Local CONTENT Digest

H1 2026 Edition

NCDMB STAKEHOLDER MAGAZINE

RETURN OF FIDs

Local Content set for a boom

Local Content @ SAIPEC 2026

Sub Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference

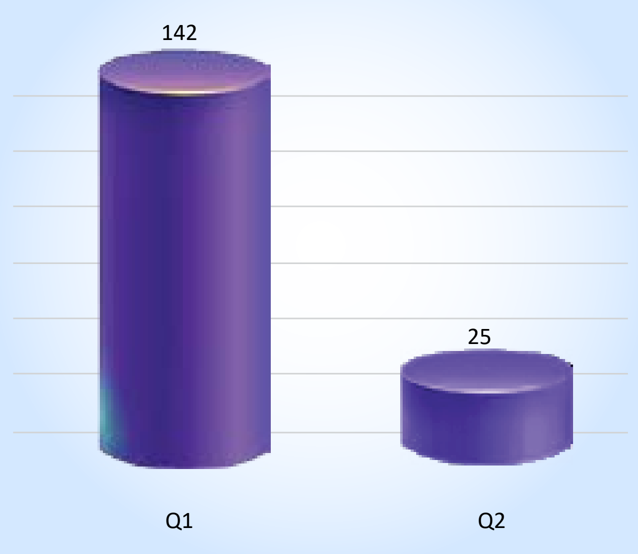
NCDMB participated in the 2026 edition of the Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) held February 10 – 12, 2026.

The event united stakeholders from across sub-Sahara Africa to shape the future of the region's energy industry. It was attended by representatives of national oil companies, international oil companies, EPC contractors, service providers, technology innovators, and policymakers to drive impactful conversations, strategic partnerships, and transformative business opportunities.

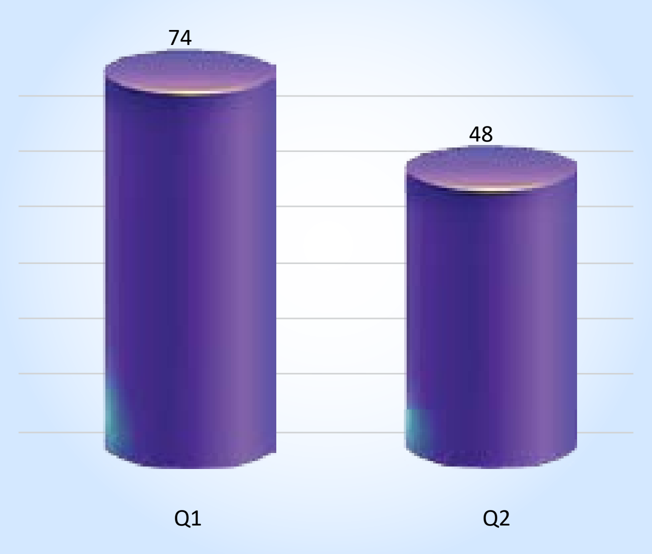
Local content was the core of most discussions at the event, providing a platform to reinforce NCDMB's strategic partnership with PETAN in addressing the evolving needs of stakeholders across the region.

SMART FACT

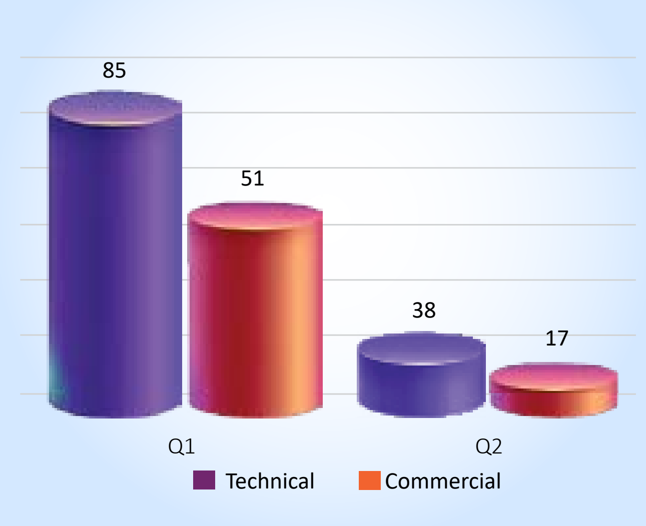
NUMBER OF NCCC ISSUED IN 2026



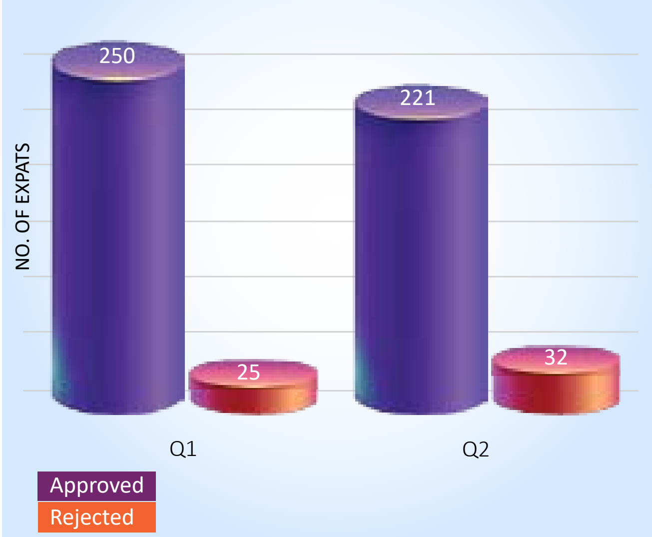
NUMBER OF NCP ISSUED IN 2026



NUMBER OF TECHNICAL & COMMERCIAL EVALUATION REPORTS ISSUED IN 2026

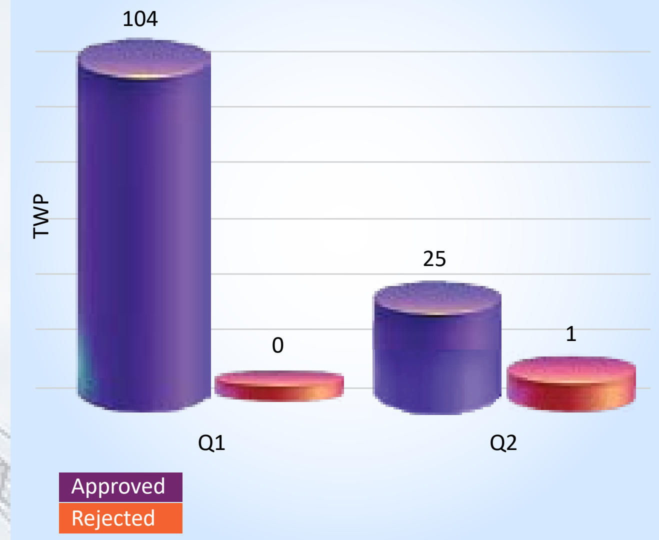


NUMBER OF EXPATRIATE QUOTA APPROVED /REJECTED2026

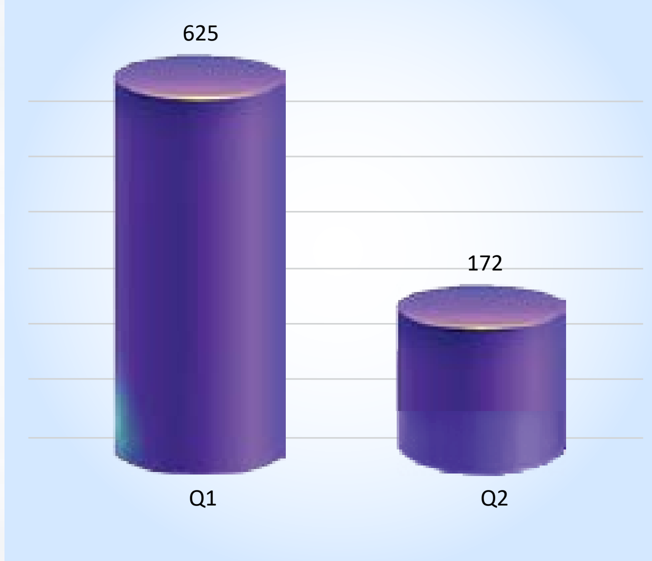


SMART FACT

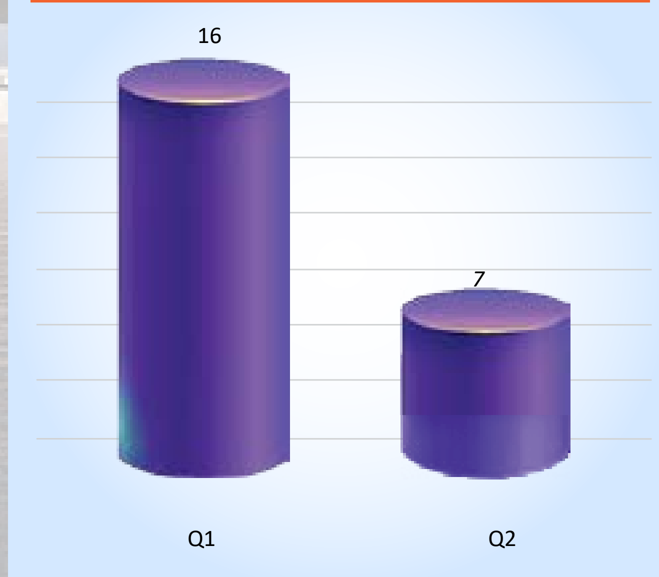
NUMBER OF TEMPORARY WORK PERMITS APPROVED/REJECTED IN 2026



NUMBER OF NCEC ISSUED IN 2026



NUMBER OF BIOMETRIC CARDS ISSUED IN 2026



NJQS ADDITIONAL RECORD IN 2026

Complied by ***Hauwa Hamisu***

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, ***FNSE***
Executive Secretary, NCDMB

16 years of NOGICD Act and resurgence of investments

April 22 2026 marked the 16th anniversary of the enactment of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act. The occasion, although muted, offered an opportunity to reflect on our remarkable local content journey, and retool implementation strategies.

Our Nigerian oil and gas sector witnessed a significant renaissance in the last three years, after an extended period of stagnation. Big ticket final investment decisions (FIDs) and firm investments commitments have started coming from international oil and gas majors, returning Nigeria as the choice destination of energy capital in the continent. It is evident that the positive developments are direct outcomes of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's bullish signing of three Executive Orders in February 2024, as well as other sectoral and broader economic reforms.

The focused leadership and guidance provided by Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Chairman of NCDMB's Governing Council and Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), and Rt. Hon Ekperikpe Ekpo, Co-Chair of NCDMB's Governing Council and Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas) have also helped to ease challenges that militated against investments in recent past.

As some of the multi-billion-dollar projects enter their development phase, we at NCDMB have perfected plans to monitor them effectively, to ensure they comply with approved Nigerian Content Compliance Commitments (NCCC), schedules and provisions of the NOGICD Act. We will insist that project promoters utilise our highly experienced and equipped service companies and competent human resources, to achieve targeted in-country value addition.

That was the underlying reason we launched the Oil and Gas Field Readiness Training in Q4 of 2025 to prepare 10,000 young Nigerians in 10 top-skill areas that would be in high demand as the projects get developed and operational. We are determined that investments would not end as mere announcements, statistics, or headlines. They must turn into factories, businesses, skills, research and technology, innovations, jobs, sustainable opportunities for Nigerians, and stronger linkages between the oil and gas sector and the wider national economy.

Together with industry players, NCDMB would ensure that the new wave of investments create legacy facilities, just like the Total Energies' Egina deepwater project birthed SHI-MCI FZE Fabrication and Integration Yard in Lagos, and NLNG Train 7 project catalysed the Daewoo's 10,000 tonnes per annum galvanising plant at Abam-Ama, Rivers State.

Delivering the goods through purposeful leadership

With the guidance of our Governing Council, we retooled strategies and refocused our roles at NCDMB to include enabling new oil and gas investments and critical third-party projects. We are proud that our new Nigerian Content contracting process helped to attract over US$10 billion investments, with a further estimated $40 billion commitments in the last three years. That is a fitting accomplishment to mark three years anniversary of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration and 16 years of the NOGICD Act.

The NCDMB under my leadership took an informed view that Nigerian Content must continue to evolve beyond regulating for compliance, into a practical instrument for attracting investments, enterprise development, industrialisation, national prosperity and community integration.

Together with industry players, NCDMB would ensure that the new wave of investments create legacy facilities, just like the Total Energies' Egina deepwater project birthed SHI-MCI FZE Fabrication and Integration Yard in Lagos, and NLNG Train 7 project catalysed the Daewoo's 10,000 tonnes per annum galvanising plant at Abam-Ama, Rivers State.

That understanding continues to shape our approach to initiating and implementing local content policies. That was the strategy behind the new guidelines we issued for the Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC), which eliminated intermediaries from the industry's contracting processes, and allows joint venture structures with majority original equipment manufacturer (OEM) ownership to fully participate in tender opportunities in deep water operations. The same vision informed our hosting of a networking forum with OEMs on the sidelines of the Offshore Technology Conference 2026, in Houston, Texas, the United States of America.

It is delightful that Nigeria's local content implementation continues to inspire similar initiatives across Africa and NCDMB is regularly approached to mentor sister organisations across the continent. In June, we held a knowledge-sharing session with the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), sequel to previous engagements we had with agencies from Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda, Namibia, among other nations. We remain committed to our leading role of promoting local content across Africa.

Equally remarkable is that local content has become a pillar of our national economy and morphed as the Nigeria First Policy launched by Mr. President in May 2025. The Nigeria First Policy mirrors the NOGICD Act, as it seeks to prioritise local content in government procurement processes, empower local businesses and industries to boost production and utilisation of local raw materials. The initiative also promotes technology transfer and skill development in contracts involving foreign procurement, and seeks to stimulate domestic production and reduce import dependency to enhance economic self-reliance.

Further evidence of our local content advancement is the capacity of our operating and service companies to successfully serve the Nigerian energy industry and extend operations to the African market. A report by Wood Mackenzie, in May, confirmed that Nigerian oil and gas companies now account for about 75 percent of Africa's indigenous producers. This is underpinned by the growth of our local content level from five percent in 2010 to 61 percent in 2025, and the integration of local communities into the oil and gas value chain and systematic industrialisation of economy.

Expanding local content to more streams

Part of our strategies is our renewed efforts to deepen indigenous participation across the midstream and downstream value chain. We convened the 2026 Nigerian Oil and Gas Midstream and Downstream Stakeholders Summit in May and produced practical strategies for unlocking investments, strengthening local capacity and sustaining growth across Nigeria's energy industry.

Another landmark undertaking in the last six months is the strategic partnership between NCDMB, Radisson Blu Hotels and Edison Hotel and Property Development Company, in respect of the Board's 204-oom hotel and conference centre, adjacent to the Nigerian Content Tower, Swali, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. This project is expected to redefine the hospitality and business landscape of Yenagoa, improve the South-South region's attractiveness for energy-related engagements

and generate multiplier effects across commerce, tourism, employment and supporting services.

As we mark 16 years of local content, I enjoin industry stakeholders to redouble their efforts in entrenching local content in all operations. We must latch on the new projects and investments to grow local capacities and competencies.

The NCDMB will intensify efforts to take local content to communities and initiate strategic policies that enhance industry operations. Importantly, we would continue to work closely with oil majors to enable new oil and gas projects, to generate increased revenue for nation and maximize value addition from our natural resources for the Nigerian people.

That is our charge from the NOGICD Act and one we would continue to deliver on.

Supporting growth of the oil and gas industry: *Engr. Ogbe played host to Renaissance Africa Energy leadership during a visit to Local Content Tower. Left his Engr. Tony Attah, Managing Director and Dr. Layi Fatona, Chairman*

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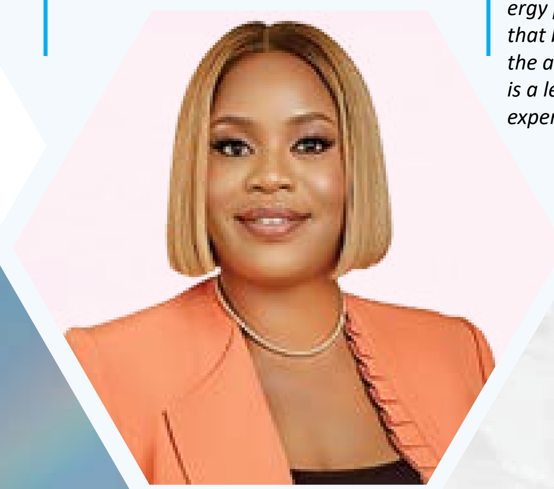

local content set for boom

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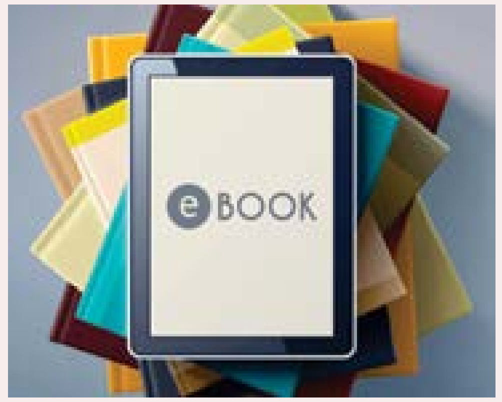

ISSN: 2636-7009

Local Content Digest is a publication of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, NCDMB Headquarters, Nigerian Content Tower, Swali, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

The **Best** is unfolding right in front of us

Editorial

Several factors are combining to make the past few months, and the months ahead, one of the best eras of local content implementation. From the government, policy and investments pegs, the sun has never shone brighter on local content implementation than now.

Coming from a long hiatus in the oil and gas sector to the announcement of major FDIs and the imminent return of global service companies to deepen the pool of expertise in-country, there is understandably a heightened sense that, indeed, a corner has been turned.

It started with the signing of Executive Orders coupled with strenous efforts by Mr. President to kindle the interest of oil majors, and then policy fine-tuning by the ministers of oil and the Board, we are starting to see the result. Tens of billions of dollars of new investments have been unveiled, and Nigeria is now the major destination of oil and gas investment in Africa. These investments will spur local content growth. We examined how this will unfurl in the *Cover segment*.

The Board has also moved to expand local content beyond the upstream segment, recently unveiling initiatives for the midstream and downstream segments with a view to grow Nigeria's industrial base. The stakeholders' summit is the first of many levers the Board is implementing.

In this confidence-boosting scenario came Renaissance Africa Energy, with the CEO, Engr. Tony Attah setting sight on becoming the leading energy company on the continent. In the *Big Interview* segment, he details what happens when ambition is driven by belief matched with courage.

Our regular infotainment segments have been served with even more sauce. We were at Burutu in Delta State, Southsouth of the country to see for ourselves if there was potential for aquatourism. We were pleasantly surprised to also discover that such an adventure avails a dive into pre-colonial history and a thriving marine economy. In *Couture*, we showcase how Nigerian wears are being repurposed for the corporate environment, where local is the new luxury.

There are many more. We looked at what AI is doing to money, and how it affects our everyday life, in addition to advisories on staying active as the wet season sets in.

I hope you will enjoy reading this edition. Remember to keep the feedback coming.

Dr. Obinna Ezeobi

NCDMB's oil and gas park to become operational Q4, 2026

The Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGaPS) at Emeyal-1 in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State will become operational by the fourth quarter of 2026, the NCDMB has assured.

Towards the target date, NCDMB is set to install a 2.5-megawatt Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) power plant at the park. The facility will provide reliable electricity to support industrial operations within the park.

Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications at NCDMB gave the hint after an assessment visit to the fa-cility by key personnel of the Board. The tour revealed significant progress across key infrastructure and support systems de-signed to position the facility as a major industrial hub for Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

The park scheme was conceived to provide an environment conducive for the manufacture of components, equipment and other inputs required by the oil and gas industry, while creating employment opportunities for over 2,000 persons when fully operational, and stimulating economic growth.

Mr. Olubisi Okunola, NCDMB's Manager, Strategy and Transformation Projects, explained that several critical facilities within the park had been completed and were ready for use. These include manufacturing shop floors, a fully functional water treat-ment plant, well-equipped accommodation facilities, modern classrooms, an amphitheater, and residential apartments for trainers, facilitators and visitors to the hub.

NCDMB has also completed other key power infrastructure, such as the switchgear building, transformers and heavy-duty gen-erators.

In addition, the Board has awarded a contract for the sand-filling of ponds within the facility. Upon completion of this exercise, six manufacturing sheds will be constructed on the reclaimed land to provide industrial spaces for prospective inves-tors and service providers.

Environmental maintenance activities are also ongoing, with landscaping and routine facility upkeep being carried out across the park to preserve existing infrastructure and maintain operational readiness.

SNEPCo, LADOL launch supply base services HCD programme

Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCo) and Lagos Deep Offshore Logistics (LADOL), with the support of the NCDMB, have commenced a 12-month Human Capacity Development (HCD) programme. It will equip beneficiaries with critical competencies required to support supply base operations within the oil and gas industry.

The programme, which commenced in June, at the LADOL free zone, Apapa, Lagos, will train 12 young Nigerians through a structured combination of classroom learning and practical industry exposure in specialised areas that support logistics, trade, procurement, and supply chain operations.

Ms. Alexis Emelle, General Manager, Human Capacity Development, said the programme reflects the Board's commitment to building a skilled workforce capable of meeting the evolving needs of the industry and creating opportunities for young Nigerians to thrive in specialised fields.

Mr. Obiajulu Onochie, Nigerian Content Manager, SNEPCo noted that the oil major remains passionate about developing Nigerian talent and has implemented several training initiatives this year in areas including cybersecurity, NEBOSH, blockchain architecture, and subsea disciplines.

He reiterated the SNEPCo's commitment to local content development, stressing that investing in people is essential to building a sustainable energy industry.

A representative of LADOL underscored the significance of Nigerian content to indigenous businesses, stating that without local content, "LADOL would not exist in its present form."

Mr. Olaniye Sodiq, who spoke on behalf of the trainees, expressed appreciation to NCDMB, SNEPCo, LADOL, and the training partners for investing resources in their development. He said the beneficiaries were eager to learn and looked forward to contributing meaningfully to LADOL and the wider oil and gas industry upon completion of the programme.

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary, NCDMB and Mr. Vivian Reddy, Chief Executive, Edison Corporation at a project management tour and workshop at the Nigerian Content Tower, Swali, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Winners in NCDMB/NTA Science Quiz competition announced

The ninth edition of the NCDMB/NTA Science Quiz Competition for Secondary Schools in Bayelsa State ended in June with Kaiama Grammar School, Kaiama, in Kolokuma/Opokuma Local Government Area, and Federal Government Girls' College, Imiringi, Ogbia Local Government Area, clinching the top prizes, while Apex Academy, Yenagoa, was the second runner-up.

The top three schools went home with prizes, including a set of top-of-the-range laboratory equipment, anatomical skeleton model, microscopes, an electronic compact scale, and

Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications Division, NCDMB and Mrs. Mary Ekanem, General Manager, Nigerian Television Authority, Yenagoa with the winning schools at the ninth edition of the NCDMB/NTA Science Quiz Competition for secondary schools in Bayelsa State in June.

Thirty job-ready youths were beneficiaries of the 12-month intensive project-based human capital development (HCD) programme of Chevron Nigeria Limited, implemented in connection with the supply of Zicornia perforated tiles and molecular sieve by Geoscape Nigeria Limited in support of the Escravos-Gas-Liquids operation in Delta State.

a standard printer, while the six contestants received laptops for their private use.

Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, NCDMB's General Manager, Corporate Communications Division (CCD) said the partnership between NCDMB and NTA has endured for so long because the two federal agencies "have a meeting of minds" on matters relating to education and capacity development.

The mandate of the NCDMB is to develop indigenous capacity to enhance the participation of Nigerians in the oil and gas industry, and science quiz competitions to stimulate the interest of students in science and technology, which is the bedrock of oil and gas.

Mrs. Mary Ekanem, General Manager, NTA, Yenagoa, commended NCDMB for its continued support of the programme. She said part of the mandate of the NTA is to promote education, and NCDMB is helping the NTA to fulfil that responsibility.

Mr. David Oyintare Enemiebor, Coordinator of the competition, thanked NCDMB for expanding participation by increasing the number of schools from 16 to 32, and raising the profile of the event through the quality prizes it provides.

30 job-ready engineers trained by Chevron

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in May charged 30 outstanding young engineers and geo-scientists to ready themselves to assume problem-solving roles in, and outside of Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

The 30 job-ready youths were beneficiaries of the 12-month intensive project-based human capital development (HCD) pro-gramme implemented Chevron Nigeria Limited, in connection with the supply of Zicornia perforated tiles and molecular sieve by Geoscape Nigeria Limited in support of the Escravos-Gas-Liquids operation in Delta State.

Speaking at the close-out ceremony in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Mrs. Tarilate Teide-Bribena, Manager, HCD at NCDMB said the training, which entailed classroom learning and hands-on work across industrial automation and control, data analytics, international trade and logistics, project management, and entrepreneurship, was to equip beneficiaries with valuable skills, which they have to use with purpose, integrity and persistence.

"You were not groomed merely to take jobs. You were prepared to create solutions, to raise standards, and to lead locally with global competence," said the HCD manager.

Mr. Victor Inyere, Chevron's representative, said the close-out event "signified more than the successful completion of a con-tractual obligation," adding that "it reflects a deliberate and strategic investment in human capital development in line with the provisions of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, 2010".

In turns, the students expressed appreciation to Chevron, Geoscape and the NCDMB for the privilege to undergo the top-grade training.

Minister performs groundbreaking of SPL Gas plant

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), in March performed the groundbreaking of South-field Petroleum Limited (SPL) Utorogu in Delta State. The gas processing plant has the capacity to 200MMscfd.

Located at Iwherekan, Ughelli, the facility will process wet gas into lean gas for the Escravos-Lagos Pipeline System, alongside LPG, condensate, and autogas outputs. The project will "change the entire energy landscape of the country, signalling renewed industrial growth", Lokpobiri added.

The minister praised NCDMB for its equity investment and service support, saying this aligned with its mandate to "support, strengthen, and grow local capacity". He urged operators to tap into the Board's funding and capacity initiatives to actualise viable projects. Lokpobori also commended the host community for its cooperation, stressing that indigenes would benefit from employment, energy access, and value chain opportunities of the project

Engr. Raphael Chinda, who represented Rt. Hon. Ekperikpe Ekpo, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas), described the project as a catalyst for capital inflow, job creation, power generation, and energy security, noting its alignment with the country's gas-powered economy drive.

Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director of Corporate Services at NCDMB, said the project was conceived under the Decade of Gas initia-tive to boost LPG consumption, support energy transition, and promote technology transfer and

From left, Dr Patrick Ndiomu, Chairman, Southfield Petroleum Limited; Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil); Dr Adulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, NCDMB; and Mr. Ejiro Dortie, former General Manger, Commercial Ventures Division, NCDMB, at the groundbreaking ceremony of Southfield Utorogu Gas Processing Plant in Delta State.

local capacity utilisation.

Dr. Patrick Ndiomu, Chairman of Southfield Petroleum, stressed that the plant would reinforce Nigeria's Gas Master Plan and position the country as a leading gas hub in Africa.

At OTC, Engr. Ogbe declares Nigeria open for business

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), has declared that "Nigeria is open for business," highlighting key reforms and investment opportunities at the OEM Networking Forum held on the sidelines of the Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) 2026 in Houston, Texas, United States.

He attributed the improved investment climate to three landmark Executive Orders signed by President Bola Tinubu in Febru-ary 2024, which cover tax incentives, local content compliance, and contracting cost and timeline reductions. According to him, the reforms have removed impediments to investment and positioned Nigeria as a competitive destination.

Engr. Ogbe noted that Nigerian Content Plan approvals now carry a 10-day deadline, with contracting cycles reduced from 18 months to between four and six months. He added that tax credits for deepwater, midstream, and gas projects have further strengthened investor confidence. "The market has responded decisively," he stated. The Executive Secretary cited major Final Investment Decisions, including $5 billion for the Bonga North project and $2 billion for the HI gas project. He also referenced the approval of the $20 billion Bonga Southwest Aparo project and 28 field development plans valued at $18 billion.

