

NERC gives Discos March 2019 deadline on customer enumeration

Lagos -- The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, NERC, has directed electricity distribution companies or Discos in the country to conclude all customer enumeration in their areas of coverage by March 31, 2019.

...Says 60 percent of electricity customers not metered

The ultimatum was contained in a statement by the commission seen by SweetcrudeReports after it directed the utility companies to carry out extensive customer enumeration to determine their actual customer base.

According to NERC, customer enumeration will "improve metering" and help Discos "respond to electricity issues quickly".

NERC, in a related development, has revealed that five years after

the privatisation of the Nigerian power sector, only about 60 percent of electricity customers in the country has been metered.

The performance agreement executed between the Bureau of Public Enterprises, BPE, and the

core investors in the eleven Discos in the country provides for the installation of end-use meters based on agreed targets.

But, NERC, in a consultation paper on the Capping of Estimated Billing for

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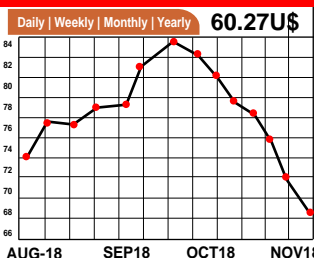


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NOV-23	62.85
NOV-16	66.66
NOV-09	70.51
NOV-02	74.16
OCT-26	76.37
OCT-19	78.85
OCT-12	81.43
OCT-05	83.17
SEP-28	80.64
SEP-21	76.71
SEP-14	76.18
SEP-07	75.19
AUG-31	74.96



● Oil workers

Nigerian economy'll derive maximum value from NLNG Train 7 - Tony Attah

MKPOIKANA UDOMA

Port Harcourt -- The Nigerian economy will derive maximum value from the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas, NLNG, Train 7 project, according to Managing Director of the Nigeria LNG Limited, Mr. Tony Attah.

Attah disclosed this at a public workshop on Nigerian Content for NLNG's Train 7 Development in Port Harcourt, targeted at giving Nigerian companies information on how Nigerian Content could be maximised in the execution of the project.

He said the workshop was the third held by the company in its bid to ensure Nigerian companies and the Nigerian economy derive maximum value from the Train 7 project.

The managing director, who said the company was 100 percent committed to the project, assured that it would be delivered with the involvement of competent Nigerian

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Nigeria's oil production down 70,000b/d in October

OPEOLUWANI AKINTAYO,
with agency report

Lagos -- Nigeria's crude oil and condensate production was down by about 70,000 barrels per day, b/d, in October, statistics from the Ministry of Petroleum Resources have shown.

Production stood at 2.09 million barrels per day, down by that figure due to constant attacks on pipelines by oil thieves, the Ministry said in a recent statement on its website.

In September, the country's crude oil and condensate production was 2.158 million barrels per day, mb/d, while output was 1.968 mb/d in July, up from 1.896mb/d in June and 1.826mb/d in May.

Nigeria produced 2.069mb/d in April, 2.022mb/d in March, 2.105mb/d in February, and 2.070mb/d in January, the ministry said.

The government targets an

average 2.3mb/d oil production and \$51 per barrel oil price in this year's budget.

Obviously supporting the ministry's reference to attacks on pipelines by oil thieves as being responsible for the October drop in output, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC,

reported a rising incidence of pipeline breaks since July.

The NNPC's latest monthly financial and operations report for July 2018 had disclosed that during the period under review, the nation witnessed 204 pipeline breaks, of which 16 pipeline points either failed to be welded or

rupture-clamped.

It indicated that 188 pipeline points were vandalised as against 165 recorded in the previous month, with Ibadan-Mosimi pipeline accounting for 124 points or 66 percent of the vandalised pipeline, while Aba-

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NNPC to provide details on NLNG dividends from 1999 to date

Lagos -- The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, says it will provide details of its transactions on the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas, NLNG, Dividends Account from 1999 till date to give the Senate and the general public a comprehensive insight into the operations of the account.

