

FIRST QUARTER 2024



Geometric Power Project in Aba, Abia state - Source: Businessday Newspapers

**POWER: HOW STATES CAN LEVERAGE
ON DECENTRALIZATION –
THE ABIA EXAMPLE**

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EDITOR – IN – CHIEF’S DESK

Dear Reader,

The ICRC Bulletin Editorial Team is pleased to present the first quarter edition for the year 2024. The theme for this edition is “Power: How States Can Leverage On Decentralization Using PPPs – The Abia Example”.

Our feature story, which has the same title as the theme of the Bulletin was written by Mr. Ifeanyi Nwoko of the Media & Publicity Unit of ICRC.

The article was written from the proceedings of the 1st quarter Nigeria Public Private Partnership Network (NPPPN) meeting, where the keynote speaker, Prof. Barth Nnaji, Chairman of Geometric Power Limited (GPL), underscored the need for states to adopt Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in procuring power infrastructure in their respective states.

He, however, noted that even though ownership and control of power infrastructure had been decentralised, developing power infrastructure was very expensive, he therefore advised sub-nationals to consider partnering to establish regional grids so as to share costs, risks, rewards, etc.

Our knowledge management story is titled “Stop Subsidizing Asteroids: How To Persuade People That Governments Should Stop Subsidizing Fossil Fuels”. The article emphasises that climate change represents an existential threat to humanity and notes that governments globally still spend trillions each year subsidizing the consumption of these fossil fuels, thereby effectively paying to speed up climate change.

The article states further that many governments are reluctant to reduce fossil fuel subsidies as they are concerned about public outcry, it however provides novel insights for policymakers about how they can persuade citizens to support the removal of fossil fuel subsidies and they include - building public support, sharing information about the negative consequences of these subsidies, among others.

In our health and wellness section, we share on typhoid fever which is a life-threatening infection caused by the bacterium Salmonella Typhi and usually spreads through contaminated food or water. It noted that symptoms of typhoid include prolonged fever, fatigue, headache, nausea, abdominal pain, and constipation or diarrhoea, but added that typhoid fever is treatable.

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition.

Manji Yarling



DG's STATEMENT

The first quarter of 2024 marks the beginning of a new opportunity in the infrastructure development sphere: an opportunity to leverage on milestones and do things better, an opportunity to tap into new frontiers of collaboration with the private sector to drive the development of infrastructure, and an opportunity to provide effective regulatory guidelines that will oversee the processes.

With the elections of 2023 done and dusted, 2024 is a fresh year for the administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, through government institutions and those appointed to man them, to drive policies that will bolster the potentials of the nation and inch towards actualizing the Nigeria of our dreams.



Indeed, a lot has been achieved in the infrastructure development landscape using Public Private Partnerships (PPPs), however, the infrastructure deficit still requires consistent investment and commitment to bridge the infrastructure gap in the country.

A key development in this quarter is the Federal Executive Council (FEC) announcement of the merger and scrapping of certain government organisations in line with the recommendation by Oronsaye's panel of 2012.

As some of you may be aware, the commission was recommended by the report for merger with the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) and the new Commission be called: Public Enterprises and Infrastructural Concession Commission.

A committee has been inaugurated for the implementation of the merger, and the commission awaits with optimism, the report of the implementation committee.

However, pending the commencement of the merger, the Commission has not relented in its regulatory function role. We have embarked on critical monitoring of key ongoing projects under our regulation.

Some of the key projects visited include the Lekki Deep Seaport in Lagos, the Calabar Port, the NIMASA Office in Port Harcourt to monitor progress with the Offshore Waste Reception Facility, among others.

The Commission, serving as the Secretariat, organized the first quarter 2023 Public Private Partnership Units Consultative Forum (3PUCF), where heads of PPP units in Ministries Departments and Agencies were charged on their roles in contract compliance.

As of the date (January-March 2024), three (3) Full Business Case compliance certificates as well as one (1) Outline Business Case compliance certificate (OBC) have

been issued in respect of projects across various MDAs. The Commission is set to issue a number of OBCs and FBCs.

In 2024, the Commission has drawn out an outlook that will include:

- Building on past experiences to support government economic agendas and infrastructure development
- Regulating pipelines and ensuring compliance with contract terms
- Monitoring PPP contracts and resolving disputes
- Enhancing PPP knowledge and capacity through training programs
- Promoting PPPs at the state level and collaborating with development partners
- Building a competent workforce through training and learning
- Establishing a Project Development and Monitoring Fund to support high-quality projects.

Overall, the ICRC aims to strengthen its role as a central coordinating agency for PPPs and enhance the attractiveness of the Nigerian PPP environment to investors.

PPPs remain the way to go to bridge the Infrastructure gap, and I call on all agencies of government to set up their PPP units and also to state governments to enact their PPP Laws and take advantage of the opportunity PPPs offer in infrastructure development.

The government alone cannot fully fund infrastructure development, therefore all hands must be on deck to continue to grow the nation's infrastructure, even as we are poised as a commission to provide the relevant regulatory guidance to drive these.

J. A. Michael Ohiani
Director General

POWER: HOW STATES CAN LEVERAGE ON DECENTRALIZATION USING PPPS – THE ABIA EXAMPLE

By Ifeanyi Nwoko

Media & Publicity Unit, ICRC



Aba Geometric power plant. Source: geometricpower.com

The Fifth Alteration of the 1999 Constitution and the Electricity Act 2023 demonopolise electricity generation, transmission and distribution at the national level and provided a framework for States, companies and individuals to become stakeholders in carrying out these functions.

