



L-R, GOC 6 Div. of the Nigerian Army Maj-Gen. Enobong Udoh receiving a present from the MD/CEO of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana during a courtesy visit to the General at Bori Camp headquarters 6 Division.



Military top brass and Mgt. team of OGFZA discussing during a courtesy call on GOC 6 Division of the Nigerian Army, PH Maj-Gen Enobong Udoh by MD/CEO of OGFZA Umana Okon Umana



L-R, Flag Officer Commanding (FOC) Eastern Naval Command and Alenju Ngofa H.O.D Planning Research & Statistics, representing MD/CEO during a meeting with Security Stakeholders in OGFZA corporate headquarters, Onne.



Cross section of Stakeholders during a meeting with FOC Eastern Naval Command discussing security issues in the Niger Delta waterways at OGFZA corporate headquarters, Onne.



MD/CEO of OGFZA Umana Okon Umana addressing the 15th World Free Zones Convention in Doha, Qatar while Chairman of the World Free Zones Convention listens with apt attention.



MD/CEO of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana (Right) exchanging views with the head of Mexico Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority at the 15th World Free Zones Convention in Doha, Qatar.



MD/CEO of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana with the Chairman -Recycling Group of China/SEZ, Mr. Tony Lee (left) and Dr. Sina Agbolouaye -Pioneer General Manager of Calabar Free Trade Zone at the 15th World Free Zone Convention in Doha, Qatar



Delegates from various countries at the 15th World Free Trade Zone Convention at Doha Qatar.



From Left, Obong Iniobong Jackson -Tech. Asst. to the MD/CEO of OGFZA, representing the MD/CEO at the maiden Nigeria Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair 2017 in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.



Umana making a presentation to Hon. Mpigi Barinada, representing Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai Fed. Constituency in the House of Reps during a courtesy call to the MD/CEO of OGFZA



From Left, Umana in a chat in his office with Eleme Community Leaders led by Hon. Barinada Mpigi



Umana (centre) with his mgt. team playing host to the mgt. team of West Minster Dredging during a business meeting.



OGFZA SEEKS TARIFF REVIEW FOR FREE ZONES INVESTORS



UMANA OKON UMANA

The Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) has begun the process of a downward review of tariffs paid by investors in the oil and gas zones in the country. The managing director of OGFZA, Mr Umana Okon Umana, broke news of the downward review during interaction with investors in Onne, Rivers State, following complaints by licensed investors about high tariffs applicable in the free zones.

The licensees protested that the Industry Wide Standard Tariffs (IWST) being enforced in the free zones were negotiated and signed only by NAPIMS, Exxonmobil, Shell, Intels, Adax, NAOC, Total and Chevron without the input or involvement of other investors in the free zones. They argued that it was unfair to impose such tariff regime on everyone when the process that produced it was not inclusive, and called for all parties—including NAPIMS, OGFZA, the IOCs and other licensees—to go back to the drawing board and agree a new tariff structure that will take care of the interest of the IOCs and other licensed investors in the free zones.

Umana, who told the investors that their case deserves serious consideration, said the downward review of the statutory levies is necessary to justify the very idea of a free zone as an enclave where investors enjoy low cost and ease of doing business, adding that the difficult economic times also calls for a second look at the tariff regime in the free zones.

He told the investors that a meeting is in the works with the National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS), Intels and other relevant stakeholders to agree on a regime of tariffs that is fair to all the parties involved.

Umana explained that the schedule of the tariffs being implemented was approved by NAPIMS "without the input of the Oil and Gas Free Zone Authority," contrary to section 25 of the Oil & Gas Free Zone Act Cap 05, LFN 2010 and section 11 and 39 (4) of the Oil & Gas Export Free Zone Regulations 2003. Section 11 of the Oil & Gas Export Free Zone Regulations 2003 states that "The Authority shall issue schedule of tariffs which shall apply in the Free Zone and which shall be reviewed from time to time and copies made available to the licensees or operators," while section 32 (4) of the same regulation gives OGFZA the "right to review tariffs for operations in the Free Zone from time to time."

