



Oyelami sub-station, Ibadan before MOMAS' intervention

Oyelami sub-station, Ibadan after installation of MOMAS' Enhancement Panel (Page 5)



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TCN MD/CEO, Engr. Abdulaziz Sule

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DG, BPSR presents report, award to TCN

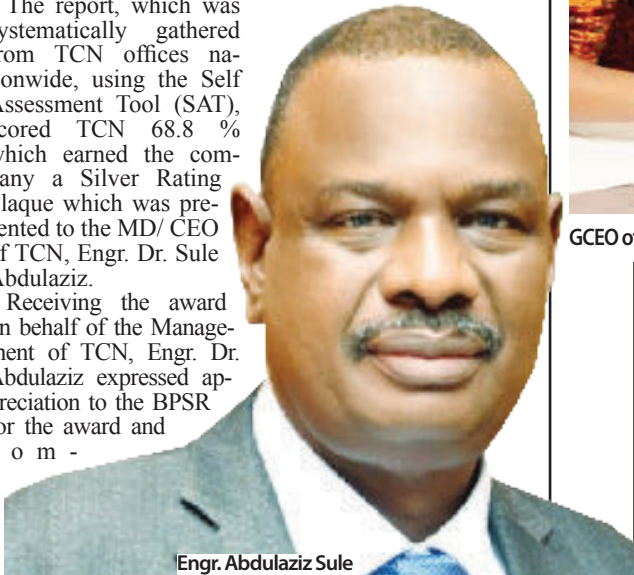
A team from the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) led by its Director General, Mr. Dasuki Ibrahim Arabi has presented a report on its assessment of TCN's performance in the power sector.

The report, which was systematically gathered from TCN offices nationwide, using the Self Assessment Tool (SAT), scored TCN 68.8 % which earned the company a Silver Rating Plaque which was presented to the MD/ CEO of TCN, Engr. Dr. Sule Abdulaziz.

Receiving the award on behalf of the Management of TCN, Engr. Dr. Abdulaziz expressed appreciation to the BPSR for the award and

com -

mended the staff of TCN for their unwavering commitment to work. He promised to continue to work with staff to consolidate the milestone achievements and attain greater heights.



Engr. Abdulaziz Sule



GCEO of NNPC Ltd., Mr. Mele Kyari (right) signing the Letter of Commitment, signifying the company's participation in the UN Global Compact.

Power sector: Why I'm desperate for change – Adelabu

Minister of Power, Adelabu, has said that because of the

short term he has, he was desperate to make a landmark change in the nation's power sector.

Speaking in Lagos, the minister who was appearing in the Nigeria's stakeholders' conference for the first time noted that as a politician and as a minister of power, he had a limited amount of time to spend, and wanted to make impact.

"I must make impact. I am determined to make impact. In setting targets for ourselves, we also need to set short-term targets. Between now and the next 20 years, my own vision is for us to increase the stored capacity of our generation to at least 20,000 megawatts in the next three years. And it doesn't stop there. We should be able to evacuate and transport this power at the minimum of 80% of the stored capacity to the end users of the exchange system. Then the last issue, there is the need to ramp up our investments

in collection technology. We need to close the meter gap as much as possible. All households, small businesses, government institutions, and industries must be properly metered so that everybody accounts for the power usage and able to pay for it. I cannot do this alone," he said.

Nigeria's power system has been ridden with so many challenges limiting its ability to achieve stable supply while grappling with 4,000MW since the past 20 years.

But Adelabu, the new Minister of Power, said: "I've diagnosed the issues to a large extent, and I've found out that the solutions are not as difficult as we all believe."

To confront the challenges, he said there was need to harmonize business relationship in the sector.

"We need to get all the value chain, the transmission company, DisCos, generation companies, to the discourse, for us to achieve that power by 2030, 2060. Of course, a lot of investment is required. From the three weeks I've spent in office, I've seen so much enormous investments that have gone into this sub-sector. But what do we have to show for it? For those investments to really benefit from this sector, additional investments in terms of equity and capital need to come into the industry. This is not an industry that's for shorter players. You come in, you don't expect to start making profits in one to three years. No, this is a future to long-term investment. Investors must understand that. By the moment you are able to break even and start making profits, sincerely, you will all be amazed. It's a yield industry, and I can tell you that."

On Nigeria Electricity Act 2023, Adelabu said: "I am confident that the impact will soon be felt by all Nigerians. Let me use this opportunity to emphasize that the Nigeria Electricity

Act 2023, signed into law by President Bola Tinubu, on the 8th of June 2023, is a testament to our commitment to transforming the electricity landscape in Nigeria. As a game changer that will promote the nuclear energy supply chain in Nigeria, the Act will conduct an agenda to increase assets of electricity, enhance regulatory oversight, clean energy transition, improve sales delivery, and infrastructure development. In particular, the Act will stimulate economic growth by creating a conducive environment for investment and competition. It will generate job opportunities, encourage entrepreneurship, and attract foreign direct investments. Let us work together to implement this legislation effectively, ensuring that its benefits are realized by all."

On metering, the Minister noted: "Today we have over eight million meter gap in Nigeria. If we can reduce or eliminate this gap and come up with technology to ensure that connections are monitored and we are able to collect not less than 90% of power distributed, of course, liquidity is assured in this country. This is an industry that I believe is even bigger than the telecoms industry. Look at the telecom operators. Across all the segments in the value chain, all of them have a good and successful story to tell. The same should happen with the power sector. From the gas companies to the power generating companies to the transmitters, we must be telling good stories. This industry needs liquidity. I would also need to improve online communication to the general public who have a lot of role to play. The issue of vandalism, bypassing of meters, damages to government properties, we need to let them know that they have a role to play because this journey to achieve our targets is not something that just a single operator in the value chain can achieve."



NCDMB's support aids our investment in cable wire business – MicCom COO

The Chief Operating Officer of MicCom Cables and Wires, Bukola Adubi, has said that as a result of the support her company was getting from the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) through its effective and efficient implementation of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, MicCom was now constantly thinking of upgrades and additional investments.

ENERGY TIMES reports that the NOGICD Act, enacted in 2010, is aimed at domiciling local oil and gas industry capacities.

Adubi, while commending the NCDMB for effectively implementing the Act, said that the Act had created significant opportunities for local companies, like MicCom, to play actively in

the oil and gas industry.

According to Adubi, the NOGICD Act protects local manufacturers like MicCom.

"The NOGICD Act has opened tremendous doors. We wouldn't have been part of these oil and gas projects. But it has ensured that local manufacturers like us are protected. We're protected as long as we're qualified to do the job," she said.

"It's amazing that end-users, the clients, are also just as happy for the most part. I'm happy to note that the feedback we've received from them has been fantastic thus far. It's a great deal for us, and I need to acknowledge the NCDMB because they've ensured that the Act becomes implementable. They've empowered people like ourselves, causing us to think upgrades, additional investments. With more

investments will come more employment opportunities; with additional investments will come additional money for the government in the form of taxes. It's a truly fantastic opportunity we've had, and I know there's still a long way to go," she said

On some of the projects the company has executed for governments, residential as well as the oil and gas industry, Adubi said that MicCom was the biggest supplier to the defunct National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) and even now with the PHCN DisCos, adding that the company played an active role in the building of some of the power distribution stations across the country.

She reminisced that the company was also part of the initial electrification of the international airport in Lagos at the time, which was how the journey started for MicCom.

Petroleum Minister hails NCDMB on skill devt project, urges timely completion

Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, has commended the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) for its intervention in the construction of the proposed Centre for Skills Development and Training (CSDT) at Omagwa, Ikwere Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The project, initiated by the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) to promote acquisition of skills relevant to oil and gas industry operations, has been under construction since 2011. It received a much-needed boost with the entry of the NCDMB as co-financier after due negotiations with the PTDF.

Disciplines earmarked for the CSDT by the PTDF include automobile works, basic electrical works, basic requirements in Health Safety and Environment (HSE), catering, electronics repairs, masonry, seismic survey technology, welding, and fabrication.

At 85% completion, the scope and quality of work done were impressive to the minister, who arrived at the project site on a facility tour on Wednesday, but he was displeased that project execution was stalled because of wrangling between the PTDF and contractors over variation-related issues and prolonged delays in payment.

The Minister who was accompanied on the tour by the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, and the Executive Secretary of PTDF, Alhaji Aminu Ahmed Galadima, said that the project was of great significance and did not have to remain uncom-

pleted any longer.

“We have to move forward,” he stated, adding that “further intervention by the Board is necessary to reap the full benefits of the investments already made.”