It would be recalled that while immediate past President, Muhammadu Buhari had on May 2023, signed the Fifth Alteration Bill No. 33, Devolution of Powers (National Grid System), allowing sub-national governments to join the electricity generation business, President Bola Tinubu in June 2023 assented to the new Electricity Act that repeals the Electric Power Sector Reform Act of 2005 and provides a guide for the post-privatisation phase of Nigeria's electricity industry.

Notably, the Electricity Act removes electricity from the Exclusive to Concurrent Legislative List, recognising the powers of State Houses of Assembly to make laws for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, as well as oversee electricity system operations within their States. Specifically, it empowers States to issue licenses to operate mini-grids and power plants within their respective jurisdictions and to provide legal frameworks for these operations.

Industry stakeholders say the expansion of power of States to legislate on electricity and the provisions of the Electricity Act introducing other players into the power sector would go a long way in demonopolising and improving the power sector, as the pressure on the national grid will be reduced. It was, therefore, not a surprise seeing Nigeria training other African countries on power efficiency.

It would also potentially attract investors to the sector and hopefully put an end to the incessant challenges associated with electricity in Nigeria. Other expected benefits include market competition which would benefit consumers in terms of options and pricing, investments in energy mixes and alternative sources of improved private sector participation and increased revenue for States.

With this development, many sub-national governments will venture into creating state grid. But with most states experiencing revenue shortfall, there are concerns that they may not have the resources to prosecute the business, especially as former Minister of Power, Professor Barth Nnaji noted in the recently concluded meeting of the Nigeria Public Private Partnership Network (NPPPN) meeting.

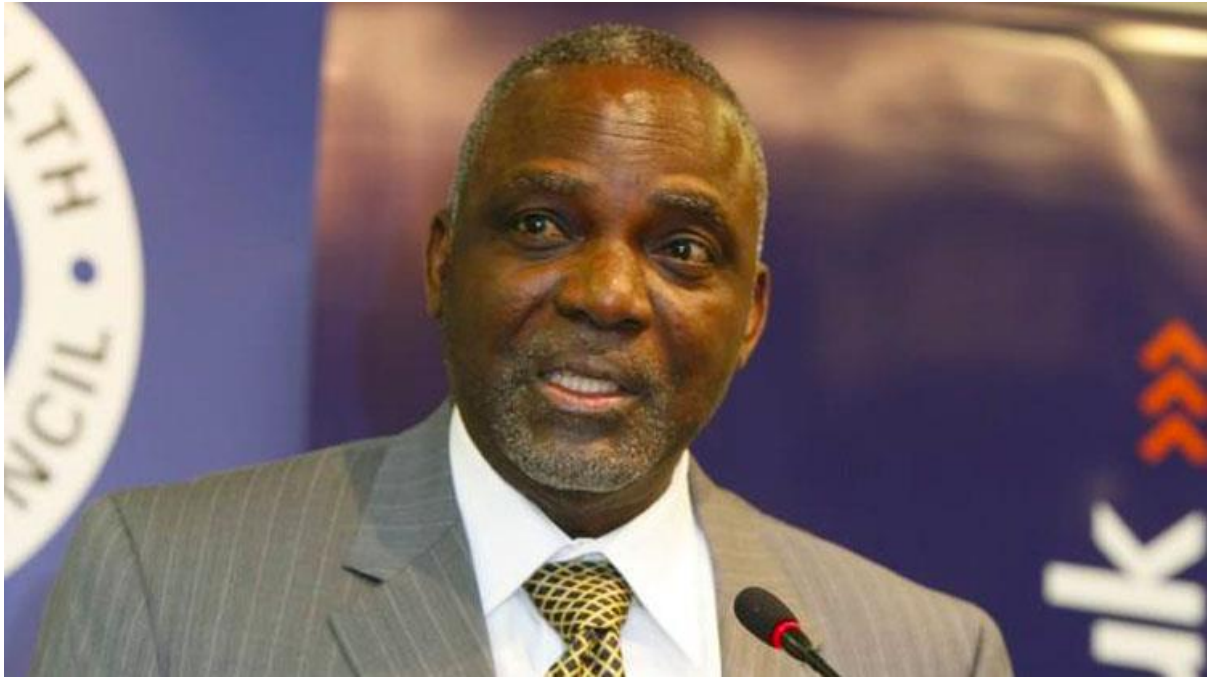
The Professor of Mechanical Engineering, founder and chairman of the indigenous power company, Geometric Power Limited (GPL), underscored the need for states to adopt Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in procuring power infrastructure in their respective states.

Presenting a paper at the first quarter 2024 NPPPN meeting with the theme, "The Decentralization of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and the Role of the States in Rural Electrification: The Private Investor's Perspective", Prof. Nnaji hinged his advice on the fact that power infrastructure is very expensive, adding that it costs \$1.5million to generate one Megawatt of electricity.

The Chief Executive Officer of Geometric Power Limited, the owners of the Aba power plant, said the newly inaugurated 181 megawatts power plant in Aba, Abia State can be replicated in other states of the country.

According to him, although ownership and control of power infrastructure has been decentralised, it is not a tea party for states to wholly jump into it given the cost, technology implication and adverse competition where states seek to control the infrastructure.

His words: "There are a number of states that believe that they can easily jump in and begin to develop power infrastructure, but the sort of financial requirement to build power infrastructure is quite a lot. In Nigeria, depending on the fuel source, it will cost about \$1.5 million per megawatts... That is a lot just for 1MW and that is just to build the power plant, and you haven't built the sub stations and all the other required infrastructure.



