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## The Sports Fiesta Edition







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## From the Editor-in-Chief



We dedicate this edition of *NNPC Update* to the just concluded NNPC Sports Fiesta. If you were at the Moshood Abiola Stadium and felt the collective positive human energy that left all of us on a high, you will understand why.

Here's saying a huge congratulations to our over 300 sports men and women who participated in the fiesta—and, of course, to the rest of us who cheered from the sidelines and made the games even more exciting.

With the Sports Fiesta now concluded, all eyes are set on the upcoming National Oil and Gas Industry Games (NOGIG 2024) slated for April in Abuja. We won the title four years ago, and I know our sports men and women are eager to defend the championship and maintain our status as a powerhouse in sporting arena within the industry. The anticipation is high as teams gear up to compete in this prestigious event, highlighting the importance of sports in fostering unity and teamwork.

If you were not with us at the fiesta, make sure to be there at NOGIG 2024 to cheer our teams to victory!

Have a jolly good read!

*Olufemi Soneye*





# Okocha, Amokachi Light Up NNPC Sports Fiesta Final

...As Team Integrity Tops Tournament's Medal Table  
...We Are Ready for NOGIG, Says CHRO

By Aliyu Abubakar

Nigeria's finest footballing superstars on Friday set the Moshooad Abiola National Stadium alight in a thrilling display of talent which drew the curtains on a week-long 13th NNPC Ltd. Sports Fiesta, won by the Company's Team Integrity.

In a pulsating encounter against an NNPC Selected Football Team, the national soccer icons, led by the legendary Austin Jay Jay Okocha relived the great football memories for hundreds of fans present at the stadium, snatching a 2-1 win against their host.





Emmanuel Emenike scored in the first half of a novelty game for the ex-Eagles stars, but NNPC's Abdullahi Aliyu equalized for the host before Julius Aghahowa snatched a late winner, after receiving a sublime pass from the magical Okocha.

Other national football legends who dazzled fans at the stadium include Daniel Amokachi, Tijani Babangida, Garba Lawal, Sunday Mbah, Alloy Agu and Nollywood Superstar, Osita IHEME.

competing in 13 games, namely: football, basketball, volleyball, badminton, chess, scrabble, golf, squash, 8-ball pool, tennis, lawn tennis, swimming and athletics.

The grand finale also saw the NNPC Ltd.'s Team Integrity (representing Benin and Port Harcourt Zones) clinching the overall trophy after comfortably leading the overall medal's table with 21 gold, 15 silver and 18 bronze medals. Team Sustainability (representing Abuja and Kaduna Zones) took 17 gold, 21

the sports fiesta, saying that it was aimed at ensuring physical fitness, fostering teamwork as well as improving productivity among employees.

"At NNPC Ltd, we have since identified physical and mental fitness as critical elements towards top performance by employees. We believe in the welfare of our staff and we cannot expect them to deliver on their jobs without being mentally and physically fit," Kyari added.

Earlier in his speech, the Chief

# 13<sup>TH</sup> NNPC SPORTS FIESTA



In an interview shortly after the novelty game, Okocha lauded NNPC Ltd's deep passion and commitment towards sports development in Nigeria, describing it as "unwavering" and worthy of emulation by other corporate entities.

The week-long 13th NNPC Sports Fiesta had over three hundred NNPC staff

silver and 21 bronze to emerge second, while Team Excellence (representing Lagos and Warri Zones) won 17 gold, 18 silver and 22 bronze to clinch third. Shortly before kicking off the final football game in which Team Integrity defeated Team Sustainability 3-1, the Group CEO of NNPC, Mele Kyari reiterated the significance of

Corporate Communications Officer, Olufemi Soneye, said attracting some of Africa's finest football icons to the NNPC Sports Fiesta was not only a mark of sporting excellence, but a testimony to the fact that the company's brand has truly come of age. Under the theme "Healthy Workforce, Productive





Organisation”, the 13th NNPC Sports Fiesta also saw the NNPC Ltd announcing its readiness to defend its crown at the forthcoming Nigeria Oil & Gas Industry Games (NOGIG) in April 2024.

Over the years, the company has been a serial winner of the NOGIG Games, which also features other participants from international oil companies operating in Nigeria and key agencies under the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

During the last edition of NOGIG held in 2020 at the Teslim Balogun Stadium in Lagos, NNPC Ltd emerged the overall winner of the tournament, carting home 48 laurels, which included 13 gold, 16 silver and 19 bronze medals.

“We are ready to take on the Industry at the NOGIG 2024. The mesmerizing display of skills and talent you have seen here today was no fluke. Our athletes are more than ever before determined to retain our No. 1 position at the tournament,” Mrs. Fatima Yakubu, NNPC Ltd’s Chief Human Resources Officer said.







# Team Integrity Shines at the Football Field

By Ayobami Abdullahi

After a fiercely contested football match final with breathtaking display of skill and determination, Team Integrity, a force forged from the talents of Port Harcourt and Benin zones, etched their name in NNPC's football history with a stunning victory at the 13th NNPC Sports Fiesta.

Their clash against the formidable Team Sustainability, representing Kaduna and Abuja zones, unfolded as a dramatic narrative of

underdog tenacity prevailing against the odds, leaving spectators spellbound.

The first half of the match was a tightly contested affair, with both teams locked in a stalemate, neither yielding ground nor conceding goals. The intensity escalated in the second half, but Najib Tanimu of Team Sustainability broke the deadlock with an early goal. However, Wisdom Olembe, the indomitable co-captain of Team





Integrity, rose to the occasion, unleashing a strike that found the back of the net, leveling the score and igniting hope among their supporters.

Biolu Sampson, a pillar of strength for Team Integrity, seized the lucky streak, delivering a goal that propelled his team into the lead. With the clock ticking down, Charles Uyi Oloton, the astute co-captain and revered NNPC National Team Captain, delivered a masterful winning goal in the dying minutes of the match, sealing Team Integrity's triumph.

The defeat of Team Sustainability at the hands of Team Integrity serves as a testament to the unpredictable nature of sports, where

determination and grit can often trump seemingly insurmountable odds. Despite entering the final as the clear favorites, Team Sustainability was unable to withstand the relentless onslaught of Team Integrity, who displayed a level of resilience and skill that belied their underdog status.

The unexpected outcome of the final serves as a reminder that in the world of sports, anything is possible, and that the true essence of competition lies in the journey, the challenges faced, and the indomitable spirit of those who dare to dream.







# Excellence Trumps Sustainability in Basketball Showdown

By Ayobami Abdullahi



In a display of sheer basketball prowess and unyielding team spirit, Team Excellence triumphed over Team Sustainability to clinch the championship title in a thrilling finale at the 13th NNPC Sports Fiesta.

From the onset, the game promised to be memorable, with Team Sustainability taking an early lead in the first quarter. As the game progressed, Team Excellence continued to demonstrate their skill and resolve, steadily widening the point gap in each subsequent

quarter. Despite the valiant efforts of Team Sustainability led by their captain, Carlton Princewill and star players like Douglas Enejoh, Adekunle Olumide and others, they were unable to bridge the divide.

In the final moments of the game, with the score tied at 36-36, it was the players from Team Excellence who rose to the occasion. Oghenejobo Ernest and Captain Ijomah Emmanuel each scored a crucial point, putting their team ahead. Then, in a stunning display





of skill, Sanusi Abdulkadir sank a 2-point shot in the last 6 seconds, sealing the victory for Team Excellence.

Oyewole Adebisi, coach of the winning team, expressed his satisfaction, describing the victory as a testament to the team's culture of excellence. As the NNPC Basketball coach, he emphasized the importance of fundamental skills, stating that rigorous training and strategic coaching have been pivotal in their success. Adebisi affirmed the team's unwavering commitment to securing gold medals, highlighting their dedication to training despite the demands of office duties.

Oghenejobo Ernest, who was named the Most Valuable Player of the basketball tournament attributed his success to dedication, perseverance, and the support of his teammates and coaches.

Co-Captain of Team Excellence, Ijomah Emmanuel, expressed immense joy and gratitude for the team's gold medal win, acknowledging the dedication and hard work of his teammates. His Co-Captain, Oluwafemi Adeniji, praised the team's unity and cohesion that led to their gold medal victory.







# Team Excellence Excels in Volleyball

By Ayobami Abdullahi



Team Excellence has emerged victorious in the Volleyball League at the 13th NNPC Sports Fiesta, cementing their status as the team to beat in the competition.

The league, organized as part of the sports fiesta, featured three formidable teams: Team Integrity, Team Sustainability, and the unstoppable Team Excellence, and held at the Moshood Abiola Stadium in Abuja.

Team Excellence, representing Lagos and Warri, proved to be a force to be reckoned with, dominating both home and away matches with precision and finesse.

In a thrilling showdown against Team Integrity, Team Excellence secured a decisive victory in their first away match, winning in two sets with scores of 27-25 and 25-19. They continued their winning streak at home, defeating Team Integrity in a nail-biting match that went to three sets, with scores of 25-15, 19-25, and 29-27.

Facing off against Team Sustainability, Team Excellence continued their winning streak, triumphing in their first home match with scores of 25-18 and 25-22. The away match proved to be a tougher challenge, but the team rose to the occasion, emerging victorious in a thrilling three-set match with scores of 20-25, 25-20, and 25-22.





With four wins in four games, Team Excellence stands at the top of the league, undefeated and undisputed as they emerged the winner of the volleyball league in the Fiesta. Their dominance on the court has not only solidified their position as the team to beat but also showcased their commitment to excellence and teamwork.

In a post-match interview, the captain of Team Excellence, Mr. Adeosun Adebayo, emphasized the importance of hard work, commitment, and togetherness. "Before this fiesta, we have played lots of matches and we have charged ourselves. We are going back with a gold medal, and we have done it," he added.

coach, Mr. Gyang Dabali, stressed that the cornerstone of their success lies in their unwavering commitment to hard work. In his words, "Through relentless training and dedication, my team have honed their skills to reach the pinnacle of performance witnessed in the league. Their cohesive play, effective communication, and relentless energy on the field are a testament to the meticulous preparation and dedication of each player."

The competition ended with a novelty match between NNPC Volleyball national team and top-ranked former national volleyball players with the likes of Imaji Sunday, Gyang Dabali and



Reflecting on their victory in the NNPC Volleyball League, the only female among the team members, Pamela Sani, expressed gratitude to God for their unbeaten run. "First of all, I'd like to thank God so much. We are constantly putting a lot into this. We train every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, week in and week out."

She highlighted the importance of team unity, describing the team as a close-knit family, "The sense of unity and camaraderie has been a driving force behind Team Excellence's impressive performance, with each player supporting and uplifting another on and off the court."

In an interview with NNPC Update, the team's

Agera Priscilla displaying their sportsmanship. Imaji Sunday, known as Naked Wire, is a former volleyball player turned national referee and high-performance coach. He chairs the Coaches Commission for para volleyball in Nigeria and West Africa, and serves as Personal Assistant to the West African President for para volleyball.

Agera Priscilla is a top-ranked Nigerian volleyball player and coach, holding multiple records and the title of Most Valuable Player for Africa. She has secured gold medals in African and international competitions, ranking 17th globally during her time in court.



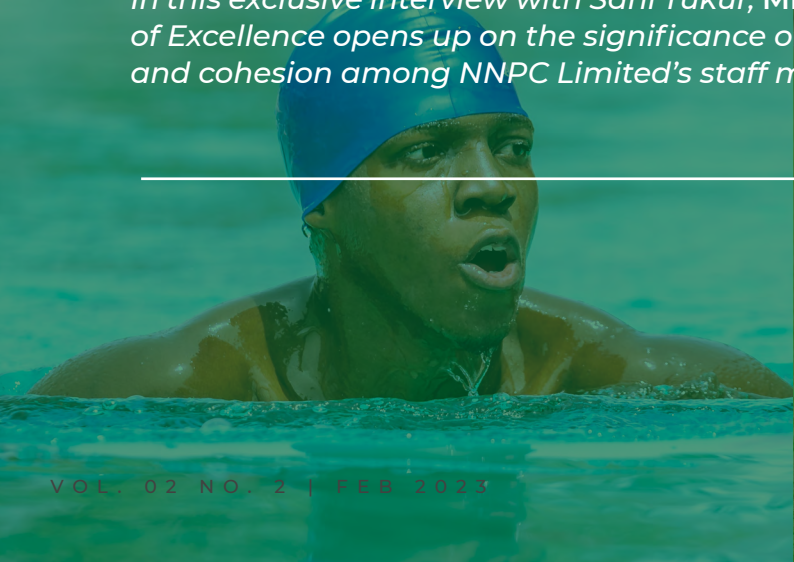


# NNPC Sports Fiesta Pivotal in Promoting Teamwork, Unity, and Cohesion Among NNPC Staff —Mrs. Ifeyinwa Mojo-Eyes



The 13th NNPC Sports Fiesta, which began on the 17th of February 2024 came to an end on 23rd February 2024. NNPC Limited's sportsmen and women competed in the week-long event in various sports ranging from football, chess, basketball, Volleyball, swimming, badminton, and many more. The fiesta provides a platform for selecting players that will represent the company in the National Oil and Gas Industry Games, NOGIG coming up in April.

In this exclusive interview with Sani Tukur, Mrs. Ifeyinwa Mojo-Eyes, Head, HCM Center of Excellence opens up on the significance of the fiesta in promoting teamwork, unity and cohesion among NNPC Limited's staff members.







**Could you help us understand the true significance of this fiesta?**

As we all know, sports is one of the tools for inspiring teamwork, collaboration, togetherness, respect, etc., among staff. Beyond adequately preparing our contingents to represent the company at the Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry Games (NOGIG), NNPC Sports Fiesta has been pivotal in promoting teamwork, unity, and cohesion among staff of NNPC through relationship building.

What we have seen from the 17th to 23rd of February 2024 demonstrates that we are one family, driven by shared objectives to help our company succeed. I believe the Fiesta is one of, if not the most potent avenue to reinforcing that sense of family. The just concluded event is a clear testimony where yet another opportunity was provided for employees to interact with their colleagues from various business units in a different setting, fostering camaraderie and strengthening relationships among co-workers.

Additionally, the Fiesta encourages employees to work together towards a common goal, promoting the development of teamwork skills and building a sense of unity among team members. Take for example how we were able to consolidate six zones into three to represent our core values of Integrity, Sustainability and Excellence, with the teams coming from

different NNPC Limited locations in the country; yet they all worked as a unit and healthily competed towards team goals. So, the fiesta emphasizes the cardinals of teamwork which is required in our larger business environment.

Also, the event encourages healthy competition, which in turn helps in boosting motivation and productivity among employees and, ultimately, leading to increased engagement and

Finally, NNPC Sports Fiesta ensures that the work environment remains vibrant - no dull moment. It creates a positive and fun work environment, while improving overall morale and contributing to job satisfaction among employees. Remember the popular saying, all work and no play makes jack a dull boy. I am sure we could all sense the positive atmosphere before, during and after the Fiesta – the excitements, the positive vibes, and so on.



a sense of pride in their work and their team. Notably, the week-long event helps foster an atmosphere where staff can relieve stress and imbibe the practices of a healthy lifestyle. I must add that the Fiesta serves as a morale booster for many to ditch their sedentary life and embrace sporting activities for the overall good of their physical and mental wellbeing as well as enhanced productivity at work.

**This is the 13th NNPC Sports Fiesta, and you have been involved in organizing the fiesta for a while. In your opinion, has it fulfilled our company's expectations?**

Most certainly, the fiesta has met NNPC Limited's expectations in numerous ways, some of which I have mentioned earlier.

Let me, however, stress that as one of the key objectives of the Fiesta, we have been able





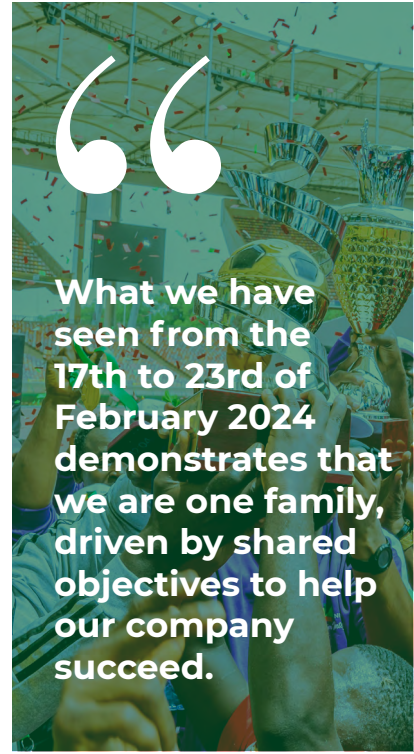
to discover new talents to join our various sports contingents that will represent NNPC Limited at the Nigeria Oil and Gas Industry Games (NOGIG) scheduled to hold in April 2024.

It is important to note that due to their sterling performances at the just concluded fiesta, many of our young professionals (YPs) will be representing us at NOGIG later this year. This adds agility to the teams that will carry our flag and make us proud once more, come April 2024.

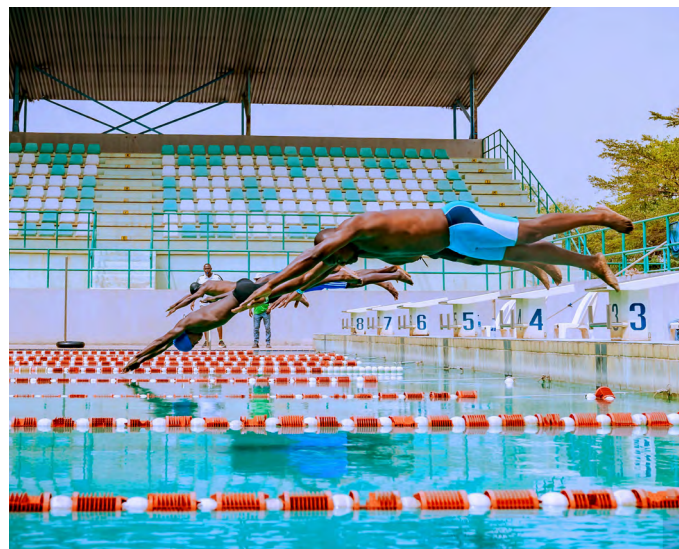
Kudos to similar preparations in the past, we are the reigning

overall champions, and I can assure you that with the level of energy and zeal we all saw at this fiesta, our sportsmen and women are ready to retain our glory and make us much happier.

So, while I call on the entire family of NNPC Limited to look out for our sportsmen and women at the upcoming NOGIG (Abuja 2024), I will reiterate that the fiesta continues to serve as a potent tool for boosting employee morale, promoting teamwork and unity, and fostering a positive and inclusive culture in our dear NNPC Limited.



**What we have seen from the 17th to 23rd of February 2024 demonstrates that we are one family, driven by shared objectives to help our company succeed.**





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