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TEMPLARS Transcripts: Energy & Natural Resources Digest

GHANA

Oil and Gas

- **Ghana Nears Agreement for Petroleum Hub Project Take-Off**

  The Minister of Energy and Green Transition, Dr. John Abdulai Jinapor, has announced that the Government is close to signing an agreement to commence development of the Petroleum Hub project in the Jomoro Municipality of the Western Region.

  The project is expected to include three refineries, five petrochemical plants, storage facilities, jetties and port infrastructure. According to the Minister, the project forms part of the Government's ambition to position Ghana as a major petroleum processing and trading hub in West Africa and reduce reliance on imported refined petroleum products.

- **TGS and Petroleum Commission Sign Agreement for Keta Basin Data Project**

  TGS, an energy data and intelligence company, has signed an agreement with the Petroleum Commission, Ghana, to develop a new offshore data project across the Keta Basin.

  The project will deploy TGS's 2D-cubed technology to convert existing seismic data into a dataset that provides explorers with improved subsurface information. The project is intended to help companies assess the basin's resource potential and support future exploration activities, with final products expected in Q1 2027.

- **Ghana Plans Jubilee Crude Allocation to Tema Oil Refinery**

  The Government of Ghana has stated that the next parcel of Jubilee crude will be allocated to the Tema Oil Refinery (TOR) as part of efforts to revitalise the state-owned refinery and strengthen domestic refining capacity.

The planned allocation follows the earlier supply of a one million barrel parcel of crude oil from the Jubilee Field for processing by local refineries, including Sentuo Oil Refinery. According to the Minister of Energy and Green Transition, expansion projects at TOR and Sentuo Oil Refinery are expected to enable both facilities to meet approximately 70% of Ghana's domestic demand for refined petroleum products upon completion.

Mining

- **Cabinet Approves Proposed Amendments to Ghana's Minerals and Mining Act**

Ghana's Cabinet has approved proposed amendments to the Minerals and Mining Act, 2006 (Act 703), with the revised Bill expected to be submitted to Parliament for consideration and approval.

The proposed amendments include reducing the maximum duration of mining leases from 30 years to 20 years, replacing reconnaissance and prospecting licences with exploration licences capped at 5 years, and introducing Community Development Agreements as part of mining lease arrangements. The reforms are intended to strengthen governance in the mining sector and ensure that host communities derive greater benefits from mineral development.

- **GoldBod 30% Gold Offtake Arrangement Takes Effect**

The Government of Ghana, acting through the Ghana Gold Board, has reached an agreement with the Ghana Chamber of Mines for GoldBod to purchase 30% of the gold output of all large-scale mining companies in Ghana. The arrangement became effective on 1 July 2026.

Under the arrangement, the relevant gold output will be sold to GoldBod in doré form at a 0.55% discount, with settlement in Ghana cedis using the Bank of Ghana Reference Rate.

The arrangement is intended to support local refining, local value retention and Ghana's reserve accumulation programme. GoldBod also stated that the arrangement is aimed at supporting Ghana's target of securing London Bullion Market Association accreditation for at least one local gold refinery by 2030.

- **Ghana and World Gold Council Partner to Formalise Artisanal Gold Mining**

The Government of Ghana, acting through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, has signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Gold Council to support the formalisation of artisanal and small-scale gold mining.

The partnership is intended to improve gold supply chain transparency, reduce illegal gold trading and promote responsible gold production. It is also expected to support miner training, gold traceability systems, technology-enabled improvements in mining operations and the development of responsible gold processing plants.

As an initial contribution, the World Gold Council has committed US$250,000 to support the registration of mining cooperatives under Ghana's Responsible Cooperative Mining and Skills Development Programme.

Energy Transition

- **Ghana Announces 1.5GW Solar and Battery Storage Plan**

  The Government of Ghana has announced plans to co-develop up to 1.5GW of utility-scale solar power supported by battery energy storage systems.

  The initiative is intended to provide cheaper and more sustainable energy for industry under the Government's 24-Hour Economy programme, which seeks to expand domestic manufacturing and value addition.

