



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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Interview with Engr. Precious Bob-Manuel, MNSE

Engr. Precious Bob-Manuel, MNSE, is the Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, are the power infrastructures in place adequate to provide efficient power supply?*

Precious: The inadequacy of our power infrastructure is a three headed monster. The national power infrastructure from Generation, Transmission to Distribution has been the bane of our self-sufficiency in power supply. Our generating stations are replete with obsolete equipment that has far exceeded their life span and their generating capacity is far below the globally accepted standards, the new NIPP stations, for those that have been completed, are incapacitated by epileptic gas supply and ineffective equipment performance. In transmission, the national grid is in the same condition as the aged grid elements are weak, under capacity due to our ever increasing population and demand, and so, they are not able to sustain continuous power transmission for long at a time. That is why you have frequent breakdowns at peak periods forcing the system managers to shed load. The system simply bucks under huge electrical load as no major improvement has been done for decades, rather new extensions and demands are placed on the network. This is also replicated in our distribution systems nationwide. We have sub-standard power cables and transformers all over the distribution networks. Our country is exposed to importation of these ridiculously cheap and dangerous electrical equipment while our statu-



Precious Bob-Manuel

tory bodies who are supposed to check and ensure their safety and effectiveness look the other way. Meanwhile our local manufacturers who produce reliable and internationally certified equipment under our very manufacturing conditions are left hanging and powerless. It is really an unfair and crazy situation. The effect is that you have frequent electrical fires destroying lives and properties. It all boils down to poor management of our power infrastructure which is what you also find in other sectors of the economy. In all these, I commend Nigerian Engineers in this sector who have had to manage the situation despite huge funding and bureaucratic challenges and apathy from various administrations.

E-Newsletter: *What do you think can be done to improve on power generation that the consumer can benefit from?*

Precious: To improve power generation that is efficient and useful, we must work from the bottom up, that is from the Distribution to Transmission and then to Generation. This is because if we improve generation, to transmit the generated power will be a challenge because, like I said earlier, the transmission lines are weak and under huge pressure due to demand. Increasing the load will only expose the under belly of the rot in the network. Also, if you cannot transmit power, definitely you cannot distribute. So, improve the distribution infrastructure, that way improvements in transmission and generation will be useful and sustainable.



The Executive Committee of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch in a meeting held on Thursday 7th January 2016. The meeting was chaired by the Branch Chairman Engr. Emmanuel Idoniboye, MNSE.



Members of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch led by the Branch Chairman Engr. Emmanuel Idoniboje, MNSE (10th from right), at the wedding of the daughter of Engr. George C. Okoroma, FNSE (7th from right) on Saturday 9th January 2016 in Port Harcourt.

But before any improvement is done, we should know our actual National power demand and energy loss rate, among other factors, to enable us plan and evaluate the performance of our entire power systems. Statistics from our National Infrastructural Master Plan indicates that currently our National transmission and distribution capacities are between 5,000MW and 6,000MW. So, if you increase generation how will it get to the consumers?

E-Newsletter: *What do you think consumers of power can do to maximize the power supplied to them?*

Precious: The consumer is helpless. We have now developed thick skin as a result of long suffering due to epileptic and non-existent power supply. So, we have to continue with what we have been doing, which is providing our private power generating sets, inverters, solar panels, stabilizers etc. in our offices, homes, factories and other places for our activities to augment what is supplied. Power supplied is seldom enough and the voltages are so low, so there is even no room to maximize anything. I think consumers should always resist the temptation of patronizing quacks and the use of substandard equipment in all their electrical procurement and installation projects which may be very cheap but will eventually cost you dearly in the long run. This is more so, as substandard equipment collapse rapidly under extreme voltage conditions resulting in fire incidents, whereas original equipment are reliable and resistant under such conditions. Also, engaging professionals will ensure due diligence from the design, procurement to installation. Consumers should avoid overloading their electrical installations in their homes, offices etc. down to even the distribution transformers in their areas. Electricity is a very useful servant but a very destructive master, there are rules to enjoying power we should learn to obey them. Every power appliance or equipment is rated, we should respect that and we will be fine.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you sir.*

The Council and entire Membership of
The Nigerian Society of Engineers
Cordially invite

to the
INVESTITURE CEREMONY
of
Engr. OTIS ANYAEJI, FNSE, FAEng

as the
30th
PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS

Special Guest of Honour:
HIS EXCELLENCY,
CHIEF (DR) WILLIE MADUABUCHI OBIANO, FCA
(Nigeria's 13th Governor)
Executive Governor, Anambra State

Date: Saturday 16TH January, 2016
Time: 10:00am
Venue: African Hall, International Conference Centre, Abuja

INSE
ENGR. OLUSOLA T. OBIADIMU, MNSE Executive Secretary
ENGR. JONATHAN I. UMBEL, FNSE Secretary, Presidential Investiture Committee

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Dress Code: Professional or Corporate

Investiture Ceremony

Date:
Saturday, 16th January, 2016

Time:
10:00am

Venue:
African Hall, International Conference Center, Abuja



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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.