

NEWS PLATFORM

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**WE ARE AFRAID OF
2019 ELECTIONS ...INEC
NO CAUSE FOR ALARM..... BUHARI**



**NIGERIAN YOUTHS TO
PETITION FG, INT'L COMM.
OVER NEGLECT OF RIVERS
COMMUNITY BY SPDC**

**Supplement on Nigeria
Content Development
and Monitoring Board**

**IPMAN Uncovers
Illegal Bunkering
Sites In Rivers**



NEWS PLATFORM

OUR VISION

To be a leading news magazine in
Nigeria and indeed in Africa

OUR MISSION

Our mission include to inform, Educate,
Entertain and serve as status
conferral to Personalities, issues and
events across the globe with special
emphasis on development in Nigeria
and indeed Africa. Keeping to the
ethics of the Media Profession and Social
Responsibility Theory of the Press.

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OKOWA PRESENTS N367.09B FISCAL PROPOSALS FOR 2019

...Score Self High

Delta State Governor, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa has termed the 2019 budget of N367, 095,083,451 as "budget of sustainable growth."

Presenting the budget to the Delta State House of Assembly recently the governor said the Capital expenditure in the projected budget will gulp the sum of N209, 993,054,198 which is 57.21 while the sum of N157, 096,029,253 or 42.79 per cent of the budget would be spent on recurrent expenditure. The 2018 budget comprised N147,273,989,898 (one hundred and forty-seven billion, two hundred and seventy-three million, nine hundred and eighty-nine

thousand, eight hundred and ninety-eight naira) recurrent expenditure, and capital expenditure of N161,614,569,000 (one hundred and sixty-one billion, six hundred and fourteen million, five hundred and sixty-nine thousand naira).

Governor Okowa disclosed that the fiscal projections would enable his administration consolidate on the successes and achievements of his administration.

"Despite the fluctuating fortunes of the economy in the last three and half years, I humbly note that our State has continued to forge ahead; workers are paid regularly, thousands of previously unemployed youths are gainfully employed, and many of our people now enjoy better facilities in

terms of roads, water, education and health. "Agriculture has received a strong boost with many cluster farms springing up in different parts of the State and, even more importantly, our people remain committed to peace and harmonious living."

We shall build on this stable growth to position Delta State as a dynamic economy for the future; indeed, a stronger Delta beckons", Governor Okowa enthused.

Road infrastructure took the largest chunk of the capital expenditure budget with sum of N79.6 billion while Education Sector will gulp the sum of N26.8 billion in the 2019 fiscal estimates.

OGONI YOUTHS PASS VOTE OF CONFIDENCE ON THE MANAGEMENT OF HYPREP LEADERS

Gladys Nweke

On the need to sensitize the youths and young professionals in Ogoni land, The project coordinator of HYPREP, Dr Marvin Dekil has expressed his gratitude to the people and urged them to ensure that they are involved on the ongoing Clean-Up exercise by having their own companies registered as NGOs and contractors as to enable them to partner with HYPREP during the period of the exercise.

As contractors intensify preparation to mobilize to site, He made this known as HYPREP Nigeria holds a ONE DAY CONSULTATIVE MEETING WITH YOUTH LEADERS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS IN OGONI LAND. Saying that HYPREP is ready

to train Ogoni Youths and women in different skills as part of development in the area.

In his speech, Mr Celestine Akpobari while delivering the keynote address, said that the struggles for the actualization of the cleaning up was not an easy task but today its actualization was achieved.

He also maintained that despite the release of funds for the project, we cannot boast of the funds as ours to the extent of acting hostile to the implementation body, contractors and others directly or remotely connected with the implementation of Clean-Up Project. It behooves on us to be accommodative and provide the necessary conducive

environment.

At the same vein, the generality of youth organizations in Ogoni land passed vote of confidence on the management of HYPREP leaders and others. Stating that the general public should disregard the insinuation from the rumor mongers who are there to tarnish the reputable image of the management of HYPREP for accusing them of misappropriation of funds.

The Youths also commended president Muhammadu Buhari, Governor Nyesom Wike and IOCs for their support for the cleanup and urged the HYPREP for inclusive participation, efficient, transparency and smooth running of exercise.

Also at the event include All the youth organizations, MOSOP, KAGOTE, Ogoni Professional, Sarowiwa Associate, Politicians, Traditional Rulers and others.

IPMAN Uncovers Illegal Bunkering Sites In Rivers

The Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Rivers State chapter, says, over 60 hectares of farmland have been discovered as dump ground for illegal bunkering business in Ogoni and Andoni areas of the state.

The chairman, IPMAN taskforce in charge of four local government areas in Rivers South East – Senatorial District, Mr Enyinah Lonyi disclosed this in an interview with The Journalists in Port Harcourt. According to Lonyi, his team in the last two weeks disclosed in Gokana, Khana, Andoni and Opobo/Nkoro local government areas that most farmers, especially in Ogoniland, have leased out their land as hide out for illegal bunkering business for quick money. He said most farmers decided to quit farming work to join illegal bunkering business, a gesture he described as great danger to the state agricultural development. He said, his taskforce team in the last two weeks has destroyed over 15 tankers of

adulterated petro chemical products discovered in various farms in the area.

The taskforce chairman said, the state may soon experience serious challenges in agriculture development, if their activity of illegal bunkering was not aggressively addressed.

He said, some persons stored the adulterated petroleum products under ground in G.P tanks and polythene material, with some spilling into the farmland.

Lonyi said the taskforce was ready to bring the illegal bunkering to a standstill, saying that the taskforce was gradually reducing the rates of illegal bunkering activities in the areas.

Lonyi, who warned those leasing their farmland for illegal bunkering because of quick money, said the taskforce would soon go after the owners of the farmland for aiding and abetting illegal bunkering in the state.

Be wary of political sensitivity of Nigeria, CNS warn inducted officers

The Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Eta Ibas has warned the newly inducted Naval personnel to be wary of the present political sensitivity of the country and avoid being used by unscrupulous elements to achieve their selfish end.

Vice Admiral Ibas spoke on recently at the Nigerian Navy Basic Training School, Onne, Rivers State while performing the Presidential commissioning ceremony of 57 Sub-Lieutenants of the Nigerian Navy that graduated from the Nigerian Defence Academy, NDA 65 Regular Course.

Vice Admiral Eta Ibas said that Nigeria is politically charged because of the forthcoming 2019 general elections and warned the newly inducted officers to be wary of the consequences of meddling into political matters and remain apolitical in the discharge of their duties.

He charged them to be prepared to take up the challenges of their new responsibility of securing the territorial integrity of the maritime

environment.

He said that their being commissioned into the Nigerian Navy is coming at a time Nigeria is winning war on insurgency.

He said that the responsibility of the Nigerian Navy has gone beyond maritime domain saying that the newly inducted personnel could also be engaged in other areas of providing security in the country.

He said that the Nigerian Navy is collectively engaged in the challenges of illegal oil bunkering, crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism.

He said "its imperative to point out that the grant of President and the Commander of the Nigerian armed forces is not just a matter of granting employment rather it is a call to contribute your towards protecting the territorial integrity and the national defence of our dear country"

"Always bear in mind that you have been commissioned at a unique moment when our country is aggressively and successfully winning the war against insurgency and

various forms of insecurity. Within the maritime environment the Nigerian is currently engaged in the collective national effort to tackle the perculia challenges of crude oil theft, Pipeline vandalism"

"We must recall that the challenges of contemporary warfare, frequent mutation of criminal activities demand that military commanders must be able and ready to operate seamlessly within all domains of warfare." He commended President Muhammadu Buhari for his numerous support for the Nigerian Navy.

Earlier the Deputy Commandant of the Nigerian Naval College, Captain Fadeyi said the Midshipmen training is designed to equip final year naval cadets of the Nigerian Defence Academy with the requisite professional knowledge to function optimally as commissioned officers. He said a total number of 60 Midshipmen of 65 Regular Course were assembled and were inaugurated in October last year. He said the course spanned a duration of 11 months.

AIR PEACE SET UP OPERATIONAL HUB IN ASABA AIRPORT

Nigeria's premier carrier, Air Peace Airline has indicated intention to make Asaba Airport its operational and maintenance hub, Delta State Governor, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa has said.

Governor Okowa, who made the disclosure in Asaba at the presentation of the budgetary proposal for the 2019 fiscal year said Nigeria's premier carrier, the Air Peace resumed daily scheduled flight operations in and out of Asaba Airport on Monday, 8th October, 2018.

"The management of Air Peace Airline has indicated interest to make

Asaba Airport its operational hub, where it can quickly build its maintenance hangers", the governor revealed.

According to the governor, his administration has made considerable progress in the quest to make Asaba Airport an international gateway, with the successful completion of the runway rehabilitation work, adding that the airport has been approved and upgraded from Category 8 to 6 Airport to receive and dispatch large aircraft by the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority.

He continued, "work on our

concession plan for the airport has also reached an advanced stage as we are confident that the concession will ensure that we realise our objective of turning the airport into a mega commercial and travel hub in this part of the country in record time in order to boost our economy and create more jobs for our people."

"We have received strong interests from both local and international investors in the concession exercise and we expect the airport to be fully concessioned in 2019; in this regard, we published a formal "Request for Proposal" in national newspapers on Tuesday, 9th October, 2018," Governor Okowa stated.

THE SENATE VETOES PRESIDENT BUHARI OVER ELECTORAL BILL

The Nigeria Senate has passed the Electoral Act No. 6 (2010 Amendment) Bill 2017 into law overriding the assent of the president. The amended act are as follows;

1. There shall now be full biometric accreditation of voters with Smart Card Readers and/or other technological devices, as INEC may introduce for elections from time to time.
2. Presiding Officers must now instantly transmit accreditation data and results from Polling Units to various collation centers. Presiding officer who contravene this shall be imprisoned for at least 5 years (no option of fine).
3. All Presiding Officer must now first record accreditation data and polling results on INEC's prescribed forms before transmitting them.
The data/result recorded must be the same with what they transmitted.
4. INEC now has unfettered powers to conduct elections by electronic voting
5. Besides manual registers, INEC is now mandated to keep Electronic registers of voters.
6. INEC is now mandated to publish voters' registers on its official website(s) for public scrutiny at least 30 days before a general election and any INEC staff who is responsible for this but fails to act as prescribed shall be liable on conviction to 6 months' imprisonment.
7. INEC is now mandated to keep a National Electronic Register of Election Results as a distinct database or repository of polling unit by polling unit results for all elections conducted by INEC.
8. Collation of election result is now mainly electronic, as transmitted unit results will help to determine final results on real time basis.
9. INEC is now mandated to record details of electoral materials – quantities, serial numbers used to conduct elections (for proper tracking).
10. A political party whose candidate dies after commencement of an election and before the declaration of the result of that election now has a 14-day window to conduct a fresh primary in order for INEC to conduct a fresh election within 21 days of the death of the party's candidate;
11. Political parties' Polling Agents are now entitled to inspect originals of electoral materials before commencement of election and any Presiding Officer who violates this provision of the law shall be imprisoned for at least 1 year.
12. No political party can impose qualification / disqualification criteria, measures or conditions on any Nigerian for the purpose of nomination for elective offices, except as provided in the 1999 Constitution.
13. The election of a winner of an election can no longer be challenged on grounds of qualification, if the he (winner) satisfied the applicable requirements of sections 65, 106, 131 or 177 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and he is not, as may be applicable, in breach of sections 66, 107, 137 or 182 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. [For example, a person's election cannot be challenged on the ground that he did not pay tax, as this is not a qualifying condition under the Constitution.]
14. All members of political parties are now eligible to determine the ad-hoc delegates to elect candidates of parties in indirect primaries. The capacity of party executives to unduly influence or rig party primaries has been reasonably curtailed, if not totally removed.
15. Parties can no longer impose arbitrary nomination fees on political aspirants. The Bill passed prescribes limits for each elective office as follows:
 - (a) One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N150,000) for a Ward Councillorship aspirant in the FCT;
 - (b) Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N250,000) for an Area Council Chairmanship aspirant in the FCT;
 - (c) Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000) for a House of Assembly aspirant;
 - (d) One Million Naira (N1,000,000) for a House of Representatives aspirant;
 - (e) Two Million Naira (N2,000,000) for a Senatorial aspirant;
 - (f) Five Million naira (N5,000,000) for a Governorship aspirant; and
 - (g) Ten Million Naira (N10,000,000) for a Presidential aspirant.
16. Relying on the powers of the National Assembly in Paragraph 11 of Part II (Concurrent Legislative List) of the Second Schedule (Legislative Powers) to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), the Senate also passed measures reforming procedures regulating Local Government Elections. State Independent Electoral Commissions can no longer conduct elections that do not meet minimum standards of credibility.
17. Any INEC official who disobeys a tribunal order for inspection of electoral materials shall be imprisoned for 2 year.

