



Issue no. 39

September 2019

# NEWSLETTER

## TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)



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# NEW MINISTERS OF POWER ASSUME DUTY, SOLICIT COOPERATION FROM STAKEHOLDERS

## ...as TCN highlights milestones

By Eric Ephraim Ene



(L-R), Minister of Power, Engr. Sale Mamman and Minister of State, Power, Mr Goddy Agba



(L-R), Minister of Power, Engr. Sale Mamman, Minister of State, Power, Mr Goddy Agba, NERC Chairman, Prof James Momoh and MD/CEO TCN Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed,

**T**he new Minister of Power, Engr. Sale Mamman has solicited the cooperation and commitment of all stakeholders in the Power Sector to surmount the enormous challenges facing the electricity industry in the country.

Engr. Mamman made this appeal at an inaugural meeting he held with the new Minister of State, Power, Mr Goddy Jedy Agba, and the Permanent Secretary, Mr Louis Edozien, Directors and Heads of Agencies of the Federal Ministry of Power at the Power House in Abuja.

According to him, power is central and indispensable for the delivery of all government policies as they relate to the social economic and industrial development of any country.

Engr. Mamman stated his intention to maintain an open door policy to avail every staff, no matter their status, the opportunity to contribute their quota to the new course of action. His immediate task, he

noted, “is to acquaint myself with the task ahead, therefore I will welcome every information or advice that will enhance our efficiency. Every advice must however be motivated by a sense of truth, honesty and patriotism not meant to condemn or blackmail anyone.

He also assured of his determination to apply himself totally to the assignment to justify the confidence of President Muhammadu Buhari and by extension all Nigerians that have entrusted him with the responsibility of the realisation of stable power supply in the country.

Speaking earlier, the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Louis Edozien, intimated the ministers with activities of the ministry as he presented to them, copies of relevant policy documents which include the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (EPSRA) 2005.

He expressed delight at the appointment of the

ministers, and pledged the readiness of the management and staff of the Ministry to support and cooperate with them to make their tenure a success.

On their part, the directors in the Ministry and heads of agencies formally briefed the ministers on the activities in their agencies.

Briefing the ministers, the Managing Director/CEO of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Mr Usman Gur Mohammed, who is also the Chairman, Executive Board of the West African Power Pool (WAPP), stated that TCN has recorded some milestones in implementing the Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Programme (TREP) to transform the power transmission network after attracting huge multilateral funding.

He summarised the four milestones to upgrade and expand transmission lines and substations nationwide to fully include grid system stability, the installation of Supervisory Control and Data

Acquisition (SCADA) system, Procurement of Spinning Reserve and critical investments in the Power Sector.

He also mentioned the strict enforcement of the Market Rules especially on the Distribution Companies (DisCo) to instil discipline in the electricity market.

Mr Mohammed also highlighted what Nigeria would benefit from the West African Power Pool (WAPP), Transmission and Generation Master Plan as approved by the Committee of Heads of States and Government of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) under the chairmanship of Nigeria President, Muhammadu Buhari on December 22, 2018.

The meeting was attended by Directors, Heads of Agencies under the Federal Ministry of Power and other stakeholders in the Power Sector.



A group photograph of participants at the meeting

# FG COMMITTED TO IMPROVE POWER SUPPLY

By Stanford Nneji



**T**he Federal Government has assured Nigerians of its commitment to the provision of adequate and stable electricity with the execution of various power projects aimed at boosting electricity supply nationwide.

The Vice President, Professor Osinbajo made this assertion in Abeokuta during the commissioning of 2X60MVA, 132/33kV transmission substation. He assured Nigerians that the Federal Government was committed to ensuring effective and cost reflective power supply in the country. This commissioning he said, is an important part of government's efforts to improve supply and quality of power to homes and businesses in Nigeria.

Prof Osibanjo noted that

Government is making concerted effort to resolve the power supply situation in the country. He promised substantial change of strategy in order to meet the power need of Nigerians.