After interrogation of some contractors and confirmation by the PTDF boss that funds are now available for payment to one of them, Senator Lokpobiri extracted a commitment from the latter that the outstanding section of work would be completed within six weeks.

Overall, for the Centre to be successful in fulfilling the aims for its establishment, he said: “We have to set up a sustainable management structure that will keep the facility at a globally acceptable standard.”

Speaking earlier on how NCDMB became involved in the project, Engr. Wabote said that it was the determination of the Board to check the proliferation of vocational centres, which were as many as 250 in the three states of Rivers, Bayelsa and Akwa Ibom. Most of them, he noted, were non-functional even though they had been completed and equipped. Equipment in all had been stolen or vandalised, so it became necessary to establish standardized and Federal Government-backed vocational centres at strategic locations.

NCDMB, according to him, had signified its preparedness to take over CSDT when it became apparent that the feuding parties, PTDF and its contractors, could not resolve their differences. He expressed optimism that the work would progress smoothly after the facility visit, and effective management would be put in place at the time of take-off.



Cooking Gas scarcity looms

- As NLNG hikes price, depots empty, 1kg hits N1,200
- 20 metric tons rises to N14m from N10m in a month
- Operators raise alarm

By Omoyemi Gbenga

There are strong indications that cooking gas consumers may pay higher price than expected as virtually all plants are now empty as price for 20 metric tons has shot up to N14 million against N11 million a month ago.

Investigation conducted revealed that of the 13 LPG plants in the country, only five depots were selling and at N14 million per 20 metric tons while others are empty.

Gas retailers have warned that the price of 12.5 kilogramme (kg) cooking gas might hit N18,000 by December if the Federal Government did not restrict the activities of the terminal owners.

The President, Nigerian Association of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Marketers (NALPGAM), Olatunbosun Oladapo, said that the price of Liquefied Petroleum Gas also known as cooking gas had “gone astronomically high at terminals as a result of a sudden increment from N9million to N10million per 20 metric tons to N14 million per 20 metric tons.

“There is a ridiculous hike in gas prices going on right now, and I am afraid that if the Federal Government does not step in to checkmate the activities of these terminal owners, price could reach as high as N18 million per metric tons by December. This means that a 12.5kg could go as high as N18,000.”

According to him, terminal owners were “hiding under the guise of high foreign exchange to increase price to further increase the suffering of the masses.”

Olatunbosun said that there was no justification for the increment, as the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas Limited still supplied the market.

He said: “NNPCL currently takes 59% of the gas produced by NLNG, although NLNG has also increased its price from N6 million to N8million. Now, because NLNG has increased price, NNPCL and terminal owners have increased price to N14million.

“The increase in price that would take effect is not the fault of retailers. It is the fault of NLNG and terminal owners. Even NNPCL is hiding under the guise that they are now privatised to increase prices. As of last week, 1kg was N800 at the terminal, it’s now N900 per 1kg and, in some cases, N1,200, and could reach N1,500 by December.”

A survey by ENERGY TIMES revealed that the price of cooking gas had hit an all-time high of N1000 per kg in some parts of the country including Lagos, Abuja, and Kano and Ibadan.

The marketers further stated that the cost of cooking gas at the terminals in Lagos, Port Harcourt and Delta had skyrocketed, reaching an all-time high of N14million per 20MT.

In Lagos, the prices vary in different parts of the state, with prices ranging from N650 to N900 per kg.

For example, in Victoria Island and Lekki-Ajah axis, it is between N850 and N900 per kg, while in Ikorodu, Abule Egba and Ikeja, the LPG per kg price stood at N800 and N850.

In Abuja, the price increased from N680 to between N850 and N900 per kg, while in Port Harcourt, it ranges from N800 to N900 per kg, and in Kano State, 1 kg price varies from N950 to N1000 depending on the depot.

Olatunbosun, however, warned that if the indiscriminate price fixing by LPG producers, importers, and terminal owners was not curbed, a kilogramme of cooking gas could soon be sold for between N1,200 and N1,500.

He also stressed that 12.5kg cylinder could hit N13,000 by December, making cooking gas a luxury item that the common man could no longer afford.

The NALPGAM President said that very soon, a common man will no longer use gas again in Nigeria.

“As of today, 20 million metric tons is N14 million, and there is an attempt by the gas tank farm owners and off-takers to increase the price far above what the marketers can afford.

Olatunbosun further criticized the sharp increase in the domestic price of cooking gas in Nigeria from N650 to above N900 in less than one week.

He noted that it was unfair for importers to immediately adjust the domestic price of cooking gas when the international price had barely gone 3.61% up to the \$2.7476 per gallon mark, which was still relatively low compared to the global trend of rising gas prices.

He said: “Serious economies are taking measures to cut the prices of cooking gas to rein in inflation, while gas importers and off-takers in Nigeria have enjoyed the liberty of raising prices due to higher international oil prices.

The President of NALPGAM further hinted that LPG price had been consistent despite fluctuations in the international pricing framework, lamenting that despite this development, the prices of cooking gas in Nigeria had been on the rise, and retailers were being forced to increase by 80% in the next three months.

Olatunbosun alleged that the importers and producers in Nigeria increased the price of petroleum products by more than 27% and 30% when the international rate had barely increased by 0.28%.

He said: “Currently, 1kg of gas is being sold for N900, N950, and N1000 in most places across Nigeria. Why are the importers comparing the situation in Europe and the US with Nigeria, where the poorest in those countries earn \$11 per hour, while the poorest in Nigeria have no hope of any earning? It is challenging for someone earning N50,000 and N70,000 per month in Nigeria to find the money to buy cooking gas in the way that the poor in the US are buying. Although the cooking gas market is deregulated and prices

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“As of last week, 1kg was N800 at the terminal, it’s now N900 per 1kg and, in some cases, N1,200, and could reach N1,500 by December.”



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L-R: Director (Schools) Delta State Ministry of Education, Winifred Ighavbota; Community Adviser, Western Asset, NNPC E&P Ltd, Owunari Levi; Director, External Affairs & Sustainability, Seplat Energy Plc, Chioma Afe; Permanent Secretary, Edo State Ministry of Education, Ero Ugiagbe; and Corporate Social Responsibility Manager, Seplat Energy, Esther Icha, at the flag off of the Seplat Energy JV Seplat Teachers' Empowerment Programme (STEP) 2023 edition in Benin ... on Wednesday

Nigerian Gas Association (NGA) shines bright at Gastech 2023 Conference in Singapore

The Nigerian Gas Association (NGA) proudly marked its presence at the prestigious Gastech 2023 conference, held in Singapore from September 4 to 7, 2023, where with the support of corporate members such as the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG), it championed and advanced the Nigerian Decade of Gas agenda on a global stage.

Gastech is renowned as the world's largest gathering of energy professionals, serving as a platform for industry leaders, innovators, and experts to discuss and address the most pressing challenges and opportunities in the global energy sector.

President of the NGA, Akachukwu Nwokedi, emphasised Nigeria's commitment to sustainable energy solutions and the pivotal role of natural gas in the nation's energy transition.

Mr. Nwokedi stated: "Nigeria is at the forefront of the global energy landscape, and our participation at Gastech 2023 underscores our commitment to drive positive change in the industry. Natural gas is an indispensable catalyst for sustainable development and energy security, and we take great pride in spotlighting Nigeria's vast potential in this sector."

He added: "The Decade of Gas policy is propelling Nigeria to become a regional and global gas hub, offering economic opportunities and sustainable energy solutions. Our esteemed corporate members, NNPC and NLNG, are pivotal in driving these initiatives, collaborating actively to advance Nigeria's position as a prominent player in the global gas market. Their active participation at Gastech reinforced Nigeria's commitment to responsible gas production for domestic use and export markets."

The NGA's strong presence at Gastech 2023 underscored its commitment to fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and promoting Nigeria's role in shaping the future of global energy.

In a groundbreaking moment at Gastech 2023, which was supported by the NGA, Dateline Energy Services (DESL) became the first Nigerian Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) to design a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Coastal Carrier Barge. DESL and CITRA SHIPYARD, a globally recognised shipbuilding company in Batam, Indonesia, used the event to sign kick-off agreements.

How NNPC acquired OVH Energy – Kyari

The Group Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Mele Kyari, has explained in details why the NNPC acquired OVH Energy and how it's helping the company to grow its business.

Kyari, who was speaking before an investigative panel hearing of the Ad-hoc Committee on the acquisition of OVH Energy by NNPC, said that the organisation did nothing wrong in the acquisition as it was purely a business decision that had begun to yield result less than one year after it was done.

According to him, with the acquisition, NNPC now has over 900 fuel stations spread across the country, while controlling about 30% of market in the downstream sector of the petroleum industry.

