

PEBEC Award Ceremony



R-I: Umana, Segun Awolowo and another dignitary during the cocktails ahead of the PEBEC Award ceremony at the Banquet Hall of the State House, Abuja, on the Ease of Doing Business. OGFZA came first in the PEBEC ranking and is being celebrated in this ceremony

MD/CEO OGFZA, Mr. Umana Okon Umana seated with the award emblem

The Award Emblem



MD/CEO OGFZA, Mr. Umana Okon Umana with other delegates at the State House, Abuja.

Capacity Building @ OGFZA



Meeting with the H.O.D Tech & Ops/Staff members and Jake Riley demonstrating CRP-2 designed programme at OGFZA Conference room ITT.



This Newsletter is published by the Public Affairs Unit of OGFZA,

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OGFZA

Vol. 3 No.2 | May 2019

NEWS LETTER

... the rebranding of OGFZA

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OGFZA crowned with Ease Of Doing Business award

The Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) has been decorated with award as the best parastatal of the federal government in the implementation of the policy on the Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria.

OGFZA bags the award which was presented by Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC).

PEBEC which reviewed the implementation of the policy by 44 ministries, departments and agencies of the Federal Government in 2018, ranked OGFZA number one with a score of 94 per cent. The Federal Ministry of Finance trailed OGFZA in second place. Managing director of OGFZA, Umana Okon Umana, received the award in a well-appointed ceremony held at the banquet hall of the State House, Abuja.

The ceremony was attended by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, who is the chairman of PEBEC, and Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Okechukwu Enelema, who is the vice chairman of PEBEC. The Ease of Doing Business initiative, which came as Executive Order 1, was Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr Okechukwu Enelema, who is the vice



OGFZA MD/CEO, Umana Okon Umana receiving the award at the presidential villa

chairman of PEBEC. The Ease of Doing Business initiative, which came as Executive Order 1, was signed into force on 18 May 2017 by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, who was then Acting President. The first of a series of executive orders meant to improve

governance in the country, Executive Order 1 (EO1) seeks to promote transparency and efficiency in the business environment.

The PEBEC office projects that "EO 1 will transform

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It Now Takes 48 Hours To Treat Oil Companies' Operational Requests – Umana



'In order to improve on the ease of doing business, operational requests from oil and gas companies in Nigeria are now "dealt with" within a maximum of 48 hours, a government official has said.

'Unnecessary bureaucracy at different levels of government in Nigeria has for long remained one of the obstacles to doing business in the country.

'The official, Umana Umana, who heads the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) in Nigeria, said helping companies to resolve operational issues quickly, saves time and reduces cost.

'OGFZA, an agency of the federal government, regulates and manages Nigeria's oil and gas export free trade zones.'

"In the past, it could take several weeks or even months to obtain a license (to operate within the free zones) even when the applicant or the company in question had met all the conditions," Mr Umana said in an interview with Channels TV, Friday.

"Today, things are done differently in the country's oil and gas free zones," Mr Umana said.

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The official acknowledgement of the extraordinary work that has been reshaping the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) under the current Management led by Mr Umana Okon Umana was on colourful public display on the grounds of the Presidential Villa early last month.

On the occasion Umana was handed the plaque of distinction for OGFZA as the best agency of the Federal Government on the implementation of the Ease of Doing Business (EDB) policy.

The ranking of OGFZA as number 1 ahead of 43 other ministries, departments and agencies of the Federal Government was announced in late 2018 by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), which oversees the implementation of the EDB policy.

Oil & Gas Product Manufacturing: Understanding the Importance of Oil and Gas Free Zones (Part 2)

POLICY REFORMS

Policy reforms instituted by President Muhammadu Buhari's administration, among which is the Ease of Doing Business, have created a better enabling environment for businesses to make more contributions to the national economy through the Oil and Gas Free Zones and restored confidence among foreign investors in Nigeria as an investment destination.

The renewed confidence in the economy is evident in the report by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) under the Office of the Vice President that the nation has attracted \$84 billion in Foreign Direct Investments in the last 18 months.

“The Oil and Gas Free Zones have without doubt been some of the key drivers of improved confidence in the economy. The Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA), working within the new policy environment, has instituted a regime of efficiency in the Oil and Gas Free Zones through automation and a review of procedures, leading to significant cost savings and improvements in timelines for operations.

The changes in the operational environment in the free zones have seen commitments in new investments valued at more than \$8 billion in the coming years.”

FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENTS

“An important new project in this regard is the Notore Industrial City located in the Onne-Ikpokri Oil and Gas Free Zone in Rivers State. Notore Industrial City, granted a Free Zone Developer Licence by OGFZA in November last year, has the potential to make Nigeria a continental

hub in gas processing and petrochemicals. The new free zone is to attract \$5 billion in new investments and generate 15,000 new jobs.”

A number of new projects are coming up in free zone development, besides the exciting news from Notore. The most important of these is the Brass Oil and Gas City (BOG City), located on Brass Island, Bayelsa State. The BOG City is licensed and will soon start operation. More than \$3.5 billion investments are already committed to the project. BOG City is designed to evolve into a world class export-oriented and gas processing hub with the potential to generate up to 20,000 new jobs.

Even before the ongoing reforms, the Oil and Gas Free Zones had been recognized as a smart vehicle for driving the inflow of FDI. This was the reason for enacting the OGFZA Act of 1996, which created the nation's first Oil and Gas Free Zone (OGFZ) in Onne.