NIGERIA

Oil and Gas

- **NNPC-Seplat JV and UTM Offshore Execute 15-Year Gas Supply Agreement for Nigeria's First FLNG Project**

  UTM Offshore and the NNPC Limited–Seplat Energy Joint Venture have executed a 15-year gas supply agreement for UTM's proposed floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) project.

  Under the agreement, the Yoho field is expected to supply 200 million standard cubic feet of gas per day to UTM's proposed US$3 billion FLNG facility, which is expected to produce approximately 1.8 million tonnes of LNG annually. ***TEMPLARS advised UTM Offshore on this transaction***.

- **ECOWAS Approves Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline Project**

  Leaders of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have approved the Nigeria-Morocco Gas Pipeline project, a proposed regional gas pipeline intended to transport Nigerian natural gas to Morocco through West African countries along the Atlantic coast.

  The project is estimated at approximately US$27 billion and is expected to span about 6,000 kilometres across 13 countries before connecting to the existing Maghreb–Europe pipeline network. The project is expected to support regional gas integration and improve access to wider gas export markets. The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited ("NNPC Limited") and Morocco's Office National des Hydrocarbures et des Mines (ONHYM) are leading the project's development.

- **31 Companies Win 37 Oil and Gas Blocks in 2025 Licensing Round**

  The commercial bid phase of Nigeria's 2025 Licensing Round has concluded with 31 companies emerging as winners of 37 oil and gas blocks following a competitive bidding process.

  The exercise attracted approximately 200 bids from 143 companies, with successful bids covering onshore, shallow water, deep offshore and frontier basin assets. The successful bidders are now required to satisfy the applicable post-bid conditions, including payment of signature bonuses, before the final award of the relevant licences.

- **NUPRC Concludes 2024 Licensing Round with Award of 19 Prospecting Licences**

  The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) has awarded 19 Petroleum Prospecting Licences (PPLs) to 12 companies following the conclusion of the 2024 oil licensing round.

  The licences were presented to the awardees during the Nigeria Oil and Gas (NOG) Energy Week 2026 in Abuja and cover deep offshore, shallow water and continental shelf acreages. According to NUPRC, the awards are intended to stimulate exploration activity, attract investment and support the development of Nigeria's upstream petroleum sector.

  NUPRC urged the licensees to execute their approved work programmes, meet their financial commitments and comply with applicable statutory and contractual obligations, noting that licensees who fail to meet agreed work programmes within stipulated timelines risk losing their licences under the Petroleum Industry Act's drill-or-drop framework.

- **NNPC and Partners Execute Network Entry Agreements for Domestic Gas Transportation**

  NNPC Limited, through NNPC Gas Infrastructure Company Limited (NGIC), has executed Network Entry Agreements with Chevron Nigeria Limited (CNL), ANOH Gas Processing Company Limited and NNPC E&P Limited to support gas injection into Nigeria's domestic gas transportation network.

  The agreements provide the contractual framework for gas delivery operations under the Nigerian Gas Transportation Network Code and form part of the migration of legacy interconnection arrangements to the Network Code framework. In relation to CNL, the Network Entry Agreement covers the system entry point between CNL's Escravos Gas Plant and the NGIC-operated Escravos–Lagos Pipeline System, including the operational interfacing and information exchange required for gas delivery.

  According to NNPC Limited, the agreements are expected to support the injection of up to 800 million standard cubic feet of gas per day into the domestic gas transportation network.

- **NNPC and Ajaokuta Steel Sign Gas Supply Agreement to Support Steel Plant Revival**

  NNPC Limited and Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) have executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support the revitalisation of the Ajaokuta Steel Complex and expand domestic gas utilisation.

  The MoU was complemented by a 20-year Gas Sale and Aggregation Agreement between NNPC E&P Limited, the Gas Aggregation Company of Nigeria (GACN) and ASCL. Under the agreement, ASCL is expected to receive 3 million standard cubic feet per day of firm contract volumes and 47 million standard cubic feet per day of interruptible contract volumes for use as feedstock for the power plant servicing the steel complex.

- **NNPC and Gas for Africa Launch Gas and Power Infrastructure Map 2026**

  The Gas for Africa Programme, in partnership with NNPC Limited, has unveiled the Nigeria Gas and Power Infrastructure Map 2026, described as the first comprehensive update of Nigeria's gas and power infrastructure mapping in more than a decade.

The map provides a consolidated overview of key gas and power assets, major projects and investment opportunities across the energy value chain. The initiative aligns with the Federal Government's Decade of Gas programme, which seeks to expand the role of gas in power generation, industrialisation and infrastructure development.

- **Dangote Refinery Completes US$2.5 Billion Private Equity Placement**

  Dangote Petroleum Refinery and Petrochemicals FZE has raised approximately US$2.5 billion through a private equity placement, described by the company as Africa's largest publicly disclosed primary equity private placement by value.

  The offer was 3.7 times oversubscribed and represents the refinery's first equity capital raise involving external investors beyond its legacy shareholder base. The proceeds are expected to support the company's expansion programme, including plans to increase refining capacity from 650,000 barrels per day to 1.4 million barrels per day by 2028, while strengthening its capital structure and providing additional financial flexibility for future growth initiatives.

- **NUPRC Issues 7,942 Oil and Gas Service Permits in Q1 2026**

  The NUPRC issued 7,942 Oil and Gas Industry Service Permits (OGISP) and 49 Upstream Monitoring and Regulation (UMR) licences in the first quarter of 2026, according to the NUPRC's Upstream Service Industry Newsletter.

  The Commission also reported that Nigeria's active rig count increased to 73 rigs in March 2026, representing a 22.6% year-on-year increase. NUPRC stated that the figures reflected stable upstream service sector performance, supported by sustained licensing activity, permit processing and regulatory oversight.

Power

- **Federal Government and UNDP Commission 23 Solar Mini-Grids Across Rural Communities**

  The Federal Government of Nigeria, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), has commissioned 23 solar mini-grid projects across underserved communities in Nigeria under the Africa Mini-Grids Programme (AMP).

  The projects, implemented by the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), are expected to provide electricity to approximately 50,000 people across more than 20,000 households, while supporting businesses, schools, healthcare facilities and agricultural processing centres.

- **Edo State Issues 7MW Mini-Grid Electricity Licence to IZENERGY Limited**

  The Edo State Government has issued a 7MW mini-grid electricity licence to renewable energy company IZENERGY Limited, to support electricity access across designated communities in Edo South, Edo Central and Edo North.

  The licence was issued after the company satisfied the financial and technical requirements under the Edo State Electricity Law, 2025 (as amended). IZENERGY is expected to deploy solar-powered mini-grid systems for households, hotels, industries and commercial establishments, with the first phase delivering 1MW before scaling to the full 7MW capacity.

- **Ondo State Approves Small Hydropower Project and 7.5MW Gas-Fired Turbine**

  The Ondo State Executive Council has approved a 350kW small hydropower project at the Owena Dam and a 7.5MW gas-fired turbine to support electricity supply to government facilities across the State.

  The hydropower project is expected to be funded through a US$1.6 million grant from the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), with the State Government providing a 30% counterpart contribution. The 7.5MW gas-fired turbine is expected to be sited at the Alagbaka Commissioners' Quarters and completed within 5 months.

- **REA Commences Construction of 48 Interconnected Mini-Grids Across 19 States**

  The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) has disclosed that 48 interconnected mini-grid projects are under construction across 19 states, with the projects expected to deliver over 252,000 new and improved electricity connections.

  The projects are expected to add 213.3MWp of solar photovoltaic capacity and 166.1MWh of battery storage across the franchise areas of 10 electricity distribution companies. According to REA, the projects follow the updated mini-grid regulatory framework, which increased the permitted capacity of interconnected mini-grids from 1MW to 10MW and isolated mini-grids up to 5MW, enabling the development of larger renewable energy projects.

  REA stated that the projects are expected to support reliable electricity supply, job creation and rural development across the relevant communities.

Energy Transition

- **Federal Government Commences Decentralised Renewable Energy Projects in Adamawa and Kebbi**

  The Federal Government, through the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), has commenced the construction of 42 decentralised renewable energy projects across Adamawa and Kebbi States under its rural electrification programme.