On regulatory reforms, Engr. Ogbe announced that new Equipment Certificate Guidance notes had eliminated intermediaries. He said: "No agents, no middlemen. Every applicant undergoes a physical facility verification." The Executive Secretary added that the removal of the 51 percent Nigerian equity barrier now allows broader joint venture participation.

Engr. Ogbe said NCDMB has created over 50,000 jobs and established a strong vendor base, supported by a $350 million Nige-rian Content Development Fund. Inviting investors, he said: "The framework now protects your investment," noting that local content stands at 61 percent, with a 70 percent target by 2027.

Waltersmith showcases expanded refinery capacity

Imiringi, in Ogbia Local Government Area of Bayelsa State, in May, hosted a sensitisation and enlightenment workshop on the Community Content Guideline (CCG) organised by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB).

The CCG, which was developed under the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act, 2010, provides a framework for integrating host communities into the oil and gas value chain, covering jobs, training, contract opportunities, local vendor engagement, and provision of critical facilities.

Mr. Ifeanyi Ukoha, General Manager, Zonal Coordination at NCDMB, said the workshop aimed to deepen awareness of the guideline and promote effective engagement between operators, contractors, and host communities. He said many partici-pants were yet to register on the NOGIC Joint Qualification System (JQS) and were unaware of available funding schemes.

Hon. Andrew Esau, who represented the Bayelsa State governor, commended NCDMB for the initiative. He noted that the guideline created opportunities for employment, capacity building, contracts, and community contractor financing. He urged sustained sensitisation to enable entrepreneurs access opportunities and register on the JQS.

Presentations at the workshop highlighted key platforms and funding mechanisms. Mrs. Oluchi Obiatuegwu explained the mo-dalities for registration processes on the NOGIC JQS Portal, while Mr. Okezie Unagha outlined funding opportunities under the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF), including the $350 million Nigerian Content Intervention Fund and Community Contractor Finance.

Mr. Simeon Eseikpe emphasised the importance of the Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC) as a requirement for participation in industry operations. The session featured interactive discussions on accessing opportunities and navigating industry requirements.

15 youths begin underwater welding training at PTI

Fifteen graduate trainees of engineering and geology in June started the Human Capacity Development (HCD) Training Pro-gramme of Heritage Energy Operational Services Limited (HEOSL) on underwater welding and commercial diving.

The 12-month training is in respect of the 14.4-kilometre sectional replacement of pipeline infrastructure contract of the com-pany under its oil mining lease (OML) 30 in Warri, Delta State. The training comprises an intensive three-month foundational component at the PTI Training Centre and months of shallow water diving at Abraka and at sea in Burutu, before a final lap of international training

Ms. Alexis Emelle, General Manager, Human Capital Development of the Board, said the training would equip the young grad-uates with world-class skills for critical roles in protection, maintenance and sustenance of Nigeria's energy infrastructure.

Officials and trainees of the HCD on underwater welding and commercial diving by Heritage Energy Operational Services Limited (HEOSL)

Underwater welding and commercial diving, she stated, are critical to the survival, profitability, and safety of the oil and gas sector, particularly at a time that attention is shifting to deep-sea operations. She emphasised that "Nigeria's petroleum wealth relies heavily on offshore exploration in the Gulf of Guinea and the shallow waters of the Niger Delta".

The GM noted that specialised diving operations are at the heart of extraction and transportation of crude oil. "Initiatives like this," she explained, "bring the vision of the Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Road Map of the NCDMB to life."

Engr. Jabuoma Enagwolor, Executive Director, Operations, of PTI, said the Institute had been in the training business for over 50 years and remained the foremost training organisation for underwater welding and commercial diving in Nigeria, with its certified welders working in several countries across the world.

NCDMB confident of December delivery of Yenagoa Radisson Hotel

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has expressed confidence that the Radisson Hotel and Conference Centre in Yenagoa will be completed and operational by December 2026.

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, gave the assurance in March 2026, during a project review meeting with representatives of Edison Corporation and the project contractors.

Ogbe described the hotel as a priority project, stressing the Board was closely monitoring its progress to ensure timely deliv-ery. The Executive Secretary said the facility would support tourism, business activities, and industry engagements in Bayelsa State. He praised the project partners for the quality of work and urged them to maintain momentum to meet the delivery timeline.

Mr. Vivian Reddy, Chief Executive Officer of Edison Corporation, said the partnership would deliver a world-class hospitality facility. He noted that the Radisson brand would enhance visibility and attract visitors to Yenagoa. The CEO added that the project reflected strong investor confidence and would contribute to economic growth in the region.

The hotel is being developed to meet international standards, and is expected to serve as a hub for conferences, investment activities, and business events in the Niger Delta.

NCDMB had signed a management agreement with Radisson Hospitality Belgium and Edison Hotel and Property Development Company for the hotel and conference centre in March 2026, in Durban, South Africa. The 204-room facility is located close to the Nigerian Content Tower and the project is scheduled for completion in December 2026.

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, said the partnership followed extensive reviews and approvals to ensure compliance with regulato-ry standards. Ogbe assured the partners that the Board would focus on timely delivery, quality construction, and adherence to international standards. He added that the project supports efforts to attract investment and promote business activities in Bayelsa State.

Mr. Vivian Reedy said the partnership would ensure effective management, operational efficiency, and long-term value deliv-ery. He added that collaboration with Radisson would strengthen service quality and performance.

The project is expected to position Yenagoa as a key destination for business and industry events in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

Officials of NCDMB, Renaissance Africa Energy, Lee Engineering Limited and ICON Engineering with trainees in the HCD programme for Assa North-Ohaji Gas Facility Project

70 graduates trained for Assa North gas project

Seventy young graduates of engineering, geology and related disciplines in June started a six-month human capital develop-ment (HCD) brush-up vocational training on multiple skill sets. The initiative is on the back of the 600 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd) Assa North-Ohaji gas facility project of Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited and Lee Engineer-ing Limited in Imo State.

The training consists of detailed instructor-led classroom sessions, extensive exposure to real-life operational challenges through hands-on training. It covers critical aspects of forklift operations, mobile crane operations, scaffolding design and in-stallation, electrical work, plumbing, as well as refrigeration and air-conditioning.

Mr. Tareowei Bufazi, Deputy Manager, HCD, NCDMB, said the programme covers critical vocational skills that support opera-tions across the oil and gas industry value chain, notably engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) on land and deep offshore.

Trainees would acquire valuable knowledge, hands-on experience and competencies that could position them for meaningful participation in Nigeria's growing energy sector and wider economy. In the course of the training, participants would be pre-pared for certification being conducted by international accred-ited certification bodies, and could potentially work in any part of the world with such qualifications.

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary, NCDMB with top management of the Board, Edison Corporation, and Megastar Technical and Construction Company, after the conclusion of a one-day project management tour and workshop at the Nigerian Content Tower (NCT), Swali, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

Officials of NCDMB, SNEPCo and LADOL at the commencement of HCD programme on competencies to support supply base operations in the oil and gas industry, at LADOL free zone, Apapa, Lagos.

Engr. Funsho Alabi, representative of Renaissance Africa Energy said the project embodies shared commitment to capacity building, local content development and sustainable growth in Nigeria.

NCDMB issues NCEC guidelines to strengthen industry compliance

As part of efforts to improve contracting processes in the oil and gas industry, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitor-ing Board (NCDMB) has issued new guidelines for the Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC). The guidelines, which took effect in December 2025, aim to eliminate unqualified intermediaries, strengthen compliance, and reduce delays in pro-ject execution.

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, said the directive is part of efforts to ensure that only companies with proven technical capacity participate in industry contracts. He noted that the guidelines will improve transparency and support efficient processing of applications.

The document outlines requirements for eight categories of NCEC and emphasise that applications must reflect actual opera-tional capacity, including equipment, personnel, and facilities.

NCDMB also clarified that certificates are not transferable and cannot be obtained through third parties. Companies are re-quired to apply directly and provide verifiable documentation. The Board stated that it will conduct facility inspections to con-firm claims made by applicants and enforce sanctions where necessary.

The new guidelines are expected to improve contracting efficiency, strengthen local capacity, and enhance value retention in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

33 engineers trained in pipeline integrity

Mr. Alali Kitoyi, representative of ICON Engineering and Construction Company, the trainers, explained that the programme is part of a Nigerian Content initiative grafted in the NOGICD Act, 2010, which mandates that a training programme of this na-ture be undertaken on the back of major projects in the oil and gas industry.

The Assa North-Ohaji Gas Facility processes gas waste into dry sales gas and liquefied petroleum gas.

Thirty-three young engineers have benefitted in a human capital development training programme organised by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), in partnership with Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited and MJD Oilfield Services Limited.

The programme, which began in March 2026, in Port Harcourt, focuses on pipeline engineering, corrosion control, and monitor-ing to strengthen Nigeria's energy infrastructure. The 12-month training will combine classroom sessions, simulation, field demonstrations, and on-the-job experience to develop industry-ready skills.

Mrs. Tarilate Teide-Bribena, Manager, Human Capital Development at NCDMB, said the programme supports efforts to build local expertise in critical areas such as pipeline maintenance and integrity. The manager noted that the training will prepare participants for roles in major national projects. She urged the trainees to remain disciplined and focused, applauding partner companies for supporting capacity development.

Representatives of Renaissance Africa Energy and MJD Oilfield Services highlighted the importance of collaboration in develop-ing skilled professionals and strengthening indigenous participation in the industry.

The initiative supports NCDMB's mandate to build capacity, improve infrastructure reliability, and promote sustainable growth in the oil and gas sector.

ESSO's $23m LADOL Logistics Base project gets NCDMB's kudos

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has praised ESSO Nigeria for developing a US$23 million logistics base at the LADOL Deep Offshore Logistics Base in Lagos. The facility, which was flagged off in March 2026, will in-clude administrative buildings, warehouses, and storage infrastructure to support offshore operations.

Engr. Austin Uzoka, Senior Technical Adviser at the NCDMB described the project as a strong indicator of Nigeria's growing capacity in oil and gas logistics. He noted that the development would strengthen the country's supply chain and reduces reli-ance on foreign logistics services.

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has applauded ESSO Nigeria on the groundbreaking of its permanent shorebase facility at the LADOL Deep Offshore Logistics Base, describing the project as a major demonstration that Nigeria has become a prime hub for global oil and gas logistics. ESSO Nigeria is an affiliate ExxonMobil, an international

(L-R): Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications, NCDMB; Dr. Dakuku Peterside, Former Director General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), and Mr. Victor Binawari, moderator of session during the first quarter 2026 edition of the Board-sponsored Book Reading Programme at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

NCDMB management and staff with other panelists after a panel session at the sensitisation workshop for Nigerian oil and gas industry stakeholders on funding mechanisms and requirements in Warri, Delta State.

He commended LADOL's track record in supporting offshore operations and urged continued collaboration to deepen local ca-pacity in the sector. Uzoka also highlighted the importance of efficient funding structures to support timely project delivery and improve sustainability for local service providers.

Mr. Jagir Baxi, Chairman and Managing Director of ExxonMobil affiliates in Nigeria, said the project reflected the company's long-term commitment to Nigeria and its deepwater operations. He added that the development will support local job crea-tion and strengthen technical capacity.

The project reinforces efforts to position Nigeria as a competitive hub for offshore logistics and energy operations.

NCDMB enforces 1% Levy, ties approvals to compliance certificate

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has reaffirmed the mandatory remittance of the one per-cent Nigerian Content Development Fund levy for operators and contractors in the upstream sector. The Board issued the di-rective in February 2026, in Yenagoa, stating that compliance is required for access to regulatory approvals and services.

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary of NCDMB, described the levy as a statutory requirement under the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act and applies to all upstream contracts. He noted that payments must be made into accounts designated by the Board to be recognised as valid. Ogbe explained that the fund supports capacity development, financing for indigenous companies, and growth across the oil and gas value chain.

The Board also announced that the Nigerian Content Development Fund Compliance Cer-tificate is now a requirement for ac-cessing approvals, certifications, and other regulatory services. NCDMB stated that companies without a valid compliance cer-tificate will would be eligible for key approvals, including project clearances and certification processes.

The Board advised stakeholders to regularise their remittance status and complete the digital application process to avoid disruptions to operations.

Ghana visits NCDMB on benchmarking study

A delegation from the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) in June visited the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) in Yenagoa, to deepen their understanding of local content development practices, in the areas of policy frameworks and implementation strategies.

GNPC team was led by Mr. Eric Pwadura, Director, Corporate Affairs. The team was received by Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services at NCDMB.

The NCDMB director remarked that Africa has grown its hydrocarbon resources to over 120 billion barrels of crude oil reserves and 800 trillion standard cubic feet of gas, which constitute more than 10 percent of hydrocarbon resources globally. Considering the rich resources, it is in the national interest of the producing countries to prioritise local content development, he said.

Dr. Halilu advised African countries seeking to broaden indigenous participation in the oil and gas industry that "local content does not compromise standards".

In his response, Mr. Eric Pwadura expressed profound appreciation for the privilege to participate in the knowledge-sharing programme, stating: "Even though we have the legislation guiding local content, we have not had the benefit of having a robust local content environment like you have."

Esueme Dan Kikile Esq, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, NCDMB, noted the high interest of African oil producing countries in local content, saying: "We are happy to continue to share our experience in oil and gas, share our experience in local content."

NCDMB Management and Staff, with top executives of Edison Corporation, Radisson Hotels Group, and Megastar Technical and Construction Company during an inspection visit at the ongoing construction of Radisson Hotel and Conference Centre in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications Division, NCDMB, said "Nigeria and Ghana have had a long history of collaboration in the energy sector. The GM said NCDMB had collaborated with several African nations on local content, adding: "We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Petroleum Commission Ghana, the National Content Monitoring Committee of Senegal (ST-CNSCL), as well as partnerships with related agencies in Mozambique, Angolan, and Namibia."

Seplat, NCDMB advance plans for Centre of Excellence at DELSU

Key Management staff of Seplat Energy and NCDMB met with principal officers of Delta State University (DELSU), Abraka, in April, to deliberate on critical processes towards the take-off of a Centre of Excellence in gas development approved for the institution. The Board approved the centre of DELSU in 2024.

The project is the latest among similar centres at the Niger Delta University, Amassoma; the Federal Universities of Technolo-gy, Minna, Akure, and Owerri; Modibbo Adama University, Yola; and Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto. It is based on a PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) study, providing a 10-year roadmap for research and development in Nigeria's oil and gas in-dustry.

Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, NCDMB's Director of Corporate Services, said engagements since 2024 had defined the scope covering infrastructure, equipment, capacity development, research policy, and sustainability. He confirmed that Seplat and NCDMB endorsed the scope and were ready for the take-off, as the technical experts were already in place.

Mr. Simeon Ogari, Seplat's Nigerian Content Manager, said DELSU was selected due to proximity to the company's operational base. He said the centre would support advanced research and technology incubation. The manager stressed the essence of collaboration through the Triple Helix model to see the project through.

Mr. Silas Ajimijaye, Director, Planning Research and Statistics, NCDMB, hailed Seplat for providing the required funding and urged DELSU management to use the project to etch its name in gold. Similarly, Prof. Douglason Omotor, Deputy Vice Chancel-lor (Research), thanked NCDMB and Seplat for initiating the project. He assure the stakeholders of DELSU's technical compe-tence readiness, citing the institution's strong academic capacity to ensure it good use.

NCDMB, partner banks highlight funding access, launch compliance portal

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), in collaboration with the Bank of Industry and NEXIM Bank, has outlined funding opportunities and compliance requirements for stakeholders in the oil and gas sector. The engage-ment took place in April 2026, in Warri, Delta State where industry players were briefed on financing options and business opportunities.

A key highlight of the workshop was the launch of the Nigerian Content Fund Compliance Certificate portal, designed to streamline compliance processes and improve access to funding.

Mr. Uchenna Okafor, Manager, Capacity Building Division at NCDMB, said the certificate is a key requirement for accessing financial support and regulatory services. He noted that the new portal will improve transparency, reduce processing time, and support ease of doing business.

Representatives of partner banks outlined available funding schemes, including intervention funds and financing options for indigenous companies. They emphasised the role of these funds in supporting local capacity development and industry partici-pation. Stakeholders also received guidance on compliance processes, digital platforms, and opportunities within the oil and gas value chain.

The initiative reinforces NCDMB's focus on improving access to finance, strengthening compliance, and supporting growth of indigenous companies.

NCDMB promotes inclusion, unveils $20m Fund for Women in Energy

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive growth in the oil and gas sector with a US$20 million intervention fund for women-owned businesses.

The initiative was highlighted in March 2026 at the Women in Oil and Gas Conference held in Lagos, where stakeholders dis-cussed strategies to improve gender participation in the industry.

Lekoma Phimia, General Manager, Midstream PCAD at NCDMB said inclusion is critical to building a resilient and competitive energy sector. She noted that empowering women supports innovation, productivity, and economic growth.

Phimia explained that the fund, which was developed in partnership with the Nigerian Export-Import Bank, provides affordable financing to women-owned companies operating in the sector. She added that complementary programmes also support train-ing and business development. In addition, the Board has implemented skills development initiatives to equip women with technical competencies, including training in welding and fabrication.

Stakeholders at the event called for stronger collaboration, mentorship, and leadership opportunities to increase women's participation across the industry. The initiative reinforces NCDMB's focus on inclusive capacity development and sustainable growth in Nigeria's energy sector.

Participants at the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum, third edition of the Diversity Sector Working Group's Women in Oil and Gas Conference and Mentorship Programme in Lagos.

Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, NCDMB (third right), and Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications, NCDMB (fourth right), with other panelists at the Nigeria Local Content AfCFTA Energy Summit in Lagos

Mr. Ene Ette, General Manager, Research, Statistics & Development, NCDMB, and staff inspecting the donated medical training equipment and clinical stimulation Laboratory at the Bayelsa Medical University (BMU) in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

NCDMB drives NCCF reforms for improved industry impact

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has initiated reforms to strengthen the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum (NCCF) and improve its impact on industry development. The move was announced in March 2026 during a retreat and steering committee meeting aimed at repositioning the forum for more effective delivery.

Mr. Ene Ette, General Manager Planning, Research and Statistics at NCDMB, said the reform focuses on developing a clear roadmap to enhance collaboration and drive capacity development across the oil and gas sector. He noted that the forum must adopt a more structured and strategic approach.

The Board identified key areas for improvement, including clearer direction, stronger coordination among stakeholders, and better project evaluation processes.

Stakeholders also reviewed findings from a baseline assessment, which highlighted the gaps in governance, funding structure, and execution capacity. Participants agreed on the need to strengthen leadership alignment, improve coordination across work-ing groups, and define clear implementation frameworks.

The initiative is expected to reposition the NCCF as a more effective platform for driving local content development and indus-try collaboration.

NCDMB equips Bayelsa Medical University with simulation laboratory

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has commissioned a clinical skills and simulation laborato-ry at Bayelsa Medical University to support medical training and capacity development. The facility, unveiled in March 2026, in Yenagoa, boast advanced medical simulators and training systems to enhance practical learning for students.

Mr. Ene Ette, General Manager, Research and Statistics at NCDMB, said the facility reflected the Board's commitment to ca-pacity development beyond the oil and gas sector. He noted that investment in healthcare and education supports broader economic growth.

Ene explained that simulation-based training improves clinical skills, decision-making, and patient safety by providing a con-trolled learning environment.

Prof. Dimie Ogoina, Vice Chancellor of the university, described the facility as a major step in improving medical education and training standards. He noted that the equipment would enhance student learning and support the institution's long-term de-velopment goals.

Such initiatives strengthen collaboration between NCDMB and educational institutions while supporting the development of skilled healthcare professionals.

NCDMB equips 60 youths with digital skills

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has organised a digital skills training programme for 60 youths drawn from the Northcentral and Southwest zones.

The training was aimed at improving employability and supporting entrepreneurship, among youths. The close-out ceremonies, which held in Abuja and Lagos, marked the completion of the capacity development initiative designed to bridge critical digital skill gaps among young Nigerians.

The six-week programme exposed participants to key digital competencies, including Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems, project management, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and workplace communication tools. It also featured a two-week internship and provided hands-on experience through live industry projects.

Mr Jonathan Njoku, former Acting Manager, Research and Development at NCDMB, said the programme was designed to equip participants with practical, market-relevant skills for the evolving digital economy. He added that beneficiaries received industry-recognised certifications to enhance their job prospects and entrepreneurial readiness, as well as encouraged them to maximise the opportunities created through government investments.

Training partners - Pyrich Limited and FOZY Global Concepts - highlighted that the blended learning approach, which combined classroom instruction with real-world application through internships and on-the-job training, helped participants to gain prac-tical competencies. Participants also cited improvements in problem-solving, digital literacy, and workplace efficiency. Some noted that the exposure to artificial intelligence tools has strengthened their ability to deliver value in professional and busi-ness settings.

NCDMB management and staff with industry representatives at a sensitisation workshop for companies and stakeholders operating in the midstream sector of the Nigerian oil and gas industry in Lagos State.

Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, NCDMB (1st right), with other panelists at the 10th edition of the sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) in Lagos.

NCDMB, stakeholders reinforce AfCFTA's trade, standards alignment

Stakeholders in Africa's energy sector have renewed focus on expanding intra-continental trade and harmonising standards under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

This formed the focus of discussions at the 2026 AfCFTA Summit held in February 2026, in Lagos, where regulators, investors, and industry players explored opportunities across the continent's $3.4 trillion market.

Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, said Nigeria has developed a framework to implement AfCFTA in the oil and gas sector. He outlined three key pillars: opportunity identification, capacity development, and capacity export.

Halilu expressed delight that Nigeria has built strong capabilities across the oil and gas value chain, including fabrication, ma-rine services, and technical manpower. The director added that the next priority is expanding these capabilities into regional markets. He emphasised the need for harmonised standards, improved infrastructure, and stronger regional collaboration to enable seamless trade and movement of skilled labour across Africa.

The discussions highlighted the role of integrated supply chains and industrial collaboration in shifting Africa from raw materi-al exports to value-added production. The engagement reinforces NCDMB's commitment to supporting regional trade and posi-tioning Nigeria as a key player in Africa's energy market.

NCDMB reaffirms support for APPO, Africa Energy Bank

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has reaffirmed its support for the African Petroleum Pro-ducers Organisation (APPO) and the Africa Energy Bank (AEB) to strengthen the continent's energy sector.

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, announced this in February 2026, at a meeting with Mr. Farid Ghezali, APPO Secretary General, at the Board's Abuja liaison office.

Engr. Ogbe noted that the success of APPO and the Africa Energy Bank is critical to advancing Africa's oil and gas industry. He said NCDMB was ready to support the bank's launch in line with national energy priorities.

Ghezali said there were plans to strengthen APPO's operations through improved transparency, increased member participa-tion, and stronger financial contributions. He also emphasised the need for effective governance structures for the Africa Ener-gy Bank.

Both parties discussed opportunities for collaboration in capacity development and regional integration. This includes leverag-ing NCDMB's training platforms and developing systems to promote African service companies across the energy value chain. They also agreed on steps to support the bank's roll-out, including sharing implementation plans and strengthening coordination among member-countries.

The engagement reinforced NCDMB's role in supporting regional energy collaboration and expanding access to financing for Africa's oil and gas sector.

Chevron launches TAM training for 41 graduates

Chevron Nigeria Limited has begun a 12-month Human Capital Development training programme for 41 young graduates under its Turn-Around Maintenance initiative. The programme, which began in December 2025 in Port Harcourt, is meant to provide hands-on training in plant operations, non-destructive testing, welding, and maintenance processes.

Mrs. Tarilate Teide-Bribena, Manager, Human Capital Development at the Board, commended Chevron for its commitment to capacity development. She said the initiative supports efforts to build a skilled workforce for the

NCDMB management and staff with trainees at the kick-off ceremony of the Board's Human Capacity Development Training programme on Project Wadore in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

energy sector. Teide-Bribena noted that the programme combined technical training with practical experience, preparing participants for industry roles. She also highlighted the importance of discipline and professionalism in achieving long-term career growth.

Mr. Victor Inyere, Capacity Development Advisor at Chevron, said the initiative reflected the company's commitment to devel-oping local talent and supporting a sustainable workforce development. Mr. Modupe Jegede, Chief Executive Officer, Geoscape Limited, said the programme highlighted the impact of local content policies in enabling Nigerian companies to contribute to industry growth.

The training was designed to equip participants with relevant technical skills and strengthen local capacity in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

NCDMB staff in a group photograph with trainees at the close-out ceremony of the Board's Human Capacity Development Training programme on Unit 60 PSA Absorbent Material Purchase in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Renaissance, partners train engineers on electrification project

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has partnered Renaissance Africa Energy Company Limited and Beam Energy Limited to train six Nigerian engineers in human capital development training programme. The training was held in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

The programme, which began in January 2026, is part of the Community Electrification Interdependency Project designed to build technical capacity in critical engineering fields.

The 12-month training will cover civil and structural design, electrical and instrumentation engineering, onshore survey, and digital modelling. Participants will also receive training in technical safety, entrepreneurship, and digital skills to enhance workplace readiness.

Mrs. Tarilate Teide-Bribena, Manager, Human Capital Development, stressed that the initiative reflected the Board's commit-ment to project-based capacity development and value creation in the oil and gas sector. She noted that the programme was designed to prepare participants for impactful roles across the industry. She urged the trainees to demonstrate discipline and focus, while commending partner companies for supporting local capacity development.

Representatives of Beam Energy and Renaissance Africa Energy emphasised the importance of practical training and collabo-ration in developing skilled professionals.

The initiative is part of efforts to strengthen technical capacity and address skill gaps in Nigeria's energy sector.

NCDMB organises digital skills training for 45 young Nigerians

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), in June commenced a specialised Human Capacity Devel-opment (HCD) training programme in Digitalisation and Digitisation for 45 young Nigerians as part of efforts to build a future-ready workforce for the oil and gas industry.

The 12-month programme, implemented in partnership with Heritage Energy Operational Services Limited (HEOSL) and Global Ocean Engineers Nigeria Limited, will provide participants with advanced training in Predictive Artificial Intelligence and Ma-chine Learning, Data Analytics, Python Programming, and Cyber Security.

Ms. Alexis Emelle, the Board's General Manager, Human Capacity Development, described the initiative as a strategic investment in Nigerian talent and a key component of the NCDMB's drive to deepen local capacity in emerging technologies.

The programme goes beyond conventional training. It has been designed to prepare participants for critical roles in an industry that is increasingly driven by digital technologies and data-based decision-making.

The beneficiaries were selected because of their potential and capacity to excel in a highly specialised field that will shape the future of the oil and gas industry, she said.

Mr. Felix Usiwo, Manager, Nigerian Content Development at Heritage Energy Operational Services Limited, said the pro-gramme would equip young professionals with digital skills

Facility Visit: Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications, NCDMB with some staff of Corporate Communications with journalists in the South-south region during a media tour of Marconi Nigeria EPC Limited facility in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

required to succeed in a rapidly evolving industry.

The programme will comprise six months of intensive classroom instruction followed by six months of practical on-the-job training, providing participants with both theoretical knowledge and hands-on industry experience.

Marconi highlights capacity, competitive delivery

Marconi NG EPC Limited, a Port Harcourt-based service company has reaffirmed its capacity to deliver cost-efficient and timely oil and gas projects.

The company showcased its capacities during a tour organised for media representatives by officials of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). The tour was part of NCDMB's stakeholders engagement to showcase in-country capabilities of oil and gas firms and strengthen industry awareness.

Mr. Gian Fabio Del Cioppo, Chief Executive Officer, Marconi EPC stated that the company's facility, acquired in 2025, has the capacity to execute complex engineering, procurement, and construction projects across onshore and offshore operations. He said the yard supports the fabrication of heavy structures and has the capacity to deliver projects at competitive cost and on schedule.

