective and inclusive local content structure. It is when we have projects down the pipeline that we can have a local content that benefits the wider proportion of our people.

To be able to do that, I think what is currently happening in terms of collaboration in the industry and the Board has to continue. We are deeply appreciative of the stance and approach of the Board and the Executive Secretary, who we will like to commend, to continue into the near future. We are

looking forward to a Nigeria where there are a lot more projects in the pipeline both in the deep-waters and onshore, and where we have an environment where everyone is happy to comply with the Act and grow the pie.

What recommendations would you give to the NCDMB as it embarks on the next 10 years of Nigerian Content?

For the NCDMB, my key recommendation is that they continue with a regime of not just monitoring compliance, which is important, but collaborating with the industry to ensure that they understand the requirements also and be able to grow the pie. I refer to growing the pie every time because it is really when we have a lot of projects going through the pipeline, which is when the benefits of local content are maximised. There's no point in having a small pie, we shrink the pie so much that you are doing local content with that small pie. It then doesn't affect the society the way you really want.

We want to see a lot more indigenous manufacturing, for example. That really comes when you have big projects that can support it. Having the NCDMB support the industry along with other Federal Government structures to ensure that projects come through and that our laws and policies are such that projects are enabled. NCDMB plays a very strong role in this regards. It's a very strong voice in the government structure.

So, supporting the industry in that sense, rather than just focusing entirely on compliance, which is also important, is a law we have to comply with. Supporting the growth of businesses and development of projects is one big advice I will give to the NCDMB. It's been a great first 10 years and a very good platform to build on.

Shehu's innovative smart gas detector will save lives

Shehu Tijjani Abdullahi, Founder of Amal Tech invention will poised to eliminate gas-based fire disasters. It is a great testament to local content possibilities.

It is an all too familiar tale. Shehu Abdullahi returned to his Abuja home one evening in 2017 and noticed that his gas cooker had caught fire. He was able to quickly turn off the valve of the gas cylinder and called for help to extinguish the fire. On close examination, he noticed a gas leakage. Ezinwanne Okeke, a mother in Apo, Abuja, was not as fortunate. Her gas cylinder exploded as she prepared dinner for her young family in February 2020. She suffered severe burns and died five days after.

Shehu's scary experience planted the thought of developing a device that will monitor his home and send personalised alerts wherever he may be in the event of gas leaks.

There are rampant cases of cooking gas fire outbreaks across Nigeria. Many of these are traceable to leaks from pipes, valves, faulty burners and old cylinders. The frequency and resultant loss of lives and property is probably the reason many families still prefer to use kerosene stove or firewood as their sources of energy for cooking, despite the obvious challenges they pose.

For those deeply concerned about the safety of using cooking gas, an innovation by Shehu, which has received support of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), provides hope of putting these unfortunate, tragic incidents behind.

The Kano State-born technologist developed the *smart gas leak and smoke detection alarm* that gives early signal about a gas leak or smoke. This life-saving device helps to identify the source of the leak, thereby giving people the opportunity to address it and protect the family and properties.

Shehu has a background in software engineering and electronics and holds a First Class degree in Information Technology and Business Information Systems from Middlesex University, United Kingdom. The device, he explains, sends out a text when there is a gas leak and calls the user's mobile phone when the situation worsens.

"Amal Tech developed this innovation that's inexpensive and Internet of Things (IoT) for sending alert via app and calling user's mobile phone. In homes where there is no WiFi, the smart gas leak/smoke detection alarm will send a text message to the registered (phone) number. Users can register up to three numbers just to make sure many people get

This smart valve performs a safety instrumented function (SIF), which is to shut off the gas cylinder when a leakage is considered to be threatening. This way, it eliminates gas explosion by 98 percent.



the alarm when there's a leakage. The device will call if the intensity of the leakage is getting high," Shehu said. The device uses an algorithm that can estimate if fire outbreak can occur as a result of gas leaks or smoke, he added.

On the other hand, "people that have WiFi at home or office will simply download Amaltech's app and will be receiving a firebased alarm on their phones," he said. To be effective, the device needs to be installed in the room where gas escape is most likely to occur, within 1.5 meters from the air source.

Another critical feature of the device is the smart valve that is installed on the tank connector of cylinders. According to him, "this smart valve performs a safety instrumented function (SIF), which is to shut off the gas cylinder when a leakage is considered to be threatening. This way, it eliminates gas explosion by 98 percent."

Mr Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager Research, Statistics and Development, NCDMB, confirmed that the Board was supporting the invention. He added that "commercial discussions will kick in during the business development phase where viability is established after field trials. We will help in forming the start-up by considering equity investment and seeking out other investors". He also confirmed that NCDMB had secured the approval of its Nigerian Content Research & Development Council (NCRDC) and the Governing Council (GC) to support the invention under its R&D Strategic Framework.

Already, the device has been subjected to a year trials and tests. Shehu confirmed that the invention was registered in 2018 and obtained patent in 2019. "We have got the approval of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) to deploy the device and we are working to get the certification of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) as well," Shehu said. He described the partnership with NCDMB as mutually beneficial and recalls demonstrating the device before the NCRDC in March, 2020.

On availability, he said: "My projection is that we will start with at least two million units. This is in line with DPR and SON intention to standardise the usage of gas leaks detectors in Nigeria to curtail the continuous fire outbreaks from unsuspecting gas leaks." Hopefully, this life-saving device will be deployed quickly to avert a reoccurrence of the unfortunate incident that befell Ezinwanne Okeke.

- Obinna Ezeobi

Shehu Tijani Abdullahi



COVID-19, a motivation for Local Content promotion - SGF

The Coronavirus virus pandemic is a strong basis for Nigerians to focus on local content promotion in all facets of the economy, Barr. Boss Mustapha, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) has said. He said this in Abuja when Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), handed over a letter conveying the donation of ₦70 million by the Board to the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19.

Mustapha said all countries were scrambling for ventilators, test kits and other medical consumables, which forced prices to skyrocket. This made it imperative to focus on local production of critical items the nation needs, he added.

Wabote explained that Chief Timipre Sylva, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and Chairman of the NCDMB Governing Council, had approved the Board's donation as part of the oil and gas industry's support to combat the COVID-19

pandemic.

The Executive Secretary said the Board's support to the national response was in addition to its donation of ambulances and medical supplies to its host states of Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers to support the states' fight against the pandemic.

The SGF thanked the NCDMB for the donation and assured that it would be used judiciously in furtherance of the national response.

US\$50m Nigerian content R&D fund approved

The Governing Council of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has approved the establishment of a US\$50 million Nigerian Content Research and Development Fund (NCR&DF). The approval was granted at the NCDMB Governing Council meeting of June 16, 2020 under the chairmanship of Chief Timipre Sylva, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources.

The resources will be deployed for sustainable funding of NCDMB's mandate on Research and Development as enshrined in Sections 37 to 39 of the Nigerian Oil and Gas

Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act 2010, which empowers the Board to superintend over R&D activities in the oil and gas industry.

NCDMB is implementing the Research and Development Roadmap to institutionalise a robust R&D ecosystem that will lead to continuous development of technology, materials and process for industry application from indigenous research efforts. A major success pillar is closing systemic weakness of inadequate funding architecture for R&D activities in the oil and gas industry.

Nigeria spends about 0.2 percent of its

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on R&D. This has led to an over-dependence on foreign technology for critical economic development activities, including oil and gas operations.

The NCDMB R&D Fund is expected to close this gap. It would be applied in four broad intervention areas: They are; research (basic and applied), establishment of centres of excellence in academic and research institutes, sponsorship of commercialisation of research and endowment of professorial chair.



Chief Timipre Sylva, Hon. Minister of State for Petroleum Resources with Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and his team shortly after briefing the HMSPR on the 2020 R&D Fair and Conference.

NLNG, Consortium Sign Train 7 contract

The Nigeria LNG, in May, signed the Equipment Procurement and Construction (EPC) contract for the LNG Train 7 project with Saipem, Chiyoda, Daewoo (SCD) Consortium. The event was held virtually, weeks after the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) approved the Nigerian Content Compliance Certificate (NCCC) and Approved Vendors Lists (AVLs) for the project.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, lauded the outstanding roles of Chief Timipre Sylva, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, in accomplishing the signing of the

EPC contract. He said the NLNG, led by Mr Tony Attah, had broken the jinx about lack of true Final Investment Decisions (FIDs) in Nigeria's oil and gas industry in the last seven years. "Big congratulations to the NLNG shareholders, including the NNPC, SPDC, Total and NAOC for placing their bet on Nigeria and voting for the commencement of this project," he said.

The Executive Secretary said the project would create jobs, generate revenue, provide local business opportunities, and ensure stable outlets for the utilisation of Nigeria's gas reserves, said to be one of the highest in the

world.

He said Saipem, the lead contractor, had made a long-time commitment to local content growth. "I hope that Saipem will not only strive to deliver on time and within budget but also use this project to expand and strengthen local capabilities," said Engr. Wabote.

He said other Nigerian companies and community contractors awarded jobs would also be expected to deliver value and prove their mettle.

Equatorial Guinea seeks assistance on modular refinery development

Equatorial Guinea has sought the guidance of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and Waltersmith Petroleum Oil Limited in the development of modular refineries.

The Minister of Mines and Hydrocarbons, Equatorial Guinea, His Excellency, Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima, visited the Waltersmith modular refinery, being developed at Ibigwe in Imo State, with 30 percent equity investment from the NCDMB. He said: "We cannot continue to export crude oil. We should start processing

our products and we are watching what Nigeria is doing. With this cooperation and experience between our country and Waltersmith and the Nigerian petroleum industry, we should be able to replicate it. He added that "rather than go to Europe or United States or Asia, we decided to visit our neighbour, to see what they do".

