

NPDC achieves 100% local content in Oredo gas facility

Lagos -- The Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Dr. Maikanti Baru, has expressed delight over the achievement of 100 percent Local Content input by the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company, NPDC, in the

development of the Oredo Integrated Gas Handling Facility, IGHF.

NPDC is the upstream subsidiary of the NNPC.

Dr. Baru expressed the delight during a tour of the NPDC's Oredo Flow Station, Oredo Gas-to-Pan-Ocean Facility, Oredo

IKE AMOS

Integrated Gas Handling Facility as well as the Oredo Liquefied Petroleum Gas, LPG, Dispensing Facility, all in Edo State.

Baru noted that he was proud that a world-class facility was being put in place by a Nigerian engineering contractor in

conjunction with another Nigerian company.

"From engineering, construction to the erection of the various units, we feel very encouraged by the huge man-hours which you are putting in here, day and night, with full local content," Baru noted in a statement issued by the NNPC.

He described the Oil Mining Lease, OML, 111, where the gas projects are located, as one of the most significant assets of the NPDC, saying this is so because it is where the corporation's staff and their contractors design, build and operate facilities hitherto

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WEEKLY

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October 31, 2018

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UPDATES

WEEKLY BASKET PRICE

OCT -26	76.37
OCT -19	78.85
OCT -12	81.43
OCT -05	83.17
SEP -28	80.64
SEP -21	76.62
SEP -14	76.18
SEP -07	75.19
AUG -31	74.76
AUG -24	72.09
AUG -17	70.36
AUG -10	71.88
AUG -03	72.53

Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Yearly **75.71**



Nigeria lost \$8.6bn on imports, exports cargo freight in 2017 -NSC



● A cargo ship

Cargo clearance: NPA urges agencies to play roles seamlessly

SAM IKEOTUONYE

Lagos -- The Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA, Hadiza Bala Usman, says the greatest challenge to speedy cargo clearance at the nation's seaports is to have agencies that are directly involved in cargo clearance play their respective roles seamlessly.

Usman also said NPA should not be solely blamed for lapses in cargo clearance at seaports "because it takes more than NPA to see cargo out of the ports."

According to the NPA boss, "the challenge is to get all agencies come under the Single Window which NPA is undertaking", to achieve a smoother and faster clearance of cargo from the seaports.

In a lecture, entitled "Driving the Change Agenda through Freight Forwarding," as part of activities marking the 68th birthday celebration of Prince Olayiwola Shittu, former

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SAM IKEOTUONYE

Lagos -- Nigeria lost \$8.6 billion in imports and exports freight opportunities of dry and wet cargos in 2017, according to the Nigerian Shippers Council, NSC.

The country also lost a total \$25 billion to foreign ship owners between 2015 and 2017, the

council further stated.

Executive Secretary of the Shippers Council, Mr Hassan Bello, revealed this when the Nigerian Fleet Implementation Committee paid a visit to the Minister of Budget and Planning, Senator Udoma Udo Udoma, in Abuja.

Giving year-by-year account of

the freight opportunity losses in the last three years, Bello said over \$9.08 was paid by Nigeria as freight for dry and wet cargos to foreign ship owners in 2015 due to the absence of Nigerian-owned fleet plying the international route.

He stated that the trend continued in 2016 and 2017,

maintaining that over \$7.55 billion has been estimated as freight opportunity loss to freight for dry and wet cargos in 2016 while the loss in 2017 amounted to \$8.60 billion.

The NSC boss informed the Budget and Planning Minister that the Federal Government had shown concern about the development, leading to the establishment of a committee to address the matter.

"As a result of this the Federal Ministry of Transportation through the Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Amaechi, set up a committee for the Nigerian fleet implementation," he said.

He disclosed that the committee was charged with examining the possibility of

Group writes NPDC, warns against transfer of OML 11 operatorship

MKPOIKANA UDOMA

Port Harcourt -- The Ken Saro Wiwa Associates has warned the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company Limited, NPDC, against take over or transfer of the operatorship of Oil Mining Lease, OML, 11 in Ogoniland to any firm, without the prior consent of the people of

Ogoni.

National coordinator of the group, Chief Gani Topba, in a letter to the Managing Director of NPDC, said the company cannot takeover Shell's equity in the asset without also taking over the \$10 billion royalties and compensation demanded by the people of Ogoni from Shell in 1992, before the

company was kicked out of Ogoniland.

The letter, titled, "SPDC transfer of operatorship of OML 11 Ogoni fields to NNPC/NPDC, matters arising" was copied to President Muhammadu Buhari, the Vice President, Senate President, Minister of State for

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'NSCDC liaising with DPR to contain fuel diversion'

MKPOIKANA UDOMA

Port Harcourt -- The Rivers State Command of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, has stated that is liaising with the Department of Petroleum Resources, DPR, to contain fuel diversion and hoarding.

Specifically, the state NSCDC commandant, Mohammed Haruna, said the cooperation between the two Federal Government agencies was aimed at ensuring that products from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, reached the public as at when due and without being tampered

with.

Haruna disclosed this while parading 35 suspected oil thieves arrested by NSCDC in Rivers State between September and October 2018, where he vowed not to give breathing space to oil thieves in the state.

According to him, cooperation between NSCDC and DPR in ensuring uninterrupted petroleum products flow from the NNPC would remove artificial fuel scarcity and sustain the current stability in products supply across the country.

The NSCDC boss revealed that apart from the 35 suspects paraded by the NSCDC, the agency also impounded two cars, 10 trucks, three buses and two barges within the period



● Fuel dispensing

under review.

He explained that among the arrested suspects are three individuals who specialise in vandalising oil and gas wellheads, saying items recovered from them included two oil wellhead valves, oil pipes, a saw and other tools used for vandalism.

He also said: "On 13th September, 2018, through joint operations with OPDS, three

suspects carrying illegally refined AGO in polythene bags were arrested along Ogbakiri in Emuohua Local Government Area. On 19th September 2018, three suspects were also jointly arrested with a vessel loaded with suspected stolen crude oil along Robertkiri Chevron flow station.

"On 29th September, 2018, Naval officers handed over 14

suspects with nine trucks with suspected AGO and crude oil. The suspects were arrested along Hurly king waterfront, Yesu waterfront and Sand fill in Eleme.

"On 5th October 2018, four suspects were arrested and handed over to the corps by JTF on the ground of oil bunkering along Alakiri in Okirika Local Government Area, though no exhibit was recovered".



● LNG vessel

Global LNG shipping rates hit 6-year high

News Wires -- Headline rates for shipping liquified natural gas, LNG, in Pacific and Atlantic basins stand at around \$140,000 to \$150,000 a day for a 160,000 cubic metre LNG tri-fuel diesel electric, TFDE, vessel, brokers say.

It is a 6-year high and compares to Atlantic basin rates of \$75,000 at the end of August and around \$95,000 at the end of September.

Rates have jumped due to

supply from new plants, longer distances travelled and anticipation of higher prices prompting shippers to lock in longer-duration contracts.

"Charterers continue to lock in multi-month contracts ahead of the winter and we continue to believe LNG shipping rates will remain strong due to very attractive supply/demand fundamentals in the coming quarters," Jefferies said last

week.

The high rates have slowed down spot LNG deliveries in Asia, said an Asia-based LNG trader, as shipping at such prices can account for over 10 percent of the price of LNG itself.

Asian spot LNG prices have fallen for the fourth week running thanks to fresh supplies from Australia, lower oil prices and the absence of Chinese buyers.

Individual spot deals for shipping LNG have been heard as high as \$200,000 a day in Asia, one broker said.

High shipping rates however have not deterred cargoes from Northwest Europe which is receiving an unusually high level of LNG even in the run-up to winter.



Gas

Nigeria lost \$8.6bn on imports, exports cargo freight in 2017 -NSC

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using existing shipping companies to run a Nigerian fleet and provide guidelines on procedures of establishing a shipping company.

Bello explained that the Federal Government must put in place a conducive environment backed by strong political will with incentives to operators, if it must realise its programme in this regard.

He said that the Ministry of Budget and Planning played an important role in fiscal policy direction of government and it is necessary for it to be aware of the development.

The minister pledged that his ministry would collaborate with relevant agencies to resolve the issues and support the committee fully.

He said: "We will work with the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Trade as well as the Ministry of Finance to try and ensure that we address those issues; it is important that your work succeed.

"It is very important because firstly, there is need for this country to generate more revenue; there is the need to see if we can expand the Nigeria fleet, the work and the cargoes that they carry.

"We will be saving ourselves foreign exchange and we would be able to generate funds in foreign exchange as well. So it is very important to create an expansion for Nigerian fleet.

"We would also be creating jobs for Nigerians. When we expand the fleet we would also be expanding our transport infrastructure; you can be sure of our strong active support from this ministry".

NNPC delighted as NPDC achieves 100% local content in gas facility

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operated by the International Oil Companies, IOCs.

"You could see that right from the well-design through to reception of the various liquids, to the processing and disposal of

the various outputs, it is fully indigenous. So, it cannot be better than this," he said.

He stated that as a national oil company, NOC, the NNPC was using the Oredo development to showcase its ability to intervene, stressing that the corporation was not just a player, but also involved in building capacity that can enable it to intervene by taking over any assets whenever any contractor decides to opt out.

Baru stated that the project's funding constraints would be addressed soonest, stressing that NNPC was considering alternative means to support and complete the project.

Power



IKEDC targets 24-hour power supply in Ikeja GRA

Lagos -- The Ikeja Electric Distribution Company, IKEDC, says it is working towards ensuring a 24-hour power supply for residents of the Government Reserved Area, GRA, in Ikeja, Lagos.

Chief Executive Officer, Ikeja Electric, Dr. Anthony Youdeowei, made this known as he announced that the company has achieved over 95 percent metering deployment on distribution transformers and for individual customers.

He said the company would make good its promise of providing dedicated and premium power to the GRA, adding that, that was already materialising.

The Ikeja Electric boss said:

"Customers in this vicinity will no doubt feel the positive impact of this state-of-the art office which has come to complement our efforts to boost power supply in Ikeja GRA. "As I speak with you, the quality of supply and service has improved tremendously as envisaged. Looking into the nearest future, we are working towards ensuring a 24 hour supply for residents of Ikeja GRA."

Speaking at the unveiling of an ultra-modern PTC Undertaking office in GRA Ikeja, he said the new office was an upgraded facility put in place to deliver positive experience to customers. "It offers prompt attendance to clients' queries with a highly effective Point-of-

Sales self-service, fully automated Electronic Queue Management System (EQMS) and well-trained executives sales representative," he said.



● Electricity



Global Fund grants \$2.6bn to Nigeria -Executive Director

Abuja -- The Global Fund, an International Financing Organisation, has so far granted Nigeria \$2.6 billion for tackling HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemic.

Its Executive Director, Mr Peter Sands, disclosed this at a news conference in Abuja, where he announced additional humanitarian grant of 660 million dollars to the epidemic in the country.

"Nigeria has remained a country in which Global Fund had invested tremendously in the past because of its highest burden of Malaria, Tuberculosis, HIV and AIDS.

"We have invested about 2.6 billion dollars to tackle these epidemics in the past and we intend to do more to get more people on treatment," Sands said.

He appreciated the hard work in the outcome of the partnership between the government and global fund, but noted that a lot of work still needed to be done.

"For HIV and AIDS, we want more people on treatment; we



"Above all, we will like to see a return on our investments," he said.

The Director-General, National Agency for the Control of AIDS, NACA, Dr Sani Aliyu, appreciated the continuous support of Global Fund in the healthcare sector of the country.

Aliyu noted that the country would have continued to struggle to deliver quality healthcare services without the support of Global Fund.

als
o want to prevent
mother-to-child transmission.

"We also want to reduce malaria related deaths and we want to ensure that the percentage of people on tuberculosis treatment increases.



● Mr. Elemelu (4th, right) and TEF beneficiaries

Elemelu Foundation empowers 4,460 entrepreneurs in 4 years

Lagos -- The Tony Elumelu Foundation, TEF, has empowered 4,460 entrepreneurs with a total investment of \$20 million since inception four years ago, Mr Tony Elumelu, its founder, has said.

Of this number, 4,000 have been funded directly by the foundation

while 460 have been funded by the foundation's partners, Mr Elumelu added.

Speaking at the 2018 edition of the TEF Entrepreneurship Forum in Lagos with the theme, "Empowering African Entrepreneurs", Elumelu said: "The goal is to invest in

businesses that will generate at least one million new jobs and contribute at least \$10 billion in new annual revenues across Africa.

"Now in its fourth year, the Foundation has empowered 4,460 entrepreneurs with a total investment of \$ 20million; 4,000

having been funded directly by the Foundation, while 460 have been funded by its partners.

