



MD/CEO of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana introducing the CG of Customs Col. Hameed Ali (rtd) to the OGFZA team



MD/CEO of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana delivering his welcome address during the Joint Stakeholders Forum



Col. Hameed Ali (rtd) making a speech during the Joint Stakeholders Forum



Adekunle Ajayi, H.O.D. Operations/Tech. Serv. making a presentation on Service Delivery to the Joint Stakeholders Forum.



L-R, Col. Hameed Ali (rtd), CG of NCS with Umana Okon Umana, MD/CEO of OGFZA



MD/CEO of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana making a presentation to the Singaporean Business Federation during a business meeting in Lagos.



The Singaporean Snr. Minister of Trade and Industry, Koh Poh Koon with his team and Head, Abuja Liaison office OGFZA, Jamil Bashir, at Lekki Free Zone on a facility tour in Lagos.



The Singapore Business Federation delegation with MD/CEO of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana in his office at Onne.



Reps. of Akwa Ibom State government and OGFZA mgt. team with the Singapore Business Federation delegation in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.



The Singapore Business Federation delegation, Norfin Offshore and NIPC representatives at Intels Nigeria Ltd in the Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone.



The Singapore Business Federation delegation at Indorama OIS in the Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone.



The Singapore Business Federation delegation at Brawal Oil Services Ltd in the Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone.



OGFZA

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NEWS LETTER

... the rebranding of OGFZA

EAST-WEST ROAD COLLAPSE PARALYSES \$50BN INVESTMENT

• Cuts off Onne Port, Eleme Refineries, fertilizer plants



Collapsed portion of the East-West road and stranded road users

The collapse of a section of the East-West Road in Eleme in Rivers State has paralysed investments estimated at more than \$50 billion in the Eleme-Onne axis of the industrial hub of the state. That section of the road had been virtually impassable for about two years but it became a real logistic nightmare last week following the collapse of the bridge that allows access to the two petroleum refineries in Eleme, the Onne Port complex, including Onne Free Zone; the Indorama/Eleme Petro-chemical Plant, Notore Petro-Chemical Industries and many businesses within the corridor.

The head of operations and technical services at the Oil and Gas Free Zones (OGFZA), which is the regulator of the Onne Free Zone, Mr Adekunle Ajayi said businesses cut off by the collapse of the East-West Road in Eleme are collectively worth more than \$50 billion. Those businesses include Intels, which is the Onne Free Zone developer, the West African Container Terminal (WACT), Brawal Shipping Company, all the IOCs represented in the free zone. Among government establishments that are equally cut off by the collapsed road are OGFZA, the NPA, Nigeria Customs

Service, the Nigerian Naval College, and the Nigeria Immigration Service.

Besides the investments already mentioned, there are lots of sundry businesses and government establishments along the corridor up to Ogoni that are also no longer accessible from Port Harcourt because of the failure of the road.

Commenting on the condition of the road, the managing director of OGFZA, Mr Umana Okon Umana, said apart from its adverse impact on existing businesses in the axis, the logistic crisis caused by the failed section of the road could seriously curtail the inflow of foreign direct investment which the Federal Government has been campaigning for. "No foreign investor wants to stake his money where he cannot have access to," Umana said.

The OGFZA managing director said that he has drawn the attention of the Minister of the Niger Delta Affairs and the managing director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to the condition of the road, commending the NDDC for its intervention. Umana

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Low cost power soon for Onne Free Zone

A major relief is coming the way of investors in the Onne Free Zone as the regulatory agency of the zone, the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA), partners an investor to roll out embedded power in the enclave within the next eight months.

Addressing investors in the zone and other stakeholders at a joint stakeholders' forum on improved service delivery in Onne on Wednesday, the managing director of OGFZA, Mr Umana Okon Umana, said the move was aimed at reducing the cost of doing business in the zone.