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, described the cooperation between Nigeria and Equatorial Guinea as a perfect example of the benefits of the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCTA),

which encourages African countries to trade and cooperate with one another.

Mr Abdulrazaq Isah, Chairman of Waltersmith, assured the Minister of the company's commitment to invest in Equatorial Guinea and support the development of the country's hydrocarbons industry. He said the initial target was to deliver the modular refinery in two years, but it is now on track to be completed in 18 months.



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB being presented with an award plaque by Dr Mark Osa Igiehon, Lead Consultant, Aberdeen Commercial Solutions Limited during the launch of NCDMB Procurement Policies and Procedures Manual (PPPM).

Rungas to start cylinder factory in Polaku

Rungas Prime Industries Limited will partner the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in the establishment of a 400,000 per annum LPG (cooking gas) Composite Cylinder Manufacturing Plant in Polaku, Bayelsa State. Rungas was allocated two hectares of land from NCDMB's land at Polaku for the establishment of the factory.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, announced this in January at a meeting with representatives of the Polaku community. He said the ground-breaking ceremony for the manufacturing

facility would be performed by Chief Timipre Sylva, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources.

The Executive Secretary said a strong motivation for the facility is the direct linkage to one of the Minister's operational priorities, which is the penetration and utilisation of liquefied petroleum by Nigerians.

Wabote hoped that the project would generate up to 200 direct and indirect jobs during construction phase and about 350 direct and indirect jobs during the

full operations phase, in addition to other induced employment and economic activities. He said NCDMB was also in discussion with other investors to take up the remaining portions of the Polaku land.

The Executive Secretary advised the community to support the new investment as it would provide job opportunities for their children. "Your roles should include checkmating any individual or group that wants to derail this wonderful opportunity," he advised.

Nigerian Content Intervention Fund increased to US\$350m

The Governing Council of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has approved the expansion of the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund from US\$200 million to \$350 million.

The enlargement of the Fund by \$150 million was part of the decisions taken at the recent NCDMB Governing Council meeting, which held virtually on June 16, 2020. The meeting was chaired by Chief Timipre Sylva, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, who is the Chairman of the Council.

The Council approved that \$100 million from the additional fund would be deployed to boost the five existing loan products of the NCI Fund, which include manufacturing, asset acquisition, contract finance, loan refinancing and community contractor financing.

Similarly, the Council also approved that \$20 million and \$30 million, respectively, would be deployed to two newly developed loan product types - the Intervention Fund for Women in oil and gas and PETAN Products, which include working capital loans and

capacity building loans for PETAN-member companies.

The NCI Fund was instituted in 2017 as a \$200 million Fund, managed by the Bank of Industry (BoI). It is to facilitate on-lending to qualified stakeholders in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

About 94 percent of the NCI Fund has been disbursed to 27 beneficiaries as at May 2020. NCDMB has received new applications from 100 companies for nearly triple the size of the original fund.

APPO lauds NCDMB for Leading Africa local content

The African Petroleum Producers Organisation (APPO) has hailed the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) for its effective promotion of Local Content within the African continent.

Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Secretary General of APPO, spoke at the sub-Saharan Africa International Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) organised in February. He described Nigeria's Local Content Policy as worthy of emulation by other African nations and extolled NCDMB for developing infrastructural and human capacities used to

operate the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

He advised African nations to pursue the development of local capacities that will be used to run their oil industry and use produced energy to fuel the national, sub-regional and continental economies.

Ibrahim promised to facilitate more experience-sharing between Nigeria and other African states and added that APPO will develop exchange programmes among workers of the oil industry of its member countries. He stressed that partnerships in the development of cross-border energy

infrastructure were necessary for sustainable development in Africa. "No one country can do it successfully in isolation," he added.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary of NCDMB, remarked that the increasing discovery of hydrocarbon resources in sub-Saharan Africa is sufficient motivation for governments and operators to collaborate closely. Such collaboration should be approached from the "comparative advantage" point of view, he advised.

NCDMB trains 1,000 secondary school teachers

Over 1,000 science teachers in secondary schools across the country have been trained by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) as part of its Teachers Development Training Programme. Mr Patrick Daziba Obah, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, NCDMB, stated this at the closing ceremony of the second phase of the training programme in Kastina State.

The latest programme had 270 teachers and was organised with support from the State

Ministry of Education.

Obah hoped the training would translate to better performances among students in WAEC, NECO, JAMB and other national and international examinations and lead to better technical skills and craftsmanship. He said: "This year, we have given you electronic tablets with all the reading materials and we have enough reasons to continue to advance the methods of learning."

Dr. Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building Division, NCDMB, explained that the Board organised the second phase in Kastina because the state government was receptive of the initiative and collaborated effectively with the Board.

Dr. Badamasi Lawal, Commissioner for Education, Kastina State, praised NCDMB for sponsoring the retraining of teachers in the state.



(L-R): Engr. Maurice Iwhiwhu, Manager, Capacity Building Division, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB); Dr Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building Division, NCDMB; Mr Patrick Daziba Obah, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, NCDMB and Dr. Badamasi Lawal, Commissioner for Education, Kastina State, at the closing ceremony of Phase 2 of NCDMB-sponsored Teachers Development Training Programme in Kastina State.

Nigerian Content sensitisation begins in non-oil states

Sensitisation on the benefits of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act 2010 has been extended to non-oil producing states.

Since the establishment of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in 2010, sensitisation workshops had been conducted in oil producing states but these were extended to other states, beginning with Oyo, Kwara and Osun states in January.

Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communications and Zonal Coordination, explained at the workshop in Ibadan, Oyo State that the Board decided to extend the sensitisation to non-oil producing states in order to increase the participation of more Nigerians in the oil and gas industry. He said the Nigerian Content Act mandates the Board to organise sensitisation workshops to enlighten the people on how they can effectively participate in the oil and gas industry. "Because we are located in the

oil producing region, we started from our base. We are now going out and this will be a continuous exercise," he said.

Ginah explained that Nigerian Content is about domiciliation of oil and gas activities in-country and development of local capacities. He charged participants at the workshop to visit the Board's NOGICQS database and upload their data to benefit from the Board's various Human Capacity Development Initiatives.

Niger Republic to study Nigerian Content

A team from the Ministry of Petroleum, Republic of Niger recently visited the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, to learn how to implement the Local Content Policy in their oil and gas industry.

Mr Adamou Arzika Aouta, Head of the delegation, said they wanted to learn strategies for local vendor development, capacity building, among other insight. He said Niger produces about 12,000 barrels of crude oil per day and expected an investment inflow of \$20 billion. According to him, the government is

desirous to maximise in-country value from the investments.

Mr Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development at NCDMB, received the team and explained that Nigeria had supported other African countries, like Kenya, Gabon, Ugandan and Congo Brazzaville, to develop Local Content policies. Halilu said some parameters were important for sustainable local content implementation, including gap analysis of the industry, capacity building, regulatory framework and research and development.

Dr. Ama Ikuru, General Manager, Capacity Building, advised the officials to insist on industry activities being executed in-country so that their indigenes could participate and acquire skills.

Barr. Mohammed Umar, Coordinator, Legal Services, advised the West African country to develop regulations that are applicable to their industry's technological base, while encouraging collaboration with local and international stakeholders to domicile capacity in-country.

COVID-19: NCDMB, PETAN donate medical equipment to Bayelsa, others

Bayelsa, Delta and Rivers states in April received medical equipment and supplies donated by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) to support efforts at combating the spread of COVID-19 in the country.

The items included four ambulances, 10 Synovet E3 Ventilators, 300 Infra-red thermometers and 1,000 medical face shields. Other supplies included hand sanitisers, hospital beds, disposable coveralls, personal protective equipment (PPEs) and other relief

items.

Mr Dazibah Patrick Obah, Director, Planning, Research and Statistics, NCDMB, presented the materials to the Bayelsa and Delta state governments in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State and Warri, Delta State. He said the human race was going through trying times and NCDMB decided to support the fight to stop the spread of the virus.

Rt. Hon Konbowei Benson, Secretary to the Bayelsa State Government received the items meant for the state in Yenagoa, while Hon

Kelly Pinaowei, Special Assistant to Delta State Governor, Ifeanyi Okowa, received his state's supply in Warri.

In Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Dr. Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communication and Zonal Coordination, NCDMB, represented the Board at the handing over ceremony. He said Rivers State is one of the Board's host states, which deserves the COVID-19 relief items to curb the spread of the virus.

'Falck Prime Atlantic is world-class'

Falck Prime Atlantic Training Centre, an oil and gas training company in Ipara, Ogun State, has received commendation for running a world-class facility.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), gave the commendation when he led a team of the industry on a visit to the company in February.

The Executive Secretary noted that some of the trainings offered at the facility would cost

huge sums of money overseas. He said: "What you do here is of international standard; it has all the international certifications and affiliations. That is what we want, because the oil and gas industry does not accept mediocrity or unqualified people." Wabote expressed delight that the oil industry was building human capacities in key technical areas, adding that some of the skills would serve other key sectors.

Mr Udechukwu Chukwuma Afamefuna, one of the trainees at Falck Prime Atlantic,

thanked NCDMB for nominating them for the training, which was sponsored by PACE. "We are currently undergoing the OPITO mechanical maintenance certification, which is of international standard. We have been taught technical and theoretical aspects of maintenance of engines, turbines, compressors and pumps. We hope to be highly marketable at the end of our programme," he said, reliving his experience at the training centre.

Mocheddah serves up delicious MOIN-MOIN and GINGER PAP

Pretty Mocheddah (born Modupe-Oreoluwa Oyeyemi Ola), Nigerian rapper, singer, fashion designer and CEO of Mocheddah Clothing, has a huge online fan base as a result of her trend setting activities and, of course, her looks.

