



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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Interview with Engr. Ette I. I. Etteh FNSE, OFR, on Construction Industry

Engr. Ette I. I. Ette FNSE, OFR, is a founding partner of Etteh Aro & Partners, a Consulting Engineering firm.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, tell us about the construction industry in Nigeria.*

Engr. Ette: Well as you may know, construction cost in Nigeria is one of the highest in the world. This can be attributed to the fact that most of the good construction firms are all foreign construction firms. Some persons that go into construction and get the jobs are not professionals who practice the profession as it ought to be. Construction is equipment intensive. Also you need a lot of people who can plan the execution of projects, who know when to choose an appropriate equipment to match the project that is on hand and how to attach men to the equipment. That is where the local construction firms fail. We do not have adequate manpower who are managers or construction management people who can plan and execute projects. Most of them are politicians. They are the people who are given the projects and of cause what they are interested in is the money and not the execution of the project. So what you see is that most of the contracts fail and these contracts are determined at the cost of the tax payers. Our construction industry needs a drastic change because we cannot continue to depend on foreign firms to carry out the construction for us.



Engr. Ette I. I. Etteh FNSE, OFR

E-Newsletter: *What approach do think can be applied to correct this?*

Engr. Ette: The first thing you know, Nigerian engineers have a role to play. Now government talks about FERMA, you cannot be government and carry out construction or maintenance or anything. It must be private sector driven. What we suggested was that, first of all, if engineers could come together in the different zones and float construction companies and persuade government to give them contracts and give them enough mobilization to get equipment which by the time they would have finished, knowing that there will be continuity in contracts, they can write off those equipment because you cannot go to the bank and say you what to borrow money to buy equipment at the interest rate that is going on, it will not work. It has to be that after professional people would have come together and form companies, government should be willing to give them contracts and pay them reasonable mobilization to get equipment and of cause we will then send young people who will go and study contract management, construction management and contract monitoring. That is it. So that when you get a contract, these people are the people who will plan, know what equipment you need, know what sort of manpower you will need to match these equipment. Also, they will be able to really plan using critical path, to ensure that if you say you are going to deliver a job at a certain period, you would be able to see what are the crucial items in the whole process. We need to know what type of construction can be done during the raining season and what type cannot be done. Most firms are not planning like that.



Engr. Denis Dania (middle) reading his address while Dame Aleruchi Cookey-Gam (right) and Engr. A. H. Igoni (left) listen.

NSE PH Branch Executive Committee Visits GPHCDA

On Wednesday 20 February 2013, the Executive Committee of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch led by the Branch Chairman Engr. Denis A. A. Dania MNSE, paid a courtesy visit to the Administrator of Greater Port Harcourt City Development Authority (GPHCDA) Dame Aleruchi Cookey-Gam. Issues regarding the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Engineering Recourse Center (ERC) which falls within the Greater Port Harcourt City map were discussed. Members of the NSE PH Branch Executive Committee that were in the Chairman's entourage are: Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni, Engr. Bateim Ogariawo, Engr. Fyne C. Ogolo, Engr. Basoene Benibo, Engr. Emmanuel Idoniboye, Engr. Humphrey Amadi, Engr. Precious Bob-Manuel, Engr. Michael Bob-Manuel, Engr. Onwuasomba Victor, Engr. Alozie Okezie, Engr. Goodluck Ikenyiri and Engr. Otunte Otuneh

NSE PH Branch Executive Committee Visits GPHCDA



NSE PH Branch Executive Committee Members in a group photograph with the Greater Port Harcourt City Development Authority (GPHCDA) team at the GPHCDA office.

Interview with Engr. Ette I. Etteh ...contd

They just go there, before you know the money has finished and the job abandoned. So Nigerians most make definite effort to encourage professionals to form construction companies that will be able to compete favourably and force down the cost of construction.

E-Newsletter: *In the area of capacity building in the construction industry what do you have to say?*

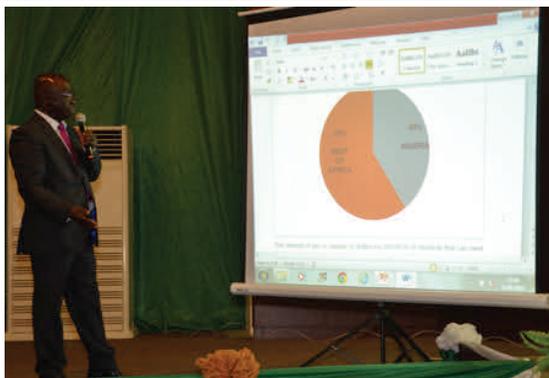
Engr. Ette: We need construction management people. We should send people on Masters program on construction management and project management. These two things are very crucial because what we have lacked in the construction industry are people who are construction managers. Construction managers will teach you the different types of equipment that you can use for certain jobs. For instance in abroad, there are certain personnel who are specialist, they hire them, they do not employ them. When they are planning they will schedule them, give them notice that at certain time they will need them and they will be available. We must move in that direction. There are persons who move about and offer their services, they come in and handle projects and go. A project manager who has planned his project knows when he will order his equipment, when he will need a certain type of skilled manpower and so on and so forth.

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

The NIEEE 12th Distinguish Electrical & Electronics Engineer Annual Lecture



National Chairman of The NIEEE, Engr. S. Adekunle Makinde (left) presenting the 12TH DEEEAL Crystal Plaque to the Distinguished Lecturer, Engr. Olice Kemenanabo FNSE (middle) while the Lecturer's wife and a Vice President of Nigerian Society of Engineers, Engr. Otis Anyaeji FNSE, look on during the NIEEE 12th Distinguish Electrical & Electronics Engineer Annual Lecture (DEEEAL) titled "Surmounting The Obstacles To The Development Of A Sustainable POWER SYSTEM In Nigeria: The Techno-Economic Approach" which was held on Thursday, January 31 2013 at the Banquet Hall, Bayelsa State Government House, Yenagoa.



Engr. Olice Kemenanabo, FNSE delivering the 12th DEEEAL lecture.

NOTICE

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch general meeting:

Date: Thursday 28th February 2013

Time: 5.00pm

Venue: Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat, Water Works Yard, #3 Bernard Carr Street, Port Harcourt.



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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