

Nigeria is 11th among nations with largest proven oil reserves

Lagos -- Nigerian has been ranked in the eleventh position in a top-20 list of countries with the largest proven oil reserves in the world.

Data sourced from World Atlas puts Nigeria's oil reserves at 37.062 billion barrels, just

...Venezuela becomes the world's leader in reserves

behind the United States of America in the 10th position with 39.230 billion barrels reserves.

Despite the impressive attainment on the list, Nigeria's crude oil reserves have remained stagnant at 37 billion barrels for

OPEOLUWANI AKINTAYO,
WITH AGENCY REPORT

the past ten years due to low exploration for new discoveries.

Nigeria's crude oil is one of the most preferred due to its low sulfur content and low

corrosiveness to refinery infrastructure. It also has a lower environmental impact of its byproducts during the refinery process, setting out its grade, Bonny Light, as one of the most expensively priced and sold at the

international market.

Venezuela is first in the ranking with 300.878 billion barrels, bb, reserves, followed in the second and third positions by Saudi Arabia with 266.455bb and Canada (169.709bb).

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Sweet **REPORTS** Crude

A Review Of The Nigerian Energy Industry

WEEKLY



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WEEKLY BASKET PRICE

NOV-23	59.95
NOV-23	58.80
NOV-23	62.83
NOV-16	66.52
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

Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Yearly **59.95U\$**



● Niger Delta community

NNPC, NCDMB to grow Nigerian Content to 70% by 2027

Lagos -- The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, and the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, NCDMB, have committed to growing local content in the oil and gas industry from the current 40 percent to 70 percent by 2027 as part of strategies to sustain economic development in the country.

NNPC Group Managing Director, Dr. Maikanti Baru, made this commitment at the 8th Practical Nigerian Content Conference in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, saying strategies for implementing the NCDMB Local Content development included closing human capacity gaps, skills acquisition and assets ownership by indigenous companies.

He explained that the theme of this year's conference, "Driving Economic Development and Sustainability", was relevant to

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Shell abandons the Niger Delta

- Shuts production in 25 fields
- Moves key depts from Port Harcourt to Lagos
- OMLs 11, 17 up for sale

OPEOLUWANI AKINTAYO & MKPOIKANA UDOMA

Lagos/Port Court -- After over 60 years of oil exploration and production in the Niger Delta, the Royal Dutch Shell is

gradually abandoning the region, leaving the economy of the region in ruins.

Information available to this newspaper showed that the international oil company which

began oil exploration in the country in the 1900s and discovered oil in Oloibiri in the current Bayelsa State in 1956, has since 2017 shut production in 25 oil fields.

It has now put up two major assets, Oil Mining Leases, OMLs, 11 and 17, up for sale.

Ordinarily, this move would not have been counted as anything against business ethics as any company is free to buy and resell its assets, but, stakeholders have expressed fear and anxiety in what appears to be the multinational oil company's strategic plan to abandon assets and move major operations out of the Niger Delta, thereby leaving the region hollow, with the resultant debilitating effect on the economy of the region.

OML 11 lies in the southeastern Niger Delta and contains 33 oil and gas fields of which eight are producing as of

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Nigeria records 101 shut-in fields, 184 producing in 2017

OPEOLUWANI AKINTAYO

Lagos -- A total of 101 oil fields were shut-in in Nigeria while 184 fields were in production as at the end of December 2017, according to data from the Department of Petroleum Resources, DPR.

The agency disclosed this in its just-released Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Annual Report, NOGIAR, 2017.

According to the report, the

total 285 fields shut-in and producing in the country during the period are run by 44 oil producing companies.

A breakdown showed that during the year under review, Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, produced in 35 fields and shut-in 25 following the shut down of its Trans Forcados and the Trans Niger pipelines due to integrity issues on the pipelines.

ExxonMobil, with 35 fields in the country, produced in 20 of the fields while 15 were shut-in due to shut down of the company's Qua-Iboe Terminal, QIT, trunk line.

