

Egina Probe: Senate summons BP over \$3.3bn oil deal

By Henry Umoru

ABUJA—THE Senate has summoned a British firm, BP Oil International Limited over alleged \$3.3 billion pre-financing crude oil deal that may have breached Nigerian Oil and Gas Content Development, NOGICD, Act 2010.

Senate

Chairman, Senate Committee on Local Content, investigating local content elements on Egina Oil field, Senator Solomon Adeola, APC, Lagos West, while summoning the Chief Executive Officer of BP oil limited, Mr. Robert Dudley, said the summon became imperative following complaints from a Nigerian firm, Alsaa Gas and Shipping Nigeria Limited, AGSN, on a \$3.3 billion pre-financing crude oil contract, a probable infraction of the NOGICD Act 2010 and possible fraudulent acts against a Nigerian firm might have occurred.

The Nigerian company has provided technical and local industry knowledge support for BP Oil International Limited in the contract process with an agreement for a \$0.10 per barrel of crude oil of the deal which was unilaterally revoked by the British firm.

In a statement through his Media Adviser, Kayode Odunaro, Senator Adeola, said part of its oversight responsibilities and functions included to ensure that local companies were not undermined in their dealings with big foreign entities as well as ensuring compliance for NOGICD Act.

The British company which letter of summons was routed through Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as copied to its local representative in Lagos is expected to appear on March 28, 2018 with “all emails, documents, agreements (signed and unsigned) between yourself, NNPC and AGSN relating to the contract” as well as all “transactional negotiation documents and offers, term sheets and any legal documents to do with dealings with NNPC in this pre-financing opportunity including all correspondences from GED Finance, Group Managing Director and Standard Chartered Bank”.

Senator Adeola, however threatened that failure on the part of the British firm to appear before the Committee might lead to invoking parliamentary powers under the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, adding that it was regrettable that some of the infractions against the spirit and letters of the NOGICD Act were perpetrated with active collaboration of some Nigerians.

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