Recalled that NNPC on October 1, 2022, formally announced the acquisition of 380 OVH Energy Marketing Limited's downstream assets.

The assets acquired from the company, which operates Oando filling stations, include a reception jetty with 240,000 metric tons monthly capacity and eight liquefied petroleum gas plants, three lubes blending plants, three aviation depots, and 12 warehouses.

Kyari said last week that the acquisition had paid off.

"We started NNPC Retail Limited in the year 2000 and until the period of acquiring the OVH chain, we were not able to grow organically. We only had 48 stations that we owned and a myriad of companies that are affiliates all over the country, some of which were not functional fuel stations, they could not serve the purpose because there were dealers who could not pay for the cost of the products and we had locations where we could not guarantee either the quantity or quality of the products sold.

"We failed to grow organically for 23 years. The only way to bridge that gap is to do something strategic and this is very difficult in our industry. You have to acquire other people's assets and you want to grow to achieve the objective of the PIA and grow this company to the business we want it to be.

"The corporation has been a loss making corporation for many years. With the transformation, they came into the company before the PIA and after the PIA, this company is now a net profit company declaring profit for its shareholders. We saw the opportunity to acquire this asset and add to our portfolio so that we can meet the requirements of the law. Right now, we are in control of 30% of the market in the downstream by this acquisition.

"Acquisition of companies are always within internal processes of the company and every

company has its own internal processes.

In the case of OVH, they had two options. It is either that they go to the exchange and sell 100% equity or do a management buy-out. This is not new and this is what OVH opted for. We had no idea that they were doing this. They got to the point of sale. We saw the opportunity and waited for the deal to be closed and then latched on it and we are proud that we made this acquisition.

"We have nothing to hide, but this is a commercial relationship. But we did nothing wrong. We know that there are acquisitions that have taken place in this country, far less in scale and value than what we got.

"We have taken this acquisition through all the processes and procedures established by

the Companies and Allied Matters Act, the PIA and memorandum and article of association. So, there is nothing hidden. We have seen it in the media that it was a corrupt acquisition and this is far from the truth. It is painful, but we have agreed; to serve the country and it will come at a cost'.

"Five years backward, the NNPC Retail Limited's highest profit of N6. 593 billion came in 2021. But in the first quarter of 2023, after the acquisition of OVH, we had a profit of N18.4 billion. It is nothing because we have expanded, we have more footprint, better brand and greater capacity in terms of our market share. We were struggling to reach 15 to 20% in 23 years. But we are hitting 30% of market share in less than one year.

TotalEnergies, Adani to form 1,050MW renewables JV in India

TotalEnergies SE has committed \$300 million in equity investment to form an Indian joint venture (JV) with Adani Green Energy Ltd. (AGEL) targeting a wind and solar electricity portfolio of 1,050 megawatts of alternating current (MWac) in capacity.

"This portfolio will comprise a mix of already operational (300 MWac), under construction (500 MWac) & under development assets (250 MWac) with a blend of both solar & wind power", a joint press statement said.

AGEL, the renewables unit of the Indian diversified conglomerate, Adani Group, will contribute all the assets.

"Thanks to this new transaction, TotalEnergies will reinforce its strategic alliance with AGEL and support the company in becoming the Indian leader of renewable energy, with a target of 45 GW [gigawatts] renewable power capacity by 2030," the news statement said.

The agreement is subject to customary closing conditions including regulatory approvals.

TotalEnergies is growing its renewables capacity as part of its efforts to get to net zero emissions by 2050. The French energy giant had 19 GW in in-

stalled capacity for renewable power generation as of July, according to the media statement. TotalEnergies has set a target of hitting 35 GW in gross renewable power generation capacity by 2025 and 100 GW by 2030.

"TotalEnergies has been actively developing, notably through AGEL, its presence in the Indian renewable power

market, a very interesting market by its size and growth and the early development of a merchant market," TotalEnergies Chief Executive, Patrick Pouyanne, said in a statement.

Adani chairman, Gautam Adani, commented: "The investment will further strengthen the pivotal role played by AGEL in India's glide path to decarbonization."

Nigeria, Cuba sign science, tech pact

The Nigerian delegation to the G77+China Summit led by Vice President Kashim Shettima signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Republic of Cuba.

The Director of Information, Office of the Vice President, Mr. Olusola Abioa, in a statement, said that the Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Mr. Uche Nnaji, signed the MoU for the Government of Nigeria.

The signing ceremony, which took place on the sidelines of the G77+China Summit at Hotel Palco La Habana, was the high point of Nigeria's participation at the summit.

Nnaji said that the MoU would further enhance collaboration in the field of innovation, science

and technology between the two countries.

The minister praised President Bola Tinubu for his visionary leadership which had resulted in the signing of the agreement.

Nnaji, who assured that Nigeria would maximise the opportunities provided by the bilateral agreement, stressed that the implementation of the agreement would commence in earnest.

He expressed determination to put in place the appropriate mechanism to work out the modalities for programme of action.

Earlier, Shettima averred that Nigeria placed high premium on South-South cooperation as a platform for promoting sustainable development of the global South.

The bilateral agreement would

focus on research and development.

Other areas include human resource development which will further deepen partnership between the two countries.

The areas of cooperation covered by the bilateral agreement include biotechnology, scientific investigation and innovation, technological development and human resources development.

Others are specialist exchanges in the area of science and technology, and technologies transfer for development areas.

The historic event was witnessed by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb. Adamu Lamuwa, Nigeria's Ambassador to Cuba, Amb. Ben Okoyen and other senior government officials.

Benefits of MOMAS Enhancement Power Panel

Continued from Page 1

The enhancement distribution substation concept with surveillance for the substation had the following features;

- Replacement of the faded-out feeder pillar with MOMAS power enhancement panel [with in-built Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) for dual supply]
- Reappraisal of the substation earthing system to standard
- Cables termination and jointing using Pfisterer lugs and connectors
- Replacement of bad Ring Main Unit (RMU) with a new one (for substations with RMU)
- High voltage (HV) line clearing (installation of gang isolator, d-fuse, lightning arrestors, xlpe cable re-termination, changing of the bad cables and retermination.)
- Upriser – overhead 415 cable clearing and neatening(putting of line tap where necessary, changing of d-iron, bad cables are cut-off and reterminated)
- Beatification of the substation
- Surveillance infusion
- Fencing of the substation, painting and interlocking
- Filling of the substation with granite

1.2 Features of the Momas Distribution Power Enhancement Panel

- Dual circuit to accommodate two (2) different sources of power supply
- In-built Automatic Transfer Switch (ATS) to select one available supply. These supply could also be manually selected
- Equipped with automatic reactive compensators to boost supply
- Has a meter for each source of power supply
- Can conveniently feed three (3) uprisers. Some other designs can feed more than three (3) uprisers.
- Has residual current protection circuit breakers to which each uprisher is connected

The residual current protection circuit breaker does the following:

- To provide indirect contact protection ;
- To prevent the damage to insulation of the equipment which will produce the fire hazards caused by the grounding fault current;
- They can be used to distribute power,
- Protect circuit and power equipment from overload, under-voltage, short-circuit, single phase grounding and other malfunctions.
- It has a high performance 32-bit ARM microprocessor which is used to carry out signal processing and intelligent control in real time
- It has LCD display with good human-machine interface for easy operation
- It has residual current protection that can be shift and fixable online
- It has three stage protection (long delay, short delay and instantaneous) with electronic tripping, independent of power supply voltage.
- With communication function, remote signaling, telemetry, remote control, remote adjustment can be realized
- It has a high breaking capacity which ensure the reliability of short-circuit protection on the line
- Identification and display of tripping type (residual current, blocking, overload, under voltage, overvoltage phase loss), which can be stored, queried and deleted



Chairman, Momas Group of Companies, Engr. Kola Balogun



Dr Omar Farouk Ibrahim, of African Petroleum Producer's Organisation (APPO), Mr. Anibor Ohiole Kragha of African Refiners and Distributors Association (ARDA) and Mr Bashir Sadiq, Executive Director, and others, at the World Petroleum Congress in Canada recently.

NNPC/SNEPCo, Irede Foundation supports special need pupils in five-year deal

A partnership between the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited, Shell Nigeria Exploration Company Limited (NNPC/SNEPCo) and an NGO, The Irede Foundation, has been supporting pupils living with disabilities with prosthetic limbs and training to enable them to acquire education and lead productive lives.

Among other achievements, the partnership which has been on for five years, provided prosthetic limbs to 25 child amputees who have since returned to school and upgraded The Irede Foundation Prosthetic Limb Centre for conducive limb production, fitting, and rehabilitation process. To date, the centre has catered to more than 150 child amputees.