Group Managing Director of NNPC, Dr. Maikanti Baru, stated this at the hearing of the Senate Committee on Gas, which has been mandated to probe the alleged unauthorised disbursement from the account to support importation of petroleum products to avert scarcity.

Baru, who was represented by the corporation's

Chief Financial Officer, CFO, Mr. Isiaka Abdurasaq, in his presentation at the hearing, in Abuja, insisted that there was need to take a holistic look at the NLNG Dividends Account from inception rather than a limited view from 2015 as requested by the Senate Committee.

He said the corporation was ready to provide details of operations of the account in terms of revenues and withdrawal mandates from 1999 till date.

The group managing director also informed that the fuel supply situation in the country was very robust with about 2.2 billion litres of fuel in

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11 Plc relaunches aviation fuel business



● Aviation fuel

OPEOLUWANI AKINTAYO

Lagos -- 11 Plc, formerly Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc, has reintroduced the marketing and sale of aviation turbine kerosene, ATK - popularly known as aviation fuel - at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport and General Aviation Terminal, GAT-Domestic, after over five years of resting its aviation fuel business.

The recommencement of

sale of the product is in collaboration with Air BP in the wake of the construction of a new 20 million litre aviation fuel tank, and laying of new pipelines linking the company's facility at Apapa with the airport tank.

Air BP is one of the largest suppliers of aviation fuel products and services.

Nigeria has in recent times been witnessing scarcity of

aviation fuel as the country does not currently refine the product locally, but depends on imports.

Also known as JetA1, aviation fuel currently accounts for between 35 to 40 per cent of the total operational cost of an average airline in the country.

Due to scarcity, the price of the product has been on the rise.

Nigeria's oil production down 70,000b/d in October

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Enugu, Port Harcourt-Aba and other locations accounted for the rest.

A total of 1,858 vandalised points were recorded between July 2017 and July 2018, the report indicated.

The NNPC had warned earlier this month that sabotage attacks on oil pipelines were on the rise, while analysts have also warned that violence may return in Nigeria's oil industry ahead of the general elections in February.

However, amidst the grim, with the production start-up of the Total-operated Egina oil field in December, Minister for State Petroleum Resources, Dr. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu said in an interview with S&P Global Platts last week that Nigeria's crude and condensate production is expected to rise to 2.2mb/d by early next year.

NERC gives Discos March 2019 deadline on customer enumeration

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unmetered electricity customers, said actual performance as at August 2018 indicated that six in ten customers were unmetered and, therefore, subjected to estimated billing.

The Discos have consistently blamed slow metering pace on cash problems resulting from non-cost reflective tariffs in the power sector. According to them, it had been almost difficult to recoup their investments after five years.

NNPC to provide details on NLNG dividends from 1999 to date

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stock, representing over 45-day sufficiency.

In his response, Chairman Senate Committee on Gas, Senator Bassey Akpan, said the committee's terms of reference mandated it to look at the operations of the account from 2015 to date.

He, however, added that should the NNPC decide to provide details from 1999 till date, it was welcomed.

The Senate committee adjourned the hearing to December 4, 2018, with a mandate to NNPC and the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, to provide the details of operations of the NLNG Dividend Account before the end of November.

Power



Kaduna Electric cautions customers on electricity theft

Lagos -- Kaduna Electric has said that energy theft is one of the major factors affecting the Nigerian electric supply industry, adding that the distribution companies, which are the last arm in the value chain, are the most affected.

The company said energy theft was constraining its ability to invest more on the network and procurement of meters.

The Business Development and Relationship Officer, Barnawa Regional Office, Mr Sunday Yahaya, stated this during a stakeholder-engagement with the customers of the regional office in Barnawa, Kaduna.

He informed the community leaders that the objective of the forum was to enlighten the customers of the negative impact of electricity theft. "Residents and businesses regularly connect to our network illegally and not only this is dangerous for the individual making the connection but also puts the rest of the community at risk," he said.