Prof. Bart Nnaji, Founder and Chairman, Geometric Power Limited (GPL)

“So, this is why it is very important that partnerships be strongly encouraged. Public Private Partnership is what delivers success; where states play their role and make their contribution financially.

“However, if the states decide that they want to be in control then we are going back to the NEPA days and that can be a serious problem,” he said.

He opined that the better option was for states to take advantage of the decentralisation to partner and establish a regional grid in view of the costs.

The power expert advocated for energy mix and the deployment of renewable energy for areas where industrial power could not be deployed easily or cheaply, adding that the cost of renewable energy was going down.

Nnaji applauded the decentralisation of electricity, stressing that it would empower local entities to manage their own energy resources, improve efficiency and ensure that supply is more responsive to local needs and less vulnerable to systemwide disruptions or collapses.

Fielding questions after the presentation, Prof. Nnaji encouraged power companies to do what it takes to stop power theft, even as he encouraged them to deploy technology as has been done in Abia State to combat bypassing of meters.

In its opening remarks, the Nigerian Governors Forum posited that by formulating tailored electrification strategies, states can overcome barriers such as inadequate infrastructure, limited funding, and regulatory constraints.

Director General of the Forum, Asishana Okauru, Esq. said states can leverage partnerships with international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to accelerate electrification projects.

He stated: "The decentralization of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry and the active involvement of states in rural electrification represent significant steps towards achieving SDG 7 (universal energy access) in Nigeria, and the Nigeria Governors' Forum is intentional about achieving this through its Climate Change and Electricity Desks.



Aba at night after Power plant - Source IgboHistoFacts

"By embracing decentralized energy solutions, leveraging local resources, and fostering partnerships, states can overcome barriers to electrification and improve the quality of life for millions of Nigerians living in rural areas. However, sustained political will, institutional strengthening, and targeted investments will be essential to realizing the full potential of decentralization and ensuring equitable energy access for all," he said.

Also, NGF Executive Director, Dr. Abdullateef Shittu, tasked states, private entities, civil society organizations, and international partners to collaborate closely, share best practices, and innovate to accelerate progress towards universal electrification.

Dr. Shittu noted that by harnessing the power of public-private partnerships, we can unlock the full potential of rural Nigeria, drive economic growth, and build a more prosperous and equitable society for all.

"At present, there are numerous opportunities for states and private entities to deepen their collaboration and accelerate progress towards universal electrification. One such opportunity lies in the adoption of innovative technologies and business models tailored to the unique needs of rural areas. Off-grid solutions, such as solar mini-grids and decentralized renewable energy systems, present cost-effective and sustainable alternatives to traditional grid extension, particularly in remote and underserved regions.

"However, the success of state PPPs in rural electrification hinges on several critical factors. Strong regulatory frameworks, transparent governance structures, and effective risk-sharing mechanisms are essential for fostering trust and accountability between stakeholders. Additionally, there must be a long-term commitment from both state governments and private investors to ensure the sustainability of electrification initiatives," he said.

Also speaking at the Q1 2024 NPPPN Meeting, the Director General ICRC, Michael Ohiani described the theme as apt, stressing that it presented an opportunity to brainstorm and proffer solutions to economic stagnation in states due to inadequate power supply.

The Director General lauded the 26 states that have enacted their PPP laws, even as he pledged the support of the ICRC to help members of the Network seeking to undertake PPP projects and also states that want to enact their laws.

He said: "Suffice it to say that the ICRC will continue to be readily available to the states for our overall national infrastructure development. The main reason is that despite having 36 states and the FCT, we have just one national economy. It is therefore, necessary that we continue to work in collaboration with the states.

"We are also encouraged by the number of States who have enacted their PPP laws, in order to incentivize investments in their states. By our records, we have about 26 states and I use this opportunity to congratulate Yobe State for being the latest in the number.

"Members of the NPPPN may recall that the ICRC had developed a template PPP law and policy document for the interested states to adapt, modify as applicable and implement as their requirements are".

The ICRC helmsman explained that since inception, the Commission has issued a total of 200 Outline Business Case Certificates (confirming project bankability and viability), as well as 117 Full Business Case Certificates (confirming successful Procurement process of the private partner).

He added that as at December 2023, 95 post-contract PPP projects were at different stages of the implementation phase, with over 152 pre-contract projects at different Development and Procurement stages in the period under review.

Established in 2011 through collaboration between the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), Lagos State PPP office, the Nigeria Public-Private Partnership Network (NPPPN) seeks to create a platform for all states heads of PPP units nationwide. It is a network that brings together all heads of PPP at state level under the coordination of the ICRC and the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF).

It was designed to serve as a knowledge and experience sharing forum to upscale the learning curve of public officers at the sub-national level of government on the Public-Private Partnership form of procurement.

While also serving as peer review for states and offers opportunity to those who have engaged in successful partnerships in years past to share experiences, it is a platform to explore opportunities for scaling up PPP in healthcare across other states using NPPPN.

According to the World Bank, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) enable governments to procure and deliver public infrastructure/services and leverage the resources and expertise of the private sector – through risk-sharing arrangements.

It averred that when properly designed and executed, PPPs can create social value through on-time and on-cost delivery, generating efficiency gains and offering innovation in project design, incorporation of global expertise, and accessing new sources of capital.