"The TEF Entrepreneurship Forum was born out of the Foundation's resolve to convene the African entrepreneurship ecosystem in one location to foster trade, business networking

opportunities within the network".

Also speaking at the event, Chief Executive Officer, TEF, Parminder Vir, said the foundation has created 12,000 jobs in the last two years while beneficiaries of the foundation have generated about \$52 million revenue during the same period.

Solid Minerals



Senator sets up committee to ascertain state of Ajaokuta Steel

Abuja -- Senator Ahmed Ogembe, representing Kogi Central (Kogi State) in the Senate, says he has set up a committee to assess the state of the Ajaokuta Steel plant and recommend what could be done to make it work.

Construction of the troubled plant located in Kogi State has

been abandoned by the Federal Government for decades, and Ogembe said any attempt by the government to sell the plant would be resisted by his people.

"Any attempt to sell ASC (Ajaokuta Steel Company) will be viewed by my people as economic sabotage and be stoutly resisted," he said in a

statement.

Describing the steel plant as "the economic life wire of my people and the Nigerian nation in general," he expressed optimism that the company would not be sold and enjoined his constituents to ignore rumours to that effect.

"I have raised several motions on

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Group writes NPDC, warns against transfer of OML 11 operatorship

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Petroleum Resources, Rivers State Governor, National Security Adviser, NNPC Group Managing Director, SPDC Managing Director, the diplomatic community in Nigeria, the Commonwealth of Nations Secretary General, and 15 others.

The group, in the letter, requested NPDC, an NNPC subsidiary, to respond to its demands with exemplary commitment and in writing within 30 days of receiving the letter, else the people of Ogoni would explore all nonviolent methods to press home their demands.

The letter read: "The NPDC cannot takeover SPDC's asset and shove aside its liabilities of over \$10 billion (representing \$6 billion for royalties and \$4 billion as compensation for environmental damages) demanded by the people of Ogoni in December 1992.

"The NPDC should prove beyond reasonable doubt before a team of Ogoni professionals that its technologies and methods of exploration and production are beyond SPDC's expertise, standards and procedures to avert a repeat of the environmental devastation occasioned by the reckless operations of SPDC.

Cargo clearance: NPA urges agencies to play roles seamlessly

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President of the Association of Nigeria Licensed Customs Agent, ANCLA, in Lagos, Usman called on freight forwarders in the nation's maritime industry to improve in terms of organisation and capacity building that would enable them practice their profession in line with international best practices.

"Freight forwarders must play an effective role in ports operations because today's customer desires services that are quick, reliable and flexible," she said.

She disclosed that the NPA has taken some steps aimed at improving freight forwarding in tandem with the Executive Order on Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria and meeting the expectations of the World Bank on trade facilitation.

These steps, according to her, included the launching of the provisional, final billing and customer portal module of Revenue Invoice Management System aimed at improving service delivery, partner relationship, creating efficient payment method, maximising revenue and eradicating loss and revenue leakage.

Other steps, she enumerated, included the establishment of a committee in collaboration with Nigerian Navy to address Apapa gridlock, call up system for trucks with shipping companies, collaboration with the Nigeria Customs Service, NSC, in introducing the much-awaited Single Window Platform and the establishment of an inter-ministerial committees chaired by the Managing Director of NPA and co-chaired by the Managing Director of Nigerian Railway Corporation, NRC.



Labour



● Ajaokuta Steel plant



Marine accidents: NIMASA pushes for safety compliance

MICHAEL JAMES

Lagos -- The Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, Dr. Dakuku Peterside, has urged players in the maritime sector, especially enforcement officers, to comply with safety rules that would eliminate marine accidents and related issues that may arise from marine operational mishandling.

The director general made the call at the opening of the annual Maritime Administration and Safety Enforcement HSE Workshop with the theme, "Maritime Enforcement Safety: Current Global Benchmarks", organised by the agency in conjunction with Heritage Bank in Lagos.

According to him, "I am happy that we are focusing on health, safety and environment (HSE), most importantly the safety of those who enforce rules and regulations. As a safety administration, we are not going to be held by local standards because operational safety, especially when it comes to the

maritime sector, has to conform to global standards and this is what we are preaching in NIMASA".

Dr. Peterside stated that is part of the agency's mandate to ensure safety and security of vessels visiting and leaving the nation's territorial waters, and that the agency also has the responsibility to ensure the safety of those who work on board vessels and offshore platforms as well as those who create support services from the shore for maritime activities thrive.