She enthuses on the taste and health benefits of well-prepared moin-moin and hot ginger pap. *Moin-moin* is a traditional Nigerian food, commonly eaten in many homes. It is rich in protein and other essential nutrients, while pap is a rich source of carbohydrate. "It is one of my favourite meals. I particularly love *moin-moin* because it gives me healthy carbs and makes me feel better about what I am putting in my mouth. I definitely love *moin-moin elewe* (*moin-moin* cooked in banana leaves)," she says.

"I love to cook differently. Below is how I make my own signature *moin-moin* with banana leaves.



INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups of black eyed or brown beans
- Lots of *tatashe* (red bell pepper) - so my *moin-moin* is red
- Lots of *atarodo* (scotch bonnet pepper) - as I like my *moin-moin* to be a bit spicy
- 1-2 sticks of *sombo* (chilli pepper)
- Vegetable oil
- Lots of ground crayfish
- 2 large onions
- Eggs (I don't like fish)
- Minced meat
- Black pepper
- Seasoning cubes
- Chicken/turkey broth
- Banana leaves

PREPARATION

- Soak and wash the beans to soften and remove the coat, three hours before cooking. When the entire coat has been removed, place the beans in a bowl and pour enough water to cover it. Leave to soak for another three hours to achieve the best consistency when you blend the beans.
- Drain the water from the beans
- Wash the *tatashe*, *atarodo*, and *sombo*. Make sure you remove the *tatashe* seeds because they tend to give the meal a bitter taste.
- Dice the onions.
- Boil the eggs, remove the shells, slice it and set aside. I only add eggs to the *moin-moin* that we'd have that night as I love eating *moin-moin* at night. I don't like eating eggs from the previous day. So, if there are any left-over *moin-moin*, they won't have eggs in them.
- Add your washed pepper and onions to the beans and blend. For me, I prefer to blend the beans in the market using industrial blenders. For some reasons, I sometimes don't get the correct water to beans ratio when using my blender.
- Pour your already blended mixture into a clean mixing bowl.
- Add crayfish.
- Add curry, salt and seasoning to taste.
- Add black pepper (I love black pepper).
- Add adequate quantity of chicken/turkey broth (to aid consistency).
- Now wash your banana leaves and fold into a cone shape, pour the *moin-moin* mixture into it.
- Place on fire and allow to steam for 40 minutes.
- Put a knife through it. If the knife is stained with *moin-moin* paste, then it is not cooked; but if the knife comes out clean, it's done.
- Once the *moin-moin* is confirmed cooked, remove from heat and allow to cool. Unwrap from the banana leaves and enjoy it with hot ginger pap, milk and sugar.

Innovation receives a fillip with **NOGTECH** and **STIC** contests

The Board emphasises the development aspect of its mandate with two technology-focused initiatives that promote talent, innovation and competition.

The question is: Will the *Big Brother Naija* reality TV show attract audience in millions if it featured young men and women competing to innovate solutions to life's challenges? Would you participate in a technology talent show if the top performers will get valuable prizes and their innovations set up as profitable ventures?

If your answer is yes to either or both questions, then you need to pay close attention to the Nigerian Oil and Gas Technology (NOGTECH) Hackathon and Science and Technology Innovation Challenge (STIC), two new exciting contests sponsored by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) to stimulate innovations that will solve problems in the oil and gas industry and other key areas of our national life.

In the past decade, there has been a deluge of entertainment themed talent shows and competitions in Nigeria, focussing on singing, dancing and acting. The *Big Brother Reality TV* show is the top drawer, drawing huge viewership despite its questionable impact on the life of its viewers.

NOGTECH and STIC toe a different path. NCDMB is using these initiatives to set the innovation agenda for the Nigerian pub-

lic, while creating huge excitement. The Board is also seeking to encourage the youth to imbibe the culture of research and development and apply science, technology and creativity in finding home-grown solutions to everyday problems. While NOGTECH Hackathon is open to members of the public, STIC is restricted to Nigerian undergraduates. The two programmes were announced at separate webinars organised by the NCDMB in May 2020. On NOGTECH, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, hints that it seeks to find solutions for the biggest challenges facing key sectors of the economy. "The problems must not be related to the oil and gas sector. It can be daily life problems," he added.

NCDMB has called for innovations from interested teams with ideas, prototypes, solutions and relevant experiences in selected areas. The applications will be reviewed by judges and short-listed. The most innovative approaches would be selected. The third stage of NOGTECH will be a hackathon - a three-day residential camp. The Executive Secretary explains that "participating teams will meet with industry stakeholders and revalidate their solutions and pitch at the end of bootcamp. Five winning teams will be selected".



The best team will get a cash award of ₦10 million; the first runners-up ₦2 million while the second runners-up will get ₦1.5 million. Each member of the last six final groups will get a top of the range laptop, including the faculty guides, who will also get some cash rewards.



Mr Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development making a presentation at the National Defence College, Course 28 in February, 2020

The five teams will go into the incubation stage. They will get US\$10,000 equity-free grant each, in addition to work-space, expert mentors, global partners and unprecedented market access over three-months, to enable them become commercial and investor-ready. At the end of the incubation, the teams will participate in a showcase day to demonstrate their progress. This showcase will connect them with investors and industry stakeholders where they can further amplify their market access.

Wabote clarifies that to qualify, "the participants must be a team/company of at least two or more members, with at least 75 percent of the founding team as Nigerians and must be a registered, or intending to register as a profit/business entity." He adds that the solution described in response to the challenge "must be driven by digital technology - software, hardware or both".

Another point is that the solution must either be at idea stage, prototype level or a launched solution that has not gained commercial traction. The team must also be available to participate in a three-day hackathon as well as a three-month incubation, if selected.

Just like NOGTECH, the Science and Technology Innovation Challenge (STIC) will begin with a call for ideas. Managed by Enactus Nigeria, the contest is open to the 120 universities and 122 polytechnics in Nigeria. The participating institutions must consist of a minimum of two current students and a faculty guide. They will ensure that the STIC team gains access to the resources required on campus, including laboratories, workshops, literature, important lecturers, among other needs.

Ideas for STIC will be received through a dedicated website and categorised according to three regions: northern, western and southern. The screening panel will then review the entries to identify the top five entries from each of the three regions.

The top 15 entries will advance to the Development of Innovation Stage and will receive seed capital for further research and development of their innovation/technology into a functional prototype. They are expected to work closely with their respective faculty guide and also develop a strong business case for their innovative solution.

The Second Screening stage or Regional Competition will bring together all the five top institutions from the three regions for an exhibition of their now developed solution. The teams will present the functionality of their innovation as well as the business

case to a panel of professionals serving as judges. The presentation will focus on the specific problem identified and its relevance, the solution proposed, the science, technology and/or innovation behind it, demonstration of the prototype and the business case and its sustainability.

The two top institutions from each region will advance to the final stages, which is the STIC Boot Camp. This will be a week-long intensive training programme designed to strengthen the business cases developed by regional winners/finalists. It will provide opportunity for further training and interaction between the mentors and their respective finalist institutions. The Grand Finale of the STIC will bring together the six finalists for a one-day exhibition of innovative solutions. This will be at an event open to the public, with dignitaries in attendance.

Each of the finalist institution will make presentations, demonstrating their technologically-driven and innovative solution while establishing how it will generate profit, create jobs, create wealth and reduce poverty. The panel, which will consist of CEOs, industry experts, investment bankers, business development executives, among others, will use a pre-determined judging criteria to rank the competing institutions.

The best team will get a cash award of ₦10 million; the first runners-up ₦2 million while the second runners-up will get ₦1.5 million. Each member of the last six final groups will get a top of the range laptop, including the faculty guides, who will also get some cash rewards.

Beyond the competition, NCDMB will work with Enactus Nigeria, the facilitator and relevant government agencies to secure patent rights for the innovations and they will be jointly owned by the innovators, NCDMB and the facilitators.

The top two innovations will also be registered as businesses with the Corporate Affairs Commission and they will be supported to set up as profitable ventures. The ownership of these businesses will include the innovators (representatives of the tertiary institutions), NCDMB and Enactus Nigeria.

By sponsoring NOGTECH Hackathon and STIC, NCDMB is fostering local content, critical thinking and R&D, which are key enablers for national development. Given the ingenuity and competitive spirit of Nigerians, you can bet the contests will be exciting, if not revolutionary.

- Obinna Ezeobi

Africa's only **HANGING LAKE** is a vista to nature in its originality

*Located in Nigeria,
the other hanging
lake in the world is
in Colorado, United
States of America.
This gem offers tour-
ists excellent hiking
and camping oppor-
tunities for groups or
individuals.*

There is something about the environment – the thrill of hiking, the calmness, the cool breeze, the mountain-top view and the general mysteries around the place. Iyake Lake is said to have spiritual significance, and there are stories woven around this. The stories vary and how they are told, depending on the tour guide. Generally, members of the community believe that water from the lake heals all sorts of ailments. It is common to find people (especially the indigenes) fetching water from the lake. I once used the water to wash my face and even cooked with it while camping with some friends. This was two years ago.

Then there is the Ishagi Rock, which is said to answer prayers. Almost every time I visit, there is usually a white cloth tied around the rock. Some accounts say the cloth is brought by anyone whose prayer has been answered by the rock. Another story claims that the priest ties the white cloth to attract rain. Anyway, almost all tourist sites have interesting stories around them. What is a natural destination without a myth around it?

Another fascinating story about the lake is that nobody enters the lake and makes it out. It is forbidden to swim in the lake. Now, if you cannot swim in the lake, what else can you do?



Journey to Ado Awaye

The journey to Ado Awaye from Ibadan is close to three hours but if you drive from Lagos and the Ibadan Expressway is not clogged, then it's about four-five hours. Prepare to encounter a number of potholes on the road, especially before getting to Iseyin in Oyo State. After Iseyin, the road is pretty smooth until you get to the turn in Ado Awaye towards the Iyake Mountain, on which the lake sits. There is, however, an alternative and better route through Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital. Google Map can also help in finding the fastest route to the place.

