



Petroleum & Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN)

...An affiliate of Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC)

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A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING OF THE PETROLUUM AND NATURAL GAS SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PENGASSAN), HELD ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH 2020, AT THE BREAKFORT HOTEL UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE.

PREAMBLE

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN), met on Wednesday, December 16th, 2020, at the Breakfort Hotel Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

THE PUBLIC SESSION

During the Public session which was dedicated primarily to enlighten NEC members on the Petroleum Industrial Bill (PIB) that is currently with the National Assembly, the Nigerian Gas Initiative and the role of the Association with regards to the PIB and Nigerian Gas Initiative. While speaking on the PIB, one of the Consultants, Dr Francis Adigwe (Member, Petroleum Industry Bill Committee) stated that the Bill will have a far-reaching effect on the oil and gas sector when eventually passed into law and further stated that fossil fuel is gradually being relegated and that any country that has huge crude reserves should expedite its exploration to avoid a repeat of the Coal experience since the world is now focused on renewable energy development. He further said that PIB was divided into four sub-sections: Administration, Governance, Fiscal and Host Community sections.

In his contribution, the second Consultant (Henry Adigun – Lead, Facilitator for Oil Sector Transparency in Nigeria) emphasized that the existence of the Association is premised on the existence of the industry to provide the needed employment and reiterated the concern that jobs were no longer readily available, as such, the Association should be prepared for tougher times ahead in view of the effects of Covid-19. He said that the Bill was not a perfect Bill but that we must find a way to move on and ensure that it is passed into law for the survival of the industry.

He pointed out that the declining stake of Government in the sector was glaring and clear for all to see and urged PENGASSAN to support the passage of the Bill in the overall interest of the industry and the nation at large.

The Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) Representative, Mr. Michael Okambi, while speaking on the Nigerian Gas Initiative, enumerated the activities of the commission in areas like Nigerian Gas Flaring Commercialization (NGFCP), National Gas Expansion Program (NGEP) and Nigerian Gas Transportation Network Code (NGTNC) and concluded that the agency was doing its utmost best to bring economic prosperity through infrastructural development and programs like NGFCP and NGEP and called for Association support and understanding.

THE PRIVATE SESSION

The NEC-in-Session after an extensive deliberation on both National and Industrial issues resolves as follows:

SECTORAL/INDUSTRY ISSUES

THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY BILL (PIB)

The NEC-In-Session resolves to support the passage of the PIB as she believes that the Bill will help to attract more investment opportunities which will in turn, increase Government revenue base while at the same time, provide more jobs opportunities. NEC-in-session expresses excitement with the disposition of Government towards the passage of the Bill and have constituted PENGASSAN PIB Committee with capable members to come up with areas that may be of concerns to the Association with a view to engaging with the National Assembly during the Public Hearing and other relevant stakeholders. The NEC-in-session committed to ensuring that the eventual Bill that would be passed by the NASS reflects our collective aspiration for a better Oil and Gas industry in Nigeria.

THE IPPIS

The NEC-In-Session noted the payment of 50% of the 22 months' salary shortfall, to our members in the affected agency and urge government to expedite action in paying the balance. It also took cursory note of irregular payment of salaries to our members in some Federal Government Agencies especially due to forceful enrolment into the IPPIS scheme without capturing their

compensation peculiarities. It resolves that the Leadership of the Association will work assiduously to ensure expeditious approval of the 2015 Harmonized Annual Emolument Template which will enable proper and accurate disbursement of all outstanding payments to affected members without further delay.

REHABILITATION OF REFINERIES

NEC-In-Session recognizes the Federal Government's effort at commencing rehabilitation works for the refineries starting with Port Harcourt Refinery and urged NNPC to ensure that companies invited to carry out the rehabilitation exercise are competent, and possesses the requisite capabilities and technical know-how to handle the various aspects of the maintenance. It also admonishes that the monitoring committee, charged with the responsibilities of ensuring that rehabilitation works are carried out in accordance with the approved specifications and with industry best practices are diligent in their duties.

