

viewpoint

Every Nigerian needs to be carbon literate



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THERE are many benefits in fighting climate change, but for a country like ours, the major incentive should be the poverty-eradication potential. Millions of citizens would be lifted out of poverty when they are connected to modern green energy services and when the government equitably manages the potential job losses in the oil sector resulting from global decarbonisation. This is what is known as just transition. But all these will not be as seamless and effective as they should be when the citizens do not have an idea of what carbon is all about, in the first place.

A fortnight ago, Nigeria had the privilege of joining the countries that are on the path of carbon literacy. Green Waka, an indigenous communication-focused advocacy organisation, in collaboration with the United Nations-recognised Carbon Literacy Project, unveiled the country's first two certified carbon literate citizens, Michael Mbaiké and Michael Etta, who now drive the Carbon Literacy Project in Nigeria.

I believe the carbon literacy training will help lay the foundation for Nigeria's just transition to a net-zero future by motivating citizens from all walks of life to devise and deliver their best climate action and thereby ensure that we collectively push the nation into fulfilling its commitment to achieving net-zero emissions by 2060, as pledged at the Conference of the Parties, 2021, in Glasgow.

Carbon literacy is defined by the Carbon Literacy Project as, "An awareness of the carbon dioxide costs and impacts of everyday

activities and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions on an individual, community and organisational basis." It is hoped that the training will foster a widespread low-carbon culture in Nigeria, as it is doing in the 26 nations across which

more than 700 unique accredited Carbon Literacy courses are already being delivered.

Created and founded in 2011 and launched publicly in November 2012, the Carbon Literacy Project has certified nearly 100,000 global citizens as carbon literate, who together have pledged at least 200,000 actions, saving over 360,000 tonnes of CO₂e – the equivalent emissions of approximately 921 million miles driven by a car. It is delivered by testing and certifying successful individuals as Carbon Literate after they have participated in a day's worth of learning and action.

First, it will help each individual become aware of his or her carbon footprint. A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gases (including carbon dioxide and methane) that are generated by our actions; that is, the accounting of the mark left by a person, organisation or product on the planet. This realisation helps us to take action to save our planet from polluting GHGs.

Second, it is important for the growth of public and private institutions. According to Change Agents UK, carbon literacy helps the organisation to succeed in a climate-challenged work environment. Offering your staff carbon literacy training shows them that you are committed to learning more about your carbon footprint and lets them know you are serious about sustainability. This sense of responsibility not only boosts your corporate image but also helps to foster a motivated and dedicated workforce, and one that understands that their actions can truly make a difference

both locally and globally.

Third, an understanding of carbon impacts not only increases competitive advantage but can lead to innovation. Once your citizens understand their footprint and its effects they can apply this knowledge to how they work, finding new lower-impact solutions. The pledges the participants make at the end of the training as part of their certification act as a driving force, an accountability check and ensure that the learning is carried forward to actionable items.

To me, the greatest advantage is the fact that the Carbon Literacy Project training manual is specifically designed according to the peculiarity of each country, and it is sector-specific. Therefore, as the net-zero target focuses on technologies that maximise emission reduction across critical sectors, carbon literacy would serve as the foundation for the workers and stakeholders to be able to engage in the decarbonisation process in Nigeria seamlessly and efficiently.

In the building sector, emissions reduction will be driven primarily by a shift to electricity and biogas-based cooking. In the oil and gas and industrial sectors, emissions reduction will be enhanced by the global response to climate change mitigation using technologies such as carbon capture and storage, direct air capture, hydrogen fuel, among others. In the transport sector, emissions will be largely decreased by the uptake of electric vehicles and hybrid renewables from transition energy sources. In the power sector, emissions will be reduced by increases in the use of solar power, and as renewables replace natural gas as a transition fuel. At the domestic level, there will be replacement of firewood stoves by a less carbon-emitting cooking system.

The Nigerian government should key into this because it will increase productivity, creating a sense of ownership in the energy

transition initiatives of the government. As a result, workers shall not constitute themselves as a nuisance to a climate-impacted society trying to cope, rather they will become the agents of change to be deployed in climate crisis. Furthermore, the knowledge would serve as the foundation for entrepreneurship as more avenues are opened up for solving the climate crisis. By knowing what is carbon and how not to emit it, they would find the creativity to innovate carbon-friendly products and services even as they engage more advanced stakeholders and emerging technologies. This is the spirit of just transition.

Some challenges militating against the 2060 net-zero target would be solved when a reasonable percentage of the citizenry becomes carbon literate. For instance, our net-zero target may be affected by the slower replacement of firewood stoves with clean cooking stoves and technologies in buildings; lower rate of adoption of electric vehicles in the transport sector, delayed implementation of the hydrogen furnace in the heavy industries, among others. These problematic scenarios could be ameliorated by a carbon literate workforce who are determined to clean their own carbon footprint in their primary work stations, and also by conceptualising ideas to engage their wider communities.

Meanwhile, there is an interesting historical angle to this. The Carbon Literacy Project was born in Manchester, in the United Kingdom. Interestingly, Manchester was the world's first industrial city, at the advent of the Industrial Revolution. To the climate activists, the city shares responsibility for the global dependence on the fuels that generate carbon dioxide. Therefore, it is only fitting that the city should be the first to originate a project like the Carbon Literacy Project, thereby forging a path towards a low-carbon culture for the entire globe.

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MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC

NOTICE OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Fifty-Fifth Annual General Meeting of MRS Oil Nigeria Plc will hold at the Federal Palace Hotel, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria, on 1st of August, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. to transact the following business:-

ORDINARY BUSINESS:

- To lay the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 and the Report of the Directors together with the Audit Committee and Auditors Report thereon.
- To declare a dividend.
- To re-elect Directors under Articles 90/91 of the Company's Articles of Association.
- To appoint External Auditors.
- To authorize the Directors to fix the remuneration of the Auditors.
- To elect the Members of the Audit Committee.
- To disclose the remuneration of the Managers of the Company.

SPECIAL BUSINESS:

To consider and if thought fit, pass the following resolution as Ordinary Resolutions:

- To fix the remuneration of the Non-Executive Directors.
- To renew the general mandate for "Related Party Transactions".

VOTING BY INTERESTED PERSONS:

In line with the provisions of Rule 20.8(h) Rules Governing Related Party Transactions of Nigerian Exchange Limited, interested persons have undertaken to ensure that their proxies, representatives, or associates shall abstain from voting on the Special Business in item 9 above.

To consider and if thought fit, pass the following resolutions as Special Resolutions:

- That the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby altered by amending the present Article 9 and substituting the following new Clause in its place.

Article 9 to read "Every person whose name is entered as a member in the register of members shall be entitled without payment to receive within three months after said allotment or lodgment of transfer (or within such other period as the conditions of issue provide) one certificate for all his shares or several certificates each for one or more of his shares upon payment of Five Thousand Naira only for every certificate after the first or such less sum as the Directors shall from time to time determine. Every certificate shall specify the shares to which it relates and the amount paid up thereon. Provided that in respect of a share or shares held jointly by several persons the Company shall not be bound to issue more than one certificate, and delivery of a certificate for a share to one or several joint holders shall be sufficient delivery to all such holders".

- That the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby altered by amending the present Article 10 and substituting the following new Article in its place.

Article 10 to read "Every certificate for shares or debentures or representing any other form of security (other than letters of allotment or scrip certificates) may be under the Seal and shall bear the autographic signature of one or more Directors or with one Director and the Secretary but so that the Directors may by resolution determine either generally or in any particular case, that the signature of any Director or of the Secretary may be affixed by some mechanical means to be specified in such resolution, provided that the use of such means is by such resolution restricted to certificates which have first been approved for Sealing by the Company. A member who has transferred part of his shares comprised in a share certificate shall be entitled to receive without payment and within three months after the lodgment of the transfer of the shares transferred a certificate in respect of the shares not transferred. If a share certificate be defaced, lost or destroyed it may be renewed on payment of such sum not exceeding Five Thousand Naira and on such terms (if any) as to evidence and indemnity and the payment of out-of-pocket expenses of the Company of investigating evidence as the Directors think fit".

- That the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby altered by amending the present Article 19 and substituting the following new Article in its place.

Article 19 to read "If a sum called in respect of a share is not paid before or on the day appointed for payment thereof, the person from whom the sum is due shall pay interest on the sum from the day appointed for payment thereof to the time of actual payment and such rate shall not exceed the current bank rate per annum".

- That the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby altered by amending the present Article 21 and substituting the following new Article in its place.

Article 21 to read "The Directors may, if they think fit, receive from any member willing to advance the same, all or any part of the moneys uncalled and unpaid upon any shares held by him, and upon all or any of the moneys so advanced may (until the same would, but for such advance, become payable) pay interest at such rate not exceeding (unless the Company in general meeting shall otherwise direct) the current bank rate per annum".

- That the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby altered by amending the present Article 71 and substituting the following new Article in its place.

Article 71 to read "The instrument appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed office or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority shall be deposited at the office or at such other place within Nigeria as may be specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting, not less than 24 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting, at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote, or in the case of a poll, less than 24 hours before the time appointed for taking of the poll, and in default the instrument of proxy shall not be treated as valid".

- That the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby altered by amending the present Article 122 and substituting the following new Article in its place.

Article 122 to read "When the company sends dividends to its members but fails to send to some other members due to omission, the dividends will accrue interest at the prevailing bank rate starting three months after the day they should have been posted".

- That the Articles of Association of the Company be and are hereby altered by amending the present Article 136 and substituting the following new Article in its place.

Article 136 to read "If the Company shall be wound up, the Liquidator may with the sanction of an special resolution of the Company and any other sanction required by the Act divide amongst the members in specie or kind, the whole or any part of the assets of the Company (whether they shall consist of property of the same kind or not) and may, for such purpose, set such value as he deems fair upon any property to be divided as aforesaid and may determine how such division shall be carried out as between the members or different classes of members. The liquidator may, with the like sanction, vest the whole or any part of such assets in trustees upon such trusts for the benefit of the contributories as the liquidator, with the like sanction, shall think fit, but so that no member shall be compelled to accept any shares or other securities whereon there is any liability".

NOTES:

The notes are as provided in the 2023, Audited Financial Statements.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD,

O.M. Jafelo (Mrs.) FCSI
Company Secretary
FRC NO. 2013/NBA/00000002311
Registered Office
2, Tincan Island Port Road, Apapa, Lagos,
Nigeria.

Dated: March 27, 2024

