

44TH NAPE ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

9 November 2026

Introduction

The 44th Annual International Conference and Exhibition of the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) commenced on 9 November 2026 with two major programmes: the Opening Ceremony and the All Convention Luncheon (ACL).

The Opening Ceremony, sponsored by SEPLAT Energy, brought together government representatives, regulators, industry leaders and other stakeholders to discuss the conference theme, **"Unlocking More Barrels: Driving Reserves Growth Through Exploration, Local Capabilities and Adaptive Technology."** The ACL featured a keynote session on sustainable agriculture, themed "From Farm to Table," sponsored by Xtralarge Farms and Resorts, alongside the launch of a book documenting the life and professional journey of Chief Chamberlain Oyibo, FNAPE.









Opening Ceremony

Welcome Speeches

Dr. Anthony Ofoma, President-Elect of NAPE, delivered the welcome speech, highlighting the importance of the conference theme and the opportunities for knowledge exchange, collaboration and professional engagement.

The welcome address was delivered by **Mrs. Olajumoke Cecilia Ajayi, NAPE President**, who challenged industry stakeholders to consider where Nigeria's next barrels would come from. She emphasised the need to intensify exploration, strengthen local capabilities and apply technology to support reserves growth.



Welcome remarks by Dr. Anthony Ofoma and the presidential address by Mrs. Olajumoke Cecilia Ajayi, setting the tone for the conference.

Sponsor's Remarks – SEPLAT Energy

Representing the opening ceremony sponsor, SEPLAT Energy, the company's Chief Executive highlighted the critical role of exploration in sustaining Nigeria's oil and gas industry. He shared the company's experience with technology-driven exploration, including the use of Ocean Bottom Node (OBN) 3D seismic technology, and called for renewed investment in exploration.



SEPLAT Energy's Chief Executive delivering remarks on technology-driven exploration and the need for renewed investment in Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

Keynote and Government Perspectives

Miss Olu Verheijen, Special Adviser to the President on Energy, emphasised the need to move discoveries into development and production, noting that reserves create value only when they are developed. She also highlighted the importance of investment, policy reforms and timely project execution.

Senator Heineken Lokpobiri, Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), called for increased drilling and stronger collaboration between industry and academia. He stressed the need to equip graduates with practical skills and industry-relevant experience.

NUPRC, Commission Chief Executive, Mrs. Oritsemeyiwa Eyesan represented by Mal. Bashari Alka Indabawa, Executive Commissioner, Exploration & Acreage Management, reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to stimulating exploration and reserves growth. He highlighted the *drill or drop* policy and announced that the 2026 licensing round would offer 40 blocks, with the bid portal scheduled to open on 20 November 2026.



Keynote addresses and government perspectives at the opening ceremony, featuring Miss Olu Verheijen, Senator Heineken Lokpobiri and Mal. Bashari Alka Indabawa (NUPRC).



Goodwill Messages

- **His Excellency, Governor Lucky Orimisan Aiyedatiwa, Governor of Ondo State:** He acknowledged NAPE's contribution to the petroleum industry and reaffirmed Ondo State's readiness to collaborate with investors. He highlighted the state's efforts to develop its energy and minerals sector.
- **Lagos State Government, represented by Mr. Abiodun Ogunleye, Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources:** He highlighted Lagos State's commitment to strengthening its position as an energy and industrial hub. He also referenced the importance of infrastructure, domestic refining and the state's energy transition initiatives.
- **Anambra State Government, represented by Prof. C.D. Okeke, FNAPE:** He highlighted the state's gas resources and ongoing efforts to develop its petroleum and energy sector. He also expressed interest in strengthening technical collaboration with NAPE.
- **National Hydrographic Agency, represented by Rear Admiral Olumide Fadahunsi:** He emphasised the importance of hydrographic and marine geospatial data in offshore exploration, infrastructure development and operational safety. He also called for stronger local capacity in this area.

- **Shell, represented by Elohor Aiboni, Country Chair and Managing Director:** She acknowledged the role of government policies and regulatory incentives in supporting investment in Nigeria's deepwater sector. She also emphasised the importance of sustained collaboration between government and industry.
- **Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society (NMGS):** The Society highlighted the importance of collaboration between geology and technology in advancing exploration. It reaffirmed the value of integrating sound geological knowledge with innovative tools and approaches.



Goodwill messages from government representatives and industry stakeholders, reaffirming their commitment to collaboration, investment, capacity development and the growth of Nigeria's energy and natural resources sectors.

Conferment of the Aret Adams Award

The **Aret Adams Award** was conferred on Mr. George Abiodun Osahon, FNAPE, in recognition of his contributions to Nigeria's petroleum industry. A former Director of the Department of Petroleum Resources and former NAPE President, Osahon used his acceptance remarks to encourage the preservation and digitisation of industry knowledge, particularly for the benefit of younger professionals and students.



Presentation of the Aret Adams Award to Mr. George Abiodun Osahon, FNAPE, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Nigeria's petroleum industry.

Key Takeaways

The opening ceremony reinforced several priorities for Nigeria's upstream petroleum sector:

- Increased exploration activity to support reserves growth.
- Greater investment and timely development of discovered resources.
- Application of technology alongside sound geological expertise.
- Stronger local technical capacity and industry-academia collaboration.
- A supportive regulatory and investment environment.

- Sustained collaboration among government, regulators and industry stakeholders.

All Convention Luncheon (ACL)

The All-Convention Luncheon featured two segments: a keynote session on sustainable agriculture themed "From Farm to Table**"**, sponsored by XtraLarge Farms and Resorts, and the launch of a book by Chief Chamberlain Oyibo, FNAPE, a respected figure in Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

From Farm to Table

The first segment featured **Dr. Moji Davies**, Founder of **ExtraLarge Farms**, as the keynote speaker. Her presentation focused on sustainable food production, food safety and the need to develop agriculture beyond primary farming into a viable business value chain.

She highlighted opportunities in food processing, packaging, logistics and distribution, while stressing the importance of responsible agricultural practices and greater investment in local value addition. She also encouraged institutions and industry stakeholders to support farmers through research, technology, communication and other forms of collaboration.

A question-and-answer session followed, providing further discussion on responsible chemical use, food quality and the role of businesses in promoting safe and sustainable food production.





Keynote presentation by Dr. Moji Davies on sustainable food production, food safety and opportunities across the agricultural value chain, followed by an interactive Q&A session.





Book Launch - Chief Chamberlain Oyibo, FNAPE

The second segment celebrated the life and career journey of **Chief Chamberlain Oyibo, FNAPE**, a founding member and former President of NAPE, who also served as Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC).

The discussion reflected on his humble beginnings, educational journey, professional career in the oil and gas industry, leadership experiences and personal resilience. Chief Oyibo described the central theme of his life as providence, highlighting how faith, integrity and adaptability shaped his journey through different professional roles and challenges.

The book was commended as a valuable account of the author's personal history and Nigeria's development. It also offers lessons on perseverance, service, integrity and leadership.







Conclusion

The two programmes highlighted important themes across the energy and wider economic landscape. While the Opening Ceremony focused on the need to grow Nigeria's hydrocarbon reserves through exploration, technology, local capabilities and collaboration, the ACL broadened the conversation to include sustainable food production, value addition and the importance of preserving industry knowledge and professional legacies.