Furthermore, Public-private partnerships (PPPs) offer many benefits to both governments and private sector partners. For governments, PPPs help to reduce costs, improve efficiency, and increase access to services. For private sector partners, it provides new markets and opportunities for growth. PPPs can also help to improve the quality of services by leveraging the expertise of the private sector. Also, PPPs can help to build capacity and develop human resources in the public sector. In the same token, it promotes innovation and helps to create sustainable solutions to address social and environmental challenges.

REFERENCES

[Electricity Act 2023](#)

[1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria \(as amended\)](#)

[First Quarter 2024 meeting of the Nigeria Public Private Partnership Network \(NPPPN\).](#)

Stop Subsidizing Asteroids: How To Persuade People That Governments Should Stop Subsidizing Fossil Fuels

By Christopher Hoy, Yeon Soo Kim, Minh Cong Nguyen, Mariano Ernesto Sosa, and Sailesh Tiwari

April 04, 2024



Fossil fuel being flared - Source: Ripple Nigeria

Climate change represents an existential threat to humanity. Yet governments [spend trillions](#) each year subsidizing the consumption of fossil fuels, effectively paying to speed up climate change.

The United Nations Development Programme famously calls out this irrationality in the [Don't Choose Extinction](#) campaign where they highlight how humans subsidizing fossil fuels equates to if dinosaurs had paid the giant asteroid to hit Earth.

Despite the widely recognized urgent need for climate action, many governments are reluctant to reduce fossil fuel subsidies as they are concerned about public outcry. After all, past efforts by governments to remove fossil fuel subsidies [have been associated](#) with riots in some countries.

Our [recent study](#) provides novel insights for policy makers about how they can persuade citizens to support the removal of fossil fuel subsidies. We surveyed over 37,000 people across 12 middle-income countries that provide almost US\$1 trillion annually on implicit and explicit fossil fuel subsidies, to examine what types of

information and alternative policies would increase support for reform. Survey respondents were divided into four groups.

The first three groups received information about the negative consequences of fossil fuel subsidies (that they are an inefficient use of government resources; that they benefit the rich more than the poor; or that they contribute to climate change and air pollution).

The fourth group received no information (control group). Below we illustrate three key messages for policy makers:

1. There is a need to build public support for removing fossil fuel subsidies.

On average, only around 30 percent of survey respondents in the control group would support energy subsidies being removed if no alternative policies were put in place. Support was particularly low among respondents who perceived they were poor or middle class, and among those who believed energy subsidies were a right. Support was slightly higher among respondents who stated they trust the government. These findings across countries confirm [existing case studies](#) that highlight how the strength of the social contract between citizens and the government, as well as the economic circumstances of households, is related to support for fossil fuel subsidy reforms.



Drilling of Fossil Fuel - Source: sciencing.cm

2. Information about the negative consequences of these subsidies increases support for reform.

Information about the negative consequences of fossil fuel subsidies on efficiency, equity, and the environment can lead to greater support for reform. In particular, the group that received information about how these subsidies contribute to climate change and air pollution had the largest increase in support for reform. The effect of this treatment was primarily driven by respondents who believe they are middle class and live in countries where gasoline is the primary fossil fuel that is subsidized. Among these respondents, support for reform increased by around 25 percent.

3. Most people would prefer fossil fuel subsidies to be replaced by alternative policies.

Remarkably, over 90 percent of respondents in each country stated they would support removing fossil fuel subsidies if an alternative policy were put in place. We asked respondents their level of support for reducing energy subsidies if the funds saved were to be redirected to a range of policy options, which are shown in Figure 1 below. In every country, respondents prioritized spending resources on hospitals, schools, and roads over short-term increases in household income through cash transfers and tax cuts. It is striking that even the least popular option, cash transfers for all households, had twice as much support as keeping fossil fuel subsidies as they are. These findings suggest that respondents would prefer greater provision of public services over cash, but cash is still much more popular than subsidies.

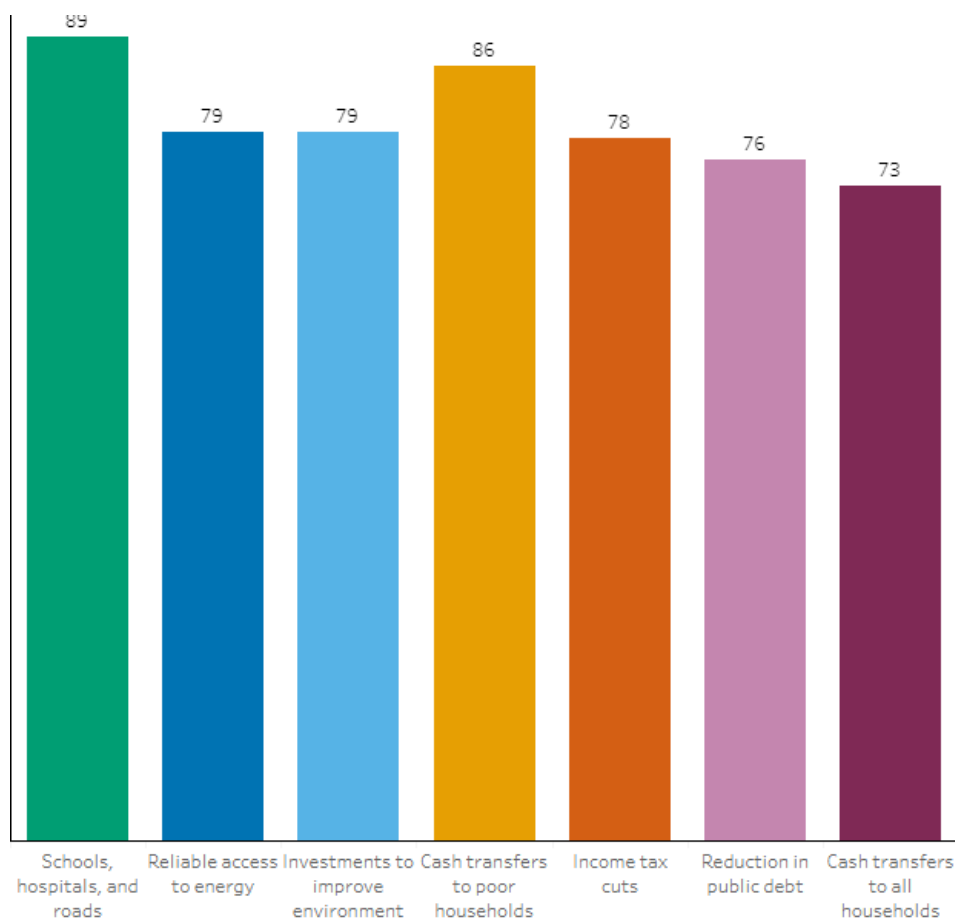


Figure 1: Preferred alternative policy option to energy subsidies, share of respondents by country (%)

Our study highlights that it is possible to fight climate change by galvanizing support for the removal of fossil fuel subsidies. While our survey shows that policy makers' concerns about how acceptable these reforms are may be valid, it also shows how to change attitudes. We illustrate that information campaigns are likely to have a crucial role in successful reform programs, especially when they emphasize how fossil fuel subsidies contribute to climate change and air pollution. In addition, the types of alternative policies implemented alongside a reduction in fossil fuel subsidies are pivotal in making reforms popular. We also make a methodological contribution by showing how this type of cross-country, randomized survey experiment can be used to generate novel insights about reform processes in middle-income countries. Collectively, our hope is that these results will help to spur governments to persuade their citizens of the need for fossil fuel subsidy reform, which is necessary for our collective future on a livable planet.

For more details about this study see our [working paper](#), [policy brief](#), and [data replication package](#).

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/developmenttalk/stop-subsidizing-asteroids--how-to-persuade-people-that-governme>

MEETINGS – WORKSHOPS - TRAININGS - CONFERENCES – SUMMITS



ICRC DG and management staff receive delegation from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who came on a collaborative visit – Jan. 23, 2024.



One Day Stakeholders Engagement Forum on Smart National Transport Databank (NTD) – Jan. 23, 2024.





ICRC DG, Michael Ohiani leads delegation on a follow-up visit to Nigeria Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) and received by NGSA DG, Dr. Abdulrazaq Garba. During the visit, the NGSA PPP Unit was inaugurated. - Jan. 24, 2024





ICRC receives delegation from the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD) led by Executive Secretary James Lalu. February 13, 2024





DG, other staff, at the National Assembly during a hearing by the House of Representatives Joint Committee on Public Assets and Special Duties, set up to look into the performance of PPPs from 1999 to date – February 29, 2024



ICRC Team, others at the official handover of the Offshore Waste Reception Facility

Project in the Eastern Zone to the concessionaire: XPO Marine Services Ltd. Port Harcourt, March 4, 2024



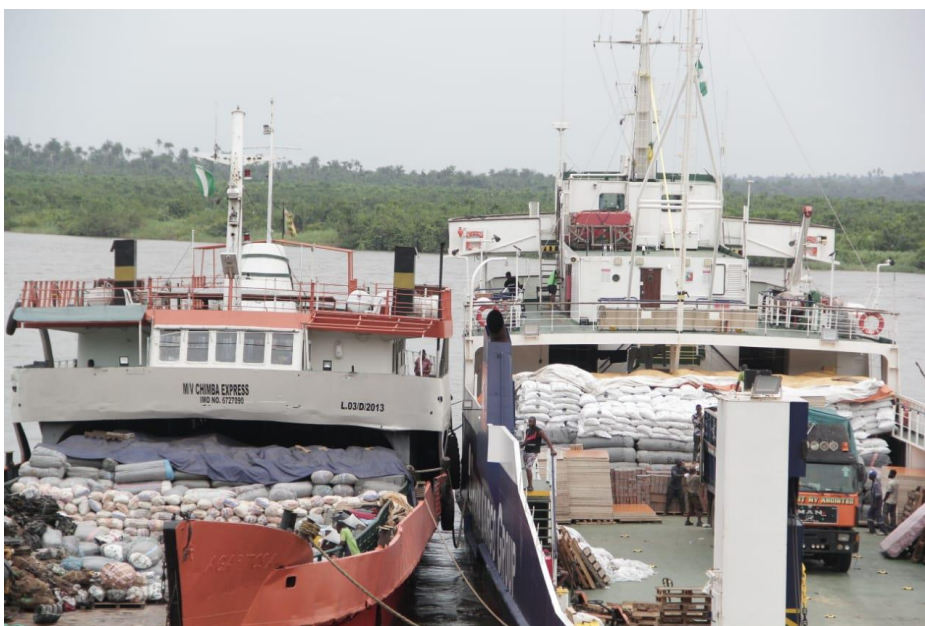


ICRC team led by its DG, Michael Ohiani during monitoring visit to Lekki Deep Seaport Project. The team is received by the CEO of the Port, Du Ruogang – March 5, 2024





DG, other management staff receive a delegation from the Chartered Institute of Power Engineers of Nigeria on a courtesy visit. March 12, 2024





ICRC Team, led by DG, Michael Ohiani on monitoring visit to Calabar Port. The team is received by Calabar Port Manager, Mr Olumati Festus and his team – arch 14, 2024



ICRC team holds performance evaluation meeting with concessionaires of Silo Projects in Nigeria – March 19, 2024



DG of Yobe State Agency for PPP and Investment Promotion, Dr. Aliyu Isah Chikaji (M) pays courtesy visit to DG of ICRC, Michael Ohiani (L) – March 22, 2024.