Four prosthetic limbs were handed out at a ceremony in Lagos recently in the latest outreach under the partnership. "Every year, it brings us even more joy to have new friends join us and we are so proud of the progress our old friends are making in their personal lives after receiving their artificial limbs," SNEPCo Managing Director, Elohon Aiboni said.

She added: "At Shell, powering progress means powering lives and livelihoods through our products and activities, and by supporting an inclusive society which the limb support

initiative aims to promote. As we continue to work for the socio-economic development of our country and its people, we constantly recognise that the future of any nation lies in its children."

The Chief Upstream Investment Officer, NNPC Upstream Investment Management Services (NUIMS) Mr. Bala Wunti, said: "Our mission is not just to provide physical support, but to empower these children to reach for the stars. With these prosthetics, we are giving them the wings to fly, the legs to run, and the confidence to embrace life's challenges head-on."

Wunti, who was represented by NUIMS External Relations Deputy Manager, Mrs. Bunmi Lawson, said: NNPC Limited would continuously champion the implementation of Sustainable projects and programmes that would positively impact the lives of Nigerian citizens.

Executive Director, The IREDE Foundation, Mrs. Crystal Chigbu, described the partnership with NNPC/SNEPCo as a "transformative collaboration." She said: "Five years ago, we embarked on a journey filled with hope, purpose, and a shared commitment to make a difference in the lives of children. Today, as we reflect on our collective efforts, we can proudly

say that we have made a profound impact."

The impact of the partnership has stretched beyond young lives. It has promoted inclusion in a public outreach christened "Out on A Limb Walk" and equipped secondary school students with the information and skills to support fellow students living with limb disabilities. In addition, the partnership has educated nearly 5,000 pupils about disability through discussions and distribution of a comic book created by The Irede Foundation to drive advocacy for children living with disabilities.

NNPC signs up to United Nations Global Compact

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd. (NNPCL) has signed up as a participant of the United Nations Global Compact, thereby becoming the first state-owned oil company to join the global initiative.

In a short ceremony on the sidelines of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's session during the Global Africa Business Initiative (GABI) at the ongoing United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, the GCEO of NNPC Ltd., Mr. Mele Kyari, signed the Letter of Commitment, signifying NNPC Ltd's participation in the UN Global Compact.

Speaking shortly after signing, the GCEO said that as a dynamic global energy company with businesses and operations across the entire spectrum of the energy value chain, NNPC Ltd.'s participation in the UN Global Compact was a further testimony to Nigeria's commitment to work with global partners towards attaining a just Energy Transition.

The GCEO added that with this development, NNPC Ltd. supported the Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact on human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption.

"We are committed to making the UN Global Compact and its principles part of our strategy, culture and day-to-day operations of our company, and to engage in collaborative projects which advance the broader development of goals of the United Nations, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," Kyari added.

TCN calls for energy storage regulation amid power crisis

The Managing Director of Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Sule Abdulaziz, has called for proper regulation of energy storage in the power sector.

Abdulaziz disclosed this at the ongoing three-day 2023 Nigeria Energy Leadership Summit in Lagos.

The TCN boss, who was represented by the company's General Manager, Regulation and Compliance, Ali Bukar, said the 2023 Electricity Act failed to tackle the issue of storage.

"There should be a regulation in the electricity market to account for the amount of energy individuals and households are supposed to store for safety reasons. What is missing in the region's electricity market is energy storage, which

incidentally is one of the shortcomings of the new act," he said.

On his part, the Managing Director of the Nigeria Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA), Aliyu Tukur Tahir, said the development of technical standards and regulations was the key to mitigating electricity-associated hazards.

He stressed that the function of the agency was the enforcement of technical standards and regulations, inspection, testing and certification of all categories of electrical installations, metres and instruments to ensure the efficient production of sustainable electricity power supply.

For reliable and sustainable electricity supply, it is paramount that electricity hazards are effectively mitigated," he said.

Projects *in* Review

New Haven Substation, Enugu



April 2023

TCN takes delivery of new power transformers and accessories in New Haven Transmission Substation, Enugu.

Background ———
Ongoing TCN/World Bank-funded grid expansion projects



Scope ———

- . 150MVA 330/132/33kV Power Transformers
- . 60MVA 132/33kV Power Transformers
- . Transformer Accessories

Impact ———
Increase capacity of the New Haven Substation by 120MW on 330kV level and 80MW on 132kV level.



14, Zambezi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.

SDG4: Egbin Power boosts investment in education with scholarship to host communities

Egbin Power Plc, Nigeria's largest power generation company, has continued to promote academic excellence and gradual achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the host communities through its scholarship programme, which is now in its 8th edition.

During the presentation of awards to beneficiaries of the scholarship, the GenCo restated its commitment to education in line with SDG 4 that "aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all."

The beneficiaries in this year's edition, drawn from public schools in the host communities, Egbin, Ijede and Ipakan, were presented with the scholarship awards which cover all school expenses, including tuition, textbooks, and school uniforms in addition to other educational items.

Speaking at the ceremony organised to honour the beneficiaries, the Chief Executive Officer, Egbin Power Plc, Mokhtar Bounour, explained that education remained the bedrock of transformational advancement of societies, socio-economic growth and human capital development, which the company strongly promotes through its various initiatives.

"The foundation of development in any community, society or nation is education because it brings sustainability, progress and raises future leaders for a more prosperous society. At Egbin Power, we realize the significance of quality education, that is why we have continued to provide the scholarship programme in our host communities, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all," Mokhtar Bounour said.

"Education is a child's right, as it strengthens the developmental capacities of individuals, communities, groups, institutions, and countries. That is why we have instituted this scholarship programme to achieve rapid development in our host communities," he further explained.

While receiving the scholarship awards, one of the beneficiaries in the 2023 edition, Abimbola Akinbiyi, said that she was happy to have been one of the awardees. She commended Egbin Power Plc for creating the scholarship programme to encourage students to give their best in education.

Her father, Mr. Mark Akinbiyi, commended the GenCo, the community leaders and teachers of the school for encouraging students to participate and excel in their academic endeavour.

Ridwanullahi Sharafa, who also emerged an awardee praised the GenCo, the Management and staff for creating the platforms to support students with the scholarship.

The Special Adviser to the President on Energy, Mrs. Olu Verheijen, in partnership with the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), has wrapped up a series of strategic engagements with 15 leading international and independent Oil and Gas Companies operating in Nigeria.

These sessions, held in Lagos and Abuja, were carefully chosen after a detailed review process by NUPRC and the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Energy.

The oil companies in the deal include Chevron, Total, Shell, NAOC, Exxon Mobil, Seplat,

FG, 15 oil firms wrap up deal to deliver \$13.5bn investments in 18 months

Heirs Holdings, Waltersmith and First E&P, among others.

A key objective of the discussions was to advance a Presidential Initiative aimed at addressing the nation's revenue emergency while contributing to stabilising Nigeria's economy.

According to the Office of the special adviser on energy, results of these talks disclosed significant investment opportunities with an estimated \$55.2 billion in investments projected by

2030, of which \$13.5 billion is expected to be invested by these companies within 12 months from now.

During these consultations, participating Operators shared insights into the challenges and barriers affecting their investment strategies and the swift roll-out of planned projects.

Collectively, they also pinpointed key strategies that would ensure the delivery of 2.1 million barrels by December 2024,

positioning Nigeria well ahead of President Tinubu's campaign promise of the 2.6 million barrels by 2027. The proposed measures are also expected to cause a 100% increase in gas production by 2027, exceeding President Bola Tinubu's campaign pledge of 20% growth in that sector.

President Tinubu remains committed to overcoming these challenges, making Nigeria the top choice for energy sector investments.



Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri; Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Engr. Simbi Kesiye Wabote, and the Executive Secretary of Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), Alhaji Aminu Ahmed Galadima when the Minister undertook an inspection visit to the for Skills Development and Training (CSDT) at Port Harcourt, Rivers State, initiated by the PTDF, but now co-financed by the NCDMB.

Exxon eyes \$16bn profits by 2027

Exxon expects to generate about \$16 billion in profits from its fuels and chemicals businesses in 2027, company executives have told newsmen.

"Toward the end of this decade we see gasoline demand peaking, but it will be a long plateau," Senior Vice President, Jack Williams, said.

The increase in earnings follows the merger of Exxon's refining and chemicals business and its streamlining in order to maximize returns from both divisions.

In line with these plans, Exxon announced the start-up of two new chemicals units at its Baytown, Texas,

refinery earlier this week.

The addition cost the super major \$2 billion and was part of its long-term growth plan.