OBA OF BENIN CALLS FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION

By: Desmond Aghama, CPS to Oba of Benin



Oba of Benin Eheneden Erediauwa

The Oba of Benin, His Royal Majesty, Ewuare II has called on the Chairman of the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Prof. James Momoh to ensure conflict resolution in the issues surrounding electricity in the interest of Nigerians.

The Omo N'Oba who made the call in his Palace when the Chairman of NERC paid him a courtesy visit noted that it was the right of Nigerians to get value for their money, in terms of electricity supply, and billing.

The Chairman of the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Prof. James Momoh told His Royal Majesty that they were in Benin City for a Town Hall Meeting with all

stakeholders on public consumption advocacy with the view of finding solution to the problems surrounding electricity consumption in Edo State

Prof. Momoh informed the Oba of Benin about the challenges in Disco, which is in charge of transmission lines across the country, and expressed hope that with the stakeholders meeting the challenges would be surmounted.

The Governor of Lions Club International District 404 A1 Lion Monday Onyeme was also in the Palace on a courtesy visit to the Oba of Benin, to express their appreciation for the support given to Lions Club International over the years.

Lion Onyeme explained that as a humanitarian organisation, Lions Club International focuses on providing health care services to the people, especially in the areas of eye care and diabetes.

His Royal Majesty thanked them for the visit and assured that the Palace would continue to support the humanitarian works of Lions Club International in order to serve the people better.

The Benin Monarch also received the proprietor and management of the Frist Model Technical College, Ugbine expressing satisfaction with the proprietor for such a lofty project.

The proprietor of the Technical College, Mr. Okhomina Emmanuel informed His Royal Majesty that the technical school was established to help provide knowledge and skills to the youths in the areas of agriculture, carpentry, engineering, building, ICT, among others, in order for them to be self-reliant.

Mr. Okhomina noted that there are dearth of skilled manpower in the society which explains why the school is in the fore-front in providing vocational and technical education to the youths.

Bayelsa flood:

A major disaster - Osinbajo



Governor of Bayelsa State, Hon. Seriake Dickson (centre) in a warm handshake with the General Overseer of the Deeper Christian Life Ministry, Pastor William Kumuyi (right) during a condolence visit to the Governor, over the death of his mother, Mrs. Goldcoast Dickson at Government House, Yenagoa, while the wife of the Pastor, Mrs. Esther Kumuyi (left) looks on.

Nigeria's Vice President, Prof. Yemi Dickson on Media Relations, Mr Fidelis Osinbajo, described the ravaging flood Soriwei, in a statement said the Vice President in Bayelsa State as a major disaster to in company of Governor Dickson and some occur in any part of the country in the recent Federal Government officials visited different time. internally displaced persons camps in the state.

Osinbajo stated this in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State He explained that the federal government team when he overflow some parts of the state were in the state at the instance of President affected by the flood to assess the situation in Muhammadu Buhari, and pledged the other to get the first hand information. government's support in the area of resettling The Special Adviser to Governor Seriake the IDPs, who have lost their homes and



This is Tombia Town, one of the flood affected communities in Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, during the visit to the area by the State Governor, Hon. Seriake Dickson.

livelihoods. development, we are glad we waterways and build canals, so He said: "You are obviously were able to respond as that there will be no flooding." going through a lot of stress quickly as possible. "Have seen about five women but despite that, you are still "We will support as much as who have given birth here in able to smile. possible with the National IDP camp, a lot of them would "On our way here, we Emergency Management require a lot of care, we are overflow some of the Agency (NEMA) which is committed to supporting them communities affected by the working hard to ensure that we in whatever way we can, we flood. We saw so many areas give as much succour and are here with the NEMA DG to affected by the flood, many provision of tents, mattresses, understand first-hand what is homes, farmlands are under food, mosquito nets and all required." He added. water. that are required.

Earlier, Governor Seriake Dickson had emphasized the "We saw clear that it is major "In future, we want to be able disaster indeed, we were able to prevent this situation. It's need for the Federal to see that there is a major repeating itself in 2018, so Government and donor disaster in Bayelsa state, steps need to be taken to organizations to collaborate especially in Yenagoa, we dredge our rivers, stop with the state in providing long express our sincere dumping of solid waste into term solutions to the perennial condolences to you, its a sad our water bodies, clear problem.



Flood In Bayelsa State



58 killed as bloodbath resumed in Kaduna.



It was another bloodbath in Kaduna state recently as over 55 people killed in a renewed clash.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that 55 people were killed on Oct. 18 crisis at Kasuwan Magani in Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna state.

NAN also reports that a similar crisis in February left more than 10 people dead in Kasuwan Magani, while 65 suspects involved in the crisis were arraigned in court but the case is still ongoing.

Acting DCP Jimoh Moshood, the Force Public Relations Officer, disclosed this while addressing newsmen on the violence in Abuja.

He said that the police deployed included four Police Mobile Force (PMF) units, Counter Terrorism Unit (CTU), Conventional policemen, Federal Special Anti Robbery Squad (FSARS), Intelligence

Response Team (IRT) and Technical Intelligence (TIU) among others.

Moshood said that the operations would cover the entire Kasuwan Magani and its environs and other flash spots in the state.

"The intervention force will be working in synergy with the Kaduna state police command to ensure that peace and normalcy returns to the area.

"To achieve success, the force will be proactive and strict in the enforcement of its mandate, police standard operations procedures and rules of engagement," he said.

He said that the force would carry out a 24 hours surveillance and patrol, stop and search, continuous raid of identified criminal hideouts and blackspots.

The spokesman said that operation would cover communities, towns, villages, vulnerable points,

government and private infrastructure.

He enjoined traditional rulers, religious leaders, politicians, parents and guardians to support the police in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Moshood said that 22 suspects directly involved in violence were arrested and are in police custody assisting the police in the investigation

The spokesman said that some prominent personalities kidnapped during the violence have also been rescued and reunited with their families.

A check by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reveals that the latest crisis was said to have began at Mararaba Rido, and spilled over to Sabon Tasha,

Tudun Wada, Central Market and Ahmadu Bello way, the city center.

A resident of Mararaban Rido, Mrs Hanatu Simon said that the issue began at a Church in the area where a man was caught suspiciously recording the pastor's sermon with his phone.

Simon said that the church officials reported the matter to the police and the man was arrested and taken away by the police.

"However, around 3 pm we heard gun shots around the market area with people running in all directions, houses were being burnt and everyone was running for his life.

"Although military and police officers are all over the place, we still hear gun shots all over the place," she said.

Another residents, Julius John said: "I don't know what is happening, I am in my house, but

blocked the busy Nnamdi Azikiwe Expressway and Ahmadu Bello Way burning tires, were later dispersed by security agents.

"In the pandemonium, a car ran over my brother, a fruit seller at Lagos street. We are trying to get the police to help us take him to the hospital," a resident, Malam Abubakar Abdullahi, told NAN.

In Janruwa community, a resident informed NAN that the youths

there had barricaded the road, stopping and searching vehicles coming from both direction.

Stranded commuters from across the city were seen trekking to their destinations as vehicle owners kept off the roads.

The Kaduna State Government on Sunday said the imposition of a

all I can hear is gun shots with people shouting and running."

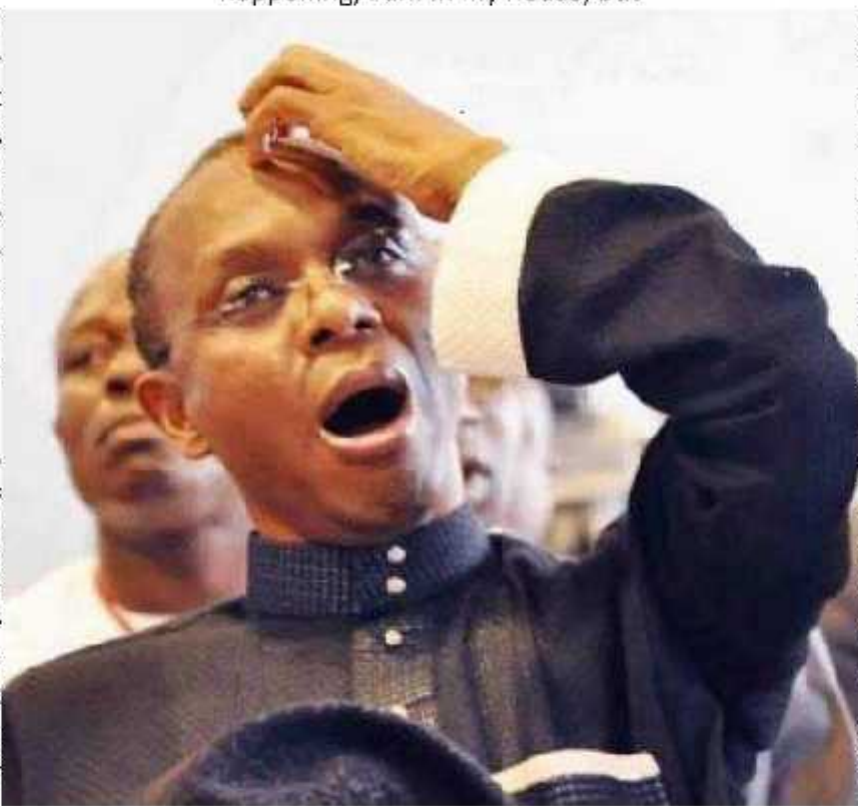
At Sheikh Abubakar Gumi Market, a trader, Ibrahim Ya'u said that it was a spontaneous reaction as people "just started running when they heard there is crises in town.

"Most traders quickly closed their shops to prevent hoodlums from taking advantage of the situation to steal our goods."

Some youths who reportedly

24-hour curfew on Kaduna metropolis and environs was a preemptive measure to avert breakdown of law and order.

Mr Samuel Aruwan, Senior Special Assistant on Media to Gov. Nasiru El-Rufa'i told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in a telephone interview that the action was based on the advice of security chiefs in the state.



