



OGFZA TO FAST-TRACK BOG CITY TAKE-OFF

The Governing Board of the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) has commended the executive management of the agency for effective leadership. The chairman of OGFZA's board, Chief Timipre Sylva, former governor of Bayelsa State, said during the inaugural meeting of the board of the agency at the Oil and Gas Free Zone, Onne, Rivers State, that the managing director of OGFZA, Mr. Umana Okon Umana, has demonstrated the right leadership in directing the affairs of the free zone regulator and in administering the oil and gas free zones under his control.

"Umana is leading OGFZA in the right direction," Chief Sylva said.

In a media chat after the meeting, Chief Sylva outlined the vision and agenda for the new board. "One of the things we would like to achieve is to be able to provide power in Onne," Chief Sylva said. *"We are engaging a group of investors that will build a turbine for the free zone; that would be one of the things we would like to achieve before the end of the year."*

The OGFZA chairman said efforts to improve the revenue position of the agency through effective IGR strategy would receive equal priority attention.

He added that his board would also do all that is necessary to resolve issues of conflict between the Nigeria Export

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Chief Timipre Sylva
OGFZA Board Chairman

TERMINAL OPERATORS WANT GOVT TO DREDGE ONNE CHANNEL

Terminal operators in the Oil and Gas Free Zone, Onne, have called on the Federal Government to dredge the Onne Seaport and its channel leading out to sea in order to ease up the passage of big cargo vessels and cut operating cost.

The branch manager of Brawal Oil Services Nigeria Limited, Mr. Sylvester Uzoma Agbotian, who made the call during a facility tour of the zone by the governing board of the Oil and Gas

Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) said the depth of the seaport stands at 9.5 draft in low waters, which does not allow big vessels to berth at the Onne seaport, thereby forcing importers and exporters to incur extra cost by transporting their cargoes in bits with smaller vessels to and from the mother ships.

The shallow depth of the Onne Seaport, they said, also forces big ships to divert to other ports, thereby leading to loss of business and revenue to terminal

operators and ancillary businesses at the port.

Mr. Sylvester Uzoma Agbotian, however, commended the management of OGFZA for providing a level playing field for all investors in the free zone. The Brawal branch manager told the OGFZA Board chairman and members that since the new management of the Authority led by Mr. Umana Okon Umana as managing director came on board, it has rolled out a set of policies

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OGFZA, CUSTOMS TO OPTIMISE EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY IN FREE ZONES

The Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) have signalled plans for greater cooperation between the two agencies for more efficient service delivery in the nation's oil and gas free zones.

Speaking during a visit to the offices of OGFZA in Onne, Rivers State,

representatives of OGFZA and NCS said greater collaboration through the one-stop-shop strategy and the pursuit of efficient service delivery were in the interest of the Federal Government's policy of the Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria.

The NCS visit was on the side-line of its study tour of the agency's command in Rivers State.

Addressing the management team of OGFZA, Mr. Wale Adeniyi, the Customs Comptroller who led the NCS delegation, said the visit was to help improve their "understanding of the objectives and operational procedures of OGFZA."

Mr. Adekunle Ajayi, OGFZA's head of operations and technical services, who

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From The Publisher

This edition of your Newsletter, which is the 8th in the series, is dedicated to the new Governing Board of the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA), which was inaugurated on 1 March in Abuja by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Okechukwu Enelamah. The Board is chaired by His Excellency, Chief Timipre Silva, former governor of Bayelsa State.

In the view of Chief Silva, the new OGFZA Board comes highly recommended, teeming with "eminent Nigerians, who are very seasoned and skillful." The board is already living up to its billing. Almost instantly it held its inaugural meeting in Onne, Rivers State, and went on facility tours of the Oil and Gas Free Zone, Onne; the Brass Oil and Gas City in Bayelsa State and equally visited the Abuja Office of the Authority.

At its inaugural meeting, the Board outlined its focus. Its top priority is to expedite the roll-out of the Brass Oil and Gas City, the Oil and Gas Free Zone on Brass Island, Bayelsa State, designed to make Nigeria the gas processing hub in Africa.

Other priority engagements of the new Board would be the provision of cheap power for the free zone in Onne; resolution of inter-agency conflicts involving OGFZA and other federal agencies; linking the free zones with railroads; strengthening the capacity of OGFZA to raise its IGR profile and adequately execute its mandate.

The edition focuses as well on the challenge of the shallowness of the channel leading into the Onne Seaport

and the economic cost of that challenge to terminal operators and ancillary businesses in the Onne Free Zone.

Equally in focus is the continuing collaboration between OGFZA and the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), which was re-emphasized recently during a visit by officials of the NCS to the offices of the Authority in Onne.

The driving context to the collaboration between the two agencies includes the Ease of Doing Business policy of government, and the one-stop-shop initiative obligating Federal Government agencies to network for the collective interest of the One Government of which they are each a part.

Enjoy it!

OGFZA TO FAST-TRACK BOG CITY TAKE-OFF

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Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA) and OGFZA. *"That will take a lot of our attention because we are going to make sure that we resolve those issues of conflict,"* Chief Sylva said.

He said one of the board's priority projects would be "to accelerate the take-off of the Brass Oil and Gas City."

The board chairman noted that the BOG City "was approved and licensed as a free zone a long time ago," adding, "We have to make sure that Brass Oil and Gas City becomes operational as soon as possible."

Observing that the governing board had little time in the face of so much to do, Chief Sylva said the situation called for hard work and firm prioritization in project execution.

He said the task the board has set for itself would be accomplished because of its high quality membership.

"I am very proud to be part of the board of such eminent Nigerians," the OGFZA board chairman said. *"We are all very seasoned people, very skilled people and it is easy for us to understand ourselves."*

Present at the inaugural board meeting were Chief Timipre Sylva, board chairman; Mr. Umana Okon Umana, managing director; Engineer Kuyebi Temitope; Hon. Frank Owhor; Mrs. Ngozi Jipreze; Murtala Adhama; Dr Emi Membere-Otaji and Mrs. Ifuoma Isaac. Barr. Abdulwasilu Sule is Secretary to the Board.



Members of OGFZA Board at the inaugural meeting.

TERMINAL OPERATORS WANT GOVT TO DREDGE ONNE CHANNEL

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that has helped "Brawal to bounce back in business." He said *"investors in the free zone now have the confidence to carry out their businesses without undue lets and hindrances. There is no longer a monopoly in the free zone."* Mr. Umana, managing

director of OGFZA, assured the terminal operators that their challenges were being addressed. He said he was sure that the Board and Management working together would fast-track the implementation of infrastructural development in the zone. Umana explained efforts being made by the Authority to reduce the cost of doing business in the zone such as the review of tariffs, the ongoing plan to invest in cheap power and the strategic steps taken to implement the Ease of Doing Business policy of the Federal Government.

VISION

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

MISSION

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

CORE VALUES

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

PHOTO NEWS! INAUGURATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OGFZA



OGFZA BOARD MEMBERS
R-L: Engr. Kuyebi Temitope; Hon. Frank A. Owhor;
Chf. Timipre Sylva; Mr. Umana Okon Umana,
Ngozi O. Jipreze, Murtala Adhama
and Dr. Emi Membere-Otaji



Group Photo of Governing
Boards of Agencies and Parastatals
under FMITI with the Ministers of FMITI



MD/CEO (standing), Umana Okon Umana,
presenting a copy of OGFZA law to the Chairman



A cross section of OGFZA Board
at the Board Room in Abuja

TERMINAL OPERATORS ...

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He said the dredging of the Onne Seaport falls in line with the objectives of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), which emphasizes infrastructure development directed at making positive impact on trade and investment.



OGFZA, CUSTOMS TO OPTIMISE EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY IN FREE ZONES

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stood in for Mr. Umana Okon Umana, managing director of OGFZA, briefed the NCS team on the mandate, objectives and operations of OGFZA, informing them that the Authority was established by ACT No. 8 of 1996 to license and regulate oil and gas free zones in the country.

Mr. Ajayi said the principal mandate of OGFZA is to attract investments, particularly foreign direct investments (FDI), into the free zones and thereby generate jobs for Nigerians and revenue for government.

He explained that OGFZA has so far discharged its mandate creditably, having attracted over time more than 200 companies from 45 countries across the world, which have brought in about \$20 billion in FDI and created more than 100,000 direct and indirect jobs.

Mr. Ajayi also briefed the NCS team on the incentives provided by law for investors in the free zones, including Custom and Immigration waivers; zero federal, state and local government taxes; 100 per cent repatriation of profit and capital; as well as

fast-track clearing procedures.

The meeting discussed issues of security and further collaboration with regard to data sharing and warehousing, capacity building and effective implementation of the Executive Order on the Ease of Doing Business in the Free Zones.



R-L: H.O.D Ops/Tech. Serv. Mr. Adewale Ajayi representing OGFZA MD/CEO Mr. Umana Okon Umana;
Asst. Compt. Onne Port Command, Timi Bonadi; Deputy Commandant, Nigeria Customs Command &
Staff College Gwagwalada Abuja, Compt. Adewale Adeniji and others during the study tour to the FTZ Onne

Galaxy:

Photo
NEWS

**Board Chairman, MD/CEO OGFZA and team on inspection
visit to Brass Oil & Gas City, Bayelsa State.**



Photo Gallery



R-L: OGFZA MD/CEO Mr. Umana Okon Umana, OGFZA Board Chairman, Chf. Timipre Sylva and Chairman, House C'tee on Commerce & Industry NASS; Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga, at the inauguration of the Board of Directors in Abuja.



R-L: OGFZA MD/CEO Mr. Umana Okon Umana in a handshake with OGFZA Board Chairman, Chf. Timipre Sylva at the Board inauguration in Abuja.



OGFZA BOARD MEMBERS
R-L: Engr. Kuyebi Temitope; Hon. Frank A. Owhor; Chf. Timipre Sylva; Mr. Umana Okon Umana, Ngozi O. Jipreze, Murtala Adhama and Dr. Emi Membere-Otaji



Members of OGFZA Board on inspection of the Marble House and the working environment of OGFZA during the facility tour of the Zone in Onne



The Chairman and members of OGFZA Board at a meeting with the management staff of Intels Nigeria Limited during the facility tour of the Oil and Gas Free Zone in Onne, Rivers State.



The Chairman and members of OGFZA Board on facility tour to Intels Nigeria Limited, Onne Multipurpose Centre (OPMC)



The Branch Manager, Brawal Oil Services Nig. Ltd; Mr Sylvester Agbatian receiving OGFZA Board Chairman and members during the facility tour of the zone.



R-L: OGFZA MD/CEO Mr. Umana Okon Umana; OGFZA Board Chairman, Chf. Timipre Sylva; and WACT MD, Aamir Mirza addressing members of the Board during the facility tour of the zone.



R-L: Executive Secretary of AFZA, Mr. Chris Ndibe, OGFZA Board Chairman, Chief Timipre Sylva and OGFZA MD/CEO Mr. Umana Okon Umana; at the 4th Annual Int'l Conference & Exhibition, Dubai, UAE.

in of OGFZA

This Newsletter is published by the Public Affairs Unit:

For Comments and Observations, please

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