With the startup of these two new lines, ExxonMobil is delivering high-value materials for a variety of products that society depends on every day," the president of the company's Product Solutions division, Karen McKee, said.

"We achieved excellent safety performance by leveraging our expertise to plan and execute large projects, while providing meaningful investment in the U.S. Gulf Coast," McKee also said.

Exxon also expanded its Beaumont,

Texas, refinery earlier this year, adding 250,000 barrels to its daily processing capacity.

Petrochemicals are widely seen as the only long-term growth path for oil and gas companies. The reason is, of course, the energy transition that many argue will decimate demand for oil as a transport fuel.

The International Energy Agency earlier this month forecast that oil demand will peak before 2030 as EVs displaced internal combustion engines. OPEC disagreed, however, warning against such forecasts as they could endanger global energy security by discouraging investment in oil and gas production.

Cooking Gas scarcity looms

Continued from Page 3

are determined by the international market rate, the justification by marketers in Nigeria is still skewed against the masses who cannot afford to buy gas.

He said: "Cooking gas is not a luxury item, and it is important that the price is affordable to protect the country against the impact of climate change and guarantee a good livelihood for the masses. The poor, who rely on cooking gas to prepare their meals, are particularly vulnerable. While market dynamics may be used as an excuse, the government has a responsibility to intervene on behalf of the poor and bridge the gap between the rich

and the poor. Failure to do so could result in suffocating the poor while the rich ones live on. It is time for the government to take action and ensure that cooking gas is accessible to all Nigerians," the NALPGAM President said.

Olatunbosun urged the Minister of State for Gas Resources, Ekerikpe Epko, and other government agencies to audit the volume of cooking gas supplied to the domestic market by the Nigerian Liquefied Petroleum Gas (NLNG).

He questioned why other local gas producers were selling at a price equivalent to the imported product, insisting that such an act was a rip-off on innocent Nigerians. He said

that they should justify their claims of high prices and disclose the origin of their products.

According to him, most of the cooking gas in the market comes from local producers in Nigeria, with only a few quantities being shipped into the country.

"Therefore, it is wrong for importers to use foreign exchange volatility as an excuse to inflate prices," he said. NALPGAM challenged the importers to show the documents justifying their claims and prove that they were not selling at exorbitant prices.

Olatunbosun also alleged that some importers were selling 20 metric tons of cooking gas at N14

million after receiving the products from local producers at less than N8 million.

The NALPGAM President enjoined President Tinubu to ask the importers to reduce their greed for profiteering on cooking gas.

He said: "With the consumption of cooking gas dropping in the last year to around 700,000 metric tons per annum, many Nigerians are resorting to using charcoal, firewood, and mixing petrol with other fuel to cook. This has led to deforestation and environmental degradation, which could further compound Nigeria's exposure to erosion and desert encroachment. The government needs to find a way to make life better for people, as buying gas is no longer affordable for many, and the only alternative will be for people to cut down trees."

He called on gas importers and off-takers to be sensitive to the plight of the masses, which should not be seen as an attempt to bring back subsidy, but to ensure that essential commodities were affordable to all.

Olatunbosun called on the Minister of State for Gas Resources and other government agencies to audit the volume of cooking gas supplied to the domestic market by the Nigerian Liquefied Petroleum Gas (NLNG) and determine the rate and quantity at which it is being supplied.

He also stated that other local gas producers, including Kwale Hydrocarbon Nigeria Limited (KHNL), Matrix Energy Limited, were selling at prices equivalent to imported products, which he described as a rip-off on innocent Nigerians.



A side view of the chest clinic donated to General Hospital, Eleme, Rivers State. Representative of the Rivers State Commissioner for Health cutting the tape to commission the Chest clinic at Eleme donated

EKEDC gets ISO 27001 Certification in Information Security Management System

Eko Electricity Distribution Company (EKEDC), Nigeria's leading utility company, has attained another milestone with the conferment of internationally recognized certification in Information Security Management System, ISO 27001:2013.

The ISO 27001 certification is the global standard for information security management systems that ensures that organizations keep information assets secure by building an information security infrastructure against loss, damage, theft, and other threats to information assets.

Speaking at the certification presentation ceremony, Managing Director/CEO of EKEDC, Dr. Tinuade Sanda, said the company was thrilled to receive the certification after a rigorous audit process by internationally certified auditors based in India, Syndicate of International System Certifications (SIS Cert.) in conjunction with Leitung Gate Limited, who provided all the needed support.

She added that it was a testament to the company's commitment to the highest security, ethical and professional standards.

She added: "It is quite remarkable that we can achieve this after a meticulous exercise by the certifying body. I am particularly pleased with my team's support throughout the audit process. I also want to appreciate the special workgroup and champions who saw this through. I am humbled to lead this great group of dedicated and talented individuals."

I'll solve challenges in Nigeria's oil, gas industry – Tinubu

President Bola Tinubu has assured international investors that he was poised to solve the challenges in Nigeria's oil and gas industry having worked in the sector him-

self. Consequently, he said that Nigeria was open for business now more than ever. "We know the industry. We grew up in it. We are positioned

to solve the problems, and we are pragmatic, and we will solve the problem," Tinubu told a delegation consisting of the global leadership of oil and gas transnational giant, ExxonMobil, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, USA.

Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Ajuri Ngelale, disclosed this in a statement titled: "Nigeria has the resources and the leadership, we have never been more ready for business," President Tinubu tells global energy industry."

Tinubu asserted that Africa's giant was no longer settling for crumbs and leftovers on the in-

vestment agenda of the world's most prolific energy conglomerates, saying; "Nigeria has never been more ready for business than it is now."

He said that following an illustrious private sector career as a professional accountant in the oil & gas industry, he had proven his capacity to take difficult decisions as President and was best prepared to solve problems and crush all bottlenecks standing in the way of new and large-scale capital flowing into Nigeria's oil & gas industry.

"The knotty issues require direct supervision on my part," the President said.

Ikeja Electric takes delivery of new meters, resumes distribution

Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company has said it had resumed distribution of pre-paid meters under the Meter Assets Providers programme.

This was revealed by the Head, Metering Team for Ikeja Electric, Morenikeji Amosun, at a virtual stakeholders' forum.

While giving an update on IE's metering efforts to customers during the meeting, Amosun said that a new set of meters had been imported under the programme, and deployment would resume.

He added that the firm would first clear backlogs of old orders made about two-three months ago before attending to fresh orders.

According to him, electricity customers who had paid the old prices before the newly released prices by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission, would be metered without additional payment, while fresh orders

would attract new meter prices.

He said: "We can assure you that MAPs has brought in new meters and customers will start getting their meters in the coming week and beyond. But the focus would first be on those that had ordered about two/three months ago at old prices. For those that had paid old prices, no additional payment would be required from them before they get their meters. But new orders would carry the new prices."



NOGASA decries incessant diesel price increase in Nigerian market

The Natural Oil and Gas Suppliers' Association of Nigeria (NOGASA), has raised alarm over the incessant increase in the price of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) called diesel.

The National President of NOGASA, Mr. Benneth Korie, in a statement recently, said that the frequent increase in diesel price had made it difficult for suppliers to access product and loans from commercial banks for doing their businesses.

Korie said that the association was worried about the ugly development and had been trying to understand why the price of diesel had continued to go up as high as N950 to N1,100 per litre.

"This rise in prices are also evidently causing veritable hardships to

haulage transportation and commuters alike.

Korie, therefore, called on the government to intervene before it would affect the sector and derail the anticipated growth it is working towards achieving.

According to him, "this will be counter-productive to the aspirations of our overall national economy."

The president said that the meeting of the association scheduled to hold in October would take adequate steps towards finding lasting solutions to the problem.

"However, the price of crude oil as at today is \$95 per barrel and the dollar exchange is racing towards N1,000 per dollar.

"Consequently, the Nigeria refineries should be given emergency

attention by government to forestall the nose-diving of the economy.

"NOGASA has been playing a pivotal role in the oil and gas industry and will continue to ensure the availability of adequate supplies of products to Nigerians.

"We will continue to deliver on our mandate as we make progress in the oil and gas industry," he said.

He advised that suppliers should go about their respective businesses until proper resolution of the problem had been taken at the meeting.

He said that NOGASA, as a premiere organisation of legitimate, organised and proficient suppliers, dealers, stakeholders and practitioners in the nation's oil and gas sector distribution chain, would continue to provide quality services for all.

FG issues licence for 500MT auto-gas plant

The Federal Government recently intensified the push for gas usage in automobiles and domestically by issuing an Approval To Construct licence to Norettek Energy Limited for the construction of 500 metric tonnes auto-gas plant in Abuja

It also announced that similar facilities were currently being constructed in Lagos and Port Harcourt, adding that the latest licence would see to the establishment of two of such gas plants in Abuja.