IMO STATE GOVERNMENT SIGNS MoU WITH A CHINESE COMPANY ON POWER GENERATION



Secretary to the Government of Imo State, Hon. Mark Uchendu and CEO of Elion Global Resources, Mr. XU Weihui signing MoU on Power Generation while Governor Rochas Okorocha and President of Elion Global Resources, Mr. Wang Wenbiao watch, at the Government House Owerri weekend.

Imo State Government has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a Chinese Company, Elion Global Resources, on Power Generation and Agro-based Ventures.

The Secretary to the Government of Imo State, Hon. Mark Uchendu signed on behalf of the Imo State Government, while Chief Executive Officer of Elion Global Resources Mr. XU Weihui signed on behalf of the Company.

President of Elion Global Resources, Mr. Wang Wenbiao had led a team of Senior Personnel of the Company to meet with Governor Rochas Okorocha and other Senior Government Functionaries at the Government House Owerri weekend and the discussions at the meeting had given birth to the signing of the MoU.

In his speech, Governor Okorocha said "What we have been looking for is a major company like yours to come and drive the

State's Industrial Park. We assistance you need to make generate for take-off, we shall have the gas and gas is Power sure you start your business give you guarantee and there and we need credible here in Imo State. Imo State is nothing you would ask, the company to move our gas is one of the best places to do President and myself would into Power for the greater business now especially for not do for you to take-off". and mutual benefit of the agriculture and Power In his speech, President of State and the Country" Generation." Elion Global Resources

The governor said "All we The governor further stated, Mr. Wenbiao said his need is your understanding to "When we assign to you the company would partner with kick-start the business. I 10,000 acres of land to do the State on Power would advice the Company business, it means you are in Generation and in the not to waste time and to take control of everything that development of the State's advantage of the moment. happens in the land. For any Industrial Park and Agro-based Industries. So, we shall give you every amount of Power you



Governor Rochas Okorocha with President of a Chinese Company, Elion Global Resources, Mr. Wang Wenbiao (in a handshake) Secretary to the Government of Imo State, Hon. Mark Uchendu (extreme right), Mr. XU Weihui, CEO, Elion Global Resources (extreme left) when the Chinese investors visited the governor weekend at the Government House Owerri to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Power Generation.

THE HISTORY OF

ATIKU ABUBARKAR PRESIDENTIAL AMBITION



The history of Atiku Abubakar Abiola needed Yar Adua structures to state, won the election on the Presidential Ambition dates make an impact in the general platform of the Peoples Democratic back to 1992 when the then election of June 12, 1993. Yar Adua Party but ended up been the running Military President Ibrahim Babangida gave Abiola conditions for his mate to Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. banned Old Politicians from supports which included picking Atiku. OBASANJO/ATIKU won the contesting future elections, Atiku's his running mate Abiola agreed, but presidential election in 1999. political godfather former Chief of state governors on the platform of the staff Supreme Headquarters. General SDP warned Abiola not to take their Shehu Yar Adua was one of the support for granted, they preferred casualties of ban. Babagana Kingibe as their candidate

Yar Adua then decided to push forward his anointed son to run. They both belonged the Social Democratic Party [SDP] Among the people that contested the SDP primaries included Chief Moshood Abiola, Alhaji Babagana Kingibe, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, Sarah Jubril etc. after the SDP primaries chief MKO won. But

IN 1999 Atiku Abubakar contested the governorship election in Adamawa

In 2003 fearing that Obasanjo will not pick him as his running mate for the 2003 re election Atiku tried to run against his boss, that was how their crisis started. Obasanjo picked Atiku as his running mate to prevent him from contesting the poll, but Obasanjo never forgave him for making him to prostrate.

In 2007 Atiku contested presidential election on the platform of the Action Congress. He contested the 2011 PDP

primaries against Goodluck Jonathan and also 2014 primaries against Muhammad Buhari on the platform of All Progressives Congress (APC)

He left the PDP in 2006 and desperately persuaded Bola Tinubu to join him form the Action Congress (AC) and contested the presidency under its platform in 2007, Atiku was simply pursing his own self-ambition. But, perceptively election as he came a distant 3rd with a mere two million votes. What happened after he lost that election and lost at the tribunal was shocking. Without telling any of his compatriots in the AC, he sneaked into Abeokuta to beg Obasanjo for reconciliation! Not only that Obsanjo did not forgive him, but he further lost the confidence of his AC compatriots who stood by him in his ill-advised fight against Obasanjo. That brought the end of AC. Bola Tinubu, being a man of will, foresight and means, restructured it into Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN). Atiku was forced back into the PDP in July, 2010, shortly after the death of President Umaru Yar'Adua, in the hope of pushing out the supposedly weak and inexperienced President Good luck Jonathan. But again events were not kind to him, for in the December presidential primaries, Atiku managed to scoop a mere 800 against Jonathan's over 2000 votes.

So, when in august 2014, Atiku, along with others, derisively walked out on the PDP at its national convention and subsequently joined the newly formed All Progressives Congress (APC), which he described as his last and final political bus-stop, all those who understand his politics knew that he would still jump ship the moment the APC fails to satisfy his self-interest. Just like his returning to PDP after President Yar'Adua's death was aimed at displacing the inexperienced Jonathan', his joining APC was also with the native plan of using the power money to defeat 'poor General Muhammad Buhari's and gain APC's presidential nomination Again, like in the previous two elections, events were not kind to him as he woefully lost the contest, coming a distant 3rd, after Buhari and Governor Rabiu Kwankwaso—thanks to Tinubu who refused to allow himself be bitten twice by the same insects.

ATIKU THE RACE OF MY LIFE

Atiku Abubakar once described his journey towards the presidency as the race of his life calling on all Nigerians to join hands with him to bring the needed change. He actually started the change Campaign' he said the contest was about uplifting the lives of the forgotten millions of Nigerians who work very hard but get very little. It is a contest for and about millions of our people who have no work at all, it is a contest for about millions of hardworking middle class families in Nigeria whose

standard of living is progressively been eroded, it is a contest for and about the transformation of the socio economic landscape of Nigeria. It is a contest for and about enthronement of a more just and equitable society'.

The former Vice President said 'the advent of democracy is 1999 brought with it a great expectations of a dramatic improvement of the living standard of our people. But as you know the vast majority of our people still wallow in abject poverty and misery while unemployment and under unemployment remain unacceptably high, for instance, despite the huge increase in our foreign exchange earnings and external reserves and our vast human and natural resources, approximately 15 million Nigerians continues to live in abject poverty, one in five children died after reaching the age of five, over 12 million children are not in schools and hospitals lack necessary facilities and millions of our people die of HIV/AIDs, Malaria and other preventable disease

HE continued 'in spite of our rich natural endowments, Nigeria remains a net importer of food products, our country is one of the least industrialized countries in the world and our country's infrastructure is grossly inadequate and embarrassingly dilapidated'

Atiku Abubakar also listed key area of National emergency that requires his immediate attention if he becomes the President of Nigeria

They include.....-

- [a] Employment generation, wealth creation and Agriculture
- [b] Security, War against corruption and good governance
- [c] Energy and Infrastructural development
- [d] Education and Social Service
- [e] Niger Delta among others which include Macro Economic stability and consolidation, ICT and housing.

Titles include

- [a] Turaki Adamawa
- [b] Sardauna Ganye
- [c] Mayedero of Lagos
- [d] Ekwueme of Anambra
- [e] Atayese of Ijeshaland
- [f] Zanna Zentelma of borno.
- [g] Zege Mule U Tiv
- [h] Shettima Biu
- [i] Suka of Ogoniland
- [j] Otun Balogun of Mopaland

WE ARE **AFRAID** OF 2019 **ELECTIONS** ...INEC



The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has raised alarm that the desperation of Politicians to win the elections at all costs resulting in do or die mentality is a serious threat to the 2019 general elections.

Chairman of the commission Professor Yakub Mahmud stated this recently in Asaba while delivering a key note address at the 14th All Nigeria Editors conference with the theme, 'credible elections, sustainable Democracy and the Nigeria Media'.

Represented by the Resident Electoral Commissioner for Akwa Ibom state Mike Igini, Professor Mahmud said the do or die mentality remains a major source of concern and worry ahead of the 2019 elections adding that the vote buying constitutes violations of various provisions of the law.

He said hate speeches had already charged the political atmosphere, nothing that stakeholders must avoid actions that would bring about breakdown of law and order.

'The general election is more complex. The commission has been engaging various security agencies under the auspices of ICCES for cooperation in securing the election environment and for absolute neutrality in the 2019 elections.

On the preparation for the election Prof Mahmud said the commission 'has improved on the deployment of personnel for elections, addressed some of the intractable challenges to the functionality of the new technological innovations for elections and able to collate, transmit and declare results of elections more accurately and speedily.

He said in 2019, INEC will consolidate on

Cont. from last page

Technological innovations in the electoral process, noting that the current electronic register of voters is the most robust so far.

The chairman said 'the electronic accreditation of voters using the machine readable and chip based Permanent Voters Card (PVC) complemented by the Smart Card Reader (SCR) introduced in 2015 has brought integrity to number of accredited voters and total number of votes cast in elections.

'The commission has been pioneering the Electronic Collation and Transmission of results. In all we can say that the best elections around the world are not necessarily technologically driven but they are technologically assisted.'

According to him the commission started planning for next year's election since 2015 adding that between April 27, 2017 and August 31 2018 when INEC embarked on the Continuous Voters Registration exercise a total of 14,551,482 fresh

people were registered.

Professor Mahmud disclosed that the voting population for 2019 is projected at over 80 million comprising of the existing 67 million voters as at 2015 and the fresh registrants.

The INEC Chairman said the election will be conducted in 119,973 units across 8,809 registration areas or wards of the 774 local government areas of the country.

2019: OKOWA ADVOCATES ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR INEC

Delta State Governor, Senator Dr Ifeanyi Okowa has advocated for alternative sources of funding for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to ensure the umpire is truly independent.

The governor spoke in Asaba at the executive session of Day 3 of the 14th All Nigeria Editor's Conference (ANFC), which had as its theme, 'Credible Elections, Sustainable Democracy and the Role of the Media,'.

Governor Okowa queried if INEC which is expected to be an unbiased umpire could be truly said to be unbiased, when its source of funding is solely from the federal government.

"How will they work on their process of appointments? These and more questions are what we are supposed to address and they have to be dealt with in such a manner that we can give them enough power, make them truly independent in such a manner that they do not walk cap in hand to the Executive to ask for funding, because when you know that somebody controls the funds, you will definitely not be in a position to be truly independent", Senator Okowa opined.

He went on: "It will be hard to say, no when such individuals in charge of the funds make certain request and I believe that INEC is gradually moving. I still believe that there is a lot to be done which means that our legislations must be in such a manner that will truly make INEC independent and if they are going to be answerable to anybody at all, they should be answerable to the Legislature and not any other arm of government..." Governor Okowa proffered.

The Delta state governor and chairman of the PDP Special Convention Committee used the occasion to disclose why

the Peoples Democratic Party's Special Convention Planning Committee was able to organise a free, credible and acceptable presidential primary election of the PDP.

"We did our best to conduct the primaries that one can truly say that we did things, the way they ought to be because we had to extract from our National Executive Council that we would be allowed to do what is right otherwise, we will not accept the nominations to conduct the primaries.

"I thank God that they allowed us do what is right and once we do things right, it becomes easier for one to move forward and the press is very important in trying to turn things around for our country.

"If all of us work together and that means that the press must be able to report appropriately, they must be in the position to advise us the politicians appropriately and they must be in a position to fully inform the people and beyond the information, they must put us, politicians, under pressure and it is very important that we must realise that not just the Guild of Editors, but the entire press need to play the role it ought to play if we are able to do things better that will gradually improve the situation, so that we can conduct elections that are credible," Governor Okowa added.

