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# TEMPLARS Transcripts: Energy & Natural Resources Digest

## NIGERIA

### Oil and Gas

- **NUPRC Reports Over 300 Firms Competing for 50 Oil Blocks in Licensing Round**

Nigeria's upstream regulator, the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (**NUPRC**), has stated that more than 300 firms are competing for 50 oil blocks in the ongoing licensing round.

The round, launched in December 2025, covers onshore, shallow water, deepwater and frontier acreages.

- **NUPRC Mandates Standardised Templates for Methane and GHG Reporting**

NUPRC issued a directive in April 2026, requiring upstream operators to adopt standardised templates for greenhouse gas (**GHG**) emissions management plans and methane/GHG emissions management accounting and inventories. The directive, issued pursuant to the 2022 Guidelines for the Management of Methane and Greenhouse Gases in the Upstream Oil and Gas Sector, takes immediate effect.

Operators are required to report emissions using IPCC Tier 2 methodologies from Q3 2026 and transition to IPCC Tier 3 or equivalent measurement-based MRV systems by January 2027.

- **NUPRC Issues Decommissioning and Abandonment Regulations, 2026**

NUPRC has issued the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Decommissioning and Abandonment Regulations, 2026 (the "**Regulations**"), gazetted on 9 March 2026. The Regulations repeal and replace the Decommissioning and Abandonment Regulations 2023.

The Regulations introduce updated requirements for the decommissioning and abandonment of upstream petroleum facilities and operations in Nigeria, including enhancements to the existing framework.

- **NMDPRA Raises Domestic Gas Price**

The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (**NMDPRA**) has increased the Domestic Base Price (**DBP**) of natural gas from US\$2.13 per metric million British thermal units (MMBtu) to US\$2.18/MMBtu, effective April 1, 2026.

Gas prices for the power sector reflect the DBP at US\$2.18/MMBtu, while commercial gas prices have been adjusted to US\$2.68/MMBtu from US\$2.63/MMBtu. Gas prices for gas-based industries (**GBIs**) remain subject to a floor of US\$0.90/MMBtu and a ceiling of US\$2.18/MMBtu.

- **NUPRC Reports 37 Billion Barrels of Oil and 215 Tcf of Gas Reserves**

NUPRC has declared Nigeria's total petroleum reserves at 37.01 billion barrels of oil and condensate and 215.19 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas as of January 1, 2026. Crude oil accounts for 31.09 billion barrels, while condensate stands at 5.92 billion barrels.

Gas reserves comprise 100.21 Tcf associated gas and 114.98 Tcf of non-associated gas. Oil and condensate reserves declined by approximately 0.74% year-on-year, while gas reserves increased by 2.21%, reflecting production, new finds, and updated field studies.

- **Nigeria: Presidency Effects Leadership Change at NMDPRA**

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has approved the removal of the Chief Executive of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), Saidu Mohammed, and has nominated Rabiu Abdullahi Umar as his replacement, subject to Senate confirmation.

- **NNPC Completes River Niger Crossing on OB3 Gas Pipeline**

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (**NNPCL**) has announced the completion of the River Niger crossing segment of the Obiafu–Obrikom–Oben (OB3) gas pipeline, marking a key milestone in the expansion of Nigeria's gas transmission network. The crossing, executed using advanced drilling technology beneath the riverbed, unlocks the full capacity of the 130km pipeline, designed to transport up to 2 billion standard cubic feet of gas per day.

- **NNPCL Signs MoU with Chinese Firms for Refinery Rehabilitation**

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with two Chinese firms in relation to the rehabilitation and expansion of the Port Harcourt and Warri refineries. The arrangement is expected to support the restart and long-term operation of the refineries.

The proposed framework introduces a technical equity partnership structure under which the partners are expected to contribute engineering expertise, operational support and investment, with returns linked to refinery performance. The scope of the collaboration also includes the development of co-located gas-based industrial hubs.

## Power and Renewable Energy

- **NERC Issues Mini-Grid Regulations, 2026**

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has issued the Mini-Grid Regulations 2026, establishing an updated framework for the development and operation of mini-grids in Nigeria.

The Regulations introduce targeted reforms aimed at accelerating mini-grid deployment and facilitating more efficient coordination between mini-grid developers, distribution companies and electricity consumers. The Regulations also increase the capacity threshold for isolated mini-grids to 5MW and for interconnected mini-grids to 10MW.

- **Oyo State Proposes 120MW Power Generation from Waste to Wealth Initiative**

The Oyo State Government has announced plans to develop a waste-to-energy facility with a projected electricity generation capacity of up to 120MW at Elere Village along the Ido–Eruwa Road in Ibadan. The proposed facility is expected to convert municipal solid waste into electricity and other by-products.

- **Oando JV Announces Gas Supply Agreement for 60MW Bayelsa Power Plant**

Oando Plc, through its joint venture with NNPC Exploration and Production Limited (NEPL), has announced a gas supply agreement for the long-term supply of gas to a 60MW Independent Power Plant in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, which was commissioned on 10 April 2026.

The joint venture serves as the plant's sole gas supplier, delivering about 11.2 million standard cubic feet of gas per day (mmscfd) via the Elebele Valve Station.

- **FG Disburses USD\$6.63 million for Solar Mini-Grids to Boost Rural Electrification**

The Federal Government, through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), has disbursed about USD\$6.63 million in grants to private developers for the deployment of solar mini-grids in four states, Taraba, Kwara, Kogi, and Niger. The funding is provided under the Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scale-up (DARES) Programme, a performance-based grant. The initiative targets communities with limited or no grid access, aiming to improve power supply and stimulate economic activity across the beneficiary states.

- **GenCos Sign onto US\$2.43Bn Power Sector Debt Resolution Plan**

Eight power generation companies have signed onto a USD\$2.43 billion debt resolution plan backed by the Federal Government to address legacy debts in the power sector.

The programme covers liabilities owed to multiple power producers across 15 power plants. To date, about US\$368.9 million has been raised, with roughly US\$164.2 million already disbursed.

- **Power Sector Appointments**

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has appointed Rilwan Lanre Babalola as Special Adviser on Power and Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Power Sector Reset and Restoration and Joseph

Olasunkanmi Tegbe as Minister of Power, subject to Senate confirmation. The nomination follows the resignation of former Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu.

- **NEMSA Issues Safety Guidelines for Rooftop Solar PV Installations**

The Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency has issued new safety guidelines (“**Guidelines**”) aimed at mitigating fire hazards, ensuring system reliability, and enforcing compliance with safety standards. The Guidelines also require that rooftop solar PV installations be carried out only by NEMSA certified electrical contractors to ensure technical competence.

## Mining

- **NRS Assumes Responsibility for Mineral Royalty Collection from Mining Firms**

The Nigerian Revenue Service (NRS) has assumed responsibility for the collection of mineral royalties from mining firms, following a new agreement with the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development.

The transition is further to the applicable tax laws which empower NRS to collect all federally collectable revenues, including mineral royalties.

- **Australian Miner Enters Nigeria with High-Grade Lithium Discovery**

Chariot Resources Limited has announced a high-grade lithium discovery in Nigeria following the approval of 6 mining licences. This discovery marks the company's entry into Nigeria's minerals sector, particularly lithium mining.

## GHANA

### Mining

- **Ghana's Minerals Commission Announces Mining Sector Reforms**

The Minerals Commission of Ghana has announced proposed reforms to the mining sector, including the revocation of more than 300 small-scale mining licences obtained through irregular means.

The reforms also introduce a requirement for District Mining Committees to review and recommend small-scale licence applications prior to approval. There will also be a new licensing regime for medium-scale mining, designed to bridge the gap between small- and large-scale operations and create more opportunities for Ghanaian operators. The Commission further indicated that mining laws are under review, with legislative instruments expected to be introduced.

- **Parliament Ratifies Ghana–Barari DV Lithium Deal**

Ghana's Parliament has ratified a lithium agreement with Barari DV Limited for the Ewoyaa project (the “**Agreement**”), Ghana's first large-scale commercial lithium development. The ratification signals Ghana's entry into the rapidly expanding global market for critical minerals essential to clean energy technologies.

The Ewoyaa deposit is considered one of the most significant hard-rock lithium discoveries in West Africa and could become the country's first lithium producing mine. Officials expect the Agreement to diversify Ghana's mining sector, which is currently dominated by gold, while creating new export streams and industrial opportunities.

- **A Defining Moment for Ghana: The Damang Takeover and the Rise of Indigenous Enterprise**

The Government of Ghana has assumed control of the Damang Mine following the expiry of the lease previously held by Gold Fields Limited. In a shift toward local participation, the Government has awarded the concession to Engineers and Planners (E&P), a fully owned Ghanaian company, following the company's successful bid for the concession.

## Oil and Gas

- **GNPC's Recognition for Financial Discipline Signals Improved Credibility**

The Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC), which is Ghana's National Oil Company, has been recognised for strong performance in the 2026 Public Financial Management compliance rankings, reflecting adherence to fiscal discipline, reporting standards, and governance controls.

GNPC placed fourth within the "Highly Compliant" category, a group comprising only seven public institutions nationwide.

***If you require any further clarification, do not hesitate to contact us.***