



BENUE STATE GOVERNMENT
BENUE CNG PROJECT



**3-DAY
AWARENESS
WORKSHOP**

Theme:

**PRESIDENTIAL
CNG INITIATIVE**
THE GAME CHANGER



REPORT OF THE THREE-DAY CNG AWARENESS WORKSHOP

“PRESIDENTIAL CNG INITIATIVE – THE GAME CHANGER”

*Held at the Rev. Fr.
Hyacinth Iormem Alia
Conference Hall, SEMA,
Makurdi*

21st–23rd September 2026

Introduction

A three-day awareness, business and technical workshop on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) was held in Makurdi from 21st to 23rd September 2026. The workshop was themed “Presidential CNG Initiative – The Game Changer.” It was organized by the Benue State Ministry of Power, Renewable Energy and Transport, in collaboration with the Office of the Technical Adviser to the Governor on Natural Gas and Renewable Energy.

The workshop was designed to improve public understanding of CNG, explain the opportunities created by the emerging CNG economy, engage prospective investors and businesses, and build the technical capacity of mechanics and technicians involved in vehicle conversion and maintenance. The programme brought together government officials, transport operators, investors, financial institutions, technicians, mechanics and other stakeholders.

The programme was structured into three major components: Day One – Workshop and Awareness Sessions; Day Two – Business and Investment Sessions; and Day Three – Technical and Competency Sessions.

Objectives of the Workshop

To create awareness of Compressed Natural Gas and its potential applications in transportation and power generation.

To explain opportunities available to transport operators, technicians, young people, investors and other stakeholders within the CNG value chain.

To introduce participants to the proposed deployment of CNG infrastructure in Benue State.

To encourage investment in CNG refuelling, vehicle conversion, maintenance, financing and related services.

To provide technical knowledge and competency training for mechanics and technicians involved in CNG vehicle conversion and maintenance.

To promote a safer and more informed transition from conventional petrol/diesel use to suitable alternative fuels.

Overview of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

Compressed Natural Gas is natural gas, consisting predominantly of methane, that is stored at high pressure for use as a fuel. Unlike Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), which is cooled to a very low temperature to become a liquid, CNG remains in gaseous form and is stored in specially designed high-pressure cylinders or storage systems.

In transportation, CNG can be used in purpose-built vehicles or in suitable petrol-powered vehicles that have been professionally converted using approved conversion equipment. A typical conversion system may include a high-pressure storage cylinder, pressure regulator, gas injectors, control components, valves, high-pressure piping and safety devices. Proper installation, inspection and maintenance are essential because CNG is stored under high pressure.

The growing interest in CNG in Nigeria is linked to the country's natural gas resources and the search for additional transport-energy options. The national programme has increasingly involved vehicle conversion, refuelling infrastructure, training and financing. Its practical success depends on infrastructure, technical competence, safety, reliable gas supply and affordability.

Day One – Workshop and Awareness Sessions

The Day One programme commenced at about 1:07 p.m., rather than the scheduled 9:00 a.m., following other official engagements at the Benue State Government House. The opening ceremony was attended by the Deputy Governor, **Barr. Sam Ode**, MNI, who represented the Executive Governor, **Rev. Fr. Dr. Hyacinth Iormem Alia**. Other dignitaries included senior government officials, among them the Chief of Staff to the Governor, **Barr. Moses Atagher**, the accountant-General of the State, **Mrs. Theresa Nyitse**, and the Acting Head of Service, **Dr. Mrs. Ihu Eunice Ogbenyi**.

Opening Address by the by the host

In his welcome remarks, the Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Power, Renewable Energy and Transport, **Hon. Jir Joseph Ter** apologized for the delayed commencement and explained that the State's objective was to translate the national CNG policy into practical benefits for residents. He emphasized that CNG should be viewed not only as an alternative fuel but also as an emerging economic sector capable of creating opportunities in transportation, vehicle conversion, maintenance, refuelling, finance, logistics and related services.

The Commissioner encouraged transport operators to view the transition as an opportunity, young people to consider the CNG sector as a potential area for employment and entrepreneurship, and investors to explore the different segments of the CNG value chain.

Opening Address by the Chairman of the Occasion

The Chairman of the occasion, **Amb. Nicholas Agbo Ella**, gave an address on the development of CNG in Nigeria and highlighted the potential benefits of increased adoption. His remarks emphasized the need for stakeholders to understand the initiative and participate actively in its implementation.

Historical Perspective on Nigeria's Oil and Gas Industry

Dr. Matthew Oche Agaba provided a historical perspective on petroleum and natural gas development in Nigeria and linked the discussion to the potential importance of natural gas resources in Benue State. The presentation emphasized the need to recognize gas as an economic resource that can support transportation, electricity generation and industrial activity.

Linking it to the discovery in 1952 natural-gas at Opialu in Okpokwu Local Government Area, before the oil discovery in Oloibiri in present-day Bayelsa State in 1956.

Workshop Session I – Overview of CNG and Proposed Deployment in Benue State

The first session was delivered by **Engr. Ashir Jonathan Terkosu** and focused on an overview of CNG, the proposed deployment strategy in Benue State and the development of refuelling facilities. The pilot locations identified in the original report were Makurdi, Gboko, Otukpo and Vandeikya.

The session demonstrated that successful CNG adoption requires more than the availability of gas. It requires reliable refuelling stations, approved vehicle conversion centres, trained personnel, appropriate safety procedures, access to spare parts, financing mechanisms and sustained public awareness.

Address by the Executive Governor

Following the first workshop session, the Deputy Governor was invited to deliver the address of the Executive Governor. The transcript of the audio recording of the is attached as appendix I.



Workshop Session II – CNG History, Myths and Risk Factors

The second workshop session was facilitated by **Engr. Zendesha N. Pamela**. The session examined the history and development of CNG, common misconceptions surrounding its use and the risk factors associated with CNG systems.

A key lesson was that safety must be treated as a central part of CNG adoption. Because CNG is stored under high pressure, approved cylinders, components and conversion procedures should be used. Conversion and maintenance should be undertaken by trained and appropriately authorized personnel. Regular inspection of cylinders, valves, pipes, connections and other components is important, while damaged or improperly installed equipment should not be used.

The session also helped distinguish between legitimate safety concerns and myths. CNG systems are engineered with safety features, but safe operation depends on proper installation, certified equipment, correct handling and adherence to applicable standards and procedures.

Workshop Session III – CNG Facilities for Effective Transportation and Power Generation.

The third workshop session, titled “CNG Facilities for Effective Transportation and Power Generation (Benue CNG Project),” was handled by **Dr. (Engr.) Shima Adum**. The presentation focused on the facilities and opportunities required to make CNG available for transportation and suitable power-generation applications.

CNG infrastructure may include gas supply arrangements, compression facilities, storage systems, dispensing equipment, vehicle conversion centres, workshops, safety systems and supporting logistics. For power generation, CNG can serve as a fuel for appropriately designed gas engines and generators. The effectiveness of the system therefore depends on reliable supply, infrastructure availability, technical competence and proper regulation.

Workshop Session IV – Importance of CNG to the Benue Economy

The fourth workshop session, titled “The Importance of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) to the Benue Economy,” was delivered by **Mr. John Akuse**, Director-General, Benue State SDG office. The presentation linked the CNG initiative with broader economic and social-development objectives, including the potential to support transportation, reduce operating costs for businesses, create employment and encourage investment.

The session also connected the initiative with the State's broader objective of improving livelihoods and supporting the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs). A more affordable and dependable transportation system can contribute to access to markets, schools, health facilities, workplaces and agricultural communities, although the actual impact will depend on infrastructure availability, affordability and effective implementation.

Closing of Day One

The Director of Transportation in the Ministry of Power, Renewable Energy and Transport, **Engr. Iorhemba**, delivered the vote of thanks. He appreciated the President, the State Governor, the Honourable Commissioner, the Technical Adviser and all participants for their contributions and attendance, and wished participants safe journeys to their various destinations.

Participants were afterward conducted round a newly converted Toyota Hilux that was running on CNG at the premises of the Benue SEMA.

Day Two – Business and Investment Sessions

Day Two focused on the business and investment dimensions of the CNG initiative. The session brought together prospective investors, financial institutions, automotive stakeholders and other members of the private sector to discuss opportunities within the CNG value chain in Benue State.