He stressed the need for voter education and civic enlightenment to ensure that the citizenry come out of the poverty level, while motivating the electorates to improve on the electoral process, adding that "as long as our people continue to remain in the poverty bracket, there will be no integrity."

SUPPLEMENTS ON **NCDMB** UNDER THE ABLE LEADERSHIP **OF** ENGR SIMBI WABOTE



The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) was created by an Act Known as Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act of 2010.

The Act provides for the development of Nigeria Content Plan, supervision, coordination, Monitoring and Implementation of the Nigerian Content. NCDMB was also created to ensure that Nigerian Economy benefit from the vast hydrocarbons resources in the country as well as placing production and operating assets in the hands of Nigerians,

Maximizing utilization of Nigerian human resources.

The Boards strategic implementation of the NOGICD Act has been very impactful in the Oil and Gas industry and the wider Economy.

Several Nigeria service providers have invested in sophisticated vessels and Rigs, these are Assets that used to be exclusive preserve of the foreign companies. Local firms now enjoy patronage and even exclusively in certain areas retaining huge industry spend in the Economy, Employing Nigerians and building skills. Many Hi tech fabrications,

Manufacturing and Engineering facilities have also been developed and upgraded, domiciling most industry work that used to be exported.

Nigerian Content has also grown remarkably on the production side. Indigenous and Marginal fields producers now account for about 15 percent of Nigeria's crude oil production.

They also contribute about 53 percent of Domestic Gas supply requirements with NPDC, SEPLAT, AITEO ETC BEING MAJOR PRODUCERS. NCDMB under Engr Simbi Wabote and the current Board has set a target for itself



L-R: Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Olukayode Pitau, Managing Director, Bank of Industry after the MOU signing ceremony on the implementation of the \$200 million Nigerian Content intervention Fund in Abuja

which include DEMOCRATIZE access to credit for eligible Nigerian oil and Gas service companies and community contractors to single digits loans under the \$200m Nigerian Content Intervention Fund.

CREATE over 2000 direct and indirect jobs for Nigerians with the start of civil works in two of Nigeria oil and Gas parks under construction in different parts of the country.

FACILITATE the establishment of the first FPSO integration facility at LADOL yard, the first in the West Africa create 10,000 direct and indirect jobs.

IT HAS NIGERIANISED over 1,027 positions held by foreigners in the oil and gas industry. TRAIN over 5,760 Nigerians to fill critical skills gaps in oil and gas industry.

DEVELOP and deploy a 10 year strategic road map, increase local

content to 70 percent by 2027 targeting creation of new 30,000 direct and indirect jobs.

RETAIN \$14billion out of the annual industry spend of \$20 billion PUT more oil and gas facilities and equipments in the hands of Nigerians DRIVE Increases in the total value of contracts awarded to Nigerian by the oil and gas industry to 83 percent.

Recently the NCDMB signed a \$10 million equity investment with Waltersmiths refining and Petrochemical company limited for the construction of a 500 barrel per day modular refinery to be located in Ibigwe Imo state.

NCDMB Executive Secretary Engr Simbi Wabote and Director of Finance and Personnel Management Mr Isaac Yalah signed on behalf of the Board while the chairman of of

Waltersmiths Abdulrasaq Isah and the Executive Vice Chairman Mr Danjuma Sale signed for the company.

Engr Wabote said the investment decision was in line with the Board's vision to be the catalyst for the Industrialization of Nigeria Oil and Gas industry and its linkage sectors. He added that the Board was also keen to support Federal Government 's policy on modular refineries and meet the key objectives of the Petroleum industry's seven big wins launched by President Muhammadu Buhari in 2016 as well as the Economic Recovery and Growth Programme.

It will be recalled that the Federal Government recently announced plans to replace illegal oil refineries with Modular Refineries as part of a wider plan for the development of the Niger Delta and the country's oil and

Gas industry.

Before the enactment of the Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act in 2010, only a few International oil companies had deliberately put in place policies to build, enhance and sustain the capacity of indigenous companies and contractors to enable them to fully participate in Nigeria's oil and Gas industry. Eight years after the Act was enacted the situation had changed significantly as recently emphasized by the Executive Secretary.

According to him, 'Before the NOGICD Act only 3 percent of the marine vessels used in the industry belonged to Nigerians, but today, Nigerians control and owned 36 percent of vessels from a zero active dry dock facilities for vessels the country has four active dry docking facilities and over 35,000 jobs have been created.'

Also local businesses have been empowered to

handle fabrications of more than 60,000 tons, manufacturing of cable bolts, nuts and flanges and Assembling of offshore Christmas tree as well as infrastructure for integration of Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) facilities alking about vessels, about 235 vessels had been built in the country. The 2016 3rd quarter vessel categorization report indicated that about 235 vessels operating in the oil and Gas industry were built in the country.

2258 vessels are currently operating in Nigeria oil and Gas industry and that 848 of the vessels are Nigerian owned representing 37.56 percent.

Executive Secretary NCDMB SIMBI WABOTE has called for local content beyond oil. According to him a country mono product economy is at risk 'so the Board is exploring how it can support the government to extent what has been achieved in the local content for oil and gas



BANK OF INDUSTRY
...transforming Nigeria's industrial sector



**The Nigerian
Content Intervention
Fund (NCI Fund)**



Engr. Ndimbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Mr. Rick Perry, United States Secretary of Energy and Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of state for Petroleum Resources at the Africa Oil week conference in cape Town, South Africa.

sectors of the economy. He said investment opportunities abound in other sectors like construction, Telecommunications, Power projects, Transportation, etc. that local content policies can benefit from. Not forgetting the fact that the NCDMB has declared that non compliance with the local content law will lead to the suspension of the projects/ contracts, a penalty of five percent, Project sum withdrawal of NCDMB services and even project cancellation.

This is a warning an indication that NCDMB a law abiding corporate organization has zero tolerance on corruption and lawlessness.

NCDMB PARTNER DANGOTE 650,000BPD REFINERY ON LOCAL CONTENT IMPLEMENTATION

The Board had even declared its intention to partner with Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemical free zone on the effective implementation of the Local Content Act in the country. Executive Secretary stated this during the Nigerian Content Sensitization/Awareness Creation Programme entitled 'lets Walk the Nigerian Content Talk together' at the Lekki Free Trade Zone in Lagos. Represented by the Director, Monitoring and Evaluation of NCDMB Mr. Akintunde Adelana, Wabote

said ' Dangote Refinery project is expected to close a major gap in the supply of Petroleum products in the country. We consider this a very important project and we are willing to partner with the company to ensure full implementation of the local content policy.

'We embarked on this journey a long time ago and we are ready to partner with Dangote group. Part of what you see today is part of our efforts to ensure that the company and its contractors comply with the local content policy.

The Local Content Act is a quantum of composite value added to, or created in the Nigerian Economy by a systemic development of capacity and capabilities through the deliberate utilization of Nigerian Human material resources and services in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry. The narrative then was that nothing can be done in the country. Plants and Modules were fully fabricated offshore without any structure in place to achieve knowledge transfer. Before 2010 we had no active dry dock facilities.

The few we had were abandoned and left to rot away. TODAY WE HAVE FOUR ACTIVE DRY DOCKING FACILITIES IN PORT HARCOURT, ONNE AND LAGOS.



Collaboration on maximizing Local Content Engr. Simbi Wabote with Alhaji Aliko Dangote President, Dangote Group of Industries, after firming up an agreement on maximizing Local Content in the construction of Dangote Refinery project

IOC'S PLEDGE COLLABORATION WITH NCDMB

The International Oil Companies (IOC'S) have also pledged collaboration with the NCDMB with a commitment to fast track execution of Oil and Gas projects. This will lead to increase crude production and create opportunities for growth and development of the Nigerian Content.

Both organizations it will be recalled recently signed a service Level Agreement aimed at reducing the often protracted industry contracting circle. Oil Producers Trade Section.

(OPTS) is the umbrella body of major International and Indigenous operating Oil companies. The deal commits the 28 member OPTS companies to comply with the provision of

the Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act.

The Service Level Agreement is essentially meant to make members of the OPTS submit to the NCDMB document like their quarterly job forecast, Nigerian Content Plans, Bidders list, etc. Executive Secretary of NCDMB signed on behalf of the Board while the Director Exxon Mobil Nigeria Mr. Paul McGrath signed on behalf of the OPTS, WHILE THE Managing Director of AGIP OIL COMPANY Mr. Massimo Insulla, Managing Director of Chevron Mr. Jeff Ewing and the Managing Director Of TOTAL Exploration and Production Nigeria Mr. Nicholas Terraz witnessed the event.

PENGASSAN, NUPENG Pledge Collaboration with NCDMB

The joint national executive of Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) and their counterpart Nigerian Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) has pledged their readiness to collaborate with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in monitoring and development of local content in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry.

The groups made this commitment when they paid a courtesy visit to the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board in Yenagoa yesterday. The national chairman, PENGASSAN, Comrade Francis Johnson appreciated the Board's effort towards the growth and development of the oil sector by encouraging indigenous participation. He said, "this engagement with the Board is quite revealing, we have learnt a lot about the laudable interventions of NCDMB.

There is no better time to work with the Board, we are committed to work with you." Johnson encouraged the Board to continue the good job it's doing and prevent portfolio companies from grabbing contracts which will help to build and deepen Nigerian content in the sector. On the Board's headquarters building project, the chairman PENGASSAN described the project as remarkable. He said, "on behalf of PENGASSAN/NUPENG, I want to commend NCDMB for this project and I hope for it to be completed soonest as we will be here to be a part of the official commissioning".

In his presentation on the structure and operation of the Board, the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, Engr. Simbi Wabote urged the union executives to dispel the notion among their members that the Board awards contract in the oil sector. He reiterated that the

NOGICD Act 2010 mandates the Board to review and approve the Nigerian Content Plan and issue compliance certificates to companies adhering to the Law.

"Contrary to the widespread believe that NCDMB award contracts, let me categorically say the Board is mandated to review, assess and approve Nigerian Content plans developed by operators. We issue certificate of authorization for projects that comply with Nigerian Content provisions" Wabote said

Wabote further highlighted the structure and operations of the Board and how both unions can enhance Local Content. He explained that Nigerian Content is not about Nigerianization, rather domestication and domiciliation of value adding activities in-country.

He stated that the Board's effort since the enactment of the Act has yielded tangible benefits, notably establishment and upgrade of fabrication yards, pipe coating plants, upstream production managed by indigenous companies, production of low/high voltage cables and partial integration of Egina FPSO among others.

The NCDMB boss mentioned that the major challenges of the Board include infrastructures for the movement of materials, inter-agency collaboration, policy consistency and attraction of risk averse investors to set-up manufacturing outfit locally.

Wabote while calling for the Union's support for the Board also disclosed his agency's readiness to collaborate with the union continuously for the benefit of all.

In his own remark, the Chairman, NUPENG, Comrade Williams Akporcha stated their collaboration with the Board will be total. He noted that they were happy with the great achievements of the Board. He however suggested that NCDMB should introduce periodic consultative forum with both unions to explore areas of collaboration for effective Nigerian content practice in the industry.

Akporcha said the Board has major role to play to ensure smooth operations in the oil and gas industry and advised that NCDMB examine international practices on remunerations to employees. In his closing remark, General Secretary, NUPENG, Comrade Adamu Song commended Wabote for his leadership style and achievements through rigorous implementation of the Nigerian Content Law.

