



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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Interview with Engr. Chief Emmanuel A. Awoyesuku-Jack, FNSE, FNICE

Engr. Chief Emmanuel A. Awoyesuku-Jack, FNSE, FNICE, is the Director of Engineering at the Rivers State Agricultural Development Programme. He is also the Chairman of the Engineering Week of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch.



Engr. Chief Awoyesuku-Jack

E-Newsletter: *Sir, what can you tell us about agriculture in the country?*

Engr. Awoyesuku-Jack: In Rivers State Agricultural Development Programme (ADP), I got involved in agricultural projects. I got involved with agro processing and also irrigation projects. These I would say are the life wire of agricultural production. We know that the country is the largest producer of cassava in the world and also the largest consumers of cassava. We have not been able to add value and export until recently. Paradigm shift encourages processing to different by products i.e. cassava chips, pellets and even ethanol for industrial use and export. Countries like Indonesia, Malaysia etc have long adopted this and are reaping the benefits. On irrigation, we have seasons that we are not able to produce food and cash crops because we do not have irrigation facilities in place. If we have such facilities in place then we can produce food all year round. This makes the production and supply of food to all parts of the country all year round possible.

E-Newsletter: *What do you think can be done to have irrigation*

facilities in place as to have agricultural activities all year round?

Engr. Awoyesuku-Jack: Well irrigation in its simplest form is to conserve water to be used during the dry season. If we have irrigation structures like dams, dikes, ponds that are well suited for our environment, we will have the necessary appurtenances to really have them function and make them available to farmers. Irrigation structures are very expensive and capital intensive. We expect that Government should do that and make water available to farmers all year round. In the North, there are dams, so it is not surprising that lots of food are been produced in the North all year round. Farmers in that area have access to dams and irrigation structures and water supply all through the year. Unfortunately down South, we have not been able to do that except for the recent laudable attempt by the Federal GN in Ebonyi State, the rice basket of the Nation, to encourage massive rice production all year round.

E-Newsletter: *Sir for the benefit of people who do not know what shore protection is; please can you throw light on what shore protection is?*

Engr. Awoyesuku-Jack: Well before we talk about shore protection we have to talk about reclamation. The essence of reclaiming especially in the riverine area is to provide needed land for development. In this case what government can do to assist to have more land for expansion and development is to reclaim the swampy areas by sand filling. The next is to protect what you have reclaimed



On Monday 22nd December 2014, the Spouses Forum of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch hosted an End of Year Party for the children of members of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch. The President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Engr. Ademola Isaac Olorunfemi, FNSE, (middle in blue clothe) graced the event and partied with the children.



Executive Committee meeting of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch held on Thursday 8 January 2014 at the Branch secretariat. The meeting was chaired by the Branch Chairman Engr. Kombo Theophilus-Johnson, FNSE.

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(protect the shore) because if you don't protect, of course the sand will get back into the sea which means you have not preserved the land you originally proposed to reclaim.

E-Newsletter: *What advice do you have for our readers both in the country and in Diaspora on Agriculture looking at the fact that we need to diversify looking at the present decline in oil price and Nigeria been a mono economy focused on oil and gas for so many years?*

Engr. Awoyesuku-Jack: Well agriculture in the past use to be the major revenue earner of the economy before the advent of petroleum. Agriculture was abandoned and everybody was waiting for the petrol Dollars to come. If we go back to our lands and farms and also if government can replace subsistent with peasant agriculture, provide the necessary machineries for land preparation for farmers, bring them together into groups and make available land and inputs for farming and provide incentives, I believe people will get involved in farming and produce enough to feed this country. We do not need to import food. We have large land mass that is very arable and good enough for food production. We also have enough marine environment to encourage the fishing sector. What we really need is for Government to massively invest in agricultural facilities that will assist those who will go into agriculture to do well. We all know that in the USA there are very rich farmers that are engaged in commercial agriculture. Well we can do same in here though we have a few. Essentially if Government can set up farm settlements and provide facilities, good progress will be recorded.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you sir.*



The Chairman of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Engr. Kombo Theophilus-Johnson, FNSE (middle), was decorated as a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers on Wednesday 14th January 2015, at Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. With him is the Secretary of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Engr. Precious Bob-Manuel, MNSE (right).



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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.