Among other oil majors, Chevron produced in 28 fields and shut-in six for operational issues; Nigeria Agip Oil Company Limited, NAOC produced in 25 and shut-in 13 over facility sabotage; Total E & P produced in

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Baru says Nigeria has 10bn barrels untapped deep-water resources

Lagos -- The current drive by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, to grow Nigeria's crude oil has been taken a notch higher with the unveiling of multi-billion dollar investment opportunities in the nation's deep-offshore frontiers.

Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Dr. Maikanti Baru, at a function in London, globally Nigeria had the biggest untapped deepwater resource of about 10 billion barrels of oil equivalent, in

addition to other vast opportunities in the oil and gas value chain, calling on investors to take advantage of the opportunity.

Baru explained that Nigeria had the largest and one of the most vibrant economies in Africa with lots of potentials, especially in the gas, refining and infrastructure space.

"I invite you all to a country that has massive opportunities, very good business climate and good



● Dr Baru

returns on investment. Our resilience has been tested, we have been through the booms and bursts and we came out stronger. With our experience, geographical location and capacity, Nigeria is the country of now and the future", he stated.



● West Africa gas pipeline

OPEOLUWANI AKINTAYO

Lagos -- Axxela Limited has signed a gas transportation agreement, GTA, with the West African Gas Pipeline Company Ltd., WAPCo, to transport over 15 million standard cubic feet per day, mmscf/d of natural gas via the West African Gas Pipeline, WAGP to Lome, Togo.

At the signing ceremony in Accra, Ghana, Axxela CEO, Bolaji Osunsaya, said the partnership between Axxela, WAPCo, and the West African Gas Pipeline

Authority, WAGPA, portends major benefits for the West African gas markets.

"The flow of new molecules beyond the existing foundation contracts will diversify gas supply sources into the WAGP, and affirms Axxela's proactive mid-term growth plan.

"Propelled by our professionalism, strategic partnerships, and excellence across our business enterprise, we remain firmly committed to

the positioning of gas as a catalyst for socio-economic empowerment across the region's key markets," Osunsaya added.

Also commenting at the signing ceremony, WAPCo Managing Director, Walter Perez, stated that with public and private players increasingly working together to propel the gas advantage, the partnership with Axxela spoke to an overarching strategy for increased regional supply and participation.



Gas

Axxela signs 15mscf/d gas deal with WAPCo

Power



Fashola calls for prosecution, jail of power sector vandals

Lagos — Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola, has called not just for the arrest, but prosecution and jailing of vandals in the power sector.

In a communique signed by the minister and other stakeholders in the sector on Tuesday, he called on security operatives to "ensure that arrested vandals are prosecuted and jailed to serve as a deterrent to vandals".

Doing so, according to him, is in accordance with Sections 9, 10, 93, 94, 96 of the Miscellaneous Offences Act and Sections 286 and 287 of the Penal Code that

stipulate various offenses for offenders.

According to him, the use of advanced technology like the Global Positioning System, GPS, and other electronic gadgets required in grid automation should be

adopted in monitoring of power equipment and electrical installations to reduce incidents of vandalism, which most often, causes fatalities and forms of incidences in the power sector.

Nigeria records 101 shut-in fields, 184 producing in 2017

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10 and shut-in 8 citing operational issues and sabotage, while Total Upstream produced its one field.

Addax Petroleum produced in 14 fields, and had 8 fields shut-in for contractual reasons and operational issues.

For Niger Delta Petroleum Resources Ltd, NDPR, it produced in 10 fields and shut-in 14 as a result of leak in the Trans-Forcados Pipeline, TFP, and for operational issues.

Agip Energy and Natural Resources, AENR, and Allied Energy produced one field each while Amni Petroleum produced in two.

Shell abandons Niger Delta

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2017. In terms of production, it is one of the most important blocks in Nigeria.

SweetcrudeReports learnt that OML 17 along with some infrastructure, including a natural gas-fired power plant, is also on Shell's list of disposables, as talks are already in top gear to sell it for \$2 billion.

OML 17 is a large onshore license within the NNPC/Shell joint venture. The block includes the northern half of Port Harcourt, extending from the low-lying swamp northwards into drier terrain where the operating conditions are easier. There are 15 oil and gas fields on OML 17, six of which are producing. Crude is exported through the Trans-Niger Pipeline to the Shell-operated Bonny oil and gas terminal, according to Wood Mackenzie.