He thanked the Board for hosting the two unions and for the insightful presentation on the Board's activities in the industry.



NCDMB AND EFCC TO COLLABORATE MORE

The management of the two agencies to enable quick about contract and oil and gas Nigerian Content deployment once the services of transactions under EFCC Development and the Commission are required". He investigation expeditiously.

Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and pointed out that "we regularly He stated the Board has put in the Economic and Financial receive alerts via the place an Anti-Corruption and Crimes Commission (EFCC) plan to whistleblowing portal on our Transparency Monitoring Unit, forge more effective collaboration website. We do our bit to headed by a senior member of the for quick investigation of serious investigate such alerts and believe management team, to promote infractions by oil and gas some of the major findings may anti-corruption and ethical companies in Nigeria. Engr. Simbi be candidates for referral to behavior and to investigate any Wabote, the Executive Secretary, EFCC". internal infractions. To foster a NCDMB, who led the deeper relationship, Wabote is "one of the key agencies driving indicated that the Board needs management of Board, dropped one of the core programs of His more support on the investigative this hint during a courtesy visit to the Acting Chairman of the EFCC, side of our activities and the Commission's new Head Office Excellency, President expertise of EFCC. In his reply, the Building in Jabi, Abuja on Tuesday. Muhammadu Buhari", adding Acting Chairman of EFCC, Mr. Magu expressed delight at the According to him, "we plan to succeeded in building a reputation for itself locally and visit and commended Engr. refer serious fraudulent discoveries from the audit to the internationally as a fearless Wabote for the bold move to enlist the support of EFCC. He Commission for further action", corruption". Thus, his Board is stated that his Commission has he intimated. On the essence of fully aligned with Mr. President's partnered successfully with other the visit, Wabote stated "the fight against corruption. Which is government agencies to contain fraud and financial malpractices. Board will like to initiate the why the Board attends to requests He emphasized that the fight development of a MoU between for information or clarifications

against corruption should be viewed as everybody's fight in Nigeria because it is the only way to save the economy from being wrecked by corrupt individuals. He thanked NCDMB for the measures and structures put in place to promote transparency and ethical behavior. He urged every stakeholder in Nigerian to join the fight and to preach against corruption in their spheres of influence. He promised that his Commission is ready and willing to support the NCDMB to recover any money due it as an agency of the federal



Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources; Mr. Kemela Okara, Secretary to Bayelsa State Government and Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB performing the ground-breaking of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Park at Emeyal-1, Ogbia LGA, Bayelsa State.



government. He expressed the desire for local content practice to be extended to other important sectors of Nigerian economy.

The Executive Secretary of NCDMB was accompanied to the Commission Engr. (Dr.) Ginah O. Ginah, General Manager, Corporate Communications/Zonal Coordination, who is also the Head Anti-Corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit in the Board; others in the visiting

team included Barr. Naboth Onyesoh, Manager, Corporate Communications, and Mrs Gloria Onajero (Head, Abuja Liaison Office), Farid Blell and Victor Amabebe. On the part of the EFCC, the Acting Chairman, Mr. Magu, Mr. Osita Nwajah, Director, Public Affairs, Mr. Wilson Uwajareme, Head Media & Publicity and Mr. Ola Olukoyede, Chief of Staff to the Executive Chairman were on ground to receive the NCDMB team.



EIGHT YEARS OF LOCAL CONTENT ACT IN THE NIGERIAN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

By Simbi Wabote

It's been eight years since the enactment of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, arguably the most successful economic policy of the Federal Government in the last two decades. It's heartening that the implementation has remained on the front burner of successive Federal Administrations, giving the lie to the narrative that governments in Africa are too eager to jettison policies initiated by their predecessors. In fact, the remit of the Nigerian Content implementation is being broadened beyond oil and gas as part of diversification of the economy.

Two out of the five Presidential Executive Orders issued by the administration of President

Muhammadu Buhari are specifically in support of Local Content - Presidential Executive Order 003 which mandates Support for Local Content in Public Procurement by Ministries, Departments and Agencies of the Federal Government and Executive Order 005, for the "Planning and Execution of Projects, Promotion of Nigerian Content in Contracts and Sciences, Engineering and Technology." These instruments have reaffirmed President Buhari administration's unequivocal support for Local Content and deep conviction of its importance to the attainment of the Economic Growth Recovery Plan (EGRP) and wider socio-economic goals of the nation.

The Senate and the Federal House of Representatives are also working to amend the Nigerian Content Act, so it would extend to the Power, Information Communication Technology and Construction sectors.

Weeks ago, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Walter Onnoghen and other Justices of the Supreme Court gave huge endorsement to the Nigerian Content Act. The occasion was the first national seminar organised for Justices and Judges on the

Role of the Judiciary in the development of the Nigerian Local Content Law and Policy.

Today, Nigeria is widely regarded as a model in Local Content implementation in Africa and the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has been mentoring several countries on the development of their own policies. The famous American Management guru and author, John Maxwell wrote in the book, 'Everyone Communicates Few Connects' that "everything rises and falls on leadership." This maxim resonates well with NCDMB where the Board's successes have been built on the focused management it had enjoyed from inception and support from government, even much more from the current Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, (HMSPR) Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu. The Minister stated recently that NCDMB is one of the agencies under the Petroleum Resources ministry that has been blessed in terms of personnel selection and leadership since inception in 2010.

The Local Content journey started formally from the report of a Presidential Committee inaugurated in 2001 to suggest reforms in the Oil and Gas industry. Prior to the NOGICD Act, the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) used oil block

bid rounds to enforce some level of Local Content Policies enshrined in extant Petroleum statutes. The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) would later set up the Nigerian Content Division within its system and issue Nigerian Content directives to the industry. The absence of a regulatory framework limited the best efforts of the DPR and NNPC, especially as operators and service companies complied only on best endeavour basis.

The enactment of the NOGICD Act 2010 and subsequent establishment of the NCDMB ushered a paradigm shift. Before then, nearly all fabrication, engineering, and procurement for the Oil and Gas Industry were executed abroad. It is estimated that the national economy suffered capital flight of about



Engr. Simbi Wabote, Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Dr. Yemi Esan, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum Resources; Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria at the Nigeria International Petroleum Summit in Abuja



wider economy - several Nigerians service companies have invested in sophisticated vessels and rigs – assets that used to be the exclusive preserve of foreign companies. Local firms now enjoy patronage and even exclusivity in certain areas, retaining huge industry spend in the economy, employing Nigerians and building skills. Many hi-tech fabrications, manufacturing and engineering facilities have also been developed and upgraded, domiciling most industry work that used to be exported. Nigerian Content has also grown remarkably on the production side. Indigenous and marginal field producers now account for about 15 percent of Nigeria's crude oil production. They also contribute about 53 percent of Domestic Gas Supply requirements, with NPDC, SEPLAT, ND Western, Frontier, 7Energy, Alteo, etc being major producers.

\$380 billion dollars in the first 50 indigenous companies; Ensuring years of oil production in Nigeria that Nigerian Content targets and lost opportunities to create are met for projects and over two millions jobs. The level operations; Creating and of Nigerian Content was less Utilizing training and than five percent, partly because employment opportunities for preceding administrations and indigenes; Deploying the most citizenry focused on Nigerian Content Development revenue derivation from the Oil Fund for targeted capacity and Gas sector.

In the past eight years, we have capacity investors have work to focused the thrust of Local amortize investments and Content implementation on Involving oil producing Promoting indigenous communities in the activities of ownership of equipment used in the sector.

industry operations; Promoting The Board's strategic Oil and Gas Components implementation of the NOGICD Manufacturing; Giving first Act has been very impactful in consideration to Nigerian the Oil and Gas Industry and the

Even though the Oil and Gas industry is not a high employer of labour like Agriculture and Construction, our bullish implementation of Nigerian Content has helped create over 30,000 jobs and funneled about 5,800 young persons in various projects based trainings. The total value of contracts awarded to Nigerian companies in the industry has risen to 83 percent while average Nigerian Content retention in-country has shot up to 28 percent. Although many stakeholders are pushing for increased NC performance, it is imperative to note that the

implementation is a marathon and not a sprint.

On January 24 2018, the biggest Nigerian Content milestone to date was attained when the Total E&P's Egina Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) vessel arrived the SHI-MCI Yard, LADOL Free Zone, Lagos for the integration of six modules that were fabricated in Nigeria. The arrival of the FPSO is a huge testament to the giant strides Nigerian Content development has made, particularly in the development of infrastructural and human capacities.

Going forward, NCDMB has set new targets for itself and the industry. We have developed a 10-year strategic road map with which we are pushing to retain at least \$14bn out of the \$20 billion annual industry spend and create 300,000 direct and indirect jobs. We also hope to grow aggregate in-country value addition from 28 percent to 70 percent by 2027. These targets are backed with specific initiatives such as completion of five planned oil and gas parks to grow local manufacturing, establishment of two additional pipe mills, local fabrication of modular refineries; attaining at least 50 percent FPSO practice. Integration in-country during the implementation of the world-class Zabazaba and Bonga SouthWest Aparo projects.

In the last year and six months since I assumed duty as the Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, we have sustained the

momentum of implementation and injected some fresh impetus. Our first major activity was to convene the Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF), to aggregate industry business plan. This culminated in the compilation of a compendium of investment opportunities in the industry. We launched the \$200 Million (USD) Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund) in partnership with the Bank of Industry (BoI). The Fund offers a single digit interest rate with five year tenure and we hope to unveil the first set of successful applications in a few weeks. Our goal with the NCI Fund is to optimize the capacity and efficiency of our local supply chain and the overall competitiveness our Oil and Gas Industry.

We also issued Guidelines to drive Research and Development implementation in the Oil and Gas Industry. This was followed by the Nigerian Oil and Gas R & D Fair held in September 2017 to sensitize and galvanize the industry and relevant stakeholders to embrace the culture of research and innovation, a key parameter for sustainable local content practice.

We concluded the bid evaluations for NAOC's Zabazaba Deepwater project within an unprecedented period of 14 months, in line with the directive of the Honorable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources to reduce the

protracted contracting cycle in the industry.

Just recently we held the ground breaking of the pilot Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Schemes (NOGAPS) at Odukpani, Cross River State. Dr Kachikwu has confirmed he would personally perform the ground breaking of the second park being sited at Emeyal-1 in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. The parks will spur manufacturing of equipment components and spare parts that would be utilized in the industry. Each will create about 2000 jobs when it begins full operations.

As we lead the rest of the industry to mark the 8th anniversary of the Nigerian Content Act, we congratulate all industry stakeholders for their various contributions to the achievements recorded so far. We must all be proud of the jobs we have created, the value we have retained in-country and the sense of pride we have brought to our country.

Let me also hasten to add that Nigerian Content is not about Nigerianisation but has the main objective of domiciliation and domestication of value-adding activities in-country. We welcome investors far and wide to set up in our dear country Nigeria for unrivalled returns.

Our 10-year journey has just begun. Please come on board so that together we could catalyze Nigeria's industrialization and bequeath to our youth a virile economy.



NLNG TRAIN 7: FG INSISTS ON LOCAL CONTENT

Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Mr Simbi Wabote says the planned 7 billion dollar Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Limited Train 7 plant will be done in-country by mostly Nigerian companies.

Wabote disclosed this at a public workshop to discuss opportunities for the Nigerian content aspect of the NLNG Train 7 plant, in Abuja.

He said the Engineering, Procurement and Construction work must be in country as part of effort to ensure local content drive in the country.