"The authority is presenting an Approval To Construct a 500MT Liquefied Petroleum Gas depot to Norettek Energy Limited and this will be constructed in Gwagwalada, Abuja," the Executive Director, Distribution Systems, Storage and Retailing Infrastructure, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, Ogbu Uko, stated.

Uko, who spoke on the sidelines of the ATC presentation in Abuja, said: "There is no better time than now for the optimisation of the gas that we have. Nigeria has more than 209 trillion cubic feet of gas.

"The government has also designated gas as the transition fuel for the country. More importantly is the fact that Mr. President has given a fresh impetus to this optimisation, both by deregulating the PMS market and prioritising the

utilisation of gas." According to Uko, across the country, there are a number of projects that are at different stages of completion.

"In Apapa (Lagos), there is a big one and we are looking forward to inaugurating it in the fourth quarter of this year, or the first quarter of next year. In Port Harcourt, there is a big one as well, and even in Abuja here, at Idu, the same operator at Port Harcourt is also doing something big in Idu, but today we are celebrating Norettek and it is 500MT," he remarked.

The Managing Director of Norettek Energy Limited, Edward Traore, said that the launching of the 500MT LPG storage depot marked the first step of the proverbial 1000-mile journey.

"This initial installation lays the foundation for our planned expansion of LPG auto-gas services and infrastructure across the region as a central element of our long-term objectives. Auto-gas is a key component of our investment plan, and presents a viable, eco-friendly alternative to traditional fuels, providing both economic and environmental benefits," he further said.

He noted that the firm aimed to spearhead initiatives in CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) refuelling infrastructure and CNG conversion technology solutions.

Angola commemorates OPEC at 63rd Anniversary

Angola commemorated the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and renewed its commitment to market stability on the second day of the Angola Oil & Gas 2023 Conference & Exhibition, which coincided with the 63rd anniversary of the Organisation that was founded on September 14, 1960 in Baghdad, Iraq.

OPEC plays a crucial role in stabilizing the oil market, fostering coordination and unity among petroleum producers. Angola, an OPEC member since 2007, has benefited from OPEC's efforts to support oil prices during times of turmoil, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Additionally, OPEC provides vital political and economic support to its member nations on the global energy stage.

"Angola's integration in OPEC has proved that embracing new partners produces good results. This period of collaboration between nations is at the heart of OPEC and has been contributing to the stability of the market," stated Angola's Minister of Mineral Resources, Petroleum and Gas, Diamantino Azevedo, during his opening keynote address.

"Our presence in OPEC is and always will be aligned with the strategic interests of Angola in the oil & gas sector. Cooperation among member countries is essential to facing the challenges of the energy sector," he said.

Elaborating on the importance of market stabilization and cooperation in the sector, OPEC Secretary General, Haitham al Ghais,



L-R: President, Nigerian Gas Association and General Counsel & Company Secretary, Nigeria LNG Limited, Akachukwu Nwokedi; Authority Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), Farouk Ahmed; Hon Minister of State for Gas and Petroleum Resources, Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo; Head Gas Ventures, Neconde Energy & Chairperson NGA DEI Study Group, Engr. Chichi Emenike; Chief Strategy Officer, Axxela Limited and 2nd Vice President, NGA, Olufosayo Duduyemi and Executive Vice President, Gas, Power and New Energies, Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL), Abdulkadir Ahmed, at the just concluded Gastech Exhibition and Conference 2023, in Singapore recently.

Nigerian billionaire buys Abo FPSO for \$20m

BW Offshore has closed the transaction for the sale of Abo FPSO to STAC Marine Offshore Limited, a member

Group (STAC) for \$20 million.

As part of the transaction, BW Offshore has entered into a bareboat charter with STAC to allow for uninterrupted operations for the client

during a transition period of a maximum of two months. Upon expiry of the bareboat charter, STAC will assume responsibility for operations of the unit.

Originally recognized as the "Gray Warrior," a Suezmax tanker constructed in 1976, the vessel underwent conversion at Keppel Shipyard before beginning its operations in April 2003. Abo FPSO has now reached a commendable milestone, having completed two decades of service on the Abo Field. This achievement underscores its enduring contribution to the oil and gas industry in Nigeria.

Dana Motors to launch CNG vehicles by year-end

Dana Motors Limited, the exclusive distributor of Kia vehicles in Nigeria, has revealed plans to introduce Compressed Natural Gas vehicles into the Nigerian market by the end of this year.

The firm said in a statement that the

move was part of its mission to revolutionise transportation in Nigeria, with the DFM brand of buses to be manufactured at its Lagos plant.

Having previously introduced Nigeria's first electric vehicle, the Kia Soul, Dana Motors noted that it was set to introduce a range of high-efficiency CNG-powered vehicles.

The Vice Chairman of the group, Francis Ogboro, said:

"At Dana Motors Limited, our goal is to offer Nigerians innovative, eco-friendly, and budget-friendly automotive solutions.

"The introduction of CNG-powered vehicles perfectly aligns with our vision to improve the quality of life for all Nigerians while addressing the rising cost of vehicle ownership."

Its Vice President, Olu Tikolo, added: "Recognising CNG vehicles' potential to transform public transportation, we aim to enhance Nigerians' overall quality of life.

"The launch of CNG-powered vehicles will contribute significantly to Nigeria's emissions reduction, sustainability, and affordability goals."



1,200 Osun customers arrested for energy theft in six months –IBEDC

The Ibadan Electricity Distribution Company has said that about 1,200 customers of the company within Osun Region had been arrested in the last six months for energy theft related offences.

Speaking with journalists in Osogbo on Friday, the IBEDC Senior Communication Officer, Osun Region, Kike Owoeye, who said that the company would sustain its clampdown on energy theft, described the act as economic sabotage that should be avoided by patriotic Nigerians.

According to her, many of those arrested were arraigned and fined by courts, while some other cases of energy theft were still ongoing in different courts in the state.

She said: "In the last six months, in collaboration with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), we have been able to apprehend about 1,200 energy

theft suspects.

"Some of them were paraded, some have paid their fines while some cases are still going on in court. We discovered that there is a different nature of energy theft and it includes meter bypassing, illegal connection and it is a way of suppressing the amount of money that they are supposed to pay to get the energy and it is an economic sabotage which is punishable by law.

"We are appealing to our customers to desist from that act because it is killing the business. So, we are trying as much as possible to curb it. In the process of stealing energy, the culprits might cause a fire or electrocution."

Meanwhile, Osun State Commandant of the NSCDC, Sunday Agboola, on Friday paraded five residents of Ota Efun Area of Osogbo, Osun State, arrested for energy theft.

Tobacco firm unveils solar power plant

British American Tobacco Nigeria (BATN) has unveiled its solar power plant at its Ibadan manufacturing facility.

The commissioning of the solar plant was done last week by the Area Operations Director of Sub-Saharan Africa, Charles Kyalo, and other members of the leadership team, according to a statement.

Managing Director, BAT Nigeria and cluster Director of West and Central Africa, Yarub Al-Bahrani, said that the commissioning of the 1

MWp DC grid-tied solar panel system in the Ibadan factory was a significant step forward in BAT Nigeria's journey towards sustainability.

"This initiative not only showcases the company's dedication to reducing its carbon footprint but also sets a clear example for others in the industry," he said.

He said that by harnessing the power of renewable energy, the company was not only securing a cleaner future but also contributing positively to the community and the environment."

Electricity consumers forum blames hoodlums for nation grid collapse

The Nigerian Power Consumers Forum (NPCF), has blamed the recent grid collapse in the country on sabotage by hoodlums who may not mean well for the country.

Michael Okoh, Convener of the NPCF, said this in a statement in Abuja on Thursday.

He said the grid collapse was not due to the lack of capacity on the part of the company, adding that it was a case of sabotage by hoodlums, who may not mean well for the country.

"The fire incident at the Birnin Kebbi transmission substation switchyard is more of a sabotage on the national grid systems," he said.

According to him, power engineers who have over three decades of experience, believe that technically, there is no way two power transformers separated by a reasonable distance from each other will be engulfed by fire simultaneously.

He said that transformers have inbuilt system protection and the probability of a transformer ignition is quite low.

"However, saboteurs could devise any means to disrupt the flow of electricity by pulling out transformer components," he said.

According to him, immediate enquiries into the incident, both at the 90 Mega Volt Ampere, MVA, transformer on the 330KV line and the 60MVA transformer on the 132kV line experienced a fire incident simultaneously in spite of being apart, separated by a reasonable space.

