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CHEVRON PENGASSAN DIGEST

A quarterly publication by the Chevron Branch of thePetroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria

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Editorial

Comrades

It is our utmost pleasure to bring you this edition of the Chevron PENGASSAN Digest as we navigate the ever-changing route of the Covid-19 pandemic. This period is one filled with a lot of uncertainty; nothing is guaranteed, especially health and life. And so, nothing is more important to all of us currently, than doing our bit to keep the health of our loved ones and ourselves.

This is also a period that opens our eyes to the realities of our life in the workplace. Everyone is vulnerable but the most vulnerable are the ones who have not only to worry about their health and life, but also about the possibility of not having a means of livelihood due to decisions taken on how to best run the business. We have seen how easy it can be, for Management to 'attack' our welfare when the opportunity presents. The plight of our non-unionized colleagues tells us where we should always stand. No man is an island. We all need each other. Let us spare a thought for this.

The quarantine experience is as novel as the coronavirus and some of our comrades have accepted to share their experiences. In the face of the challenges facing the industry presently, the menace of job offshoring is also there to further impact our collective health as country and as a Trade Union. Management has also hinted at a plan for another round of severance despite the critically lean work force. Together, we will weather the storms ahead and we can only come out stronger on the other side of it.

The Branch Chairman, Comrade Ete Oyegbanren is our Executive of the Quarter and we encourage you to read through his interview and send your thoughts about it to him. Also remember that our dear Deputy President, Comrade Frank Ufuoma Esanubi is still very much in the race for the Presidency of PENGASSAN. We count on you to support this noble ambition for the further upliftment of Chevron PENGASSAN.

Finally, we mourn the death of our dear members, Comrades Leke Monday Adeyemi and Abiodun Adeniran. May their souls rest in peace. Amen

Happy reading



Editor-in-Chief

Branch Chairman's Corner

Comrades,

Solidarity greetings to all members and Comrades in the struggle in this difficult period of the coronavirus pandemic. We all must remember our loved ones and take all health preventive measures to ensure we are safe. Please wash your hands frequently, use hand sanitizers and maintain social distancing and use the mask where social distancing is not possible.

I appreciate all our members working from home, all those in our field locations who have kept our operations going with the difficult quarantine procedures and especially our Comrades at Onne. We also appreciate all our frontline workers in the medical group for their support to us all.

We have changed our work schedule temporarily to 28/28 pending when the Covid-19 pandemic will be under control. We will continue to ensure that our members welfare is given the priority it deserves, notwithstanding all the challenges around us during this period.

Our PENGASSAN Zonal and National Delegates Conference in have been shifted to July and August respectively due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will do our best to represent the Branch at all levels during these elections working together with other branches within the larger PENGASSAN family.

Once again on behalf of the BEC I wish to say thank you for you continued and unalloyed support of the Branch leadership team. Stay safe and healthy. Solidarity! Forever!

Till we see again next quarter, God bless.



Branch Affairs

Field Rotation During Covid-19: First Quarantine Experience- Comrade Ken Chinedu

The unprecedented time occasioned by the Covid-19 pandemic presented the world with various challenges to normal human activities. As world and industry leaders were making decisions to minimize the spread of the coronavirus infection, special focus was on essentials – medical supplies, food, energy – needed to sustain the world while combating the pandemic. The Oil & Gas industry plays a major role in providing these essentials globally. This was succinctly captured by Mike Wirth, Chevron Chairman and CEO, thus "as the coronavirus challenges the health of millions of people and the economic engine that sustains our way of life, Chevron employees are delivering the energy needed to power homes and hospitals, transport medical patients and supplies and maintain the daily essentials the move life forward".

To sustain field production operations, NMA management and the BEC of Chevron Pengassan reached an agreement in early April on a new 28/28 field rotation schedule, inclusive of a 14-day quarantine and screening period prior to flying to Escravos. On the evening of April 9, 2020, I was informed that I was on the list of first batch of rotators to initiate the new schedule via quarantine on April 10, 2020. Without foreknowledge of details of quarantine, I packed items I imagined I would need. Lagos state was on government-imposed total lockdown during this period and pickup logistics was as best as can be expected at that outset. We eventually got to the quarantine location in the evening.