The workshop was organised by the NLNG. He said the era of building such big projects in modules abroad and then shipped to Nigeria to be coupled, was over. Wabote explained that the government would now assess such new projects with what had been achieved with the Egina Floating Production Storage and Offloading oil platform built by Total.

"I know how we insist on some of these local

content requirements (from the international oil companies (IOCs). "If you leave them alone, they will build this Train 7 in modules and then ship them from England or Netherlands and then take them straight to Bonny and couple them.

"That is not going to happen. We are going to build the Train 7 in-country because we have the capacity," he said. He further explained that the NCDMB was confident the NLNG Train 7 plant would come through, unlike some other oil and gas projects that have been in the pipeline for many years.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the NLNG has been adjudged as one of Nigeria's most successful corporate organisations. It is a private limited liability company owned by the federal government, represented by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) with 49 per cent stake; Shell – 25.6 per cent; Total – 15 per cent and Eni – 10.4 per cent. Earlier, the NLNG's Managing Director, Mr Tony Allah, said that the Train 7 project would increase production output

of its plant by 35 per cent from 22 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) to 30 MTPA, and improve Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Nigeria.

He said 2019 would mark the company's 30th year in existence and 20th year of operation as a global entity. Giving an overview of the Train 7 project, he said opportunities exist for in-country fabrication of pressure vessels, pipes, flare stack among others.

He added that it would also offer opportunities for Nigerian companies to supply cement, fuel, lubricants and vehicles including earth moving equipment. In construction, he said that opportunities exist in consultancy services, installation, commissioning and inspection, testing and certification.

Attan added that Nigerian companies would have opportunities to supply logistics including marine and air transport for thousands of workers that would be engaged when construction of the new train begins.



BUHARI REASSURES NIGERIANS, THE WORLD OF FREE, FAIR ELECTIONS IN 2019

President Muhammadu Buhari has reassured Nigerians and the international community that the forthcoming general elections in 2019 will be free and fair, saying it will usher the country into another clime of maturity, peace and unity.

President Buhari gave the assurance when he received Letters of Credence from four ambassadors at the State House, including the Ambassador of the Peoples' Republic of Japan, Mr Yutaka Kikuta. The president noted that the

country's political and electoral institutions had continued to evolve in strength, skill and experience after each election.

He said: "We are currently at the threshold of another general election and after five general elections in the country since 1999, we expect that the 2019 elections will be free and fair.

"The political system is good and if people work hard they will succeed," he said. According to him, the increase in

number of political parties that will field candidates in 2019 elections indicates more democratic consciousness among Nigerians and willingness to serve the country.

Receiving Letter of Credence from the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Alexey Shebarshin, the President noted that discussions on reviving the Ajaokuta Steel Complex, partnerships in agriculture and other bilateral interests in trade and economic development would be sustained.

He commended the country for always standing by Nigeria. "We have opened discussions on the Ajaokuta Steel Complex, and we will continue," he added.

The President told the Ambassador of Brazil, Richardo Guerra De Araujo, that the historical ties between both countries and the shared potentials for growth would be further explored.

He stressed that this would be done with strong emphasis on economic and social development.

He noted that the number of Nigerians in Brazil had already provided a strong reason for deeper and richer discussions

for both countries. Receiving the Letter of Credence of the Ambassador of United Arab Emirates, Fahad Al Taffaq, Buhari assured him that Nigeria remained committed to strengthening the bilateral relationship that has existed between both countries for many years. The President said the courtesies extended to Nigerians in the United Arab Emirates was commendable, and assured the envoy that his administration would continue to strengthen business and trade relations between both countries.

In his remarks, the Ambassador of Japan said his country remained grateful for Nigeria's concern and support during the flooding that devastated the country.

He promised to work hard to further enhance relations in technology, agriculture and trade.

The Ambassadors of Russia, Brazil and United Arab Emirates assured the president that they would work hard to ensure improved relations in key sectors of the economy. They all wished Nigeria the best in the forthcoming elections.



INEC

NEW DANGEROUS ROADMAP TO DEMOCRACY



The Independent National Electoral Commission has become an insidious disease in the country. An insidious disease is a silent disease that is not always given attention but is capable of killing and as dangerous as the one we pay attention to.

The 2019 general elections is fast approaching and Politicians are already gearing up for elections. Unfortunately most Nigerians especially the Governments at all levels seem not to be paying much attention to the election and the electoral

umpire the independent National Electoral Commission [INEC] Attention seemed to be focused on Corruption and anti Corruption war of the present administration.

Many Nigerians are however not interested in President Muhammadu buhari's Anti corruption war, what they are interested in now is food on the table, jobs, power supply etc. the anti corruption war Buhari seemed to be fighting now is the alleged looting of the treasury by past administrations in the country, especially by those in the Peoples Democratic Party the [PDP]. MANY

Nigerians are rightly or wrongly disenchanted with Buhari's administration so far. But this is Democracy not a military government, so no way or coups.

They are however waiting till 2019 so they can vote for a candidate of the choice. Buhari may still be voted back to office depending on his performance in office.

But there are fears that going by their past records and the elections conducted so far under the Buhari/APC administration Nigerians may not have an opportunity to vote for a candidate of their choice or vote our had Representatives.

Many have expressed disappointments about the readiness of the present leadership of the Independent National Electoral Commission headed by Professor Yacoub Mamoud to conduct a credible elections in the country. This has led to many asking the question which INEC conducted the best elections so far in recent years. Some say it was the 2007 elections conducted by Professor Maurice Iwu, others say it was that conducted by the immediate chairman of the commission Professor Attahiru Jega. They however said Professor Yacoub INEC has taking Niheria back to old INEC before Jega.

But in his remark recently the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission Prof. Yacoub assisted categorically that that the 2015 election conducted by Professor Jega recorded the highest number of annulled polls. At the meeting with Residents Electoral Commission [REC] He stated that there were 20 annulled elections in 2015. These figured did not include those in which the courts upturned the elections and ordered for issuance of Certificate of Returns to a different candidate.

Even recently The Hunter Rights Commission election reports on election offences 2007 to 2015 condemned the 2015 elections and threatened to prosecute those they termed rigged the election. Their target was Maurice Iwu. The report however is in human, lazy and uncerebral exercise. Mr. Wale Fapohunda who masterminded the project served under governor Fayemi former governor of Ekiti state as Commissioner of Justice. Before then he was a member of the Commission and after Fayemi was voted out of office, he came back to the commission through the back door. Some civil Society Organizations who observed these

elections along with Geni Fawehinmi led National Conscience Party are ready to also let the world know what went right under Professor Iwu leadership of INEC why the Commission silent on whole sale election offences committed in 2011 and 2015 by those who are in power now.

Over 500 people including youth corps members were killed by protesters not happy with the outcome of the 2011 general elections conducted by Professor Attahiru Jega that brought in Dr. Goodluck Jonathan.

The functions of INEC as contained in Section 15, Part 1 of the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution (As Amended) and Section 2 of the Electoral Act 2010 (As Amended) include the following:

1. Organise, undertake and supervise all elections to the offices of the President and Vice President, the Governor and Deputy Governor of a State, and to the membership at the Senate, the House of Representatives and the House of Assembly of each state of the federation.
2. Register political parties in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and Act of the National Assembly;
3. Monitor the organization and operation of the political parties, including their finances; conventions, congress and party primaries.
4. Arrange for the annual examination and auditing of the funds and accounts of political parties, and publish a report on such examination and audit for public information.
5. Arrange and conduct the registration of persons qualified to vote and prepare, maintain and revise the register of voters for the purpose of any election under this constitution;
6. Monitor political campaigns and provide rules and regulations which shall govern the political parties;
7. Conduct voter and civic education;



**PDP Chairman
Uche Secondus**

8. Promote knowledge of sound democratic election processes; and
9. Conduct any referendum required to be conducted pursuant to the provision of the 1999 Constitution or any other law or Act of the National Assembly.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of INEC is to serve as an independent and effective Election Monitoring Body [EMB] committed to the conduct of free, fair and credible elections for sustainable democracy in Nigeria.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision of INEC is to be one of the best Election Management Bodies (EMB) in the world that meets the aspirations of the Nigerian people.

VALUES

INEC shall be guided by the following values in the performance of its duties.

1. **Autonomy:** INEC shall carry out all its functions independently, free from external control and influence.
2. **Transparency:** INEC shall display openness and transparency in all its activities and in its relationship with all



**APC Chairman
Adams Oshiomhole**

stakeholders.

3. **Integrity:** INEC shall maintain truthfulness and honesty in all its dealings in all times.
4. **Credibility:** INEC shall ensure that no action or activity is taken in support of any candidate or political party.
5. **Impartiality:** INEC shall ensure the creation of a level playing field for all political actors.
6. **Dedication:** INEC shall be committed in providing quality electoral services efficiently and effectively, guided by best international practice and standards.
7. **equity:** INEC shall ensure fairness and justice in dealing with all stakeholders.
8. **Excellence:** INEC shall be committed to the promotion of merit and professionalism as the basis for all its actions.
9. **Team work:** INEC shall create a conducive environment that promotes teamwork among its staff at all levels.

INEC THE JOURNEY SO FAR

It is important to state here that the collapse of past Republic was due largely to the controversies and rejection to the outcome of election results at various levels during the period.

The Electoral Commission of Nigeria [ECN] conducted the election in the first Republic 1960 to 1966. The elections was marred by series of malpractices which included ballot box snuffing, ballot box snatching, kidnapping or opponents, denying opponents electoral materials etc. the ethnic leanings of the political parties made matters worse as crisis among political parties led to ethnic crisis. Political Parties and their ethnic supporters rejected the outcome of the 1964/65 general elections. There was near anarchy in the land. The situation was so bad that the leader of Action Group [AG] who was leader of opposition Chief Obafemi Awolowo was quoted to have said he had lost confidence in the electoral system.

Instead of the government at that time trying to reform the electoral system and restore confidence, Chief Awolowo and some of his supporters were sent to jail. This was the situation in the country until the military struck in 1966.

Nigeria made another attempt at

Democracy in 1979/83 known as the second Republic. The electoral system then produced lots of malpractices and the legal interpretations of what is the 2/3 of 19 states.

The case got to the supreme court without resolutions. The 1983 elections was not better off. All oppositions candidates that contested the elections Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe of the Nigeria Peoples Party [NPP], Chief Obafemi Awolowo of the Unity Party of Nigeria [UPN], Alhaji Ibrahim Waziri of Great Nigeria Peoples Redemption Party [PRP] opposed the results of the elections while Ahaji Shehu Shagari of the National Party of Nigeria [NPN] went away with claims of landslide victory. The landslide victory was short-lived as the military struck again three months after later Dec 31 1983 bringing the second Republic to an end.

Many people in Nigeria particularly the vocal minority regarded the 1993 general elections in the country as the freest and fairest in the country. There was however a departure from the past as it introduced an option A4 into elections in Nigeria. It was introduced by the government of General Ibrahim Babangida as head of state and Professor Humphery Nwosu, a Professor of Political Science as the Chairman of National

Electoral Commission [NEC].

Because of its perceived success many called for the adoption of option A4 for future elections in Nigeria. What proponents of option A4 failed to realize was that the outcome of that elections which included its annulments led to the death of the perceived winner of that election Chief Moshood Abiola, his wife Kudirat, a former Head of State Sani Abacha and hundreds of Nigerians killed on the streets of Lagos. It also brought with it lack of trust and harmony among neighbours and friends.

