



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

2014 / VOLUME 241

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DECEMBER 20 2014

Merry Christmas

Interview with Engr. Emmanuel Idoniboye on Project Management

Engr. Emmanuel Idoniboye, MNSE, is the Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch.

E-Newsletter: *What is project management?*

Engr. Idoniboye: Project management is the process of applying expertise in the use of project management skills, tools and techniques in achieving a unique but often complex task within specific time, cost and quality constraints using the diverse available resources. It can be looked at as both an art and science in my opinion. It is an art if one acknowledges that it requires the directing and motivating of the human resource to achieve set project goals and also science because it entails the process of defining, planning, coordinating and controlling project activities to achieve set project objectives.

E-Newsletter: *Often times change arises in engineering projects probably due to conflict of interest amongst the stakeholders or other reasons. How do you manage this change to ensure you achieve success and avoid scope creep?*

Engr. Idoniboye: Changes in engineering projects, just as it is for any other project, is to be expected since it will always involve the human resource. The human resource is a peculiar and, you will agree with me, the most unpredictable resource available to the project manager and as is expected there are bound to be conflicts of interest amongst this resource. It is often said that change is the only attribute in life that is constant. Change can and do usually occur anywhere from the conception stage through the Design stage to procurement stage to the Construction proper. Engineering projects are exceptional and must at all times be seen as operating in a complex system of opinions and values especially amongst the stakeholders who in most situations are professionals engineers. I have often times told those in my project team that the management of change, especially in engineering projects should be looked at simply as an application based issue that requires engineering skills and innovations to deal with. Whereas there is no universal rule to resolve conflict of interests amongst stakeholders, I often expect as a project manager, whether for a small or big project, that changes should arise in



Engr. E. Idoniboye

terms of the project scope/specification, time schedule or quality and so I always develop a plan or process that would ensure the successful completion of any project should these conflicts arise.

Suffice it to say that as project manager, I would in a typical situation:

- 1) Identify the stage of the project life cycle that the change is requested;
- 2) Identify the stakeholder(s) involved in the change process;
- 3) The types of changes anticipated and;
- 4) The impact of the change needed would make on the overall completion of the project.

These factors would ultimately influence my line of action to take in arriving at the final decision.

E-Newsletter: *As a project manager, what are the challenges faced by engineering projects?*

Engr. Idoniboye: Challenges facing engineering projects today are numerous and present day economic realities have made it worse. I would however state three challenges that I think are high up in the pecking order:

- 1) The procurement process: Although much has been achieved through the establishment of the Bureau for Public Procurement at the Federal and in some States levels, the process needs to be 'fine-tuned' to enshrine the needed transparency. The engineering project is often times not awarded to the most technically qualified and financially competitive bidder.
- 2) Too many impostors: The engineering profession is, arguably, the only one that non-professionals abound and this has continued to be a major challenge to the professional engineer and the results are there for all to see.
- 3) Prevailing economic reality: The present day economic reality has even, in my opinion, worsened the situation as the lack of funding could greatly slow down the continuation of engineering projects in Nigeria.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you sir.*

The 2014 Christmas Party for Executive Committee Members with their families and Staff of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch was held on Tuesday 16th December 2014 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat, Port Harcourt. The Clustered Male Choir of Port Harcourt entertained guests with various types music.



L-R: Engr. Chief O. O. Oruye FNSE, Mrs. Oruye, Engr. Kombo Theophilus-Johnson FNSE, Mrs. Theophilus-Johnson, Engr. Prof. K. D. H. Bob-Manuel FNSE, Mrs. Ogolo & Engr. F. C. Ogolo FNSE



2014 Christmas Party for Executive Committee Members, their families and Staff of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch held on Tuesday 16th December 2014.



On Sunday 7th December 2014, the 700 sitting capacity of Christ the King Parish Catholic Church Ubahu, Okija, built, furnished and donated by the Deputy President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Engr. Otis Anyaeji FNSE, was dedicated in a mass.



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NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

All members of NSE Port Harcourt Branch should pay their Annual Branch Dues of N5000 for Corporate Members and N7,500 for Fellows to UBA Account No. 1000183629 (Port Harcourt Main Branch). Also pay National Annual Subscription of N9,000.00 for Corporate Members & N11,500 for Fellows directly to First Bank Account No. 2020502052 & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made into the bank accounts.