

# NEWSLETTER

 NIGERIA  
ONE

June 2021



## SUMMARY

- Keeping up with Timipre Sylva
- Nigerian International Petroleum Summit
- UNICORN Solving Africa's Problems Through Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Local content roundtable meeting June 3, 2021
- NLNG an African modest giant



## KEEPING UP WITH TIMIPRE SYLVA

From effortlessly juggling government affairs, collaborating with internal delegations and attend traditional ceremonies, Chief Timipre Sylva is a skilled statesman. Spending the day with His Excellency can be quite challenging as he has unbridled energy and the intellectual ability to match. These abilities are muchneeded as Sylva moves with ease from meeting to meeting.



He is fully engaged and always prepared no matter the event. .

On June 4, 2021, we left the airport of Abuja and went directly to the local content building in Yenagoa. As usual, the minister gave a unifying speech concerning Africa. In essence, Timipre Sylva is advocating that all African focus on their own interest and develop cooperation between the nations.

Having imparted thoughtprovoking comments, he opened the roundtable discussion, which resulted in spirited debate.

With yet another successful event checked off of his busy schedule, the industrious minister was ready for the next stop on his itinerary—a quick stop to his Bayalsa residence where his staff had lunch. Though he was fasting, he felt it was important to attend. The last stop on the minister’s busy itinerary was a decidedly auspicious one.



We were scheduled to drive to Ndembe in order to attend the royal enthronement of the new king. For the gala event, Sylva showed his sartorial side as he wore a dapper suit with an African loincloth around his vest..

In this high-profile setting, the minister tested his popularity with hundreds of people following him to pay respects to the newly crowned king.

The tradition in this part of the world is to have the new king stay seven straight days in a specific place, allowing his many subjects to come and greet him. Chief Sylva showed great poise, as well as impeccable people skills as he interacted with the populace. He made a point of interacting with those who wanted to pass a message on to their new king, listening to them attentively and with compassion, instantly putting them at ease.





## **NIGERIAN INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM SUMMIT**

After the well-attended African local content roundtable held in Yoanega on June 3, the Ministry of Petroleum Resources continued its efforts with another high-profile event three days later. On June 6, the government officials from the department welcomed the different delegations who were attending to the Nigerian International Petroleum Summit for talks.

On day two, which took place at the villa, keynote speeches were given by the Minister of State Petroleum Resources Timipre Sylva representing President Buhari. Several important personalities were also present, led by the President of Senate, Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan. In their opening statements, each political luminary congratulated the Ministry of Petroleum Resources for successfully organizing the summit in this difficult time, given the limitations and constraints on the proceedings because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

For the opening ceremony and numerous panels, the international community sent delegations or attended virtually. The multinational firms in the oil and gas industry were very well represented. It was a much-anticipated occasion for the private, public sectors and diplomatic representation to mingle and share their thoughts.

Many subjects were discussed during opening day of the conference; however, a few important points needed to be particularly stressed. The Ministry of Petroleum Resources stated that the objective of Nigeria was to raise production to four million barrels a day and promote gas as a viable alternative to oil. Nigeria's delegate laid out an ambitious plan to build a massive gas pipeline which will go all the way to Morocco.

A few problems were also mentioned, starting with the difficulty of raising funds because global financial institutions are trying to be politically correct and allying with the new world trend consisting in making oil obsolete, citing climate change. This so-called, new world reality is promoting other sources of energy, such as bio-fuels, wind and solar energy. Though Africa is emerging as an important player in the global energy industry, important decisions are taken by the west, but Africa is not even adequately involved in the decision process, even though the continent has more than a 100 million barrels of oil reserve, not even factoring in newdiscoveries.



One of the main conclusions of the summit was that it was high time for African nations to open a frank and strategic discussion concerning the future of energy sources.

The representatives of NNPC, APPO, GECF, IEF, OPEC, and from all the other countries present, pleaded for a uniformization of the strategy. African countries should closely collaborate, based uniquely on the continent realities and interest. The second day ended with a gala dinner where the those who have made notable contributions to the African petroleum industry were rewarded. On the third and the fourth day of the summit, the ICC hosted an expo of key players and several panels were on the schedule, featuring such speakers as Andrew Nevin Charlotte Essiet and others.

A special interest was put on the role of technology within the industry. Participants stressed the importance new technology will play in the discovery and exploitation of oil and gas. It is evident that technology will impact the chain going from Research and Development to employment. The main challenge centres around using technology in a smart and efficient way. A bridge was made to the newly open Unicorn Technology Campus in Lagos. This could play a very important role if governments synchronize and utilize this one-of-a-kind facility in across Africa.



Another important discussion was open concerning the development of marginal fields allowing deal seekers and decision makers to interact smoothly. At the end of these two long but very productive days, the summit was brought to a festive conclusion at the Tanscorp Hilton with the CEOs Gala Dinner.

Finally on the last day of the summit, an open discussion was made around how to develop marginal fields particularly smaller companies. Plotting the roadmap to gas powered economy to 2030 and beyond. The minister of State Petroleum Resources Chief Timipre Sylva in his final address thanked all the participants for having these franc and open discussions for the future of the oil and gas industry but stressed the fact that we should act and act quickly. At this point the vision is clear, we need actions.