The 1999 which was conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission [INEC] elections had its own problems but was overlooked because Nigerians were tired of the military and wanted them to go immediately.

The 2003 general elections was regarded as the worst election in Nigeria especially by both local and international observers. Among the observers that rejected the outcome of the 2003 general elections included the Transition Monitoring Group [TMG] and the European Union.

The 2003 Presidential election was said to have been won by the candidate of the PDP Chief

Olusegun Obasanjo. There were series of streets protest by Buhari to protest the results of the election using the platform of the Conference of Nigerias Political Party [CNPP]. Those who led the street protest included Muhammadu Buhari, Chief Odimegwu Ojukwu who was then candidate of APGA, Chief Tunji Braithwaite, Alhaji Balarabe Musa, Barrister Maxi Okwu who was the secretary of CNPP among others, police used tear gas to disperse these eminent Nigerians.

There was also a follow up protest in Kano where the Police used poisoned gas to disperse the protesters Buhari's Running mate at the 2003 election and former Senate President Dr. Chuba Okadigbo did not survive from the poisoned gas until he died.

This was the electoral situation in Nigeria before Professor Maurice Iwu became Chairman fo the Independent National Electoral Commission [INEC]. What Professor Iwu did was first to ensure that we didn't go back to the mistakes of the past, 'if we must save the country and sustain out nascent democracy. He introduced some reforms into our electoral systems. Some of the reforms we are still following till today.

Among the reforms introduced by Professor Iwu was the stakeholders forum with Political Parties, this was done both at the National, State and Local Government levels. The stake holders forum is made up of representatives of Political Parties, Civil Society Organisations and Development partners. INEC under Professor Iwu also lauched the Political Party finances manual.

The 1999 constitution of Nigeria and the Electoral Act 2002 vested on INEC the responsibilities of overseeing the general activities and management of Political Party Finances in carrying out this responsibility a brand new Political Party Finance Manual accompanied by a handbook was launched. The Political Party Finance manual has provided a system for capturing, documenting, controlling and reporting on the financial activities of Political Parties. The emphasis is on the disclosure of information on Political Parties Finances with the

understanding that the disclosure will curb political corruption, prevent inflow of funds from undesirable sources and enable the public to know more about the sources of funds into the coffers of parties and candidates. If this aspect of the reforms as proposed by Professor Iwu was continued after he left office. This issue of probing campaign funds or using Arms money for election would have been avoided. The last American Presidential election just ended the whole world know that Hilary Clinton was able to raise about \$500m for her campaign while the winner of the Presidential Election Donald Trump raised about \$300m. but nobody not even INEC knew how much the Peoples Democratic Party [PDP] or the All Progressive Congress [APC] raised for their campaign in the 2015 general election.

Many Nigerians who are probable happy with the Permanent Voters Card and the Card Reader or who are the direct beneficiaries of the PVC have forgotten that the system was actually introduced by Professor Iwu in 2004 when he introduced the Electronic Voting system. The system consisted of four components. The include the Electronic Voters Register, Eligible Voters Authentication, Electronic Transmission of Results.

The Electronic Voting System are automated voting methods which employ computing technology to improve several aspects of the electoral process. It incorporates paperless voting methods, increases efficiency, stability, speed, audit and accuracy. Its main features is that it is easy to operate, easy to adapt, ensure integrity of the voting data, portable and battery powered.

The Independent National Electoral Commission under Professor Maurice Iwu Conducted the 2007 general elections. It was the elections that brought in Alhaji Umar YarAdua to power as the President of Nigeria. This election was widely condemned by Nigerians and the International Community which included the National Democratic Institutiion, [NDI] the International Federation on Electoral System [IFES], the International Republican Institute [IRI]. The Commonwealth Observers Group among others. Even the main beneficiary of the election Umar YarAdua himself said the election that brought him to office lacked credibility.

NIGERIAN YOUTHS TO PETITION FG, INT'L COMM. OVER NEGLECT OF RIVERS COMMUNITY BY SPDC

Promises to back community to secure justice

NIGERIAN Youth Leaders have vowed to petition the International community and Federal Government over alleged neglect of communities of Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State by Shell Petroleum Development Company. The youth leaders made this call on Friday at Kula Community during a fact finding visit to the area to ascertain the level of development in the area. They also promised to back Kula community in the fight of securing justice against the alleged neglect by International Oil Companies in the area.

The delegation was led by Amb Sukubo Sara-Igbe Sukubo, President National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) flanked by Presidents of Ijaw Youth Council, Arewa Youth Forum, Egbe Igbinmo Odo Yoruba (Afenifere), Greener Nigeria Movement and other eminent Youth Leaders from across the federation. In the course of the visitation, it was revealed that Communities of Kula Kingdom had for over two years opened an agitation, demanding that Shell divests its facilities in the area, OML25 and vacates the area for lack of social amenities.

The team which visited Kile Ama 1, Offoinama Community, Belema community, Kula Town, expressed worries over the level of underdevelopment in the area. The oil communities had last year August shut down operation of SPDC on OML25 over alleged neglect by the oil giant. The women of the communities have continued to mount surveillance against the scheming of SPDC to secretly sell the OML 25 to another foreign company which negate the demand of the





communities for a right of first refusal before such can be undertaken as the community craves for an indigenous company to be considered. The women, who spoke to the team on arrival at the OML25 facility, noted that their continuous occupation of the facility was a show that SPDC must leave the area.

Mrs. Olu Ekin, one of the women leaders said: We are here and we have stayed a year and three months at this facility because of how SPDC is treating them. Since SPDC operations for over 37 years, they have not done any meaningful infrastructural development, no school, and no employment for indigenes who are graduates and no hospitals. "When our women want to give birth we travel a far distance. As we are travelling, sometimes the boat will spoil and the person will deliver inside the boat. Sometimes the baby will die or the mother will die"

However, on arrival, Solomon Gilbert, the leader of Offoinama community, who conducted the team round the community, told the team that the communities have not benefitted from SPDC for over 37 years of their operation in the area. Gilbert said: "Since Shell started operating here, we have not benefitted. You can see the kind of school we have here. We built the school on our own. You can see that it is a batcher school with only mud used on the floor. "They should come and show us and the public the project they have done in the community. We do not have water, in fact we have nothing. This is the reason we are saying that Shell should leave our land."

Similarly, Ene Jackrich, a native of the area, said: "We did our land reclamation on our own. We do not have landing jetty. "As school wants to resume we have to fill the classroom with mud, so that before classes resume it has dried. "The water we have was brought by UNICEF in collaboration with government. Since I was born I have not seen any project by SPDC.

We have seen poverty everywhere – youths

Speaking, Dr. Engr. Udengs Eradiri, the former President of Ijaw Youth Council, IYC, Worldwide, and Uzoh Ifeanyi – President of Ndigbo Youth Organisation (19 Northern States) who are part of the delegation, said the team has seen the level of poverty in the oil producing communities, adding that the youths would formally make a report to the FG. Eradiri said: "We are a fact finding team. We have come and we have seen things for ourselves and we will do a formal report to the federal government. "We

will not just write the federal government, we will ensure that we write and meet the international community and the parent body of SPDC.

"There is need to inform them of the level of injustice perpetrated against a people that is producing oil. We will come up with a working document based on what we have seen in the ground in the communities. "It is unheard of based on reports we got today, that people who host a big oil firm like Shell do not have good hospital. They do not have schools, not even pipe born water."

The President of National Youth Council of Nigeria -Sukubo Sara-

Igbo Sukubo and other Youth Leaders after considering the agitations of the communities, urged FG to issue the license to operate of it here.

OMI.25 to an indigenous firm, There is no part of the community Belemaoil Producing Limited that that you see anything that shows that





Shell has spent such sum.

"It is time for our people to do oil business. We are calling on the federal government to give our people to do this business because they will do better. "Our people must be given first right of refusal.

Belemaoil Producing has shown capacity and should be given the opportunity." Kula should be given right of first refusal Also, the President of Greener Nigeria Movement Comrade Abdul Rahman Agboola expressed concerns over the rate of neglect in the area, adding that the host community should be given the

right to reject Shell.

Agboola said: "The kind of thing I have seen does not befit the people that contribute heavily to the nation's economy. "Our call to the government is that, the people of Kula should be given the right of first refusal, because they do not need Shell again in their environment."

IOCs left us in poverty

Meanwhile, the Secretary of Offoinama Council of Chiefs, Chief Fiala Tubolabo Fiala, who thanked the team for the intervention, noted that Kula people are living in abject poverty because of the activities of SPDC. "We are in abject poverty. That is how the IOCs kept us. Everything we have is by our own efforts. We happy for your intervention and we will support you to ensure that we have justice.

"We have no land to build, We know that we will succeed in this fight. We know that you will take up this matter so that Shell will know that we have



youths in Nigeria.”

SPDC seek peace, dialogue

However, Shell has described the facilities on August 11, 2017, ejected “SPDC believes that all stakeholders allegations by the women and the staff on duty and have illegally in the matter should give the Rivers leaders of Kula as false, but stated remained in occupation of the State Government-initiated that there was need for dialogue. facilities since then. mediation process the chance to

This was contained in a statement by “The group has so far rebuffed all resolve the disagreement the Media Relations Manager, entreaties to resolve their grievances peacefully” “Our primary goal is the Bamidele Odugbesan, on behalf of through dialogue but has instead safe and peaceful resolution of this SPDC’s External Relations General demanded immediate transfer of dispute, and we encourage all parties Manager, Igo Welu. ownership and operatorship of the to return to dialogue to protect the

The statement read: “SPDC has also facilities to their preferred safety and security of all concerned restated its commitment to dialogue indigenous oil firm, under the including those occupying the and peaceful resolution of pretext that SPDC has over the years facility, community members,



SPDC staff and contractors.

“SPDC and its Joint Venture partners continue to implement multi-million Naira social investment programmes to the benefit of the people of Kula Kingdom, in Akuku Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State, notwithstanding that the company has not been allowed to operate the facilities since the illegal occupation began 13 months ago.”



SHELL MOBILISE NAVY AND JTF TO INVADE A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY:



Ben van Beurden CEO of Shell

said his government cannot continue to loose 34m naira every month, hence he will use all tools in his power to help Shell.

The only project embarked for us by the local government was 600,000 naira wooden and broken toilet house nothing else. All that comes to Akuku Toru LGA is taken over by only one Community called Abonema with nothing the rest. Even we the oil producing communities are grossly marginalised by Abonema where the LGA Roland comes from and represents. President Buhari and the entire world should come to our aide over this injustice.

Shell you can no longer succeed, we are now all United against your evil in our land. Shell have caused several fighting that lead to several killing of our chiefs and youths numbering over 200. Today we are now United to liberate our land.