...Hails Akwa Ibom on Liberty Free Zone



A meeting by the members of the Establishment committee for Liberty Free Zone. L-R, Engr. Ufot Ebong -S.A. to AKS Gov. on Tech. matters; Gabriel Ukpeh -Chairman of the LFZ implementation committee/S.A. to AKS Gov. on FDI; Adekunle Ajayi -H.O.D. Operations/Tech. Serv; Obong Iniobong Jackson -Tech. Asst. to MD/CEO; Adamu Kontagora -Ag. H.O.D. T&I, all of OGFZA.

The Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) has commended the Akwa Ibom State government on the efforts to build and secure a licence for the proposed Liberty Oil and Gas Free Zone in Ikot Abasi. Reviewing progress of work on the proposed free zone after receiving a briefing from the Liberty Oil and Gas Free Zone Joint Implementation

Committee at the end of a review meeting in Uyo, managing director of OGFZA, Mr Umana Okon Umana, said he was impressed at the pace and level of mobilisation and promotion by the state government to attract investors to the project.

At the review meeting, chairman of the implementation committee, Mr Gabriel Ukpeh, who is also the special adviser to Akwa Ibom State governor on foreign direct investment, gave timelines for meeting key paperwork requirements on the project as well as insight into important engineering and technical works concluded and scheduled to be done.

Ukpe reported that a preliminary aerial survey and a temporary access road to the 50,000-hectare site for the proposed free zone have

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From The Publisher

Welcome to the third edition of our newsletter. Between the first edition and the latest issue which is now in your hands, a lot has happened within and about the Authority. No fewer than six investors in the oil and gas sector have indicated interest to acquire Free Zone status.

Also during the period, OGFZA was represented at three international conferences in Dubai, UAE, Doha in Qatar and Houston, USA with the Managing Director/CEO, Mr. Umana Okon Umana, leading the delegations.

Within the period too, Management of OGFZA initiated the process that is expected to lead to a downward review of tariffs applicable in the Free Zones.

Management equally received a number of courtesy calls from leaders of our host community in Onne and the larger Eleme local council area, who came to wish OGFZA well and pledge continuing good relationship for mutual benefits.

This issue of the Newsletter reflects all these developments and more.

Please enjoy!



Middle: MD/CEO of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana with his mgt. team (Left) and Hon. Mpigi Barinada with other leaders of the Eleme community(Right).

Exporters Commend OGFZA on Tariff Review

The Association of Nigerian Exporters has commended the leadership of the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) for demanding a downward review of tariffs payable in the free zones. The director-general of the association, Prince Joseph Idiong, said in a statement in Abuja at the weekend that the call for a downward tariff review by OGFZA at once reflects the sensitivity of the agency to the challenges facing free zone businesses and the need for the free zones to live out their essence as a special business-friendly hub.

Prince Idiong said by the initiative on the tariff cut, Mr Umana Okon Umana, managing director of OGFZA, has shown that he is working to bring back life into the free zones and deliver badly needed succour to struggling free zone businesses.

Prince Idiong frowned upon the manner in which the contentious tariffs were fixed by NAPIMS, which is not the regulator of the free zones, adding that the ruling tariff regime is inconsistent with the Buhari administration's change agenda that should ensure that the rule of law and due process apply universally in all

aspects of public life. He argued that the current tariff regime in the free zones is illegal because it was not arrived at in accordance with section 25 of the OGFZA Act as well as sections 11 and 39 (4) of the Oil & Gas Export Free Zone Regulations 2003.

Section 11 of the Oil & Gas Export Free Zone Regulations 2003 states that "The Authority (meaning OGFZA) shall issue schedule of tariffs which shall apply in the Free Zone and which shall be reviewed from time to time and copies made available to the licensees or operators," while section 32 (4) of the same regulation gives OGFZA the "right to review tariffs for operations in the Free Zone from time to time."

