**WELCOME ADDRESS**

**BY**

**MR. M.D.B LADAN**

**DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES**

**AT**

**The 17th Biennial Conference on Health, Safety and Environment**

**Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos**

**On Monday, November 28th, 2016**

**Protcol:**

**It is my great pleasure and honour to welcome you most sincerely to the Seventeenth Biennial Conference on Health, Safety and Environment in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry. In particular, I thank you for making out time and efforts to come from far and near, in spite of your tight and busy schedules, to discuss over the next three (3) days contemporary HSE and associated issues.**

**The biennial conference started way back in 1979 in the city of Port-Harcourt, Rivers State; with subsequent series holding every other year in some choice venues across the country. Through your collective efforts in this forum, we are able to sustain the conference and have proffered valuable suggestions that have contributed immensely in the development and management of our commonwealth – The Petroleum Resources. It is therefore imperative that we sustain and improve our commitment to the essential operational variables within the environment where these resources are mined for the overall interest of the Industry and our dear country.**

**In selecting the theme for this year’s conference, “Integrated Security Approach, New Strategies and the way to go in the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry’’, the Conference Planning Committee, coordinated by the Department of Petroleum Resources, considered the inalienable role security plays in Exploration and Production activities.**

**In the past decade, the Industry witnessed increased activities; thanks to the Federal Government’s deliberate policy and action plan to increase daily crude production to four (4) million bbls and national reserve to forty (40) billion bbls by the year 2020. However, recent hike in pipeline vandalism, crude oil theft, crude spillages with associated environmental pollution, abductions etc. in the Niger-Delta region has resulted in significant decrease in crude production and revenue to government, increase in hazards and risks; and pose a great challenge, not only to the government but also, to both the workforce and the host communities. The theme of this conference is indeed a reflection of** **our commitment and readiness to harmonize valuable recommendations that will evolve from the discuss within these three (3) days with a view to galvanizing them as essentials for government policies.**

**It is noteworthy that the Department of Petroleum Resources has leveraged on the principles and suggestions presented by delegates in previous editions of this conference to make salient modifications to pertinent guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to make them more robust, implementable and enduring. Through effective collaborations with the relevant stakeholders, the Conference have made significant achievements over the years.**

**While laudable suggestions from this gathering could translate to implementable policies, you will agree with me that maintenance of high HSE performance involves a lot of commitment, effort and considerable resources from all stakeholders. To ensure unfettered productivity, safety of the workforce and available foreign earnings to our dear country, the need for the sustenance of a safe and secure work environment is sacrosanct.**

**It is therefore our aspiration that the three (3) day conference, which promises to be a very interesting and interactive one, would provide the best occasion for the articulation of novel ideas that could address the enormous challenges confronting the Industry today. During this conference, about thirty-six (36) technical papers in different areas of Security, Safety, Health, Environment as well as Compliance would be presented by various professionals and experts. Also, there would be four (4) plenary sessions dealing with topical issues and contemporary challenges in the Oil and Gas Industry; which, I presume, would provoke vibrant deliberations during these sessions.**

**Aside from the technical presentations, participating companies will be exhibiting the latest technologies in Security, HSE and allied products and services. I enjoin you all to make out time to visit the exhibition stands in order to acquaint yourselves with these innovations.**

**At the end of this conference, we are expected to come up with a communique, summarizing opinions and suggestions presented, with a view to making informed recommendations to the Government.**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, once again, I welcome you all to the 2016 HSE Conference. I wish you constructive contributions and very fruitful deliberations.**

**Thank you.**