

**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, NNPC STAFF COOPERATIVE MULTIPURPOSE SOCIETY, LAGOS MR. J.A. OJEYEMI AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY HELD ON JULY 10, 2014 AT REGENCY HALL, IKEJA, LAGOS**

Let me begin by thanking God Almighty for sparing our lives throughout year 2013 and let Him make year 2014, a year of great accomplishments and advancement for us all.

On behalf of the Management Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to this 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society. Your presence at this important occasion is a testimony of your strong support and faith in us and this will inspire us to achieve newer milestones of success.

As it is customary, I hereby present a summary of developments in the operating environment that affected our operations and performance score card for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013. In addition, I will share with you the outlook for the year 2014.

**THE ECONOMY**

Overall, the global economy remained on a weak and uncertain footing throughout the year. In effect, the much anticipated turnaround has been markedly subdued and slow to take root in a substantial manner.

The global economy, which grew by in 2013 first quarter, was mainly driven by the emerging markets. However, maintaining this growth rate was a challenge in the face of increased geopolitical impediments and deeper-than-expected complexities in a globally integrated economic environment.

The emerging markets felt the pain of a weak and reduced demand from the global markets. After demonstrating great resilience in the face of the global meltdown in the initial years, the Nigerian growth story has lurched in the last couple of years and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria expanded in the fourth quarter of 2013. Weakening of the manufacturing sector, stubbornly high inflationary pressures and structural bottlenecks have all the potential to adversely impact investment and growth.

However, with the evidenced measures taken by the Federal Government of Nigeria that is, the government intent and action to stem the ebb in growth is reassuring and this gives us reason to look ahead with sufficient optimism.

## **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

The introduction of Credit Risk Ratio (CRR) by the Central Bank of Nigeria adversely affected our surplus, a burden, which the Society did not pass on to the members hoping that it would be reduced according to the CBN Governor's statement. However in spite of this, the Society recorded a surplus of N142,488,822.00 and a marginal increase of N1,185,355,443.00 in its asset base from N 7,322,879,235.00 to N8,508,234,678.00.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS RECORDED**

- Commissioning of ultra-modern office complex comprising of banking hall, office apartment, consumer shop and additional parking space.
- Face-lifting of Secretariat premises with the renovation of old building, provision of new wider gate, interlock stones and a new water treatment plant.
- Electrification of MEGA Station
- Opening of Lagos Consumer Shop
- Payment of 2012 dividend
- Purchase of a new generator
- Increase in membership
- Increase in loans/withdrawals granted to members
- Training and re-training of members of staff
- Sustaining the improvement on payment of member's request
- Procurement of vehicles for members
- Federal Government approval of Lower Niger River Basin facilities for agricultural purposes.

## **ON-GOING PROJECTS**

- Construction of Shopping Mall in Abuja
- Partnership with APT, Israel on aquaculture for import replacement and export
- Recovery of Idimu land, Lagos State
- Recovery of Papalanto land
- Full online and real time transaction of Society's business process

## **THE COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT**

The International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) has released a blueprint for the Cooperative decade (2011-2020), which sets to direct activities of cooperatives globally on the bases of business initiatives. The aim of the document is to create awareness on the importance and position of cooperative organizations as enduring business models. The vision is that we adopt the procedures of the blueprint in the conduct of our businesses so that by 2020, cooperative societies would be able to meet high global standard.

Also, be informed that the ICA has also adopted the word "Coop" as its logo, to be recognized by all cooperative societies. Our Society has adopted the marquee for all our activities to identify with the ICA.

The ambitious plan in the Blueprint – the "2020 vision" is for the cooperative form of business by 2020 to become:

- The acknowledged leader in economic, social and environmental sustainability
- The enterprise model preferred by people
- The fastest growing form of enterprise

The 2020 vision seeks to build on the achievements of the International Year of Cooperatives and the resilience demonstrated by the cooperative movement since the great financial collapse. By pursuing the strategy outlined in the blueprint, the ICA aims to make 2011-2020 a Cooperative decade of confident growth.

## **APPEAL TO NNPC MANAGEMENT**

On behalf of our Society and other cooperative societies in NNPC Group, we appeal to NNPC Management to promptly remit the deductions made from our members' salaries as this will go a long way to enhance our operations. The late remittances which we are currently experiencing do not augur for us as they hamper of our service delivery to our members.

## **2014 OUTLOOK**

I want to assure all of us that the year 2014 shall be better than the year under review in view of the new strategies and pursuits we have embarked upon. We shall remain focused on strengthening our core activities and at the same time prioritize our opening up of new growth avenues.

## **CONCLUSION**

Fellow cooperators, fulfilling our obligations is the sure way, by which we can bring about the cooperative ethics and practices as it is done all over the world so that together we can continue to actualize the dictum of "Each for all, all for each".

Kindly be assured that there is nothing impossible to achieve on your behalf, based on our faith in God and resilience to fulfilling our mandate, if we continue to do our bit. We will continue to work hard to satisfy your demands. In that order, we shall continue to soar higher and higher.

Let me conclude, on behalf of Management Committee and staff of our Society by conveying our sincere regards to you, our valued members, for your continuous support and trust. You have been and continue to be the motivating force behind all our pursuits which are aimed at creating enduring values for you as well as for the nation.

I acknowledge the unstinting support and guidance from the Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, LASCOFED, Management of NNPC and its subsidiaries without which our sustained quest for excellence would have been more difficult. I also acknowledge the continuous support and unwavering commitment of our founding fathers, the past Excos of the Society and other stakeholders. To my fellow Management and Supervisory Committee members, I appreciate you so much. You have been a pillar of support and strength to me. To the members of staff, I thank you for your loyalty and dedication.

Finally, to our invited guests, members of the press and other well-wishers, I appreciate your presence. Once again, thank you all, God bless you all.

Long live NNPC CMS Lagos

Long live Lagos State Cooperative Federation

Long live Cooperative Federation of Nigeria

Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria

**J.A. Ojeyemi**