



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



2010 / VOLUME 94

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NOVEMBER, 6TH 2010

## Interview with Hon. Tam Brisibe Member House of Representatives on the Actualization of Local Content in Nigeria.

*Hon. Tam Brisibe is a member of House of Representatives representing Burutu Federal Constituency of Delta State. He has been a member of the House of Representatives since 2003. Currently he is the Chairman of the House Sub-Committee on Local Content. He is also a member of the Committee on Petroleum Resource Industry, House Committee on Finance, House Committee on Labour Force and he is the Past Chairman of the House Committee on Petroleum Recourses.*



Hon. Tam Brisibe

**E-Newsletter:** *Please can you tell us the drive behind Local Content in Nigeria?*

**Hon. Brisibe:** I think that the fact of the matters is that we all know that since 1959 we've been exporting petroleum products in Nigeria and I think over time some people just felt that we were just not participating actively enough in industries despite all the years we have been exporting and despite the importance this commodity is to our economy.

The Local Content Bill on its own prevail in the National Assembly. The first person to actually start talking about it is the Past Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Chibudom Nwuche. He is the person who tried in the 1999-2003 session to bring in the law on Local Content but that didn't pass during his tenure. After Hon. Chibudom in the House of Representatives, in the 2003-2007 tenure, Hon. Chidi Oforidili, also brought another bill on Local Content. Again that did not finish before his tenure ended. When I came as the chairman of the committee in 2007, I met these things that people have tried to do. I just took it up from there and co-sponsored the bill which was sponsored by Senator Lee Mieba and it was passed by the senate. So working with him (Mieba) and my other colleagues who were in the House Committee on Petroleum Resources, we brought up a bill and gave it to the House and then pushed it, and it was passed and then went on to be harmonized with the Senate and it was sent to Mr. President for assent. So with all of these, you will note that the interest in the bill or law was not one person's thinking. It was a collective thinking of a number of people over time and as things went along it also helped that NNPC by 2005 had started to see the need for some kind of regulation for Local Content in the Oil Industry. They started coming out with directives which we are using to deal with oil industry on the matter of local content but because we know that directives alone might not be sufficient we will continue to push for the law so that at the end of the day it will be necessary having Nigerians participate in the industry. The fact is that in a place like Nigeria it is only when something becomes law that people comply with it. We will put all of these together to ensure that what we now have as Nigerian Content Act 2010 is applicable.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you very much sir. Our last question is; what advice do you have for the key players, the stakeholders and the general public so that the local*

*content law can be sustained. What advice do you have because it is going to be a collective process for the local content to be sustained?*

**Hon. Brisibe:** Everybody has their own part to play. On the side of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board, enlightenment of the public is very important. The Board has to look at stakeholders and ensure that there is enough information out there for people to participate and then people who want to participate, that want to have employment in the industry or who want to provide service for the industry have to now go and take a look at what the law is trying to say. They might not understand everything that is there but at least even looking at it and trying to go through it would give them some ideas and the next thing they should do is, where they have problems or questions to ask, they should go to the Nigerian Content Board for enlightenment and also go to the National Assembly for enlightenment. I will mention at this stage that because of the need for people to be aware, the Delta State Government for instance, has already set up an implementation committee for Delta State indigenes to enlighten them and encourage them to participate in the industry. Those are the kind of things that should be done at one end. The other end is for the stakeholders to look for these opportunities and ask numerous questions so that they would know what they need to do. Apart from mentioning things like the Board and the effort of the State Governments, there are organizations like the Nigerian Society of Engineers who are also stakeholders. It would be necessary for associations like the Nigerian Society of Engineers to meet with the Board, the National Assembly, State Governments and its members to ensure that everybody is aware of what needs to be done. It is a matter of capacity that we don't have; the society for example would look at how to improve the capacity of its members in participating in the industry. So those are the kind of things all of us have to do. It is going to be a collective thing from both ends. By the time it would start coming from the top to the bottom and the bottom to the top, we will meet somewhere. We must increase the capacity of Nigerians to participate in the oil industry.



Engr. Otunte Otuneh & Hon. Tam Brisibe

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you very much Sir. We are very grateful for granting us audience.*



NSE PH Branch members at Banham Methodist Cathedral, 69 Aggrey Road, Port Harcourt on Sunday 7th November 2010 during the thanksgiving service to end the 2010 Engineering Week

**NSE PH Branch 2010 Engineering Week in Pictures: Monday 1st November 201 to Sunday 7th November 2010.**

Opening Ceremony: Monday 1st November 2010



2010 Annual Lecture: Eminent Lecturer: Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart FNSE: Tuesday 2nd November 2010



2010 Annual Dinner & Induction of New Members: Saturday 6th November 2010



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