On arrival at the quarantine venue, we were briefed by a medic and issued a medical pack containing hand washing soap, hand sanitizer, digital thermometer, sanitizer wipes and face mask. The rules were always to stay indoors and avoid contact; face mask to be worn whenever outside the room, e.g. during room cleaning. Temperature readings were to be taken 12-hourly and results given to the medic via phone. briefing, we were shown to our rooms and the quarantine proper began.

The ominous thought of being solitarily confined in a room for 14 days was paled by the fear of possible covid-19 infection in an unfamiliar location catered by persons of unknown isolation status. Initially, I was apprehensive receiving room service items from the hotel staff, given their unknown public interaction status. After learning through enquiry that the staff had been isolated at the hotel before government imposed state-wide lockdown, I became less apprehensive and concentrated more on the social distancing needs of the room service deliveries. In normal times, dropping food tray by the door and stepping back may have been viewed as strange, but the covid-19 era is an extraordinary time.

With more confidence on the isolation effectiveness, the mind eased but then the solitude of the quarantine became apparent. That was when internet was most important in keeping in touch with family via video calls and conferencing, being abreast of news and events via social media, entertainment via movies and tv shows, learning via eBooks, podcasts and online courses. Exercise during the quarantine is also very important, to stay healthy, which is the overall intent.

It was really a critical period of uncertainties and quick on-the-spot decisions. As can be expected, the telegram group chat for Escravos chapter was active during this time as everyone wanted to be abreast of events. The Escravos Chapter executives must be commended as they were on hand to provide clarifications and support and engage management to resolve issues as necessary. It is vital that the NMA management resolves outstanding issues around the new rotation. After the schedule as agreed with the BEC so that employees can focus on the demands of operations in the field.



Ken Chinedu

My Covid Experience as an Offshore worker- Comrade Ogbonnaya Nwosu

When the news of the novel coronavirus filtered in, little did many of us know how deeply it would impact our lives in the short and the long term. What started like a temporary issue suddenly gave a new definition to our lives. We now live with the obvious reality.

The impact on the business community did not spare the oil and gas industry as it was welcomed with prices that went south. From getting stuck at work to remaining indoors at home and a new work schedule; every attempt was made to keep personnel safe and the facilities running. Many of us have used this singular opportunity to have a taste of 28 days at work. Others have also had an unplanned equivalent number of days at home. This truly has re-shaped our lives and the job we hold close and dear to our hearts.

In the middle of all this was the 'quarantine experience'. I still remember how the mood in my family changed, when on that fateful Sunday, while we were all at the lunch table, the call came in. My supervisor called to inform me that I will be picked the next day for an eight-day long period of quarantine. For a brief second, it looked as if that was a death sentence as everyone on the table lost their appetite. It all dawned on all of us that the situation was getting closer home. For a minimum of five weeks, daddy would be away from home for the first time in years. For many of us on 14/14 schedule, that also would be the lengthiest stretch of time we have ever been away from family.

Then came the long-awaited Monday afternoon. The Company driver called to inform me of his presence in my Close. I peeped through the window to confirm. Parked behind the well-maintained 18-seater Hiace bus was an escort vehicle with some security details. I felt the probing eyes on me as I walked towards the waiting vehicle. I was handed a face mask and had my palms wiped with the liquid hand sanitizer before I got in. I wondered what would be going through the minds of my neighbors who witnessed the whole thing. I only hoped no one was making a video recording of it. That sort of video would be 'delicious fodder' for any of the many ever active social media platforms especially when laced with the news that I was a Covid-19 patient. It would take ages to convince even my gateman that all was well even as I told him so when he enquired. Before that day, 'oga' had always been picked early in the morning, and without security escort.

While driving along to pick my co-travelers, I immediately had a different perspective on life. Even while in the bus, because of the face mask, unless your very good friend gave you a sign, you would mistake him for a stranger. Everyone in the bus maintained their cool, social distancing was also observed. There were neither whispers nor discussions which made the journey even more boring. I was sure we all shared similar thoughts deep in our hearts as we reminisced on what the next 8 days of isolation would look like. The hitherto busy Lagos roads were virtually empty which made for a smoother ride. Who would have ever believed that Lagos roads could be this free with teams of security personnel manning many of the numerous junctions unperturbed by the regular "danfo" drivers who paid no attention to traffic signs?

After picking the rest of the passengers on the manifest, we headed to the quarantine center. Many of us had prepared our minds following the tips received from those who had passed through the process before us. Having a reliable source of mobile data was primal and non-negotiable. Others were a well loaded computer (games and movies) to keep one company, an ample supply of preferred toiletries and medications, and non-perishable food items (mainly snacks and beverages). Book addicts were not left out as they did not forget to come along with copies of some choice novels and magazines.

To be continued on page 8...



Ogbonnaya Nwosu

Health Corner

Tuberculosis: What you need to know - Omiwade Modupe HR Medical

Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious bacterial disease caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis. "Infectious" means that it can be contracted from other people or transmitted to other people. This bacterium commonly affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body such as spine, bone, kidney larynx etc.

A person with tuberculosis infection has successfully built up a wall against TB germs to keep them from hurting him or her. This "wall" is the person's immune system that fights germs. While a person with tuberculosis disease has been unsuccessful in building up a wall against TB germs to keep them from hurting him or her. The person with tuberculosis disease is ill.

TB is spread by aerosol, from people with active TB. When they cough, sneeze, speak or spit, they expel infectious aerosol droplets and people nearby inhale the bacteria and become infected if their immune system is weak. About one-quarter of the world's population have latent TB, which means people have been infected by TB bacteria but are not (yet) ill with the disease and cannot transmit the disease.

Who is at risk?

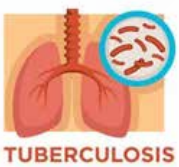
All age groups are at risk.

TB is more common in developing countries. People who are infected with HIV, undernourished individuals and people with depressed or compromised immune systems are more at risk of developing active TB. Alcohol use disorder and tobacco smoking increase the risk of TB disease

Although TB is the world's greatest infectious killer of women of reproductive age and the leading cause of death among people with HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis is curable and preventable.

Symptoms of active TB disease include:

- Continuous cough lasting more than three weeks
- Fever
- Sweating at night even when the weather is cold
- Loss of appetite
- Unexplained weight loss
- Tiredness
- Chest pains
- Other symptoms like: Back pc



abdomen, blood stained sputum etc. may occur.

Diagnosis

A complete medical evaluation for TB must include a medical history, a chest X-ray, and a physical examination. A TB sputum test involving microbiological smears and cultures and a chest X-ray will help the doctor in making a diagnosis of TB disease

Treatment

TB is curable. TB treatment is available in form of Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS). After two weeks of such treatment, people with non-resistant active TB generally cease to be contagious. Active drug-susceptible TB disease requires treatment with antimicrobial drugs for 6 to 24 months (depending on the body site) to eliminate the TB germ from the body. A person on treatment for TB disease must complete the full combination therapy to prevent multidrug-resistant TB from developing.

Adequate information, counselling and support for treatment adherence is very important because of pill burden and tendency for drug resistance. Healthy diet is very vital.

Prevention

TB is an airborne infection; it is important to:

- Practice cough etiquette
- Always dispose sputum hygienically
- Always dispose used tissues appropriately
- Practice regular hand washing with soap and water
- Use personal respiratory protective devices
- Ventilate the room; air rooms shared with persons with a cough
- Ensure rooms are well ventilated
- Allow plenty of sunlight into rooms; this helps to disinfect such places
- Reduce or avoid overcrowding
- Give Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccination to newborn babies soon after birth
- Test a person with symptoms of untreated active TB; start treatment if confirmed positive
- Once a person with TB commences treatment, they should complete the full dosage of drugs
- Eat healthy meals; maintain healthy lifestyle
- Seek early diagnosis and treatment



Knowledge Planet

Job Offshoring: Its Implications for Your Job

Corporations all over the world are consistently committed to lowering cost of production in order to maximize profit. In their quest to achieve this goal; several options are explored, including some sinister and covert means. One of such methods is JOB OFFSHORING. Job Offshoring is basing of some of a Company's work activities overseas that are hitherto done locally.

Offshoring is the dark side of globalization-money, goods, energy, waste, people are sometimes offshored to avoid local laws, taxes, rules, regulations etc. Jobs offshored may not be visible to the local employees of the Company or citizens of the victim country because the operation is mostly well rooted in a covert plan, leveraging digital and cloud technology with complex legal and financial structures.

A key implication of offshoring is the widening of the knowledge gap between the countries involved. In some cases, majority of the advanced technical jobs are taken up by foreigners. Rather than adopt a knowledge transfer model, the companies simply recruit foreigners to do the job remotely or bring them over to execute the job without knowledge sharing, resulting in knowledge gap between foreigners and Nigerians who are on the same job. Consequently, as companies offshore their local jobs in Nigeria, they are simultaneously offshoring Nigeria's GDP, tax base, income and career opportunities for Nigerian citizens.

While offshoring may provide some respite to the benefiting multinational firms, income not spent where it is generated depletes local economies and contributes to global poverty in a broader sense. It is more worrisome to see that offshoring is not just growing fast but also that the method adopted by companies are covertly and seamless executed to the detriment of the local employees and their country. This partly explains why severance packages are frequent because employees who were in such jobs are no longer needed because their jobs, and in some cases, their entire department have been secretly moved abroad.

Unfortunately, this trend is growing rapidly, unknown to many. Dean Davison of Meta Group research confirms that offshoring is growing 20 per cent to 25 per cent per annum, with little prospects of slowing down. Sadly, this ugly practice is gaining root in Nigeria at this critical time that the country is facing its worst economic situation in decades. A major casualty of offshoring is the telecommunications sector of the economy where several professionals were sacked as reported by Punch Newspaper in December 1, 2016.

In NMA Business Unit, the handwriting is already on the wall. The practice is gradually taking firm root, especially in IT, Drilling and Human Resources. A concerned NMA employee aptly articulated this pathetic trend thus;" basic jobs such as Help Desk, flights and other logistic bookings usually excellently done by Nigerians have been partly moved abroad. All our servers and almost all applications are now being hosted in the cloud and managed from outside Nigeria. After decades of operations, Equipment health remote monitoring technology (MPSC) is still firmly rooted outside. It will only take a little push before that unit goes into extinction in this Business unit. Remote monitoring and control of drilling and well heads and bottom holes are also partly managed abroad".

One wonders how the Company is saving cost by moving basic jobs done by Nigerians and paid for with the 'hapless' Naira to foreign lands where same jobs are paid for with the 'almighty' Dollar. Clearly, this is a well-orchestrated plan of "paying Peter to rob Paul".

To halt the impending colossal loss of Nigerian jobs, a review of Nigerian relevant industrial laws against the jobs already offshored, including those being planned is urgently required. The Union as always will continue to monitor the trend and respond appropriately.

Solidarity Forever!



Comrade Koloh Edwin,
Lagos Chapter Chairman.

Know Your Executives

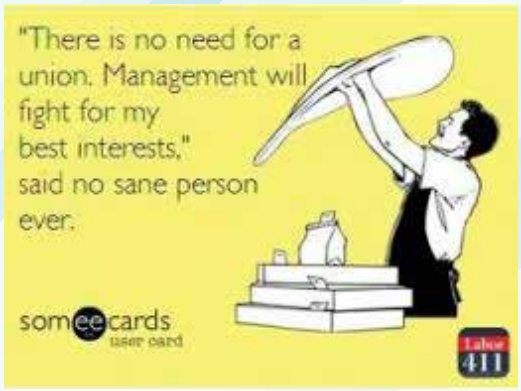
Good morning to you our Branch Chairman, Comrade Ete Oyegbanren and thanks for creating time out of your busy schedule to provide us more insight into your personality.
Opening Answer:
Q1. Comrade Ete, your members want to know more about you.
A1: I was born in April, studied geology and currently employed as an operator with EGTL trained in South Africa along with other colleagues. I worked at the North Warehouse before returning to EGTL, I am currently a Lead Operator with PWU Unit of EGTL plant and serving as the current Branch Chairman of Chevron Branch of PENGASSAN.

Q2. How long have you been in the forefront of Unionism?
A2: I would say since I joined the company. I participated in different Aluta struggles (Not forgetting my union experiences in University), but first became an elected union official when I contested and was elected Escravos Chapter PRO in 2014. Then in August 2014 I was elected Escravos Chapter Chairman during a CEC bye election and thereafter, I was elected Chevron Branch Chairman in 2017.I was re-elected Branch chairman this year, thanks to the wonderful Comrades within the Branch.
Q3. What is your motivation for accepting to serve as Branch Chairman?
A3: It is the hope to bring about a change and improvement in our relationship with Management and ensure workers are given their dues. It is to inspire Comrades that we can have a positive impact in our workplace and in our generation. I am also motivated by the desire to uplift fellow workers in their aspiration to achieve work life balance while contributing to National development. I choose to serve a second term as Branch Chairman to ensure that we can maximize the gains of my first term in office and mentor others who will take over to do better than me in the future.
Q4. What are your hobbies?
A4: I enjoy playing indoor games, board games, watching movies, reading books and serving humanity

Q5. How would you measure a successful tenure at the end of your service as Branch Chairman?
A5: I would measure it by the number of persons that were promoted via stagnation promotion and the many persons we would have protected their jobs and created jobs for, including contractors. I will also measure it with the sustenance of a Branch that remains solidly united behind future BEC.
Q6. Some words of wisdom to members of your core constituency in CNL?
A6: Support and encourage the Union, and the leaders at all levels; in the units, chapter, branch, zones and National, as the Union is the only voice that can make management change course to favor the workers. Let us also always depend on God to lead our executives aright.



Comrade Ete Oyegbanren
Branch Chairman CNL PENGASSAN



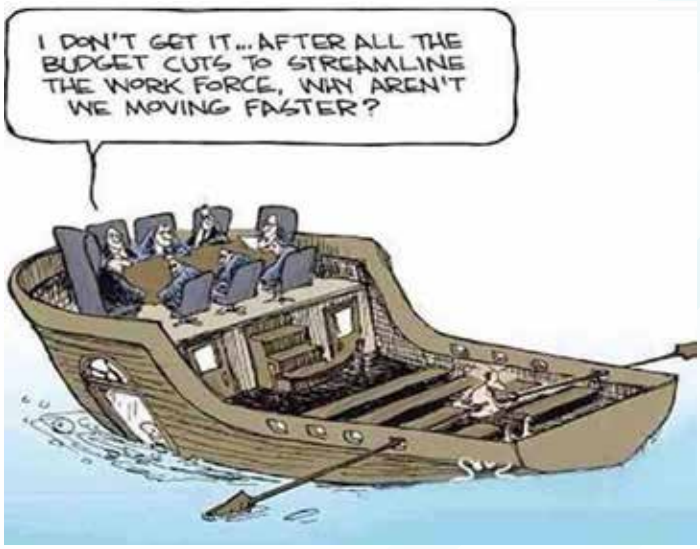


Titbits

continued from page 4...

We arrived at the first quarantine center somewhere in the heart of Lagos Island. Two of us alighted while the driver continued the journey with the rest of the passengers. I had the wrong impression that all the passengers were meant for the same center. Check in was very seamless, and so day one began. The size of my room was a bit on the smaller side, but it was tidy and cool. The TV was equipped with a few channels. Power failed occasionally but got restored in the shortest possible time whenever it did. Food came at the right times except on a few occasions when I had to follow up with a call. Daily tick-off of breakfast, dinner and lunch soon became the new norm. There was surplus supply of fruit juice at two packs per day, but I had to minimize consumption to watch my health. I also found time to join the rest of the batch in the daily WhatsApp guided exercises since the gym and swimming pool were not available for our use.

Because of the apparent 'downtime' an hour seemed like days. You sleep at 10 am and after thinking you had slept for 6 hours; you wake up to see that it is just few minutes to 11 am of the same day! Goodness gracious. Only once did I make use of the given opportunity to spend 30 minutes outside for a rewind, and to appreciate nature. I shared that single opportunity with my close friend and colleague, Abdulazeez. We had a fair share of discussion before someone who obviously had been timing us notified us that it was time to move back to our rooms.

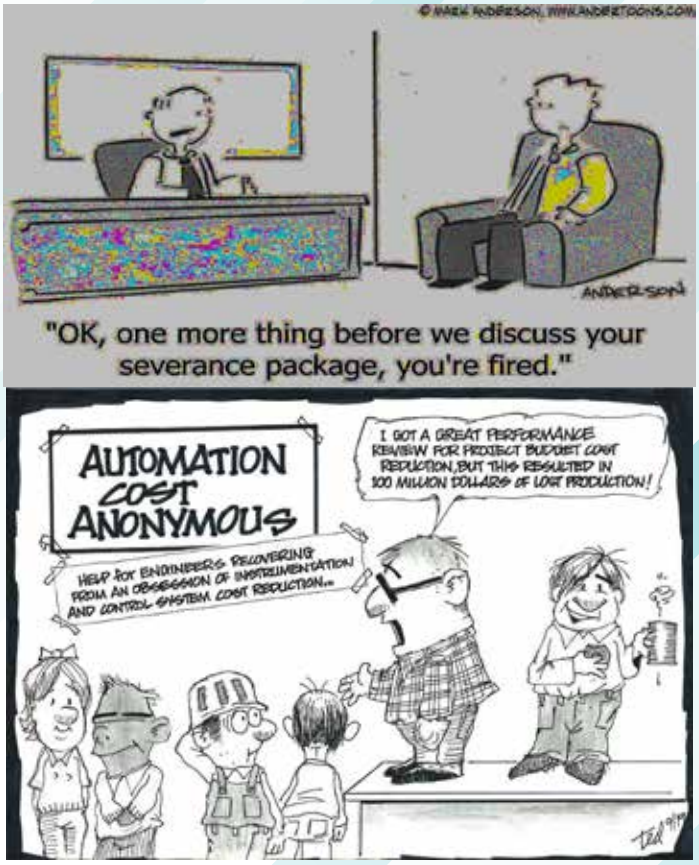


The quarantine period offered me the rarest opportunity for deep reflection and meditation. I found time to really appreciate this one thing called freedom. So many crazy thoughts passed through my mind. I thought about God, birth and death, and asked myself why we are on this earth- and why, after all the efforts and struggles, we leave everything behind. Could all this be one of the signs of the biblical end-time? "Not yet ooh, my kids are still young", I muted to my own hearing. I thought about the crash of oil prices with the vast oceans reported to be littered with tankers of unsold cargos - the implications on our weak economy and on the company's workforce. I also reflected on how powerful politicians and others serving long term sentences cope in jail.

The days dragged on but soon, the eighth day finally arrived. It looked like the days before it with the sun rising from the east and setting in the west. We all got tested and were certified free of Covid-19 prior to the journey to Escravos by noon. What a wonderful cycle!

Coronavirus is here with us, always stay safe and maintain the best of hygiene.

Nwosu, Ogbonnaya



Pictures





Warri Zone Event
CNL PENGASSAN Branch Executives at Symposium organized by PENGASSAN, Warri Zone on March 19, 2020 at Benin City.



Lagos TUC Women
Comrade Kate Anyadimaju, Branch WIP Chairperson, being sworn in as the Lagos State Trade Union Congress Women Commission Treasurer on June 16, 2020.



PHC Zone
Cross section of PENGASSAN Executives at a 2-day workshop organized by PENGASSAN Port Harcourt Zone held in Owerri on the 5th and 6th of March 2020.



Comrade Bridget Ofomaja with sympathizers during the burial of her husband, Professor Augustine E. Ofomaja on June 6, 2020



" Our severance packages are so generous we can't afford to let anyone go. "

Pictures



Portharcourt Zone
CNL PENGASSAN Branch Executives at a 2-day workshop organized by PENGASSAN Port Harcourt Zone held in Owerri on the 5th and 6th of March 2020.



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Please use the account number: 0039595525 (Access Diamond Bank) to support this project
Solidarity! Forever!

Obituary



Comrade Leke Monday Adeyemi
Comrade Leke Monday Adeyemi, CNL PENGASSAN member (Escravos Chapter) who died on Monday May 4, 2020.



Obituary



Comrade Biodun Adeniran
Late Comrade Biodun Adeniran, CNL PENGASSAN member (Lagos Chapter) who died on Saturday June 20, 2020.