Speaking at the occasion, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC), Mr. Chiedu Ugbo, disclosed that NDPHC has completed about 100 transmission and distribution projects across the country. He said that the new 2X60MVA, 132/33kV Substation in Abeokuta would provide reliable power off-take via six 33kV distribution feeders to the state capital, Abeokuta and environs.

Explaining further, Ugbo said that the new 60MVA transformer at Otta would also provide additional power supply via three

33kV feeders to Otta and its environs, and that the project would impact positively on power supply to Abeokuta, Otta axis and Papalanto.

Mr. Ugbo also announced that NDPHC had equally completed the installation of 2X60MVA, 132/33kV Substation in Awka, Anambra State and 2X60MVA, 132/33kV Substation in Adiabo, Cross River State which would be inaugurated in the next few months. Other projects awaiting commissioning, he disclosed, are distribution injection substations in Misau and Darazu in Bauchi State, Kemo in Gombe State and Agaye in Bauchi State, noting that the projects are in fulfillment of President Buhari's commitment to improved access to electricity to Nigerians.



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK CLOSELY WITH TCN ON GRID EXPANSION



Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila

By Grace Sambe-Jauro

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, has tasked the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to work closely with relevant committees in the National Assembly, to ensure that TCN achieves its Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Program (TREP).

The Speaker made this known when he received the management team of TCN, led by the Managing Director/CEO, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed on Wednesday 18th September 2019, at the National Assembly Complex in Abuja. Hon. Gbajabiamila who commended the current management of TCN assured them that the 9th Assembly would do everything within its power to ensure TCN delivers on its mandate to Nigerians.

According to him, it is the responsibility of the

law makers to make life easier for Nigerians, and assured that the 9th National Assembly will ensure that Nigerians get adequate supply for the electricity they pay for. He frowned at the practice of estimated billing by electricity distribution companies (Discos), and stated that the House would not tolerate a situation where Discos take advantage to present outrageous bills to Nigerians.

The Honourable Speaker further added that the House was resolved to revisit the issue and enact a law that would end

estimated billing of electricity.

In his presentation the MD/CEO, TCN, Mr. Mohammed revealed that in the last two years TCN has commissioned several transmission substations and installed over 40 power transformers across the country. He added that TCN has secured USD 1.661 billion from Multi-lateral financing agencies which will be used in grid expansion across the country.

Hon. Alhassan Ado Dogowa – Majority Leader, Hon. Nkeiruka Onyiejecha -Deputy Chief Whip, and the Chairman House Committee on Power, Hon. Dau Aliyu Magaji and his Deputy Hon. Francis Waive, were some of the honourable members in attendance at the meeting.



Group photograph of participants at the meeting

# Minister of Power Assures of Improve Power Supply Nationwide

By Maimuna Isah-Ladan and Abubakar Bodinga Yaro



**T**he Minister of Power, Engr. Sale Mamman has assured Nigerians of improved power supply before the end of President Buhari's Administration in 2023.

Engr. Mamman gave the assurance while inspecting the 213 Thermal Kudenda Power Plant, Kudenda and Mando Transmission line and Substations alongside the Honorable Minister of State, Mr. Goddy Jedy Agba and Managing Director of TCN, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed on Friday, 13th September 2019 in Kaduna.

According to the Minister, the completion of all major power projects in the country would lead to stable and quality electricity supply to the people for development.

He also expressed satisfaction with the level and quality of works so far being carried out by the contractors, and warned against delay in completing the projects.

The contract for the

Kudenda power plant was awarded in November 2009 to General Electric and Rockson Engineering for a dual thermal plant using Low Pour Fuel Oil (LPFO) and natural gas. However, work on the power plant has been epileptic due to several factors, even as the deadline for completion has been shifted several times since work on the project commenced.

On his part, the Managing Director/CEO TCN, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed, while conducting the Minister around the transmission station gave the assurance that the transmission lines to the power plant would be completed before the end of the year.

Mr. Mohammed also stated that work on transmission tower foundations have reached 90percent and very soon the lines will be strung to enhance evacuation of power in order to stabilize the grid.

He said it was in the interest of TCN that the power plant was completed so as to improve system stability in the grid and reaffirmed TCN's commitment to pursue and implement the incremental power policy of the Federal Government adding that the company was currently executing several projects nationwide.