The Dagaci of Maraban Rido, Mallam Hamisu Haruna, who spoke at the engagement, applauded Kaduna Electric for the recent improvement of power supply.

"In Maraban Rido, we received over 22 hours of supply per day.

"Immediately after this forum I will go back to my community and enlighten them on the consequences of energy theft

and I will create a taskforce that will identify the people engaged in this bad activity," he said.

When contacted by newsmen, the head corporate communications of the company, Abdulazeez Abdullahi, called on those engaged in energy theft to desist from it as the company will prosecute any person caught stealing electricity.

"We want to remind all our customers that electricity is now a product. We are running a business. Illegal users believe electricity is free, we lose millions of Naira monthly to these saboteurs, and our lawyers are working assiduously to make sure all the people caught illegally connecting to our network are prosecuted," he said.



● Electricity theft



● Barrels of oil

Oil price drop causes jitters in LNG market

Lagos -- A big drop in Brent oil prices was causing jitters in the liquefied natural gas, LNG, market, according to trade sources quoted by Reuters.

Oil prices slumped to 2018 lows on Friday, last week, pulled down by concerns of an emerging global supply overhang amid a bleak economic outlook.

"Typically, changes in Brent tend to have a bigger impact on Asian LNG prices due to lack of liquidity in Asian gas derivatives," said a second Singapore-based LNG trader.

Trading remained thin in the region

with several LNG tankers still floating the super-chilled fuel around Asia.

But the situation may soon stabilise as end-users have stopped reselling cargoes, the trader said.

"The Chinese are not reselling cargoes like they were doing recently, so I think situation could be bottoming out," the trader added.

Asian spot prices for LNG tumbled nearly 10 percent last week to a more than three-month low, knocked lower by a slide in oil prices, forecasts for a warmer than average winter and ample supply onshore and in tankers.

Spot prices for January delivery in North Asia LNG-AS were estimated at \$10 per million British thermal units (mmBtu), 90 cents lower than last week, traders said.

"The big question mark right now is how the weather will pan out as the market will quickly turn once it starts to get cold. But until then, it's tank-top right now in many places," said a Singapore-based LNG trader, referring to high storage levels of natural gas in North Asia.

Temperatures in major cities Tokyo, Beijing and Shanghai in the world's top two LNG buyers, Japan and China, are expected to be warmer than usual this week, weather data from Refinitiv Eikon showed.

Gas





Total targets 5,000 solar-powered stations by 2020

MKPOIKANA UDOMA

Port Harcourt -- As part of its efforts in support of alternative energy sources in the country, Total Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited, TEPNG, says it has built 15 solar-powered stations in the country and that its global target is to reach 5,000 solar stations by 2020.

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Total in Nigeria, Mr. Nicolas Terraz, disclosed this at the management session of the 36th Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists, NAPE, Conference and Exhibition in Lagos.

Terraz explained that the company was the first oil firm

in Nigeria to pioneer a solar-powered station, the Onigbagbo station in Ikeja, Lagos; adding that the company was currently working on a 100 megawatts, MW, solar farm project in Katsina State.

He said despite various challenges in the industry over the years, Total has added over three billion barrels of oil equivalent to Nigeria's production and that its upcoming Egina project would add another 200,000 barrels per day to the nation's production.

Terraz said: "As part of our objective to provide more reliable, affordable energy to Nigeria's growing population,

Total is also currently developing a 100MW Katsina Solar Farm project in Katsina.

"Our downstream affiliate is a market leader in Nigeria with over 550 service stations spread across the nation. In 2014, Total pioneered the first solar-powered station in West Africa, the Onigbagbo station in Ikeja, Lagos, and since then, we have built over 15 solar stations in Nigeria.

"Our global target is to reach 5,000 solar stations by 2020. Total downstream activities are also number one in Africa with over 4,300 service stations in the continent offering a one-stop shop experience."



● Solar panels

Nigerian economy'll derive maximum value from NLNG Train 7 - Tony Attah

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companies.

