



### Interview with Hon. Augustine Wokocho, Commissioner for Power, Rivers State.

**Hon. Augustine Onyekachi Wokocho**, is the Honourable Commissioner, Rivers State Ministry of Power.

**E-Newsletter:** Sir, you have spent quite some time in the Ministry of Power, how was the power generation in the past, how is it now and how will it be in the future with regards to Rivers State and Nigeria at large?



Hon. Augustine Wokocho

**Hon. Wokocho:** I can say much about Rivers State but not much about Nigeria, because I do not know much about what they are doing at the Federal level (*sic.*). In Rivers State, we are conscious of the need to give power to our people because with power, we feel the people will be empowered. Like we say in the Ministry, we have a firm belief in the "Power of Power to Empower the People". We have identified the problems associated with power delivery to the people in the three segments that make up the power sector. We have invested in generation, we have invested in transmission and we have invested in distribution (*sic.*). When we came in, we met a robust plan by the former administration of Sir Peter Odili and we tried to implement that programme and also improve on it. With the 350MW facility that he left on ground, it is only about 100MW of it that was commissioned. We have increased the capacity to 720 MW with close to 500MW commissioned and by the end of next year, we will be having 720MW of generation. We are building transmission lines all the way from Omoku to Port Harcourt; from Afam to Port Harcourt, and from Afam to Eleme, through to Onne. All of these come together to give us a robust backbone in transmission. As you may be aware of, we have also done substa-

tions at High Voltage and Medium Voltage levels. We have 132/33KVA substation at Elenwo and at Rumuosi and we are building one at Trans Amadi. We have 28 injection substations at 33KVA and 11KVA levels. All these we have done within our administration and they are all aimed at stabilising power for our people so that they can do their businesses in a more power-friendly environment and live life that is enjoyable.

**E-Newsletter:** How do you see the new exercise of privatisation in Rivers State and Nigeria at large?

**Hon. Wokocho:** I think privatisation is the way to go and power, the way it is run in Nigeria is not as business (*sic.*). Power has some social-service element in it because usually it is not everybody you give power to that has the capacity to pay for the cost of power that gets to him or her. Usually, what we do in the power sector is, have those who can pay and we augment for those who cannot pay. That means, some social services in some respect. Beyond that is the fact that it is a business that has to be taken with seriousness. The Federal Government was not running it with seriousness; and now that we have brought in private investors, we have the firm belief that they will do a better job. They will bring in the zeal and enterprise of private sector and make the power sector work better. So the privatisation is a step in the right direction and I believe that confidently.

**E-Newsletter:** Thank you.



NSE Port EXCO members during the December 2013 EXCO meeting held on Thursday 5th December 2013



**World Engineering Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure,**  
2nd - 7th November 2014, Abuja-Nigeria.  
**Theme:** *Development of Sustainable Infrastructure in Africa*  
<http://www.wecsi2014.org>





## The Nigerian Society of Engineers

*Presents her*

### INTERNATIONAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**‘ABUJA 2013’**

*Theme:*

**Date: 9th—13th December 2013**

**Venue: International Conference Centre, Abuja.**

**“STRATEGIES FOR TRANSFORMING AGRICULTURAL AND WATER RESOURCES SECTORS OF THE NIGERIAN ECONOMY”**

#### Late Registration:

Corporate & Associate Members	40,000.00
Non-Members	40,000.00
Graduate Members	10,000.00
Student Members	2,000.00
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## The Nigerian Society of Engineers

### 3rd EDITION NATIONAL ENGINEERING GAMES (NEGG 2013)

#### GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date: Sun. 8th Dec., 2013

Venue: IBB Golf Court, Abuja.

Time: 8.00am

**NOTE:**

**Trophies and  
Prices to be won**

#### National Engineering Games (NEGG 2013)

##### Football Tournament

NSE Port Harcourt Branch

versus

NSE ... Branch

Sunday 8th December 2013

Venue: Abuja.



The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Environment Committee visited the Compassionate Home in Port Harcourt on Tuesday 26 November 2013. The environment committee was led by the Chairman, Engr. Prof. M. T. Ayotamuno.



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#### **NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!**

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