  The projects, which are being implemented in partnership with the Adamawa and Kebbi State Governments, include 39 solar mini-grid projects in Adamawa State and a 3.5MW solar power plant, supported by 33kV power infrastructure in Kebbi State. The Adamawa projects include World Bank-funded interconnected solar mini-grids serving the Kofare, Saminaka and Mbamba communities in Yola South Local Government Area, with a combined capacity of 13.5MW.

  The projects are expected to deliver nearly 30MW of renewable electricity to households, businesses and public institutions in the benefiting communities.

- **Nigeria Joins IEA as Association Country**

  Nigeria has joined the International Energy Agency (IEA) as an Association country, following unanimous approval by the IEA Governing Board.

The new status establishes a framework for closer cooperation between Nigeria and the IEA on energy policy, data and market analysis, energy security and the energy transition. The development is also expected to strengthen Nigeria's participation in international energy dialogue.

- **Federal Government Launches E-Cooking Initiative under Clean Cooking Policy**

  The Federal Government has launched an initiative to integrate electric cooking (e-cooking) into Nigeria's Clean Cooking Policy Implementation Plan as part of efforts to expand access to clean energy and reduce reliance on traditional cooking fuels.

  The initiative, led by the Federal Ministry of Environment in collaboration with development partners, will focus on developing strategies and funding proposals to support e-cooking deployment and mobilise climate finance for sustainable cooking solutions. The Government stated that the initiative aligns with Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan and Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

- **Stakeholders Validate Draft National Hydrogen Policy**

  Stakeholders have completed the validation of Nigeria's draft National Hydrogen Policy, advancing the development of a policy framework for Nigeria's hydrogen sector.

  The draft policy was developed following regional stakeholder consultations held in Abuja, Lagos and Kano, with contributions from government institutions, industry participants, academia, civil society organisations and the private sector. The validation process received technical and coordination support from the German-Nigerian Hydrogen Office (H2-diplo), funded through the International Climate Initiative and implemented by GIZ.

Mining

- **Federal Government Receives Report on Critical Minerals for Clean Energy Transition**

  The Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development has received a report from the Council for Critical Minerals Development in the Global South identifying Nigeria's lithium, copper and bauxite deposits as strategic minerals for clean energy technologies and domestic industrialisation.

  The report examines Nigeria's projected demand for solar photovoltaic systems, battery storage technologies and electric vehicles against current mineral production and trade patterns and identifies gaps in the country's mineral value chain. The Ministry stated that it will work with the Council to develop a mineral-to-manufacturing localisation roadmap aimed at increasing domestic processing and manufacturing across the critical minerals value chain.

  The report follows the Ministry's announcement of the discovery of a polymetallic mineral province in Kaduna State, verified by the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency, containing platinum group metals, gold, nickel, copper, lithium and rare earth elements.

- **Federal Government Earmarks Itakpe Iron Ore Reserves for Ajaokuta Steel Plant**

  The Federal Government is reportedly retaining approximately 3 billion tonnes of unmined iron ore deposits in Itakpe, Kogi State, for use by the Ajaokuta Steel Plant once the plant becomes operational.

  According to the National Steel Raw Materials Exploration Agency (NSRMEA), large-scale mining of the Itakpe iron ore deposits remains dependent on the revival of Ajaokuta Steel Plant as a major offtaker. The Ministry of Steel Development is also engaging international partners to attract foreign investment and technology to support the development of Nigeria's steel sector.

- **Solid Minerals Ministry and NIMC Partner on Digital Governance in Mining Sector**

  The Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals Development and the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) have commenced collaboration aimed at strengthening digital governance, security and reforms within Nigeria's solid minerals sector.

  The collaboration is intended to support evidence-based policymaking, improve regulatory oversight, enhance licensing processes and promote investment through the use of digital identity and data management systems. The parties also highlighted the role of the NIMC Act, 2026 in providing a strengthened legal framework for Nigeria's digital identity ecosystem and supporting improved public service delivery.

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