



(R-L) Executive Secretary Mrs. Sharon Adefunke Kasali & Mr. Babatunde Ogun (Pengassan President)

## PEF(M)B to strengthen partnership with PENGASSAN

**on due process, accountability – Kasali**

**T**he Petroleum Equalisation Fund (Management) Board PEF(M)B will strengthen its partnership with the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) on transparency and accountability.”

Mrs. Adefunke Kasali, the Executive Secretary of PEF(M)B, made the pledge when the National President of PENGASSAN, Mr. Babatunde Ogun, paid her a courtesy visit in her office in Abuja. Kasali said the proposed partnership would help to find solutions to challenges that the Board might be confronted with as progress was being made toward the proposed deregulation of the downstream sector.

*“It is remarkable that the visit*

*is not initiated to negotiate a misunderstanding between the management and the union.”*

*“Rather, the fraternal visit will provoke healthy relationship and mutual respect between the board and PENGASSAN.”*

Kasali congratulated Mr. Ogun on his re-election for a second term, saying:

***“Indeed, the reelection is an eloquent testimony to your exemplary leadership qualities, proven track record and immense contributions toward the growth of the petroleum sector and the nation in general.”***

Responding, Mr. Ogun said the visit was aimed at sharing with management, key issues that were identified at a just concluded programme on synergy.

They include security of the Niger Delta region, sustainable human development issues, expatriate quota regulation and national contents development.

Others are gas emission control, economic alternatives, legislation and implementation of strategies on the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB).

Ogun said that PENGASSAN was committed to logical, rational, objective and decisive response to any issue of interest that would come its way.

He said issues of staff promotion, union representation, training, logistics and comprehensive medical care as well as operational and industrial relations were critical to the association. ■

**SPEECH PRESENTED BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE PETROLEUM EQUALISATION FUND (MANAGEMENT) BOARD, MRS. ADEFUNKE SHARON KASALI DURING A COURTESY VISIT BY THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OF THE PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA (PENGASSAN) LED BY COMRADE BABATUNDE OGUN ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD, 2011.**



(L-R) PENGASSAN President, The Executive Secretary and top Management Staff

*The National President of PENGASSAN, Members of the National Executive of PENGASSAN, Members of the Management team of PEF(M)B, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen*

It is with pleasure and great sense of responsibility that I welcome you all to our organization, the PEF(M)B. It is particularly pleasing for me that this visit was neither initiated to address any disagreement nor negotiate a misunderstanding between management and the union. Instead, the visit is a fraternal one; meant to engender healthy relationships and mutual respect between the Board and PENGASSAN. A critical success factor in the well being of our two organisations.

Permit me to start by formally congratulating the National President, Mr. Babatunde Ogun as well as and the entire National Executive of the foremost union within the petroleum industry on your success at the last national elections of the union. Your reelection as a second term President was indeed an eloquent testimony to your exemplary leadership qualities, proven track record in getting things done, and your immense contributions towards the growth of your union, the petroleum sector and the nation in general.

Indeed, it was a further confirmation of your highly rated qualities as an articulate and focused leader as well as, an endorsement of your relentless drive towards professionalism, transparency and accountability in the petroleum industry.

It is noteworthy that, during your initial tenure, you displayed a high degree of intelligence, courage and dedication in the discharge of your

duties. You were both forthright and courageous in your interaction with all stakeholders; hence you enjoyed the respect and confidence of all. No gainsaying that the same is true of other officers of the Union.

The PEF(M)B had the opportunity of interfacing with you personally, and your secretariat severally, in the course of performing our duties. We jointly and harmoniously resolved several issues; some of which resulted in the promotion of our staff who had stagnated over several years. Also, we kept the lines of communication open, leading to further collaborations with PENGASSAN on training and welfare of our staff. Through such healthy and mutually beneficial relationship we achieved and streamlined the promotion of staff, as and when due, we perfected training and re-training culture, instituted a cooperative scheme for staff, and provided negotiated housing loans with low interest rates for staff; in fact, most of our staff are land lords now. For all your partnership in ensuring the betterment of our staff, we are grateful. Indeed, we are still open to such collaboration to enthrone deeper and more harmonious relationship between us and PENGASSAN.

However, as in most human interactions, our relationship has witnessed some hiccups in the recent past. That is understandable. We believe that your visit today serves as part of a healing process to remedy whatever had been lost through the infractions. Let me stress here that the Board is a very responsible corporate citizen, with strong inclination to due process, accountability and transparency and would like to partner with you in projecting these ideas at all times.

We will like to engage our stakeholders like your organization in seeking solutions to challenges that we might be confronted with, especially as we progress towards the proposed deregulation of the downstream sector of the petroleum industry, with the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) by the National Assembly and the Presidential Committee on the Rationalization of Parastatals; to which we made a presentation recently.

No doubt that the Union had been most supportive in the on-going transformation of the Board. There have been proposals from management which the national executive of PENGASSAN had helped in propagating at the national level. As we await the decision of government on the proposed policy changes being considered, we assure the union of management's commitment to the welfare of our staff and the mutually beneficial relationship of our two organizations.

Therefore, we offer you, and indeed the entire PENGASSAN family, our hand of friendship, as we all prepare for the revamping of our ever-critical industry by the Honourable Minister of Petroleum resources, Dr. (Mrs.) Diezani Alison-Madueke; as well as the positive transformation of our dear country, Nigeria by the administration of His Excellency, Mr. President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR. We count on you and the national executive in these onerous tasks.

Again, we welcome you to the Board and wish you all very successful tenures.

**Thank you and God bless. ■**



**PENGASSAN President addressing the occasion**



**Executive Secretary and top management staff**



**Executive Secretary Mrs. Adefunke Sharon Kasali Presenting the Gift to PENGASSAN President**



**A cross section of central working committee (CWC) present at the occasion**



**Kaduna Zonal Chairman and other Members of Central Working Committee (CWC) PENGASSAN**



**A cross section of national working committee (NWC) of PENGASSAN**



**The Executive Secretary, G.M. (C & S) and Zonal Chairman PENGASSAN, Kaduna**



**PENGASSAN National President with PEF(M)B Exco Members**