



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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Compliments of the Season

Interview with Engr. Alozie Okezie on Infrastructure

Engr. Alozie E. Okezie, MNSE, is the Chairman, Unto Abuja/ COREN Assembly Committee of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch.

E-Newsletter: *In line with the just concluded WECSI/NSE conference on sustainable infrastructure, is it possible to achieve a sustainable infrastructure in the country? Infrastructures that will be environment friendly, socially acceptable and economically/financially viable.*



Engr. Alozie Okezie

Engr. Okezie: One can say that sustainable infrastructure satisfies the present need without compromising the needs of future generations and the environment. Of course it is possible to achieve sustainable infrastructure in Nigeria if governments at all levels adopt sustainability as a government policy. That way it will be built into the planning, design and execution of Infrastructure projects. Then and only then can we truly have value for money spent on such projects. This is not the case now as many agencies of governments are working at cross purposes as can be seen when buried services are carelessly destroyed sometimes during road construction. We also

have instances, where government which claims to be fighting malaria builds roads with open drains which do not flow, thereby providing breeding ground for mosquitoes. You will recall that it emerged from WECSI/NSE Conference that Nigeria has no Infrastructure Score Card where quality of Infrastructure can be compared against other countries and against global standards. Following from this is the new initiative of the NSE to produce the first of such Report Cards. However, it is my opinion that this effort will be enhanced if sustainability benchmarks are implemented at the planning, design and implementation phases of such infrastructure projects. Subsequent assessments and report cards can then serve as a check on the compliance level.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, in most road construction, during excavation no consideration is given to buried facilities (such as telecommunication and water lines). Is it that there are no records showing areas where these facilities are so that damage will be avoided or lack of proper regional planning on the side of the urban planners or the construction companies do not deem it necessary to check?*



Photo left: Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Arc. Namadi Sambo GCON.

Photo Right: L-R: Engr. F. C. Ogolo FNSE, Engr. A. A. Ujile FNSE, Engr. Alozie Okezie MNSE, Engr. Kombo Theophilus-Johnson FNSE (NSE Port Harcourt Branch Chairman), Engr. Ademola Isaac Olorunfemi FNSE (President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers), Engr. Chief O. O. Oruye FNSE, Engr. I. Z. S. Akobo and Engr. Belema Ekine, during the commissioning of the Enugu-Port Harcourt-Enugu Railway service by the Vice President of Nigeria on Tuesday 23rd December, 2014, at the Nigerian Railway Corporation premises in Port Harcourt.



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THEME

“NATIONAL INTEGRATED INFRASTRUCTURE MASTER PLAN (NIIMP) 2014:
STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION”

VENUE: INTERNATIONAL CULTURE AND EVENT CENTRE (DOME), AKURE, ONDO STATE

DATE: MONDAY 7TH - FRIDAY 11TH, DECEMBER, 2015

Mark your diary now!

Interview with Engr. Alozie Okezie on Infrastructure ...continued

Engr. Okezie: My experience shows that sometimes as-built drawings of existing facilities are not available. At other times, the Department or Agencies of Government handling such projects just do not bother to notify

other Departments or Agencies of government that may have facilities along the road alignment. The result of such dysfunction is waste of tax payers' money.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, what role does road infrastructures play in national development and what are the major constraints faced by construction firms in achieving success in infra-structural development.*

Engr. Okezie: Road infrastructure plays a very important role in the economic development of any country to the extent that the length and quality of a country's road network is a key factor in assessing the level of development of such a country. The reason is that roads open up access for movement of goods and services, thereby facilitating trade and social interaction, which themselves are key drivers of development. From the point of view of indigenous construction companies, some of the challenges in delivering successful projects include lack of access to cheap fund to procure appropriate serviceable equipment; tendency to short-circuit due process by deliberately conniving to short change the system; arbitrary approach to management; poor and uninspiring pay structure; poor or lack of regular training of key personnel; There is also poor regulation of the players in the industry which throws up misfits with the attendant consequences of shoddy delivery.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you sir.*



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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.