Organizations listed in the original report included the Bank of Industry (BOI), National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDCC), Presidential Initiative for CNG and Electric Vehicles (Pi-CNG & EV), Auto Gas, Ashiro Motors, Idea Lab Agency, MDGIF, The OGIM Lid, Access Bank, Fidelity Bank, Novus Microfinance Bank, Phoenix Renewable Energy and Zenith Bank, among others.

The business discussions demonstrated that CNG development is broader than fuel dispensing. Potential areas of participation include refuelling stations, vehicle conversion centres, cylinder and component supply, vehicle maintenance, transport fleet management, financial services, insurance, training, logistics and technology. The invited investors expressed interest in the initiative and made commitments to explore investment opportunities.

Day Three – Technical and Competency Training

Day Three was specifically designed for mechanics, technicians and other personnel who would be directly involved in vehicle conversion and maintenance, and risk mitigations. Other participants were excused from the technical sessions to provide adequate space for focused practical training.

Technical Session – introduction to the technical principles and components involved in CNG vehicle systems.

Introduction to Conversion – basic procedures, equipment and considerations involved in converting suitable vehicles to CNG.

Maintaining Converted Cars – routine inspection, preventive maintenance, fault identification and safe servicing practices.

Conversion Centre Registration/Licensing – the importance of operating through properly registered and authorized facilities.

Day Three – Extra

Competency Training – development of practical skills required for safe, reliable and professional CNG conversion and maintenance.

The technical component was particularly important because the long-term success of the CNG programme depends on competent personnel. Poorly installed or poorly maintained conversion systems can create safety hazards, reduce vehicle performance and undermine public confidence. Consequently, training, certification, inspection and adherence to applicable standards should remain central to implementation.

Key Lessons from the Workshop

CNG is not merely an alternative automotive fuel; it can support a wider economic value chain involving transport, energy, engineering, finance and entrepreneurship.

Infrastructure is critical. Vehicle conversion without adequate and accessible refuelling infrastructure may limit adoption.

Safety must be prioritized through approved equipment, competent technicians, proper installation, inspection and maintenance.

Public awareness is necessary to address misconceptions and help transport operators and vehicle owners make informed decisions.

Financial institutions can play an important role by providing suitable financing for vehicle conversion, fleet acquisition and related infrastructure.

Technical training and competency development can create employment opportunities for mechanics, technicians and young people.

The economic benefits of CNG will depend on actual implementation, including reliable gas supply, refuelling availability, conversion costs, maintenance costs and whether savings are passed through to transport users.

Recommendations

The Benue State Government should continue public awareness programmes and provide clear, practical information on CNG conversion, safety, costs and benefits.

Efforts should be sustained toward developing accessible CNG refuelling infrastructure in the identified pilot locations and other high-demand transport corridors.

Only qualified and appropriately authorized technicians and conversion centres should undertake vehicle conversions.

A structured database of trained technicians, conversion centres, refuelling stations and relevant stakeholders should be developed to support coordination and accountability.

