



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

e-newsletter

2008/VOLUME 17

16th FEBRUARY, 2008

BURIAL CEREMONY OF ENGR. CHIEF E. A. APENU FNSE, ON 16/02/2008

Lying in state at the NSE PH mini secretariat



Funeral service at his home town Beeri, Khana L.G.A., Rivers State



NSE PORT HARCOURT BRANCH FIRST QUARTER ACTIVITIES FOR 2008

MONTH	ACTIVITY	DAY/DATE	TIME	VENUE
JANUARY	Inauguration of EXCO	Tuesday 15th	4:00pm	Branch Secretariat
	General Manager ratification of 2008 Committees	Thursday 31st	6:00pm	Branch Secretariat
FEBRUARY	Technical visit to Cameroon Offshore Nig Ltd	Thursday 14th	10:00am	Onne
	Industrial visit/meeting: Daewoo	Tuesday 19th	2:00pm	Abam Base, Okrika
MARCH	Technical visit: AISCON	Saturday 23rd	10:00am	Iko Abasi Akwa Ibom Sate
	Seminar for Professional Interview	Thursday 18th	9:00am-5:00pm	Branch Secretariat
	Workshop for LGA Engineers: 1 Eng. Mtc, 2 HSE, 3 Eng. Mgt	Thursday 17th-20th	9:00am-3:00pm	Branch Secretariat
		Thursday 27th	4:00pm	Branch Secretariat



NSE PH EXCO in their first meeting of the year 2008.

NSE PH PAYS ENGR. BENIBO CONDOLENCE VISIT



E-newsletter: Sir, please tell us about yourself, what you have been doing in the engineering profession and what you are doing now.



Engr. L. A. C. Dangana, FNSE

Engr Dangana: My name is Engr. Laud A. C. Dangana. I started my engineering career after I graduated from the Amadu Bello University in 1964. I joined the Electrical Corporation of Nigerian, now Power Holding Company of Nigeria. In 1966, I was sent overseas on a scholarship by the Confederation of British Industries for Industrial working experience. I under went my training with Central Electricity Generating Board and many other companies from 1966-1968. After the Nigerian Civil War, I came back and joined the Electrical Corporation of Nigeria. When the Rivers State Government decided to open its College of Science and Technology, I left the Ministry and joined them as one of the foundation staff.

I went back to the ministry when the Electricity Board of Rivers State was created, as at then it was Utilities Board because it was made up of the Water Board and other units. I was the General Manager after Engr. Benibo and I retired in 1995. Currently, I am a Consultant in Electrical Engineering.

E-newsletter: Every Engineering graduate in Nigeria wants to work with Oil and Gas Industries. Why this trend?

Engr Dangana: From what I have observed, the basic enablement/empowerment to Nigerian Engineers going into business is funding. I expect that an engineer who has a professional knowledge would not want to come into business as a local person whatsoever. Even if he wants to do fabrication, he would like to do it in a more refined and a better environment than the local roadside mechanic. He would like to have professionals working along with him and it is not easy for such professional to get funding. The banking institution or financial system in the country is counter-development; I will put it that way. They prefer the Trader who buys and sells. He comes, takes a loan of two million, within two weeks he comes back with three times of the money. In Engineering, the minimum time it might require to break-even in business is about three to four years and the financial institutions are not ready to wait for that period of time. This is the way or one of the reasons why I think Nigerian engineers are not going into business.

Personal greed is another factor. Sometimes they team up and this is what the Association of Constructing Engineers supports. But sometimes, they might have one or two persons who want to turn the vote around for whatever. These are not the only reasons but they are one of the major contributory factors. All the same, since many people are thinking about it, a time will come when the Nigerian engineers will take their rightful place.

The other thing is government support by way of appropriate legislation. They should make policies that will enable engineers get loans from banks.

E-newsletter: Almost every material/product being used in the country is imported. What will change this prevailing system?

Engr Dangana: Well the trend will stop. But we must do first thing first. What are the materials you require in manufacturing? Basically, it's Steel. Flat/Sheet - steel. We have steel industry in Nigeria but they produce Iron rod for building houses and not sheet-steel. If you want to manufacture, you must produce sheet-steel as this is required for machine tools and we are not producing this in the country. Steel producing industries must be re-enforced and this is not what a private company or individual, but the government can undertake. However, on our own part as engineers, we should bring this to the knowledge of the Government that this is what is needed for the industrialization of this nation.

E-newsletter: Research and Development institutes in the country have not been able to produce models, rights and intellectual property rights. What is happening to the development of these institutes?

Engr Dangana: Yes, such institutes themselves are set up by the government. They are depended on the government. Secondly, if you are doing a research, you are doing a research. The product of your research is either sold or whatever. Mostly in developed countries, they are sold. But in Nigeria, the products are kept in the shelves of Nigerian Institutions. So there is nobody to make use of it. The engineers and scientists are to make use of it. But we have our constraints. There is nothing wrong with doing research, let them continue because a time will come when the financial climate will improve, individual or groups of individual will set up bigger manufacturing firm.

E-newsletter: Does the University curriculum incorporate small and medium scale entrepreneurship?

Engr Dangana: When we started the Rivers State College of Art, Science and Technology, our aim mostly for the engineering department, was to give them skill. And who is interested could now go after their training and develop him/her by purchasing a second-hand machine from little savings and grants from friends and start up on a small scale from which he/she can grow. But the difficulty is getting that initial fund. But the unfortunate thing is that in some areas, these machines are not utilized and so they rot away while some universities do not even have. These are the things that have limited our development.

E-newsletter: Thank you very much sir. In a nutshell, if we want to encourage graduate engineers, the government, policy makers and banking institutes should have to look inward and not only short term benefit. Government should provide equipment needed for their training be made available.

Engr Dangana: Thank you for coming. Let every stakeholder mentioned in this discussion be involved to provide entrepreneurship for the young graduate engineers. The old engineers should also encourage the young ones.

Thank you for making out time to have audience with us.



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORT 7th FEBRUARY, 2008

S/N	ACTIVITIES	ACTIONS	RESPONSE
1	Technical visit to Cameron Nig. Ltd.	A letter to that effect has been sent to the organization	They said the date 14th February 2008, was not comfortable with them but they will respond to the letter officially.
2	Industrial visit/meeting to Daewoo Nig. Ltd.	A letter to that effect has been sent to the organization.	The letter is receiving attention.
3	Workshop for LGA Engineers	A proposal is ready for the Vice Chairman to see before sending it to the commissioner of LGA, Chieftaincy & Community Affairs.	
4	Technical visit to ALSCON	A letter to that effect has been sent to the NSE Branch Chairman at Ikot-Abasi for onward process with the ALSCON management.	They said that the date 23rd march 2008 was not convenient with them, but the will respond to the letter officially.
5	Paper presentation	A Consultant, Dr. Ofuagbu, presented a paper titled: Empowering Engineers on wealth creation using 5link communication system.	The understanding of the 5link communication system was not too clear because there was no time for detail explanation on how the systems work.