"Our goal is to see a maritime sector devoid of avoidable accidents due to lack of professional enforcement. This is why we have reviewed our enforcement drive to give proper attention to Health Safety and Environmental guidelines for the benefit of



● Ship accident

everyone participating in the sector".

He charged enforcement officers to be safety-conscious in carrying out their routine inspections, adding that they must ensure that inspections and enforcement were done in such a manner that no life is put at risk.

Peterside further stated that the training at the workshop would provide hands-on safety procedures, which would aid the

Senator sets up committee to ascertain state of Ajaokuta Steel

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the floor of the senate seeking the revitalisation of the Ajaokuta steel plant because Nigeria's industrialisation is only possible if

ASC rolls out steel," he said.

He added: "In the past few years, I have met several times with the then Minister of Solid Minerals and Steel Development, Dr. Kayode Fayemi, to work out an action plan on how to revitalise the steel company.

"It is therefore worrisome to hear that the federal government is planning to sell the steel company".

Senator Ogembe, who spoke in reaction to recent reports quoting Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, governor Godwin Emefiele as saying the government was considering the option of selling ASC to raise funds to meet financial commitments, advised

the Federal Government against such move as the host community would not buy into it.

maritime enforcement team carry out their responsibilities under the NIMASA Act 2007 and related instruments in compliance with HSE regulations.

In his remarks, the head of Health Safety and Environment Unit of NIMASA, Engr. Fred Ugo, said the agency through the HSE Unit has set out basic guidelines for officers responsible for ensuring health and safety in maritime, especially with regards to environmental standards.



Community

Ogoni clean-up: Monarch tasks govt on local content

Gokana Kingdom of Ogoniland, His Royal Highness Panedom Badon, while speaking with newsmen in Port Harcourt, said the call was imperative as it would be unfair to execute a project of such magnitude in Ogoniland without involving the immediate victims of the oil spills.

Badon explained that those who orchestrated the Local Content Act did so in order to encourage rural development, adding that the presence of local contractors in the spill site

would mean a lot to the people. "They will feel a sense of belonging," he said.

The monarch further stated that local content would be in the form of job creation for the local people and safety of contractors deployed to the area.

According to him, "Using foreigners alone in the project would be against the interest of the people, in that, they (contractors) do not know much about the plight of the people and how best to help

out.

"A project of this nature ought to be done in line with the people's request, because only the locals have the potentials to identify such areas.

"It would require the engagement of local contractors to commence operations on the areas that would benefit the people immediately, while the programme lasts," he said.



● Oil spill site in Ogoniland

MKPOIKANA UDOMA

Port Harcourt -- The Federal Government and the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, have been urged to prioritise the Nigerian Local Content Law, in order to encourage development in the oil-impacted communities in Ogoniland.

This is coming as the Minister of State for Environment, Mr. Ibrahim Jibril, recently announced that the Federal Government was set to commence the clean-up of oil spills in Ogoniland.

Jibril had also announced that the exercise would begin before the end of the year, as the procurement process for the clean-up was at the last stage. He also said the Federal

Executive Council would soon grant approval for contracts to be awarded.

But a traditional ruler in

Total urges young people to imbibe reading culture

Port Harcourt -- As parts of its corporate social responsibility, Total Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited, TEPNG, has tasked young people, especially secondary school students in the country, on imbibing the reading culture.

Deputy Managing Director of the company, Port Harcourt District, Mr. François Lecocq, gave the task in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, during the 2018 Total's Book Reading and Open Day for Secondary Schools in Rivers State.

Lecocq, who stated that company was committed to

promoting reading culture among young people, urged the students to study hard through reading, in order to lay a good foundation for their future.

Represented at the event by the Deputy General Managing, Public Affairs and Communication, Mr. Onyekachi Omenuko, Lecocq explained that the programme

was imperative as it was geared towards encouraging the development of youths to enable them to grow into responsible citizens.

Speaking on the theme, 'Hidden Inside of Books', the Total boss explained that reading was important because everything that could make an individual

successful in life, was hidden inside books.

Also speaking at the event, the Rivers State Commissioner of Education, Dr. Tamunosisi Gogo-Jaja, urged the students to make books their cherished companion, rather than devoting more times to playing computer games and watching movies.

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