The two licenses would be sold to Heirs Holdings Limited, a company run by Nigerian billionaire, Tony Elumelu.

There is also the other issue of the Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company, SNEPCO, relocating its Logistics and Supply Base from the oil and gas free zone in Onne, near Port Court.

SNEPCO's moving of its Logistics and Supply base from Onne to the Lagos Deep Offshore Logistics Base, LADOL's yard seems to be a sharp pointer to totally crippling the region's economy, which according to experts, thrives greatly on the activities of the Supply Base.

To compound matters, the Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, plans to move its Procurement and Accounting Departments soon from its Port Harcourt headquarters to Lagos following a directive to that effect by the company's top hierarchy.

Exiting the Niger Delta would, however, not be that easy for Shell, as this newspaper learnt that the issue has been a major cause of recent controversies.

Besides protests against the move by the Niger Delta people, the Rivers State government, civil society organisations as well as concerned individuals have also kicked against Shell's move to abandon the Niger Delta.

If the sale of OMLs 11 and 17 eventually comes through, this means Shell would focus just on its operations in Nigerian waters, where the risks of attacks on infrastructure and oil theft are at a low ebb.

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Other countries in the top 10 bracket are Iran (4th), 158.400bb; Iraq (5th) - 142.503bb; Kuwait (6th) - 101.500bb; United Arab Emirates (7th) - 97.800bb; Russia (8th) - 80.000bb; Libya (9th) - 48.363bb and United States (10th) - 39.230bb.

Besides Nigeria in the 11th position, other countries making up the top 20 are Kazakhstan - 30.000 bb; China - 25.620bb; and Qatar - 25.244bb.

Others are Brazil - 12.999bb, Algeria - 12.200bb, Angola - 8.273bb, Ecuador - 8.273bb, Mexico - 7.640bb and Azerbaijan - 7.000bb.



● Electricity pylon



Benin, Malawi, others de-risk renewable energy projects

Lilongwe, Malawi -- In 2018, Regional Liquidity Support Facility, RLSF, supported a 7.5 MW solar PV plant in one of the four partner countries, which will add an additional 15% to the country's current capacity of 50 MW.

Since launching a year ago, RLSF has signed agreements with five countries ensuring that their Independent Power Producers, IPPs, receive protection against payment risks that often contribute to their failure.

The five countries are Benin,

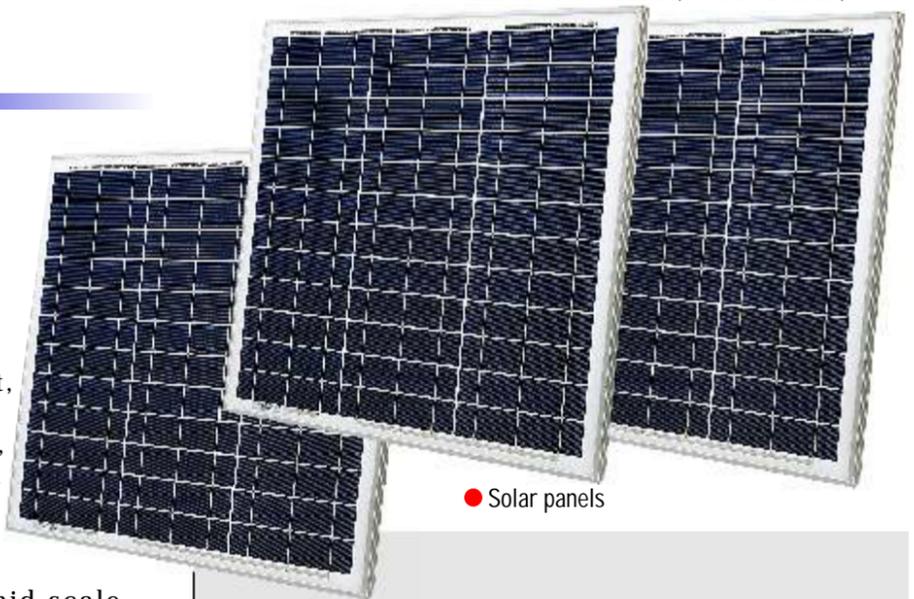
Burundi, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia.