The premier OGFZ turned out to be a remarkable success, spawning other Oil and Gas Free Zones in different parts of the country. From inception, the pioneer OGFZ has attracted more than \$20 billion in Foreign Direct Investments, and generated more than 100,000 direct and indirect jobs. The nation has also benefited from the OGFZs in the acquisition of new skills and transfer of technology.

MANUFACTURING IN NIGERIA'S OIL & GAS FREE ZONES

“Among the companies contributing across the value chain-including manufacturing, skill acquisition,

The conferment ceremony was worth all the wait.

This edition of the newsletter captures the event in living colours.

The edition also brings you excerpts of the Channels TV exclusive interview with Umana, which was a conversation on improvement on the operational environment for investors in the Oil and Gas Free Zones.

Equally in this edition, we publish the concluding part of the Managing Director's scintillating talk on “Understanding the Importance of the Oil and Gas Free Zones” for a conference at the Institute of Oil And Gas Research and Hydrocarbons Studies in Lagos.

Enjoy!

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technology transfer and job creation-particularly in the Oil and Gas Free Zone at Onne, are the Indorama-Elleme Petrochemicals Company Limited; Tenaris Company Limited; and TechnipFMC Limited, to mention three.”

Indorama-Elleme Petrochemicals produces bulk urea from gas in Eleme, Rivers State. The company's production capacity is 3 million metric tons of bulk urea annually. It exports 70 per cent of the product through the company's export terminal at the Oil and Gas Free Zone in Onne, while the difference is sold to the local market. Tenaris is engaged in oil pipe-making and coating while TechnipFMC makes and supports the Oil and Gas Industry with critically needed subsea equipment in fluid control, measurement systems, separation systems, Schilling robotics. TechnipFMC supports oil and gas operations in the free zones also with surface wellhead, loading systems, and multi-phase meters. Interestingly, TechnipFMC has helped the nation to save on foreign exchange by making the Christmas tree locally at its factory in Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone

As said earlier, these companies add value in a variety of ways. They contribute to the transfer of technologies and acquisition of skills. They also help to save foreign exchange by providing in-country what would have been imported if they did not meet those needs locally.

Operations of enterprises in the free zones are mediated by the Nigerian Content Act to make sure that sight is not lost of the imperative of local content all through the value chain. In this context,

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

OGFZA is working closely with the Nigerian Content Development and Management Board.

The performance of the Oil and Gas Free Zones under the Buhari administration has attracted commendations locally and internationally. This year, the PEBEC Office ranked OGFZA the BEST agency of government, out of 44 MDAs, in the implementation of the policy of the Ease of Doing Business.

Similarly, the FDi magazine, which is a publication of the Financial Times, named Nigeria's pioneer Oil and Gas

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“When once an application is submitted and also the conditions met, it would take 14 days to issue the license. It would take only three days to renew an existing license, again when all the requirements have been met.

“And then it would take a maximum of 48 hours to deal with all operational requests.”

'OGFZA on April 3 received an award “for the highest transparency and efficiency compliance score on Executive Order 001 (EO1)” from the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC).

'PEBEC, headed by Nigeria's Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, was set up in 2016 by President Muhammadu Buhari “to remove bureaucratic constraints to doing business in Nigeria and make the country a progressively easier place to start and grow a business.”’

“We must understand that our flagship free zone, the Onne Oil and Gas It now takes 48 hours to treat operational requests at the free zones–Umana

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'Unnecessary bureaucracy at different levels of government in Nigeria has for long remained one of the obstacles to doing business in the country. Mr. Umana Okon Umana, who heads the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA) in Nigeria, said helping companies to resolve operational issues quickly, saves time and reduces cost.

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“In the past, it could take several weeks or even months to obtain a license (to operate within the free

Free Zone in Onne as the winner of two global prizes in the FDi Global Free Zone of the Year Awards 2017. The Awards are the Global Special Award for the Oil and Industry; and the Bespoke Incentives Award.

The overall evaluation by experts and stakeholders is that the Oil and Gas Free Zones have proven to be a veritable vehicle for the attraction and retention of Foreign Direct Investments, creation of jobs, transfer of skills and technologies as well as a source of revenue generation for government. ◆

OGFZA Crowned with Ease Of Doing Business award

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the way the FGN and its Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) serve the business community and the public at large.” EO1 has six directives designed to eliminate limitations in the civil and public services systems. The directives target transparency, default approval (to fuel efficiency), One government (for efficiency), entry experience of visitors and travelers, port operations and registration of businesses.

In 2017, OGFZA won global recognition when the FDi Magazine, a publication of the Financial Times of London, named the Onne Oil and Gas Free Zones, administered by OGFZA, as world number one in incentives granted to free zone enterprises and the best in special services to investors. ◆

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“Today, things are done differently in the country's oil and gas free zones,” Mr Umana said.

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“We must understand that our flagship free zone, the Onne Oil and Gas Free Zone in Rivers State, for example, is also a logistics centre that supports the operations of the oil and gas industry. So, time is of the essence here,” Umana said.

“When cargo comes in, we make a timeline that within 48 hours, working with the Nigerian Customs Service, all requests would be treated and approvals given.

“Within the free zones, we operate as a one-stop-shop. Companies would not have to go anywhere else to look for approval because we have full customs presence and full immigration presence, so all their requests are dealt with expeditiously.

“And you know the whole idea of having a free zone is to make life easy for investors. That is the concept of free zone globally.” ◆