



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

## e-newsletter

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Prof. E. N. Wami FNSE

### AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. WAMI ON INCIDENCES OF FIRE DISASTER, KEROSENE BURN, CARBON MONOXIDE ASPHYXIATION FROM GENERATOR IN NIGERIA

**E-Newsletter:** Please Sir, can you tell us briefly about your life and experiences in the Engineering profession?

**Prof. Wami:** I am Prof. E. N. Wami. I have been a Chemical Engineer for many years. I obtained PhD Chemical Engineering from the Imperial College London in 1980. I have been in this University, Rivers State University of Science and Technology as a lecturer since 1980. In 1998, I was promoted to the rank of a professor, Chemical Engineering. I have been the head of Department of Chemical/Petrochemical Engineering, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and the Dean of Post Graduate School. Outside the University environment, I had the privilege to be elected as a Local Government Chairman of Port Harcourt city Local Government Council on non-party basis from 1988 to 1989. I also served as Rector of Rivers State Polytechnic Bori from 1994 to 1998. I am a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers (NSChE) and currently, the Chapter Chairman, Rivers –Bayelsa State Chapter of the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers.

**E-Newsletter:** Thank you very much Prof. What is your opinion on the topic of the discourse, considering the number of lives lost from the incidences?

**Prof. Wami:** It is worrisome really the amount of disasters that the Nigerian public has been exposed to, due to wrong handling of fuel and petroleum products. In the late 1980s, I have been interested in recording accident occurring mostly through the use of Kerosene. At a point in time, it was news every day of kerosene explosion in all parts of the country. Investigation shows that the cause of kerosene explosion is due to wrong handling. Adulteration of kerosene products, delivery of kerosene products using tanks and trucks which have been contaminated with bye-products, for example, the use of a fuel tank for delivering kerosene immediately the fuel is off-loaded cause contamination. It reduces the flash point of kerosene to a point that a little spark could cause explosion.

Though kerosene can be adulterated with methanol also known as alcohol, there is a limit to which this substance is added to kerosene. This adulteration is to reduce the smoke caused by kerosene and the offensive odor when it is used for cooking. However, adulterating kerosene beyond its equilibrium point is hazardous. More so, petroleum business should not be carried out in high density populated areas like the markets and located near residential buildings. The least carelessness can result to loss of properties and life. Another product which is very common is this "Condensate" people sell everywhere. You see people hawking petroleum products as if they are selling groundnuts especially during scarcity.

It is very dangerous and the "flash point" of most of these products is so low that a small spark can lead to fire. Government should not condone such.

**E-newsletter:** Sir, where does this so called condensate come from? We expect the refineries to be the only source of these products.

**Prof. Wami:** Condensate comes by a way of what people call bunkering. It is the stealing of petroleum products from either where they are stored or from their transmission line. This is called vandalization of facilities. This act is carried out on pipe lines that are close to the earth surface (buried few feet below the earth surface).

**E-Newsletter:** What do you think NNPC could do in order to detect disruption of pipe lines?

**Prof. Wami:** Well it's some how difficult knowing the vast area these pipelines traverse. However, community policing could be helpful. In swampy areas, scientific methods are adopted to check this. When you exert a particular pressure on a pipeline beyond or below normal, the machine raises alarm and indicate the location immediately on a console and this transmit the signal to the flow station. This can help track down the culprits, and troops move to the location and get those involved arrested. Notwithstanding, the best way is to educate Nigerians. Letting them know that vadalisation of pipelines can not alleviate their poverty. It is like cutting your nose to smite your face. This is where NNPC and DPR come into play. They should make sure the public is educated on how to handle these products and petroleum business could be conducted at a designated location.

**E- Newsletter:** Sir, you mention enlightenment, producing jingles and signboards, is it the responsibility of the marketers or the Government?

**Prof. Wami:** The owner of these facilities have to make do their own enlightenment, government has the social responsibility of protecting its citizens and these people that vandalize pipelines are citizens, so the education must come from government.

**E-Newsletter:** The pattern of locating buildings and other structures/facilities in urban areas does not allow fire fighting personnel/equipment gain access to site at disaster period. What can you say towards this trend?