"The issue of voltage or surge was ruled out as TCN has robust protection and isolation mechanisms, instead, only internal issues within the transformer can lead to such incidents," he said.



The Management Team of EKEDC and Leitung Gate Limited during the presentation of the ISO Certificate to EKEDC at its Headquarters in Marina, Lagos...recently



L-R: - Former president of REAN, Dr. Segun Adaju, Sales Director Beebeejump Int'l Ltd, Mrs Lisa Oduntan, GM Beebeejump Int'l Ltd, Peter Zhang, Chairman Board of Trustees, Beebeejump Int'l Ltd, Otunba Omotayo Oduntan, Mr Tobi Ogunlesi, Director OBF, REA

Decklar updates pipeline status, oil trucking operations at Oza Field

Decklar Resources Incorporation and its co-venturer Millenium Oil & Gas Company Limited have provided updates regarding crude oil delivery operations at the Oza Oil Field in Nigeria.

Progress re-establishing pipeline access

The Trans-Niger Pipeline (TNP), which flows into the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC) operated Bonny export terminal, was reopened in April 2023 and remains operational. Connector lines including the pipeline serving the Oza Oil Field, are expected to be operational in the near future. Based upon public announcements, the main line of the TNP has been operating since April 2023, and recorded minimal losses due to theft and bunkering through May 2023.

The company said that updates provided by SPDC had indicated that the main line had continued operations and it was anticipated that feeder pipelines would soon be operational.

The TNP had been shut down for over one year due to vandalism and high line losses, and efforts and support from the Nigerian government are credited to a great degree for the resumption of operations.

Decklar is currently re-certifying fiscal metering equipment and has applied for all necessary permits to allow for access and production into the TNP.

The CEO of Decklar Resources, Sanmi Famuyide, said: "We are very pleased that the TNP pipeline that ties into the Bonny export terminal is back in operation. Once Decklar commences production and exports through the TNP and Bonny terminal, we anticipate being in a position to maintain continuous production and export activities through the TNP, which is a more cost-effective and efficient evacuation system for the Oza crude oil production compared to the alternative of trucking and selling to local refineries."

Trucking and sale of crude oil to ERPC's Edo refinery

Trucking of crude oil from the Oza Oil Field to the Edo Refinery and Petrochemicals Company Limited (ERPC) facility in Edo State, Nigeria, has reached a cumulative volume of over 55,000 bbls, with 10,000 bbls delivered in 2022 under the initial sale and purchase agreement and over 45,000 bbls delivered so far in 2023. Deliveries are continuing under the 200,000 bbls contract. The terms of the 200,000 bbls

agreement include an invoicing and payment cycle that is triggered as each 5,000 bbls batch is delivered and offloaded at the Edo refinery.

Delivery of crude oil to DMCL's refinery

Delivery of crude oil has continued from the Oza Oil Field to the Dupont Midstream Company Limited (DMCL) refinery and just under 13,000

bbls have been delivered to date. DMCL has agreed to purchase up to 100,000 bbls over the next 12 months.

The company has experienced some delays obtaining permits to truck crude to the ERPC and DMCL refineries, but anticipates that with new systems recently implemented by the government regulatory agencies future permits will be obtained and issued in a more

timely and efficient manner.

Resignation of Director Mr. William Foose has resigned from Decklar's board effective immediately. The company thanks Mr. Foose for his valuable input and service.

In reaction, the CEO of Decklar Resources, Sanmi Famuyide, expressed personal appreciation to Mr. Foose for his valuable contribution to the company.

Gas to play significant role in Africa's energy mix, says NLNG's MD

Natural gas should and will play a significant role in Africa's energy mix to meet the demands arising from rapid population growth and economic expansion, as well as the need for affordable access to clean energy and supply security for industrialisation, according to Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria LNG Limited (NLNG), Dr. Philip Mshelbila.

Mshelbila made these remarks during a strategic session at the recently concluded 2023 Gastech Exhibition and Conference in Singapore, where he discussed Africa's role in increasing supply resilience in the energy transition context. He stated that African gas could enhance global energy security by increasing gas production, ensuring a steady supply source despite rising domestic consumption, and the growth of floating LNG, facilitating the rapid delivery of gas products to the market.

He stressed the necessity of adopting a multi-dimensional approach to the energy

transition, considering Africa's specific context and evolving needs.

Dr. Mshelbila pointed out that the continent was already capitalising on opportunities in the energy transition, using gas as an evolutionary energy source that offers a cleaner alternative to traditional biomass and coal. He said that transitioning from polluting sources to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and compressed natural gas (CNG) could reduce emissions by up to 48%. He cited Nigeria as an example, where the government actively promotes CNG usage in the transportation sector to expand gas utilisation and drive progress across various industries.

Mshelbila also noted that Africa was maximising opportunities in the growing LNG market, increasing its production capacity to substantially contribute to global supply, adding that Africa was emerging as a critical global gas supply source, with production expected to double, solidifying the continent's role in global energy security.

NNPC, Indorama seal landmark deal

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) and Indorama Eleme Petrochemicals Limited have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to explore and develop suitable opportunities within the remits of both parties' interests across the hydrocarbon value chain in Nigeria; a development that NNPC Ltd.'s GCEO, Mele Kyari, summarized thus: "NNPC Limited is on the threshold of making value out of gas beyond any imagination."

As the national energy company, one of NNPC Ltd.'s roles as enshrined in article 64(i) of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) is to promote the use of natural gas through the development and operation of large-scale gas utilisation industries. This role is in alignment with Nigeria's Nigasification strategy which is a consolidation of critical programmes embarked upon by the company to use natural gas and its associated liquids to be the energy source of choice, spur economic growth, free up crude oil for exports, and ultimately enable job creation.

According to Kyari, "With this project, we are seeing an annual contribution of \$3billion to the nation's GDP and a lifetime contribution of \$18billion to government revenue."

As part of the company's vision of operating the largest Petrochemical Hub in Africa, Indorama which owns the world's largest single-train Urea Plant located in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, is currently working on expansion plans within the next six years, in the gas-based heavy manufacturing industries including fertiliser, methanol, and petrochemicals.

In his remarks, the Chief Executive Officer, Africa Indorama Energy, Manish Mundra, stated: "This is a strategic collaboration to unlock Nigeria's upstream sector, but more importantly, to partner downstream, in order to share the value chain."

Chevron companies support communities in Rivers, Yobe, Oyo

Chevron companies in Nigeria including Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL), operator of the joint venture between the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) and CNL (NNPCL/CNL JV), Star Deep Water Petroleum Limited (a Chevron company) and its parties in the Agbami Field have donated health facilities and equipment to hospitals in Rivers and Yobe states as part of the company's strategic support to improve education and healthcare delivery in the country. Also, Star Ultra Deep Petroleum Limited (a Chevron company) and its co-ventures in the Oil Prospecting Mining Lease (OPL) 140 donated education equipment to schools in Oyo State and organized computer training programme for teachers.

In Rivers State, Star Deep Water Petroleum Limited and the Agbami parties including NNPC

Limited, FAMFA Oil Limited, Equinor Nigeria Energy Company Limited, and Prime 127 Nigeria Limited handed over a fully built and equipped chest clinic to the General Hospital, Eleme, as a demonstration of its continued pursuit of quality healthcare delivery in line with the expectation of being socially responsible to the people and communities around and beyond their areas of operations. Star Deep Water Petroleum Limited and the Agbami parties have built and commissioned 28 chest clinics with state-of-the-art equipment in different parts of the country.

The Rivers State Governor, Siminalayi Fubara, represented by the state Commissioner for Health, Dr. Chidinma Oreh, thanked Star Deep Water Petroleum Limited and the Agbami parties for helping to expand the frontiers of healthcare delivery in the state.

She stated: "The conceptualization of this chest clinic shows the commitment of the Agbami parties to supporting the government's fight against diseases as this facility is built to allow for testing of presumptive tuberculosis cases among others in support of the government's mandate to eradicate TB before 2035."

Earlier, the NNPCL/CNL Joint Venture donated newly constructed and fully equipped Mother and Child Referral Centers to General Hospital Yunusari, General Hospital Fika, Yusufari Comprehensive Health Center, and Yobe State University Teaching Hospital Damaturu. The Yobe State Governor, Mallam Mai Mala Buni (CON), represented by the deputy governor, Hon. Idi Barde Gubana, described the donation of the referral centers as a timely intervention that would help deliver quality healthcare to the people.

