



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

## PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

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### ENGR. CHIEF E. A. APENU FNSE PASSES ON BIOGRAPHY OF ENGR. (MENE) E. A. APENU (SUMMARIZED)



ENGR. [MENE] EMA ABABEE APENU was born on the 26th day of November 1932 in NYOBE BEERI, NYOK-HANA, in KHANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA.

He commenced his early education at METHODIST SCHOOL, BEERI (1938-2943). He later completed his Primary and Post-Primary School education at METHODIST CENTRAL SCHOOL, KANO (1944-1945), and METHODIST BOYS HIGH SCHOOL, ORON (1946-1951), **respectively**. After obtaining his Cambridge School Certificate from METHODIST BOYS HIGH SCHOOL, ORON, he then studied at the GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, ENUGU, where he obtained his diploma.

Early in the year 1963, he served as ‘Senior Inspector of Works’ for the MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, UMUAHIA ( FARM SETTLEMENT DIVISION) and later in that same year, he became admitted into the ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GLASGOW, from where he graduated in the year 1965.

He later in 1966 attended the UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE, GLASGOW. He (by June 1970) graduated, obtaining his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering, and then (Still in 1970) started working as Assistant Engineer at CUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL, in CARLISLE, UK, until 1972, when he returned to NIGERIA and took the role of Executive Engineer Grade II, till '75 at the MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT, PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE. During which period (1972-1975) also, he was Resident Engineer EAST- WEST ROAD, AHODA-OMOKU-OKWUZU ROADS AND AHODA-DEGEMA ROADS. In 1973, he was Traditional Ruler and Paramount Chief BEERI, and has been Chief until his death.

By January 1974, he was an MSE (a Member of the NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS) and by July 1974, he had become an M. I. C. E. (a MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING, BRITAIN) and Chartered Engineer. In 1975, he became Chief Road Traffic Officer and Chairman of ROAD SAFETY, DECONGESTION COMMITTEE, RIVERS STATE 1983.

By May 1976, he had joined the COUNCIL OF REGISTERED ENGINEERS (COREN) and as Senior Executive Engineer, served at the MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT from 1st August 1976, during which period of service he was Head of DESIGN AND PLANNING, and Assistant of Director, CIVIL ENGINEERING, i/c Contracts Supervision, and Checking of contract submission.

In September 1977, he served at the UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT as Chief Engineer, PHYSICAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. He, in June 1981, became Director of Works and Services, and in November 1986, he had become an FNSE (a Fellow of the NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS) after which he voluntarily retired with full benefits on 18th, January 1992.

He became Principal Partner and Managing Director in March 1992, for GAMA CONSULTING AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING LIMITED until 2005 when he made his wife (Mrs. Torka E. Apenu) Managing Director/CEO and he was Chairman until his death.

He also was the Coordinator of the OGONI Elder’s forum from June 1994 until his death.

In April 2004, he was a recipient of the DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA MERIT AWARD (DINMA).

Aside the educational and working achievements, through the years of Mene (Engr.) EMA ABABEE APENU’S life: he married three wives; he was greatly blessed: with children, and grand children also, far- reaching relatives and friends of his and friends of his family, too, with all of whom he had the occasion of building personal relationships with, before he passed on.



Engr. O. O. Oruye, FNSE

### INTERVIEW WITH ENGR. O. O. ORUYE, FNSE, ON ENGINEERING EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

**Q:** Sir, can you tell us about your self?

**A:** I am Engr. Chief. O. O. Oruye. I am a Senior Lecture in the Department of Electrical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering in the Rives State University of Science and Technology. I am a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.

**Q:** What is your opinion on the standard of Engineering Education in Nigerian. Just give us an overview, what is happening on this topic.

**A:** Well it’s not surprising because the recent publication in the newspaper about the level of our universities says it all. I think that is where you need equipment in the training of students and you need lecturers. I think many universities in Nigeria are lacking. The practical aspect of training in our universities is below standard. It was approved that 2 years should be used to train young engineers but the Federal Government have not been able to implement it. This applies to both the military government and the present civilian government.

**Q:** On the issue of Funding the universities, what do you have to say?

**A:** Nobody would say that there is no money. If there was no money, there wouldn’t have been EFCC. Monies are into wrong hands and are put into wrong use. That is the problem of Nigeria.

**Q:** What do you think are the causes of poor Engineering Education in Nigeria?

**A:** There is poor quality, this is because the facilities are not there and as I said, experienced teachers are no longer there, they run off to the industries because the salaries paid to lectures are poor. Classroom sizes, over admission of student contribute to the poor quality of student.

**Q:** You made mention of Over Admission, could it be the Policy or the mode of admission that is wrong?

**A:** The policy is not wrong because admission is supposed to be through JAMB. Whoever the university admits is referred to JAMB but unfortunately, the implementation of the policy is where the problem is. In our civilian regime, the politician trust admission through the Vice Chancellors, who in order to retain their job are favoring specific people. This brings into the school students that are not qualified and Vice Chancellors seize the opportunity to bring in their own unqualified people for admission under the cover of the political people. That is the present situation.