**Prof. Wami:** This is one area the government has failed. Really, any city developing without proper planning, access road to residential areas can be obstructed. It is the responsibility of town planners to make sure that people do not build on access road and those structures obstructing the road should be demolished. Even the markets people have built shops on access roads. In such situation, in event of a fire out-break; it will be difficult to the fire fighter to arrest the fire. *Contd pg. 2*

## ENGR. BENIBO BURIES FATHER.

It was a celebration of life as Buguma City stood still for the ceremonial and colourful burial of Pa Crawford Joshua Benibo Wokoma, the father of the immediate past branch chairman of NSE Port Harcourt branch, Engr. B. J. Benibo FNSE. As the Joshuas, the Benibos and the Wokomas file out in colourful regalia in a critical appraisal and depiction of the rich cultural heritage of the Kalabari people, the atmosphere was festive and frenzy. It was a celebration of sort. Eminent, personalities, kings and chiefs were variously in attendance. The Deputy Governor of Rivers State, His Excellency Engr. Tele R. Ikuru MNSE and the Great Port Harcourt Development Committee were ably represented by a team led by Tpl Obinna E.M,

The Pop and Pageantry, over, a solemn spiritual celebration held at the ancestral home of the Wokomas began immediately. The thirteen officiating ministers of the African Church were led by Very Rev. Biobele Kallio in the open air service held in the family compound. In a short sermon at the occasion the officiating minister said that occasions like this remind all of this necessary end that awaits every one, and enjoined all to have deep sober reflection of their Christian life and be guide d accordingly noting that hell is real.

Late Pa Joshua Crawford Benibo Wokoma, died at the age of 82years. He was survived by 6 children, 17 grandchildren, 5great grandchildren and numerous cousins and foster children. He lived a fulfilled life with the prominent children he left behind as a legacy. May his gentle soul rest in perfect peace. A large team of engineers from The Nigerian society of engineers port Harcourt branch led by the branch chairman Engr. Bateim . M. H. Ogariawo Mnse attended the burial ceremony. They also took time off to visit the branch chairman, Engr. B.M.H. Ogariawo Mnse, in his family home at Buguma in Asari Toru local Government Area of Rivers State.



Members of NSEPH



2008/02/22



## INAUGURATION OF NSEPH 2008

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**  
ENGR. R.O OGOONNA CHAIRMAN  
ENGR. G. N. EZE SECRETARY

**WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
ENGR. MRS. A OHAGWA CHAIRMAN  
DR. JACKSON G. AKAPA SECRETARY

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**  
ENGR. WARIALABO S. JUMBO CHAIRMAN  
ENGR. S. Nwanele ASO SECRETARY

**PUBLICITY COMMITTEE**  
ENGR. DR. A. UGILE

**BUILDING COMMITTEE**  
ENGR. MR. SOKEYEA CHAIRMAN  
ENGR. LARRY NYECHE SECRETARY

**ENGINEERING WELFARE COMMITTEE**  
ENGR. E. C. NWOKOROBIA CHAIRMAN  
ENGR. LARRY NYECHE SEC.

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# DAEWOO: DETERMINED TO TAKE NIGERIAN TECHNOLOGY TO GREATER HEIGHT.



Eui-choon Jeong & Oghonaya Oke (Daewoo)

The General Manager of Daewoo Construction Nigeria Ltd has expressed concern over the two levels of experience of Nigerian engineering graduates. He made this remark when the Nigeria society of Engineers Port Harcourt branch paid the company an industrial visit. The General Manager Mr. Evi-Choon Jeong said the prevailing circumstance has made Daewoo Construction Nig Limited to establish a training policy for young engineering graduates and students from the universities. According to him graduates and students are taken on industrial training (IT) for basic training in modern engineering principles and rules. He said it is the determination of Daewoo to establish a sustainable technological development programme that would take Nigeria to a greater height. The Nigerian society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch while commending this laudable initiative of Daewoo construction Ltd appealed to the management to partner with the Nigeria society of Engineers Port Harcourt in the short term for a formidable training programme and in the long term contributing to the Branch Development of Engineering Resource Centre (ERC). The Chairman Engr. Bateim Max. Harrison Ogariawo, while expressing gratitude to the management of Daewoo construction Nig Limited for granting the industrial visit meeting appealed to the company to take up a structure in the Branch proposed Engineering Resource Centre. He promised that such a structure when completed would be named after the company.



NSE members (Daewoo)

Earlier, the branch chairman Engr. Ogariawo has explained to the management that the objective of the industrial visit meeting is to familiarize with the management and staff, especially the Engineering staff in the organization and have a moment of interaction to sensitize their membership and participation in the branch activities.

The industrial visit was led by the branch chairman and those who accompanied him were: Engr. Chief. O. O. Oruye (FNSE), Engr. Denis A. A. Dania (MNSE), General Secretary, Engr. Sir. George. N. Eze (MNSE), KSM,

Assistant Tech. Sec. Engr. Richard. O. Ogoni MNSE, Tech. Sec. The industrial visit meeting was held on Tuesday, Feb 19 2008 at DAEWOO Company premises at Onne, Port Harcourt.



Engr. Lasbry Amadi and Lady of St. Christopher respectively.