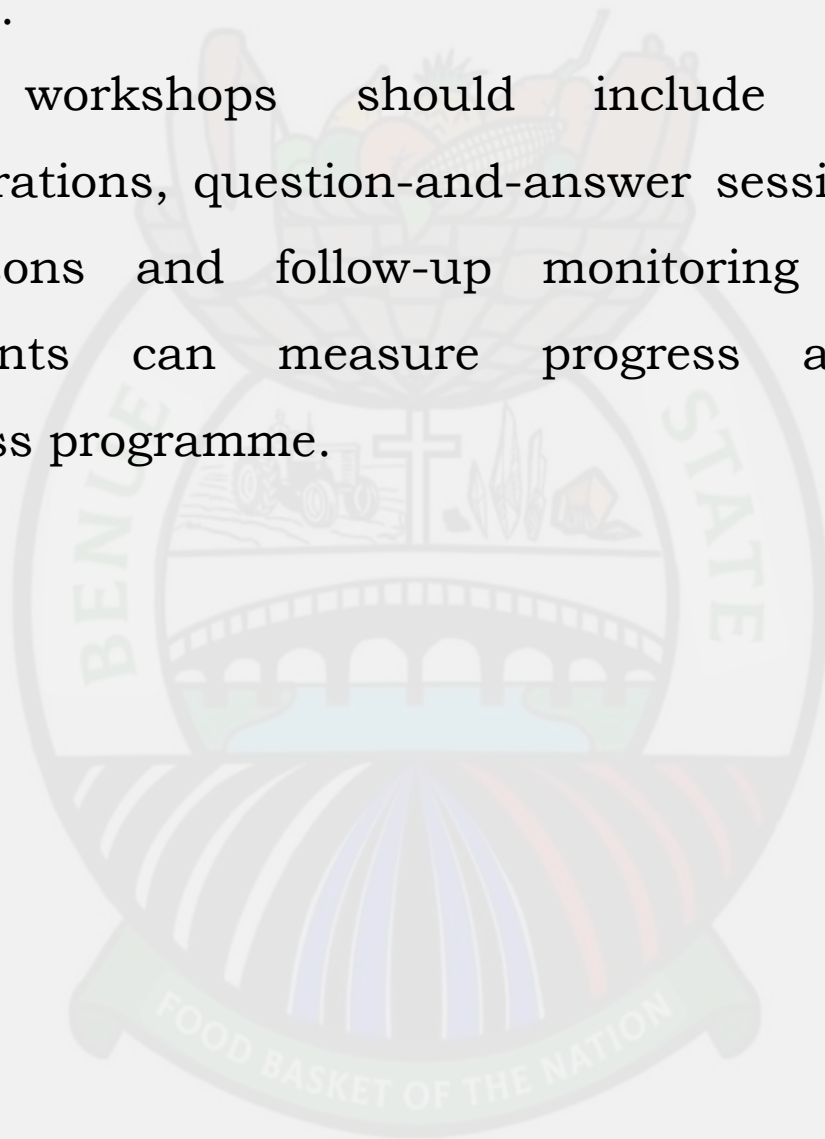
Government and financial institutions should explore transparent financing mechanisms that can reduce the initial cost burden of vehicle conversion for eligible transport operators.

Regular technical inspection and safety awareness should be encouraged for all converted vehicles.

Recommendations - Extra

The State should encourage local participation in the CNG value chain through skills development, entrepreneurship and partnerships with private investors.

Future workshops should include practical demonstrations, question-and-answer sessions, cost comparisons and follow-up monitoring so that participants can measure progress after the awareness programme.



Conclusion

The three-day CNG awareness workshop provided a platform for government officials, transport stakeholders, investors, technicians and members of the public to examine the opportunities and practical requirements associated with CNG adoption in Benue State. The programme combined awareness, business engagement and technical training, thereby addressing several important components of the CNG ecosystem.

The workshop also demonstrated that the success of CNG adoption will depend on more than the availability of natural gas. It will require coordinated investment, appropriate infrastructure, skilled personnel, effective safety practices, public education, financing and sustained stakeholder collaboration. With these elements properly developed, CNG can become an important component of the State's transportation and energy strategy.

Report By

Achichi I. J.

Appendix I

The Governor's speech presented by his representative, the Deputy Governor

The protocol.

I am pleased to welcome you all to this important CNG project that we are launching today.

Let me begin by appreciating all our partners, stakeholders, technical experts, and participants who have responded to our invitation and have gathered here to contribute to an initiative that we consider important for the economic transformation of our country.

The introduction and adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is part of a broader national effort to provide Nigerians with affordable, cleaner, and more sustainable energy options.

For us in developing states, this is not merely a national policy to be observed from a distance. We tend to translate opportunities presented by compressed natural gas into practical remedies for our teeming population.

We are particularly concerned about the cost of transportation, the cost of powering businesses, the cost of agricultural production, and the general pressure that high energy costs place on households, businesses, and our local economy.

CNG presents an opportunity to address some of these challenges.

Earlier on, we saw the details presentation from the government when there was a power comparison. We saw the analysis, which was well displayed, giving us an energy cost benefit that is more than one hundred percent compared to other fuel sources like PMS (premium motor spirit) and automotive gas oil (AGO/Diesel).

Appendix I - Extra

CNG can provide an alternative fuel for vehicles, generators, and other suitable applications, while also opening opportunities across the gas value chain.

However, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, technology can only deliver its full benefits when the people who use it understand the perspectives and the scopes of what it entails.

CNG is not something that should be approached with fear or misinformation. It requires proper awareness, appropriate standards, and competent technical personnel, approved equipment, and responsible operations.

That is why this awareness workshop is very important.

May I say that until the technical advisor spoke on the safety of the gas cylinder that is in the boot of the car, personally I was one of the people who used to nurse great phobia for carrying gas in my boot. So today I am well informed, more informed about the safety of the gas being in the boot. Thank you so much for that demonstration.

We want our people to understand what CNG is all about — its habits, its properties, how it is transported, stored, and dispensed; how vehicles and generators can use it; the economic benefits; the safety requirements; and the opportunities that exist for our young people, our businesses, our mechanics, investors, and entrepreneurs.

This workshop therefore presents more than a gathering of presentations. It is the beginning of a structured programme of awareness, capacity building, investment mobilization, and practical development of compressed natural gas solutions across various states.

Appendix I - Extra

As a government, we are already working toward the development of these three ecosystems. This includes programmes for CNG awareness and public enlightenment, technical and competency training, CNG vehicle conversion, the development and deployment of mobile refueling units and mother stations, and the expansion of CNG services beyond and according to our various local government areas across the state.

Our objective is to create an environment where investors can come in and play with confidence, where our local people can acquire valuable skills, where existing mechanics and technicians can transition into a new area of automotive technology, and where transport operators and businesses can access more affordable energy options.

Very distinguished ladies and gentlemen, gentlemen of the press: We are equally looking at the wider economic opportunities presented by natural gas.

CNG should not be seen only as a fuel for cars. It has applications in transportation, agriculture, electricity generation, agro-processing, commerce, and industry.

For a state that is known as the food basket of the nation, affordable energy can contribute significantly to agricultural production, processing, storage, and indeed transportation.

We are therefore going to see CNG as one of the components of our broader economic development strategy, and therefore urge all participants who are here present in this workshop to take full advantage of the technical sessions and interactions that will take place, even after I depart from here.

I particularly encourage our young people, technicians, mechanics, transport operators, and entrepreneurs to see this programme not only as a government

Appendix I - Extra

project, but as an opportunity to acquire skills, create businesses, and participate in the emerging clean energy economy.

Mind you, the technical sessions we are going to have here are cost-free. So, as you take the courses here, you are not going to pay any tuition fee. Everything is free.

I also call on the investors and development partners to look closely at the various states. We in Benue have the people, we have the markets, the agricultural and commercial activities, and the enabling environment of governments to provide a resilient support for responsible investments.

Our administration remains committed to policies and programmes that reduce the burden on our people, stimulate economic activities, create employment, and improve the standard of living of our citizens.

Today, therefore, we are taking another important step in that direction.

I commend the Honourable Commissioner for Power, Renewable Energy, and Transport on the leadership, and the technical adviser to the Governor on Natural Gas and Renewable Energy and Business Energy Project Coordinator, Engineer Ashish Jonathan, together with his team and all the partners who have worked assiduously to make this day happen.

I also appreciate the Federal Government of Nigeria and the various agencies and organisations supporting the transition towards cleaner and more affordable energy solutions in Nigeria.

To this end, I pay special tribute to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, our President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Grand Commander of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (GCFR), who is championing this energy revolution that is beginning to take root in states and local governments across the country.

Appendix I - Extra

Let me assure the people of Benue that this programme will not end with this workshop. The knowledge gained here must be translated into action. We shall continue to pursue the partnerships, investments, infrastructure, and capacity development required to make compressed natural gas increasingly accessible across the state.

It is my hope, and rightly so too, that at the end of this workshop, participants will be better informed, better prepared, and ready to become ambassadors of safe and responsible CNG adoption in various Local Government Areas across the state.

It is now my great pleasure, on behalf of the government and the good people of Benue state, to formally declare the Benue CNG project awareness workshop open.

I wish you all very fruitful deliberations and a successful workshop.

God bless Benue state.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Thank you very much for your audience.

Appendix II

Scan the QR code to view the program of event





BENUE STATE GOVERNMENT **BENUE CNG PROJECT**