On getting there, you would likely meet a tour guide in the building or a tree close to the foot of the mountain. Gate fee is ₦500 and another ₦1,000 to the tour guide. It helps if you speak Yoruba as most of the local tour guides don't have a good command of the Queen's language. For a fluent English-speaking tour guide, I recommend Atabo, the founder of *ComeMakeWeGo*, who has taken several people on a tour to Ado Awaye. At the tourist site, you will likely be given sticks to aid with the hike up the mountain, which welcomes you with forested, jagged stairs.

What to see?

Oke Ishage

Ishage Rock is a large, elongated boulder of rock, standing upright on one of its small edges. It is still a mystery that this boulder has not fallen off the steep mountain side. There is a story of its being the harbinger of rain for Ado Awaye residents. It is also said to answer prayers. So, you may pray for your heart's desire to come true when you visit this landmark.

Esè àwon Àgbà (the footprint of the elders)

This encompasses a cluster of large "footprints" that you will see all over the mountain top. The locals claim that the gods once walked over the mountain in order to protect residents when they were staying up the mountain. Like me, you can place your feet in them for the fun of it.

Iyá-Aláró Lake

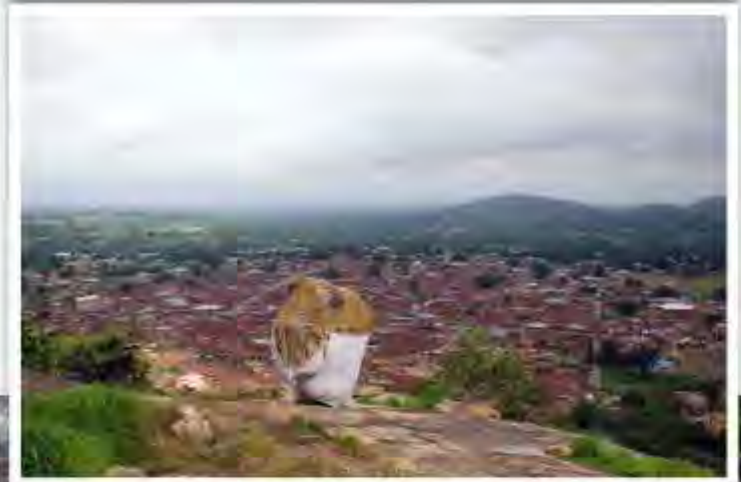
There is another lake, aside from the famous Iyake Lake. This other lake is called Iyá-Aláró, named after an old woman in the Ado-Awaye village, who specialised in cloth dyes. According to legend, the old woman, known as "Iya Alaro", worshipped the lake and sacrificed to it at various times during the year. This other lake looks greenish-dirty, unlike the Iyake Lake that looks green-clean. When you visit, you will most likely be shown only the Iyake Lake. However, you can ask to see Iyá-Aláró Lake.

Agbómofúnyàké

Agbómofúnyàké loosely translates to "the collector of child on behalf of Iyake". This little hole is beside the Iyake Lake. The locals believe that whenever there is water in the hole, whoever steps into it ends up drowning in Iyake Lake. When you get here, you will find a wooden construction over it. This is to prevent dare-devils from attempting to put the myth to test.

The Elephant Tree

There is a fallen tree with a tangled trunk that creates the shape of an elephant's head and trunk. In fact, the eyes of the elephant are also apparent in the formation. It is a pretty fascinating sight. I usually climb it for pictures anytime I visit. You may climb the fallen tree to sit on the "elephant's head" for the fun of it.



Travelogue

Esè kan Aiyè Esè kan Òrun

This loosely translates to one foot on earth and one foot in heaven. It is a wide and deep chasm on the mountain separating one part from another that hosts the peak of the mountain. Only brave hikers or mountain climbers are advised to cross this valley as it is very steep. I have been this far on the vast mountain only once when I camped close to the lake with some friends. Except you ask to be taken here, you may not get to reach this point.

Beyond hiking, there are lots of other activities that the rural town offers. Here are a few suggestions.

Go Hiking

When going to Ado Awaye, you should prepare to stretch your muscles by hiking. Wear good hiking shoes and hold at least a bottle of water to stay hydrated. If you are not used to hiking, you may find the over 360 steps tiring to climb and you may end up with aching thighs. However, if you love hiking, then consider Ado Awaye. In fact, there have been over 5,000 hikers in the last two years as the tourist site becomes more popular.

Have a Picnic

Imagine sitting in the serene atmosphere of the mountain for a picnic? It is simply heavenly. It is a lovely scene for a picnic with the gentle breeze teasing you. Consider going on a picnic at Ado Awaye. Carry your picnic baskets alongside everything you think you may need to have a great time. A bluetooth speaker? The more people you go with, the more the fun.

Try the local delicacy

Alternatively, you could go on a foodie especially if you are interested in the town's local delicacy, *amala*. You will have to stop on your way to Ado Awaye to gain access to the slew of canteens. My favourite spot is the canteen opposite the car park to Ado Awaye from Iseyin. In any case, if you are confused, you may simply ask around for a good *amala* spot, and the friendly locals will give you directions.

Night(s) out in the open

You might have watched horror movies with terrible things happening to campers. This may make you afraid of camping, especially at Ado Awaye with all its mysteries. However, you don't need to worry about your safety. I once camped there with some friends. You can give it a shot too. Get your camping tent and go with friends to have a great time.

Ado Awaye is a quiet town with people who are generally nice and receptive. A resort at the foot of the mountain or somewhere in the town will likely attract more tourists particularly those who plan to stay longer than a day. Still, you can spend the night in very simple hotels like Treasure Hotel & Event Centre and Hotel de Infinity.

What is it about this lake? First, you should know that there are only two known suspended lakes in the world. While one is in Nigeria, the other is in Glenwood Canyon, Colorado. This means that by visiting this lake, you are, in a sense, making history. If you are interested in nature in its unspoilt state, you will likely be fascinated by this tourist destination. You can take the most beautiful pictures here. Your collage of breath-taking pictures will get a boost by visiting the Iyake Lake.

Sami Tunji is a freelance writer and editor. He lives in Ibadan, Oyo State.





With multi-sectorial operations and services, MG Vowgas is peerless in leading the charge to industrialise Nigeria, grow its wealth and empower its people. Mr. Godwin Izomor, Managing Director/CEO of the company, provides insight into the company's push to be Nigeria's leading industrial powerhouse.

Mr. Godwin Izomor



Emerging Nigeria's industrial powerhouse

What motivated the setting up of MG Vowgas and what has been the growth trajectory over the years?

One of my major motivations is patriotism. The "Nigerian project" is our main drive and as an ardent believer in the Nigerian dream, we were driven by the quest for value creation and addition as our contribution towards nation-building.

We looked at the landscape of the oil and gas industry and we noticed that most fabrication jobs were either given to the international companies or done outside the country. This motivated us to start this journey in 2006, with a firm belief that all these can also be achieved in-country with the right strategy. What started as a dream in my sitting room with just one computer and two other workers has grown, through God, dedication, hard work and perseverance, to become an EPCI company servicing different sectors of the economy.

There are a number of big fabrication yards in the industry today. What edge has MG Vowgas got in the market?

MGV sits on an impressive 85,000sqm land area with over 20,000sqm stacking area. MGV prides itself as having the most modern fabrication facility in-country with semi-automated equipment, with cutting edge technology.

We offer a one-stop shop for all process plant, pressure vessels and dish-end manufacturing, from plate rolling to the final product. All these are complemented by our quayside with deep load out capabilities. So, not only do we fabricate, we can also move your finished components from our quayside with jetty length of about 350m, with a depth of 8m/10m at high and low tide, respectively.





Boldrini Flanging Machine

MG Vowgas has hugely invested in its quayside dredging/extension for deep loadout capabilities, equipment acquisition, workshop expansion, among others, all endeared at making our facility a hub for topsides' fabrication, structural steel and various EPC works.



Dish Head Press Machine

The Nigerian Content Act clocked 10 years in April this year. In what specific ways has the Act helped the growth of your business?

Firstly, we will like to congratulate the Board, from the pioneer Executive Secretary, for the milestone and its attendant achievements. Accolades will also go specifically to our pragmatic and dynamic Executive Secretary, Engr. Simbi Wabote, and his team, for the giant strides achieved during his tenure.

Without the NCDMB, we wouldn't be where we are today as a company. The Act gave us the springboard to move up and this has afforded us various opportunities in the oil and gas and manufacturing industries.

Specifically, if we consider the pressure vessel and process facilities market, all these were conspicuously done outside of Nigeria. But the advent of the Local Content Act gave investors like us the impetus to commit funds for the growth of capacity and capability through value creation, because we are optimistic of opportunities for Nigerian companies.

Just recently, MG Vowgas assembled the first ballistic airboat in Nigeria. Without the Local Content Act, stakeholders won't have the confidence in what a local company can do.

During the recently held prestigious Nigerian International Petroleum Summit (NIPS), MG V received an award as the "Best Local Content Company of the Year". This, to us, is a testament to our commitment to Nigerian Content reality.

What are the key challenges facing your company in its operations today and how would government help in solving some of them?

Some of the key challenges are power, security, access to funds and multi-taxation. We recommend a holistic review of the policies that support business in this sector. A significant

percentage of our profits is being ploughed back to power and security. We generate our own power and security because of the criticality of these to our business.

Another challenge we face is access to funding even as we commend NCDMB for the NCDF (Nigerian Content Development Fund). During one of the fora, we advocated more reduction in financial interest rates and increase in the pool of funds warehoused by NCDMB. Because of the highly monetised nature of the industry, most projects are high budgeted, for example, ship building yards, dry docking facility, assembling plants, and industrial parks, among many others. The present volume of funds will limit investors of setting up of these to support the operations in the oil and gas industry.