## ENGR LASBRY AMADI (MNSE) IS KNIGHT OF ST. CHRISTOPHER.

On Sunday, February 17 2008, Hon. Engr. Sir Lasbry Onudu Amadi MNSE, was among those honoured at the investiture ceremony that confer knighthood order of St. Christopher in the Anglican Communion. The solemn celebration presided over by the Bishop of the Niger Delta North Diocese of the Anglican Communion Bishop Ignatius Carthey (JP), witnessed a large turnout of dignitaries. Hon. Engr. Sir Lasbry Amadi and Lady Elizabeth Amadi went through the solemn process of the investiture ceremony and were thus named, Knight and Lady of St. Christopher respectively.

The couple, Sir and Lady Amadi later took guest to their maternal home for a reception. In a sermon at the occasion, Bishop Carthey admonished all the knights to emulate the virtues of St. Christopher and advised them to practice such virtues in their daily lives. Over 200 knights and ladies were honoured with the knighthood order that day.

Hon Engr. Sir Lasbry Amadi (MNSE), was between 1999-2003 a member of House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and between 2003 and 2004 he was special adviser on special project in River State Government. He has made immense contributions to the Nigerian Society of Engineers. He is the chairman of the Nigerian Resource centre and through whom the branch made a landmark history of an acquiring 30 plots of land and being the first branch to lay the foundation stone of an Engineering Resource Centre. NSEPH heartily felicitates with him and his family for this new cap.

## 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS INAUGURATED

On 16<sup>th</sup> February 2008 the Nigerian Society of Engineers at the National Engineering Centre, Abuja celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of NSE. The ceremony brought to the fore that NSE was born on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 1958 at the Nigerian House, London with the following aims and objectives:

Promote, encourage and maintain a high standard of engineering study and practice.

Enhance the professional status of engineers

Cooperate with similar professional organizations throughout the world.

The implementation committee is to be headed by the first female President of ACEN (Association of Consulting Engineers of Nigeria), Engr. Mrs. Mayen Adetiba, FNSE with other members among whom is our chapter chairman, Engr. B. M. Ogariawo. The inauguration was carried out by the national President, Engr. K. A. Ali, (FNSE). NSEPH E-Newsletter felicitates with NSE on the occasion of this golden jubilee.

## Contd ..... AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. WAMI ON INCIDENCES OF FIRE DISASTER, KEROSINE BURN CARBON MONOXIDE ASPHYXIAION FROM GENERATOR IN NIGERIA

E-Newsletter: From the beginning, you made it known to us that you were one time Mayor of Port Harcourt City. Along Rumuola, Shell Petroleum Development Company have Gas Pipeline facilities and people have built on top of these pipelines. What is your advice to these people, considering the fact that those pipelines have a designed life

Prof. Wami: It is criminal to build over pipelines. When the designed life of these pipelines expires, a little corrosion could lead to explosion. Properties which took years to acquire would go down in a second. The right of way of these pipelines should be highly respected.

E-newsletter: What is the contribution of engineers in this case, especially as it involves design and construction?

Prof. Wami: Engineers are in position to contribute immensely. It is our duty as professionals to discourage any building over pipelines and illegal structures. Engineers are also in the position to advise government, by passing bills that will prohibit illegal selling of petroleum products and make sure that petroleum business are done in location where there is security measures. Legislators should look into this all important issues. Thank you.



Wami & Publicity Sec. Engr. Dr. Ujile

E-Newsletter: Thank you very much. We appreciate the audience you have given NSEPH E-Newsletter and we hope that when ever we call on you, you will be willing to accept us. Once again, thank you.

We call on all stakeholders, government, individuals, traditional rulers, owners of petroleum products and transporting facilities (pipelines), NNPC, DPR and all regulatory agencies, the armed forces to keep vigilance on all facilities of government. Sale of petroleum products outside the designated locations should be banned.

Thank you all.

## APPRECIATION TO ENGR. (SIR) GEORGE N. EZE (KSM)

NSE PH E-NEWSLETTER APPRECIATES THE GESTURE RECEIVED FROM ENGR SIR GEORGE N. EZE (KSM) FOR SPONSORING INTERNET FACILITY FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2008. WE THANK YOU AND PRAY THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU AND FAMILY.

## Contd..... INAUGURATION OF NSEPH 2008 COMMITTEE

### PREVENTION/INVESTIGATION AND FAILURE ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

ENGR. DR. M. T. LILLY CHAIRMAN

### ANNUAL LECTURE/AWARD COMMITTEE

ENGR. G. C. EGBUNEFU CHAIRMAN

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ENGR. DENIS A. A. DANIA SECRETARY

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/LIBRARY COMMITTEE

ENGR. CHIEF G. MASSARI CHAIRMAN

### INTRNATIONAL TOURS/ INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

ENGR. G. C. OKOROMA CHAIRMAN / ENGR. IBIGO S. GREEN SECRETARY