High-Level African Petroleum Meeting on Cleaner Fuels

29-30 November 2022, UNEP Headquarters, Nairobi Kenya
Foreword

- As far as protecting the environment, fighting global warming and preserving planet Earth, The Democratic Republic of The Congo (DRC) is a Solution Country – This is because of its rain forest which is the first « Lung » of the world, and its natural Carbone traps (Tourbières),

- As far as Clean Energy is concerned, The DRC can also be a Solution Country for Africa with its hydraulic Inga site which can provide 44,000 MW of hydroelectricity

- But also and most importantly the DRC has to be a Solution Country for its People by improving their living conditions, Therefore the need to explore and exploit its natural resources, including the huge hydrocarbons potential,
Fuel Supply and logistics

- The DRC had 16000 b/d (SOCIR) built in 1968. It stopped refining crude oil in 1999, and it's currently used as a storage facility for fuels imports.

- Supply routes:

  Western DRC: from the Atlantic coast via the port of Matadi with fuels originating from Lome and Europe.

  Southern DRC: from Dar Es Salam, Beira and Durban with fuels originating from the Middle East and Asia. In the past, it used to come by rail from the Port of Lobito (Angola).

  Eastern DRC: from Eldoret (Kenya) via Uganda.

Fuels imports which used to be the monopoly of the National Oil Company were liberalized in 2001.
Fuel Supply and logistics
Cleaner Fuels

The DRC is a member State of 3 big regional organizations namely the SADC, The EAC and the CEEAC, and as such will go with the highest cleaner fuels standards of all the regions.

The DRC is almost land locked and imports its fuels via its neighboring countries. If these do not allow high sulfur fuels to enter their territories, the DRC will have to follow suit and have access to low sulfur content fuels.

For Western part of the DRC, the Government is in total control and will have to implement the adopted Road Map for cleaner fuels, trends,

But the mining companies in Southern DRC import fuels of 50ppm sulfur content for their own equipment (Spec in Tanzania)
Cleaner Fuels (ctd)

Current situation:

In 2014 the DRC Government decided to review all fuels specs and issued a ministerial decree in 2015, specifying the following fuels sulfur contents:

- Mogas: 300 ppm (aligned with AFRI 3)
- Gasoil: 500 ppm (aligned with AFRI 3)
- FOMI (Fuel Oil for internal market): 20000 ppm

These numbers are fairly high and not in line with current trends,
Cleaner Fuels (ctd)

Current situation:
- In 2016 the DRC attended a SADC workshop organized in South Africa to help member states implement cleaner fuels policies.
- In October 2020 the DRC Government organized, with the technical and the financial support of UNEP, a big workshop involving several ministries to come up with a National Road Map for cleaner fuels.

The Road Map was issued in October 2020, adopted and validated with an implementation timeline of 6 months. It adopted 50 ppm as the maximum sulfur content for Mogas and gasoil.

The Road Map needs to be resurrected and implemented as soon as possible.
Conclusion

As a full member of 3 big regional Organizations, The DRC will eventually adopt the cleaner fuel specs from the Organization with the highest standards,

This will not happen overnight but there is the political will to speed up the process,

Cleaner fuels is everyone business ie. The governments, The IOC’s, the traders, the marketers, the Civil Society and the international organizations, The need to work hand in hand with a clear road map to attain agreed upon goals,
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