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## APENU FAMILY CONDOLED BY NSEPH

The news of the death of one of our Fellows Engr. Chief A. Apenu came to the branch chairman, Engr. B. Ogariawo and he acted immediately by informing the executive. Thereafter, a delegation of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Port Harcourt Branch led by the Branch Chairman, Engr. Bateim Max Harrison Ogariawo, MNSE, visited the family of the Late Engr. Chief. Emma A. Apenu FNSE, on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 2008. Those in the delegation include, Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart FNSE, Dean, Faculty of Engineering Rivers State School of Science and Technology (RSUST) Port Harcourt, and Engr. Prof. D. P. S. Abam FNSE, Dean, Faculty of Engineering University of Port Harcourt, who are both past chairmen of Nigerian Society of Engineers, Port Harcourt Branch. Others are; Engr. Pa. L. A. C. Dagana FNSE, Engr. G. C. Egbunefu FNSE, Chairman Annual Lecture Committee and Engr. Chief. G. Massari FNSE, Chairman, Infotech/Library Committee, Engr. Chief. (Wari-Alabo) S. Jombo, Membership Secretary and Engr. Denis A. A. Dania MNSE, Branch General Secretary.



Late Engr. Chief E. A. Apenu FNSE

The delegation which was received on behalf of the family by Mrs. Apenu, wife of the late distinguish Fellow of Engineering, expressed appreciation at the delegation of Nigerian Society of Engineers. She explained that the Late. Engr. Chief. E. A. Apenu, had been ill for eight years and expressed her feelings that is the will of Almighty God that he has passed away on the early hours of Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2008. She recalled that Engr. Chief. Apenu, lived a fulfilled life and noted with pleasure that they are deeply consoled by the condolence visit of NSE. She said the burial program which has been slated for February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 was restricted to one day, however she stated that the family would oblige the few minutes lying in state at the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Secretariat as requested by the Branch Chairman, to enable members pay their last respect to the late Chief on that day slated for the burial ceremony.

The Nigerian Society of Engineers, Port Harcourt Branch is requesting all engineers to be at the NSE Secretariat on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> of February, 2008 to give their last honor to our late past chairman. The late colleague is one of the foundation members of NSE PH, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> elected Branch Chairman who served for two terms.

Comments from some of our members who visited have shown that it would be a celebration of death. Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart and Engr. Prof. D. S. P. Abam and Engr. G. C. Egbunefu, eulogize, the Late Engr. Chief. E. A. Apenu FNSE.

Engr. Chief. Emmanuel A. Apenu was first elected Branch Chairman of NSE PH in 1977, with Engr. A. O. Amah as Secretary, 1980-1981 with Engr. A. I. Mba as Secretary and in 1989 he shared tenure as Branch Chairman with Engr. Dr. S. Odi-Owei (now Prof.) with G. W. Tom Jaja as Secretary.

We pray that God should comfort the family and guide them through the period of transition.



Engr. B. Ogariawo, NSEPH Branch Chairman addressing the family.



The bereaved family



Engr. Prof. Abam FNSE, addressing the family



NSEPH Branch General Secretary & other members



Engr. Dr. A. A. Ujile, Publicity Secretary NSEPH left, interviewing Engr. O. O. Oruye FNSE, in his office.

Contd. **INTERVIEW WITH ENGR. O. O. ORUYE, FNSE, ON ENGINEERING EDUCATION IN NIGERIA**

**Q: In the area of Information Technology, we want to rate our engineering graduates. Can we find competence in them after graduation in all areas of engineering?**

A: Frankly speaking, Information Technology has not been properly brought into the school curriculum. However, our youths knowing that computer is very important make extra effort to be computer literate. I give a plus to our youths of the IT age.

**Q: On the part of the University, in engineering education, what effort have been made to introduce some engineering programmes like AutoCAD to the engineering student?**

A: We introduced it a year ago in RSUST. We made the second year students to participate in AutoCAD training. However, we need facilities and adequate space to keep such facilities for the student to use. That also is a problem. Recently, in Rivers State University of Science and Technology, some computers has been obtained but no where to keep them, so they are still in their boxes.

**Q: What is your opinion on Information Technology for Lecturers?**

A: In our past ASUU meeting, the Chairman informed us that the university is planning to install internet facilities for staff. When that happens, I think the would be a wider opportunity of lecturers. Incidentally, in RSUST, Engr. Chief G. Massari, General Manager, Dan-elec Ltd was the first to donate internet facilities with computer to the school, first to the central library, second to the engineering student, which was located in the Dean office and lastly he built a computer laboratory named T. Y. Danjuma Internet Center which he donated to the Electrical Engineering Department. However, payment of subscription has always been a problem.

**Q: Can we say that young engineers in Nigeria today can measure up with their colleagues in other countries?**

A: No. They don't have adequate training, they are not enough staff, there are no facilities in the laboratories. Also, cultism and militancy has distracted students from their academic work.

Sir, we thank you for making out time in your busy schedule to grant us this opportunity of interviewing you.