## **UNICORN SOLVING AFRICA'S PROBLEMS THROUGH INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

On June first, 2021, His Excellency Chief Timipre Sylva, who serves as Minister of Petroleum Resources of Nigeria, was invited to the opening of the Unicorn Tech Campus in Lagos, he helps develop. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, the governor of Lagos was represented by his wife the first lady of Lagos, Dr. Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu. Other important players in the academic arena, as well as business world was also present for this historic grand opening.

The eclectic event was considered a rare opportunity for government officials, professors, doctors and engineers to mingle and exchange personal experiences and ideas regarding their specific areas of expertise, as well as discuss the crucial role each of them should play in nurturing African business men and women.

The event also attracted prominent business owners and startup entrepreneurs in the tech industry. With the realization of the Unicorn Tech Campus project, Sylva expressed his elation with the resulting program as it showcased what he fervently believes — the real resource of Africa is its human resource. According to the minister, the development of the human resources is the most sustainable and, with a plethora of innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs in Nigeria, human capital is abundant.

Sylva stated that this focus on the human factor is the right and necessary direction to take, adding that the focus should be geared towards finding solutions to any obstacles that may arise.

Ultimately, this approach is the key to success and exactly what the Unicorn Group is committed to. Simbi Wabote ES NCDMB, showed the link to be made with ongoing programs initiated by Sylva and the Unicorn Group. The vision of Sylva is not only based on petroleum products, but also explores other sources of energy, including renewable and sustainable resources, and how this vision is beneficial to every Nigerian.

Since its inception about fifteen years ago the Unicorn Group has developed a unique approach to entrepreneurship in Africa, tailored to meet the specific needs of Africans entrepreneurs, in turn, giving them extensive business acumen to compete in global markets. In a bid to educate as many aspiring business owners in the African continent, the Unicorn Group has opened campuses as far afield as Lagos, Nairobi, Johannesburg and Accra, with the Moroccan campus set to open next year. Other locations in the pipeline include Egypt, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Ethiopia and Tanzania.

The ultimate goal is to impact one million entrepreneurs over the next 10 years and empower 10 thousand entrepreneurs during that period. This major Unicorn Tech Campus named after Dr. Wura Abila stated that tech campus is the first of its kind in Africa because it supports entrepreneurs from the idea stage to the realization of their project. The state-of-the-art campus is a dream come true for Dr. Akintoye Akindele, chairman and CEO of the Unicorn Group, who conceived the idea of an African-based business establishment three years ago.

Alongside, Sylva, Akindele tapped the brain trust of Unicorn's auspicious group of board members and other key industry players to make the dream of this business-centric institution a reality. The curriculum of Unicorn Tech takes a multi-level approach to occupation, mentoring and the funding of tech businesses. Mentors will accompany entrepreneurs from the embryonic stage of their ideas to the funding of their businesses.



A soup-to-nuts approach with each floor of the campus representing a stage in the process. To accommodate all future captains of industry, the facility is open 24 hours a day, which gives a welcomed flexibility to entrepreneurs who can attend at night but are interested in participating in Unicorn's program.



The uniqueness of the Unicorn Group's curriculum is partially based on its unique ecosystem approach, which takes into consideration all aspects of solid business knowledge, including pitfalls to look for and when to grow their businesses; information that makes for good end results. The targeted programs with their respective resources in training, financial assistance, access to successful entrepreneurs allow startups to grow and thrive.

In the world of business, an important percentage of startups are doomed to fail; however, the Unicorn Group aims to buck that trend with this program. The purpose of these campuses is to provide the correct infrastructure, membership execution, scaling and accessibility to patent capital. Access to accelerators and incubators partnership are also key features on offer.

Experienced advisers provide governance and strategic direction to ensure entrepreneurs gain the best, real-world knowledge. Partners were carefully chosen, locally and internationally, to assist members. Resident operating partners composed of successful startups founders, consultants and investors, all of whom are best in class within their respective industries.

Unicorn's Value Add (UVA) is an eLearning platform and a very important facet of the program, which allows access to world-class, online libraries, courses, mentoring and coaching. This Web-based portal is led by a network of mentors and subject matter experts to coach startup business owners. Benefits include market access to global financial institutions, business and investor partner networks, direct access to business services.



The aim is to attract talent to work alongside founders, resulting in development and execute of their visions. One of the much sought-after benefits of UVA is access to capital, which can prove elusive to many new business owners.

At the June event, all the speakers who attended the opening, were in unanimous in agreeing that, based on their extensive knowledge, African should find continental solutions to its problems and open up to the world.

Valuable initiatives like the Unicorn Tech program must be developed and multiply throughout the continent if African industry wants to become developed, innovate and compete on a global stage.



## LOCAL CONTENT ROUNDTABLE MEETING

Yenagoa, the capital of Bayelsa, played host to the local content roundtable meeting with the participation of all Africa's oil producers. It was presided over by Chief Timipre Sylva, the Minister of Petroleum Resources of Nigeria.

