

Communique

Issued at the end of the 20th monthly meeting of the Honourable Minister of Power, Works and Housing with operators of the Power Sector, held on Monday, October 9, 2017 hosted by Enugu Electricity Distribution Company at Z05 Injection Substation, Owerri, Imo State.

1. Introduction

The Honourable Minister of Power, Works and Housing chaired the twentieth monthly meeting of operators in the electricity industry, supported by the Honourable Minister of State II for Power, Works and Housing, Surveyor Suleiman Zarma Hassan. Enugu Electricity Distribution Company at Z05 Injection Substation hosted the meeting in Owerri, Imo State. The meeting focused on identifying, discussing, and finding practical solutions to critical issues facing the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry.

The operators were fully represented at the highest executive management levels, including Commissioners of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Managing Directors and CEOs of Generating Companies (GenCos), Distribution Companies (DisCos), and the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Gas Companies (GasCos) and other government agencies such as the Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC), the Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trader (NBET), Nigerian Electricity Liability Management Company (NELMCO) and Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA) responsible for the regulation and development of the electricity industry, as well as the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC).

2. The meeting reiterated its purpose, and in addition deliberated and agreed as follows:
 - a. The Acting MD/CEO of Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC) noted EEDC's commitment to improve customer service, with the opening of a 24/7 customer care centre, and appreciated the efforts of the Honourable Minister in improving Power Generation in the past months, as well as supporting the loading of the Umudike feeder in Abia State. EEDC however pointed out that energy theft remained a major limitation

to service improvement and appreciated NERC for the upward review of the fine for meter bypass as a deterrent to energy theft.

- b. The Chairman of the Meeting, Hon Minister noted that incremental improvements in power have been noted by customers nationwide, and we must continue to improve service delivery. He referred to the letter of a customer, Mr Abdulazeez Badisha in Yola DisCo who wrote to the Chairman to appreciate the intervention of NEMSA in resolving a safety issue in a professional manner.
- c. Progress was noted in connecting Magboro (Ibadan DisCo) to the grid. The Chairman also noted resolution of connection issues at Ijesa-tedo and Surulere in Eko DisCo. Enugu DisCo also noted progress in the conviction of energy thieves, of note was the sentencing of a perpetrator to three (3) years imprisonment in Enugu. Improvements in incremental power was announced with the reconnection of 100MW of power to the grid at Afam IV, and the completion and repairs of Jebba and Ajaokuta transmission lines by TCN was announced. A farmer in Mayo-Belwa LGA in Adamawa State has communicated its satisfaction with the completion of a substation in the area.
- d. Cooperation was also noted with the Judiciary which has supported the effort of the sector to minimize the delays that court cases have placed on the sector. The Chairman appreciated the Judiciary for the Practice direction to courts to enforce power contract provisions that prescribe arbitration for disputes, and enjoined the members of the Nigerian Bar Association to abide by the directives.
- e. FEC has approved payment of the verified amount of N27 billion of MDA debts, and the method of payment will be communicated shortly to the Distribution Companies. Payment of the N701 billion Payment Assurance to guarantee gas supply to generating companies and ensure the continuation of power supply is operational. Payments for January – May have been made to Generating Companies.
- f. The Federal Government has remained focused on providing service to the people, through independent power using solar energy, as well as the Energizing Education (independent power to universities), Energizing Economies (independent power to economic clusters), and encouraging eligible customers take control of their own power sources. The chairman noted that despite DisCo concerns about how these initiatives

will affect their businesses, the Government must focus on providing clean energy to its people, in accordance with the Paris Agreements and its responsibilities, while respecting the DisCos concerns for viability of their business.

- g. TCN provided the following project completion dates for projects in Enugu Electricity Distribution Company:

Project	Status
Aba Substation	Completed
Onitsha – Nnewi feeder	Completed
Umuahia Mobile Transformer	November 15 2017
Nnewi substation	March 31, 2018
New Haven substation for 2 states	In Progress

- h. NDPHC confirmed the following completion dates for its community related projects:

Host Community	Completion Date
Olorunsogo	October 31 2017
Omotosho	October 31 2017
Ikot Ekpene - Afam	November 24 2017
Egbema	December 11 2017
Okija	December 11 2017
Ihiala	March 31 2018

- i. The meeting thanked the Government and people of Plateau State for hosting the third National Council on Power, and urged operators to liaise with state governments in enforcing energy theft regulations, protecting right of way agreements, and on the supply of power (and timely payment for same) to State MDAs.

- j. The Chairman acknowledged NERC's regulation reducing the time for connection of new customers from 145 days to 40 days, and emphasized its positive impact on the ease of doing business. He charged all DisCos to report on compliance with this regulation with reports of new customers to the regulator.
- k. Benin Electricity Distribution Company noted progress on line rehabilitation with an estimated connection of Ode Aye community by 30th November and Okitipupa by end December.
- l. The Ministry of Power reported that it is still compiling the estimate of investment required to add capacity to absorb an additional 2000MW into the 33Kv networks of the DisCos to ensure more power gets to its customers. The Federal Government will review financing solutions for this investment with the DisCos.
- m. The Market Operator congratulated Yola DisCo for paying 100% of its bill for service provision and encouraged all DisCos to improve their performance accordingly.