Multi-taxation is another challenge. The Federal Government should harmonise this with clear-cut role of the ministries, MDAs and parastatals to avoid duplication, which we currently experience in the industry.

NLNG has just signed the EPC Contract for Train 7. How well positioned is your company to participate in this big-ticket project?

Industry speculators have waited patiently for this big boom and we as a company aren't left out. MG Vowgas has hugely invested in its quayside dredging/extension for deep loadout capabilities, equipment acquisition, workshop expansion, among others, all endeared at making our facility a hub for topsides' fabrication, structural steel and various EPC works.

During Q4 2019, we launched the largest dish head pressing machine in-country with pressing capacity of up to 90mm thickness, various flanging machine, among others, for all pressure vessels and process plant needs. All these were done in readiness for this big-ticket project.

COVID-19 has impacted the world of business greatly. What would you recommend as survival strategies to oil and gas companies like yours?

Truth be told: we might have to live with the “new normal” which will, off course, affect the ways our businesses are conducted. We as a company have reviewed our strategy and business model to reflect this new reality. We recommend companies to adopt more ICT in their operations, diversification of business streams, compliance with new safety measures, which include hand washing, social distancing until a vaccine or drug is hopefully discovered.

The Executive Secretary of NCDMB once advised fabrication companies like yours, to diversify outside the oil and gas. In what ways have you heeded that advice?

Through our visionary management team, we had since commenced diversification, as we know the Federal Government has imposed a complete ban on the importation of some categories of vessels for Cabotage trade, from December 2020, while the importation of barges and tugboat is banned from the end of December 2021. Following this development, we have strategically positioned ourselves to build these categories to meet international specifications to service the marine and logistics industries.

Further to this, MGVS is at its planning stage to venture into the relatively untapped maritime industry, which holds massive potentials. We are at the conceptualising stage for the development of a massive shipyard in the Niger Delta region to boost the maritime industry.

The price of crude oil is recovering gradually, after going through a major slump. How is that impacting your operations?

It will be a departure from the truth to say that this hasn't affected service companies like ours because most of our clients are exploration and production companies, which have been impacted. In all this, we are very optimistic and resolute that there will be a gradual rebound of the crude oil prices as we can see with the timely intervention of OPEC and OPEC+ countries.

Some of our contracts were suspended, which in turn affected our revenue and financial projections. With the gradual recovery, clients have started making plans for the resumption of work at their various project locations.

What's your company's growth projections in the next 10 years?

We are projecting to grow to become the foremost fabrication company in the sub-Saharan region by servicing the regional needs of the fabrication, maritime, manufacturing and security sectors. We anticipate the commissioning of our ultramodern shipyard.



Pressure Vessel Fabrication



Leading domestication of steel technologies in Nigeria

The Local Content Act has created an environment conducive for Nigerian industrialists to thrive. One of the finest is Beniko Industries Limited. Although quite young, the company is already proving to be a leader in manufacturing. Mr. Derin Adeyi, Executive Director of the company, highlights some of Beniko's successes and how the company is positioning to be a global player.

About Beniko Industries Limited.

Beniko Industries Limited is a 100 percent owned Nigerian manufacturing steel processor that specialises in design, engineering and fabrication of electrical and mechanical steel products that provide values to customers through our human and machinery capacities.

What motivated the setting up of Beniko Industries Limited and what has been the growth trajectory over the years?

There was a big gap and scarcity of Nigerian-made steel fabricated products and there was a need to grow the industry here in Nigeria. We started up on quite a slow pace as we needed to convince more clients of the quality vis-a-vis imported products.

We had to produce more samples to showcase our competence and market acceptance by practising the culture of continuous improvement and creating value for our customers. Thereafter, our market share increased gradually, and is still growing, ranging from the manufacturing to the power as well as oil and gas sectors.

Your firm manufactures and assembles sheet metal products. In what kinds of operations of the oil and gas industry and linkage sectors are your products mostly required and utilised?

Our products are required across the spectrum of oil and gas operations, on offshore and onshore. They include cable support systems (cable trays, ladder, trunk, among others); gasket and mechanical seals; instrument junction boxes; switchgear enclosures, control/electrical enclosures up to IP65 and 66, fire and hose cabinets, eHouse and mechanical skids, temporary site accommodations (portacabins); office equipment (shelves, racks) and warehouse solution (heavy duty and light duty racks), among several others.

What has been the patronage of your company's services by players in the oil and gas and linkage sectors?

The patronage by the players in the oil and gas sector in the few years of our operation has been low, but with our newly installed automated cable tray machine, we have seen increased enquiries from EPC companies. We look forward to more.

Give us a sense of your current capacity and your expansion and diversification plan?

Our automated cable tray production line is capable of producing 9,000 metres of cable trays per day or about three million metres annually. We cover all grades of steel finishing, including stainless steel (316 or 304SS), galvanised, powder-coated, carbon steel, aluminum (Type 5052) or galvanised steel.

Typical gas plants require about one million metres of cable trays; we can deliver this quickly within 100 days of order.

 Mr. Derin Adeyi



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Also, our PU gasket production line (polyurethane liquid - foam gasket) machine, which is used in sealing enclosures against ingress of water and dust, is in operation to make our enclosures meet up with the best international standards of electrical enclosures. We have the largest capacity installed in Nigeria and can deliver over 100 IP56 enclosures per month from our factory. We have also aligned with international vendors to ensure that we source the best materials for our mechanical seals.

Our CNC machines and automated robotic welding machines can produce 1km of warehouse racks per month at full production capacity. We have designed and fabricated eHouse in Nigeria within 30 days, including all raised floors, fire suppression systems and cladding.

The Executive Secretary of NCDMB recently advised indigenous oil and gas manufacturers to meet the standards demanded by the International Oil Companies so that they can increase patronage. How has your firm fared in this regard?

For a steel processor like us, meeting standards starts with how we source our steel. We source steel from the same factories that our international competitors do. Furthermore, we comply with IEC standards and requirements regarding ingress protection classification. Our products pass through scratch test, salinity tests and other inter-

national tests required before leaving our factory. We are currently finalising our ISO9001:2015 to better assure oil and gas customers of our proven quality management system already in place.

Our R&D division champions our culture of continuous improvement. Also, we continuously invest in human resources, cutting-edge technology and machinery to best equip our team to provide top-notch products and services in the area of design, manufacturing and project management.

The Nigerian Content Act was 10 years in April. In what specific ways has the Act helped the growth of your business?

The Nigerian Content Act has really been helpful because it has changed the perspective of how the companies and IOCs patronise made-in-Nigeria products. For example, low voltage cables are now mandatory in projects; thus helping to support cable manufacturers. We hope that cable trays are also made mandatory since local manufacturers have demonstrated capacity to meet 100 percent of local demand.

What suggestions do you have for the NCDMB to deepen the implementation of the Nigerian Content Act and support companies like Beniko Industries Limited?

I would like the commission to strengthen and support local manu-



facturers and market by outright ban of importation of cable support systems (cable trays, cable ladders, among others) and gaskets as well as mechanical seals, to aid the growth of the local market.

What are some of your success stories in terms of operational efficiency and early project delivery within budget?

We have successfully delivered several projects by sourcing our sheet metals, which constitutes about 90 percent of the raw material required locally in Nigeria.

We have supported local switchgear manufacturers with enclosures for panels up to 6300A. We have also provided generator soundproofing, which is currently in use across Nigeria.

Some of our satisfied clients are: Mantrac Generators, Cummins Generators, Neimeth Pharmaceuticals, Dangote Plc, Coca Cola Hellenic, GIL Automations, among several others.

What are the key challenges facing your company in its operations today and how would government help in solving some of them?

Unstable energy supplies and lower than expected patronage in oil and gas sector. The Nigerian government needs to prioritise a stable and dependable energy sector to help us produce at reduced cost. Also, EPCs should be mandated to buy cable trays and gaskets locally.

The oil and gas industry is expecting the Final Investment Decisions for NLNG Train 7 and Shell Bon-ga South West. How is your company' positioning itself to participate in these big ticket projects?

We are very interested in being the preferred cable support system manufacturer for these projects. Our BE-LINE brand is the best cable trays, ladders and accessories available in West Africa. On NLNG Train 7, for example, we estimate that 10km of cable support system are needed, which we have the capacity to deliver. Local cables are mandatory on the project and we wish that local cable trays are also mandatory. Most oil and gas specifications come in today with foreign specifications and brand names.

We have invested in new machinery, technology and continually train our human resources to sharpen their skill sets to take on the challenges that may arise. Also, we have selected the best sources of raw materials, cost-effective solutions and seamless supply chain to meet and exceed our customers' expectation.

What is Beniko's growth outlook in the next five to 10 years?

As a 100 percent-owned Nigerian manufacturing company that practices continuous improvement, we want to become a household name in steel products. We have been providing timely and tailor-made steel solutions for several years and we hope to lead in lean manufacturing, waste elimination efforts and environmentally friendly production in Nigeria.

We are currently exploring options with the Ministry of Mines and Steel to ensure that turnkey steel solution from iron ore to finished steel products are available in-country. We will domesticate steel technologies in Nigeria.

For Obi Parson

time breeds perfection

Electrical engineer and IT professional-turned fashion designer, Obi Joe Parson of Joe Parson Designs, mixes style and entrepreneurship. He sits well with his other interests: philanthropy and other good causes.

Who is Obi Joe Parson?

I am from Imo State but I grew up in Port Harcourt. I am a graduate of Electrical/Electronic Engineering from the University of Ilorin. I worked as a software engineer at Huawei Technology from 2012 to 2016, then as a solution architect at ISON Tech from 2016 to 2018.

