



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

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Interview with Dr. Newton Jibunoh, OON, on the Fight Against Desert Encroachment

Dr. Newton Jibunoh is the Founder of FADE (Fight Against Desert Encroachment), a non-governmental and not-for-profit organization. He has received several Honors and awards for his immense contribution to the course of humanity, amongst which includes the "Officer of the Order of the Niger" (OON); Conqueror of the Sahara Desert (CSD), amongst others.



Dr. Newton Jibunoh, OON

Dr. Jibunoh, has conducted three expeditions across the Sahara by road (from London to Lagos). He has devoted his life to the long-term crusade against desertification.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, talking about Fight Against Desert Encroachment (FADE), what is it all about?*

Dr. Jibunoh: Well, we started as an advocacy body mainly to spread the awareness that was needed to keep the menace out of the encroachment of the desert. The depletion of our ozone layer, the depletion of our water resources, the unemployment problem that we are saddled with are because of the disappearing grazing fields. All these things put together are some of the reasons why we decided to inaugurate the body "Fight Against Desert Encroachment", which is now a body associating with the Nigerian Society of Engineers

E-Newsletter: *What has been your passion for over forty (40) years to make sure that there is a fight against desert encroachment?*

Dr. Jibunoh: I wish I know. The passion has been the poverty that I have experienced. The passion has come from the fact that I see millions of Africans languishing in immense poverty. Lack of this, lack of that and I know that only a project like this can stand those prob-

lems. That is why I stayed on it. Also, due to the fact that I have immense support from a number of organizations, sponsors. The Emir of Kano has been with me for almost forty years. So those are the incentives that I have had over the years.

E-Newsletter: *What do you have to tell people who don't know what desert encroachment is?*

Dr. Jibunoh: We have done everything we can to sensitize people. We even have a "Desert Warrior Reality Show", that was shot in the desert which will come up on television stations. It is part of what we have done to sensitize people and we will continue to do whatever we can. In the area of education, to get people to realize the dangers for not caring, not just their environment, but not doing something about it is another thing.

E-Newsletter: *What are the expectations of NSE-TAD in collaboration with FADE?*

Dr. Jibunoh: Well, what is left now is the syndication of funds. We need the global community; we need national and international institutions to come together; to come and partner with us because it is not just a Nigerian issue and it is not just an African issue. We need the opportunity of mobilizing and sensitizing the international community and then bringing our financial Institutions and donors to come to our aid. When you look at the things that are done over the world today; do you know how much money has been invested in tackling the disappearing rain forest in South America? That is the kind of thing we are looking at.

Between the time Rain Forest campaign started and now over fifteen billion dollars(\$15b) has been spent and that is not even up to the amount of money we are looking for to quell the encroachment of the Sahara desert.

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

The President of NSE, others receive special awards

The President of the Nigerian Society of Engr. Engr. M. B. Shehu FNSE, Vice President of NSE in charge of Professional Development Engr. Otis Anyaeji FNSE, Engr. Enoch George FNSE and Engr. Chief Giandomenico Massari FNSE were among engineers that were honoured with special awards by the University of Port Harcourt during the "2013 Chancellors Dinner and Award Night". The event took place on Friday 8 February 2013 at the Sports Complex of the University of Port Harcourt.

Photo right: Prof. Joseph Ajenka (VC of Uniport 2nd left) congratulating the President of NSE Engr. M. B. Shehu, FNSE, (2nd right) after he was presented with an award.



Inauguration of Council & Boards of NSE-TAD

On Tuesday 29 January 2013 at the Imo Room of Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, the Nigerian Society of Engineers-Taming Against Desertification (NSE-TAD) Council and Boards were inaugurated. The Nigerian Society of Engineers in collaboration with Fight Against Desert Encroachment (FADE) is fighting against the desertification of the Sahara desert.



The event was chaired by Gen. T. Y. Danjuma, GCON, (Rtd). The event was well attended by seasoned engineers, national assembly members and personalities from diverse institutions.

Left-Right: Engr. Otis Anyaeji FNSE (Vice President of NSE), Engr. M. B. Shehu FNSE (President of NSE) , Amb. Bashiru Yuguda (Hon. Minister for State, Works), Gen. T. Y. Danjuma, GCON, (Rtd) and Dr. Newton Jibunoh, OON (Founder of FADE)



“University of Port Harcourt 2013 Chancellors Dinner and Award Night”



Left-Right: Engr. Chf. G. Massari FNSE, Engr. Otis Anyaeji FNSE, Prof. Joseph Ajenka, Engr. M. B. Shehu FNSE and far right is Engr. Enoch George

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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: 1000183629 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of N9,000.00 for **Corporate Members** & N11,000 for **Fellows** directly to **Main Street Bank ACC No. 6500374224** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank