



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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## Interview with Engr. Dr. Joseph O. Makoju, FNSE, on Improvement of Power Supply

**Engr. Dr. Joseph O. Makoju, FNSE,** has a background in the cement industry. He was the Managing Director of WASCO for ten years. He is also a veteran in power sector. From WASCO, he moved to NEPA where he served as the Managing Director for six years and later Special Adviser on Power. Engr. Makoju, is the serving Chairman of West Africa Power Pool (WAPP) Executive Board, which is of the ECO-WAS.



Engr. Dr. Joseph Makoju FNSE

**E-Newsletter:** *What do you think can be the solution to power problem?*

**Engr. Makoju:** What we are doing to find the solution to power problem? In a paper I presented, touched on that. I gave a back ground history of what has happened in the power sector since about independence. I pointed out some of the issues that have led to the failures. The major one was policies in the systems. Many government consider doing the right thing but because the results don't come out immediately, there is pressure on them that they are wasting

money and those things should be stopped. That has gone on for a long time; stop, start, stop, start; has to stop. There is evidence now finally that it is stopping but the bottom line is, government most get the private sector to play a good role and this government recently lunched privatization road maps. This clearly shows irrevocably on the part and the process is has started and government is not washing its hands. Government is still doing all it can to finish NIPP project. To me those are the two things we need to solve the power problem. Complete the NIPP project, commission it so that we will have a strong new infrastructure base in generation, transmission and distribution and then entrench private sector in the leading role to come on top of this strong network and manage it and invest in it. That is the way we are going to succeed in improving the power sector and continue to maintain and improve to a sustainable basis. The NIPP must be completed and privatization program must be seen through.

**E-Newsletter:** *What advise do you have to give for a seamless transition. One government going out and handing over baton to the next government for a follow up, so that there won't be a change in plan?*



NSE PH Branch EXCO members in a meeting on Thursday 1st March 2012 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat.



The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) Port Harcourt Chapter led by the chairman Engr. Mrs. Anthonia Ohagwa MNSE, paid a courtesy visit to the General Manager of Danelec Limited, Engr. Chief Giandomenico Massari FNSE, in his office on Monday 5th March 2012.



The Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN) Port Harcourt Chapter led by the chairman Engr. Mrs. Anthonia Ohagwa MNSE paid a courtesy visit to Hon. Victoria Nyeche in her office at the Rivers State House of Assembly, Port Harcourt on Tuesday 6th March 2012.

**Interview with Engr. Dr. Joseph Makoju, FNSE, on Improvement of Power Supply. *continued***

**Engr. Makoju:** That is a very good point because it has contributed to our problems. These changes; government coming in and abandoning what the other government was doing. I think in the area of power, when a lot of the power is in the hands of private sector that will remove the issue of government-come and government-go. Ultimately the solution to that is to have a power sector where government has a little direct role. That is the only real guarantee. In the mean time what we should also do is perhaps get in a situation where we use a different kind of planning for the power sector instead of the normal annual budget. I have always advocated that what we need for the power sector is a rowing plan, so we can commit the projects and the funds on a longer term basis. It will be much more difficult to interfere with such pattern. Having a longer term planning and commitment of fund one thing is a solution to the problem.

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

**Engr. Makoju:** Let me commend your branch for having an organ for communication; that is something that should be recommended to other branches, so well done.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you sir.*



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