



POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF HIRING OF EXPATRIATES FOR OIL EXPLORATION IN NIGERIA

The Philippine Embassy in Abuja has reported that the hiring of expatriates for oil exploration in Nigeria will be drastically reduced as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and other indigenous firms aggressively develop their manpower in the sub-sector.

In a bid to become self-sufficient in pipeline production, Nigeria has stepped up efforts to achieve independence in oil exploration. BK Tabulars Nigeria Limited, which is the biggest pipe threading plant in Africa threading 90,000 tonnes of pipes of full capacity, will generate employment opportunities that will complement Nigerian government efforts at curbing youth restiveness and substantially improve the Niger Delta economy.

At the moment, it remains to be seen how this development will affect OFWs in the Nigerian oil and gas industry. The Philippine Embassy believes that, based on past experience, expatriates such as OFWs will remain indispensable in Nigeria's largest industry until the country is able to develop its indigenous work force.