The facility supports small and mid-scale renewable energy IPPs (from 50 to 100 MW) in sub-Saharan Africa by helping these projects reach financial close and to reduce the energy deficit. Malawi became the latest country to sign onto the agreement today.

The RLSF is a joint initiative of the African Trade Insurance Agency, ATI, and KfW with funding from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and

Development, BMZ.

The facility, which has an initial capacity of USD 74 million, targets small and mid-scale renewable energy projects because renewables are generally cheaper, easier to implement, integrate into the national electricity grid and usually have a positive environmental impact once up and running.



● Solar panels

Shell abandons Niger Delta

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 02

Sources in the know hinted that the deal would have been concluded but for financial hurdles Elumelu ran into in trying to raise the funds for the purchase of the assets.

When contacted for reaction on the development and opposition to the company's alleged plan to totally abandon the Niger Delta, Shell Nigeria spokesperson, Mr. Bamidele Odugbesan insisted that Shell was in its right to take whatever step on its assets. He argued that the fact that the company moved some of its departments away from Onne, Port Harcourt does not undermine its presence in the region.

Shell's pipeline in the Niger Delta have severally been under attacks by oil thieves who burst into the facility to cart away crude.

The company had also been under attacks by militants in the region although there has been a ceasefire since early 2017.

SweetcrudeReports sought the reactions of the Department of Petroleum Resources, DPR, and the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, NEITI, on the matter, and they both said it was not their duty to monitor the internal affairs of Shell.

"This has to do with their internal business, so it is not within our purview to monitor it," DPR's Public Affairs manager, Paul Osu, had said.

On his part, the Director, Communications at NEITI, Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, said: "We don't micromanage the internal affairs of companies we relate with. Our relationship with them is based on international standard. Besides, I don't have details of this matter so I won't be able to comment on it".

Reacting to the development, the Ijaw Youth Council, IYC Worldwide, said it was insensitive on the part of Shell to contemplate relocating key departments from its head-office in the Niger Delta region to Lagos.

IYC President, Mr. Eric Omare, who rejected the move, warned that if the company is relocating the key departments, it should also be ready to quit all its onshore and offshore operations.

Meanwhile, the Rivers State Government has described as politically motivated the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited movement of its key finance and procurement departments from Port Harcourt to Lagos.

Speaking exclusively to our correspondent, the Rivers State Commissioner of Information, Mr. Emma Okah, said the current government in Rivers State had, since assuming office, given all cooperation to the firm, hence, there was no basis for Shell to move any of its departments or activities from Rivers State to Lagos.

He said there was no reason this could have happened other than politics.

NNPC, NCDMB to grow Nigerian Content to 70% by 2027

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 01

NNPC, the industry and the country at large given the considerable gains recorded in the nation's oil and gas landscape.

He maintained that as early as 2005, despite almost 50 years of a vibrant national oil industry experience, NNPC was concerned about the low level of Nigerian Content in the industry and thus called for a fresh approach to domesticating oil and gas industry spends through the establishment of the Nigeria Content Division, NCD, with the aim of identifying and guiding the implementation of key national content initiatives, including promoting local manufacturing of steel plates and pipes, and developing engineering design expertise in the country.

Dr. Baru maintained that by 2010, when the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development, NOGICD, Act was enacted, a national content coordination framework, which incorporated the key stakeholders in achieving increased linkage of the petroleum sectors with other sectors of the economy, was established under NNPC's Nigeria Content Division, stressing that the division then metamorphosed into today's NCDMB.

Finance

AfDB issues first-ever SOFR-linked transaction in Green bond market

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire -- The African Development Bank rated Aaa / AAA / AAA by Moody's/S&P/Fitch (all stable) successfully priced a dual-tranche US\$ 500 million 3-year and US\$ 100 million 2-year SOFR-linked Green bond, becoming the first issuer to bring to the market a SOFR-linked Green Bond transaction.

The fixed rate tranche,

oversubscribed within three hours of formal book opening with the support from high-quality green investors, was priced at mid-swaps, MS, flat, in line with Initial Price Thoughts, IPTs, and providing a very limited new issue premium.