I started Joe Parson (the brand) in 2015 as a side business and finally moved fully into it in early 2018. It has been quite tasking learning and creating a structure, but we have developed a structure with an eight-man team at our Lekki Phase 1 store.

What sparked your creative journey, inspired your designs?

My earliest recollection of fashion was by my dad in the early 1990s. My dad's sense of dressing is so sleek and on point that his friends will always say to me: "Your dad is a young old man." This rubbed off on my ideas of what style and details of cloths were about. Fast forward to my university days, I wrote fashion editorials for the school magazine and styled my friends every now and again. Those were my foundation as a fashion designer.

My inspirations mainly came from places I have been to and the culture contact from schooling across four

ethnicities - Ijaw, Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa.

What is your creative process?

My creative process starts from the mind. It is really the smallest details. For example, my last collection, *Blue Notes*, was inspired by a show I was seeing at the time, *Peaky Blinders*, set in the 1920s. I love the dapperness of the show; it was a major inspiration. The next stage was the fabric selection and colour themes; it took me about four weeks because I had to source from Aba, Lagos Island and a private store in Turkey. Next was the illustration and cutting of the fabrics and finally production at the workshop. It is always a learning curve.

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

For a fact, evolving is something every creative person needs to be happy about, it comes with growth: the more you do, the more you learn and unlearn. When I started, I was making mostly native wears, but after a few online trainings with foreign schools, I included suit making and this has been my strongest achievement, so far. In the past two years, we have designed almost 20 grooms' and groomsmen's outfits and we have a list of celebrities and film production crew to our credit.

BLUE NOTES

Any particular reason why you focus almost exclusively on men?

We started from men's wear and perfected that. However, last year, we ventured into women's clothing and it has been picking up. In a year, we will become a household name in female outfits as well - time breeds perfection.

How do you ensure that your wears are up to date? Who defines what should trend?

In my view, which stems from a place of experience, trends are over-rated. Although it is good to, once in a while, see what's happening on the scene, but what is more important is that we create styles that our target market needs and knows us for - this is timeless. At Joe Parson Designs, the design process is done by a team of three, with my direction as lead. We try to have our brand signature on them, irrespective of trend. It's very exciting to create.

What skills are important for a successful career in fashion design?

Contrary to popular opinion, you don't necessarily have to be the best guy on the machine to be successful as a fashion entrepreneur. You need soft skills as much as you need hard skills, be a fashion enthusiast, understand the importance of the service you provide and what problem you are solving in the economy. Furthermore, if you are a hands-on person, like myself, get your cutting and illustration skills right. This is the core of fashion designing.

What has been your most challenging moment?

I do think about it every now and again when I run into regular Nigerian problems, like lack of power, lack of funds and how unorganised the industry is, especially in the first few years. But it gets better if you started out of passion and have your mission and vision as well as goals to guide you - a constant reminder that this is trans-generational and not just for survival. This is the secret for me.

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

The future of fashion and entrepreneurship in Nigeria is untapped, although moving in the right direction, the role of government can never be overemphasised, from regulation to funding, to creating an enabling environment. At the same time, the curriculum of study should add a lot of post-secondary school programmes. Starting early is always right. Imagine young Gianni Versace in this country wasting four to seven years on university education before ending up designing clothes.

How are your clothings doing internationally?

We exhibited at various fashion shows outside Nigeria, although self-sponsored. Forty percent of our sales is usually from outside Nigeria and it is getting better as the economy opens up, although logistics is still a big issue. It will be nice to have policies that support SMEs and regulated implementation.

What advice would you give other young designers?

Keep it simple, enjoy the process. Without the process, what really is the point? I'm sure money isn't! Because that will definitely come.

What is next for you and Joe Parson?

From our year-start projection, we are looking at improved sales and revenue, both locally and internationally, more charity from the brand towards causes we are passionate about; focusing on out-of-school children; climate change and working with sustainable ideas on the environment.

Which will you say will be the biggest fashion trends for 2020?

Well, I am not one to follow trends but I know androgynous wears are in full season this 2020. Capsule wears, which happen to be our signature, are always ever green, simple and classy.



Flanges & fittings factory opens in Edo State

Compact Manifold & Energy Services Limited (CMES) has opened in Benin City, Edo State, to carry out production of valve, flanges and fittings. The company also provides engineering, procurement, construction, fabrication as well as onshore and offshore installation.

Mr Olufemi Osunde, its Managing Director, said the birthing of CMES would retain millions of dollars that would ordinarily be spent importing the critical items for the oil and gas sector. He recalled that the company

experienced challenges trying to establish in Nigeria as most conglomerates in the United States of America refused to partner with it.

Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), who inaugurated the facility, said the manufacturing sector is the backbone of industrialisation across the world, providing jobs and lifting people out of poverty. He assured that NCDMB would continue to implement policies that sustain existing manufacturing outfits and support

establishment of new ones.

Wabote praised the company for training 50 young graduates in its operations and plans to increase the staff strength to 200 in the next five years.

Mr Godwin Obaseki, Governor of Edo State, said the investment is in line with his administration's vision for job creation and promotion of manufacturing. He pledged to support the company and other businesses across the state to achieve their objectives.

COVID-19: OGTAN urged to adopt new strategies

Oil and gas trainers need to reposition themselves and redesign their training modules to overcome the challenges the Coronavirus pandemic and crash of crude oil price have caused, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has said. Wabote gave the advice in a webinar organised in May by the Oil and Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria (OGTAN).

He warned that the twin challenges might remain for a considerable time while oil and gas training would be negatively impacted because most face-to-face programmes

would no longer hold; there might be a consequential loss of businesses, revenue and jobs. Other effects might include abandonment of physical classrooms, despite huge investments already made, the need for new capitalisation to acquire infrastructure, absence of high speed internet and need for retraining of faculties.

He said most oil and gas training would likely take place in virtual classrooms and might require virtual machines, simulators and dongles. He advised local players to explore collaborations, international accreditations, quality, cost and differentiation.

For trainings, the Executive Secretary advised OGTAN members to implement COVID-19 safety measures, redesign timetable and the number of trainees per class, provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and redesign On-the-Job Trainings (OJT) and laboratory events. For medium-term plans, he advised companies to "redesign hands-on classes and leverage technology, move majority of theoretical trainings online, retrain faculties for virtual training and provide infrastructure".



Barr. Umar Mohammed Babangida, Director, Legal Services; Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development, receiving a souvenir from the delegation from the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Niger Republic, during a benchmarking visit to the Board's headquarters in Bayelsa State.

New NCDMB Governing Council inaugurated

The new Governing Council of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) was recently inaugurated by Chief Timipre Sylva, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, with a charge to the members to support the attainment of the Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Roadmap.

Chief Sylva said that accomplishing the lofty goals of the roadmap would enable the domestication of petroleum refining, domiciliation of manufacturing of industry requirements, extraction of value from gas and positioning Nigerian operators and

service providers in the upstream, midstream and downstream sectors of the industry. The Minister challenged members of the council to ensure that the targets set in the roadmap are met by supporting the ongoing initiatives and laying the foundation for the upcoming projects during their four-year tenure. Chief Sylva also commended NCDMB for the giant strides it had attained and for deepening the practice of Nigerian Content in the oil and gas industry since its establishment in 2010.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, the Executive Secretary, said NCDMB made history with the inauguration of the first ever female

member of the Governing Council.

The new members include Mrs Peace Oyanbo Owei, Ministry of Petroleum Resources; Engr. Sarki Auwalu, Department of Petroleum Resources; Engr. Farouk Sa'id, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation; Mr Olorundare Thomas, National Insurance Commission and Mr Nicolas Odinuwe, Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria. The Returning members include Mr Mina Oforiokuma, Nigerian Content Consultative Forum and Engr. Abdul Kashim Ali, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria.

NCCF gets new Sectorial Groups

Two new Sectorial Working Groups (SWG) have been inaugurated for the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF), a body set up to facilitate collaboration of stakeholders and development of ideas for the advancement of Nigerian Content in the oil and gas industry. The addition brings the number of NCCF sectorial groups to 12.

The two new Groups - Gas Value Chain SWG and Diversity SWG, were inaugurated by Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) during the NCCF

virtual engagement held in June.

The Executive stated that the future of fossil fuels is in maximising gas development and utilisation, adding that Nigeria has about 203 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas reserves. Wabote said that the Federal Government was developing various projects to promote the commercialisation and utilisation of gas and NCDMB was supporting LPG penetration by investing in RUNGAS Limited to promote local production of gas cylinders in Polaku, Bayelsa State.

Engr. Wabote said the creation of the Diversity SWG was a product from the Women in Oil & Gas workshop organised by the Board in October 2019. The aim is to improve the participation of women in the oil and gas industry as well as to promote an all-inclusive gender policies. The move, he said, would engender greater growth of the economy. Wabote also confirmed that a portion of the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCIF) will be set aside to support women operating in the oil and gas industry.



Mr. Abdulmalik Halilu, General Manager, Research, Statistics and Development with participants at a workshop of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) Lagos Section, Women in Energy Forum, in March.

Kick-off meeting for Train 7 EPC held

The kick-off meeting of the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) components of the Train 7 project has been held by the Nigeria LNG Limited and Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). The event held virtually and it provided an opportunity for NCDMB key officials to clarify some technical details relating to the Nigerian Content components of the project.

Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB said the project has been marked with many firsts, particularly in methodology, stakeholder awareness and

participation, as well as speed of completion of the regulatory approvals by the Board.

He challenged the lead contractors - Saipem, Chiyoda and Daewoo (SCD) joint venture and subcontractors to set Nigerian Content records during the project implementation phase and not to limit themselves to the Nigerian Content levels contained the Nigerian Content Plan (NCP) and the Nigerian Content Compliance Certificate (NCCC).

