

**PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT JOURNAL ANNUAL SUMMIT
(2026 PTDJ SUMMIT, 30 SEPTEMBER 2026)**

**THEME: PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN NIGERIA'S MIDSTREAM AND
DOWNSTREAM PETROLEUM SECTOR: THE PROSPECTS, CHALLENGES AND
THE WAY FORWARD.**

EDITOR'S CLOSING REMARKS

By
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Distinguished guests, eminent scholars, industry leaders, regulators, policy makers, captains of industry, members of the petroleum technology community, ladies and gentlemen, it is my honour, as Editor of the Petroleum Technology Development Journal (PTDJ), to offer these closing remarks at the 2026 PTDJ Summit.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), I sincerely thank our keynote speaker, panellists, discussants, partners and all participants for the quality of engagement we have witnessed. This summit has given practical meaning to our theme: *Private Sector Participation in Nigeria's Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Sector: Prospects, Challenges and the Way Forward.*

Our deliberations have affirmed that Nigeria's midstream and downstream petroleum sector is at a defining moment. The Petroleum Industry Act, the evolving role of the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, the renewed emphasis on gas infrastructure, refining, storage, logistics, distribution and fair competition all point to one conclusion: *the future of the sector must be built on clear rules, responsible investment and strong institutions.* The opportunities are significant. Private sector participation can expand domestic refining, deepen gas processing and utilisation, strengthen supply security, create quality jobs, support local content, improve technology transfer and position Nigeria as a regional energy hub. But these opportunities will not unlock themselves. They require deliberate policy action.

- 1) *First*, government and regulators must guarantee policy consistency, licensing efficiency, commercial transparency and non-discriminatory access to critical infrastructure such as pipelines, depots, terminals and gas networks.
- 2) *Second*, competition rules must be enforced to prevent monopoly, market abuse, product hoarding and practices that undermine consumers and credible investors.
- 3) *Third*, financing frameworks, including gas infrastructure funds and risk-sharing instruments, must be strengthened to attract long-term capital.

- 4) ***Fourth***, safety, environmental protection, host community inclusion and consumer protection must remain non-negotiable pillars of sector governance.
- 5) ***Fifth***, Nigeria must deliberately link industrial policy with skills development, research, digital monitoring and indigenous technology capacity.

In this regard, the Petroleum Technology Development Journal has a solemn and strategic responsibility. As an authoritative academic and professional bi-annual journal, PTDJ will continue to stand as a bridge between research, policy and practice. It will continue to publish rigorous peer-reviewed scholarship, policy analyses, technical case studies and professional commentaries that speak directly to the needs of Nigeria and Africa's petroleum industry.

The Journal will help document best practices, interrogate reform outcomes, promote indigenous innovation, encourage evidence-based regulation and create a respected platform where scholars, industry experts, investors, regulators and young professionals can contribute to petroleum technology development. In doing so, PTDJ with the backing of PTDF will not only report knowledge; it will help shape policy, guide investment and advance Africa's technological confidence in the energy sector.

As we close this summit, let us leave with a shared resolve: ***to move from conversation to implementation, from policy declaration to regulatory certainty, from research publication to practical application, and from private participation to inclusive national development.***

Therefore, as we leave this hall, let us not leave with applause alone. Let us leave with commitments that can be measured, reported and reviewed. Let government commit to publishing clear implementation timelines for policy decisions, reducing approval bottlenecks and supporting bankable midstream and downstream projects. Let regulators commit to measurable service standards for licensing, transparent enforcement reports, open-access rules for critical infrastructure and periodic public reviews of market conduct. Let investors commit to defined project milestones, local content targets, safety performance indicators, job creation figures and community benefit plans. Let academia and research institutions commit to industry-linked research outputs, annual policy briefs, technology demonstrations and skills programmes that respond to real sector needs. On its part, PTDJ commits to dedicating each bi-annual edition to evidence-based scholarship, publishing summit policy outcomes, tracking reform progress and providing a credible platform for peer-reviewed solutions from Nigeria and Africa. If each institution leaves this summit with one target, one timeline and one accountable officer, then today will not end as a ceremony; it will begin as a covenant for

action. The success we seek must be visible in functioning refineries, reliable gas networks, safer depots, efficient pipelines, cleaner communities, stronger skills and renewed public trust.

I thank you all most sincerely for your presence, your wisdom and your commitment. May this summit mark not merely the close of deliberations, but the opening of a stronger chapter for Nigeria's petroleum sector and Africa's energy future.