He explained that the project, valued at over \$4 billion, is expected to commence as soon as a Final Investment Decision, FID, is taken.

"NLNG is underpinned by its vision of being 'a global LNG company helping to build a better Nigeria'. The global play is about the business itself and helping to build a better Nigeria is consistent with our partnership with NCDMB.

"I will like to invite Nigerian companies to please participate in Train 7, which is the purpose of this workshop," he stated.

Attah further said: "It is consistent with our partnership with NCDMB. It also opens up the opportunities for local companies to play, starting with understanding the scope of the project.

"In addition, it creates an opportunity to meet the two consortia we are currently working with, B7 JV and SCD JV. They are the key players tasked with the Front End Engineering Design (FEED)".

The NLNG boss also announced that the company is in the forefront of deliberate efforts towards eliminating gas flaring in Nigeria.



● Oil facility

Energia ex-workers tackle company over disengagement

Lagos -- About 32 ex-workers of an indigenous oil and gas producing company, Energia Limited, have levelled various

allegations against the company, including lack of due process, in their disengagement from the company.

They also alleged unfair treatment and inadequate remuneration while in the company's employment.

Solid Minerals



Glencore's Katanga says earnings could dip over Congo dispute

News Wires -- Katanga Mining says its earnings could be hit if a row with Democratic Republic of Congo that has prevented it from importing and exporting copper is not resolved soon.

Although Glencore's Katanga said copper production was continuing as normal, it warned that its earnings would be affected if the dispute is not

settled.

"Unless the dispute with the DGDA (customs authority) is resolved and KCC's (Kamoto Copper Company) imports and exports are permitted to resume in the near future, the suspension of imports and exports is expected to negatively impact the Company's production and revenue," it said.

Glencore declined to

comment, while Congolese authorities were not immediately available to comment, according to Reuters.

Operating in Congo has been complicated by a tangle of legal disputes and arguments over increased royalties.

In addition, Katanga said it was halting cobalt exports while it builds a facility to remove uranium that meant the mineral

The workers had recently petitioned the Department of Petroleum Resources, DPR - the oil and gas industry watchdog - outlining their grievances with Energia and seeking the intervention of the agency to get the indigenous oil company compensate them for alleged wrongful dismissal from work.

One of the aggrieved workers said the management of Energia disregarded the rules governing the oil and gas industry as well as the company's own rules in sending him and his affected colleagues away from the

company.

He disclosed that with no succour coming through the petition to the DPR so far, the workers had no option than to head to a Lagos High Court to seek redress.

The source said the ex-workers are asking for N2 billion compensation from the company.

Efforts to reach the management of Energia for comments on the matter was unsuccessful. A message sent through the company's website did not elicit a response at the time of going to press.



● Mining activities

could not be exported.

In its results statement recently, Katanga said the DGDA had issued an order on Nov. 9 temporarily preventing it from importing or exporting any material, including copper.

Congolese authorities alleged it had failed to "declare and pay duties on the export of at least 6,650 tonnes of copper in December 2014 and January 2015", Katanga added.



Labour

NPA seeks ISO 9001 certification for ports

SAM IKEOTUONYE

Lagos -- The Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA, says it has "started aggressive efforts" aimed at attaining the International Standard Organisation, ISO, 9001 complaints and certification in the nation's seaports.

A statement by the company

quoted its Managing Director, Hadiza Bala Usman, as expressing strong optimism that the attainment of the ISO 9001 certification will improve the financial performance of the authority, ensure quick turnaround time, improved traffic and business process in the ports.

She disclosed that already the management has directed

all the relevant divisions and departments in the identified critical requirements needed to ensure the successful attainment of the project.

The statement by Isah Suwaid, Asst. Gen. Manager (C&SC), quoted Usman as making these known in Lagos during the recent Lagos International Trade Fair, adding that the managing



● Nigeria Port Authority

director's speech at the event was read by Alhaji Abubakar Umar, the Port Manager, Rivers

Ports.