He added that the operations aligned with local content requirements and positioned the company to support national objec-tives, including job creation and industrial growth.

Mr. David Editang, Marconi's Nigerian Content Manager, said the facility retains experienced local personnel and has contrib-uted to major industry projects, demonstrating its capability across the oil and gas value chain.

Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications, NCDMB, said the tour supported the Board's mandate to promote local content and deepen stakeholder engagement. He added that media engagement remained key to improving industry understanding and visibility.

The visit underscored the role of indigenous service companies in advancing capacity and competitiveness in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

PEBEC, SERVICOM commend NCDMB at Customer Service Week

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has received commendation from key federal agencies for its performance in service delivery and regulatory efficiency. The recognition was given during the Board's Customer Service Week held in December 2025, in Yenagoa, where officials of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) and SERVICOM highlighted NCDMB's operational performance.
PEBEC ranked NCDMB first among federal ministries, departments, and agencies in its 2025 Business Facilitation Act perfor-mance report, with a score of 90.6 percent. The ranking reflects consistent improvement in trans-parency, efficiency, and com-pliance with regulatory standards.

Representing the Executive Secretary, Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, NCDMB's senior officials said the Board remains focused on delivering efficient and responsive services to stakeholders, in line with its strategic roadmap. The Board also reaffirmed its target to achieve 70 percent local content by 2027, supported by ongoing reforms and capacity development initiatives.

Representatives of PEBEC and SERVICOM commended the Board's systems, leadership, and adoption of technology to improve service delivery. They urged NCDMB to sustain its performance and continue driving reforms across the public sector.

The engagement highlights NCDMB's progress in strengthening institutional performance and improving Nigeria's business environment.

UNIPORT, UNIBEN emerge regional winners of Engineering Olympiad

Team PROTRONICS, from University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT), and Team VHORDE from the University of Benin (UNIBEN) in May, became winners from the South-South region in the Nigerian Engineering Olympiad (NEO).

The institutions participated in a nationwide engineering, innovation and entrepreneurship competition launched in 2025 by Enactus Nigeria in partnership with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), Renaissance Africa Energy Company, First Exploration & Petroleum Development Company and the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE). The teams showcase hardware and software prototypes developed to serve as innovative solutions to real-world challenges, with specific reference to Nigeria and Africa.

From Team PROTRONICS was KEYTRIC, which the group presented as "smart power control made effortless" and "automating electricity usage infused with intelligent locking systems." For problem solving, the team highlighted high electricity bills, elec-tricity fire risk and expensive smart home, listing the gaps in existing solutions. These include costly installation, as change in wiring is required; lack of integration between security and energy, and dependence on the Internet.

Team VHORDE made a presentation on what it called IRIS - Intelligent Real-time Interface for Sight, pointing out that there are 4.5 million visually impaired Nigerians who are incapacitated and unable to live their lives to the fullest. The students dis-played an IRIS pack, which consisted of time-of-flight (ToF) sensors, wearable glasses, microphone, camera and haptic feed-back.

Mr. Michael Ajayi, Country Director, Enactus Nigeria said the two top finalists from the six geopolitical zones would move to a boot camp for further preparation towards the main national championship. The best three teams would share ₦100 million. He also disclosed that each of the 30 teams that displayed prototype technology in the regional competition would get ₦3 million.

Peterside highlights crisis leadership strategies at NCDMB's Book Reading series

Dr. Dakuku Peterside, former Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime and Safety Administration (NIMASA), was the guest author at the NCDMB's 2026 first quarter Book Reading Series. Held at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, the event cen-tred on Dakuku's 2025 publication, Leading in a Storm: Practical Leadership Strategies in Crisis Situations.

NCDMB Management and Staff, with His Royal Majesty, King Bubaraye Dakolo (Agada IV), Ibenanaowei of Ekpetiama Kingdom and guests, at the Board-sponsored engagement session with youth groups and civil society organizations in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

The event attracted participants from the academia, media, the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), and virtual attendees.

Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications at NCDMB, representing Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, the Ex-ecutive Secretary, described the series as a signature event that reflected the Board's commitment to creativity and intellectu-al development. He noted that the initiative supported NCDMB's mandate to build capacity and strengthen productivity across the oil and gas industry and its linkage sectors. He highlighted the Board's investments in driving innova-tion, aimed at encour-aging practical problem-solving.

In the book conversation, Dr. Peterside said the work was inspired by his lived experience, adding: "Every single day, Nigerians face one crisis or another". He explained that calmness, clarity, adaptability, and resilience are essential for effective leader-ship in crisis situations. He outlined key competencies, including contextual intelligence, strategic decision-making, clear com-munication, and teamwork, adding that storytelling enhances understanding because "stories teach you principles which you can apply.

***Award of Excellence: (L - R)** Mr. Obinna Osuji, General Manager, SERVICOM, NCDMB; Mr. Silas Ajimijaye, Director, Planning, Research, and Statistics, NCDMB; Ms. Khadijah Jekhine, Assistant Manager, Capacity Building, NCDMB, and Engr. Cityfaith Zorasi, Assistant Manager, SERVICOM, NCDMB, after receiving the Award for Best Agency on Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria, organised by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) in Abuja.*

Bayelsa community hosts Community Content Guideline workshop

The NCDMB and the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA) have inspected the Wal-tersmith modular refinery at Ohaji-Egbema, Imo State, following the completion of its expansion from 5,000 to 10,000 barrels per day.

Led by Mr. Saidu Mohammed, immediate past Authority Chief Executive, and Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary, NCDMB, the visit highlighted the refinery's operational progress and contribution to local refining capacity. NCDMB had earlier invested equity in the project in 2018, catalysing the commissioning of its first phase in 2020 and supporting the recent expan-sion.

The facility currently produces AGO (diesel), household kerosene (HHK), heavy fuel oil (HFO), and naphtha, having supplied over 1.1 billion litres of refined products to local and regional markets, as well as strengthening energy security and contrib-uting to the national economy.

Dr. Naboth Onyesoh, Director, Legal Services described Waltersmith as a model of local content implementation, citing its impact on job creation, capital retention, industrialisation, and value addition to oil and gas resources.

Mr. Abdulrazak Isa, Chairman of Waltersmith Petroman, said the visit showcased the completed expansion and unveiled plans for further growth, including a 30,000 barrels per day condensate refinery and an industrial park supported by a 100MMscfd gas line and captive power. He noted that feedstock for the expansion would come from the Ibigwe and Assa fields, while partnership agreements were targeted for completion by Q4 2026. The project underscores NCDMB's role in enabling local refining capacity, industrial growth, and sustainable energy security.

SNEPCo, JV, NCDMB commission Geosciences Centre at UNILAG

Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company Limited (SNEPCo), its Joint Venture (JV) partners, and the NCDMB inaugu-rated a world-class Geosciences Centre at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) in April, reinforcing efforts to build technical ca-pacity for Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

The facility was executed under NCDMB's Human Capacity Development (HCD) programmes, as part of ongoing interventions to strengthen institutions, equip universities, and develop skilled manpower for the sector and its linkage industries.

Engr. Abayomi Bamidele, Director, Capacity Building at NCDMB, said human capital development remained central to the Ni-gerian content mandate. The Centre, he said, reflected a strong commitment to building local capacity and enabling new oil and gas projects. He added that geosciences was critical to resource discovery and was among the top skills under the Board's Oil and Gas Field Readiness Training for 10,000 Nigerians.

Mr. Tolani Sule, Commissioner for Higher Education, who represented the governor, said the centre would support workforce development and reduce reliance on external expertise. "We must build our own capacity, and develop our own solutions," he stated.

Mr. Ronald Adams, SNEPCo Managing Director, described the facility as a national asset. He sought the collaboration to drive research, innovation, and talent development. Prof. Folashade Ogunsola, Vice-Chancellor of UNILAG, said the centre would enhance research, equip students with critical skills, and support long-term academic and industry relevance.

NCDMB advocates continental collaboration at SAIPEC 2026

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) has called for stronger collaboration among African coun-tries to advance local content development in the energy sector. The agency said this at the 2026 Sub-Saharan African Interna-tional Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) held in February 2026, in Lagos.

Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, said collaboration is critical to sustaining progress and strengthening indig-enous capacity across the continent. He noted that Africa's local content growth requires coordinated efforts among govern-ments, regulators, and industry players.

Halilu highlighted Nigeria's approach to local content development, which focuses on building indigenous capacity and strengthening contractor competence through targeted policies. He stressed the need for harmonised regulatory frameworks across Africa to improve project delivery and attract investment. He named the Africa Energy Bank as a key platform to support financing and expand capacity across the continent.

Industry stakeholders at the conference underscored the importance of investment, policy consistency, and collaboration in sustaining growth. They also highlighted the need to address energy access challenges while improving efficiency through technology and innovation.

The engagement reinforces NCDMB's commitment to regional cooperation and the development of a competitive African en-ergy industry.

We train our cadets for the industry

Starzs Investment Company has laid down a marker in the marine sector, deepening the availability of in-country skills and providing a career path for young Nigerians. **Ms. Iroghama Ogbeifun**, Managing Director of the company, charts Starzs progress over the years and how the NOGICD Act has been particularly instrumental to growth.

STARZS growth trajectory

Starzs Investment Company Limited is 40 years old this year. The company was established in 1986 by our founder, Engr. Greg Og beifun who was trained by Shell. Starzs has always been a marine logistics firm and has grown over the four decades, starting off from barges then moving to managing marine logistics base, and then to offshore vessel support.

About 23 years ago, we ventured into offshore vessel service provision with our flagship vessel MV Osayame, which was built in South Africa but manned and flagged Nigeria. A Nigerian crew sailed her from South Africa to Nigeria. That was the first of its kind, thereby cementing the capacity of local content. That opened the waterways for other Nigerian marine companies to follow.

We built on that foundation and today, we employ over 200 people at STARZS because we have 11 ships. We have also had the privilege to train over 100 cadets. Just two years ago, we were privileged to produce our first female chief engineer who actually commenced her seafaring career at STARZS as a cadet. She has been with us and trained for 11 years to reach the apex of her career. We are currently on our pathway to also producing our first female captain, who is just going to be our first female chief officer, which is the rank before she becomes a Captain.

"

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Ms. Iroghama Ogbeifun
MD, Starzs Investment Company.

So, at STARZS, we have built enough capacity. We train our cadets, not just for STARZS; we train them for the industry because we really truly want more marine companies to boast of having fully qualified and competent Nigerian crew onboard ships.

How the NOGICD Act 2010 enabled Starzs growth

The Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, which was passed in 2003, complements the Nigerian Content Law. The Cabotage Act stands on four pillars, which include the provi-so that vessels will be built in Nigeria, they will be owned by Nigerians, they will be manned by Nigerians, and they will be flagged by Nigerians.
The NOGICD Act came into effect in 2010, which is seven years after the legislation of the Cabotage Act. But I can say categorically that the Nigerian Content Law had more impact on the development and advancement of the maritime industry in Nigeria than the Cabotage Act. Maybe today, with the current administration of NIMASA and the establishment of the Federal Ministry of Marine and Blue Economy, we will begin to see a change in the tide.

Indeed, we have started seeing the change in the tide, starting with the disbursement of the Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF), which will then empower more marine companies to own vessels.

But prior to the establishment of the Ministry by Mr President a couple of years ago, we were literally banking on the NOGICD Act to protect our ability to exist and thrive within the oil and gas industry as indigenous operators.

So, truly, every marine company can see that they have benefited from the existence of the NOGICD Act and its implementation. We have many laws in Nigeria, but not all of them are implemented or have served as enablers as the NOGICD Act has.

Challenges faced in running the business

I can say that gender imbalance is one major challenge. Most of the people who make decisions within the industry are men. Most of the people in leadership positions who are calling the shots and determining the course of action for transactions, for permits, licences, or opportunities, are men. Just by virtue of where we are, which is one of the reasons there is a push for increased gender inclusivity within the industry and broadly.

Dealing with unwanted sexual advances and having to navigate that in a manner that does not jeopardise the purpose for interacting in the first place is a challenge. I believe that is a standard challenge that most women face, not just for this sector but generally women who are in business or professional careers.

The other challenge for me is that men are en opportunities based on their potential but for women, they have to establish their performance first before she can be given the credibility to say, "Oh yes, she can do it."

The platform for performance is not the same. The criteria to be chosen are not the same. It means that I must be given an opportunity to prove myself first. But if I am not given the opportunity, then when will I be able to prove myself so you that can then believe in my ability to deliver?

The unconscious bias that exists between the genders is a major challenge. In most cases, once a company calls for bid for a project, there is a very high chance that where there is one woman, you probably have 50 men. In fact, maybe 25 of those men will get there first because they might have got the information before the woman would even have the opportunity to show up, and she might be number 31 on the list. So, there is that struggle of being outnumbered.

Except someone intentionally singles you out, and says there is this quota that is going to have to be given to ensure diversity and inclusion, then you become like another statistics of what could have been an unwritten story. If we begin to look at that as an industry, maybe we will move the needle in the right direction.

Concrete actions need to be taken to grow women participation in business

I want to just thank the NCDMB for the platform that enables women put some of these topical issues at the forefront of people's consciousness, where people are able to express their perspectives. For me, it is very disheartening to continue to have the same conversation every year. We are talking about Women's Month, and then what we will be discussing are women's challenges and by April, we forget what we discussed in March. I suggest we need to start to see intentional and deliberate actions.

There are a few actions that have been taken, which are great. But can we build on those?

We do not need to continue praise sing ourselves based on what we have done over the last five years. What else are we doing to see more participation of women at different levels? What else are we doing to feed the pipeline of professionals coming into the industry? The industry is growing; the gas sector is exploding. How intentional are we? What are the diversity programmes that are coming out with government backing that the private sector has to align with, to then begin to see a point in our life time that equity conversations would no longer need to be about gender parity, and women empowerment will no longer be headlines and our children will not know male or female? They will just know colleagues.

It's these little drops of water that will contribute. I will like to see us take more steps, build on existing foundations so that every year, we can build on those successes and achievements.

Precious Nmesoma Ikechukwu, a Starzs Investment Engine Cadet.

RETURN OF FIDs
Local Content set for a boom

With the announcement of major FIDs, coupled with the Board's various initiatives to grow local content, and the readiness of indigenous service companies as well as return of their foreign counterparts, the oil and gas industry is entering a new phase of growth. It is increasingly looking likely that targets of NCDMB's 10-Year Strategic Roadmap are set to be surpassed when a review is done next year.

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Engr. Felix Omotsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and Dr. Omar Farouk Ibrahim, Special Adviser on International Relations to the minister at the 46th extraordinary ministerial meeting of African Petroleum Producers' Organisation (APPO) held virtually in June.

After nearly two decades of investment drought, Nigeria has again become an investment destination, attracting about 40 per cent of Africa's oil and gas upstream final investment decisions (FIDs), between 2024 and 2026.

It has been two and a half years of sweeping reforms, encompassing Executive Orders and policy directives championed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. With focused implementation and communication by his Energy Advisory team, and tactical support by agencies like the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), the upshot is the committed inflow of nearly US$50 billion capital and return of excitement in the Nigerian industry.

With new projects and investments come opportunities for deepening local content, job creation, research and development, as well as broad economic growth. The auguries for Nigerian Content, currently at 61 percent, could not have been rosier as the industry inches towards the 70 per cent mark envisaged for 2027 under the Nigerian Content 10-year strategic roadmap.

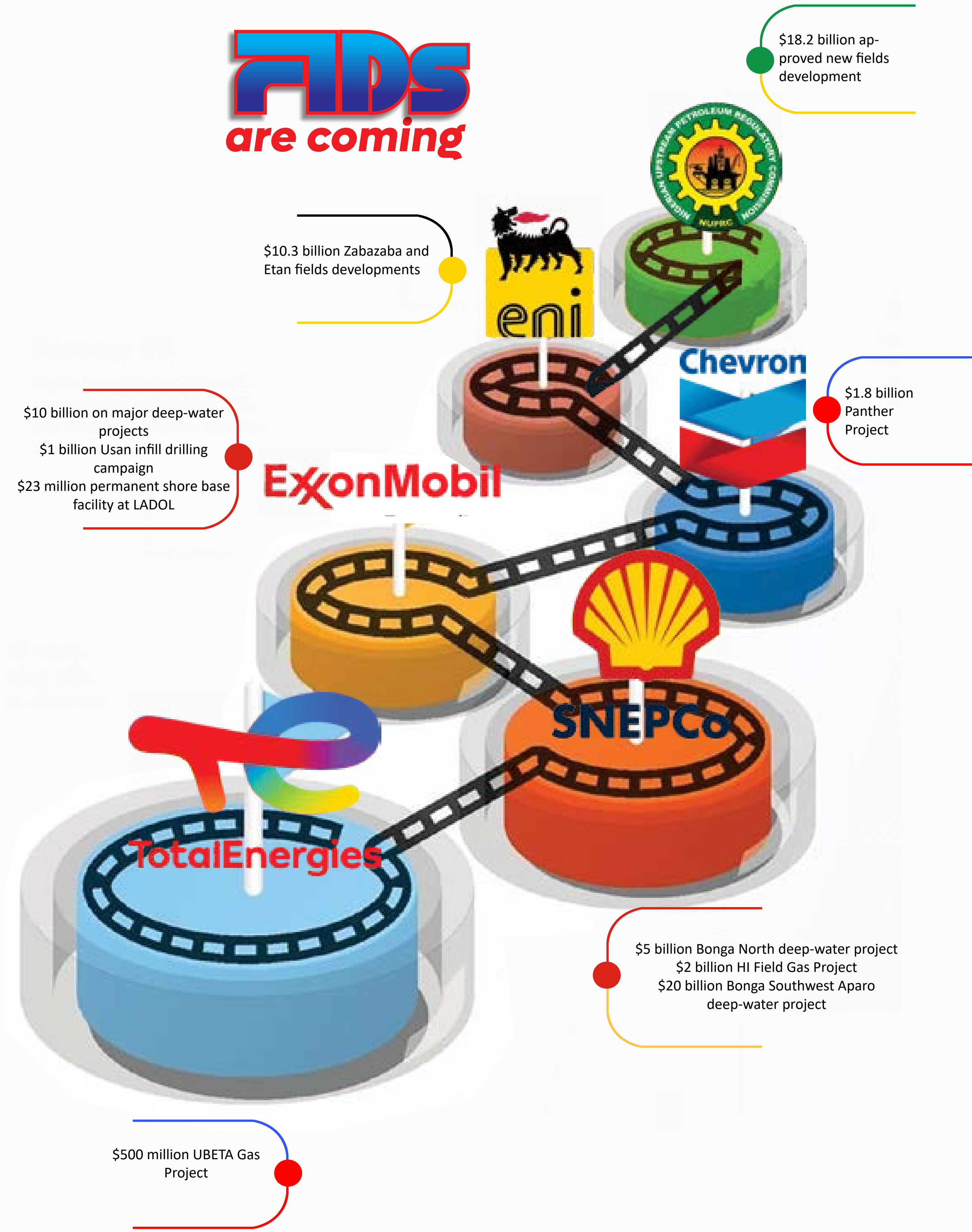
Although most of these new projects have been on the cards for over a decade, they were stagnated by regulatory bottlenecks, lack of fiscal incentives and political will. As Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), rightly remarked, the industry was weighed down by falling production, capital flight, and years without major investment decisions, with investor confidence at a low ebb, before the intervention.

President Tinubu signalled the renewed tempo through three Executive Orders that became effective on 28 February 2024. They included Presidential Directive Local Content Compliance Requirements, 2024; Presidential Directive on Reduction of Petroleum Sector Contracting Costs and Timelines, and the Oil and Gas Companies (Tax Incentives, Exemption, Remission, etc.) Order, 2024. Implemented to the letter, the initiatives unclogged processes, and eliminated uncertainties. Mr. President doubled down, hosting leaderships of global oil majors and committing to generous incentives in return for multi-billion investments in the extractive sector.

From speedy contracting cycles to new NCEC Guidelines

To give fillip to the Presidential Directives and overtures to investors, NCDMB promptly introduced measures to streamline its roles on the contracting processes and project approval cycle. The Board's touch-points were reduced from nine to five for open and selective tenders, and to four for single-source contracts. Contracting cycles have thus been compressed from 18 months to between four and six months. Overall, NCDMB's approvals and reviews on oil industry projects now carry a legal 10-day deadline, with the implication that if the deadline is missed, approval is deemed granted automatically, Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, Executive Secretary, NCDMB announced this in 2024.

The Board also introduced a zero-tolerance policy for intermediaries, by reviewing tools like the Nigerian Content Equipment Certificate (NCEC) to ensure that intermediate contractors without the requisite assets and demonstrable capacity to perform services are eliminated from the oil industry tender system. Quite significantly, the Board removed the 51 percent Nigerian equity requirement, so that joint venture structures with majority original equipment manufacturer (OEM) ownership can now fully participate in tender opportunities in deep water operations.



Mr. Silas Ajimijaye, Director, Planning, Research, and Statistics, NCDMB (middle), with executives of oil and gas industry regulatory agencies, during the commissioning of a world-class Gravimetric Flow Metering Calibration Laboratory at the operational base of Engineering Automation Technology Limited (EATL) in Eket, Akwa Ibom State.

The deluge of big-ticket FIDs on deep-water projects in two years aligns with NCDMB's years of strategic planning. Most of the projects had been showcased at Board's biennial Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fairs (NOGOF), convened to showcase opportunities across the upstream, midstream, and downstream sectors and promote indigenous capacity development, foster collaboration between local and foreign investors, and highlight the capabilities of Nigerian companies. The Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Roadmap implemented since 2018, has also set a sustainable pathway for growing local content capacities and enforcing policies.

Steady streams of projects enthrall Presidency, Petroleum Ministry

As the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Energy noted in a May 4, 2026 report, "the result has been a renewed pipeline of over $10 billion in final investment decisions (FIDs), particularly in deep offshore and integrated gas," signalling "Nigeria's attractiveness to international oil companies in capital-intensive, long-cycle projects".

Beginning with the FID by TotalEnergies in September 2024 on the $500 million UBETA Gas Project, there has been a continuous stream of capital inflow into the industry. Two others by Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company (SNEPCo) followed quickly - $5 billion Bonga North Deep-water and $2 billion HI Field Gas Project, in partnership with Sunlink Energies and Resources Limited (for supply of gas to the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Train 7, Bonny) in October 2025.

There was also the planned $1.8 billion Panther Project by Chevron and $20 billion Bonga Southwest Aparo deep-water project, also by SNEPCo. In March 2026, the latter received a presidential approval and targeted fiscal incentives for its FID.

ESSO, an affiliate of ExxonMobil, has initiated preliminary steps toward taking FID on major deep-water projects valued at $10 billion, having made a 30 percent commitment on the $1 billion infill drilling campaign at its Usan deep-water asset, as revealed by Mr. Jagir Baxi, its Chairman and Managing Director in Nigeria, in April.

Also in April, Eni secured approved for a $10.3 billion investment in the long-delayed developments on the Zabazaba and Etan fields, which are expected to produce about 150,000 barrels per day when it becomes fully operational.

The upturn in activities was confirmed in February at the 2026 Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES) in Abuja, where Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, announced a remarkable increase in the number of active rigs in Nigeria's upstream petroleum sector, from 14 in 2023 to 40 in 2025. This shift has driven crude oil production to between 1.7 million and 1.83 million barrels per day (bpd). The positive trend, which signals a renewed investor-confidence on the back of the aforesaid reforms and the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA), 2021, also extended to new Field Development Plans (FDPs), 28 of which were approved by the NUPRC in 2025. The FDPs were valued at $18.2 billion and have an estimated production potential of 1.4 million barrels per day.

A similar pointer to the influx of investments happened during the groundbreaking in March by ESSO Nigeria of its permanent shore base facility at the LADOL Deep Offshore Logistics Base in Lagos. The shore base facility is valued at $23 million and underscores the company's steadfast commitment to enhance Nigeria's deepwater offshore operational capabilities.

Another indicator is the high interest in the ongoing 2025 oil and gas licensing round being conducted by the NUPRC.

FIDs and changing oil and gas ecosystem

Nearly all the FIDs are in respect of projects offshore, in deep-sea environments that require extraordinary human capabilities and specialised, high-tech infrastructure. Undersea pipelines, deep-sea rigs, floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessels are complex infrastructure. Those operations rely on advanced technologies in all phases – construction, operations and maintenance, storage, transportation.

To the international oil companies (IOCs) with origins in the industrialised world and have evolved cutting-edge technologies, it is a familiar terrain, and the prolificity of production and substantial returns on investment are major motivating factors.

For many indigenous operators and service companies, bearers of Nigeria's aspirations for enhanced and sustainable local content growth, whose operations thus far have been largely in relatively less challenging terrains onshore (land and swamp), many might require new capabilities and equipment. Major adjustments are also needed in operational focus and capacity building, with huge cost implications.

NCDMB's farsightedness has positioned Nigeria for emerging scenarios

The deluge of big-ticket FIDs on deep-water projects in two years aligns with NCDMB's years of strategic planning. Most of the projects had been showcased at Board's biennial Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fairs (NOGOF), convened to showcase opportunities across the upstream, midstream, and downstream sectors and promote indigenous capacity development, foster collaboration between local and foreign investors, and highlight the capabilities of Nigerian companies. The Nigerian Content 10-Year Strategic Roadmap implemented since 2018, has also set a sustainable pathway for growing local content capacities and enforcing policies.

In addition, the Board regularly shares its plans and strategies with industry players at major events and meetings. One of such was the 18 September 2025 facility tour of the fabrication yard, machine shop, and jetties of the West African Ventures (WAV) Limited at the Federal Ocean Terminal (FOT), Onne, Rivers State, by the Executive Secretary.

Exuding satisfaction at the current capabilities of the company, he told the Management: "You have to pivot to offshore. All the big players in the oil and gas industry are going to deep-water." Exhorting the Management to take maximum advantage of emerging challenges, he added: "You have a 55mm rolling mill; you have ocean-going vessels; apart from that you have a standard yard to do fabrication, good load-out equipment like the JASCON 8, and a crane with a tonnage of 160."

Engr. Ogbe recalled that he awarded the first offshore pipe-laying contract of WAV several years ago in his days as the Construction Manager of Chevron Nigeria Limited, and the company's delivery was excellent.

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Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Honourable Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil) (4th right), with NCDMB management and staff, as well as other stakeholders performing the ground-breaking ceremony of Southfield Petroleum Limited (SPL) Utorogu 200 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscfd) gas processing plant in Iwherekan, Ughelli, Delta State.

Indigenous operating and service companies in the sector have, through policies and enablement by the Board, like the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund, acquired high-tech assets and equipment as well as technical expertise, which they have effectively deployed in operating onshore fields divested by IOCs and now owned by them. With giants already emerging among the Indigenous Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG) and the service segment of the industry, Nigeria is in a fit state to effectively extend its local content development drive to the emerging oil and gas ecosystem.

Indeed, a report by Wood Mackenzie in May, indicated that Nigerian oil and gas companies now dominate Africa's independent upstream landscape, accounting for about 75 percent of the continent's indigenous producer peer group value. Firms like Renaissance Africa Energy and Seplat Energy, Aradel Holdings; ND Western; Vaaris Resources; First E&P; Oando and Famfa Oil. Outside Nigeria, only Cheiron (Egypt) and Etu Energies (Angola) were mentioned in the list of top 10 in Africa by Wood Mackenzie.

Building strategic capacity for big tickets projects

With the resurgence of big-ticket investments, it is evident that skilled human capital would be in high demand. Technical capacity development is the first pillar in the Nigerian Content 10-Year Roadmap, the reason the Board strives to develop highly technical and specialised personnel in diverse fields, deploying project-based trainings and direct training programmes. Several other initiatives like institutional strengthening and the 60-20-20 model have been implemented over the last decade, to various degrees of success. As of mid-2025, the Board had recorded over 16 million training man-hours involving over 7,000 young graduates, mainly engineering, ICT, geology/geosciences backgrounds.

