

## **\*AWDROP, NAE, calls for speedy passage of Water Resources Bill.\***

The Corps of Nigeria Army Engineers( NAE) has commended the Association of water well Drillers and Rig Owners Practitioners for their effort in repositioning the water sector. Speaking at the one day National symposium on borehole drilling regulation and practioners licensing in Nigeria which took place in ibadan. The General Officer commanding 2 Division, Major Gen. CM Abraham said" the coming together of this association to discuss the Nigeria Water Resources Bill and the implication on borehole drilling is a proactive measure that will create awareness among practitioners and lead to healthy input into the bill. He commended the efforts of the National assembly and charged them to ensure the speedy passage of the bill as this will ensure that the water resources is protected , managed and conserved in a sustainable and equitable manner for the benefit of all.

"This symposium is not only important but also timely because the nation is facing imminent danger of underground water pollution from activities of unprofessional drilling companies most of which are not licenced to drill . If this act is not curbed by appropriate legislation and control, the country may face serious challenges in the near future" he said.

NAE also assured AWDROP of their continuous support saying" the Nigeria Army having recognised water security as a vital component of National security , is positioning itself to be a major player in the enhancement of water resources ".

AWDROP president Michael Ale while speaking lamented the influx of foreign drillers into the country, causing untold hardship for indigenous practitioners. He appealed to government ministries and agencies to respect the Executive order of the Acting president, prof Yemi Osibanjo dated 18th May 2017 on support for local content in public procurement where "the Federal Govt directed its Ministries, Departments and Agencies to grant preference to Manufacturers of locally made goods and local service providers in their procurement of goods and services".

The Association also called for speedy passage of the water resources Bill as this will curb the current indiscriminate drilling which has led to uncoordinated operations in the country.

Also delivering a paper was the Executive Director Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission, Mr Reuben Habu spoke on Water Regulation and its implication on drilling practitioners and the general public.

The symposium was well attended by the representatives of the following institutions: Executive Governor of Oyo State, National Water Resource Institute (NWRI) Kaduna, Nigeria Integrated Water Resources Management Commission (NIWRMC) Abuja, Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) Abuja, Nigeria Army 2nd Mechanized Division, Ibadan , Nigeria Police Force, Oyo State, Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps. (NSCDC), India driller Association, AWDROP State Chapters' representative from the 6 geopolitical zones and the Members of the Press totaling 82 participants