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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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*For Immediate Release*

### **U.S. Consul General F. John Bray and USAID Mission Director Michael Harvey Visit Power Africa Projects and Partners in Edo State**

U.S. Consul General F. John Bray and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission Director for Nigeria Michael Harvey visited Edo State July 26 - 27 to assess the progress of partnered investments that advance U.S. President Barack Obama's signature initiative Power Africa.

Two out of three people in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to electricity. Announced by U.S. President Obama in 2013, Power Africa is working with African governments, the private sector, and other partners to add more than 30,000 megawatts (MW) of cleaner, more efficient electricity generation capacity and 60 million new connections in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030.

"The work of bringing much more electricity to many more people in Nigeria and Africa is well underway," said Consul General Bray. "We recognize the great challenges ahead. But through Power Africa, the United States and our African partners are committed to improving lives, and energizing economies."

Consul General Bray and Mission Director Harvey toured the construction site of Azura-Edo Independent Power Plant, a landmark 450 MW open cycle gas turbine power plant that represents Nigeria's first new plant in over a decade. Power Africa officials and USAID worked with the government of Nigeria and the private sector to set the power plant on a successful trajectory. The construction of Azura-Edo Power Plant is bringing hundreds of jobs and the prospect of reliable energy to Edo State and beyond.

Consul General Bray and Mission Director Harvey also visited Ihovbor Power Plant to assess how best Power Africa can assist. The U.S. officials also discussed ongoing cooperation with Benin Distribution Company, as part of a two-year agreement signed in May 2016 for Power Africa to provide consultation aimed at improving systems and infrastructure for more reliable consumer access to electricity.

While in Benin, Consul General Bray and Mission Director Harvey met with Governor of Edo State Adams Oshiomhole and His Royal Highness Edaiken N'Uselu, Crown Prince Eheneden Erediauwa.

*About Power Africa:* Power Africa brings together the world's top companies, political leaders, and financial institutions to help overcome Africa's energy crisis. Central to U.S. President Barack Obama's new model for development, Power Africa uses collective problem solving to enable African countries to pave their own energy future. The initiative has already helped close financial transactions for production of over 4,600 MW of power transactions.

*About USAID:* The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) partners to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. In its partnership with Nigeria, the United States strengthens social stability through social services, supports transparent and accountable governance, promotes a more market-led economy, and enhances Nigeria's capacity as a responsible regional and trade partner.

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*Relevant information about U.S. policies and programs in Nigeria can be found on our websites:*  
<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> and [www.usaid.gov/ng](http://www.usaid.gov/ng)