Engr. Tony Attah, Managing Director, Nigeria LNG Limited announced that the challenges of COVID-19 had compelled NLNG and the SCD JV to adjust the scope and start the

execution phase with limited engineering activities for the first 12 months ('Pivot Period'). "The critical mass of construction and fabrication activities will take off when the pivot into the full project scope occurs," added Engr. Attah.

The NLNG Managing Director also assured that the foremost gas company will collaborate with the contractors and the Board to deliver the agreed Nigerian Content, within budget and on schedule, in accordance with the highest standards of ethics and compliance and a strong focus on HSE.



Vibration - Fireboy

YBNL singer and songwriter Fireboy DML, whose real name is Adedamola Adefolahan, shows us that ambition must be made of indeed sterner stuff. *Vibration* is the second track in his 13-track debut album, *Laughter, Tears and Goosebumps*. *Vibration* is mid-tempo afrobeat sound produced by Wicked.

Vibration is loaded with very beautiful beats and surreal vibes.

It starts with shakers, followed by a sweet roll that prepares us for the groove that accompanies it. The electronic dance music, EDM-esque chord progression is a noticeable hallmark of the jam, which is also infused with an infectious dose of minor chord progressions into afro drum patterns and a defining trumpet

for hook.

Even though some could describe the melodies as monotonous, *Vibration* is one of those songs where what the singer says doesn't matter; you'd just be bumping to the vibes and shuffling your feet.



Blow - Starboy Ft Blaq Jerzee

World-famous Starboy, also known as Wizkid, blesses us with EP, *SoundMan* Vol. 1 to further whet our appetite following the non-release of his much-anticipated fourth studio album, *Made in Lagos*, last year.

Blow is a decent afrobeat track where both artistes, Wizkid and Blaq Jerzee, profess their feelings towards a lady who they encounter and has captured their hearts. They then try their best to lure her with their romantic advances. If you need any evidence of this head-over-heels lovefest, *Everyday with you, I dey sempe, High me like I drink sapele water*, they croon.

This collaborative effort has sweet instrumentation - with a live cello-like instrument playing, simple piano chords, strings and drums followed by a calm bounce with Blaq Jerzee's warm vocals going for it, even though it bears some semblance with Timaya's, *I can't kill myself* and Larry Gaga's *Low*.



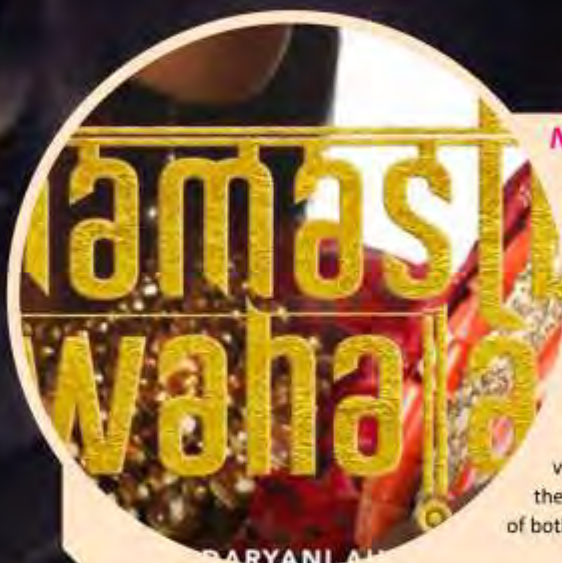
Geng - Mayorkun

The stage name of the mayor of Lagos, Mayorkun, is a corruption of the word, *Mayokun*. So, why are we not surprised that he has decided to give us a new spelling for the word, Gang as *Geng*, in his latest offering. Jumping on popular trends among the youth of today, Mayorkun weaves relatable lighthearted lyrics in an energetic, up-tempo, rap-esque, afro-pop dance track to deliver a social message – don't live a fake life.

On this Que produced track, *Geng*, which bears some semblance with Skibii's *Daz how Stars Do*, Mayorkun flows in a freestyle manner beginning with his assertion that he's *chilling with the most high* – a spiritual metaphor but an obvious reference to his company of friends.

Interestingly, *Geng*, which has become a rousing street anthem, goes on to provide different examples of genges - One Hennessy, 20 men Geng, Akube Balenciaga Geng, PepperDem Geng, Badmouth Geng and Happy Geng Geng. *Geng* has a catchy and easy-to-follow hook to compensate for its somewhat repetitive lines.





Namaste Wahala

With Zee World on cable and the numerous foreign Bollywood films of the 1970s, Indian influences in Nigeria have become pervasive. It is, therefore, not surprising that an Indian businesswoman who has been living in the country now turned filmmaker, Hamisha Daryani Ahuja, has created a Nollywood meets Bollywood project, titled *Namaste Wahala*, which loosely translated means *Hella Trouble*.

Featuring Ini Dima-Okoji in the lead role alongside Ruslaan Mumtaz, *Namaste Wahala* is a romantic-comedic story with a lot of laughter and a few tears about love and family that follows the typical boy and girl fall for each other, both families do not approve of their love and they must fight to be together. With veteran actors like Joke Silva, Richard Mofe-Damijo and Segal Sujata playing roles in the movie, audiences will experience a rollercoaster ride of emotions and the beauty of both cultures. Even the title alone suggests that this is a must-see.

Who's the Boss?

Chinaza 'Naz' Onuzo who has been responsible for writing award-winning films, such as *Up North*, *The Arbitration* and *The Set Up*, takes on the Director's mantle for his debut project, *Who's The Boss*. This romantic movie features a star-studded cast that includes Funke Akindele, Blossom Chukwujekwu, Segun Arinze, Sharon Ooja, Beverly Osu, Bolly Lomo, Ini Dima-Okoji and Tayo Faniran.

Who's the Boss tells the story of Hauwa – a hard-to-please and tough-as-nails boss, tormenting Leah, an overworked and overlooked advertising agency creative manager. Leah decides to invent another boss, Lekan, her boyfriend, to front for the side hustle start-up agency. After her start-up wins a lucrative contract, she is suddenly thrust into the spotlight. The movie benefits from solid acting and the first-person persona narrative style as the story is seen through the eyes of Leah.



Chatroom

With *Chatroom*, another pop culture format, reality TV show pops up on the big screen given how a lot of young Nigerians have embraced it. *Chatroom* is an inspiring story of hope and triumph set against the backdrop of an original TV dance reality show and demonstrates how barriers can be broken by the power of one's voice. Shot across three states in Nigeria - Delta, Anambra and Lagos - *Chatroom* is directed by Chike Ibekwe and produced by his wife, Peju Fadirepo and publisher of *TW Magazine* Adesuwa Onyenokwe serves as Associate Producer.

The movie parades an array of popular and award-winning actors, musicians and comedians like Odunlade Adekola, Omawunmi Megbele, Akpororo, Sambasa Nzeribe, Tony Umez, Ghanaian Kobby Acheampong and Cameroonian actor and dancer Lea Dibebe. A positive for the movie is that it is embellished with lighthearted scenarios, creating humour that lightens up the mood to a very serious issue.

The Chatroom



Africa's Business Revolution: How to Succeed in the World's Next Big Growth Market

- Ache Leke, Mutsa Chironga and Georges Desvaux

When three stellar McKinsey consultants join forces to write a primer that serves as a definitive guide to doing business in Africa, then the book deserves some attention. *Africa's Business Revolution* provides the inside story on business in Africa and its future growth prospects. It helps executives and business leaders to understand and seize the opportunities for building profitable, sustainable enterprises on the continent.

The book is replete with company case studies and exclusive interviews with some of Africa's most prominent executives. It draws heavily from in-depth proprietary research by the McKinsey Global Institute and the extensive work experience, which the writers have garnered as senior leaders in McKinsey's African offices. Success stories like M-Kopa, which developed a solar-powered electricity generator thus providing consumers with sustainable alternative to the widely used inferior energy sources, or how Interswitch's founder took note of the piles of cash Nigerians used for everyday purchases and built Nigeria's electronic banking infrastructure from scratch, are x-rayed in the book.

Former Managing Director of IMF, Christine Lagarde, compliments the book as "a thought-provoking read that confronts many of the myths about Africa", while Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, describes it as "a powerful and compelling guide that captures practical know-how for doing profitable and socially impactful business in Africa. This book reaffirms my conviction that Africa is the best-kept secret for a profitable and fulfilling business enterprise".



Monday's Ball

- Segun Mosuro

How do you teach children the power of perseverance, kindness, empathy, and hard work? You can use the power of pictures and text, which in turn become ossified as mental images in their hearts and minds. Artist and Illustrator Segun Mosuro delivers an important book in *Monday's Ball*. It exposes children to themes that include the value of hard work, practice makes perfect and kindness to animals.

Set in a riverine community around the Lagos Lagoon, *Monday's Ball* is the story of a boy named Monday, who wants to play football with his friends. Monday does not have a ball and cannot buy one; so he is not able to play because he cannot practise. His quest to buy a ball to practice the sport sends him on a thrilling adventure he would never forget. On this journey, he soon finds out that an act of kindness will help him reach his goal instead.

With brightly colored pictures and easy to read words, this children's book is a valuable cultural tool that exposes children to diversity and traditions that may be unfamiliar in their day-to-day lives. This is an authentic African-themed story that children worldwide can relate to and it encourages conversations about culture and the exploration of new vistas that might have been inaccessible to these children.



13 Things Mentally Strong Women Don't Do: Own Your Power, Channel Your Confidence, and Find Your Authentic Voice for a Life of Meaning and Joy

- Amy Morin

March is recognised as Women's month, understandably because of the International Women's Day, which is celebrated on March 8 every year. It goes without saying that cultural pressures, societal expectations and the subtle differences in the way girls are raised are just a few of the factors that encourage women to engage in unhealthy habits that rob them of mental strength.