Prince Idiong warned that the arbitrarily high tariffs in the free zones could lead to court action against the federal government, and advised that the agency of government charged with the regulation and management of the free zones, rather than an outside body, should be the authority that runs the free zones in all aspects, including the matter of tariffs.

He said for the rule of law to be seen to have taken hold the regulator of the

free zones should be allowed to drive all the processes in the free zones. He explained that the Association of Nigerian Exporters is not comfortable with the meddlesomeness by outsiders in the administration of the free zones because those outsiders lack the sensitivity needed to correctly address issues that affect free zone businesses.

Recently representatives of investors in the oil and gas free zones protested the high tariffs to the free zone regulator, OGFZA, and called for a review of the fees.



JOSEPH IDIONG

DG, Association of Nigerian Exporters

said the case of property owners within the area acquired for the free zone would be addressed either through integration into the project or relocation from the project site.

He said the Akwa Ibom State government is working with a consortium of consultants to mobilise investments into the free zone. The consortium, he said, is led by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

VISION

To facilitate public-private partnership investments in the nation's oil and gas free zones as vehicles for promoting accelerated growth and sustainable development.

MISSION

To be the premier agency of government responsible for promoting, securing and sustaining investment in the nation's oil and gas free zones.

CORE VALUES

- Integrity
- Respect (Self, Clients, Time and Colleagues)
- Professionalism
- Creativity
- Transparency and Accountability
- Passion
- Customer Centric

OGFZA MD ASSURES HOST COMMUNITY OF FAIR DEAL

The Managing Director of the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA), Mr Umana Okon Umana has assured the people of Eleme in Rivers State that they would get a fair and equitable treatment in their relationship with OGFZA. Eleme is the host community to OGFZA.

Speaking during separate courtesy calls in his office by the member representing Eleme State Constituency in the State House of Assembly, Hon Josiah Olu; the Eleme People General Assembly led by its president-general, Elder Israel Gomba-Abbey; and member representing Eleme/Oyigbo/Tai Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon Mpigi Barinada, Umana said his management would improve upon OGFZA's template for community relations in order to give the Eleme people a fair deal in terms of employment and other elements of corporate social responsibility (CSR) to them.

He told his guests that he was determined to effectively play his role as a regulator so that the Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone would grow and generate enough benefits to go round all the stakeholders, including the host community. He added that he would make sure that the interest of all

stakeholders in the free zone were protected, and advised the host community to stay engaged with OGFZA for a mutually beneficial relationship.

Umana commended leaders of Eleme for ensuring peace in their community, adding that youth restiveness and violence can only drive away investment, breed unemployment and lead to poverty.

Hon Mpigi Barinada assured OGFZA of the support of the community, while Hon Josiah Olu expressed confidence in OGFZA's leadership and its disposition to be fair to all. Elder Gomba-Abbey, president-general of Eleme People's Assembly, wished Umana a fruitful tenure of office.

The three delegations presented the management of OGFZA with requests for support, with particular reference to the provision of infrastructure in their community, employment of their people in the free zone and provision of other aspects of CSR.

Umana urged them to remain engaged with the Authority, saying "We will perform our role as a regulator and make sure that the interest of all stakeholders are protected to achieve a win-win outcome."

OGFZA HAILS AKWA IBOM ON... (Continued from page 1)

been completed. He explained that the dredging of the sea that will serve the shipping needs of the project is awaiting full consultation with the host communities across Akwa Ibom and the neighbouring states since the impact of dredging cuts across state boundaries.

The committee chairman announced 2 May as deadline for concluding all paperworks required for the licensing of the free zone. Site inspection of the proposed free zone area by OGFZA, the

licensing authority, is scheduled for the third week of April.

A member of the committee, Engr. Ufot Ebong, who is the special adviser to the state governor on technical matters, said the number of international investors that have indicated interest to bring investments into the Liberty Free Zone was large, including Exxonmobil, who he added, has made a request for a dedicated terminal in the proposed free zone. He did not give further details and more specifics. Ebong also