Nigeria's Dangote refinery to start operations in Oct at 370,000 b/d

- Refinery will start with diesel, jet fuel, then gasoline after ramp-up
- Dangote buys crude from traders, plans export to US, Europe
- Challenges, including swamp clearance, delayed project

The long-awaited Dangote refinery, billed as a game-changer for Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa, will receive its first cargo of crude in the next two weeks and will begin producing up to 370,000 b/d of diesel and jet fuel from October, a senior company executive told S&P Global Commodity Insights.

In a wide-ranging exclusive interview, Dangote Group Executive Director, Devakumar Edwin, who is overseeing the \$19.5 billion refinery, outlined a detailed production timeline, shed light on crude and product flows and laid out a litany of complications and delays to the project since it was first mooted in 2013.

"Right now I'm ready to receive crude," said Edwin, who previously ran Dangote Cement. "We are just waiting for the first vessel. And so as soon as it comes in we can start."

At its full planned capacity of 650,000 b/d, the refinery would make Nigeria self-sufficient in fuels and leave plenty more for export. Currently, Africa's biggest producer imports all its refined products, eroding its foreign exchange reserves. Yet delays and cost overruns led many to question whether Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, would ever deliver. Meanwhile, fuel prices have skyrocketed in Nigeria after President Bola Tinubu scrapped a costly subsidy in late May.

Phased launch

Edwin said that the refinery, which was officially inaugurated by the then outgoing President Muhammadu Buhari in May, would launch in phases, beginning with 350,000-370,000 b/d of diesel and jet fuel by



October, when the crude distillation unit, sulfur block and hydrogen plant should be online.

Then on November 30, he said, the refinery will start the phased ramp-up to 650,000 b/d, around half of it gasoline, the key area of Nigerian fuel demand.

S&P Global analysts predict that the refinery will not hit full operating capacity until mid-2025, according to a recent note, with further delays still possible. Still, forecasts from S&P Global suggest Nigerian gasoline production will exceed imports until the 2040s as a result of the refinery.

Although the refinery was designed to process light sweet Nigerian crude, state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation

Limited (NNPCL), which is a shareholder in the project, cannot supply the refinery until November, Edwin said, so Dangote is buying oil from trading houses.

"Vitol and Trafigura recently carried out inspections of the plant," he said.

"At the last minute, NNPC said: 'We have actually committed our crude on forward basis to someone else', so immediately they don't have the crude," he said, adding: "This is a temporary issue, and the refinery should run on exclusively Nigerian crude by November."

"That Nigerian oil will be purchased in US dollars, not naira, as some reports had suggested, because it is located in a free zone on the outskirts of Lagos," Edwin said.

However, NNPC will supply some crude at knockdown prices due to its equity stake.

Edwin said that the scale of the refinery meant that being "solely dependent on Nigerian crude, would not be advisable," meaning

that the refinery can process most African crudes, apart from heavy Angolan grades, as well as Middle Eastern Arab Light and even US light tight oil.

"We can even take some of the Russian grades if the global system opens up to allow us to receive [them]," he said.

Product flows

Dangote Refinery is not only targeting the Nigerian market with its refined products.

"Basically if you look at our production profile, 50% of my production will meet 100% of the requirement of the country," Edwin said, adding: "Excess gasoline, which will be 10 ppm sulfur Euro 5 quality, will be exported to other African markets as well as the US and South America, although the volumes will be relatively small."

Meanwhile, jet fuel will be exported to Europe and diesel will be sold in sub-Saharan Africa.

In Q1 2023, Nigeria imported 383,400 b/d of gasoline and diesel, according to data from S&P Global Commodities at Sea. Imports fell to 193,000 b/d in Q2 after the subsidy removal.

Edwin said that refined products could be evacuated from the refinery by road or by sea, with the two routes able to handle 80% and 75% of production respectively. Wary of theft and vandalism of pipelines in Nigeria in recent years, which is claiming 400,000 b/d of crude according to NNPC, Dangote's only pipelines

connect the refinery to single buoy moorings in its purpose-built port, which Edwin said could handle VLCCs and even ULCCs.

"I can load a Suemax in a day, I can off-load a VLCC in a day," he said.

Edwin said that company was also widening the road connecting the refinery to the expressway, noting that job was 70% complete.

String of delays

Although discussions started as far back as 2013, Edwin said that Dangote only began physical construction five years ago following a string of delays and mishaps. The first plot of land in a free zone in Ogun State was ditched following potentially "disastrous" political interference, he said.

He added: "After buying 33 square km of land in Lagos State for \$100 million, the team found that more than 70% of the plot was swamp and spent a year clearing it. Then, faced with the possibility of rising sea water claiming the land in the next 70 years, Dangote spent \$50 million elevating the land by 1.5 meters. We had to hire the world's largest dredger, second largest dredger, and third largest dredger to pump in about 65 million cubic meters of sand."

The company also had to construct a port capable of receiving extremely heavy assembled equipment because it lacked the infrastructure to assemble equipment in Nigeria, import 200,000 pikes to prevent sinking, buy 320 cranes and invest in a 10 million ton per year granite quarry.

"Ultimately, the delays proved a blessing because we had time to increase the capacity of the refinery and improve efficiencies in the design. What will be the world's largest single-train refinery began life as a 300,000 b/d project," Edwin said.

Further investments

Edwin, who joined Dangote Group in 1992, said that the refinery would be "enormously beneficial to the country" by establishing a reliable supply of "environmentally-friendly" refined products and bringing "a huge amount of foreign exchange into the country."

It will also ease fuel supply crisis in import-dependent West Africa, where Nigeria's recently-scrapped fuel subsidy created a thriving illicit market for gasoline amid price fluctuations.

"The money will be coming back in, and it will go for further investments," Edwin said, adding: "Aliko Dangote is from Nigeria and his focus is always on Nigeria."

Collaboration, investment key to solving Nigeria's electricity challenges -- FG, Energy stakeholders

The Federal Ministry of Power and stakeholders in the energy industry have highlighted collaboration and investment as key factors to tackle Nigeria's electricity challenges. The key stakeholders including local and international players in the industry at the 10th-anniversary edition of the Nigeria Energy Exhibition and Conference holding from the 19th to 21st of September 2023, at the Landmark Center, pledged to cooperate across the value chain to meet Nigeria's growing energy need.

Speaking at the conference, Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adedun, said: "It is a great pleasure for me to address you today as we gather to discuss one of the most critical issues of our time, which is energy. This conference marks a significant milestone in our collective efforts to shape the energy landscape in Nigeria. This, of course, will accompany the opportunity to relate and interact with industry players and power sector investors."

It will not only assist in the pace of my fact-gathering and understanding of the sector itself, but it is also a good platform for direct feedback from industry operators. I thank you sincerely for giving me this opportunity to meet everybody in just this single point of contact and listen to you to understand what the issues and challenges are, and how we can come together to build workable solutions that will transform

the power sector in Nigeria.

"I am confident that the narrative in the power sector, which is confronted with several challenges, will change soon. The challenges we face, ensuring access to reliable and affordable energy for all, are quite complex. It ranges from issues of energy security, and sustainability, to addressing climate change. The Ministry of Power is focused on the balanced energy development that drives socio-economic transformation, thus satisfying the future utility and sustainable development nexus of energy security, sustainability, and affordability," he concluded.

While commenting on the event, the Minister said: "I would like to congratulate and commend the Informal Markets, the organisers of the conference for the efforts to provide a unique platform for stakeholders, both the public and private sectors to come together and discuss the challenges, opportunities, and innovations that lie ahead in the power sector. Your commitment to advancing the sector in Nigeria is truly commendable and your contributions are quite invaluable."

The goal of this conference is not just to discuss these challenges, but to collaborate and implement concrete actions that will lead us towards a brighter and more sustainable energy future. We must, therefore, never underestimate the power of strategic collabora-

tions in this bilateral sector. This conference should not just be another conference. We must arrive at workable solutions to resolve identified challenges and leverage the opportunities provided at this conference."

Exhibition Director, Nigeria Energy, Ade Yesufu, said: "On behalf of the Nigeria Energy team and Informal Markets, I am deeply honoured to stand before you with a profound sense of privilege as we gather for this grand inauguration of the 10th edition of the Nigeria Energy Exhibition and Conference, which is a testament to the boundless potential and unwavering commitment of our great country towards the advancement of the Energy sector. Today, Nigerians stand united sharing the single vision to create a sustainable and modern energy future that serves all our citizens. This vision is particularly important in the light of recent developments in our government."

"Addressing these developments, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed Minister of Power, Chief Adebayo Adedun. Your presence here reaffirms your commitment to sustainable development in the Nigerian Power sector. To our esteemed partners, your unwavering support and dedication have been instrumental in building this event and bringing it to the level that it is today," he concluded.

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