In *13 Things Mentally Strong Women Don't Do*, prominent psychotherapist and international bestselling author, Amy Morin, explains why women need to build their mental muscles. She reveals 13 habits and mind-sets that women must avoid in order to master their mental strength. She also identifies counterproductive bad habits that are holding women back.

Amy reveals that healthy, mentally tough women don't insist on perfection; they don't compare themselves with other people; they don't see vulnerability as a weakness; they don't let self-doubt stop them from reaching their goals; they don't overthink everything; they don't avoid tough challenges; they don't put others down to lift themselves up; they don't blame themselves when something goes wrong; they don't fear owning their success. These precepts, which seem familiar, are wise, grounded and essential to helping every woman flourish and ultimately improve society as well.

13 Things Mentally Strong Women Don't Do is a highly recommended read for everyone as Morin draws from scientific evidence, case studies from her own patients and even celebrity stories of hardship and triumph, to demonstrate how mental strength can come from anywhere regardless of career, marriage, or family life.



From sensitisation to enforcement 10 years of Compliance Monitoring

Early days in the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate were geared towards bridging the transition gap from NNPC-NCD days to post-NOGICD Act take-off period.

The provisions of the NOGICD Act were going to completely change how business was conducted in the Nigerian oil and gas industry. Like every such game-changing legislation, there was bound to be a honeymoon phase before enforcement agents started to wield the big hammer.

From 2010-2013, the strategy was mainly focused on driving compliance via the vehicle of the major multinational operators. This strategy was straight out of the operational handbook of the NNPC-NCD Division. It was a natural course of action considering that key management personnel of the Directorate were experienced NNPC secondees with vast experiences in the oil and gas industry. The thought behind this strategy was simple: since the major operators awarded the bulk of projects containing contracts and sub-contracts within the exploration and production value chain, it made sense to drive compliance through these major projects with the expectation that compliance shall cascade to the service providers in line with extant contract terms.

During this period, compliance had a sensitisation spin to it. As such, the Directorate sought to sell the moral and ethical obligations of Nigerian Content to build capacity, rather than via the fear factor of sanctions. Successes were recorded. It, however, soon dawned on the Board that some service providers were slipping through the cracks by taking advantage of the fact that attention was on operators rather than them.

Therefore, from 2014 to 2016, compliance strategy evolved to also cater to First and Second tier contractors. The Board rightly onboarded more workers to support the new depth of operations. To underscore the seriousness of this strategy, for the first time, the Board directed an industry-wide sanctions and suspensions of two major multinational EPC contractors in the country for violating the provisions of the Act. These sanctions signified the ending of the carrot and stick compliance era. The message was clear: if you have been warned before, then you will be penalised henceforth.

It is also within this period the Directorate commissioned the first in-depth analysis of in-country value retained from procurement activities of major operators. This laid the groundwork for the 10-year roadmap of the Board.

From 2016 onwards, the Board operationalised instituting legal court proceedings against perpetually errant companies in line with Section 68 of the NOGICD Act. This period also saw dedicated monitoring units commissioned, which were focused on driving compliance outside project-based activities such as Technology Transfer, Research and Development, Equipment Component Manufacturing, Financial, Insurance and Legal Services.

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Service delivery

Over the course of its transformation, the Directorate also welcomed feedback from the industry on the quality of its service delivery (or ease of doing business perception). A reoccurring complaint was the cumbersome nature of its statutory reporting templates, which the industry found a bit difficult to understand. Thus, reporting errors were a "dime a dozen".

The complaints were collated and discussed during a retreat. This led to a new simplified version, which was presented at a public forum to the industry. A key attribute of the new templates was more emphasis on quantitative data showing Nigerian content trends between reporting cycles. By so doing, it made it easier to track the Board's progress towards achieving its 10-year roadmap target of attaining 70 percent Nigerian content by 2027.

Engaging expert support

In 2018, the Board recognised that engaging the services of industry professionals to support and guide monitoring operations was another avenue for diversifying its competence profile towards more effective operations. Thus, Section 70(o) of the NOGICD Act was operationalised. Section 70 permits the Board to "delegate any of its functions to any agent or operative". Third Party Monitoring (TPM) entities were engaged to bring in much needed industry experience and in-depth analysis to monitoring activities. This helped to widen the Board's surveillance net.

Opportunities tracking

During its monitoring activities, the Board became privy to business areas where there is still substantial lack of service companies' in-country capacity. These are business opportunities which do not usually attract headlines because they are often sub-contracted services but nonetheless, they provide a key opportunity for local content investment. Noting this important fact, the Board recognised the need to collate this important information and publish same to the public as a way of attracting investors within and outside Nigeria.

Hence it was no surprise that MED was a major driving force in organising the maiden Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunities Fair (NOGOF) in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital in 2017, and the subsequent edition in April 4-5, 2019 in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

The successful execution of the fairs signalled another growth trajectory in MED's history. It rebranded the Directorate. It was not just an enforcement entity. It was also a business enabler and an investment attracting force.



PROMOTION

Barr. Umar Mohammed Babangida has been designated as the Director, Legal Services, NCDMB. He was previously the General Manager and later Coordinator, Legal Services.

ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME



Senior Staff of NCDMB, with some of their facilitators after completing the Chief Officers' Transition Programme (COTP), organised by the NNPC Leadership Academy in Abuja, February, 2020



Participants in the NCDMB Officers' Career Enhancement Programme (OCEP) Batch 003 (the Frontiers) with their facilitators, after completing the programme organised by the NNPC Leadership Academy in Abuja, October, 2019.



Participants in the NCDMB Officers' Career Enhancement Programme (OCEP), Batch 004, (Trailblazers) with their facilitators, after completing the programme organised by the NNPC Leadership Academy in Abuja, November, 2019.

How it was in the beginning

Dr Ernest Nwapa



The Local Content journey did not start with a legislation. We did a lot of work preparatory to the passage of the Act. We started with issuing local content directives at the NNPC and brought stakeholders together to discuss various angles of the Local Content policy at that time. We navigated it through the National Assembly. During the negotiations around the drafting of the bill, we continued to manage that process through the NNPC and, by the time the Bill had passed, we were already practising elements in the Bill.

One of the things that was not defined by the Act was the exact location of the NCDMB headquarters. The Act only required that the headquarters be in an oil producing state. We had a competition. Delta, Akwa Ibom and Rivers states all wanted it. The decision was left to me to recommend. Oil was first struck in commercial quantities at Oloibiri in Bayelsa State. Akwa Ibom had a lot of ExxonMobil activity, Cross Rivers had the Calabar jetty, Rivers had refineries and petrochemical plants and the NNDC headquarters, Delta had Warri Refinery, Bayelsa State had nothing. I made my recommendation for Yenagoa and it was supported by the then Governor of the State, Chief Timipre Sylva. Ten years later, the same man emerged the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources.

When NNPC started, it took a long time before its office was built. I decided that it would not happen with NCDMB. The moment I took control of the Board and I moved to Yenagoa, I asked the then Governor Sylva to allocate land for the headquarters building. The symbolism of having a befitting office was key so that when people come for meetings, they are comfortable and the technology that you have in the building would match what is also available in any such building anywhere else in the world.

Nigerian Content implementation five years after leaving office

When I look at the strides of Nigerian Content, I am very satisfied. I saw the beginning. I remember where I dropped off. I have seen where we are today and I see a trajectory that is smooth and close to the vision.

Look at the number of engineering companies that we started with in 2015, including NETCO and the engineering man-hours that we could do in Nigeria by the time we were doing Agbami between 2006 and 2008. The engineering man-hours we recorded were related to putting engineers that did not have capacity to participate in those things, but we put them all the same. It was faith. We took them to Korea; they worked and they can now put up their CVs after the Agbami project that they have done x number of man-hours of work to qualify for the next job. By the time we were doing the third or fourth FPSO, we

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had most of the Nigerian engineering scope done by Nigerians with supervisory level engineering input from home country elements. The same story for fabrication. When you look at tender for engineering, you will see about 20 Nigerian companies. In fact, you have to manage them.

We did over 10,000 kilometres of pipeline in Nigeria and we did not get one pipe mill. All the efforts today to do either pipe handling or pipe threading grew because of Nigerian Content. The desire to have one or two pipe mills was driven by the requirement that pipes must be supplied from Nigeria. In the same way, we decided that for every project that you wanted to do in Nigeria, you must have a legacy.

Nigerian Content in the next 10 years

I do not see why a Nigerian project cannot be implemented in-country, at least to 70 percent spend in Nigeria. This way, you can continue to have cross-pollination of technology. Our supply chain has grown so much and we have set up models that would be used. We can replicate the model of Egina, where it created a totally new fabrication yard. Egina could have just put 25 percent in an existing fabrication yard to make it big and modern enough to do anything. Egina went to

Port Harcourt and put capacity into two new workshops, including subsea technology in Aveon. Saipem invested additional money, and virtually every contractor that won projects there. That is what we call the capacity development initiative model. We set it up deliberately for two reasons.

One, you must have a legacy. Secondly, if for any practical reason you cannot find a product, a skill or a capability in Nigeria, we required you to submit a capacity development initiative that would cover that gap for the next project.

What you see is a good foundation. When you build on it, it can sail very easily. Looking at the next 10 years, I see us covering beyond the oil and gas industry. It is already happening. If you look at the telecoms industry, a lot of people are taking it for granted. The Executive Orders, which the President signed, are opening new vistas. Within the next 10 years, if oil and gas industry local content examples are modelled into the other sectors of the economy, we will have a country that is not necessarily self-sufficient, but at least inter-dependent and definitely not dependent on the external world.

Dr Ernest Nwapa is pioneer Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board. The implementation of the Nigerian Content Act under his watch attracted more than US\$5 billion investments into the economy.



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