



Interview with Onomor Eseoghene

Onomor Eseoghene is the President of IONS Group Nigeria.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, would you say that youth participation in ICT is encouraging?*

Onomor: In every economy in the world, ICT is driving change and making economic impact and the youths are at the fore front of it. In Nigeria the youths are almost nowhere to be found with few exceptions such as the Jobbermans, the IONS, the Hotels.ng and the Andelas. Apart from these the average youth in our region is only worried about how he is going to feed and maybe buy a small car for himself to impress his peers. So the youth participation in ICT in Nigeria is not encouraging and we have to change that. World leading brands such as Microsoft, Google, Facebook and Apple have been noted to employ individuals who are within the ages 20 – 35 because they believe that these are the most productive and passionate years of one's life, his youthful days where he is most creative, and creativity is the lifeblood of the ICT industry. So the Nigerian youths have to get more involved in the ICT industry.



Onomor Eseoghene

actly what the problems are to begin with. The primary cause of this is that there is not enough infrastructure to support the ICT sector in our region. Take examples of countries like the US and UK, the government have high participation in the ICT industry thereby providing some of the basic needs that can allow the ICT industry to thrive. Let's take a simple case study of a software developer, his only raw materials are power and internet connectivity, here in our country these are luxury. Having steady electricity supply is only what the wealthy can afford. What about internet connectivity? how many people can afford a steady internet connection? The absence of the basic raw materials for the ICT industry to thrive in our country is reducing the zeal of the youths to go into it when there are seemingly less stressful ways to be successful. Even the exceptions I noted earlier are finding it difficult but somehow they have found ways to surmount these challenges. Take for instance, in the US alone, there are over 1,240 web hosting companies, while here, we can only boast of 7 that are reliable. Why? Power. To run a successful web hosting company you need constant electricity supply. In order to change this, private firms have to start investing into the ICT industry here in partnerships and funding in exchange for equity. This will allow the existing ICT businesses to scale and grow and become more profitable. With a growing ICT industry, the average youth can now start seeing the possibility of success in the ICT industry and get more involved.

E-Newsletter: *What do you think can be done to encourage the youths to participate more?*

Onomor: In order to be able to change we have to know ex-

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The Executive Committee of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch paid a surprise birthday visit to Engr. Prof. Youpele Orukalama Beredugo, FNSE, OFR (6th from right) on Tuesday 5th July 2016 in his residence.



The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday 7th July 2016 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo secretariat. The meeting was chaired by the Branch Chairman Engr. Emmanuel Idoniboye, MNSE

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Another way we can tackle this problem is more sensitization. More people need to know how lucrative the ICT industry is. In the US alone, the ICT industry accounts for 52.6% of high tech employments (CompTIA report) and is estimated to reach \$2.46 trillion by 2019 (International Data Corporation IDC). We need to get the word out there through different medium. Let's get talking, change will come.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you sir.*



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