FG To Partner NSPPPA On Capacity Building, Infrastructural Development In Niger

By Jonathan Nda-Isaiah

January 2024

The federal government of Nigeria through the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission says it will partner with the Niger State Public Private Partnership Agency to enhance capacity building and attract international partners for investment in critical infrastructure for the state.

The director general of ICRC, Michael Ohiani gave the assurance while receiving the Niger State Coordinator for Public Private Partnership, Mohammed Saidu Etsu on a courtesy visit in Abuja.

<https://leadership.ng/fg-to-partner-nspppa-on-capacity-building-infrastructural-development-in-niger/>

FG sets up 3 committees to oversee road concession

January 9, 2024

By John Alechenu

The Minister of Works, David Umahi has inaugurated three committees saddled with the responsibility of fast-tracking the implementation of the Highway Development and Management Initiative (HDMI).

The programme, which is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement in the construction, operations and maintenance of federal highways, is designed in such a way that emergent concessionaires will recoup their investments through toll and non-toll revenues as may be negotiated.

According to him, while inaugurating the committees, the Minister harped on the need for them to work effectively and concertedly bearing in mind the expectations of Nigerians, in terms of transparency, standard and efficiency in contract negotiations.

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/01/fg-sets-up-3-committees-to-oversee-road-concession/>

ICRC, BPE merged, PTAD scrapped — all agencies affected in Oronsaye report

February 27, 2024

By The Cable News

On August 18, 2011, former President Goodluck Jonathan inaugurated a seven-member committee on the restructuring of federal government parastatals and agencies.

Stephen Oronsaye, a former head of the civil service of the federation, was appointed as the chairman of the committee, while Umar Mohammed was the secretary.

Other members were Japh Nwosu, Rabiu Abubakar, Salman Mann, Hamza Tahir, and Adetunji Adesunkanmi.

The committee was mandated to “study and review all previous reports/records on the restructuring of federal government parastatals, advise on whether they are still relevant, and examine the enabling acts of all the federal agencies, parastatals, and commissions and classify them into various sectors”.

<https://www.thecable.ng/icrc-bpe-to-be-merged-ptad-scrapped-many-agencies-affected-as-tinubu-implements-oronsaye-report/>

Reps panel summons Oyetola, others over port concession

March 5, 2024

By Agency Reporter

The House of Representatives on Tuesday summoned the Minister of Blue Economy and Transport, Gboyega Oyetola, over the handling of concession of port infrastructure in the country.

Chairman of the House Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation, Ibrahim Hamisu, said this at a meeting with the seaport terminal operators in Abuja.

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/674577-reps-panel-summons-oyetola-others-over-port-concession.html?tztc=1>

Commission lauds Calabar port's remarkable achievement

March 17, 2024

By Christian Njoku

The Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), has lauded the remarkable achievement of Calabar Port irrespective inherent challenges.

The Director-General, Mr. Michael Ohiani, stated this when members of the commission visited the management of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and terminal operators in Calabar.

Ohiani stated that despite inherent infrastructure challenges, the port had been able to find innovative ways of doing business.

The ICRC chief executive Officer said that the visit was to live up to its commitment to monitor activities of concessionaires in the port facility.

<https://nannews.ng/2024/03/17/commission-lauds-remarkable-achievements-at-calabar-port/>

Ex-Power minister urges states to embrace PPP for power infrastructure procurement

March 22, 2024

By Chris Ugwu

Former Minister of Power, Prof. Bart Nnaji, has recommended that state governments adopt Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) to acquire power infrastructure to meet their requirements.

The advice was conveyed by Manji Yarling, Head of Media and Publicity at the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), in a statement released on Saturday in Abuja.

Nnaji shared this insight during the Nigeria Public Private Partnership Network (NPPPN) virtual meeting held in the first quarter of 2024.

According to the NAN report, the meeting centered around the theme, “The Decentralisation of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and the role of the states in rural electrification: The private investor’s perspective.”

<https://nairametrics.com/2024/03/23/ex-power-minister-urges-states-to-embrace-ppp-for-power-infrastructure-procurement/>



FROM THE NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP (NII3P)

1.0 The Nigeria Institute of Infrastructure and Public Private Partnership (NII3P), established by the ICRC, held the following activities in the fourth quarter of 2024:

Trainings

- March 14th, 2024 - 3PUCF Zoom meeting
- March 21st, 2024 - NPPP Zoom meeting
- April, Review of Katsina State PPP manual and policy.

Quarterly 3PUCF Meeting

The First Quarter 2024 3PUCF meeting held on March 14, 2024 via the online meeting platform: Zoom, featured participants from PPP Units of various government Ministries, Departments and Agencies who have set up their PPP units.

The meeting started with an opening remark by the Director General of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), Michael Ohiani.