The SOFR-linked tranche, the result of a green reverse inquiry, priced at SOFR + 32 basis points (bps) and was placed almost entirely in the

hands of green-dedicated investors.

Building on the Bank's ten-year strategy for 2013-2022, whose overarching objective is to promote inclusive and sustainable growth by supporting African countries transition to "green growth", the Bank established a Green Bond Framework in 2013 with the goal of supporting the Bank's commitments towards climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Labour



NNPC says no plan for mass staff retirement

IKE AMOS

Abuja -- The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, has allayed fears of mass retirement of its staff, while it disclosed that it has retired some of its staff who had been performing below standards.

The company disclosed this in a statement issued in Abuja.

Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Dr. Maikanti Baru, in the statement, explained that the recent retirement of some staff following the last management promotion exercise in the corporation was restricted to those who had been performing below par.

Baru, who stated this at a programme organised by the Corporate Services Autonomous

Business Units, ABU, of the corporation, to showcase its products and services to the public, said of the retirement of the staff: "They were a disincentive to those remaining in the system and it was only appropriate to disengage them to allow some fresh air for others to rise".

He charged the management and staff of the NNPC to go about their duties



● NNPC headquarter

and continue to give their best to the corporation and ignore the rumour of sack.

He further harped on the need for staff to be law-abiding, resourceful and disciplined, and urged them to come up with innovative ideas and best-in-class practices to reposition the NNPC and sustain its pride of place in the national economy as we strive for global recognition.

OGFZA to provide 'cheap power' at Onne Free Zone

MKPOIKANA UDOMA

Port Harcourt -- The Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority, OGFZA, has announced the licensing of a power consortium, PHEDC/ESOP, as project partners to provide cheap electricity in Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone.

The mandate of the power consortium is to provide gas-fired dedicated power to the free zone at a cost per

kilowatt of power that is lower than the going rate of diesel-generated power in the zone.

Announcing the key steps on the embedded power project to a stakeholders forum, the Managing Director of OGFZA, Mr. Umana Okon Umana, said the power project was in line with his commitment to stakeholders in the free zone during the joint stakeholders meeting of August 2017, that OGFZA

would "provide embedded power as a cost cutting measure to improve competitiveness in the Free Zones."

Umana also announced to the stakeholders

that OGFZA will be collaborating with another energy firm, Axxela Ltd, "to deliver holistic energy

solutions to our free zones".

On the issue of tariffs in the free zones, Umana assured that the Authority will continue

to address concerns to ensure that tariffs are at all times moderated to fair and reasonable levels, in the best interest of all.



● Onne port



Teams-thrill-fans-at-OML-58-football-tournament

Total kicks-off football competition for OML 58 communities



A cross section of the beneficiaries of the 2016 Post-Graduate Foreign Scholarship Programme of the NDDC before collecting their letters of award at the Presidential Hotel, Port Harcourt.

MKPOIKANA UDOMA

Port Harcourt -- The Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, has presented award letters to 200 graduates from the Niger Delta region for its 2018 Post-

Graduate Foreign Scholarship Programme.

Making the presentations during a pre-departure briefing and orientation in Port Harcourt, NDDC Managing Director, Mr. Nsima Ekere, charged the scholars to be

ambassadors of the Niger Delta region as they carry the flag of Nigeria to foreign lands.

Ekere, who was represented by the Director Special Duties, Dr. Princewill Ekanim, said that the Foreign Post-Graduate Scholarship Programme was an important component of the Commission's human capital development programme.

He noted that the programme which started in 2010 had so far benefited

1,904 students, mostly at the Masters' Degree level, adding that about 4,000 candidates applied for this year's programme, out of which 200 were selected.

"We recognise the need to bridge the huge manpower deficit in the Niger Delta region, especially in Engineering, Science and Technology, EST, the fields that drive the oil industry. Our aim is to build a pool of professionals that can compete at the global stage,"

he said.

Ekere advised the scholarship beneficiaries to avoid distractions so as to also excel in their studies. "We are sending you out to go and study and come back to impact the Niger Delta region and the entire Nigerian system for good. That is the essence of the scholarship programme," he emphasised.

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