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Leadership (Abuja)**[Nigeria: Yuletide - Citizens Express Fears of Fuel Scarcity](#)**

Juliet Alohan

4 December 2010

[Recommander](#)

Soyez le premier de vos amis à recommander ça.

Abuja — Although the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has pledged its readiness to meet the nation's petroleum products need throughout the coming yuletide season and beyond, it remains uncertain whether or not there would be an easy access to purchasing the products without resorting to fighting after several hours on queue.

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The NNPC Group Managing Director, Engr. Austen Oniwon, who gave this assurance recently at the end of the marathon meeting convened to address NUPENG'S recent strike, implored oil marketers to refrain from any sharp practice that would create undue hardship for the people.

He disclosed that NNPC had enough supply of petroleum products across the nation, and urged Nigerians not to indulge in panic buying.

However, LEADERSHIP weekend investigations have revealed that unless all parties, in the spirit of true patriotism stay committed, it is more likely that some mischievous Nigerians may jeopardise the ease of purchasing fuel for the sole aim of enriching their pockets, especially with the yuletide season at hand.

Speaking exclusively to our correspondent, a Conoil station's manager in Central Area informed that there were chances that fuel supply may be a problem.

"Imagine the way the fuel crisis got out of hand within 24 hours of the news that tanker drivers had gone on strike. The queues became so long as if the product had been unavailable for weeks," the anonymous source noted.

"You would recall that as at Tuesday evening when the strike was called off, the NNPC GMD said there was still over 41 days sufficiency of fuel, 59 days supply of kerosene and over 30 days stock of diesel, so what happened? Why was there still queues everywhere?" the source queried.

He explained that the Abuja fuel crisis showed the greed of some industry players, the likes of whom would prefer scarcity of the product in order to make quick money.

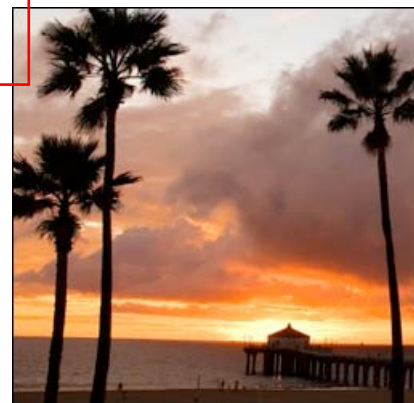
Also speaking with LEADERSHIP, a source within the NNPC noted that the corporation was doing all in its power to ensure product availability as the yuletide season draws near. He however, noted that NNPC alone would not achieve the goal without the support of everyone involved in the petroleum downstream sector.

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"NUPENG went on strike for a day and fuel became so scarce that people were fighting to buy it at the filling stations. That tells us that there are people waiting for any opportunity to cause hardship in this country, just to make a few more money," he lamented.

Speaking further, he said, "NUPENG had a cause to down tools, no one would blame them for pressing demands over the alleged killing of their member, but if we were honest with ourselves, the kind of crises that hit Abuja shouldn't have surfaced till at least a week into the incident," the source added.

Meanwhile, a joint communiqué has been signed by all parties involved in addressing the NUPENG strike issue wrought by the alleged killing of a tanker driver by a soldier along the Bauchi/Jos highway, as well as issues raised by the Jetties and Petroleum Tank Farm

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