"In order to reduce the cost of doing business in the free zones regulated by OGFZA we are partnering with an investor to provide embedded power supply in Onne Free Zone within the next eight

months," Umana said. "We are also seriously addressing the challenge of high cost of doing business in the free zone arising from other tariffs. We have engaged all the stakeholders in this regard, including developers of the free zone and the IOCs, all of who have agreed that the tariffs are way too high and must come down. In this regard, the Authority in line with the extant law and regulations will soon be issuing a new schedule of tariffs which would be applicable in the free zones."

Umana, who reported other successful OGFZA initiatives to the forum of stakeholders, described the efforts as the fulfilment of the commitments in the roadmap of the agency which was drawn up early in the year. "I am happy to report

also, he said, "that in March this year the Authority in compliance with the extant law and regulations implemented a modified Standard Operating Procedure to enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency. "Furthermore, in line with the commitment made in our Roadmap we have begun the full automation of our processes with the deployment of the Oracle Cloud application for all aspects of our operations. The deployment of the application and the training of staff to operate it are ongoing.

"When it is fully operational, the Oracle application would make it all too easy to achieve our set goals of meeting a new licence request within 14 days and a renewal request within 48 hours."

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From The Publisher

We are pleased to bring you the fifth edition of the OGFZA Newsletter.

This edition of the newsletter bears testimony to a very interesting period in the history of OGFZA as it is shown in the bulletin of stories showcased, headlined by the story of the collapse of the Eleme portion of the East-West Road, resulting in a severe restriction of access to Nigeria's premier Oil and Gas Free Zone in Onne; the Onne Port Complex, and all the

prime investments within the Eleme industrial hub. The story also pays tribute to the commendable efforts of the OGFZA leadership to secure intervention from federal agencies for the recovery of the lost portion of the road. During the period covered by the current edition of the newsletter, OGFZA and its sister federal agency, the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) hosted a Joint Stakeholders' Forum, very well attended by investors and government agencies, to hammer out a strategy for better service delivery in the Free Zones in line with the Federal Government policy on the Ease of Doing Business. All that happened at the forum is captured in this edition.

There are also reports on the cheering news that the Onne Free Zone is soon to enjoy cheap power and other lower tariffs right across board as a new policy reform is about to be unveiled. Equally well highlighted in the newsletter is OGFZA's visit to an investment conference in Singapore and the follow-up visit of the Singapore Business Federation to Nigeria led by the Senior Minister of Trade and Investment of Singapore at the invitation of the leadership of OGFZA. The Singapore Trade Mission held investment meetings with government and private sector leaders in Lagos, Port Harcourt and Uyo. We are serving up a collector's item. Read it and keep it.

OGFZA partners Customs on service delivery



The Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) are committed to working together for improved service delivery to clients in the nation's free trade zones, authorities of both agencies of government have said.

Addressing a joint stakeholders' forum of the two agencies in Onne, Rivers State, organised to fine tune a pathway to better service delivery in the free zones, the managing director of OGFZA, Mr Umana Okon Umana and the Comptroller-General of the NCS, Col. Hameed Ali (rtd), said their agencies were united by the collective objective of delivering best-in-class services to investors in the free zones in line with the Ease of Doing Business policy of the Federal Government.

Umana explained further: "This conference is jointly hosted by the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority and the Nigeria Customs Service to underscore the fact that the Ease of Doing Business initiative is a national Policy under one Government, by which fact all relevant agencies of Government are to work together in implementing the policy to deliver efficient services to the investor. That is both the letter and spirit of the policy, whose urgency has been reinforced by the Executive Orders issued by the Acting President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo." Umana added that agency cooperation for efficient service delivery under the one-government concept is operationalised in the free zones through the one-stop shop policy, which obligates

all relevant agencies of government to work through OGFZA to optimise and expedite service delivery. "The point being made here is that the policy of efficient service delivery has to be imbibed and made a way of life across all agencies of Government," he said.

In his remarks, Col. Ali, comptroller-general of Nigeria Customs, declared that the service was committed to working with OGFZA for the good of the nation. "We recognise the need to work with you and carry you along in our match toward evolving an efficient and responsive service," the comptroller-general said.

Col. Ali explained that full engagement with all stakeholders in the oil and gas trade is a requirement for the success of the industry.

The forum, which drew participation from licensed customs clearing agents, free zone investors, relevant government officials, and other stakeholders, was highly interactive. It featured the presentation of technical papers on the Ease of Doing Business by Mr Adekunle Ajayi, OGFZA's head of operations and technical services and another paper providing the customs perspective on improved service delivery in the free zones by Abubakar Bashir, who is the customs comptroller in charge of Port Harcourt area command, Onne.

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 to issue lower tariffs for Free Zones soon.

The Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) is working to give effect to the policy of the Ease of Doing Business by seriously addressing its cost component through a significant reduction in tariffs applicable in the free zones. Speaking at a stakeholders' forum on improved service delivery jointly organised by OGFZA and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the managing director of OGFZA, Mr Umana Okon Umana, said the cost of doing business in the free zones was way too high and had to come down.

"We are seriously addressing the challenge of high cost of doing business in the free zone arising from other tariffs," Umana said. "We have engaged all the stakeholders in this regard, including developers of the free zone and the IOCs, all of who have agreed that the tariffs are way too high and must come down."

"In this regard, the Authority in line with the extant law and regulations will soon be issuing a new schedule of tariffs which would be applicable in the free zones."

Umana has consistently sought reduction in the cost of doing business in the free zones, arguing in each instance that high tariffs ultimately cancel out the incentives which OGFZA provides for the free zone investors. As part of the drive for lower costs in the free zones, OGFZA is rolling out embedded power in the Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone within the next eight months through a partnership with a private investor. "In order to reduce the cost of doing business in the free zones regulated by OGFZA we are

partnering with an investor to provide embedded power supply in Onne Free Zone within the next eight months," Umana said. According to the OGFZA managing director, the cost of a unit of electricity from the embedded power infrastructure is expected to be significantly lower than the cost of energy being paid by investors under the current arrangement.

Also addressing the joint stakeholders' forum, the comptroller-general of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Col. Hameed Ali pledged to partner OGFZA to meet Federal Government development objectives in the oil and gas industry as expressed in existing policies like the Ease of Doing Business and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan.

Col. Ali explained that achieving improved service delivery in terms of timely clearance of goods from the ports in the free zones and other measures of efficiency depends on "honest customs declaration by traders, proper utilisation of temporary importation permits, strict compliance with free trade regulations and prompt perfection of declarations on provisional release procedure."

He stressed the importance of continuing engagement with all actors in the international trade chain to engender synergy and achieve success.

The forum, which was highly interactive, featured the presentation of technical papers on the Ease of Doing Business and on the Customs perspective on improved service delivery.



Low cost power soon for Onne Free Zone Continued from page 1

The forum was jointly organised with the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), customs declaration by trade chain to engender synergy and achieve success. Col. Hameed Ali (rtd), temporary importation permits, strict compliance with free trade regulations and presentation of technical papers on the Ease of Doing Business and on the Customs perspective on improved service delivery. The forum, which was highly interactive, featured the presentation of technical papers on the Ease of Doing Business and on the Customs perspective on improved service delivery.

East-west road Collapse Paralyzes \$50bn Investment Continued from page 1

however added that what is needed is a holistic and permanent solution to the bad state of the road. The terrible condition of the road attracted the attention of the Rivers State Governor, Mr Nyesom Wike in 2016, who met with investors and government establishments within the axis. On the prompting of the state governor,

the investors and the Rivers State Government contributed N3 billion to assist in the repair of the failed section of the road, which measures about seven kilometres. A member of the committee that was set up to implement the intervention on the road from the N3 billion collections said the money was disbursed to RCC

to carry out repairs of the road. However, less than two years after, the road has become impassable again. The East-West Road is a Federal Government trunk 'A' road, intended to link the South-South, Southeast and Western parts of the country together.