

NCDMB NIGERIA · NIGERIA

NCDMB and Dangote push Nigeria content beyond compliance toward innovation and finance

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The Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) and the Dangote Group have jointly called on Nigeria's oil and gas industry to move decisively beyond minimum regulatory compliance, framing technological innovation and sustainable financing as the twin pillars needed to deepen local content and accelerate industrial growth. The call was made at a formal industry gathering convened by the two organisations, and has now been reported by Oil Field Africa Review, corroborating the core thrust of the joint initiative and reinforcing its visibility across the African energy media landscape.

The NCDMB, as Nigeria's statutory body responsible for monitoring and enforcing local content obligations under the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, has long pushed operators and contractors to exceed the letter of the law. The joint statement with the Dangote Group — one of Nigeria's largest industrial conglomerates — signals an attempt to anchor this ambition in private-sector leadership as well as regulatory pressure. The two parties emphasised that genuine content development requires companies to build technological capability internally rather than treating local content targets as a procurement checkbox.

Sustainable financing was highlighted as equally critical. The implication is that local contractors and manufacturers must be able to access capital on terms that allow them to invest in equipment, skills, and infrastructure at the scale required to compete with international service providers. This financing gap has historically

limited the ability of Nigerian firms to win and execute large scopes in subsea, FPSO topside fabrication, and drilling services, even where regulatory preference exists.

The push comes at a time when Nigeria's upstream sector is attempting to reverse years of underinvestment following the enactment of the Petroleum Industry Act. International operators are under increasing pressure from the NCDMB to demonstrate in-country value addition across the project lifecycle — from fabrication and coating to well services and inspection. The Dangote Group's involvement adds an industrial-manufacturing dimension, given the group's existing presence in refining, petrochemicals, and infrastructure, potentially signalling interest in broadening supply-chain integration with the upstream sector. The fact that a second independent publication has now covered the same call suggests the message is being actively amplified, indicating a coordinated communications strategy rather than a one-off statement.

For international service companies operating or seeking to operate in Nigeria, the direction of travel is clear: local content compliance is a floor, not a ceiling. Companies that invest in genuine technology transfer, joint ventures with Nigerian firms, and workforce development programmes will be better positioned to secure and retain operating licences, block awards, and long-term service contracts. The NCDMB has previously used its monitoring mandate to delay contract approvals for companies that fail to demonstrate credible Nigerian content plans, making early engagement with local partners a commercial necessity rather than an optional differentiator.

Why this matters to partners and clients of Saga

This is a policy and advocacy development — no contract, FID, or tender has been announced — but growing media coverage across African energy outlets suggests the NCDMB-Dangote initiative is gaining traction and will intensify scrutiny of compliance quality in upcoming bid cycles. Norwegian service companies should review and strengthen their Nigerian content plans proactively, documenting technology transfer arrangements and local workforce programmes before regulatory pressure crystallises into contract delays. Relationship-building with NCDMB and Dangote's industrial affiliates remains a priority, particularly for firms active in well services, subsea inspection, and equipment manufacturing.

PARTNER ANGLES

- **Nigerian industrial conglomerates:** Dangote Group's expanding role as a private-sector content champion creates an opening for Norwegian companies to explore supply-chain partnerships in refining, petrochemicals, and upstream fabrication, leveraging Dangote's domestic infrastructure and NCDMB relationships.
- **Nigerian local content joint-venture partners:** NCDMB's intensifying focus on compliance quality over compliance volume makes credible Nigerian JV structures more valuable; Norwegian firms should formalise and document existing local partnerships ahead of upcoming licence and contract reviews.
- **Development finance institutions:** The emphasis on sustainable financing as a content pillar signals demand for capital solutions; Norwegian companies with DFI connections could facilitate financing structures that enable local contractors to invest in equipment and skills, strengthening bid competitiveness.

[Original source: NCDMB Nigeria →](#)

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