

**REMARK BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PENGASSAN), COMRADE FRANCIS O. JOHNSON, DURING A COURTESY/FAMILIARISATION VISIT TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING REGULATORY AGENCY (PPPRA) ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2018**

The Executive Secretary and the Management of the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) have done the leadership of our Association, the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), an honour by receiving us today on this courtesy visit to the agency.

The Management deserves our deep gratitude for this opportunity despite their busy schedule, especially this period, when the agency is collaborating with other government agencies to end fuel scarcity and resurgence of queues in petrol stations in some parts of the

country as well as ensure smooth distribution and supply of petroleum products across the country.

We recognise efforts and capability of PPPRA in the delivery of your regulatory mandates of re-positioning the nation's downstream sub-sector of the petroleum industry for improved efficiency and transparency, as well as attaining a strong, vibrant refining, supply, and distribution of petroleum products in the country.

The agency has been able to protect and prevent Nigerians and the downstream sub-sector of the Oil and Gas Industry from feeling the pangs of the vagaries of global price regime of petroleum products, and prevent collusion and restrictive trade practices harmful in the sector. Despite the efforts of the agency in ensuring that petroleum products are affordable and available to Nigerians, we are however disturbed by the current fuel scarcity and the attendant queues at the petrol stations in the country. We want sustainable steps to be

taken to end the persistent fuel crisis that has inflicted undue hardship on Nigerians.

Let me reinstate our call for increase local refining by ensuring that the nation's refineries work at maximum capacity. Government

should involve the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM) in rehabilitation and repair of the refineries;our refineries are due for a major expansion and ‘debottlenecking’,development of new strategies in ensuring adequate and sustainable crude supply to the refineries. Government should also fast track processes that will encourage private sector involvement in local refining.

We are equally calling on the Federal Government to rehabilitate and upgrade all depots in the country, while there is need to carry out an overhaul of all pipeline networks to ease distribution and supply of petroleum products. There is also need for effective surveillance and monitoring of petroleum products dealers,

especially fuel stations to prevent hoarding of products and selling above PPPRA approved bench-mark price.

At this time, I will like to formally congratulate the Executive Secretary and Management on the emergence of two National Officers from the PPPRA Branch at the recently held National Delegates Conference of our association last June. Indeed, it is heart-warming to note that the branch produced both the National Treasurer who is also a trustee of the association and the National Auditor1

during the election which was keenly contested. It speaks volume of the pride of place PPPRA Branch occupies in the association and labour movement in Nigeria. Once again, congratulations.

The Executive Secretary sir, and the PPPRA Management, may I use this opportunity to implore you to address some of the industrial

relations issues affecting the PENGASSAN PPPRA branch. *Most importantly, we will like the Management to fast track the release of promotion and increment, implementation of long concluded housing loan report, commencement of training for staff and PENGASSAN Executives, implementation of conditions of service in line with board approval, need for Management support/ buy in towards the retreat in view of ongoing reforms, and need for agency to be more proactive towards exiting Federal budget by 2020 as directed by the supervising ministry.*

*In addition to the above we will not fail to remind your office to provide our members with conducive work environment, particularly the office partitioning and furnishing of the agency's head office building which in turn will increase productivity and motivate staff.*

*We call on the agency to continuously engender policies that will enhance the Agency's responsibilities in the value chain of petroleum products transportation.*

*The Executive Secretary Sir, this CWC administration's aspiration is to explore alternative source of income as our monthly check off dues which is our major income earner has gradually dwindled over the years and the leadership of this great association wishes to solicit your support in actualising our foremost projects in Abuja, Port Harcourt, Warri and Lagos .*

Once again let me express the gratitude of the leadership of our Association to the Executive Secretary and the PPPRA Management for the warm reception given to us on this courtesy visit. While we appreciate Management for prompt releases of our National officers for Union activities, we also crave your understanding with the

Branch and assure it of our continuous support for all its activities,we call on the Management to as much as possible involve the branch in policy formulation, decision making and implementation.

Thank you and God bless.

Long Live PPPRA Branch!

Long Live PPPRA Management!!

Long Live PENGASSAN!!!

**Comrade Francis Olabode Johnson**

**5<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.**