Under His Excellency's guidance, the oil industry is changing the game in the continent as stated by the representative of Niger's Ministry of Oil. Since 2011, this relatively young oil-producing country has experienced some challenges when it comes to local content, even though important strides have been made.

The setbacks faced by Niger is mainly due to a lack of experience and proper jurisdiction. The situation in Niger is not unique, as this is a reality many African countries share. However, Nigeria stands as a good source of inspiration, in addition to being a model and a potential partner. As Minister Sylva has stated, Nigeria is the first African country that has introduced legislation concerning local content and practices.

In order to sustain economic growth, local content is key to the economic development of Nigeria. In order to create wealth and economic prosperity, African countries should have a solid model that enables its human capital to be at the center of the development of their natural resources.

The estimated crude oil reserve in Nigeria is 37 billion barrels and 220 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves.

Nigeria has witnessed an important progression in value addition, going from less than five percent to 35 percent between 2010 and 2021. The goal is to reach 70 percent by 2027 and given Nigeria's trajectory, they are on target to meet that amount. Unfortunately, the reality of Africa's oil producers is a little gloomy as they have not fully benefited from their resources even though Africa accounts for over fifteen oil producers in the continent.



This roundtable meeting was an occasion to initiate conversations on local content, share success stories and come up with adapted policies for each country. Furthermore, it was a forum to allow African oil producers to take the opportunity to advance the process towards free trade in Africa. The 54 countries within the African continent represent a market of 1.2 billion customers with a cumulated growth of over 10.4 trillion dollars.

The minister's advocacy resonated loudly among the participants and posed the crucial issues Africa needs to face and quickly advance for the sake of all Africans. A Pan-African speech that has to be dispatched and acted on now.





## NLNG AN AFRICAN MODEST GIANT

On June 14, 2021, an important delegation of high-profile personalities in the oil and gas industry left Abuja to attend the ground-breaking ceremony scheduled for the next day. The Honourable Minister of Petroleum Resources chief Timipre Sylva led the way followed by, Bitrus Nabasu Perm Sec. MPR, Mele Kolo Kiyari GMD NNPC, Bala Wunti MD NAPIMS, Brenda Ataga STA to HMSPR.

An hour later we arrived at Finima Airstrip Boony Island home to the NLNG where we received a warm and folkloric welcome from the authorities and NLNG members. After a delicious lunch in the NLNG compound, a tour of the plant and control centre was organized. This facility is the prove that Nigerians can achieve anything they set up their mind to do. NLNG is a formidable example of discipline, professionalism and efficiency where each person is responsible for their actions, nothing is left to hazard.

This world-class organization counts six plants where the gas is received and treated before being shipped across the world. It also has control. NLNG was created about thirty years ago and the plant exists for the past twenty-one years. This magnificent facility is entirely run and operated by Nigerians and is an undisputed leader Worldwide. The company along with its competitors are evaluated and ranked periodically and it always occupies a comfortable place and is cited as a good example to follow. NLNG is a billion-dollar revenue company with important investments still being made. Most importantly this institution takes very seriously its Social and Environmental Responsibility.

The gas treated and released is not dangerous and the evolvment in the local community is an example to follow.

On June 5, 2021, President Buhari addressed via the internet a welcome and encouraging message to all the attendees and appreciated the excellent work that has been done so far.

He as usual projected a bright future for the NLNG.

In addition to all the high-level decision-makers cited above several other important VIPs attended the ceremony among them, we have a board of directors' members of the NNPC l'Ami Onayi Ahmed, Mohamed Lawal, Plus Akinyeleru, Magnus Abe, Dr Dike, Hon Tajudeen Umar, Dr Steven Dike, Ahmed Aliyu. Other important figures were also present, Dr Kenny Obateru, Simbi Wabote ES NCDMB, His Majesty King Edward Asimini William Dappa People III and many others.



All speakers expressed how proud they were to be associated with this ground-breaking ceremony and stressed what it will represent for the future of the NLNG and Nigeria.

This addition will boost production to another level and as mention by the Minister of Petroleum Resources will be the beginning of a new era train 8,9 and 10 will logically follow

Furthermore, this investment fits right into the politic of the minister and will help diversify the energy source and position gas as a valuable transition from oil.



After the ceremony, we all headed to the King Perekule Palace Hall where Kin Edward appreciated all the participants and praised the collaboration between the Bonny Island Kingdom and the NLNG leaders.

No investment will be valuable or sustainable without peace he and works day in and day out to maintain peace on the Island.

Mele Kolo Kyari the NNPC boss extended a hand to Chief Timipre Sylva to assist with the Kingdom foundation. Everyone recognizes the efforts made by Tony Attah managing director of NLNG, he has done an extraordinaire job getting the organization where it is today. By appreciating mister Attah, this goes to all the hard-working members of NLNG. Special thanks to Ogochukwu Ogo-Uzodike SA to HSMPR mister protocol as I like to call him made sure that everything went as smoothly as possible.





## KEEP IN TOUCH

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