



(Arrowed) Mr. Goddy Nnandi (G.M. Corporate Services) in a group photograph with oil marketers in Gombe Depot

PEF(M)B sensitize oil marketers and trains staff

on new e-loading technology

...Pays over N28bn to marketers in 2010

The Petroleum Equalisation Fund (Management) Board, PEF(M)B, said it has rounded off training for more than 500 marketers of petroleum products in preparation of the launch of its latest business solution, termed 'Project Aquila' which is designed to enhance tracking of the movement of products in the downstream sector.

The Executive Secretary of the Fund, Mrs. Adefunke Kasali, who said this at a briefing in Abuja, also noted that more than N28 billion had been spent by the Fund as payment to oil marketers in the country. She also noted that over 200 staff of the Fund have also been trained on the application of the software, adding that deployment of the technology would begin in earnest by May, 2011.

Kasali noted that the new elec-

tronic solution would bring more efficiency and effectiveness in determining the volume of petroleum products bridged across the country, including accruals to the marketers and transporters and also facilitate payment accordingly.

She said, "The new project is expected to enhance monitoring of distribution of petroleum products and speed up the processing and payment of marketers' claims. Project Aquila will bring about speed, efficiency, transparency and accuracy in product movement and claims settlement."

She added that, "In the past, processing of claims was done manually with the physical movement of files from one location to another causing delays which impact the marketers'

businesses adversely. Also, the movement of petroleum products have gone unmonitored, thereby making it difficult to confirm or certify deliveries at designated depot areas.

"The new solution will result in faster claims processing, faster payment of claims, transparency in processing and easy release of funds to support marketers." The training which was over weeks and across the six geopolitical zones of the country covered technical areas including application roles, charging of the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Mobile System/CN3 System and truck registration and tagging.

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Mr. Goddy Nnandi (G.M. Corporate Services) addressing the oil marketers at the forum



A member of the oil marketer addressing a point

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“Staff of the Fund and marketers were also trained on Loading Transactions, Data Entry and Truck dispatching, National Transportation Average, and other important applications which they would encounter as the project rolls out,” Kasali explained.

According to her, ‘Project Aquila’ will be applied in improving the quality, consistency and speed of reports generated from the supply and distribution of petroleum products for both internal and external uses, as well as for forecasting and long term planning.

She explained that the new system will process claims in a computerized framework which minimizes the need for human intervention, thereby reducing delays and enhancing products distribution, availability and sale at government approved prices.

She said the inauguration of the project and its deployment would begin in May, 2011, adding that it would become operational at the fund’s 51 depots nationwide by the first quarter of 2011.

“Aquila is a Latin word for Eagle, a bird renowned for its strength, speed and swiftness,”

she explained.

“The Board has also started an enlightenment programme across the nation to educate marketers and transporters on the benefit of the new system to their businesses. The implementation programme will require marketers to register their outlets, and

truck owners to register all trucks used for the distribution of petroleum products,” Kasali further explained.

She pointed out that with the project in place, transporters claims will be processed on First-in-First-out (FIFO) basis and all claims documented by the system forwarded immediately for payment.

The PEFMB Chief Executive stressed that the system would eliminate wastages and encourage greater service delivery.

“Project Aquila would also bring about a reduction of human errors in processing the national transportation allowance for products bridged as well as ease tracking of transactions,” she added.

She noted that under the scheme, however, marketers and transporters would be required to register their details with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), as well as provide the addresses of their retail outlets and trucks for tagging. Kasali further explained that the software was developed in-house, saving the Fund about \$2 million, which would have

been spent on outsourcing the business solution.

According to Kasali, the aim of the Fund is to, overtime, become a reliable repository of data on the downstream such that the Federal Government would use the generated information to plan its economic policies.

“We also aim to generate funds from the system’s application. Project Aquila will give birth to a lot of new and exciting things for the industry and the nation at large” she said.

The PEF(M)B boss ruled out possible sabotage of the system, saying that it was developed with in-built security features.

The General Manager, Corporate Services of PEFMB, Mr. Goddy Nnadi, noted that so far, the Board had dispatched sensitization teams to all its zonal offices to explain details of the project to marketers, transporters and staff across the country.

Furthermore, the Board had organized interactive sessions in Lagos with the Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAN), and the Depot and Petroleum Products Marketers Association of Nigeria’s (DAPPMA).

Similar interactive sessions had been held in Abuja for NNPC Retail, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) National Association of Road Transport Owners (NARTO) and the Petroleum Tanker Drivers Association (PTD). ■

By Adebisi Eyitayo