However, the inflow of new projects required a new strategy to meet the human capacity needs and retain manpower spend in the country. In response, the Board in October 2025, launched a revolutionary initiative known as the Oil and Gas Field Readiness Training Programme for 10,000 young Nigerian graduates. It targeted top 10 high-demand skills of the industry: sub-sea engineering, underwater welding, control and automation engineering, drilling engineering, marine operations, production and maintenance, quality assurance/quality control engineering, geosciences, digital technologies, and helicopter piloting.

At a time that stakeholders and keen observers of Nigeria's oil and gas sector are studiously gauging the local content barometer - as 2027, the target date for the 70 percent mark approaches - the massive wave of opportunities on the back of recent FIDs is reassuring. FID trends could only get stronger as the energy transition agenda of the industrialised world remains wobbly.

The programme, which lasts 12-18 months and is fully funded by the NCDMB, is at no cost to the trainees. It is in anticipation of major projects such as the aforementioned FIDs.

Aside capacity building, the Board had equipped service companies to take advantage of emerging opportunities in the sector. The Project 100 Initiative was novel and instrumental to the emergence of many leading indigenous service companies that have developed capacity to

Engr. Austin Uzoka, Senior Technical Adviser to the Executive Secretary, NCDMB, with other stakeholders performing the groundbreaking of ESSO Nigeria's permanent shore base facility at the LADOL Deep Offshore Logistics Base in Lagos.

the point of executing projects not only in Nigeria, but in other African countries.

One of the success stories on Project 100 comes from Engineering Automation Technology Limited (EATL), Eket, Akwa Ibom State. The multi-billion-naira Gravimetric Multifaceted Metering Calibration Facility, the first in Africa, was completed and inaugurated last February.

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The Nigerian Content Intervention Fund is another strategic initiative that positions service companies to excel in the industry. The $350 million revolving fund enhances capacity growth of several service firms. The fund, managed by Bank of Industry (BoI) and the Nigerian Export-Import Bank, has been accessed by no fewer than 147 companies, most of whom have repaid their loans.

One of the latest success stories is TAMROSE Logistics Limited, which impressively grew its fleet from four to 15 modern offshore support vessels between 2019 and 2025 with a $10 million NCIF loan, which it has fully repaid. Starz Marine Investment Limited is another trailblazing beneficiary in marine logistics whose successes have been in the news lately.

FIDs for the last lap of 70% local content target

At a time that stakeholders and keen observers of Nigeria's oil and gas sector are studiously gauging the local content barometer - as 2027, the target date for the 70 percent mark approaches - the massive wave of opportunities on the back of recent FIDs is reassuring. FID trends could only get stronger as the energy transition agenda of the industrialised world remains wobbly.

For Nigeria, where the groundwork for expansive local content performance has been masterfully engineered, FIDs generate expectations of in-country value addition that would make 70 percent a modest accomplishment. The milestone could well be far more than the projected numbers as major projects are the livewire of local content growth.

Undoubtedly, the future of Nigeria's local content development is shining brightly.

Dianam Dakolo, *author, journalist and biographer, known for his extensive writing on business and history, is a content consultant to the NCDMB.*

Waste management in the workplace:

from policy to practice

Before 2004, waste management in the workplace was a peripheral concern. Waste was handled mostly at the clerical level without strategic oversight. Rising concerns for the impact businesses were having on people and the environment birthed the ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) framework in 2004. The E in ESG relates to waste management, carbon emissions and climate impact, pollution control, and resource efficiency.

In a report by the United Nations Global Compact, entitled: Who Cares Wins, the ESG framework was espoused to evaluate how responsibly and sustainably an organisation operates in terms of its impact on people and the environment. The report suggested that the sustainable and competitive business of the future will be the ESG-compliant one.

That report contributed to a seismic shift in how organisations see and handle wastes. Globally, waste management in workplaces suddenly becomes a strategic priority that intersects with cost efficiency, environmental responsibility, and corporate reputation. In the years after 2004, a raft of policies, governmental and corporate, followed to guide waste management in the workplace.

In 2009 in Nigeria, the National Environmental (Sanitation and Wastes Control) Regulation was birthed, becoming the key legal instrument for waste management. The regulation, which applies directly to workplaces, provides the framework for disposal practices, proper waste handling, and pollution control.

Despite this regulation and other laws on the environment and waste management, many organisations piggybacked on the national regulation to develop company regulation on waste management, and the oversight expectedly provided by the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA). Many workplaces still struggle to move from well-crafted policies to consistent, everyday practices. Chairman of The Initiates Plc, Joe Anosikeh, says waste management is "not thriving" in the country. The reasons are simple: there is a gaping absence of structure/infrastructure, measurable goals, enforcement, and a culture that supports execution. These challenges in implementation speak to a lack of proper appreciation of the impact and benefits of waste management to the bottom line.

Impact of strategic waste management policy

Smart businesses know that a well-crafted waste management policy outlines how waste should be handled. But beyond that, it indicates the readiness of leaders to set expectations and establish accountability. An effectively implemented waste management policy can reduce operational costs through efficient resource use, thereby minimising environmental impact and enhancing brand credibility among key stakeholder groups: employees, investors, clients, vendors, and regulators, among others.

Companies such as Seplat, MTN, Dangote, Stanbic IBTC, and ZKTeco, and Guinness Nigeria, which have clear waste policies and standardised procedures for waste segregation as well as implementation mechanisms, have been known to experience improved operational discipline, often reflected in reduced raw material and energy use, lower waste disposal costs, reduced environmental incidents and penalties, avoidance of fines and shutdowns, new revenue stream through waste-to-energy conversion and selling of by-products. On the benefits of waste management to businesses, Segun Ajayi-Kadir, Director-General of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, says: "Introduction of efficient waste management offers significant economic and environmental benefits."

Setting SMART objectives

The first step to moving a policy from paper into measurable outcomes is for an organisation to define its SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) objectives. The objectives bridge the gap between intention and execution. For instance, instead of a vague goal like "reduce waste," a SMART objective would state: "Reduce office-generated waste by 25 percent in 12 months." This clarity enables teams to understand expectations, track progress, and stay accountable. SMART objectives drive focus, encourage ownership, enable measurement, and provide support for improvements. However, a waste audit to understand the workplace's current waste profile should form the foundation of SMART.

Other steps to turn policy into practice

Organisations need to take deliberate practical steps to integrate waste management into daily operations through leadership commitment and communication. The C-Suites must take the lead by approving the policy and modelling the desired behaviour. If the plan is to reduce paper use by 20 percent, the CEO, EDs, COO and other execs must be seen to take the lead, and communicate progress.

Practical implementation requires the right tools. Companies with operationalised waste management have separate bins for waste segregation. They also develop partnerships with recycling vendors. Without proper infrastructure, even motivated employees may struggle to comply. Waste management should be embedded into procurement, operations, and supply chain decisions.

Across the world today, effective workplace waste management is not just an operational necessity, it has become a strategic advantage.

Our ambition is to lead Africa

Renaissance Africa Energy appeared on the horizon like a shining star, bringing with it excitement and lots of possibilities of what happens when ambition is driven by belief and courage. **Engr. Tony Attah**, Managing Director of the company, provides detailed insights on how Renaissance would change Africa's energy landscape.

Collaboration is key to Renaissance Energy's progress

Collaboration is one of our core values at Renaissance. The typical Nigerian business is monolithic, it's not underpinned by partnership. But the future of this industry and businesses in the world is about collaboration. That is partly why we at Renaissance have deliberately chosen collaboration to lead our core values.

Renaissance is at the intersection of where opportunity meets ambition. This opportunity wasn't open to just Renaissance. When we started, we did not have a name. Shell Petroleum's companies in Nigeria took a conscious decision to divest their onshore business, which was the SPDC, operating the joint venture with NNPC, Total and AGIP at the time. Renaissance acquired 30 percent equity from Shell. Today, it is the operator of that joint venture. It's a massive opportunity - 18 OMLs with huge reserves proven, about 11 billion barrels of oil equivalent, split almost 60-40 gas to oil ratio. The biggest opportunity from this deal is really the people, as the people came along with the deal. We were very opportune to inherit about 1,400 direct staff of our own who are now proudly Renaissance staff, with a huge support base of over 10,000 contractor personnel, who are our partners and colleagues. What makes me even more proud is the fact that today, 98 percent of the workforce is Nigerian.

In the course of negotiation, there were sceptics, questions that showed uncertainty about Nigerians' ability to effectively deliver. I got upset a few times, but the reality is that it's not about emotions, it's about proving capability. Even though there were indigenous and independent operating companies in Nigeria, they had not run anything this big. No Nigerian company had taken over anything this big, hence the scepticism and questions.

Engr. Tony Attah
MD, Renaissance Energy.

In the end, we successfully delivered as a team, thanks to the structure and governance, which is the corporate shareholding of Renaissance today. This is as good as it can be anywhere in the world. When you speak about other companies, you will associate it with one name. When you call Renaissance, you associate it with other companies, and each of these companies individually has, it's their own governing structures, board, and shareholding. ND Western is the parent company that led the consortium, then Aradel, which was formerly Niger Delta Petroleum, First E&P, Waltersmith and Petrolin.

They are the shareholders of ND Western. They looked inwards and believed they could stand on their own, since they already had a consortium prior. They set the right structure, found the right resource base, told themselves they should be able to go it alone.

Our business model is driven by ABC

When it comes to pursuing a business, I would recommend the simplicity of the ABC model that gave birth to Renaissance, and is driving us today. You've got to have ambition. You must believe in that ambition, but most importantly, you must have the courage to make it bankable. Just think about collaboration already existing in the ND Western consortium; these four companies have been together for 14 years.

One of the earlier questions was: can these people stay together? Can they work together? But they have been together. At the time this deal commenced, they had been together for 11 years.

Speaking about opportunities: if you take Aradel, which was formerly Niger Delta, all they had was a marginal field; Waltersmith was also a marginal field. But with ambition, you can scale. Today, what became Aradel from Niger Delta went to market in December and was valued at US$1.5 billion. At the time, they just had one field. But today, they are participating in a few bid rounds and they are now valued at over $3 billion.

Growth of independent producers and prediction of mergers

When I joined Shell, the onshore business in Nigeria was controlled 100 percent by international oil companies, in terms of the asset base. There was Shell, Exxon, and other members of The Big Six, as we call them. But then, the transition began very early with some level of divestments that gave birth to Seplat, Renaissance and Heirs Holding. The transition that has happened in Nigeria is transformational. In other climes, when IOCs leave mature basins, international independents like Tulos take over. Think about all the other companies that are independent around the world.

In Nigeria, as the IOCs are exiting, it's Nigerian independents that are taking over from them. You've got to see that the transformation is already showing value today. More than 50 percent of Nigeria's national production is associated with independents. And that is why you will hear more about the Independent Petroleum Producers Group (IPPG), relative to OPTS (Oil Producers Trade Section). If you've been in the industry, all you would have heard about is OPTS. Today, IPPG is coming, I see and predict a future where the Nigerian independents would have to consolidate and just like in the past, where we had the big five, big six IOCs. I see a future in the next 10 years where, with consolidation, there will be five big Nigerian independent companies managing this industry, some of them are already here, Renaissance is here, SEPLAT is here. The consolidation would have to be across the others, to create the other three or five. That's my prediction. But it will take you 10 years to confirm whether I'm right or wrong.

You need ambition and bankability to structure oil and gas financing

When we talk about financing, there is a nexus between ambition and opportunities being underpinned by creating value and finding solutions rather than pursuing profit. There is value in structure and being able to have the right governance. Without those ingredients, nobody is going to finance you.

Financing is about local ambition versus the capital intensity of the industry. Many people complain they don't have money. I have argued, based on the Renaissance story, that money is not what you need first. You need the belief, you need the ambition, you need the mindset that is creating a solution or value. When you have this, definitely money will come. Yes, we argue that ambition is not enough, but if that ambition is big enough, it becomes a magnet.

Think about Uber. Someone sat somewhere and said: I don't need to own a car myself, but I need to create a system whereby people who own cars can provide solutions or services to people who need to move. What is your concept? What is the solution? What is the problem you're trying to solve? What is the value you're trying to create? Nobody will give you money just because you have an idea, or because you assembled a group. Financing is really about the bankability of that idea. You have to move from idea to value, and that needs to be seen, made visible. We must speak to the funding gap.

Facing challenges without Shell's global support

Someone once asked me: "What do you miss with Shell gone?" In terms of funding, the gap is real. But finding a solution to this funding gap itself is a business opportunity. You have to ask yourself: What can I do to bridge this gap? That question can be applied to almost every problem there is. The reality is that this industry is not a short-term industry, it's not your fly-by-night industry, not cash-and-carry. That's why you'll hear that the marginal bid rounds, since the last 20 years, more than 60 percent have not taken off. That is because most people think that if they get a marginal field and they are producing 5,000 barrels, they would be making so-so amount. People focus on what they will make rather than the problem or the solution they are creating.

Energy transition and getting funds globally

Energy transition took a completely different slant where the world started to talk about net zero. Net zero painfully was interpreted in certain times as zero fossils. This, in my view was misrepresented, as there is no scenario where the world can carry on energy or where there will be an energy mix that doesn't include fossil fuel.

As Africans, we've had challenges with funding, international banks made statements that they would not fund any oil project, pension funds made statements. Policies have come in and out. The recent occurrences have tested the fragility of the global energy systems, as you can tell. The starting point was the Russia-Ukraine war and gas supply from Russia not coming into Europe.

Suddenly, you realise that the energy system globally is very fragile, even though seemingly interconnected. You can see immediately countries that sort of archived their nuclear systems, archived coal, because it's dirty and doesn't help the planet, have had to go back. Companies and institutions that have also made very tough statements around funding, about financing the so-called dirty fuels, have had to take that back. You can just see that a lot of the coalitions around the energy transition being linked to zero fossils have had to change their minds because survival is more important than driving anything, even that is still being tested.

The Russia-Ukraine war is still going on, the USA-China tariff war is still going on; it's now exacerbated by the USA-Iran-Israel war. And you can just see the fragility of the energy system. For us in Africa, this is supposed to be an opportunity, quite frankly. We debate whether Africa should transition at the same pace as the rest of the world. People say we must be allowed to use our God-given resources to develop like the industrialised nations did. We might argue both sides, but there is a midpoint that as Africans, Nigeria inclusive, we cannot ignore the fact that energy will continue to be in transition. Energy has always been in transition. I'm a big fan of renewables, but I don't believe that renewables alone deliver the energy we need.

I speak to the fact that there must be focus on the energy mix, more than the energy transition. And in the case of Nigeria, every home should have solar panels, batteries, and inverters. Yes, maybe initially capital-intensive but the long game is that energy can be made available with a bit of creativity. Now, that is a solution space that will always attract investment.

Structure is key in raising finance for oil industry operations

Investments as well as capital follow structure. If you're looking to raise funds, your structure needs to be clear. Renaissance, for instance, has a credible and robust governance structure. What is your structure? When you take a company to a bank trying to raise money, they will ask you: who are your shareholders? You need a structure that is credible. Those are the kinds of things that financiers look for. Money looks for clarity; most importantly, money looks for safety, not vagueness. What business do you want to do? Buying and selling? A general contractor? What exactly is this business? What solution you are bringing? What problem are you trying to solve? That's the question the banks are asking. This is why when you show up, they're not just looking at what you have put before them, they are looking at "who will look after our money?" What is the assurance that if we give you this money, if we finance you, not only will you pay back, you create value both for you and them?

Let's ignore the value. How do you guarantee that the money will come back intact? Hence, the need for a structure, guarantee, systems, and a bankable project to be financed. Without these, one will struggle.

If you want to raise money, you don't show up and say, "I need a million dollars for a solution I'm about to create." The bank says, yes, we hear you, we actually do have a million dollars, but what is your own skin in the game? What is your equity contribution? They're not just going to hand you a million dollars. On the average, you're expected to have at least 20 percent of what you want to borrow, which sometimes is a shock to most people who want to raise finance.

We are very confident at Renaissance that as we continue to deliver and export gas, that you can see 2.2 billion cubic feet of gas exports, but at least 1 billion standard cubic of gas will come into Nigeria by 2030. That represents the ambition that we have. We want to enable the industrialisation of Nigeria, where you have LPG cooking gas in every home, where gas becomes fertiliser, where gas becomes power, where gas becomes transportation in CNG, LPG, LNG vehicles on the road, and where gas becomes employment. Gas is not everything, and gas is what we have.

*The **Sea Eagle** is an FPSO vessel operated by Renaissance Africa Energy. Moored in the shallow waters of the EA Field offshore Warri, it plays a vital role in processing and storing hydrocarbons before export.*

The process entails taking risks. If you want to borrow 100 percent from the bank system, what risk are you carrying? Essentially, equity financing is a starting point. What can you raise on your own? What can you and your collaborators or consortium raise? What is the structure of the business you are setting up? What is the best way to finance you?

Africa needs to do business with itself

We now have the African Energy Bank, though it's been a slow start in the course of the full flight energy transition. If you pay attention to COP25, you will see that Africa needed to create its own solutions, and part of that response is the bank that has been set up here. There is a future. It's not very big at the moment, to be able to bridge the $10 billion to $20 billion gap that we see, or be as robust as we want. If you listen to the FID announced by Shell a couple of months ago, it's $20 billion over the next five years, $10 billion over the next two to three years. You can just see big numbers, big money, robust financing from deep pockets, Exxonmobil and the likes. When will Africa be able to take control of its financing? When will Africa take advantage of the global interconnectivity and begin to do business with itself? Africa needs to do business with Africa.

When I was the managing director of NLNG about five years ago, I spoke glowingly about my business at the CEO Africa Conference. When I finished, somebody in the audience raised his hand and asked: "What percentage of your business as Nigeria LNG is done with other African companies and African countries?" Painfully, at that time, the answer was zero. NLNG was not exporting to any other African country. The global system is wired in a way that Africa, and indeed Nigeria, continues to do business with the rest of the world, excluding Africa. That is part of the Renaissance ambition. We want to lead in Africa, we want to be the gateway for Africans to do business with itself, and be robust.

Refining our crude oil creates additional value

The MD of Aradel recently mentioned that industry players are celebrating oil at $80. In fact, the business plan for this year had oil at $60 to $65 at best, but of course, the geopolitical situation has changed that game and we're now seeing oil at $100, $110, and fluctuating between $90, $105. However, Aradel's MD said the value of one barrel from a refinery point of view is $180. If I take one barrel, and I take it into my refinery and take out the components, crack it, bring out diesel, petrol, NAPHTA, diesel, aviation fuel, this and that, the sum total of what I can make from a value stream of that one barrel is slightly less than $200.

But what do we do today with the business model that the IOCs had. They produce and take the crude out. That's why it's called an extractive industry. They take the crude out and create value in their respective countries. I do not expect that Nigerian independents will continue with that model of produce, take the barrels out for someone else to create value. That model is not consistent with Nigerian content where we are looking to create capacity and domestication in-country. That is why I feel very proud of the Aradel and Waltersmith refinery. This speaks to the robustness of Renaissance's shareholder structure. Before Dangote came in, those were the only refineries that were working in Nigeria.

Symbolism of Renaissance's ownership and transition

There is one very symbolic event that I will never forget for the rest of my life as a former Shell staff. There's this Shell flag that had been hanging at their Port Harcourt office. That flag had flown on that pole for over 60 years, even during the Biafran war. We said, let's demonstrate and symbolically show that Renaissance is taking over by lowering that flag and raising the Renaissance flag. Unbelievable what emotions went with just that basic symbolic act. For the first time in over 60 years, the Shell flag was lowered and for the first time in the life of Renaissance, for the next hundreds of years to come, the flag was raised up.

For me, that day marked the real transition and the beginning of the transformation of Nigeria's oil and gas industry. It announced the emergence of the Nigerian independents, gave birth to that ambition that we hope and pray that one day this industry will be 100 percent Nigerian. This value will be 100 percent African, including financing. That is what this vision of being the African leader, enabling energy security, but most importantly, industrialisation of Nigeria.

We are very confident at Renaissance that as we continue to deliver and export gas, that you can see 2.2 billion cubic feet of gas exports, but at least 1 billion standard cubic of gas will come into Nigeria by 2030. That represents the ambition that we have. We want to enable the industrialisation of Nigeria, where you have LPG cooking gas in every home, where gas becomes fertiliser, where gas becomes power, where gas becomes transportation in CNG, LPG, LNG vehicles on the road, and where gas becomes employment. Gas is not everything, and gas is what we have.

I always say Qatar has only gas, and has been able to build so much. If you look at the GDP per capita of Qatar, it's over $120,000. If you look at the GDP per capita of Nigeria with the devaluation, you are lucky if you see $1,500, even though we have gas and we have oil. This ambition cannot be a Renaissance ambition alone; this must be a Nigerian story, an African story. That is why we at Renaissance Africa want to take advantage of our God-given position today to move to the rest of Africa.

That is the Renaissance story. I hope it connects with you.

Last year, Renaissance Africa Energy inaugurated its Southern Swamp Associated Gas Solutions Project in Delta State, in a successful implementation of the company's strategy for ending routine flaring. The facility injects an estimated 100 MMScf/d gas to the domestic market

Adapting to Outdoor Sports in inclement weather

The wet season is here. Many love this period - temperatures are cooler. The terrains are also softer and many outdoor activities become more comfortable due to reduction in heat stress and dehydration risk compared to the intense Dry Season heat.

However, the season also presents many hazards: flooded surfaces, reduced visibility, lightning and storms, slippery surfaces, dangerous flying debris, muscle stiffness, and falling structures. These hazards could potentially increase the risk of accidents and injuries outdoors, which is why Dr. Jimi Osinaike, a sports medicine physician, advised on proper injury prevention and safe sports practices.

Despite these hazards and the unpredictable outdoor conditions, we do not abandon physical activity altogether. Maintaining physical activity during the wet season goes beyond fitness: it is about continuity. Medical science has shown that consistency in exercise supports mental clarity and health, stress management, and overall productivity.

Thus, rather than stop, the smarter approach is adaptation and moderation. We choose the right sports and apply safety strategies based on our understanding of the environmental risks. According to the Nigeria Association of Sports Medicine (NASMED), safe sports participation requires adapting physical activity to prevailing environmental and weather conditions to reduce injury risks and protect overall wellbeing.

Choosing the right outdoor activities

Not all outdoor sports are suitable during the wet season. High-impact or fast-paced activities on hard surfaces such as basketball or sprinting on concrete or football on poorly drained fields can be risky. However, several outdoor activities remain relatively safe and effective. Below are a few of these sporting activities.

Cycling

Cycling on low-traffic or designated cycling paths is viable. The emphasis should be on control rather than speed, as wet surfaces significantly reduce traction.

Brisk walking

Walking is one of the safest and most accessible forms of outdoor sports. In the wet season, it is best done on well-maintained paths, tracks, or paved areas with proper drainage.

Golf

For executives who already enjoy golf, the wet season does not necessarily mean a pause. Golf courses are typically designed with drainage systems, making them safer than many other outdoor environments. However, attention must be paid to lightning risks, flying debris, slippery grass, and falling trees.

Outdoor stretches under shelter

Covered outdoor spaces such as pavilions offer the benefit of fresh air without direct exposure to rain. These are ideal for low-impact activities like yoga, stretching, or mobility exercises.

Swimming

Outdoor pools with proper safety standards provide a controlled environment that eliminates many of the risks associated with wet ground surfaces.

Football

Light kickabouts in properly drained fields is also relatively safe to engage in. Care must be taken though to wear appropriate footwears that have strong grips to avoid slips.

Managing wet conditions

Outdoor sporting activities during the wet season requires a deliberate shift in approach. The focus moves from performance to safety and consistency in terms of gears, awareness, temperature management, and timing. Before going out on the wet surfaces for sports, fitness and sporting experts say one must consider:

Footwear and gear

Dr Onimisi Salami, a consultant orthopaedic and sports surgeon, said investing in the right footwear is non-negotiable. Shoes with strong grip and water-resistant materials can significantly reduce the risk of slips and falls. Lightweight, breathable rain gear can also help maintain comfort without restricting movement.

Visibility and timing

Visibility is poor during rains for everybody on the road. If you must jog or walk, wear reflective or bright-coloured clothing and choose well-lit environments so motorists can see you clearly.

Weather monitoring

Check the weather forecast before stepping out. While light rain is manageable, thunderstorms, particularly those accompanied by lightning, pose severe risks. Activities should be postponed immediately in such conditions, NASMED advised.

Surface awareness

Wet surfaces are hazardous. Grass becomes slippery, tiles treacherous, and asphalt loses its friction. While in sporting mode, you should consciously avoid sudden turns, speeds, or abrupt stops, Osinaike advised. A slower, more controlled pace is safer.

Assessing your risks

Risk assessment is synonymous with industries like oil and gas. A similar mindset should be applied to outdoor exercise. If the weather condition deteriorates leading to heavy rainfall, flooding, strong winds, or lightning, the prudent action is to stop. Exercise and sports participation should be guided by safety, proper medical advice, and prevailing environmental conditions, NASMED advised.

The wet season does not have to disrupt an active lifestyle. For business executives, the lesson is clear: success lies not in avoiding challenges but in adapting intelligently to them.

The making of Africa's first gravimetric flow metering facility

When Regulators become Enablers

There was little ambiguity about the moment represented when regulators, operators, and service companies gathered in Eket, Akwa Ibom State, for the unveiling of the Gravimetric Flow Metering Calibration Laboratory at Engineering Automation Technology Limited (EATL). For an industry that has dealt for years with the limits of in-country flow measurement, the consensus in the room was clear: a solution is in place.

This is not a theoretical improvement or a policy announcement. It is a working facility, the first of its kind in Africa, built to handle the realities of oil and gas operations. Designed to accommodate flow regimes and fluid properties, the laboratory combines temperature and pressure conditioning, traceable reference standards, and automated data capture. In doing so, it addresses issues around flow metre factorisation and recertification, areas that have traditionally required reliance on facilities abroad.

The significance of that development was reflected in the calibre of attendees. Representatives stood in for key industry institutions: the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Upstream Investment Management Services (NUIMS). They were joined by stakeholders from NNPC Exploration and Production Limited, Renaissance Africa Energy Intercontinental, Emerson Automation Limited, and other industry players, including former regulators with technical experience.

Engineering Automation Technology's Gravimetric Flow Metering Calibration Laboratory eliminates the need to send meters abroad.

Deepening in-country capacity

At its Gravimetric Flow Metering Calibration Laboratory is on accuracy and reliability. Flow measurement sits at the centre of oil and gas operations, influencing everything, from production accounting to regulatory compliance. For years, achieving precision meant sending equipment abroad, with cost, delays, and little to no local involvement.

What EATL has built changes that process. By providing in-country calibration and verification, the facility allows operators to manage metering requirements locally without lowering standards. Controlled testing conditions and traceable measurement systems ensure consistency and credibility of results.

For operators, the benefits are reduced turnaround time lowers potential disruptions, and cost savings come from eliminating foreign calibration services. It also improves planning and compliance because companies can now complete critical processes in Nigeria.

During the inauguration, this practicality was acknowledged. There was a debate about the

> *From the regulatory side, the NCDMB described the facility as a breakthrough. The Board's Executive Secretary, Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe noted that calibration and metering services had been carried out outside Nigeria, resulting in capital flight, delays, and limited knowledge transfer.*

necessity. The facility fills a known gap and meets a technical need that has existed for years.

From support to execution

In his welcome address, EATL's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Dr Emmanuel Okon, explained how the project began. The foundation was laid during the inauguration of Project 100, introduced by the NCDMB in collaboration with the Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

Project 100 was created to identify and support indigenous companies with potential in the oil and gas sector. Selected companies received funding from the Nigerian Content Intervention Fund, mentorship, and access to industry opportunities. The aim was to help

Africa's first Gravimetric Flow Metering Calibration Laboratory comes into being in Eket, Akwa Ibom State, deepening in-country capacity

> *The significance of that development was reflected in the calibre of attendees. Representatives stood in for key industry institutions: the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), and the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Upstream Investment Management Services (NUIMS).*

them scale into competitive players.