The Association vows not to relent until the Refineries are brought back to onstream and without compromise on Safety, Quality, Schedule and Cost.

UTILIZATION OF GAS RESERVE

The NEC-In-Session appeals to the Federal Government to expedite action towards the completion of various gas related projects like Gas Line Projects (614-kilometer-long pipeline) from Ajaokuta to Kano, Escravos Gas to Liquids Project in Lagos and OB3 Gas Transmission Pipeline from Delta to Edo states. It believes that when completed, these projects will not only provide employment opportunities but will also help in gas gathering and evacuation across the Country for domestic utilization.

NEC-in-session commends the recent unveiling of prototype gas-powered cars by the Federal Government, describing it as a bold step which if properly developed and implemented, will become a veritable source of revenue for the Government as well as provide employment to our teeming unemployed youths and demanded that the conversion should be made free for all willing Nigerians.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC EFFECTS ON OIL AND GAS

The NEC-In-Session while expressing concern over the rising cases of the COVID-19 pandemic and its global effects on Organizations, and the working class, expresses her disgust with Management

contrived COVID-19 anti-workers' policies geared towards redundancy, pay cut or outright retrenchment. As an Association, NEC-In-Session vows not to condone any retrenchment that do not follow guidelines as enshrined in our relevant laws, regulations, and Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) entered and signed by parties involved.

UNILATERAL REDUNDANCIES

The NEC-In-Session after a holistic review of cases on unilateral redundancies in the sector that have negatively affected some of our members, with specific reference to Baker Hughes, strongly condemns the process adopted by the Management of the company and mandated the Central Working Committee (CWC) to activate all industrial tools at the disposal of the Association to ensure that the contrived redundancy targeted at our members is reversed and to ensure all requirements are satisfied where credible redundancy exercise are to be implemented.

STATE OF THE NATION

SECURITY/ WAR AGAINST INSURGENTS

NEC-In-Session observes with dismay the worsening security situation in the Country as lives are no longer sacred with the avalanche of killings and kidnapping. It condemns the unprovoked massacre of over 43 rice farmers by Boko Haram in Borno State on Saturday, November 28, 2020 and the kidnap of over 400 students in Katsina State recently. This has once again showed that security situation in Nigeria needs urgent overhauling with focus on intelligence gathering and review of military strategies. The body called on the President who is the Commander-in-Chief of Armed Forces to put to an end these security issues as the primary essence of any Government is the protection of lives and property of the citizens.

NEC-In-Session therefore appeals to every citizen to be vigilant and report any suspicious movement to law enforcement agents, while commiserating with all families that have lost their loved ones to these mindless criminals.

END SARS PROTEST AND THE ALLEGED LEKKI KILLINGS

The NEC-In-Session urges the Federal Government to take concrete action towards Police reforms, pay closer attention to recruitment process of members of the Police Force as any reform without addressing the fundamental issues such as the recruitment into the Force amounts to exercise in

futility. Also, access to training, re-training and development of Police Officers and above all, improved remuneration and insurance scheme should receive greater Government attention.

As part of the reforms, NEC also suggests that the Police Service Commission (PSC) should be headed by a professional with security background, not just a serving or retired police officer as has been the case. However, the body totally condemns the aspects of criminality which nearly rubbished the genuine intents of the protesting Nigerian youths.

THE ECONOMY

The NEC-In-Session urges the Economic Advisory Council to come up with economic recovery and growth roadmap that will prevent a total collapse of the Nation's economy from recession and the global effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It further tasked Government to intensify efforts towards containing the spread of COVID-19, stimulate the economy, as well as develop crucial strategies to address all identified bottlenecks that hinder the productivity of the economy and job creation.

The NEC commends the Government for the re-opening of the Nation's land borders for free flow of goods and services and believes that the reason(s) for the closure may have been achieved or that the economic reality on ground does not support or warrant further closure.

NEC-In-Session therefore urges the Agencies and Security Organizations vested with the responsibilities for manning the Nation's borders to be professional in the discharge of their duties.



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