# WAPP TO SYNCHRONIZE POWER SYSTEMS IN 14 ECOWAS COUNTRIES

By Eric Ephraim Ene

The West African Power Pool (WAPP), has said that it is working assiduously to synchronize the interconnected Power Systems of 14 countries of the West African member states, which is currently operating three separate networks, into a single reliable network.

The Managing Director/CEO of TCN and the Chairman, Board of Directors of WAPP, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed made this known when he declared open a 3-day meeting on synchronisation of WAPP Networks with the theme; “Tuning of Power System Stabilizers (PSS), Field Testing of Governors, Setting Change of Governors and Synchronization of WAPP Network Contract”, on Tuesday, 3rd September 2019, in Abuja.

Mr. Mohammed noted that the synchronisation project was part of WAPP's mandate by the Authority of the Heads of States and Governments of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), to establish a mechanism and institute frame work for integrating the national power systems of member states into one regional electricity market. .

According to him, the project, in terms of scope, was the most complex to be executed by



MD/CEO TCN, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed, addressing participants during the meeting

WAPP, even as he expressed confidence that representatives from various companies would work to support its successful execution.

Mr. Mohammed appealed to member states to allow the consultant for the project, General Electric (GE) International, access to their power plants to test the governors, tune their power system stabilizers, and change their setting where necessary, with the ultimate goal of achieving a successful synchronization.

He noted that the task before the GE in the test process is that they would require the assistance of Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEM), to enable them effectively implement the

synchronization project.

Mr. Mohammed therefore called on all participants at the meeting to proffer advice and suggestions, and actively support as well as participate in the decision process with the view to contributing meaningfully to the execution of the project.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Director of Information and Coordination Centre, WAPP, Engr. Nasif Abdulkadir, said that the project kick-off meeting between WAPP, General Electric International and stakeholders was to officially start the implementation of the project, which is related to power system stabilizer, tuning governor, testing,



He also explained that despite the fact that the region's power systems are interconnected, the WAPP has been operating under three separate synchronous blocks.

Mr. Abdulkadir further explained that the failed attempts to synchronize the Nigeria power system with Benin, Togo, Ghana, Cote d'ivoire and Burkina Faso in 2007, and that of Cote d'ivoire, Mali and Senegal in 2012, prompted the World Bank to provide the sum of 21.5 million dollars to WAPP for the project. This Provision was under the WAPP Technical Assistance and Network Integration Project meant to support efforts to synchronize the WAPP interconnected Power System.

According to him, the synchronization project was based on the study conducted by Consortium L a h m e y e r ( n o w Tracetabel) in 2014, which recommended the installation of Static Var Compensator (SVC) at Matam Substation, Phasor Measurement Unit ( P M U ) at 22 interconnection and System Protection Scheme (SPS) and inter trip relay in 5 substations, tuning governor, testing of power plant and change of setting.

Mr. Abdulkadir expressed the hope that once all the projects are completed, the WAPP interconnected power system would be successfully synchronised to allow for seamless power exchange between all member countries.

The meeting featured presentation of papers on the action plan for the

projects. Participants were drawn from power utilities in Nigeria, Togo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'ivoire, Senegal, Mali, Niger, General Electric International among others.

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Cross section of participants at the meeting



A group photograph of participants at the meeting



**ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNMENT, TCN STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION ON POWER PROJECTS**

By Azorji Uloma

The Anambra State Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) to facilitate the completion of on-going power transmission projects that would increase bulk power supply to the state.

The State Governor, Mr. Willie Obiano, who signed the MoU on behalf of the state government when he paid a courtesy visit to TCN management on Wednesday, 21st August 2019, at the TCN headquarters, Abuja, commended TCN for the improved power supply in Nnewi Substation, an industrial town in Anambra State. This, he said, has helped boost economic activities in the area. He noted that the state has invested in Awada Substation to enable over 32 communities benefit from the bulk power supply.

He decried the poor power situation in Anambra North Senatorial District, and stated that the future of the state lies

in the area due to its huge deposit of the gas, which has attracted investors. This potential however is yet to be tapped because of lack of power supply.

He called on the MD/CEO of TCN, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed, to use his good office to fast-track the completion of the on-going and planned projects in his state, adding that the government on its part is doing everything necessary to ensure quick execution of the projects and assured that the challenges of land and Right of Way (RoW) have been solved. He further pledged the support of the state to providing requisite backing that would aid smooth implementation of the projects.

Responding, the MD/CEO TCN, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed, commended the Anambra State Governor, Mr. Willie Obiano on the level of infrastructure being put in place as well as his support in helping to solve the issue of Right of Way and challenges of land, noting that TCN is ready to work with the state government to provide bulk stable power to the state.

On the issue of improved bulk power supply in

Anambra North, Mr. Mohammed said that TCN is working in line with its well articulated and strategically driven Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Programme (TREP), to build a 330kV Double Circuit quad line from Alaoji – Owerri – Ihiala – Onisha; Reconduct the 330kV line from Onitsha – Awka – Oji River; rehabilitate and upgrade the Onitsha Substation; and upgrade the capacity of the 1x60MVA, 132/33kV Substation at General Cotton Mill (GCM); as well as complete the 2x60MVA, 132/33kV substations at Nnewi and Ojoto(Oba).

He however assured the governor of timely completion of the Anambra North Project and noted that the former challenges associated with Procurement process, poor funding, Right of Way issues, which constituted major setbacks in the projects implementation process in the past, have been resolved. He further explained that the project will follow the new procurement procedures and qualification criteria for bidding that will only attract good and qualified contractors who have the capacity to deliver projects on time.



A group photograph of participants at the meeting



**A**s part of efforts by the federal government in achieving 7,000 megawatts (MW) of reliable power supply to the people by 2021 and 11,000MW by 2023, the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and the German-based firm, Siemens have commenced high level consultations that would enable it map out plans to address significant issues in the power sector geared towards delivering quality power to Nigerian businesses and homes.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, TCN, Usman Gur Mohammed, during a meeting with representatives of Siemens at TCN headquarters Abuja, on 27th August, 2019, said he was optimistic about plans by the government to revamp the power sector, and assured Siemens of TCN engineers' commitment to modernizing Nigeria's electricity grid.

Mr Mohammed said the Siemens project was a priority with the government and complements the Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Programme (TREP) being implemented by TCN, funded by various donor agencies. The TREP, he noted, is based on a 20-year Least Cost Transmission Master Plan which was incidentally articulated by a German consultancy firm, Fitchner, for TCN.

According to him, the programme would see TCN attaining a Frequency Control in line with NERC and WAPP guidelines, adequate spinning reserve, SCADA/EMS and critical investment in lines and substations. He further noted that to ensure economic growth and development in Nigeria, the transmission grid needed to be expanded despite unutilized load by electricity distribution companies (DisCos).

Responding, the Head, Business Development, Siemens Nigeria, Dayo Ogun while assuring TCN management of the plans by Siemens, said that the dialogue between both parties was certainly going to yield positive results. Dayo noted that Siemens' role in the

# SIEMENS, TCN COMMITTED TO IMPROVING POWER SUPPLY

By Gabriel Gandu



(L-R), MD/CEO TCN, Usman Gur Mohammed, Head Business Development, Siemens Nigeria, Dayo Ogun and Director- General, Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE), Alex Okoh,

power sector was to reach a consensus with all parties involved, on areas of intervention that would expand capacity and reliability of the sector, noting that TCN is doing a lot and that infrastructural development in transmission would be replicated in the distribution end of the value chain. He explained that in executing the project accurately, crucial information on specifications, calibrations and diagrams would be demanded from TCN, and also the DisCos. This, he said, would enable Siemens to establish the total cost of intervention in the sector.

He informed that the project aims to achieve a minimum of 7,000MW by 2021 in the first phase, phase two would aim at attaining above 11,000MW by the year 2023, and in phase three which is the final phase, Siemens plans to ensure the power sector attains 25,000MW of electricity by the year 2025 to the end user.

