



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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MARCH, 12TH 2011

## Interview with Engr. Olunmi Obembe FNSE, on Capacity Building, Key Local Content

*Engr. Olunmi Obembe is a fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. He has thirty years experience in engineering practice. He has had a career across maintenance of oilfield facilities, supply chains, capacity building for local businesses and currently, in charge of gas and power responsibilities (IPP) in TOTAL.*



Engr. Olunmi Obembe FNSE

**E-newsletter:** We are going to talk a little bit on capacity building, which is the key to local content. What can you tell us about capacity building in Engineering practice?

**Engr. Obembe:** Yes, if you listened to some of the discussions today, you will discover that things are better now. We discovered that when we started in 2002 to talk about domesticating most of the activities of the oil services, we found out that the capacities were not there. That was 2002 to 2003. But I must commend what the government has done. Government has worked tremendously to identify the capacity gaps and to put in place appropriate policies to encourage building of capacities. You heard probably from Engr. Kiosoye (this morning) from Nigerian Content Development Board saying that more than 80 percent of our engineering is not being done in-country, whereas when we started in the year 2002, out of 15000 man-hours that were required in the country, less than 4000 man-hours were available. So we have made tremendous progress. If you look at the area of fabrication, we have less than one hundred thousand tones lifting capacity available in the country today, we are talking about 300000 tones of fabricating capacity. If you look at things like seismic, processing and reprocessing they have all contributed something to the country today. Maintenance of oilfield facilities, we are having more and more Nigerians participating. By and large, I will say that we are better off today than we were then, but that is not to say that we have arrived. We still have a lot of gaps in the marine sector; the ownership of vessels, the crane of vessels, we still have foreigners doing most of the jobs in the marine sector. So we need to do

something in that area. Again, I must say that some actions have taken place; we have the School of Marine Technology now in Uyo, it has been reactivated to train people again, we have the oil industries participating with the amnesty team to identify people who can be trained again to occupy marine positions, and then we have a lot other capacity building initiatives; like my company, you have heard of TOTAL, about the IPS (Institute of Petroleum Studies) that is something we identified, that today, we are training those young men and women here, instead of waiting for them to go overseas and then from overseas, they disappear and don't come back; so we are giving the same competency levels that are required. We are giving it in-house. In fact there is a recent one in my company (TOTAL) now, "Train-the-trainers", You have heard of train-the-trainers? We are collaborating with MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in America, which is number one in the world; we are organizing a "train-the-trainers" initiative which will involve identifying some Nigerian lecturers, send them to MIT, so that they can acquire some up-to-date knowledge, then they are brought back. They are supposed to seed the different universities where they come from, then transfer the same know-how to their students, because the problem in today's world is not the non-availability of information; information is available. You can even become an engineer by just going to the internet, and Google, you know. The information is available. People don't know how to access information and how to deploy information; so this is one of the things my company is doing, apart from the IPS which you are aware of. We are also trying to train the trainers themselves. So, capacity hands are there, progress have been made, and more things has to be done, through collaboration. I believe we will get there.



Engr. Obembe & Engr. Otuenh

**E-Newsletter:** Thank you very much sir, we are very grateful.



NSE PH Branch EXCO members in a meeting on Thursday 3rd March 2011 at the Branch secretariat.

NSE PH Branch preparatory seminar for April 2011 NSE Professional Interview held on Wednesday 9th March 2011.



L-R: Engr. Dr. M. T. Lilly, Engr. Chief O. O. Oruye, Engr. Dr. A. A. Ujile, Engr. I. Z. S. Akobo and Engr. Goodluck Ikenyiri during the seminar.

On Tuesday 8th March 2011 the ICT-For-All team visited Model Secondary School, Tombia Street, GRA, Port Harcourt to carry out an ICT Awareness seminar.



Ashford Etela of NEPAD Rivers State, talking to the students on ICT.



Prospective candidates at the seminar



The students, some teachers & the ICT-For-All team (Ashford (NEPAD, Linda (NEPAD & Engr. Otuenh (NSE)) in a group photograph.

**Engr. Nwilene Gives Daughter Out in Marriage.** Recently Engr. Nwilene gave out his daughter in marriage in his country home. The ceremony was well attended and the atmosphere was filled with joy. The NSE PH Branch congratulates the couple.



Engr. Ogariawo FNSE & Engr. Nwilene at the ceremony



The couple

**Exit Of A Great Engineer**



Engr. Dr. Kolo FNSE passed on earlier this week. May his soul rest in peace.

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**NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!**

All members of NSE PH should pay their **Annual Branch Dues** of **N4,500** for **Corporate Members** and **N6,500** for **Fellows** to **UBA ACC. NO: 0234-031-0000962 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of **N7,500.00** for **Corporate Members** & **N9,500** for **Fellows** directly to **AFRIBANK ACC No. 1420202215613** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank