



Federal Republic of Nigeria  
 Petroleum Equalisation Fund (Management) Board  
**PROJECT AQUILA GOES LIVE**



# 'PROJECT AQUILA' FINALLY GOES LIVE!

## PRESS CONFERENCE AT ROCKVIEW APAPA

Monday 18th of July will always be remembered as another historic day in the existence of PEF (M) B. Just like PEF (M) B successfully launched the e-payment system into the Nigerian economy, indeed the first of its kind in Nigeria, so also is the highly successful press conference followed by the launching and the take off of Project Aquila at Conoil facility in Apapa, Lagos.

The press conference took place at the Rockview Hotel, located in Apapa Lagos. In attendance were various stakeholders in the downstream sector including: NARTO, MOMAN, IPMAN, NIPCO, and DAPPMA. The media was also ably represented by not less than twenty energy correspondents, both from within the print and electronic media.

The event started with an opening prayer at 11.45am by Alhaji Lawal Isa, the national Coordinator of NARTO after which the Executive Secretary gave a brief welcome speech and

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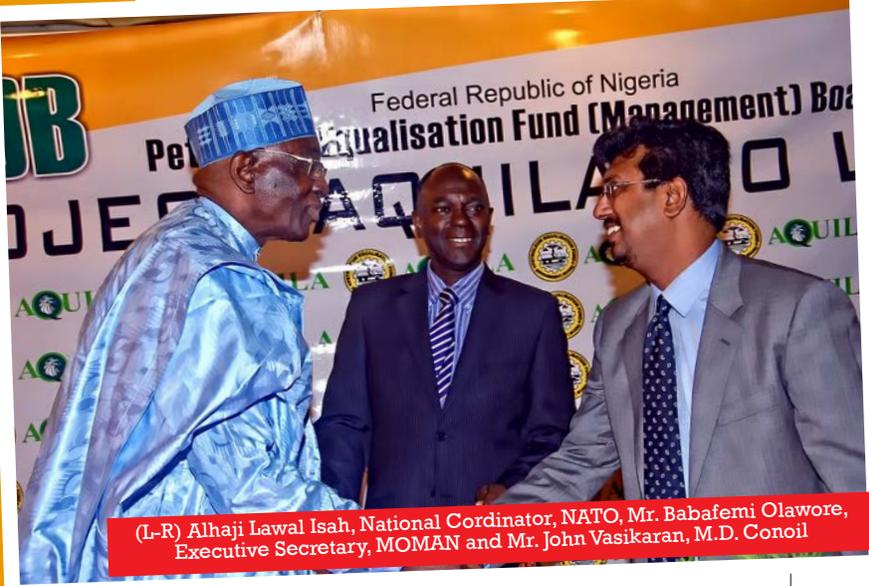
(L-R) Alh. Lawal Isah, National Coordinator NATO, Mrs. Sharon Adefunke Kasali, Executive Secretary, PEF(M)B, Mr. John Vasikaran, M.D. Conoil, Mr. Babafemi Olawore Executive Secretary, MOMAN



(L-R) Bestman Anakwe, Chairman NIPCO, Durosinmi Etti, Representative of DAPPMA, Alhaji Aminu Abdulkadir Mbamba, IPMAN Chairman, Alhaji Lawal Isah, National Coordinator NATO



(L-R) A guest being welcome by Mr. Goddy Nnadi (G.M, Corporate Services) and Mr. Tex Allison (Manager, Lagos Office)



(L-R) Alhaji Lawal Isah, National Coordinator, NATO, Mr. Babafemi Olawore, Executive Secretary, MOMAN and Mr. John Vasikaran, M.D. Conoil

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acknowledged all the invited guests and the media.

Other addresses were then given by the Managing Director of Conoil Plc Mr. John Vasikaran; Alhaji Lawal Isa of NARTO; Mr Obafemi Olawore of MOMAN; the Managing Director of Swift Oil of DAPPMA; Alhaji Aminu Abdulkadir of IPMAN and Chairman of NIPCO Plc, Chief Bestman Anekwe respectively.

The speakers congratulated PEF(M)B on its project Aquila concept and highlighted how it would help the operations activities in the downstream sector.

The MD of Conoil was particularly happy and proud of the project most especially for the fact that it was his facility that was picked to champion the 'Go-live'. According to him, with this new project, PEF(M)B had shown another strong statement of intent. He appealed to all the other stakeholders who were foot-dragging in supporting the Board's initiative to give the maximum support to the project.

Alhaji Isa of NARTO also said he believed that the project would definitely work and advised that government should also introduce the system to the upstream sector as soon as the efficacy of the project was confirmed. "Project Aquila", he said, could now be said to be as holy as the Vatican City (transparency)!

In his own address, Mr Obafemi Olawore, the Executive Secretary of MOMAN said with this project, great hope had come through

the elimination of 'bridging - by - air'. He challenged the Board's staff to discharge their duties as it should and not to continually emphasize its loop holes, rather study and develop the concept more and keep improving on it. Finally, he assured the Board of maximum support and cooperation from the major marketers.

The Managing Director of Swift Oil, who came on behalf of DAPPMA, observed that the Board had improved its services with the new project. He also appealed to NARTO, to do a massive enlightenment programme to its fleet of drivers who were going to be directly affected by the project.

On his own part, the IPMAN chairman, Alhaji Aminu Abdulkadir commended the Executive Secretary for bringing all the stakeholders together in what he considered as a team spirit.

Finally, the Executive Secretary appreciated all the complimentary remarks and observations raised by the stakeholders. Thereafter, she fielded a 'question and answer' session from the media where she answered and explained all questions put to her.

The press conference came to an end after the General Manager – Operations, Mr Harold Ubabukor gave a vote of thanks and a closing prayer on behalf of the Board. ■

*By Jibril Agora*



(L-R) Mr. John Vasikaran, M.D. Conoil exchanging greetings with Mr. Tex Allison (Manager, Lagos Office) and a guest