



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

2010 / VOLUME 80

website: www.nseph.org

e-mail: info@nseph.org

MAY, 8TH 2010

An interview with Engr. A. A. Rabi, FNSE on the Challenges of Civil Engineering in Nigeria.

Engr. Ali Rabi, studied both at the Polytechnic and University. He read Civil Engineering at the Federal Polytechnic, Bida and Offshore Engineering at Bayero University, Kano. He is a consultant engineer, principal partner of Ar-Ar Partnership that is into civil engineering consultancy. In 2007, he became chairman of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, Kano Branch. Presently, he is one of the Vice Presidents of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, please could you tell us about the challenges that Civil Engineers are facing in the country?*

Engr. Rabi: Well, challenges are there. They abound actually. Generally, you know the country has a lot of challenges in infrastructure. There are infrastructural gaps in the country that we need to address. The few infrastructural jobs or contracts that go out are given to foreign multinational contractors. In that case it is a big challenge to indigenous civil engineers. Thank God the Nigerian Society of Engineers is addressing this and as I am talking to you now there is a bill at the national assembly. The Bill for indigenous contractors is aimed at motivating and promoting indigenous civil engineering firms.

E-Newsletter: *Nigerians choose to patronize, I don't know what to call them, non-civil engineers for civil engineering jobs, rather than consulting the qualified engineers. What do you have to say about that?*

Engr. Rabi: That is the attitude of Nigerians towards cutting corners. There is no profession even in the law profession that there are no quacks or 'quackery' in Nigeria. The Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria, which is COREN, in conjunction with NSE, is addressing the issue of quackery in the engineering profession. It is quite difficult but I believe given the means, we will do a lot to see that we stand aside quackery. But indeed it is posing a lot of

destruction in the country; not just to us as engineers but to the economy because the issues of engineering structural collapse witnessed across the country are not engineered by engineers themselves. Most of these structures that collapsed are structures being designed and supervised by non-engineers or quacks. Like I said, it poses a lot of danger. COREN has been given the responsibility to see that it addressed the issue and I believe when this is successfully done, the issue of collapse and all that will reduce drastically.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, what would you say is the reason why young engineering graduates rather than practicing engineers go into other sector, like the banking sector?*

Engr. Rabi: Because there is no encouragement

to the Nigerian engineer; of course there is the tendency for the younger engineers to move to greener pastures. If the government addresses issues of motivating, like I said, indigenous engineers, indigenous contractors, the younger engineers will have jobs to do. There are no jobs in the engineering sector. So there is the tendency to move to other areas, like the banking sector. But with the bill in the National Assembly, NSE was there yesterday (January 14th 2010) to make their input to the bill; if the bill is passed and properly implemented, I believe there will be a lot of jobs for the Nigerian engineers to do. Engineers would be practicing engineering, rather than going to other professions.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much sir for the time you spent with us.*



Engr. A. A. Rabi, FNSE



Engr. Rabi & Engr. Otuench

NSE PH Branch Executive Committee Members paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Governor of Rivers State Engr. Tele Ikuru, FNSE on Thursday 29th April 2010 at Government House, Port Harcourt. The EXCO members were led by the branch chairman Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni MSNE



The Branch Chairman, Engr. Dr. Igoni explaining a point to the Deputy Governor

NSE PH Branch EXCO members visited Engr. Prof. Y. O. Beredugo (sitting) at his residence on Tuesday 27th April, 2010. The EXCO members were led by the branch chairman Engr. A. H. Igoni (standing 3rd from left). Prof Beredugo and his wife gave their visitors warm reception and there was plenty to eat and drink. Prof. Beredugo was a chairman of the branch from 1974 to 1976 and 1982 to 1987.



NSE PH Branch General Meeting Held on 29/04/2010

On Thursday 29th April 2010, the NSE PH Branch held its general meeting at the branch secretariat amidst heavy rain fall. The meeting was chaired by the branch chairman Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni. Several issues that concerns the growth of the branch were discussed.



L-R: Engr. Denis Dania, (*Vice Chairman*), Engr. A. H. Igoni (*Chairman*) and Engr. Goodluck Ikenyiri (*General Secretary*)



Some EXCO and branch members during the general meeting.



The **Institute of Appraisers & Cost Engineers (IACE)** would be hosting its annual conference on the 10th of June, 2010 and the theme is **“The Nigerian Engineer In Valuation and Cost Engineering Practice”**

Venue: Raw Materials Research & Development Council Auditorium, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja.

Time: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Conference Fees:

Members	-	N25,000.00
Non members	-	N30,000.00
Students/Spouses	-	N5,000.00

Members would be inducted and certificates issued to deserving members during the conference. Endeavour to register early by paying.

For further enquiries contact **Robert** 08033002156 Or **Joe** 08022238729



NSE PH Branch members and Engr. B. J. Benibor, FNSE at the grand opening of Engr. Benibo's house in Buguma on Saturday 1st May, 2010. Inset is Engr. Benibo's house that was opened.

NSE PH BRANCH ADMIN SEC. MRS. BRIGGS BURIES GRAND MUM

It was a grand celebration of life as **Late Madam Nkari Good-Head Whyte**, goes home at the historic city of Abonnema in the Kalabari Kingdom of Rivers State. Until her death at the ripe age of 79 years, Late Madam Nkari Whyte was the grand mother of Mrs. Okorinama Briggs, the Administrative Secretary of the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch. At the occasion from NSE PH Branch were a few members including the branch Vice Chairman Engr. Denis Dania, MNSE, Engr. Goodluck Ikenyiri, MNSE, General Secretary, the Internal Auditor Engr. Chf. Belief Gibson, MNSE and other EXCO members. The burial ceremony was done on 1st May, 2010



Mrs. Briggs

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NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

All members of NSE PH should pay their **Annual Branch Dues** of N4,500 for **Corporate Members** and N6,500 for **Fellows** to **UBA ACC. NO: 0234-031-0000962 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of N7,500.00 for **Corporate Members** & N9,500 for **Fellows** directly to **AFRIBANK ACC No. 1420202215613** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank