



AN ADDRESS BY THE REV DAVID UGOLOR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AFRICA NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE, ANEEJ, AT THE PUBLIC LAUNCH OF *FATALITY OF NIGERIAN OIL SUBSIDY POLITICS*, 27 APRIL 2017, DENIS HOTEL, ABUJA.

It is with pleasure and a great sense of fulfillment that I welcome all of you to this book launch which flags off a new dawn in annals of ANEEJ in the development world.

Fatality of Nigerian Oil Subsidy Politics was conceived as part of effort to document our experiences in the Oil and Gas sector of Nigeria in the hope and belief that it will serve as an advocacy tool for Civil Society Organisations to hold government to account.

In addition, the publication is one of our contributions to the effort of the Federal Government led by President Muhammadu Buhari to fight corruption. We applaud efforts made so far to sanitize the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and we know that a lot is still needs to be done.

As a Civil Society Organisation engaging the oil and gas sector for several years now and having pioneered the launch of Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Nigeria Campaign, we are seating on the edge of our seats eagerly waiting for the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) that would translate the current reforms into government policy document and law to bring about changes which we have been clamouring for over the years.

With this book, we feel that Nigerians deserve better deal from people who have led them in government since the discovery of crude oil in commercial quantity (oil being the major driver of the economy since 1958). We expected huge infrastructural development across the country; we expected that children would go to school with less pain and burden on their parents; we expected some of the best hospitals in the world. We expected. We expected good roads and all round supply of electricity. But the elites that have led the country over the years failed everyone of us.

Oil Subsidy for Nigerians isn't a bad idea on its own. In other climes, citizens enjoy subsidy in industries that they have comparative advantage. But, sadly, some crooks capitalizing on the

weaknesses in government decided to turn the Nigeria Oil Subsidy regime into a hot bed of corruption, amassing wealth for themselves to the detriment of Nigerians.

Given the unprecedented national uproar that greeted the removal of subsidy on Premium Motor Spirit, PMS, otherwise known as petrol on January 1, 2012 by the President Goodluck Jonathan's administration for which ANEEJ played a leading role, we were surprised that Nigerians suddenly went back to bed after the hue and cry and it is this attitude in us that the elites have capitalized on over the years to undermine the poor citizens.

In 2014, we felt we should take the issue further and with the support of Justice for All (J4A), a funding window of DFID, we were able to embark on the project entitled: "Advocacy against impunity in the oil subsidy regime in Nigeria." This book chronicles our experience in the oil and gas sector working on the project and highlights some of the results.

We have put this book forward to the Nigerian public today with clear recommendations on how to end oil subsidy regime in our beloved country. We are passionate about getting it right and making our government and its institutions more responsive to our people.

Thank you and may God bless you all.