



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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Interview with Mrs. Ekama Emilia Akpan on Manufacturing

Mrs. Ekama Emilia Akpan is the owner and Managing Director of Showers Group. She is a National Council Member and Chairman of Rivers and Bayelsa States Manufacturers Association of Nigeria. She is also representing MAN on the board of Export Promotion Board "NEPZA". Mrs. Akpan, has an Executive Masters Degree in Business Administration from St. Xavier University Illinois, USA – Paris Campus.



Mrs. Emilia Akpan

E-Newsletter: *What can you tell us about Manufacturing in Nigeria?*

Mrs. Emilia Akpan: We are having a lot of challenges. That was what brought me into Manufacturers Association of Nigeria. I felt that I should be in the position to say what we can do to help us manufacture competitively and the only way you can do it is to go into an organization like MAN. We don't have skilled man power, so even if you have the money you don't have the people to actualize your dreams. Definitely you have to work twice as much because a lot of people believe in shortcuts. You know manufacturing is something that takes time. It has to be in your blood for you to understand it and stay in the market, if not it can be frustrating. We do not have efficient power supply. If

you don't have power how would you work? We generate our own power. The other problem we have is, government is not supportive. The era when government did support manufacturing is long gone. Government would prefer to import things and they will also condemn the quality of the goods but the Chinese government and the Indians believe in their own products so much so that they make it as a policy for all their government parastatals to buy their own products. That way you make your mistakes and you improve on them. Another thing is; they have very good technical schools not necessarily for those who are not intellectually able but there are some people who are naturally very good, they go to technical schools. Here they look down on technical schools. See the discrimination between polytechnics and universities. They make the polytechnics look as if they are inferior which is not true. In those days if you really want good skilled workmen, you go to polytechnics. They don't have time for long grammar they will just get the job done. But now most people prefer to go to the universities, they come back, sit down, fold their hands and tell you they want a job of how many millions. Manufacturing is something that normally government supports. They provide the basic infrastructures which are water, electricity, roads, etc. All manner of bills comes and they are not taking lightly. These are some of the reasons why some people packed their things and left. Manufacturing is the major means by which we can help the youths. Manufacturing in the country is not the way it should be.

Conferral of NSE Fellowship on **Engr. Gershon Ogbulujah FNSE, FCAI** of NAOC (photo left) and **Engr. Gabriel Bitar FNSE, MD/CEO** of Stemco Limited (photo right) by the President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, **Engr. Chief Olumuyiwa A. Ajibola, FNSE**, on Wednesday 23rd November

2011 at the Grand Ballroom, NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja, during a Special Fellowship Dinner where about fifty members were conferred Fellows of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.

Congratulations to Engr. Ogbulujah And Engr. Bitar.



Interview with Mrs. Ekama Emilia Akpan on Manufacturing

E-Newsletter: *What do you think can be done to make manufacturing better than what it is?*

Mrs. Emilia Akpan: Funding, cheaper funding. Talk about it, keep on talking about it. Government should also encourage and buy goods from manufacturers. The issue of locally made goods was started by us. "Made in Nigeria" goods. At least people should wear our traditional clothes and go to work or formulate your own type of design that makes it unique. This is coming up. You see now, even internationally, people are now wearing our fabrics. That was what the Ghanaian did and the flooded the American markets with their kente. The youths should be encouraged and be told that it is more sustainable to have something to do. If you work for somebody what he does is, he takes the best part of your life and leaves you with nothing. If you have your own business, chances are that at least you will leave fifty-eighty percent of some sustainable things for your grandchildren like the yorubas are doing. They are in second and third generations of manufacturers right now. Those people doing the foam are the second and third

generations. And as they are coming they are improving on what their parents started. They have a better culture of these things than us. There is no country that has grown without manufacturing. We are supporting other countries. Any time you buy goods from other countries you are supporting their own economy and our own economy is going down. So we need to teach our children how to be sustainable and manufacturing is one way we can do it.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much madam.*



Mrs. Emilia Akpan & Engr. Otunte Otuneh

The Nigerian Society of Engineer Port Harcourt Branch Executive Committee members in a meeting on Thursday 1st December 2011 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo Secretariat, Port Harcourt. The meeting was chaired by the branch chairman, Engr. A. H. Igoni MNSE.



The Nigerian Society of Engineers 'Game of Golf' will take place on Sunday 4th December 2011 at the Calabar Golf Club by Eburutu Army Barracks, Murtala Muhammed Highway, Calabar. Tee-off is by 2.00.pm. To participate, text your details to 08033960630.

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Announces the

NATIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

"CANAAN 2011"

Theme:

"EFFECTIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM IN NIGERIA: THE WAY FORWARD"

Venue:

Main Emporium,
Tinapa Business Resort, Calabar

Date:

5th - 9th December, 2011



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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