In his welcome address, Ohiani who was represented by the Acting Director, Transport Infrastructure Department (TID), Mr. Ogunshola Olushola, reminded participants from the MDAs of their commitment to have 85% of all infrastructure carried out through PPPs in line with the Mid-Term National Development (2021-2025) issued by the Federal Ministry of Finance.

“Although we have all committed to this, it is now more pertinent to identify and push forward the projects which will offer better value for money to the economy and the citizens through PPP, especially low-hanging fruit projects,” he said.

He noted that the meeting focused on contract compliance requirements from the MDAs, saying that contract compliance was the bedrock of the successful implementation of all projects, including PPPs.

He added that within the period, three Full Business Case compliance certificates and one Outline Business Case compliance certificate were issued.

He harped on the need for MDAs who own PPP projects to adhere strictly to the compliance requirements. “This will add to the efforts already made at throwing much light on the pre-contract processes of project development and procurement”.

“As we all know, it is not just enough to ensure that our projects are bankable and viable, and achieve commercial and financial closure; it is equally important that these projects are adequately implemented in line with the contractual requirements.

“Contract compliance is, therefore, the bedrock of the successful implementation of all projects, including PPPs. It is my expectation that you find today’s programme very enlightening and rewarding,” he said.

He informed participants that the NII3P, the commission’s training arm, has also packaged the 2024 Training calendar for the Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced PPP Courses, in addition to the specialized infrastructure-related courses (locally and internationally).

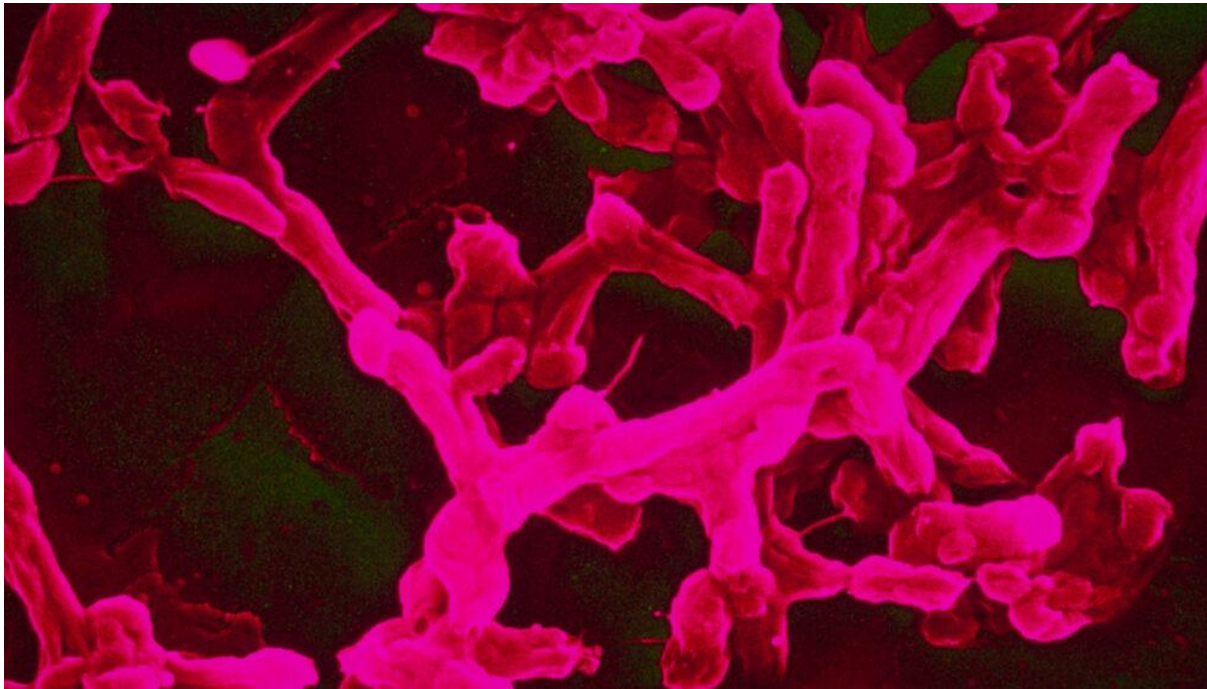
In her technical presentation, Ms. Priscilla Devaan Jiwunde, focused on Contract Compliance Requirements for MDAs in her presentation titled: “Implementing Successful PPPs Contract Compliance Requirements for MDAs.

Basing her presentation on the ICRC Act (2005) and ICRC Regulation of 2014, Jiwunde said that PPP contracts must not fall short of the guidelines in the documents and other relevant guiding rules, lest they become not workable.

The meeting featured a presentation by Engr. Abraham Israel, who dwelt on the Act of the Centre for Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship in Nigeria (CIPEN).

The meeting was adjourned after a business session coordinated by Dr Amanze Okere.

TYPHOID



Typhoid – Photo Source: scidev.net

Key facts

- As of 2019, an estimated 9 million people get sick from typhoid and 110 000 people die from it every year.
- Symptoms include prolonged fever, fatigue, headache, nausea, abdominal pain, and constipation or diarrhoea. Some patients may have a rash. Severe cases may lead to serious complications or even death.
- Typhoid fever can be treated with antibiotics although increasing resistance to different types of antibiotics is making treatment more complicated.
- The typhoid conjugate vaccine is recommended for use in children from 6 months of age and in adults up to 45 years or 65 years (depending on the vaccine).
- Two typhoid conjugate vaccines have been prequalified by WHO since December 2017 and are being introduced into childhood immunization programmes in typhoid endemic countries.

Overview

Typhoid fever is a life-threatening infection caused by the bacterium *Salmonella* Typhi. It is usually spread through contaminated food or water. Once *Salmonella* Typhi bacteria are ingested, they multiply and spread into the bloodstream.

Urbanization and climate change have the potential to increase the global burden of typhoid. In addition, increasing resistance to antibiotic treatment is making it easier for typhoid to spread in communities that lack access to safe drinking water or adequate sanitation.

Symptoms

Salmonella Typhi lives only in humans. Persons with typhoid fever carry the bacteria in their bloodstream and intestinal tract. Symptoms include prolonged high fever, fatigue, headache, nausea, abdominal pain, and constipation or diarrhoea. Some patients may have a rash. Severe cases may lead to serious complications or even death. Typhoid fever can be confirmed through blood testing.

Epidemiology, risk factors and disease burden

Improved living conditions and the introduction of antibiotics resulted in a drastic reduction of typhoid fever morbidity and mortality in industrialized countries. However, the disease continues to be a public health problem in many developing areas of the WHO African, Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia and Western Pacific Regions.

As of 2019 estimates, there are 9 million cases of typhoid fever annually, resulting in about 110 000 deaths per year.

Typhoid risk is higher in populations that lack access to safe water and adequate sanitation, and children are at highest risk.

Treatment

Typhoid fever can be treated with antibiotics. Antimicrobial resistance is common with likelihood of more complicated and expensive treatment options required in the most affected regions.

Even when the symptoms go away, people may still be carrying typhoid bacteria, meaning they can spread it to others, through shedding of bacteria in their faeces.

It is important for people being treated for typhoid fever to do the following:

- Take prescribed antibiotics for as long as the doctor has prescribed.
- Wash their hands with soap and water after using the bathroom and avoid preparing or serving food for other people. This will lower the chance of passing the infection on to someone else.
- Have their doctor test to ensure that no *Salmonella* Typhi bacteria remain in their body.

Prevention

Typhoid fever is common in places with poor sanitation and a lack of safe drinking water. Access to safe water and adequate sanitation, hygiene among food handlers and typhoid vaccination are all effective in preventing typhoid fever.

Typhoid conjugate vaccine, consisting of the purified Vi antigen linked to a carrier protein, is given as a single injectable dose in children from 6 months of age and in adults up to 45 years or 65 years (depending on the vaccine).

Two additional vaccines have been used for many years in older children and adults at risk of typhoid, including travellers. These vaccines do not provide long-lasting immunity (requiring repeat or booster doses) and are not approved for children younger than 2 years old:

- an injectable vaccine based on the purified antigen for people aged 2 years and above; and
- a live attenuated oral vaccine in capsule formulation for people aged over 6 years.

Two typhoid conjugate vaccines have been prequalified by WHO since December 2017 and are being introduced into childhood immunization programmes in typhoid endemic countries.

All travelers to endemic areas are at potential risk of typhoid fever, although the risk is generally low in tourist and business centers where standards of accommodation, sanitation and food hygiene are high. Typhoid fever vaccination should be offered to travelers to destinations where the risk of typhoid fever is high.

The following recommendations will help ensure safety while traveling:

- Ensure food is properly cooked and still hot when served.
- Avoid raw milk and products made from raw milk. Drink only pasteurized or boiled milk.
- Avoid ice unless it is made from safe water.
- When the safety of drinking water is questionable, boil it, or if this is not possible, disinfect it with a reliable, slow-release disinfectant agent (usually available at pharmacies).
- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently using soap, in particular after contact with pets or farm animals, or after having been to the toilet.
- Wash fruits and vegetables carefully, particularly if they are eaten raw. If possible, vegetables and fruits should be peeled.

WHO response

In October 2017, the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), which advises WHO on vaccine use, issued a recommendation for the typhoid

conjugate vaccine to be added to routine childhood immunization programmes in typhoid endemic countries. SAGE also called for the introduction of typhoid conjugate vaccine to be prioritized for countries with the highest burden of typhoid disease or high levels of antibiotic resistance to *Salmonella* Typhi.

Starting in 2019, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has provided funding to support typhoid conjugate vaccine use in eligible countries.

As at March 2023, WHO has prequalified two conjugate vaccines for the prevention of typhoid. Typhoid conjugate vaccine has longer-lasting immunity than the older typhoid vaccines and can be given as a single dose to children from the age of 6 months.

In addition to decreasing the disease burden in endemic countries and saving lives, widespread use of the typhoid conjugate vaccine in affected countries is expected to reduce the need for antibiotics for typhoid treatment and slow the increase in antibiotic resistance in *Salmonella* Typhi.

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/typhoid>

ON A LIGHTER NOTE:

Short Jokes

- I used to steal soap, but I'm clean now.
- Why do tigers have stripes? They don't want to be spotted.
- **I told my wife she should embrace her mistakes.**
She gave me a hug.

- **Why did the math book look sad?**
Because it had too many problems.

- **Why don't scientists trust atoms?**
Because they make up everything!

- **Why don't eggs tell jokes?**
Because they might crack up.

ABOUT THE PUBLICATION

ICRC Bulletin is a quarterly publication of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission under the Presidency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Bulletin is a useful tool for communication and is part of the Commission's thrust to engage staff and stakeholders by providing timely, accurate and knowledgeable information on its activities.

We value your views, contributions and opinions. For inquiries, comments, and suggestions on this issue, you may email us at info@icrc.gov.ng.

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