Shell leave our land alone. Go with your evill and killings. Shell you come to us with Navy gun boats and very high fire power but we resist you with our cry to God who stands by the weak and oppressed. We are fighting to liberate our land from continuous poverty, piracy, hunger, lack of government presence and to have a sustainable future for our

This is how the "B" soon as they see "B" is communities are as at disagreeing with their under today after 45 years of development style of doing Shell in the land. Yet they are business in the land. Shell have mobilise Navy and JTF to never employed one person as invade a peace loving people staff in the communities since asking for justice. Shell, PDP 45 years of their presence in our lead Local Government communities. Shell gave birth to Chairman have mobilised Naval militancy and piracy in our force to forcefully throw out a water ways because they people demanding justice after empower youths to shout down Shell 45 years in their land with communities demanding for nothing to show. Not a drinkable development. Communities are water for 45 years of Shell, no now demanding justice from schools, no hospitals, no more Shell. Instead of listening to our fishes in the river because of demands, Shell have joined Shell pollution, not a single staff forces with the PDP lead local employed by Shell government Chairman Mr. in 45 years of operations. Roland Sekibo to oppress the Belema and Ofoinama

All Shell do is use "A" against Communities. The Chairman



RIVERS GOVERNOR'S WIFE CALLS FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE GIRL-CHILD

The Wife of Rivers State Governor, Justice Eberachi Suzzette Nyesom-Wike has called for the proper education of the girl-child to empower them to face the challenges of life. Speaking during the Governor Wike's Widows Outreach programme for the 23 LGAs in Rivers state on Friday in Port Harcourt, Justice Nyesom-Wike said that trained

women have the capacity to withstand the pressures of widowhood. She said: "If the girls are trained, they will have the capacity to face widowhood, if unfortunately it comes".

The Rivers Governor's Wife urged mothers to train their sons in ways that they will have respect for women. She advised widows not to allow the unfortunate circumstance to destroy their future, as

they can still contribute to the Governor means that it will be Vice Chairmen in all the 23 Local growth of the state. "That you have successful. In her address, Deputy Government Areas of the state ", lost your husbands does not mean Governor Ipalibo Harry Banigo she said.

that you cannot rise above the thanked Governor Wike for unfortunate situation. I urge you to approving the programme which Rivers State Women Affairs move ahead and contribute to the will improve the living standards of Commissioner, Mrs Ukel Oyaghiri development of the state", she said. widows. assured Rivers women that the

The Wife of the Rivers State She noted that the Governor Wike Wike administration remains Governor noted that the Widows Reach Out programme will committed to their welfare. Simeon administration of Governor Wike touch the lives of widows from the Nwakaudu, Special Assistant to the will continue to fashion out ways to 23 Local Government Areas of the Rivers State Governor, Electronic improve the living condition of state. The Deputy Governor Ipalibo Media. 12th October, 2018. women and widows. She called on Harry Banigo said Governor Wike is women to support fellow women a caring administrator who believes Pictures: L-R: Deputy Governor and widows, so as to protect them in the welfare of women. "Since the Ipalibo Harry Banigo, Wife of the from harmful societal practices. inception of thus administration, Rivers State Governor, Justice Governor Wike has shown that he is Eberechi Suzzette Nyesom-Wike

Justice Nyesom-Wike said that the gender friendly. This can be seen and Mrs Inime Aguma during the fact that the Governor Wike's from his appointments of women Governor Wike's Widows Outreach Widows Reach out programme is into his cabinet and the political programme for the 23 LGAs in Rivers domiciled in the office of the Deputy space he created for the election of state on Friday in Port Harcourt.



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF TWO-DAY WORKSHOPS FOR ONLINE JOURNALISTS/BLOGGERS ON CONFLICT SENSITIVE REPORTING ONLINE, AHEAD OF THE 2019 GENERAL ELECTIONS

Introduction

The International Press Centre (IPC), Lagos-Nigeria, held two-day workshops for online journalists/blogger on conflict sensitive reporting online, ahead of the 2019 general elections. The workshops, which were supported by the European Union (EU) under Component 4b: Support to the media of the EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) project, were held on Tuesday, September 18 and Wednesday September 19, 2018 at Continental Suites, IBB Boulevard, Ibara, Abeokuta, Ogun State and Thursday September 20 and Friday September 21, 2018 at Grand Pela Hotel, Abuja, respectively.

The two workshops attracted a total of 71 online journalists/bloggers, with the Abeokuta workshop attracting 36 participants from the six southwest states, while the Abuja workshop attracted 35 participants from the FCT, the North-East, North-Central, South-East and South-South regions of Nigeria.

The thrust of the workshop was to build the capacity of the concerned online journalists/bloggers in using online media for fair, balanced, language sensitive and conflict sensitive reporting of the elections. Overall, the workshop focused on building the capacity of participants on professional and conflict sensitive reporting of the electoral processes as well as mitigating hate speech in an online environment.

Goodwill messages and Presentations.

The workshop in Abeokuta which received

goodwill remarks from Comrade Wole Shokunbi, Chairman, Nigeria Union of Journalists, Ogun State and Dr. Niran Malaolu, former Ogun state Commissioner for Information and Strategy, and the founding MD/CEO of Rock city FM, featured six main presentations.

There were presentations accompanied by interactive question, answer and comment sessions including a plenary session on emerging issues/real lifescenarios and practical steps to managing conflict situations in online reporting that was moderated by the workshop facilitator/resource persons.

The first day had four presentations. The First presentation, **Understanding conflict, its nature and character** was delivered by Dr. Dan Jibo, Institute for Peace and Strategic Studies, University of Ibadan, while the Second presentation, **Understanding communication challenges in the age of conflict, hate speech and fake news** was delivered by Professor Nosa Owens-Ibie, Dean, College of Social and Management Sciences (COSOMAS), Caleb University, Imota-Nigeria*.*

The Third Presentation*, *Contemporary conflicts in Nigeria and possible impact on media coverage of 2019 elections: the pitfalls to avoid in Online Reporting** was anchored by Dr. Dan Jibo*,* while the fourth Presentation, **Social Media and Elections: Knowing and Dealing with the Challenges** was handled by Dr. Qasim Akinreti, Assistant News Editor, Voice of Nigeria

(VON)/Chairman, Lagos NUJ.

There were two presentations on the second, namely, **Giving practical effect to conflict sensitive reporting online** by Dr. Qasim Akinreti and **Sticking** to ethics and professionalism in online reporting** by Professor Nosa Owens-Ibie. **A special session*, ***Introduction to anti-hoax platforms** was handled by Mr. Jamiun Folarin, Dept of Mass Communication, Crescent University, Abeokuta.*

Six papers were also delivered at the Abuja leg of the workshop by three resources respectively. The first resource person, Dr. Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu of the Department of Information and Media Studies, Bayero University Kano, had two presentations, **'Understanding Conflict: Its Nature & Character'** and **'Hate Speech & Fake News: Imperatives of Ethics & Professionalism in Online Reporting in Nigeria'*. The second resource person, Dr. Y.Z Yau, Executive Director, CITAD presented two papers on **'Contemporary Conflicts in Nigeria and Possible Impact on Media Coverage of 2019 Elections'** and **'Monitoring of Hate Speech Online: Observations, Lessons and Recommendations from Outcomes'**.

The third resource person, Mr. Musikilu Mojeed, Editor-In-Chief, Premium Times spoke on **'Social Media & Elections: Giving Practical Effect to Conflict Sensitive Reporting Online'** and **'News gathering & Newsroom Gate keeping in Era of Hate Speech: Tips on Pitfalls to Avoid'**.

*** Observations***

The Workshop identified and noted the following:

1. Embellished' news reports with tribal, ethnic or religious undertones are often the

purveyor of conflicts in Nigeria.

2. There are growing concerns about the use of social media and online mediums for the dissemination of fake news and hate speeches.

3. Photo-shopped photographs and disturbing videos with fabricated local narratives promoted through online sources can trigger tension, political crisis and even communal conflict in sensitive communities.

5. Conflict is a natural occurrence and inevitable; mainly orchestrated by perceived threats.

4. Hate Speech is among the universal inflammatory speeches like dangerous and offensive speeches.

5. Hate speech criminalises people, demeans and puts them in a bad light.

6. Hate Speech is not just about spoken or published words; it can come in the form of music, graphics or inscription on cloths, etc.

7. Hate speech leads to violence due to explicit, implied, contextual or historical 'call to action' imbedded therein. Therefore hate speech is a hallmark of dangerous speech.

8. Online journalists/ bloggers are always on the edge to be the first to 'break the news' which inadvertently is lowering the bar of factual and professional reporting.

9. Unprofessional reporting online cast aspersion on the credibility of media professionals working in the online environment.

***Recommendations*:**

In view of the forthcoming 2019 and subsequent elections, the following recommendations were made to serve as a guideline to online journalists/bloggers

reporting governance and electoral matters:

i. Online

Journalists/Bloggers reporting governance and electoral matters should restrict themselves to the Ethical Framework & Stipulated Guidelines which would differentiate them from the regular trend of citizenship journalism.

ii. Online Journalists/Bloggers

reporting governance and electoral matters should equip themselves with information and knowledge on conflicts especially its context, its underlining causes, its effects and preventive and corrective measures.

iii. Online Journalists/Bloggers

Bloggers should profile peace makers and subdue voices of purveyors of intolerance and cheerleaders of hate, xenophobic & religious extremists.

iv. Online Journalists/Bloggers

reporting governance and electoral matters should exhibit high sense of professionalism in reporting the elections more so as good journalism requires the provision of accurate and reliable information to citizens;

v. Online journalists/Bloggers

bloggers should be careful about reports and stories that could trigger killings and destruction;

vi. Online journalists/Bloggers

bloggers should pay more attention to what they publish online because of the attendant implications for peaceful co-existence and social cohesion;

vii. Online journalists/Bloggers

bloggers should note that their negligence in applying ethical considerations to reports online, can cause unnecessary violence or even deaths of people;

viii. Online journalists/ Bloggers

need to stick to ethical standards by making sure that contents are problem solving;

ix. Online journalists/Bloggers

bloggers should embrace responsible journalism by looking out for accurate and factual dissemination of news;

x. Online

journalists/bloggers should avoid sensational and misleading headlines in their reports but rather stick to professional and credible reporting online;

xi. Online

journalists/bloggers should verify news from all sides before publication in-order for their medium not to be tagged a medium of fake news;

xii. Online journalists/Bloggers

bloggers should endeavour to cross check the source of their contents and should avoid words that could trigger crisis or conflict in their reportage;

xiii. Online journalists/Bloggers

must be promoters of change and always guide against hate speech in their reporting in order not to raise political tension.

xiv. Online

Journalists/Bloggers should be at the vanguard of mitigating hate speech by appreciating the cultural differences (in Nigeria) and promoting common good and unity.

Appreciations

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SGD:

'Lanre Arogundade

Director, IPC

NIGERIA OIL AND GAS PARK SCHEME (NOGaPS)



The Nigeria Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGaPS) is one of the Board's flagship projects that will further help alleviate poverty and unemployment in the oil and gas producing communities. Under the scheme, the NCDMB will develop world-class oil and gas park in each of the nine (9) oil producing states of Nigeria, that will serve as manufacturing hub for equipment and component parts that are used in the oil and gas industry.

The primary objectives of NOGaPS are to:

1. Attract domestic and foreign direct investment to oil producing states.
2. Promote community participation in manufacturing and other industry activities.
3. Develop and integrate the local supply chain to support Oil and Gas operations.
4. Foster mentoring of local SMEs by international OEMs for mutual benefits.
5. Facilitate new business start-ups, technology acquisition and competitiveness.

6. Provide a range of made in Nigeria goods for the Oil and Gas industry.

7. Attract at least 15 OEMs to set up in the 3 parks (5 per location).

8. Create over 10,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs.

9. Retain industry spend on procurement of goods.

10. Promote training and development – SIWES, skills acquisition.

Some state governments have welcomed the scheme and helped in facilitating the necessary approvals for the Board to commence work. Construction work for phase 1 of NOGaPS is scheduled to commence in 2017.

Milestones:

Acquired land in three (3) States – Bayelsa, Cross River and Imo State

Commenced EIA studies and land clearing for sites in Bayelsa, Cross River and Imo State.

Developed marketing strategy for NOGaPS

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