The Director- General, Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE), Alex Okoh, who was represented by a Director from BPE, Yohanna Balo, described the partnership between the governments of Nigeria and Germany worthwhile, and comes at a time when there is an urgent need for improved power, from the wheeling capacity of the transmission to the distribution capacity of the DisCos, noting that the benefits would linger for generations to come.

# Federal Government to Split TCN

## .... Electricity Market receives fresh N600bn intervention

By Joy Egbase

**T**he Managing Director/CEO, Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed has expressed the desirability of splitting TCN into two separate companies, Transmission service Provider (TSP) and Independent System Operations (ISO) for better performance.

He stated this at the Market Operator's participants/stakeholder's interactive forum organized by the Market Operator (MO) in Abuja, themed, "Rules and compliance for Nigeria Electricity Market Development and Sustenance". Mr. Mohammed stated that in the event of the split, TCN would cease to exist and the two new companies, TSP and ISO, would take over System Operations and Market Operators respectively.

He however noted that the separation can only be successful when the Supervisory Control and Data acquisition (SCADA) and the Electricity Management System (ESM) are in place. TCN, he

said, was in the process of procuring fibre optic for some critical lines towards attaining SCADA, and that the installation of SCADA would take about two years.

The MD further disclosed that TCN had consultations with relevant experts from South Africa, at the end of which the decision was taken to train fifteen TCN staff extensively on SCADA in any part of the world who at the end of their training would effectively take over the implementation and management of the SCADA system in TCN, and would equally train other TCN staff in the process. Five of these staff would be sent for training on SCADA software, another five on hardware, and the last five on Communication.

Mr. Mohammed commended the organizer of the forum, stating that it came at a time the MO was enforcing the Market rule, and instilling discipline in the Power sector.

Mr Mohammed further said that TCN was going to digitize control rooms across the substations nationwide in preparation for a successful SCADA operation.

In his remarks, a former Chairman of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Dr. Sam Amadi, said that a regulated electricity market was key to the sustenance of the power sector.

He explained that the assumption that the tariff



MD/CEO TCN, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed, addressing participants at the meeting

will provide for the financing of the DisCos is wrong and that even if there was an increase in tariff by a thousand percentage, the people would not be able to pay enough and the DisCos do not have good revenue management procedures to recover their money.

Dr. Sam explained that the electricity sector is a manipulative sector globally and that the regulator must create strong regulations that can put incentives to checkmate investors in the power sector, and prevent manipulation by the market participants in the sector.

In his remarks, Engr. Edmond Eje, the Market Operator (MO), Transmission Company of Nigeria, said that the Federal Government has concluded plans to inject an additional N600 billion into the Nigerian electricity industry.

Engr. Eje who said the release of the funds had been signed by Mr. President and was now at advanced level, is meant to cover for the shortfall in the payment of monthly invoices in the electricity market.

He expressed worry over the performance of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry, insisting that



Market Operator, Engr. Edmund Eje

government would not hesitate to sanction any participants that fails to obey the Market Rules signed by all participants in the power sector.



Cross section of participants at the meeting



# PHOTO PAGE



MD/CEO TCN, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed, making a presentation at the 49th Annual Conference of Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria of Nigeria (ICAN) recently in Abuja



MD/CEO TCN, Usman Gur Mohammed at the Annual Guarantors Dinner of the Petroleum Club, Lagos, where he delivered a paper titled "Path To Overcoming Electricity Challenges In Nigeria"



Secretary to the Metering Code Review Panel(MCRP)/ Market Operator, Engr. Edmund Eje, enlightening participants on Metering Code at the Stakeholders conference held in Owerri, Imo State



Aptitude test for prospective TCN Engineers at Open University of Nigeria, Abuja

# MOHAMMED PLEDGES IMPROVED STAFF WELFARE AS REVENUE IMPROVES

By Gabriel N. Gandu

**T**he Managing Director of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed, has assured staff of the company that issues of staff welfare would be addressed as soon as revenue improves.

