



## HOST COUNTRY ADDRESS

7<sup>th</sup>, Sub Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC)

Delivered By

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GCEO, NNPC Limited

Eko Convention Centre, Lagos

**14<sup>th</sup> February ,2023**

February 2023

## Protocol

1. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I am privileged to deliver this Host Country address of the seventh edition of Sub-Saharan Africa International Petroleum Exhibition and Conference (SAIPEC) on behalf of Mallam Mele Kolo Kyari, the Group CEO of NNPC Limited.
2. Mallam Kyari was to attend this event in person but could not due to pre-scheduled pressing official engagements with some agencies of the Federal Government. However, he extends his heartfelt apologies.
3. This 7<sup>th</sup> edition of SAIPEC with the theme "***Harnessing a Sustainable African Energy Industry through Partnerships***" is coming at an opportuned time when the Nigerian Oil and Gas industry is experiencing a significant transformation following the passage of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA 2021).
4. As you are all aware, the Act has provided role clarity in Governance, Rule-based Administration, Attractive and Flexible Fiscal Terms and Direct benefits for the Host communities. All these are targeted at creating enablers for investor confidence in the Nigerian Oil and Gas sector, where ample opportunities exist.
5. Ironically, our restructuring is happening at a time when the Energy transition discussion is gaining momentum, and major fund providers for petroleum upstream investment are now activists and anti-fossil fuel. As I have always canvassed, decreasing investments in hydrocarbon ventures cannot guarantee global energy security in the near future. Rather, an inclusive policy that guarantees access to finance and low-carbon technologies are key to sustaining global energy security and equitable growth.

6. Nigeria, being geographically situated in the sub-African region and also a foremost leader in the oil and gas industry in sub-Saharan Africa, we must now capitalize on the advancements we have made in the industry to meet our energy demands, guarantee energy supply, expand our economies and overall build a sustainable future for millions of people beyond our shores.
7. In the next twenty (20) years, energy demand in Africa is expected to increase in the order of 30-35% to support the projected increase in population and industrialization. This presents an enormous opportunity for us to form partnerships across the continent and build a sustainable future.
8. The need for partnership is more reinforced as more African countries continue to make hydrocarbon discoveries. We should collaborate and share knowledge and help each other in critical areas including technology, exploration and production, research and development, technical expertise and human capacity development to spread the wealth within the continent. This would in no small measure assist in achieving energy independence and also aid the transition to cleaner energy sources such as gas to sustain the region.
9. At NNPC Limited, we understand the importance of partnerships in achieving a sustainable energy industry in Africa. This is why we have been working closely with countries, companies and other stakeholders to develop innovative solutions that meet the energy needs of the continent.
10. We must acknowledge that this new era of automation and artificial intelligence is focused on the application of cutting-edge technologies, such as the use of robotic drilling systems for unmanned operations, the deployment of cognitive computing in upstream operations, super-

specialized sensors for real-time monitoring and maximization of reservoir yields.

11. Our survival instincts showed that we have the requisite knowledge and skills to sustain our industry and take it to the next level. However, we know we cannot do it alone; thus, we call on your support at this forum to latch on to the gains made so far, interact, and provide meaningful solutions that will promote the sector and make our lives better.
12. In closing, please let me seize this opportunity to thank our host, the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) for always being ahead of the curve. Also let me express our gratitude to the over 800 conference delegates, over fifty (50) participating countries, over 200 exhibitors and the over 6000 exhibition visitors.
13. NNPC Limited is fully committed to partnering with all players in the energy industry to drive Africa's energy sector towards sustainability and growth.
14. Once again, I welcome you to enjoy the Nigerian hospitality and wish you a successful conference.
15. Thank you.

**God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.**

**Mallam Mele K. Kyari**  
GCEO, NNPC Limited