Usman also disclosed that in order to promote the activities of terminal operators as concessionaires in all the nation's seaports, the management of NPA has directed that all operators should, henceforth, be encouraged to fully participate in trade fairs and exhibitions.

According to Usman, the presence of the terminal operators in trade fair arena would enable them to showcase their activities to the numerous visitors to the fair and educate them on their services.

Dakuku, Bala Usman to Grace Port Facility Security Officers Conference

VINCENT TORITSEJU

Lagos -- The Managing Director of Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA, Hadiza Bala Usman, Director-General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, Dr. Dakuku Peterside and the Comptroller-General of Customs, retired Col. Hameed Ali, are among

dignitaries expected at the 2018 National Conference of the Port Facility Security Officers, PFSO, Forum of Nigeria holding in Calabar, Cross River State.

The Port Facility Security Officers (PFSO) Forum is the body of government and private sector top security officials responsible for the protection of lives and properties at the seaports in Nigeria.

National Chairman of the PFSO Forum, Barrister Emmanuel Onyebadi, in a statement, said the conference, which will hold on 29th and 30th November 2018, has the theme "Integrated Maritime Security Architecture: A Panacea for Economic Growth in Nigeria".

Onyebadi said the event is to provide an avenue for top port security officials to brainstorm of

finding ways of improving on the security situation at the seaports, terminals, and jetties across the country.

He said the members of the PFSO Forum have maintained a high level of professionalism since the group was formed after Nigeria ratified and complied with the provisions of the International Ships & Ports Facility Security Code (ISPS Code) 14 years ago.



● Fire fighters

Lagos -- Shell Nigeria Gas, SNC, has re-trained 30 firefighters in Abia State and donated firefighting equipment to the state fire service. This

intervention was triggered by two recent fire disasters in the state which resulted in deaths and loss of property worth millions of naira.

Shell trains and equips firefighters in Abia

Over 150 shops in the timber and furniture section of the Nkwo Ngwa Market in Aba was gutted by fire mid-November barely five weeks after an explosion on a pipeline belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, in Umuaduru and Umuimo communities of the state killed a number of persons.

The SNG intervention, according to the company's Managing Director, Ed Ubong, was to demonstrate the

company's continued care for the people and support to Nigerians particularly those in the company's areas of operations.

"Some of these disasters are either avoidable or preventable. The major gaps are in training and equipment, hence our quick response to retrain the firefighters and provide them with modern equipment to support their operations," Ubong said, adding that SNG would strengthen its gas distribution network in the Abia State to help in its rapid

industrialisation.

The equipment donated included tunics and personal protective equipment (PPE). The state's Commissioner for Transport, Charles Chinedum Elechi, received the items with a commitment that the state would improve on its safety record in a manner that would promote industrialisation and development.

Speaking at the donation, the state's Fire Service Comptroller,

OPDS destroys 300 illegal refineries in Niger Delta

LUCKY OMAS

Warri, Delta State -- Operation Delta Safe, OPDS, has destroyed about 300 illegal refineries across the Niger Delta in the last seven weeks.

Commander of the security body, Rear Admiral Apochi Suleiman, made this known in Warri, Delta State, while speaking on the recently-launched Operation 777 by the Chief of Defence Staff, CDS, General Gabriel Olonishakin.

He said Operation 777 was flagged off to reduce crime, adding that it was already a huge success in the Niger Delta region.

"Cases of illegal bunkering, pipeline vandalism, and associated criminalities do increase during major festivities and election years, this necessitated the launching of 'Operation 777' by the CDS activated by the headquarters, OPDS. The 'Operation 777' has made huge achievement: Over 300

illegal refineries, 156 locally-manufactured boats, 1,085 surface tanks have been destroyed.

"Additionally, 15 barges, 10 tanker trucks, 31 vehicles, 45 speedboats, 16 outboard engines, 41 pumping machines, 15 generating sets and 76 other items have been



● Illegal refinery

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