He made this disclosure during the third quarter Town Hall Meeting of the company at TCN's Corporate Head Quarters on Thursday, 1st August, 2019. He expressed optimism that with the significant investment going on in various substations nationwide, in line with the Transmission Rehabilitation Expansion Programme (TREP), and anticipated recapitalization of the DISCO's, TCN's revenue would certainly improve.

The MD noted that TCN is equally exploring other avenues that would enable it earn additional income to shore up its revenue.

He called on all staff to continue to work in synergy

with management, and that management would continue to explore ways to improve staff welfare. Mr. Usman debunked the rumour making the round that management intends to reduce staff size, saying that on the contrary, TCN requires more hands, especially engineers.

The MD equally congratulated the newly elected executive of the National Union of Electricity Employees (NUEE), TCN Chapter, promising to work with them to move the company forward.

He also appealed to staff to work hard to do take TCN to the "Next Level", noting that diligence is key and that it takes committed staff to diligently perform tasks properly in any organisation.

Responding, the newly elected NUEE Chairman, TCN Chapter, Comrade Christopher Adah, appealed to management to ensure that staff issues are given priority and encouraged management to a more open communication process.



MD/CEO TCN, Mr. Usman Gur Mohammed, addressing staff at the meeting



# STAFF ISSUES



(Right), Mrs. Celestina Osin, (PM Public Affairs), Lagos Region, during her retirement ceremony



(Right), Mrs. Josephine Uko, (PM Public Affairs), during her retirement ceremony



(Right), Mr. Moses Adeleye, (Manager Audit), ISO during his retirement ceremony



(Middle), Mr. Mark Ebiega, (PM L&P), during his retirement ceremony



We thought of you in love today, but that is nothing new.  
 We thought about you yesterday, and days before that too.  
 We think of you in silence, we often speak your name.  
 Now all we have are memories, and your picture in a frame.  
 Your memory is planted along the road of life  
 You have travelled and gone home  
 God has you in his keeping, we have you in our hearts,  
 Adieu...!!!



Late Engr. Ayuba Tonak  
(General Manager) Abuja Region

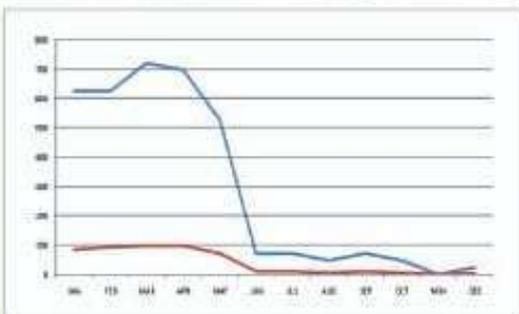


# TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)

## STEADY AND VISIBLE PROGRESS IN POWER TRANSMISSION

*The Federal Government, through policy directions, budgetary allocations as well as facilitations of multilateral finance agencies, has enabled TCN to complete and commission various projects and also construct several 330kV and 132kV transmission substations and lines across the country.*

# TCN'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE LAST TWO YEARS



- TCN in the last two years has commissioned several transmission substations and installed over 40 power transformers across the country
- Stabilized system frequency within 49.5-50.5Hz -next target is to achieve 49.8 -50.2Hz
- Initiated Transmission Rehabilitation and Expansion Program (TREP) and secured USD1.57b from Multi-lateral financing agencies
- Streamlined procurement process and improved qualifications criteria to attract the best companies in the business
- Decentralized project management function to regional offices
- Audited TCN accounts from 2015 to 2017 and prepared financial statements for the company
- Initiated the process for acquisition of functional SCADA
- Initiated procurement of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) system
- Completed 20-year Transmission Expansion Master Plan
- Increased in-house capacity for project implementation and engineering studies
- Increased transmission wheeling capacity from 5,500MW to 8100MW
- Initiated competitive procurement of adequate Spinning Reserve
- Cleared and evacuated 775 out of 810 stranded containers from various sea ports in the country to project sites nationwide
- Took over projects from non-performing contractors and completed them through In-house engineers



# TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)



*We are committed to the rehabilitation and expansion of grid network for efficient service delivery*

*TCN...transmitting electricity in the most efficient and effective manner*

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