For EATL, this support created the space to think beyond operations. Dr Okon noted that the company chose to take on an ambitious role in advancing Nigerian Content. He emphasised that their selection was based on transparency and merit, which strengthened their confidence in the system.

His position on capacity development was simple. Exposure to global systems showed him that Nigeria's gap was not due to lack of ability but lack of investment. The conclusion was that local execution was possible if the right commitment existed. The facility is a result of that decision. He acknowledged regulators, operators, and partners for supporting the transition from idea to execution, describing it as a movement from aspiration to operational capability.

From the regulatory side, the NCDMB described the facility as a breakthrough. The Board's Executive Secretary, Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe noted that calibration and metering services had been carried out outside Nigeria, resulting in capital flight, delays, and limited knowledge transfer.

He linked the facility to the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, stressing its relevance in local ownership, capacity building, and value retention. He also highlighted its importance for revenue assurance, compliance, cost efficiency, and skills development.

The Executive Secretary noted that the Board's approach has expanded beyond monitoring into enabling, through financing, infrastructure support, partnerships, and innovation. Ogbe urged EATL to maintain international standards, pursue certifications, and invest in research and human capital to position the facility as a regional hub.

An industry-wide win

For the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, the facility represents both regulatory strength and industry support. The Commission's Chief Executive, Mrs. Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan, described it as a national standard, stating that flow laboratories across the country would now bring master metres to EATL for calibration. She added that the Commission maintains a balance between regulation and business enablement. The goal is to ensure compliance while supporting efficiency and cost reduction across the industry.

From the Nigerian National Petroleum Company's perspective, the focus is on operational impact. The company's Chief Upstream Investment Officer praised EATL for delivering a system that strengthens measurement accuracy, hydrocarbon accounting, and regulatory compliance, as they enable transparency and value optimisation. He emphasised the essence of collaboration among regulators, operators and technical teams to the success of the project. In his view, the facility supports the company's mandate to improve accountability and efficiency in operations.

Industry partners also reinforced the importance of the facility. A former Executive Commissioner of the NUPRC described it as a milestone, noting that precision and competence no longer need to be outsourced. He urged operators to support and utilise the facility and encouraged young engineers to see it as an opportunity to develop expertise. Representatives from Emerson Automation and Renaissance Africa Energy Intercontinental also pledged collaboration and patronage.

For the NCDMB, EATL's achievement reflects the success of its strategy for building local capacity. It demonstrates that targeted support can produce tangible industrial outcomes with economic value.

In the end, the facility is important, not just because it is symbolic but because it solves a real problem. It improves measurement accuracy, reduces dependency on external systems, and strengthens technical capacity within the industry. It is a development that directly supports how the sector operates.

- *Dianam Dakolo*

***1.** Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, NCDMB, with Prof. Samuel Oghenovo Asagba, Vice Chancellor, Delta State University (DELSU), during the official visit on the proposed establishment of Centre of Excellence on Gas Development in Abraka, Delta State.*

***2. (L-R):** Barr. Esueme Dan Kikile, Director, Monitoring & Evaluation, NCDMB; Engr. Austin Uzoka, Senior Technical Adviser to the Executive Secretary, NCDMB; Chief Timi Alaibe, former Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC); Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications, NCDMB, and Mr. Teddy Bai, Assistant Manager, Government Relations, NCDMB, during the funeral service of late Senator Lawrence Oborawharievwo Ewhrudjakpo, former Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State, in Yenagoa.*

***3.** Participants at the second edition of the KEFFESO HCDT Stakeholder Forum at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa state.*

***4.** Participants at the Board-sponsored engagement session with youth groups and civil society organisations in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.*

***5.** NCDMB Staff and trainees at the close-out ceremony of the Board-sponsored Weed to Wealth Youth Empowerment Programme in Warri, Delta State.*

***6.** Winners of the Board-sponsored Hackathon, a coding competition undertaken by university students in Nigeria at the prize award ceremony at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa state.*

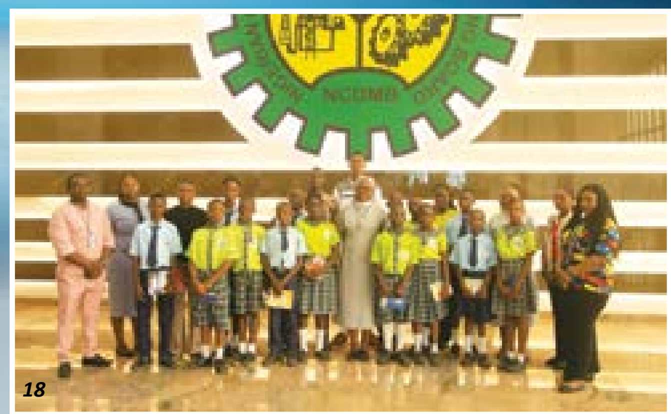
***9.** NCDMB Management and Staff celebrating the 2025 International Anti-Corruption Day at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa state.*

***10.** Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, NCDMB with Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications, NCDMB after concluding a panel session at the Nigeria Local Content AfCFTA Energy Summit in Lagos.*

***11. Capacity Building:** NCDMB management and staff with trainees at the close-out ceremony of the Board's Human Capacity Development Training programme on the Provision of Community Electrification Interdependency Project - Opukushi Transmission Node in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.*

***12.** Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, NCDMB, with the Governing Council Executives of KEFFESO Host Community Development Trust (KHCDT) at the second edition of the KEFFESO HCDT Stakeholder Forum at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa state.*

***13.** Barr. Esueme Dan Kikile, Director, Monitoring & Evaluation, NCDMB, and other guests at a book launch at the Ijaw National Congress Worldwide Annual Convention in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.*



14. NCDMB management and staff with personnel of Julius Berger Construction, during the Board's inspection visit at the ongoing construction of Oloibiri Museum and Research Centre (OMRC) in Otuagbagi, Ogbia Local Government Area, Bayelsa State.

15. NCDMB management and staff with other participants at the Nigerian Content Consultative Forum, third edition of the Diversity Sector Working Group's Women in Oil and Gas Conference and Mentorship Programme in Lagos.

16. NCDMB management led by Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services, and some Board's staff with officials of Seplat Energy Plc, GOSHEN and Delta State University after the visit to the Institution on the proposed establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Gas Development in Abraka, Delta State.

17. NCDMB Management and staff with media professionals at the one-day capacity-building workshop for media stakeholders in Abuja.

18. NCDMB staff with the principal and students of Divine Image Nursery, Primary and Secondary School during a guided educational tour of the Board's facilities at the Nigerian Content Tower, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

19. Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) in June was on a knowledge-sharing and local content benchmarking visit to NCDMB. (R-L): Dr. Obinna Ezeobi, General Manager, Corporate Communications; Esueme Dan Kikile Esq, Director; Monitoring and Evaluation; Dr. Abdulmalik Halilu, Director, Corporate Services; Mrs. Jennifer Boateng, Adviser, General Services, GNPC; Mr. Eric Pwadura Director, Corporate Affairs; GNPC; Mr. Augustine Bayivella, Principal, Supply Chain and Local Content Development Officer; and Seidu Salim Braimah, Manager, Supply Chain and Local Content.

FROM POTENTIAL TO PRACTICE

NCDMB, ANOH GAS AND PARTNERS PIPELINE OF INDUSTRY-READY TALENT

For many young Nigerians, the real challenge begins after graduation. Degrees are earned, but the opportunity to apply those skills in real work environments is often missing. Without practical exposure, knowledge remains abstract, and the transition into the workforce becomes uncertain. This disconnect between education and industry has long shaped the employability gap across key sectors, particularly in oil and gas.

It is this gap that the NCDMB Human Capital Development Programmes set out to address through a structured approach to training.

In collaboration with Anoh Gas Processing Company, Baker Hughes, and PM4Success International, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board implemented a 12-month programme designed to move participants beyond theory into practical competence. One hundred and ten trainees were engaged across professional and vocational tracks, combining technical learning, global certification, and workplace exposure.

Certification was integrated into the process, with trainees preparing for globally recognised qualifications including PRINCE2, NEBOSH, City and Guilds, and CIPS. The final phase placed participants within organisations, where they gained exposure to workplace expectations and operational systems.

Closing the gap between training and real work

At the centre of the initiative was a clear industry need. According to Engr. Effiong Udofia Okon, Managing Director of Anoh Gas Processing Company, the objective was to develop professionals capable of functioning effectively in real operational environments. Across the oil and gas value chain, employers have consistently identified a gap in practical readiness among new entrants, particularly in safety awareness, technical application, and workplace discipline.

To address this, the programme adopted a dual-track structure that reflects how the industry operates. Participants began with foundational training in health and safety, leadership, entrepreneurship, and digital skills before progressing into specialised areas. The professional track covered project management, procurement, data analysis, instrumentation, and health and safety, while the vocational track focused on welding, scaffolding, rigging, catering, and fashion design.

This combination ensured that technical expertise was developed alongside the behavioural competencies required in real work settings. For Anoh Gas Processing Company, the initiative represents a long-term investment in Nigeria's gas sector.

Training designed for industry realities

Delivering this level of training required more than a standard curriculum. PM4Success International designed the programme as a progressive journey, moving participants from onboarding and assessment to certification and on-the-job placement. According to its Managing Director, Dr David Emumena, the focus was on practical immersion.
Participants were exposed to simulations, technical laboratories, and controlled learning environments that mirror real industry conditions. For those in vocational training, more than 70 percent of the programme involved hands-on work with tools, machinery, and safety systems. Professional participants engaged in case studies, project simulations, and training with industry-relevant tools.

Engr. Effiong Udofia Okon
MD, Anoh Gas Processing Company.

Certification was integrated into the process, with trainees preparing for globally recognised qualifications including PRINCE2, NEBOSH, City and Guilds, and CIPS. The final phase placed participants within organisations, where they gained exposure to workplace expectations and operational systems.

For many trainees, the experience reshaped their career direction. Aliyu Unuagbokhe, who entered the programme with a background in entrepreneurship and digital design, found himself drawn to technical and safety-related fields after exposure to industrial systems. He noted that the programme introduced him to new areas of opportunity and required a higher level of discipline.

Amaka Esther Okwodu, a philosophy graduate and entrepreneur, described the programme as a turning point in her efforts to build practical skills in fashion design. Beyond her primary focus, she gained competencies in digital tools and business development. Her on-the-job experience exposed her to real work conditions, strengthening her ability to manage pressure and collaborate.

For Temitayo Akintomide, who already had technical experience, the programme provided an opportunity to deepen his expertise. Through hands-on training and certification, he strengthened his skills in welding and scaffolding, and gained experience in a fabrication environment.

Dr. David Emumena
MD, PM4Success

Amaka Esther Okwodu

Aliyu Unuagbokhe

Temitope Akintomide

Building capacity beyond the classroom

Beyond individual outcomes, the broader impact of the programme lies in workforce development. It has contributed to building a pool of Nigerians with improved technical competence and stronger safety awareness. This aligns with the objectives of Nigerian Content development. The collaborative model also played a critical role. NCDMB provided oversight, Anoh Gas ensured alignment with industry needs, Baker Hughes contributed technical expertise, and PM4Success delivered implementation.

As the programme concludes, its significance extends beyond the number of participants trained. It demonstrates that effective capacity development requires more than classroom learning. For participants, it marks a transition from knowledge to capability.

- ***Ophelia Jackson***

The fun, and Adventure in the Waters of Burutu

Life on water in Burutu where creeks, trade, fishing, and history shape one of Niger Delta's most active riverine communities.

Burutu is one of those places in the Niger Delta region that is easier to understand when you stop expecting it to behave like a typical or generic destination. It is not built around tourism but around water, movement, fishing, and trade. Now, it has unwittingly become a tourist attraction.

Located in Delta State, Burutu sits deep in the riverine part of the state, where land access is limited, and water transport is the dominant system. Getting there often involves a combination of road travel to river points such as Koko or Warri, followed by boat transport through creeks and waterways that connect smaller settlements.

The town itself functions as a coastal and river port community. Boats are not optional here; they are part of the residents' daily life. They move people, goods, fuel, fish, and construction materials. There is a constant flow of activity around the waterfront, especially in the mornings and late afternoons when movement is at its peak.

The waterways are the most active part of Burutu. Fishing remains a major occupation, alongside trading and small-scale logistics. Wooden boats and engine-powered speedboats operate side-by-side. Fish is sorted and sold almost immediately after landing, often in small open markets close to the water.

The experience is both historical and functional. On one side, there are traces of old port infrastructure and trade routes; on the other, there is a continuous daily activity built around fishing, transport, and small-scale commerce. Goods are moved by boat, markets operate at waterfronts, and movement between communities happens almost entirely by water.

What stands out is how integrated the environment is with daily survival. Houses are built close to or on raised platforms near water. Walkways are wooden in many areas, and movement between settlements is often faster by boat than by land. For visitors, this creates a different kind of experience. There are no formal "tourist routes". Movement is based on local arrangement, usually hiring a boat operator who understands the creeks and settlement patterns.

Burutu has historical significance linked to early colonial trade routes in the Niger Delta. It developed as a river port when European trading companies operated in the region. One of the key references in its history is the presence of trading infrastructure associated with the Royal Niger Company. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the company was involved in commercial activities across the Niger Delta, including trade in palm produce and other commodities.

While many of the original structures are no longer functional, remnants of old port activity can still be found in and around Burutu, now serving as a tourist sight. These include abandoned waterfront areas, old industrial frames, and dock-related infrastructure. Although they are not preserved as formal heritage sites, but they remain part of the physical landscape and, for the curious, a dive into time past.

Adventure, but not for the fainthearted

One of the most notable historical touchpoints for visitors is the old port area, including remnants linked to the Royal Niger Company era. These waterfront structures and abandoned port layouts reflect Burutu's earlier role as a trading hub in the Niger Delta, when goods were moved through river routes for export. These sites remain visible along parts of the waterfront and offer a direct link to the town's commercial past.

Boat rides through the creeks remain the most practical and revealing way to experience Burutu. These routes pass through fishing settlements, mangrove channels, and open waterways that connect the town to surrounding riverine communities. Along these journeys, visitors encounter active fishing camps, informal landing points, and clusters of homes built directly on or beside the water, showing how deeply settlement patterns are tied to the river system.

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Local economy, food and stay

The local economy is heavily tied to fishing and river trade. Fish remains the dominant good, alongside small-scale agricultural goods and imported household items transported by boat.

Food in Burutu reflects this reality. Meals are largely seafood-based, with fresh fish prepared through frying, grilling, or pepper-based stews. Ingredients are locally sourced and meals are typically prepared in homes or small local food spots rather than formal restaurants. There is no structured culinary tourism, but food access is consistent and closely tied to daily catch availability.

Accommodation within Burutu itself is limited and basic. Most options are small guest houses that provide essential services such as bedding, security, and basic utilities. Standards vary, and visitors typically choose based on availability rather than brand. Because of this, there is a preference to stay in nearby Warri, which offers a wider range of hotels, better infrastructure, and more predictable services. From Warri, Burutu can be accessed by road and boat combinations, depending on the route. This makes Warri a practical base for visitors who want comfort while still exploring Burutu during the day.

Transport and access

Access is one of the defining features of visiting Burutu. There is no single direct route that applies to everyone. Travel typically involves road transport to riverine departure points, followed by boat travel.

Boat transport is not seasonal or occasional, it is continuous. Operators are familiar with the routes, including smaller creeks that connect deeper into surrounding communities.

Timing matters. Movement is easier during daylight hours, and weather conditions can affect travel times. Burutu does not stand out because it has major landmarks or developed attractions. It stands out because it remains primarily a working riverine community.

The experience is defined by observation: how people move, how trade happens, how settlements are built around water, and how history still sits in the background without being formally displayed.

For visitors, it is not about sightseeing in the traditional sense. It is about seeing a place where life is organised differently, and where water is not scenery but infrastructure.

NCIFund

HAS ENABLED COMPANIES' EXPANSION ACROSS AFRICAN MARKETS

Funding has historically been a major challenge of Nigerian companies in the oil and gas sector. That has changed in the last few years with the availability of the Board's Nigerian Content Intervention Fund. **Mr. Abubakar Abba Bello**, Managing Director of Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM), attests to the impact of the bank's collaboration with NCDMB.

Operations of NCDMB fund domiciled with NEXIM Bank

The oil and gas-focussed fund with NEXIM Bank is called NCDMB Capacity Building Fund. The totality of the fund is US$50million.

What we have is like a joint venture, where NCDMB provided $50 million and NEXIM bank provided a counterpart fund. In a nutshell, it's a total of $100 million. This fund is broken into two: one is called the working capital and capacity building facility, which is for local contractors of international and indigenous oil and gas operating companies active in the Nigerian oil and gas sector. The size of the fund is $30 million, plus our additional $30 million.

The other $20 million is specifically reserved for women in oil and gas. Any woman-owned business or woman-managed business qualifies for funding under the women in oil and gas facility.

Both facilities are in foreign currency and naira to avoid currency mismatches. Where a transaction is naira-denominated, the loan is disbursed in naira rather than in dollars, and vice versa, even though most of the contracts in oil and gas are in dollars. The working capital and capacity building facilities have been running for close to four years now and they have run quite well, especially the working capital part.

Modalities for accessing the fund

The fund is open to every active contractor in the oil and gas sector, but there are conditions that must be met. To be able to access the working capital and capacity building fund, you must be a member of Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) or Oil and Gas Trainers Association (OGTAN), recognised institutions that both NCDMB and NEXEM recognise. For the women facility, you must belong to Women in Oil and Gas Association and Women in Energy Nigeria Association. Those are the first conditions.

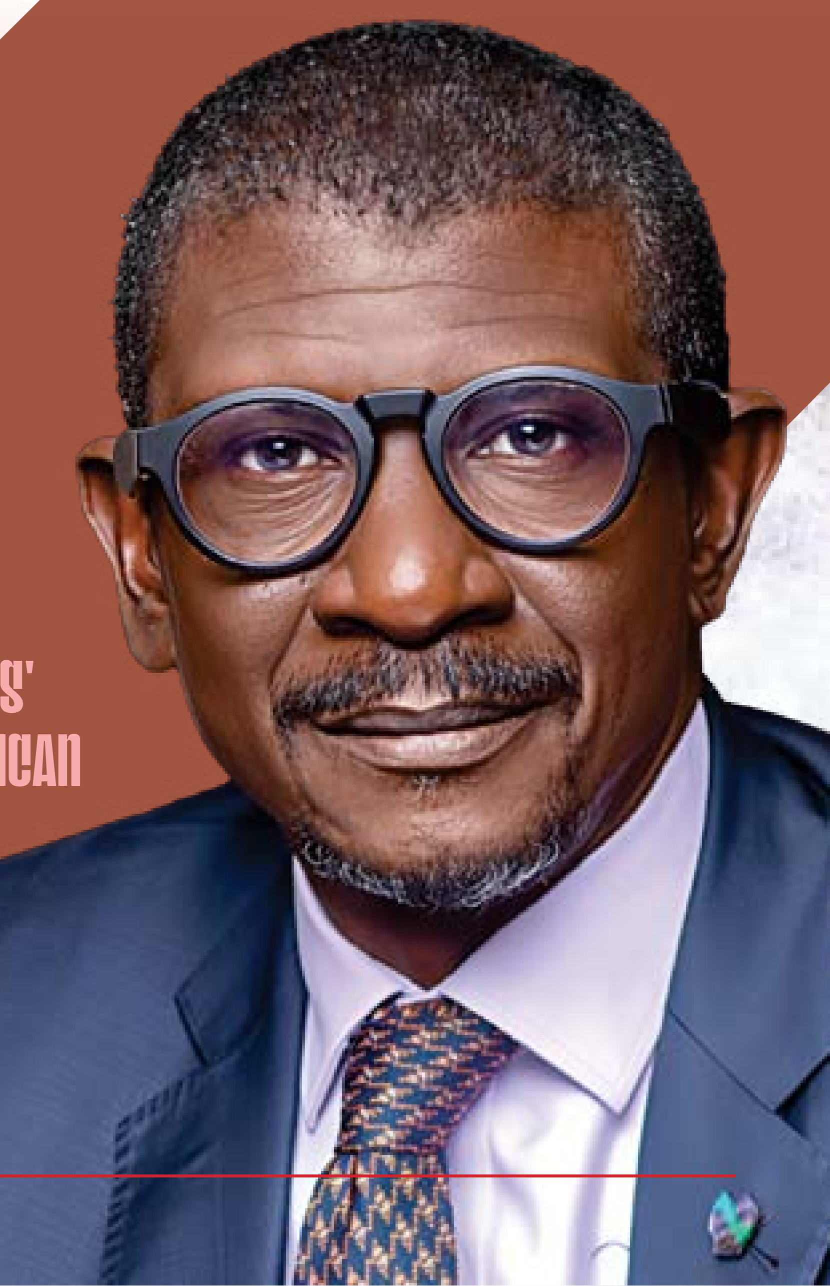
Also, the contract that you need the loan for must be from an international oil company or a Nigeria-operating oil company that is recognised. When you approach NEXEM with the contract, we will assess it. You can apply on our portal and applications can be processed through the portal. Once you put all the documents together, we get back to you within 48 hours. Once we review your documents and it's good for us to proceed to the next stage, we send it to NCDMB for their concurrence. Once they concur, we check to see if the customer meets the conditions and then disbursement is made.

We try as much as possible to do this within the number of days specified in the service level agreement we signed with NCDMB so that we don't keep the customers waiting.

Why the women's fund Has not performed optimally

We have recorded good access for the other fund but the women facility has been suboptimal in utilisation. This is because many women have not built their capacity to the level where they can meet the conditions for the fund, especially the collateralisation. Even for the men, we have tried to make collateralisation easy, where we are accepting invoice discounting or very minimal Irrevocable Standing Payment Order (ISPO) from a bank that is already collecting your payments. We have tried to make it easy for players in the oil and gas sector.

However, many women's businesses in oil and gas are just in their infancy. They don't have those invoices to discount; they don't have a bank ISPO. We meet them all the time. What we are thinking to do with the NCDMB is to see how we can support that; maybe use cash flows. Perhaps, a lot of women have jewellery - use other things to try and build them up first to the point where they'll be getting the invoices to refinance. We're doing something to try and see how we can facilitate the usage by women.



Mr. Abubakar Abba Bello
MD, NEXIM.

Challenges encountered while implementing the fund

We have had a few challenges with commercial banks that already have the domiciliation of the contractors and refuse to give ISPOs. But it's something that we keep negotiating with them, find the middle ground that works for both parties to ensure that the facility is secure.

For the working capital facility, we are getting to the peak of it. I think it is time we now put more money in support, because it has got a lot of patronage from the contractors. The fund is fulfilling the purpose for which it was set up. It is to build the capacity of Nigerian contractors so they can take their services to other oil and gas markets within Africa. The fund has helped facilitate Nigerian contractors to go into other African markets to provide their services. Some of the companies are already in Uganda, Ghana, among others. I think the Fund needs to be expanded.

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As time goes on, more people are expected to come for it and the volumes are also expected to get bigger. Soon, we will need to go beyond even the NCDMB funds and create funds that are outside NCDMB that will support Nigerian contractors in other fields.

An overview of the funding arrangement

No one would have thought in the past that an agency of government like NCDMB would be available to support indigenous contractors. I give kudos to the Board. They have done well for local contractors in Nigeria. They have supported in developing local capacity in the oil and gas sector.

Before I took this job, I was in the banking sector, and I can tell you how difficult it is for contractors or oil companies to find funding from commercial banks, especially in areas like engineering and technical services. For supply jobs, it is easier but for engineering services where they now have to do the work before they get paid, there is no financing for that.

The Board is trying to cover such gaps, which I think they have done quite well. In my opinion, this is one of the best things that have happened to local contractors in the oil and gas sector. But it can be better if we expand it and provide longer tenured facilities for them.

Nigerian Content Intervention Fund (NCI Fund) was key to Tamrose's expansion. The company accessed a US$10 million facility, which was repaid in 2025. The intervention enabled Tamrose to grow its fleet, expanding from four to 15 vessels, including 10 security patrol and five platform supply vessels.

Shifting landscape in Nigeria's publishing world

Africanfuturism and speculative fiction are offshoots of lower barriers to getting published. It is a new world for writers.

The publishing industry is no longer only defined by traditional gatekeepers. What used to be a slow, approval-driven system has opened up, largely because of internet access and the widespread use of smartphones. Writing, publishing, and reading are now happening in real time. According to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Nigeria has over 160 million active mobile subscriptions, with internet penetration estimated at over 55 to 60 percent. That is not just connectivity; it is a large, ready-made audience for digital content.

Digital publishing is changing the game

One of the most visible changes is the rise of digital publishing. E-books are no longer experimental or secondary; they are a standard option for writers and small publishing houses. Platforms such as Amazon, Kindle, Direct Publishing, alongside local digital channels, have removed many of the barriers that once slowed authors down. Writers can publish faster, distribute wider, and reach international audiences without the cost and logistics of physical books. Industry reports indicate that digital-first publishing can cut production and distribution costs by as much as 40 to 70 percent, compared to traditional print.

Independent publishers have moved from the margins to the centre of activity. With digital tools handling editing, design, and distribution, smaller publishing outfits can operate lean and move quickly. Social media has become their storefront and marketing engine. Books are discovered on Instagram, shared on WhatsApp, debated on X, and sold directly to readers, often without reliance on brick-and-mortar bookstores.

More voices, stronger influence

This expansion has opened the door wider than ever before. Writers who once struggled to break into mainstream publishing now have direct access to readers. Female writers, in particular, are gaining visibility across genres, from romance and memoir to speculative and literary fiction. Many are building loyal audiences online and sustaining them without institutional backing. Across African digital reading communities, women represent a significant share of self-published authors, especially in romance and contemporary fiction categories.

Access is only a part of the story. The type of content coming out of Nigeria is also evolving. Africanfuturism and speculative fiction are gaining traction, both locally and internationally. Writers like Nnedi Okorafor have helped to bring global visibility to the genre, but a new generation is building on that momentum. The global science fiction and fantasy market, valued at over US$10 billion, is increasingly open to African voices, particularly those entering through digital publishing channels.

Opportunities rising, challenges holding

Despite the momentum, structural challenges remain. Print publishing is still expensive. The industry depends heavily on imported materials, and rising costs have made physical book production more difficult. Paper prices alone have increased by over 50 percent in some segments between 2020 and 2024. This has forced publishers to rethink how they operate. Many now prioritise digital editions and approach print runs more cautiously, producing smaller quantities and focusing on demand.

Nigeria remains one of the largest publishing markets in Africa by output. Exact figures are difficult to pin down due to informal activity, but industry estimates suggest that several thousand new titles are released each year. When educational and academic publishing are included, the market is valued in the hundreds of billions of naira. Textbooks still dominate, but trade publishing is steadily gaining ground, driven by digital access and changing reader habits.

What stands out most now is not just the number of books but the number of people producing them. Writers are no longer waiting to be discovered. They are sourcing editors, hiring designers, managing distribution, and building audiences themselves. In practical terms, many now operate as small businesses, combining creative work with publishing strategy.

If publishing has become easier, being seen has become harder. The volume of content means attention is limited. Writers are relying more on social media presence, reader engagement, and personal branding to stay visible. Bookstores still play a role, but they are no longer the primary route to readers for a growing number of authors.

The Nigerian publishing space is no longer predictable. Technology, access, and audience behaviours are all moving at once. More people are publishing, more stories are circulating, and those stories are travelling further than before.

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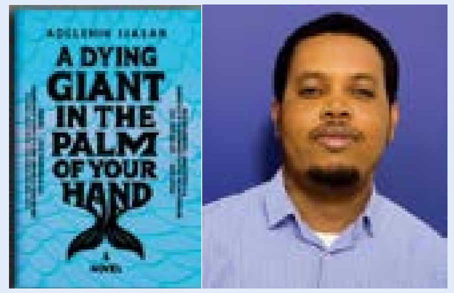


A Dying Giant in the Palm of Your Hand
by Adelehin Ijasan

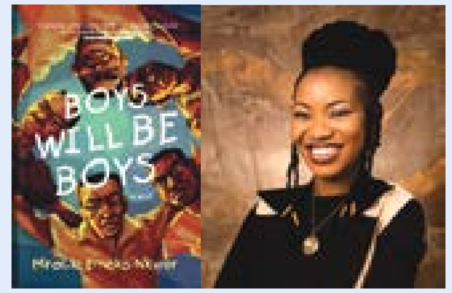
A Dying Giant in the Palm of Your Hand steps into the 2026 Nigerian literary scene as a debut that immediately feels grounded in something real. It mixes environmental fiction with a coming-of-age story. What makes it stand out is how naturally both elements sit together without feeling forced.

At the centre is Nimi, a young boy living in a coastal community where life is shaped by water, land, and whatever the tide decides to bring. His life takes a turn after a strange discovery near the shoreline, and from that point, the story opens up in a way that slowly changes how he understands his environment.

The environment in this book is not background decoration. It is active. It affects how people live, and survive, and how they think about the future. Fishing, daily survival, and uncertainty are all parts of the same routine. Anyone familiar with Niger Delta communities will recognise the texture of that life, where the environment is not something outside the story, but inside it.

The writing is simple and direct. It keeps things moving, letting the story build at a steady pace. What makes the book interesting is how Nimi's personal growth is tied to everything happening around him. This is not just a boy "coming of age" in the usual sense. His understanding of himself is shaped by land, water, and the pressure of a changing environment that does not care about comfort or stability. Even when the book leans into its bigger ideas, it does not lose the human side of the story.

Overall, *A Dying Giant in the Palm of Your Hand* is a strong debut that fits neatly into the growing wave of Nigerian fiction focused on environment, identity, and survival. It is straightforward, readable, and has enough weight behind it to stay with you after you are done.



Boys Will Be Boys
by Miracle Emeka Nkwor

It starts with a death inside Bethlehem Glorious High School in Port Harcourt, and suddenly *Boys Will Be Boys* shifts the entire rhythm of school life. A place that was supposed to be routine becomes tense, suspicious, and uncertain almost overnight.

At the centre of the story is Chisom, a new student trying to settle into the school and stay unnoticed. That plan falls apart quickly when she crosses paths with the Notorious Five, a group of boys that already dominates the school's social space. When one of them dies, and then another, the school atmosphere changes completely, and Chisom finds herself pulled into something she never bargained for.

What begins as a contained school incident slowly expands into suspicion. Students begin to watch each other differently, friendships shift under pressure, and silence becomes as important as what is said.

The story uses multiple student perspectives, keeping everything unstable. Chisom's understanding often clashes with others, and truth feels fragmented, depending on who is speaking.

Beyond the mystery, the book sits firmly inside teenage school life. Reputation, peer pressure, group identity, and isolation shape behaviour. Bethlehem Glorious High School becomes a closed system where rumours move faster than facts and consequences escalate quickly.

The writing is clean and direct, with short chapters that keep pace tightly. Emeka-Nkwor avoids heavy language, focusing on clarity and forward movement, maintaining tension throughout.
Suspicion drives the story. Nothing stays fixed, and every answer creates another question.

Released in March 2026, the book is a young adult thriller, part of a growing wave of Nigerian school-based crime fiction for younger and adult readers. The real danger is not just what happened, but how quickly everyone decides what they think happened.

The Finest Things
by Deborah Kira

The *Finest Things* is the debut novel of Deborah Kira, published by Masobe Books, and it has already emerged as one of the most anticipated Nigerian fiction releases of 2026, with early praise highlighting its sharp and emotionally charged storytelling.

The novel follows Adunni, a young woman returning to Nigeria after time away, only to be confronted by family secrets and the collapse of a carefully constructed "picture-perfect" life. What begins as a romantic storyline quickly expands into something more layered, pulling in questions of identity, emotional history, and the fragile balance between love and expectation.

Set in a contemporary Nigerian urban environment, the story stays tightly focused on character psychology rather than large external events. Much of the tension is built through dialogue, silence, and emotional misalignment, where what is said matters less than what is deliberately avoided.

At its core, the novel centres on a relationship that appears stable on the surface but gradually reveals cracks underneath. One character pushes for clarity and truth, while the other leans more heavily on emotion and avoidance, creating a slow emotional drift that drives the narrative forward. Instead of dramatic twists, the story builds intensity through accumulated misunderstandings and unspoken pressure.

Deborah Kira's writing style is modern and restrained, relying heavily on conversation and internal reflection. The pacing allows emotional tension to develop naturally without rushing resolution, keeping the reader close to the characters' shifting realities.

What makes the novel stand out is its refusal to idealise love. Relationships are shaped by timing, personal history, and emotional gaps that do not resolve easily. Supporting characters remain closely tied to the central arc, reinforcing rather than distracting from it.

The *Finest Things* ultimately fits into a growing wave of Nigerian contemporary fiction that prioritises emotional realism, offering a grounded and intimate portrayal of love, family, and consequence.

Finding gems hidding in books

Knowledge does not always arrive loudly. Sometimes, it sits quietly inside books, waiting for the right person to find it, muses **Ophelia Jackson**.

In a world dominated by endless scrolling, short attention span, and constant notifications, reading has quietly become one of the most overlooked forms of personal growth. Despite the rise of digital entertainment, books still hold a powerful place in shaping how people think, communicate, and understand the world around them.

Research continues to support this. According to a 2023 study published by the National Literacy Trust, regular reading improves concentration, empathy, communication skills, and emotional intelligence. Another report from World Literacy Foundation estimates that literacy contributes billions of dollars annually to global economic growth through improved productivity and education outcomes.

But, beyond statistics, reading changes people in quieter ways.

For many, books are more than paper and ink. They are escape, education, reflection, and sometimes even survival. Long before ideas are debated in meetings or turned into policies and businesses, they often begin in silence, shaped by what people read and absorb over time.
The world is distracted, but reading still matters

Reading forces a kind of stillness that modern life rarely allows. It slows the mind down enough to think deeply, question assumptions, and see life through perspectives outside your own. In that process, people grow. They become more thoughtful, more informed, and often more self-aware.

Across Africa, storytelling has always been central to culture and identity. Before printed books became common, stories lived in voices, passed down through generations under moonlight conversations, family gatherings, and oral traditions. Books simply carried that tradition into another form. They preserve memory, document history, and give people the language to tell their own stories.

Nigeria's literary influence alone continues to shape global conversations. Writers like Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka, and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie have helped position African literature on the global stage, while a younger generation of writers continues to expand what African storytelling looks like today.

For young professionals, reading offers an entirely different kind of advantage. It sharpens communication skills, improves vocabulary, strengthens critical thinking, and helps people engage in conversations with more confidence and clarity. In many industries, the ability to think well and communicate effectively is becoming just as valuable as technical skill.

Still, building a reading habit is not always easy, especially in a culture built around speed and distraction. Many people genuinely want to read more but struggle with consistency. The trick is often to make reading feel less intimidating and more personal.

In a world dominated by endless scrolling, short attention span, and constant notifications, reading has quietly become one of the most overlooked forms of personal growth. Despite the rise of digital entertainment, books still hold a powerful place in shaping how people think, communicate, and understand the world around them.

Start with topics that naturally interest you. Read for a few minutes daily instead of forcing long sessions. Some people read early in the morning, others before bed, during commutes, or between work breaks. What matters most is consistency, not perfection.

Reading communities and book clubs are also becoming increasingly popular across Nigeria, especially among young people looking for spaces to connect beyond social media. These communities turn reading into conversation, helping people exchange ideas and discover books they may never have picked up on their own.

The impact of reading is rarely immediate, but it lasts. A single book can influence a career path, reshape an opinion, spark creativity, or completely change how someone sees themselves. In a world that rewards speed, reading teaches patience. In a world full of noise, it creates clarity. And in a society constantly looking outward, books sometimes help people look inward. Some of the most important growth still happens quietly, hidden in the books we choose to read

Recommended books to read, and grow your collection

African fiction

- **Half of a Yellow Sun** - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- **The Girl with the Louding Voice** - Abi Daré
- **Stay with Me** - Ayọ̀bámi Adébáyọ̀
- **The Fishermen** - Chigozie Obioma

African non-fiction

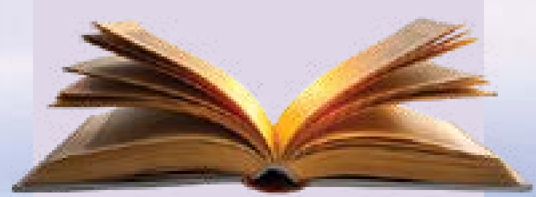
- **The Trouble with Nigeria** - Chinua Achebe
- **Of This Our Country** - Kole Omotoso
- **We Should All Be Feminists** - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

For career growth

- **Good to Great** - Jim Collins
- **The Lean Startup** - Eric Ries
- **Start with Why** - Simon Sinek

Others

- **Atomic Habits** - James Clear
- **Deep Work** - Cal Newport
- **Outliers** - Malcolm Gladwell



AI and the FUTURE of MONEY

AI is embedded in everyday life. Managing our money is no exception.

The wealthiest man in the world, Elon Musk, suggested that money has no future in an artificial intelligence-driven world. His argument was simple: If AI becomes mainstream and widely used in industries, cost will contract while productivity spikes. That, he said, would lead to abundant production of human needs, and abundance would collapse pricing to near zero. At that point money loses its value. While that may sound extreme, the reality truly is that AI is indeed subtly reshaping our engagement with money.

How algorithm is your new banker

Your financial institutions rely heavily on AI and machine learning to manage transactions. A fintech expert, Aduragbemi Ladepo calls the transformation "a seismic shift". Creditworthiness assessment, loan processing, fraud detection, and stock purchase that used to require human judgement are today largely handled in real time by chatbots. This is possible because AI/ML can analyse millions of financial transactions in minutes, learn from patterns, and suggest instant solutions.

Indeed, that is already happening. A few years ago in Nigeria, applying for a personal loan in banks was a herculean task. Then, it could take four to six weeks from application to approval. Applying for the same loan is more convenient than buying a roast corn on the street. It takes minutes to access bank loans without stepping out of your home. This is made possible via digital credit scoring, including credit history, income, transaction behaviour, debt levels, and even an individual's digital footprints.

AI as the new banking relationship officer

No doubt automation has had a transformational impact on our financial lives. But the real impact of AI is personalisation. AI is turning financial services into bespoke experiences, designed around habits, goals, and risks tolerance levels. For instance, imagine that for 12 months you maintained a consistent banking pattern: withdraw ₦500,000 monthly, transfer ₦200,000 to your family, and send ₦150,000 to your brokerage account. The Generative AI and Machine Learning software deployed by your financial institution records these patterns and memorise your behaviour. When, in month 13 you suddenly ask to withdraw ₦1,000,000 or send ₦500,000 to your family, the bots immediately flag the transactions as suspicious until you can prove it is you making them. Thereafter, the system records the new behaviour.

AI as personal money manager
Budgeting

Even personal budgeting has evolved from the traditional approach of manual tracking and sometimes guesswork to a digital approach. There are chatbots now that can generate financial insights for the user without prompting. For instance, instead of simply telling you how much you spent, AIs such as Cleo and Brigit warn users that they may likely overspend in the month based on their current spending trajectory. And they go further to recommend specific actions to take to avoid overspending.

Savings

AI is also making savings less of a strain through "invisible saving". When deployed, the systems can monitor your cashflow and automatically move small amounts that you will hardly notice into savings when surplus funds are detected. These features are common with fintechs such as PiggyVest, Cowrywise, and Kuda.

Investment

Investment bots like Robo-advisors use algorithms to build and manage portfolios based on an individual's risk tolerance, time horizon, and financial goals. These platforms continuously rebalance investments, responding to market changes faster than most human investors could. For many, this lowers the barrier to entry, making wealth-building strategies once reserved for high-net-worth individuals accessible to a broader population.

Imperative of AI literacy

The reality is that financial systems are growing more intelligent and chatbots are right now controlling our money and how we spend it. And beyond finance or money, AI is also running many aspects of our lives. Thus, it has become imperative that to function effectively in the digital world, we must be AI savvy, be more informed about AI trends, understand how the systems work, what data they use, and their limitations or pitfalls. Most importantly, financial literacy must now be complemented by digital and data literacy.

Looking ahead, while the world awaits Elon Musk's future without money, money will increasingly be defined by collaboration between humans and intelligent systems. According to financial experts, AI will continue to handle the heavy lifting such as data processing, speed of execution, and identification of trends, while humans will provide context, judgment, and ethical oversight.

FROM DREAM TO COCKPIT

How NCDMB is building Nigeria's next generation of pilots

For many young Nigerians, becoming a pilot remains one of the most ambitious career aspirations imaginable. The profession is highly specialised, expensive to access and demands years of rigorous training, discipline and technical competence.

Yet, beyond the prestige associated with aviation lies an industry need that is becoming increasingly important to Nigeria's economic future. As offshore oil and gas operations expand and new investments flow into the energy sector, demand for skilled aviation professionals, particularly helicopter pilots, continues to grow.

Recognising this opportunity, the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB), in partnership with Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL) and Bristow Helicopters Nigeria Limited (BHNL), has launched a pilot development programme aimed at building indigenous capacity in one of the most specialised segments of the oil and gas value chain.

The initiative will provide 10 young Nigerians with world-class aviation training, opening a pathway into a profession that plays a critical role in supporting offshore energy operations.

Building Capacity Beyond the Oilfield

For NCDMB, the programme represents more than another training intervention. It reflects the Board's broader commitment to ensuring that Nigerians occupy strategic positions across the oil and gas industry.

Since the enactment of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (NOGICD) Act in 2010, local participation has grown significantly across engineering, fabrication, marine services, procurement and manufacturing. Nigerian Content performance has risen from about five percent in 2010 to about 61 percent today, while indigenous companies now account for over half of Nigeria's oil and gas production.

Those gains have been driven largely by deliberate investments in people, facilities and technology. But some specialised skill areas still require targeted intervention. Aviation is one of them. Helicopters are essential to offshore oil and gas operations, transporting workers to offshore platforms, supporting emergency response missions and connecting remote installations to onshore bases.

Speaking at the programme's unveiling in Lagos, NCDMB's Director of Capacity Building, Engr. Abayomi Bamidele described the initiative as a strategic investment in Nigerian talent and an opportunity that should not be taken for granted.

The 18-month programme combines classroom instruction, ground school training, flight operations and practical aviation experience leading to internationally recognised pilot qualifications and ratings. The objective of the training is to develop Nigerian aviation professionals with the capacity to support the country's energy industry while reducing dependence on expatriate expertise.

The pilot development initiative forms part of NCDMB's broader Oil and Gas Field Readiness Programme, which was conceived in response to renewed investment activity across the Nigerian energy sector.

Nigeria is currently pursuing an ambitious target of increasing crude oil production while unlocking its vast natural gas resources. To support this growth, NCDMB's Field Readiness Programme aims to train more than 10,000 graduates and technicians in 10 high-demand skill areas linked directly to industry needs. Helicopter piloting was identified as one of those strategic competencies.

While the programme culminated in the selection of 10 beneficiaries, the journey began with a much larger pool of aspiring candidates.

NCDMB and its partners implemented a rigorous, merit-based selection process designed to identify individuals with the aptitude, discipline and potential required to succeed in aviation. The emphasis on merit is particularly important in aviation, where safety, competence and professionalism are non-negotiable.

Partnerships that deliver the goods

For Chevron Nigeria Limited, the initiative aligns with a long-standing commitment to developing Nigerian talent. Representing the company's Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Mr. Ikhuoria Aimienwanu described the programme as a significant milestone and one of the first initiatives specifically designed to address the shortage of indigenous pilots supporting the energy industry.

According to him, Chevron's commitment extends beyond infrastructure and facilities to developing Nigerian professionals who are capable of competing at international standards.

Few organisations are better positioned to deliver such training than Bristow Helicopters. For more than six decades, Bristow has provided aviation services to the global energy industry and trained aviation professionals across multiple jurisdictions. According to the Managing Director, Capt. Oladapo Oyeleke, the company has trained more than 500 pilots during its long history of operations.

However, he cautioned that helicopter operations that support offshore energy activities are among the most demanding in aviation, as they require exceptional competence, precision and professionalism.

Among the programme's beneficiaries is Miss Itorobong Inyang, whose selection highlights another important industry trend. Women account for less than 10 percent of airline pilots globally.

Inyang's success demonstrates that opportunities within specialised technical professions are becoming increasingly accessible through merit-based processes. For her, participation in the programme is not only a personal achievement but also an opportunity to inspire more young women to pursue careers in aviation and other technical fields.

It is a win for local content

The trainees will commence ab-initio pilot training at Henley Air in South Africa, where they will work towards obtaining Private Pilot Licences, Commercial Pilot Licences, Night Ratings and Instrument Ratings before proceeding to aircraft type-rating training. Beyond technical qualifications, the programme aims to develop professionalism, leadership, discipline and operational excellence.

As the trainees begin this journey, they carry the aspirations of an industry seeking to deepen local participation in specialised skill areas that have historically relied on foreign expertise. For the beneficiaries, it is a chance to transform a dream into a profession. For Nigeria, it is another step towards strengthening indigenous expertise in aviation support for the energy industry.

It also demonstrates how Nigerian Content is evolving to develop Nigerians for highly specialised roles. For 10 young Nigerians preparing to enter the cockpit, that future has already begun.

- Ophelia Jackson

Gas Flaring to Gas Hubs

NCDMB expands partnerships to unlock Africa's energy future

Nigeria holds one of Africa's largest natural gas reserves, estimated at over 200 trillion cubic feet, yet gas flaring and limited domestic utilisation remain major challenges. The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission published data on the country's flared millions of standard cubic feet of gas in 2025, despite repeated commitments to reduce wastage and expand domestic gas supply.

At the same time, energy access remains a major issue across the continent. The International Energy Agency estimates that more than 600 million Africans still lack access to electricity, even as Africa accounts for about seven percent of global natural gas reserves. That contradiction is forcing a rethink across the industry.

Instead of relying almost entirely on export-focused LNG infrastructure and expensive long-distance pipelines, a new model is gradually emerging across Africa, built around modular gas systems, virtual pipelines, mini-LNG plants, and regional gas hubs designed to move gas closer to industries and consumers. At the centre of several of these initiatives in Nigeria is the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, working with indigenous companies, international partners, and regional institutions to reposition gas from an underutilised resource into a driver of industrial growth.

Other ongoing partnerships include Nedogas 300MMscfd gas processing facility in Kwale, Delta State and the Brass Fertiliser and Petrochemical Company's methanol production project in Bayelsa State with a planned capacity of 10,000 metric tonnes per day. In the LPG space, NCDMB-backed projects include Butane Energy's LPG bottling plants and depots, Rungas Type-3 LPG cylinder manufacturing facility, Transiel Gas LPG terminal and jetty development in Delta State, and Mob Integrated LPG distribution centre in Niger State.

Shifting from traditional delivery systems

Africa's gas infrastructure has largely been built around exports, particularly LNG export to international markets. While the model generated revenue, it left many local markets underserved and allowed substantial volumes of gas to remain stranded or flared due to inadequate domestic delivery systems. The new approach is different. Technologies such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), cylinder cascades, mini-LNG plants, skid-mounted processing facilities, and mobile gas distribution systems are creating what industry players describe as "virtual pipelines". These systems make it possible to transport and distribute gas without relying entirely on fixed pipeline networks.
The shift is not just about energy access. It also opens opportunities for local manufacturing, engineering, fabrication, logistics, and technical services. High-pressure cylinders, storage systems, compression units, mobile distribution infrastructure, and gas handling equipment can increasingly be produced locally, creating jobs and strengthening industrial capacity.

The broader vision aligns with ongoing conversations around intra-African energy trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area, where regional gas hubs could support industrialisation across multiple African markets.

NCDMB's growing gas infrastructure push

One of the most visible examples of this transition is the NCDMB-Shell Gas Hub initiative at Polaku in Bayelsa State. The project is being developed as a strategic industrial platform designed to deepen gas utilisation, support manufacturing, and encourage indigenous participation across the gas value chain. Located close to Shell's gas infrastructure, the hub is expected to provide investors with access to serviced industrial plots and a more reliable gas supply for gas-based industries.

Beyond infrastructure, the project reflects a wider attempt to localise industrial activity around gas resources rather than exporting value entirely outside the country. The Board is also expanding its gas development footprint through partnerships with indigenous firms across multiple projects. One such partnership is with Southfield Petroleum Limited for the development of a 200MMscfd gas processing facility in Ughelli, Delta State. The project is expected to strengthen domestic gas supply for manufacturing and electricity generation.

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Together, the projects point to a broader strategy: using gas not only as an export commodity but also as a foundation for industrial activity, manufacturing growth, cleaner energy adoption, and local enterprise development. That same strategy is also shaping the proposed NCDMB Multipurpose Cooperative Society CNG Conversion Centre in Yenagoa.

The planned facility is expected to convert private and commercial vehicles to using compressed natural gas, supporting Nigeria's wider transition towards alternative fuels following the removal of fuel subsidies. Beyond vehicle conversion, the initiative is designed to build local technical capacity, create jobs, and support cleaner transportation systems within Bayelsa and neighbouring states.

Local manufacturing and Africa's regional energy ambition

For the Board, the long-term opportunity extends beyond gas supply into manufacturing. This is where the Nigerian Oil and Gas Park Scheme (NOGaPS) becomes increasingly relevant. The initiative was established to create lower-cost manufacturing hubs for oil and gas components within Nigeria using a shared infrastructure model. The idea is to reduce dependence on imported equipment while supporting local fabrication, assembly, and technical production.

As modular gas systems expand across Africa, demand for cylinders, storage systems, valves, compression units, and related infrastructure

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is expected to grow. That creates an opening for African manufacturers to participate more actively in the continent's evolving energy economy. Regionally, the African Petroleum Producers' Organisation (APPO) is expected to play a coordinating role in aligning regulations, standards, infrastructure planning, and financing frameworks across member-states. The appointment of Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe to APPO's Board further reflects ongoing collaboration around African local content development, energy integration, and regional capacity building.

For Africa, the focus is no longer only on exporting resources abroad. For Nigeria, modular systems, gas hubs, and local manufacturing have the potential of turning stranded gas into long-term economic value.

- ***Blessing Ekpe***

MIDSTREAM AND DOWNSTREAM SUMMIT 2026

Expanding local content frontiers

For decades, the upstream sector dominated attention, attracting the bulk of investments, policy focus, and industry conversations. But increasingly, attention is turning toward the midstream and downstream segments, where gas processing, refining, storage infrastructure, transportation networks, and value-added industrial development are beginning to redefine the future of the industry.

That transition formed the backdrop of the 2026 Nigerian Oil and Gas Midstream and Downstream Stakeholders Summit, organised by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) under the theme: Unlocking, Growing and Sustaining Nigerian Content Development in Nigeria's Oil and Gas Midstream and Downstream Sectors.

The summit served as a strong statement that industry stakeholders are becoming more deliberate about using the midstream and downstream sectors to deepen local participation, strengthen industrial capacity, and convert Nigeria's hydrocarbon resources into long-term economic value.

Nigerian Content beyond upstream

The summit brought together regulators, operators, investors, financiers, manufacturers, and service providers to explore practical pathways for expanding investments and accelerating Nigerian Content growth across the energy value chain.

Proceedings started with a welcome address by Barr. Esueme Dan-Kikile, Acting Director of the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate of the NCDMB, who highlighted the progress

The strongest message throughout the summit was the importance of collaboration. Across presentations and panel discussions, speakers repeatedly emphasised that sustainable growth within the sector cannot be achieved in isolation.

under Nigeria's Local Content framework. He noted that development has evolved beyond compliance requirements into a strategic tool for industrial growth, job creation, and economic resilience.

The summit gathered momentum during the keynote presentation delivered on behalf of the Executive Secretary of the NCDMB, Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, by Engr. Austin Uzoka, Senior Technical Assistant and Director of the Project Certification and Authorisation Directorate (PCAD).

The address reflected on the remarkable evolution of indigenous participation within Nigeria's upstream sector. Indigenous companies are now actively involved in exploration, drilling, engineering services, fabrication, marine logistics, project management, and asset ownership. Attention then shifted toward the growing opportunities within the midstream and downstream sectors, including gas gathering, gas processing, storage infrastructure, pipeline development, LPG distribution, CNG networks, and industrial manufacturing.
Major projects such as the Dangote Refinery, NLNG Train 7, modular refinery developments, fertiliser plants, and the Presidential Initiative on Compressed Natural Gas were highlighted as visible indicators of Nigeria's gradual shift from crude oil export dependence towards domestic processing and value addition.

For decades, Nigeria's economy largely revolved around exporting crude oil while importing refined products. Increasingly, however, the industry is moving towards retaining more value locally through refining, gas utilisation, and manufacturing.

Gas, refining and ndustrialization take centre stage

One of the summit's major highlights was a presentation by Mr Patrick June, Acting Manager in the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate of the NCDMB. His presentation provided a data-driven assessment of the impact of Nigeria's local content policy framework.

Local Content utilisation, he declared, has increased from less than five percent in 2010 to approximately 61 percent by 2025, reflecting significant progress in indigenous participation. Despite the progress, stakeholders acknowledged that substantial work still lies ahead, particularly in refining infrastructure, gas development, manufacturing capacity, and technological innovation.

Among the most engaging technical presentations was that delivered by Engr. Tony Ogbuigwe, a renowned energy expert, who provided a broad assessment of the opportunities and challenges facing Nigeria's midstream and downstream sectors. Central to his presentation was the argument that natural gas must become the foundation of Nigeria's future energy growth. Ogbuigwe described gas as the critical bridge between traditional hydrocarbons and the evolving global energy transition.

His call for accelerated investments in gas processing facilities, transportation infrastructure, storage systems, and domestic gas utilisation aligned closely with Nigeria's broader industrialisation objectives. Several recurring themes also surfaced during the technical sessions. Participants repeatedly stressed the need for Nigeria to move locally, beyond producing raw hydrocarbons towards manufacturing higher-value products and industrial inputs.

There were strong calls for increased investments in local manufacturing capabilities, particularly in CNG cylinders, gas equipment components, and industrial support materials. Stakeholders noted that such investments would not only improve local content performance but also reduce import dependence and strengthen domestic supply chains. Discussions around modular refining and domestic refining capacity further reinforced energy security, foreign exchange conservation, job creation, and economic diversification.

Collaboration, financing and the future of the sector

Finance was as another major area of focus throughout the summit. Industry leaders, commercial banks, development finance institutions, and investment experts examined the financing structures required to support Nigeria's expanding energy infrastructure ambitions.

From gas processing plants and storage terminals to refineries and distribution networks, stakeholders agreed that unlocking the sector's full potential would require large-scale investments supported by policy consistency, regulatory certainty, investor-friendly frameworks, and transparent governance systems.

Digital transformation also featured prominently during discussions. Speakers emphasised that automation, artificial intelligence, data analytics, and digital monitoring systems are becoming increasingly important for improving operational efficiency, reducing costs, enhancing safety, and maximising asset performance.

Participants further stressed the importance of workforce development through training programmes, professional certification systems, standardised curricular, and stronger collaboration between industry and academic institutions. Sustainable growth, many argued, depends not only on infrastructure and investment alone, but also on the availability of highly skilled human capital capable of supporting technological advancement.

Perhaps the strongest message throughout the summit was the importance of collaboration. Across presentations and panel discussions, speakers repeatedly emphasised that sustainable growth within the sector cannot be achieved in isolation. Regulators, operators, investors, financial institutions, host communities, service providers, and academic institutions all have critical roles to play in unlocking the sector's full potential.

By the close of the summit, a clear narrative was evident: Nigeria's midstream and downstream sectors are entering a transformative phase marked by expanding indigenous participation, growing investment opportunities, industrialisation, and a renewed focus on value creation.

For the NCDMB, the successful hosting of the 2026 Midstream and Downstream Oil and Gas Stakeholders Summit reinforced its position as a key driver of Local Content development and industry advancement. For stakeholders across the sector, the summit provided both a platform for engagement and renewed confidence in the future direction of Nigeria's energy industry.

- Ebikombo-Owei Egoli

IN NIGERIAN FASHION, LOCAL IS THE NEW LUXURY

As designers rethink indigenous fabrics, standout pieces are locally nuanced.

> *It is expressed as agbada among men, and iro and buba for women, including their gele so perfectly perched it looks like an architectural masterpiece. Increasingly, and in communities with large Nigerian diaspora, its presence has marked the full length of Yoruba, nay Nigerian life. A bridal ensemble does not come cheap as it is north of ₦500,000.*

Among the plethora of tribes commonly referred to as the Kawarafas, the traditional fabric is a handwoven indigo-coloured linen made from locally spun white cotton and dyed into deep blue or black shades. This craft is taken several notches as *aso oke*.

Among the Yorubas in Nigeria, Benin and Togo, including the Igbira in Kogi State and the Igarra in Edo State, *aso oke* occupies the top echelon of fabrics worn by the well-heeled to special events.

It is expressed as *agbada* among men, and *iro and buba* for women, including their *gele* so perfectly perched it looks like an architectural masterpiece. Increasingly, and in communities with large Nigerian diaspora, its presence has marked the full length of Yoruba, nay Nigerian life. A bridal ensemble does not come cheap as it is north of ₦500,000.

Aso oke carries the authority of a fabric made by hand, slowly woven over time, with a weight and structure that allows it to outlast the occasion it was made for, and is mainly worn for important events like weddings, funerals, among others where families want to look their best, even while grieving.

Social media has connected master weavers in places like Iseyin in Oyo State, Southwest Nigeria with designers working in studios in Lagos and outside Nigeria, bringing attention to what had always been special but often stayed within local circles.

Letting the fabric speak

Ichi Joy Kozura, a Lagos-based fashion designer, tells stories with her fashion pieces. Worn, her brand is built on a philosophy that is simple, yet obvious: a dress should be worn, not hung up after one outing or saved for a moment. It should be worn repeatedly across moods and seasons.

That idea sharpens considerably when the fabric is *aso oke*.

"For me, luxury means the intentionality of the piece being created," Ichi says. "How it sits on your body, how it makes you feel. When you work with aso oke, it is even more personal because it is no longer just fabric. It carries a story. Each thread that is woven together carries a story, and it is an identity of a lifetime."

Her work with *aso oke* has blossomed, so far, within the ceremonial world: bridal pieces and traditional wear, the kind of dressing that marks a day as significant. Even within that space, she is expanding its edges. *Oleku* silhouettes with side drapes that trail like punctuation. Feminine cuts that do not perform femininity. Pieces designed for a woman who wants to feel rooted without feeling costumed.

And she refuses, deliberately, to sand down the cultural texture of the fabric in pursuit of a safer modernity. "I am not trying to make it all modernised," she says. "I focus on silhouettes that are wearable and feminine, yet rooted in culture and heritage. I allow that infusion to happen naturally."

> *Nigerian fashion is going through a steady shift, moving away from borrowed ideas of what excellence should look like. For too long, luxury arrived with a foreign accentuation. Now, it exudes Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, and the hundreds of cultures in the country.*

There is confidence in that approach. It comes from knowing the fabric does not need to be changed to prove its worth.

Telling our own story, at last

Nigerian fashion is going through a steady shift, moving away from borrowed ideas of what excellence should look like. For too long, luxury arrived with a foreign accentuation. Now, it exudes Yoruba, Igbo, Hausa, and the hundreds of cultures in the country.

"If we do not promote our fabrics, if we do not hold them in high regard and make masterpieces with them, how would people from other places value the fabric? It is only when we do this that the real luxury begins," Ichi says.

Aso oke was never waiting to be discovered. It was already here.

OGTAN is positioned to issue globally recognised certificates

Mr. Chris Osarumwense, President, Oil and Gas Trainers Association (OGTAN), discusses the group's evolution, the efforts members have made to continue to deepen the availability of Nigerians well trained for the sector, and the initiatives he is championing to become the foremost training body in Africa.

OGTAN's evolution and core operations

The Oil and Gas Trainers Association was conceived from the vision of the NOGICD Act and nurtured by NCDMB. OGTAN has four primary mandates: First, it is to promote human capacity development within the oil and gas industry, drive accreditation and certification of curriculum of faculties; to set training standards and regulate training within the oil and gas industry. The last role is to ensure proper mentoring of students in Nigerian universities and young graduates who wish to have a career within the oil and gas industry.

OGTAN is the baby of the NCDMB, hence a lot of what we do is derived from the policies of NCDMB and collaboration with NCDMB. There used to be a proliferation of small training providers who went around looking for training opportunities. The creation of OGTAN opened a platform to organise people who provide training for the industry.

OGTAN's membership is only for training organisations and not individuals. Today, we have about 400 member-organisations. Out of this number, about 40 of them own dedicated training facilities of their own. This means they have invested heavily in training.

In the past 12 to 15 years, OGTAN members have invested over $500 million in training within Nigeria. And on average, we deliver about 200,000 mandates of training every year across 14 core discipline areas of oil and gas. That's what we do on an annual basis for the industry.

How OGTAN became a certificate awarding body

Recently, the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), under the NBTE-NCDMB synergy, awarded OGTAN a certificate-awarding status. So, OGTAN became a certificate awarding body for oil and gas skills. This means that instead of having all those international certificates that were taking a lot of money out of Nigeria, today, OGTAN can now issue globally recognised certificates.

However, we know that many International Oil Companies and other companies will push back on recognising a Nigerian certificate, mainly because most of those international certificates have much more reputation and acceptance within the industry.
For us to be accepted, there are a number of things we have to do.

One is that we have to build the basis to get that recognition. We require three international certifications. They include ISO 9001, which is the quality management system. The second is ISO 17065, which is about certification of our systems, processes, and products. And the third is ISO 17024. Once we have those international benchmarks, it means that we are on equal footing with Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training (BOSIET) and all other international certificates.

Our certificate in OGTAN with which we secure this certification is called Canon Association of Technical Service Providers (ATSP). The ATSP is benchmarked against nine international standards. These international standards are what we use in assessing all OGTAN members for accreditation and for certification.
We've taken over a hundred OGTAN members through the ATSP and graded them. This grading is linked to NCDMB's NOGICJQS for evaluation of trainers. That is really an important development over the last two years.

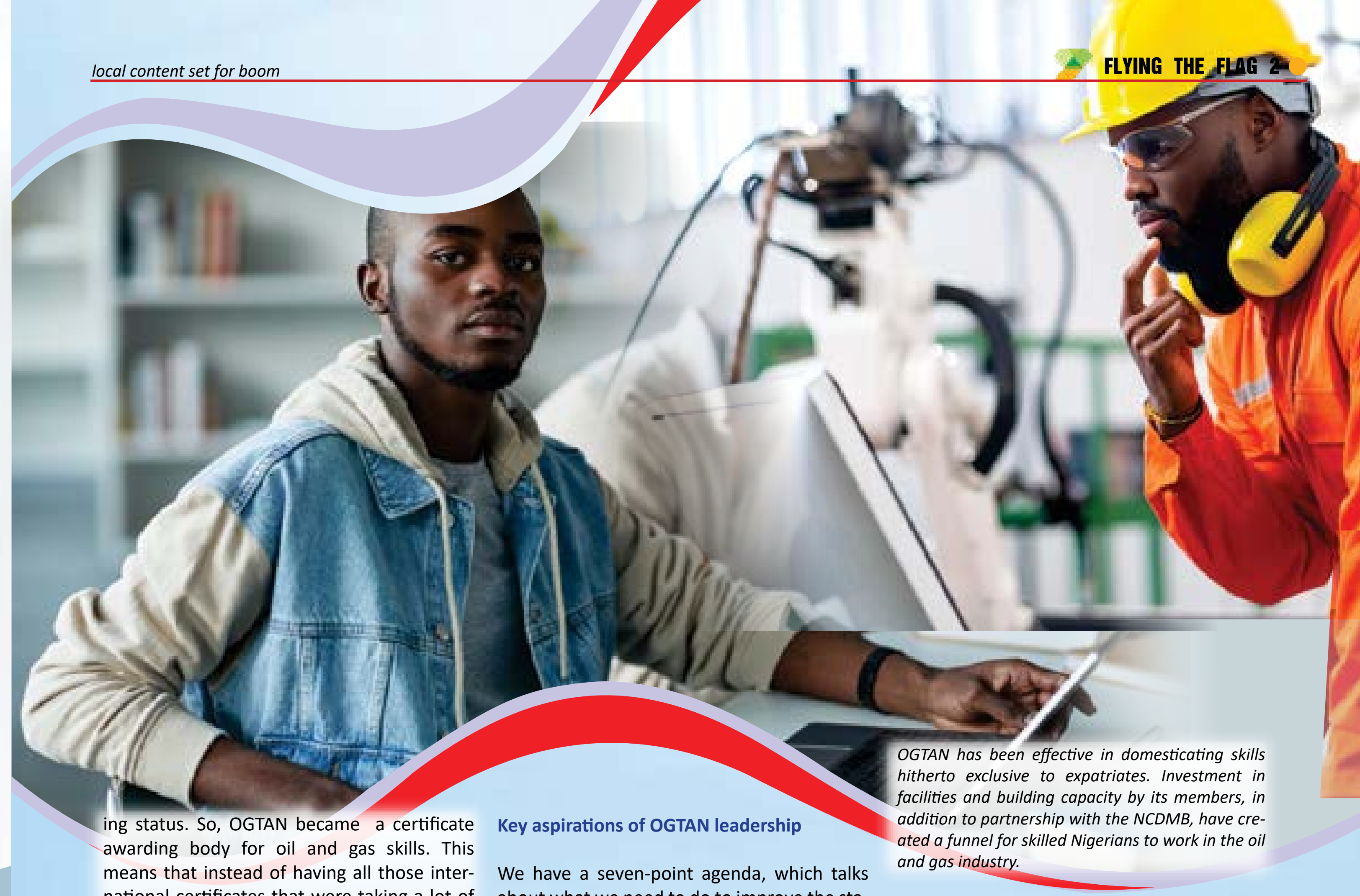
Key aspirations of OGTAN leadership

We have a seven-point agenda, which talks about what we need to do to improve the status of OGTAN within the oil and gas industry. The first thing we need to do is to improve the quality of the services that we offer as OGTAN. That links to the ATSP. We need to improve the standards with which our people deliver training so that it will become much more acceptable to the industry. High grading the services rendered by OGTAN members is a very important one.

Secondly, a lot of our OGTAN members complain that they do not have enough training contracts to keep them busy. We are, therefore, trying to help our members understand how to become more competitive to secure training opportunities within the oil and gas industry. This is very important because members feel that belonging to the association should open doors for them and secure training opportunities in oil and gas.

The third plan is to improve the welfare of our members. We also want to build international collaborations and affiliations. We know that to get all of the expertise, you need to train people, you need to build international collaboration and affiliations. That's extremely important.

We also need to produce a database of oil and gas skills and competencies. What we intend to do is to build what we call a professional development framework. This is a framework through which, as a young professional that is coming into any discipline area, you know what skill sets and competencies you need to pick in your first few years, your medium years, and your long-term years. So, your professional development happens in a structured manner.



OGTAN has been effective in domesticating skills hitherto exclusive to expatriates. Investment in facilities and building capacity by its members, in addition to partnership with the NCDMB, have created a funnel for skilled Nigerians to work in the oil and gas industry.

We build the partnerships, and affiliations, build professional development framework and help create a national database of competencies, so that we are not training in the dark. We are guided by these identified competencies which will enable us train people in line with the requirements of the business.

These are the key things we are pursuing in the long to medium terms for OGTAN.

Operations of Greenfield Consultancy and Allied Services Limited

My company is called Greenfields Consultancy and Allied Services Limited. We're effectively a consultancy firm, which seeks to provide business solutions to oil and gas companies and public sector companies. We help organisations find practical solutions to their business challenges.

We do a lot of consultancy and capacity building. We also get involved in strategy work, re-engineering and transformation work. Re-engineering means that we help organisations to set up, to achieve their medium- and long-terms objectives. We also do manpower resourcing. We understand human resource requirements of companies and we help them find the right people for their business challenges.

Strengthening local content @ pnc 2025

Practical Nigerian Content Forum

The Practical Nigerian Content Forum (PNC) 2025 took place from December1 – 4, 2025 at the NCDMB Conference Hall, in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. This annual event is organised by DMG Events, in partnership with the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). It focuses on securing investments and strengthening local content.

The event was attended by over 600 delegates, including three cabinet ministers, special advisers to Mr. President, National Assembly members, executives and key stakeholders of the oil and gas industry.

Eating Healthy, the familiar way

Garden egg stew, memory, and the intelligence of local food

Garden egg stew, once a staple, is almost completely vanished from dining. You have to look for it now, and sometimes even explain what you mean. At some point, it became less familiar and was replaced with foods that were newer, and easier to access. Yet, the dish itself has not changed. Across Southern Nigeria and some parts of Northern Nigeria, it was a simple, thoughtful way to cook.

Made from the African eggplant, the fruit is light yet dense with nutrients, rich in fibre, low in calories, and packed with minerals such as potassium and magnesium that support digestion and heart health. When combined with fresh tomatoes, peppers, onions and oil, it becomes a proper meal, often eaten with boiled yams, rice or plantain. It is a simple meal yet rich and highly nutritious.

A dish rediscovered

Chef Obodoekea Tobiloba Nkechi, founder of Chef Towbee's Dishes, did not notice garden egg stew when she was growing up. "I came across it while I was in junior secondary school," she says. "Then I met it again later, and I realised, this is nice. You did not have to do so much to make it taste good."

An experience she would not forget, because of the surprise in discovering that garden egg could be prepared in a completely different way. "I did not even like to eat raw garden egg," she admits. "So, seeing it in another light was fascinating. The fact that you could make it into a sauce and enjoy it like that."

This type of moment happens often with local foods. You grow up around it, without thinking about it, until a eureka moment that completely changes your view.

Garden egg stew does not try to be fancy because the strength is in what it already has. "I think what makes it most healthy is the fact that it is high in fibre," Tobiloba explains. "It is loaded with antioxidants that we need in our body. It also helps if you are trying not to overeat."

The dish comes with ingredients that are already part of the Nigerian kitchen. Fresh tomatoes, pepper, onions, sometimes a little oil, nothing excessive, a very natural balance. "If you are not using too much oil and you are cooking with fresh ingredients, it is just a very balanced meal," she says.

No shortcuts

Tobiloba keeps the cooking process straightforward. "When I prepare garden egg stew, I pay attention to keeping it natural," she says. "It is better not to add processed things like sardines or corned beef. It takes too much away from it." Instead, she leans into the depth of flavour that comes from locally available ingredients. "Crayfish, smoked fish, dry fish, they balance the flavour so well. You may not even need a lot if you have added all these natural spices."

Part of the reason garden egg stew feels less present today is because of access. "It is not as available as before," she says. "You cannot just find it easily or buy it the way you used to." There is also a knowledge gap. People are reaching for new food trends. "Many people do not know the nutritional value, so they do not try it," she explains. "People are focused on proteins, but the natural foods our grandparents ate, people do not pay attention to them anymore."

Garden egg stew does not need to be reinvented, it only needs attention. It is already part of Nigerian food culture - balanced, rich, sufficient. Not everything needs a makeover to be cool again. Sometimes, it is simply a matter of remembering what has always been there.

NEW COMMERCIAL MODEL
behind Nollywood surge

The Nigerian movie industry is no longer chasing hits. It is building a full film business system with cinema, streaming and smarter revenue strategies.

Nollywood is currently experiencing one of its strongest commercial runs in years. Theatres are fuller, local titles are leading screenings, and audience behaviour is clearly leaning toward homegrown stories.

Industry estimates place Nigeria's box office revenue at ₦15.6 billion in 2025, supported by strong local releases and improved cinema attendance. By early 2026, Nigerian movies were already responsible for over 70 percent of cinema admissions, confirming the dominance of local content in theatres.

That growth is not accidental. It reflects better production standards, more deliberate release planning, and a sharper understanding of what audiences expect from cinema experiences. Movies like *A Tribe Called Judah* and *Battle on Buka Street* raised Nollywood's ceiling, crossing the billion-naira mark and proving that local productions can compete at scale when structured, marketed, and supported.

The industry is no longer defined by occasional breakout hits. A clearer rhythm is forming around how movies are developed, released, and monetised.

One of the most important changes in Nollywood is how movies are treated as multi-stage commercial products rather than single-release projects. Cinema release is the first phase. Producers plan films with revenue layers built in from the start. After theatres, movies move into streaming platforms, television licensing, and international distribution. Each stage adds value, extending earnings beyond opening weekend.

Streaming platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime Video, sit at the centre of this structure. In many cases, streaming deals are influenced directly by box office performance. Strong cinema numbers increase a movie's value in secondary markets, turning theatrical results into a pricing benchmark for digital negotiations.

Marketing has also become more structured and intentional. Instead of last-minute promotion, campaigns begin weeks before releases. Teaser drops, influencer collaborations, behind-the-scenes content, and coordinated social media pushes build momentum toward opening weekend. The goal is controlled anticipation and turnout, not awareness alone.

A small group of filmmakers continues to shape this direction. Funke Akindele, Kemi Adetiba, and Jade Osiberu remain central to Nollywood's box office success. Their films consistently perform because they combine cultural familiarity with strong production planning and clear audience targeting. Their approach reflects a business-driven filmmaking mindset. Budgets, marketing plans, and distribution strategies are defined early, making each movie operate more like a structured investment than an uncertain creative project.

Audience expectations are driving new standards

Audience behaviour plays a direct role in shaping what succeeds in cinemas. Viewers are more selective, and production quality has become a deciding factor in box office performance. Weak technical execution is less tolerated, even when story ideas are strong. At the same time, storytelling still carries the most weight. Movies that perform best are rooted in familiar Nigerian life, family dynamics, humour, social pressure, ambition, and everyday conflict. Cultural relevance is no longer an added advantage; it is now required for audience connection.

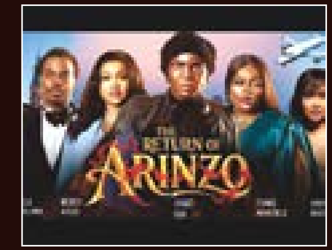
Revenue generation is also more layered. Box office earnings are only one part of the commercial cycle, alongside streaming rights, brand partnerships, international licensing, and adaptation deals. This diversified structure is becoming standard for higher-performing productions.

Cultural identity continues to drive engagement. Many of the highest-grossing movies lean heavily into Nigerian language, humour, and social behaviour. Instead of simplifying these elements, filmmakers build around them, and audiences respond positively.

Streaming platforms extend commercial lifespan rather than replace cinema releases. A strong box office run increases a film's negotiating power on digital platforms, turning theatrical success into a measurable value indicator for streaming deals. This structure has attracted more private investment into Nollywood. Investors increasingly view the industry as a structured entertainment market with clearer returns rather than a high-risk creative space.

What is taking shape is a more stable commercial environment. Movie performance is becoming easier to plan, measure, and repeat. Nollywood is still evolving, but the direction is clear: movies are now structured products with defined financial pathways, not just cultural expressions.

The Return of Arinzo



The Return of Arinzo (2026), directed by Iyabo Ojo, opened Nollywood's 2026 cinema run with a major commercial statement. The film recorded a ₦104.8 million opening weekend, making it the highest-grossing Nollywood release of that Easter weekend and the strongest opening for a Nollywood sequel. By its third weekend, it had reached a cumulative ₦276.9 million, maintaining top position through sustained audience turnout.

The film's performance was driven by heavy anticipation, wide theatrical rollout, and strong holiday timing. Reports also place it as the second-highest opening weekend for a 2026 Nigerian film, reinforcing its early dominance in cinemas.

Built as a sequel to the 2013 title *Arinzo*, the story continues a revenge-driven narrative with a larger scope and expanded cast. The film features Iyabo Ojo alongside Funke Akindele, Mercy Aigbe, Bimbo Akintola, Uzor Arukwe, Yemi Blaq, and Shaffy Bello, with international supporting appearances widening its reach.

At the centre is Arinzo, whose return disrupts old alliances and reopens buried conflicts. Inspector Tade Williams, played by Uzor Arukwe, anchors the investigative thread as the case becomes personal.

The film leans into scale, with Lagos framed as a pressure point where power and survival collide. Cinematography is sharper than typical Nollywood action films, with controlled framing and stronger spatial awareness. Action sequences are energetic and hold momentum.

Iyabo Ojo carries the emotional core, while Funke Akindele adds narrative weight at key turns. Despite predictable beats, the film maintains steady pacing and avoids major dips. *The Return of Arinzo* succeeds because it combines scale, star power, and timing into one of Nollywood's strongest box office performers of 2026.

Behind the Scenes

Behind the Scenes, released on December 12, 2025 and co-directed by Funke Akindele and Tunde Olaoye, became one of Nollywood's biggest crossover hits into 2026, setting record-breaking box office performance.

As of March 2026, the movie had grossed over ₦2.7 billion domestically, making it the highest-grossing Nollywood movie of all time. By early January 2026, it had already crossed ₦1.7 billion and became the first Nollywood movie to surpass ₦2 billion. It also became the fastest in history to reach ₦500 million in 12 days and ₦1 billion in 19 days, boosted by strong Christmas and Boxing Day turnout that extended into the new year.

Internationally, it performed strongly, becoming the highest-grossing Nollywood release in the United Kingdom and Ireland with over ₦296 million (£159,000), while also earning about ₦111 million ($111,000) in Canada during its opening weekend and recording solid US earnings.

At the centre is Ronke "Ronky-Fella" Faniran (Scarlet Gomez), a real estate entrepreneur whose success quickly turns into pressure as family expectations and emotional obligations pile up. What looks like progress becomes private strain. The emotional turning point comes through Adetutu Fernandez (Funke Akindele), whose quiet betrayal reshapes the story. It is subtle, controlled, and driven by entitlement rather than drama. Adewale Fernandez (Tobi Bakre) and Victor Ossai (Uzor Arukwe) reflect ambition and loyalty tension, while supporting relationships explore blurred emotional boundaries.

The movie resonated with the audience because it reflects lived Nigerian realities, success pressure, family responsibility, and emotional debt. Scarlet Gomez anchors the core, while Akindele ensures emotional impact without exaggeration. *Behind the Scenes* works because it turns everyday Nigerian pressure into a large-scale cinematic experience.

Aba Blues

Aba Blues, released on March 20, 2026 and directed by Jack'enneth Opukeme, is one of Nollywood's quieter early 2026 releases, but it delivered a steady opening at the box office with ₦19.9 million in its debut weekend, according to industry tracking reports. Produced by Barbara Babarinsa under FilmOne and Inkblot, the movie positions itself as an intimate, character-driven drama rooted in emotion rather than spectacle.

The story is set in 1989 Aba, where Amara (Angel Anosike) has rebuilt her life around stability, only for the sudden return of her former lover, Dirim (Jide Kene Achufusi), to disrupt everything she thought she had buried. His reappearance reopens unresolved emotions and forces her into a confrontation with her past. The tension deepens with her husband Uzor (Prince Nelson Enwerem), forming a triangle shaped by loyalty, regret, and restrained desire.

The film's performance has been described as modest but notable, with audience interest driven by its nostalgic setting and cultural framing. Critics highlight its "lived-in" Aba, where streets and markets mirror emotional conflict rather than serve as backdrop.

Angel Anosike delivers a controlled and steady performance, while Jide Kene Achufusi adds intensity that unsettles the narrative space. Prince Nelson Enwerem remains restrained, grounding the emotional tension.

Though praised for atmosphere and emotional honesty, some critics point to uneven storytelling and pacing that occasionally slows momentum. Still, *Aba Blues* stands out for its mood-driven approach, focusing less on dramatic twists and more on emotional consequence, memory, and the quiet weight of choices that linger long after they are made.

WIZKID

Staying top without a new release

No album, no problem: the artiste's 2025 streaming dominance proves catalogue power is reshaping Afrobeats success.

In an industry where visibility is usually tied to constant output, Wizkid's 2025 performance breaks the usual pattern. He emerged as the most-streamed Nigerian artiste of 2025, despite not releasing a full new project during the year, a rare position in today's fast-moving streaming economy.

According to the 2025 Spotify Wrapped data for Nigeria, Wizkid led the national streaming charts, with his catalogue dominating across platforms. His earlier works, especially *Made in Lagos* and *More Love, Less Ego*, continued to record strong replay value, while collaborations and evergreen singles kept him firmly in rotation. Reports show he also held the top position across both Spotify Nigeria and Apple Music Nigeria, reinforcing his cross-platform dominance in the local market.

The power of catalogue, not just release cycles

Wizkid's staying power is deeply tied to catalogue strength. Unlike newer acts who rely heavily on fresh drops, his music operates like a long-term system. Songs such as *Essence*, *Ojuelegba*, *Come Closer*, and *Mood* have evolved into evergreens that continue to generate daily streams years after release.

Streaming data trends show that Afrobeats consumption is increasingly catalogue-driven, where older hits maintain relevance through playlists, social media virality, and algorithmic recommendations. Wizkid sits at the centre of this structure, benefiting from consistent placement in both editorial and user-generated playlists.

Another key factor is international reach. Wizkid's music circulates across multiple markets beyond Nigeria, especially the United Kingdom and the United States, where Afrobeats continues to grow as a mainstream genre. His collaborations with global artistes have also helped sustain algorithmic visibility, ensuring his catalogue remains active across different audience segments.

Why Wizkid's sound lasts

Part of Wizkid's advantage lies in sound design. His music is often built on minimal production, soft rhythms, and emotionally accessible melodies. These make his songs highly replayable, a key metric in streaming performance. Unlike heavily trend-driven music that peaks quickly, Wizkid's style is designed for longevity. The emotional tone of his music, often centred on love, nostalgia, and atmosphere, allows it to sit comfortably in playlists without feeling dated.

This is also where audience behaviour plays a role. Nigerian streaming audiences have increasingly moved towards mood-based listening rather than purely new-release consumption. Wizkid's catalogue fits directly into this shift.

The streaming numbers behind the dominance

While the exact global streaming totals for 2025 are not publicly consolidated, the industry's wrapped reports confirm Wizkid as Nigeria's most-streamed artiste of the year, maintaining top positions across major platforms. Nigeria's streaming ecosystem itself has expanded significantly, with millions of active listeners shaping weekly charts through repeat plays rather than one-time consumption. Within this structure, artistes with strong catalogues naturally outperform those who dependent on constant releases.

Wizkid's position also reflects a broader trend in Afrobeats: longevity now matters as much as virality. Instead of chasing weekly hits, established artistes benefit from long-tail streaming, where older songs continue accumulating numbers steadily over time.

Wizkid's relevance is no longer dependent on release cycles. Instead, it is maintained through three core systems. First, catalogue durability, a deep discography that continues to generate replay value years later. Second, playlist economy, constant placement across curated and algorithmic playlists. Third, cultural presence, a brand identity that keeps his name active even during low-release periods. Even without a new project in 2025, these systems ensured constant streaming activity.

Maturing Afrobeats

Wizkid's 2025 performance signals a shift in how success is measured in Nigerian music. Streaming dominance is no longer only about who drops the most songs, but who builds the most sustainable catalogue. For younger artistes, this changes the game. Consistency still matters, but longevity is becoming the real currency. For established acts, Wizkid's example shows that a strong catalogue can outperform constant output.

In a fast-moving industry, Wizkid's 2025 story is simple but significant. Sometimes, staying at the top is not about releasing more but about building music that refuses to leave.

Paparazzi - Shoday & FOLA

Paparazzi by Shoday and FOLA is built around something simple: attention, attraction, and the ease that comes with being seen. It keeps that idea light and accessible, never over-explaining it, which is exactly why it connects quickly.

Produced by SB, the track leans into a stripped, mid-tempo Afrobeats sound. The production is clean and controlled, with light percussion, soft synth layers, and looping melodies that remain consistent from start to finish. There are no heavy transitions or layered distractions; just a structure designed for replay.

Shoday carries the record with a relaxed, almost detached delivery, while FOLA adds a softer melodic layer that balances the tone. Their chemistry feels natural rather than constructed, and that ease gives the song its flow.

That clarity shows in how the track performed. Paparazzi peaked at Number One on the Official Nigeria Top 100 in its second week, becoming both artistes' first chart-topping single. It recorded 2.81 million streams during its peak tracking week and generated 36.5 million in radio reach, reflecting strong performance across both digital and traditional platforms.

The song's growth was also driven by early viral traction. Before its official release, it had already inspired nearly 50,000 user-generated videos on TikTok, helping to build familiarity and anticipation. That momentum carried into its rollout, with the official music video crossing one million YouTube views within its first 24 hours.

Reception has centred on its simplicity and appeal. The track has been widely described as catchy and playful, with a light romantic tone that translates easily across streaming and social platforms.

The strength of *Paparazzi* is in how direct it is. It does not try to stretch beyond its core idea, and it does not need to. It is built on timing, familiarity, and repeat value. That is exactly why it worked.

Jogodo - Wizkid & Asake

Jogodo by Wizkid and Asake arrived in January 2026 with serious expectations, and it delivered almost immediately. The track shot to Number One on the TurnTable Nigeria Top 100, holding the top spot for weeks and becoming one of the longest-running chart leaders of early 2026.

Its commercial impact was just as strong on streaming. Jogodo recorded about 1.38 million streams in its first 24 hours on Spotify Nigeria, crossed 6.6 million within its first week, and moved past 10 million streams shortly after, making it one of the fastest African releases to reach that mark in 2026.

Produced by Magicsticks, the track leans into a mid-tempo groove built for repeat listening. The production is tight and deliberate, with steady percussion, warm basslines, and a loop-driven arrangement that avoids unnecessary breaks. It is designed to stay in rotation rather than surprise.

Wizkid and Asake operate in familiar territory, but the chemistry is what makes it work. Wizkid keeps things light and controlled, layering melodies that float above the beat, while Asake brings energy and rhythm, adding urgency without crowding the sound. The track does not feel like a contest for attention; it feels coordinated.

What stands out is its control. There is no forced hook or dramatic shift; just a steady, confident groove that holds from start to finish. That consistency is exactly what drives its replay value. The limitation is also clear. The sound is not new for either artiste, and it does not push beyond what they have already established. But that familiarity is part of the strategy.

Jogodo is not chasing reinvention. It is two artistes locking into a proven formula and executing it at scale.

Turbulence - Wizkid & Asake

Turbulence by Wizkid and Asake is one of the standout collaborations of early 2026, extending their joint run of commercially strong releases with a more energetic, performance-driven sound.

The track has recorded major streaming success, surpassing 30 million streams on Spotify as of February 2026, reflecting sustained demand across Nigeria and international diaspora markets. That level of performance places it among the most-consumed Afrobeats collaborations of the period, driven largely by repeat streaming and playlist circulation.

The visual rollout also played a major role in its impact. The official music video crossed 10 million views on YouTube within a similar timeframe, supported by strong audience engagement and consistent sharing across social media platforms. The video's tone has been described as measured and intentional, aligning with the controlled energy of the song itself.

Musically, *Turbulence* leans into a sharper, more dynamic structure compared to earlier Wizkid-Asake collaborations. It blends Wizkid's restrained, atmospheric delivery with Asake's rhythmic intensity, creating a contrast that drives the record forward without breaking its cohesion. That balance has been widely praised by listeners and critics, particularly on social platforms, where the collaboration has been described as a successful merging of two distinct styles.

The song's strength lies in its clarity of execution. It does not attempt to reinvent Afrobeats but instead refines a formula both artists already dominate: steady hooks, clean production, and high replay value designed for streaming platforms.

Reception has been largely positive, with audiences highlighting the chemistry between both artistes and the consistency of their sound pairing. The track's performance reflects that response, maintaining strong streaming momentum and steady video engagement since release.

In a competitive early 2026 music landscape, *Turbulence* stands out as a commercially efficient release, built on scale, replay, and audience familiarity, reinforcing both artists' positions at the top of Afrobeats streaming culture.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NCDMB CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS: NIGERIAN CONTENT TOWERS, OX-BOW LAKE, SWALI, YENAGOA, BAYELSA STATE.

REMITTANCE OF THE 1% NIGERIAN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT FUND (NCDF) LEVY

The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) hereby reminds all operators, contractors, and service companies in the upstream sector of the Nigerian oil and gas industry of the statutory provisions governing the remittance of the 1% Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF) Levy.

The NCDF is established pursuant to Section 104 of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act (NOGICD Act) as a dedicated fund for the development of Nigerian content in the oil and gas industry.

For clarity:

- Section 104(1) establishes the Nigerian Content Development Fund.
- Section 104(2) mandates that one percent (1%) of the value of every upstream contract shall be remitted into the Fund.
- Section 104(3) vests the exclusive management, control, and administration of the Fund in the NCDMB.

The NCDF is a ring-fenced statutory development fund created by a specific Act of the National Assembly. It is not classified as Federal Government revenue payable into the Consolidated Revenue Fund, and its collection and administration are expressly governed by Section 104 of the NOGICD Act.

Accordingly, all remittances of the 1% NCDF levy must be made strictly into the accounts officially designated by the NCDMB in compliance with the NOGICD Act.

For the avoidance of doubt, any remittance made outside the accounts formally designated by the NCDMB shall not be recognized as valid payment of the 1% NCDF levy under the Act.

All entities subject to the 1% Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF) levy under Section 104 of the NOGICD Act are advised to ensure strict statutory compliance and to seek formal clarification from the Board where necessary prior to effecting any remittance

The NCDMB remains committed to transparency, accountability, and the effective utilization of the Fund for the growth and sustainability of Nigerian content in the oil and gas industry.

Signed

Engr. Felix Omatsola Ogbe, *FNSE*
Executive Secretary
Nigeria Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB)

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...Building local capacities in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

Radisson BLU set to transform Yenagoa

In March, NCDMB and Edison Hotel and Property Development Company signed a management agreement on the Board's 204-room hotel and conference centre adjacent the Nigerian Content Tower, Swali, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. Mr Vivian Reedy, Executive Chairman of the company, projects the hospitality facility will transform Bayelsa State's economy.

The hotel will put Yenagoa on the world map

We are very excited as Edison Hotel Group, Edison Incorporation, helping to establish Radisson Hotel and Conference Centre in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The hotel is going to help put Yenagoa on the world map. What is so important with a group like Radisson International is that if anyone around the world looks for a Radisson Hotel, Yenagoa will pop up. This will help uplift the area in terms of visitors and tourism. Our role is to make sure that we deliver a world-class quality hotel.

From the start to finish, we will open the hotel, we will finish it. We are working with the main contractor to make sure that the hotel meets the world-class standard.

Getting Radisson into Bayelsa wasn't easy. It took months of discussions. In fact, it is over a year and half, with thousands of pages of documentation. But finally, when a group like Radisson, one of the largest hotel groups in the world, decided that they would come here, it was actually a mark of confidence in the area.

The key role played by NCDMB's leadership

I must commend the Executive Secretary, Engr. Felix Ogbe. He is a great visionary and an excellent leader. His vision and dream will become a reality, as we will help him to make it come to pass. We have a very short-time frame, about nine months to complete the hotel. But I have every confidence in the contractors and professional team that will work night and day to make sure the hotel opens on time, and it will be a very exciting time.

We create world-class projects and we will make sure it meets the exact standards of Radisson, and the people who come to this hotel will experience a hotel with a difference.

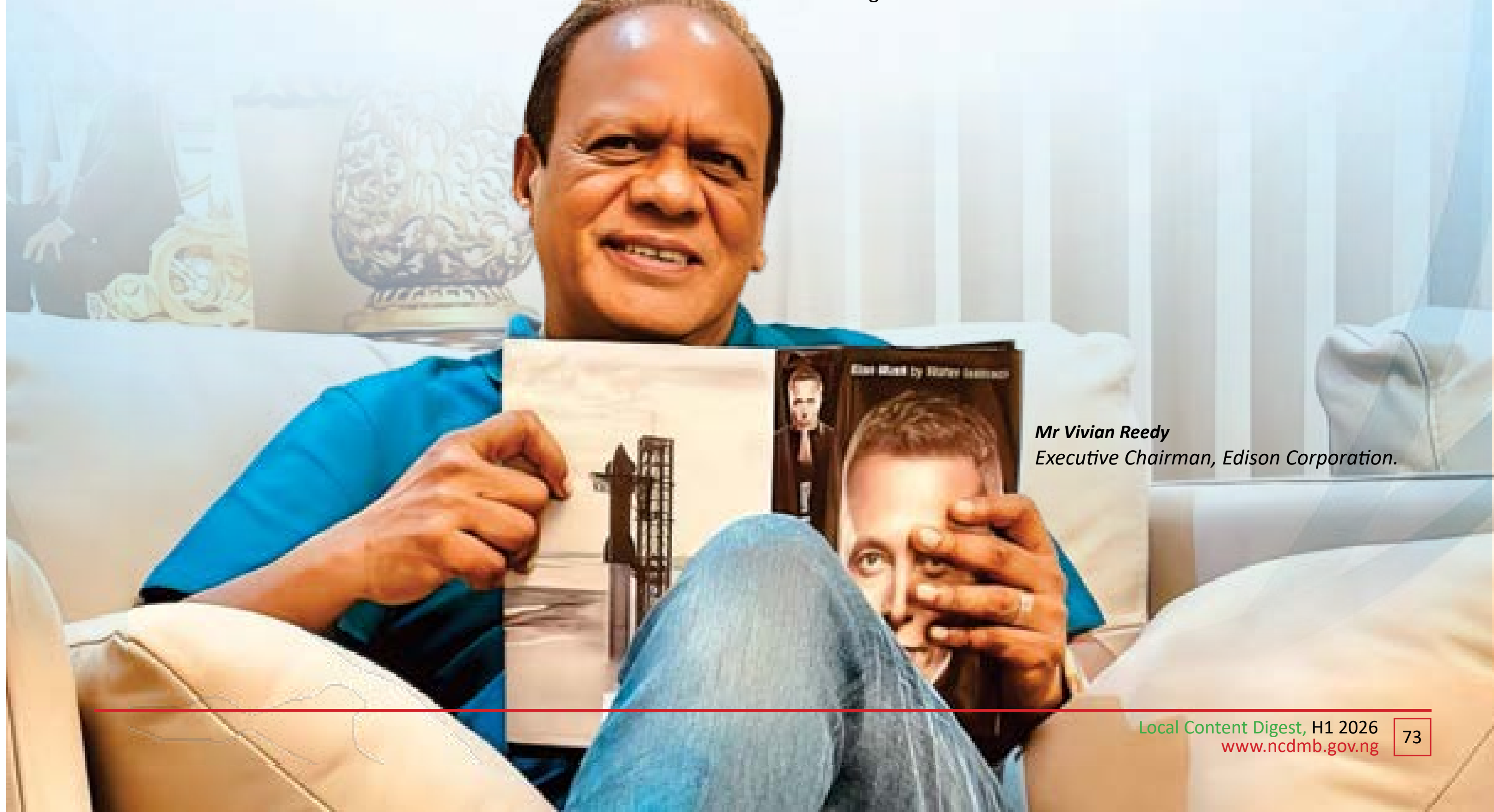
It is going to be the best hotel in this region. We are very excited and grateful for the opportunity afforded to us to get involved, to help provide a world-class facility, this hotel to Nigeria and the people of Yenagoa.

Three decades of business relationship with Nigeria

I was the first South African businessman that brought a business delegation to Nigeria when President Olusegun Obasanjo just came into office. I was asked by our then President Thambo Mbeki to bring a business delegation and I brought MTN into Nigeria. I brough Southern Sun Hotel and a whole lot of South African businesses. I have a very close relationship with Nigeria, since 1998.

I love this place and I used to come here very often and I have accompanied every President of South Africa who visited Nigeria, and it's my favourite hometown. I like Abuja and Lagos. I have also been to Rivers State. I love the people of Nigeria.

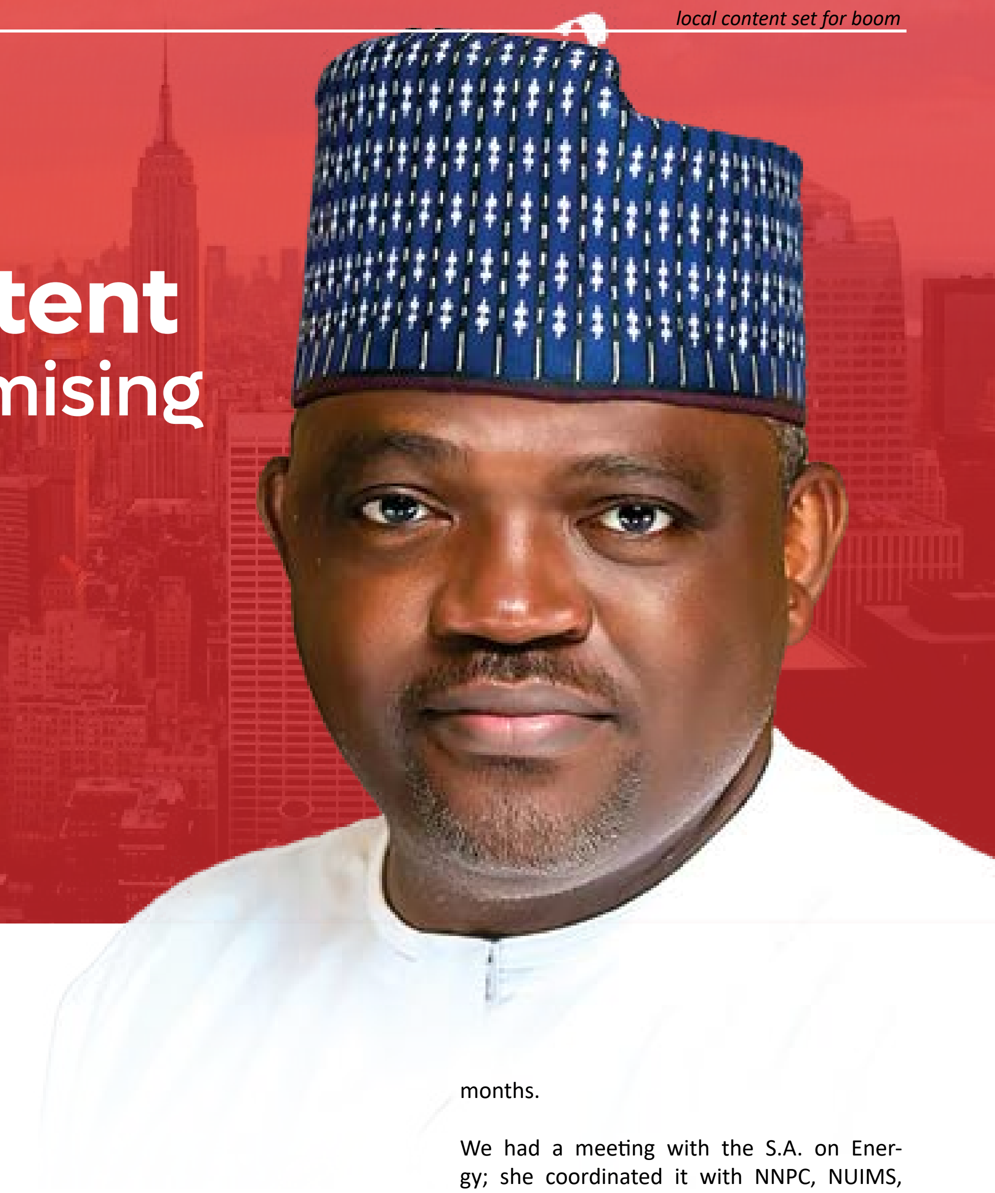
What is so good is that given the reported xenophobia that is going on in South Africa, I get actively involved in that, because we must learn to co-exist. We are all Africans and we must never lose sight of the fact that Nigeria supported us during the Apartheid era. Africa supported us and it's very important that we treat our Nigerian brothers and sisters with great respect. We need to understand and have great tolerance for each, after all, we are all Africans and we must live together.



Mr Vivian Reedy
Executive Chairman, Edison Corporation.

Local Content
future is promising and exciting

-Engr. Abayomi Bamidele



NCDMB and Nigerian content performance in five, 10 years

The future looks very promising and exciting. Five years from now, it will be about 20 years since the Nigerian Content Act was enacted. In all institutions, enterprise, or human journeys, there are highs and lows, but I see that there is going to be a lot of highs going forward.

Why?

There is a lot of activity. From where I sit, I see a lot of projects coming forward, such that the dearth of FIDs are now going away. We are seeing a lot of these operators coming forward with final investment decisions (FIDs), whether in the oil or gas areas, to get certified. Also, a lot of marginal fields and new blocks have been given out. So, there is a bigger span of operators and, invariably, the number of service companies that will come. It is becoming an ecosystem of growing opportunities. We believe that there will be an upswing regarding the participation of Nigerian entities and individuals in the business.

NCDMB's Role in the Presidential Directives on Local Content

One of the Presidential Directives is on reduction in contracting timelines. Mr. President received data that it takes two or three years to put contracts in place in the oil and gas industry, and a lot of things can happen between those years. He signed off that Presidential Directive to the effect that all the key players around contracting in the oil and gas industry must ensure that everything is done within six months.

There's no point in anybody investing and then nobody's utilising them; it would be a waste, whether to the operators regarding their production or to the service companies. In that regard, PCAD has really contributed in the last 15 years, such that the Nigerian content level has moved from less than five percent in 2010 to 61 percent in 2025. That is quite remarkable.

We had a meeting with the S.A. on Energy; she coordinated it with NNPC, NUIMS, NCDMB and the operators. Even though we had signed one six months earlier, that was not backed by the Presidential Directive, it was just an industry initiative. But with Mr. President's seal, that gave us a lot of impetus to now make it happen.

Many people need to up their game, make sure they are efficient and cut off all the touchpoints that are not necessary. For example, in NCDMB, we have reduced our touchpoints from nine to five. The implication is that there is certainty with respect to planning by the operating companies. They are able to assume six months to get FID in place, the financial modelling and all the production plans and development plans can be synergised.

There is another Presidential Directive to eliminate middlemen, briefcase carriers or intermediaries who are not adding value to the process. That Presidential Directive was directed at NCDMB, specifically to make sure that when it comes to the people that can participate in the oil and gas opportunities, they must have the equipment, manpower, resources, and the assets to make things happen. We are very grateful to Mr. President for that Directive.

Key operations of Project Certification and Authorisation Directorate (PCAD)

The Directorate is at the forefront of interface with oil industry operators and service providers when it comes to their participation in the supply chain. When individuals are looking for job opportunities, or companies have equipment or assets, how to make sure those investments, capabilities and capacities are utilised starts with PCAD.

There's no point in anybody investing and then nobody's utilising them; it would be a waste, whether to the operators regarding their production or to the service companies. In that regard, PCAD has really contributed in the last 15 years, such that the Nigerian content level has moved from less than five percent in 2010 to 61 percent in 2025. That is quite remarkable.

Actualising the Nigerian 10-year Roadmap

It looks like yesterday when we started the programme in 2018. We look forward to achieving our 70 percent target by the end of 2027. The roadmap has five pillars and four enablers. One of the key pillars focuses on technical capability. PCAD plays a key role there, to make sure there is growth in the utilisation of existing capacities.

Enabling the business environment is another key role for PCAD Directorate, in interfacing with operators. Apart from contracting matters, one of PCAD's key roles is to make sure the operating companies, when they come to the Board for approval or endorsement request, that we are able to quickly respond to them.

PCAD has really done well in this regard, especially with the launch of the Presidential Directives on Local Content. We initiated the industry Service Level Agreement (SLA) in 2017, with PCAD at the forefront. That was because the then NCDMB management felt the need to sign SLA with some of the operating entities regarding our timelines.

The then Secretary to the Government of the Federation commended us for taking the initiative. We started with NLNG, then OPTS joined, and then IPPG. With the new Presidential Directives, we did a global SLA, which included NNPC Ltd and the NNPC Upstream Investment Management Services (NUIMS). We have done well in enabling the business environment, utilising in-country capacities, in form of people, equipment, assets or manufactured goods in-country.

Many companies, like Stoppcorr Nigeria Limited, an indigenous Nigerian firm providing integrated engineering, fabrication, and pollution control services to the oil, gas, and maritime industries, have grown on the back of the implementation of the local content policy.

How NCDMB won PEBEC award over the years

All the Directorates, Divisions and Departments (DDDs) must be commended for the teamwork on winning the award back-to-back. PCAD did its bit regarding interface with the industry, to make sure that they are happy, with the time of approval, and all various aspects of the PEBEC checkpoints. Similarly, other DDDs within the NCDMB played their part, such that whether you are in Capacity Building or Monitoring or Zonal offices outside Yenagoa, if you go there, you are able to get the necessary support, and that has enabled the Board to be at the forefront among the MDAs.

***Engr. Abayomi Bamidele** is the Director, Capacity Building at the NCDMB.*

REDEPLOYMENT

Mr. Omomehin Silas Ajimijaye, former Acting General Manager, Midstream, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, NCDMB has been reassigned as the Acting Director, Planning Research & Statistics Directorate.

Barr. Kikile Esueme, former Acting General Manager, Human Capital Development, Capacity Building Directorate, has been reassigned as the Acting Director, Monitoring & Evaluation Directorate (MED).

RETIREMENT

Dr. Amaijaan Bertram Ikuru retired from the services of the Board in April 2026. He joined the services of the NCDMB in December 2018, from Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria and served in various roles, including as General Manager, Capacity Building Division; Director, Capacity Building; Director, Corporate Services; and Director, Nigerian Content Academy.

While at the Capacity Building Directorate, he played a pivotal role in enhancing skills, knowledge, and infrastructural capabilities within the oil and gas industry. His tenure witnessed significant revitalisation and streamlining of capacity development projects, including initiatives like the Nigerian Content Equipment Certification (NCEC) and the Marine Vessel Categorisation Scheme.

At SPDC, he served as the Manager, Programme Management - Fit for the Future Programme; Manager, Upstream International Cost Ambition Programme; Manager, Community Content Development and Head, Corporate Affairs Planning and Strategy.

We wish him a deserved retirement and success in future endeavors.

RETIREMENT

Mr. Peter Odo Isu retired from the services of the Board in April 2026. He joined the Board in 2014 and served veritably in the Health, Safety and Security Departments of the Corporate Services Directorate.

We wish him a deserved retirement and success in future endeavors.

REDEPLOYMENT

Mrs. Bosede Alexis Emelle, former Manager, Institutional Relations and Entrepreneurial Development, Capacity Building Directorate (CBD), has been reassigned as the Acting General Manager, Human Capital Development, CBD.

Mr. Ejiro Dortie, former Acting General Manager, Commercial Ventures has been reassigned as the Acting General Manager, Planning & Policy Development, in the Planning Research & Statistics Directorate (PRS).

Mr. Ene Ette, former Manager, Planning & Policy, has been reassigned as the Acting General Manager, Research, Statistics & Development, PRS.

Mrs. Amanda Yekorogha, former Acting General Manager, Strategy & Transformation Projects, has been reassigned as Acting General Manager, Upstream, Monitoring & Evaluation Directorate. onitoring and Evaluation Directorate.

Mr. Suleiman Ozimede, former Acting General Manager, Facilities & Logistics, has been reassigned as Acting General Manager in the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate.

Mr. Chukwuma Udom, former Manager, Protocol & Logistics, Facilities & Logistics has been reassigned as Acting General Manager, Facilities & Logistics.

Mrs. Doris Opuwari, has been assigned as the Senior Manager, Nigerian Content Academy, CBD.

Mrs. Tassalla Tersugh, former Acting General Manager, Research, Statistics & Development (PRS) has been reassigned as Acting General Manager, Downstream, Project Certification and Authorisation Directorate.

Mr. Jefferson Tuatongha, former Acting General Manager, Upstream, MED, has been reassigned Acting General Manager, Upstream, Project Certification and Authorisation Directorate, (PCAD).

Mr. Godfrey Demeyin, former Acting GM, Upstream PCAD, has been reassigned Manager, Acquisition Exploration & Dev. Studies (Upstream), PCAD.

Mr. Godfrey Demeyin, former PCAD, has been reassigned Manager, Acquisition Exploration & Dev. Studies (Upstream), PCAD.

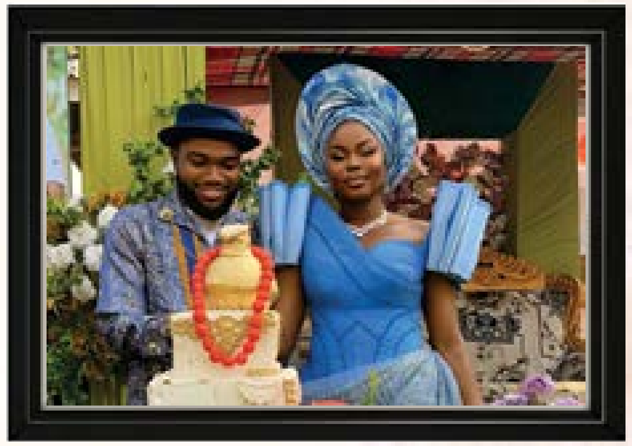
Mr. Victor Amabebe, former Acting Manager, PMO (ESO), has been reassigned Manager, Movable Asset/Contract Award, FLD/DCS.

Mr. Desmond Awumade, formerly of Finance and Accounts Division, has been reassigned as Acting Manager, Security DCS.

NCDMB Staff transiting to managerial positions at the 2026 Chief Officers' Transition Programme at the Lagos Business School (LBS), Lagos.

WEDDINGS

Mr. Kingsley Tobe Ngozi, an officer in the Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) Division of the Board wedded his sweetheart, former Miss Chimenka Favour Obasi on March 28, 2026, at the Arean Event Centre, GRA, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. We pray God to continue to bless their home.



Mr. Zibai Prince Wenidoubara, an officer in the Executive Secretary's Office wedded his sweetheart, former Miss Abu Felicia Wosi on April 4, 2026, at the Government House Banquet Hall, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. We pray God to continue to bless their home.

Former Ms. Paingha Toru Burufigha, an officer in the Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, was married traditionally by her heartthrob, Mr. Ayawari Ogu on May 1, 2026, at the Ayason Events Place, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. We wish them a blissful married life.

Mr. Musa Waleed Usman, an officer in the Human Resource Division wedded his sweetheart, former Miss Suleiman Dambam on April 4, 2026, at the Emir's Palace, Bauchi, Bauchi State. We wish them a blissful married life.

Ms. Favour Parke of the Finance and Accounts Division tied the knot with her beloved, Mr. Emmanuel Sunday Brown, on June 6, 2026, at the Royal Tulip Castle, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. We extend our heartfelt wishes to the newlyweds for a joyful and blissful marriage.

Putting the customer first

NCDMB celebrated the 2025 Customer Service Week December 11 - 12, 2025. The theme of the celebration was Mission Possible. It underscored the Board's commitment to excellent service delivery and teamwork across its various touchpoints, and deepening local content in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

As part of the celebration, staff participated in engaging activities, including fun games, lecture series, comedy segment, karaoke sessions, sport, traditional dance troupe to showcase Nigeria's diverse culture, among other exciting interactions aimed at promoting collaboration, creativity, and staff appreciation.

NCDMB

Champion in Ease of Doing Business

in Nigeria, 2022 to 2025

Awarded by

Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council