



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

2010 / VOLUME 99

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JANUARY, 1ST 2011

## Happy New Year

### Interview with Senator Lee Maeba JP, on Nigerian Content Development Act

**Senator Lee Maeba JP**, is the Chairperson Nigerian Senate Committee on Petroleum Resources Upstream and Member of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) Committee on Trade, Customs & Immigration Matters. The E-Newsletter team had a chat with him in his office at the Senate Building in Abuja.

**E-Newsletter:** *Sir we want to congratulate you on the Petroleum Industry Bill which you were able to push through and now we have the Nigerian Content Development Act. Can you tell our readers more about the Nigerian Content in the petroleum industry and how best we can work together to take it to the next level.*

**Senator Maeba:** Well now that we have the Nigerian Content Development Act which is a precise law. The Petroleum Industry Bill coming, is a synergy to stimulate local participation in the industry, to stimulate the supply of local goods and services, to stimulate the utilization of local human resources and to stimulate the participation of local companies' production. So anyway you look at it and when you talk of stimulating this and that, it all boils down to one thing, "production is all about engineering technology". Local goods and services are all about engineering. The Nigerian Content Monitoring Board, the Governing Council of the Nigerian Council Monitoring Board has only eight members and statutorily we ensure that the engineering profession is represented as a



Senator Lee Maeba JP

symbol of what we believe in and that is what we have done. The President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers is a statutory member. So if the NSE President is changed or not it is statutory, it will always be there. That means that the engineering body has a share in that council. The PIB by the time we finish, will increase the participation of the Nigerian companies and Nigerian companies mean engineering outfits, engineering development and our technology will advance. So I think to a large extent it is a call for more innovations.

**E-Newsletter:** *What advice do you have for the engineers? You know they have to build capacity to meet up with the demand, to measure up to the local content, so that instead of bringing in expatriates, engineers that are ripe and around will take over the jobs.*

**Senator Maeba:** You know the Nigerian Content Act stipulates 95% local content in every employment. Which means that if there are 100 engineers 95 must be Nigerians. So the challenge goes to engineers to develop their ethics. Very strong professional ethics, very strong obligations to professional conduct and over all very strong awareness on excellence in all their choosing professions. We have situations where engineers can even turn to welders. It is just migration of excellence, that is what we are looking at. So the challenges are now on the Nigerian engineers. If we lack capacity, if we lack excellence, then companies cannot shut down their operations and go somewhere else and bring in people that can do the job, which is not correct. So I think the challenges now are on the Nigerian engineers and no longer the legislation. Before, there was no legislation to ensure that they are in charge. So the challenges lie on how best they can accommodate the challenges they are to face.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you very much sir. What word do you have for the stakeholders, for the part they are going to play to make sure that the Nigerian Content is applied and is well taken care off.*

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### NSE PH BRANCH CHILDREN'S PARTY

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch organized a Christmas party on Saturday December 18th 2010 at Engr. Ishmael A. Banigo Secretariat for children of the Port Harcourt Branch members. The party was filled with fun as there was plenty to eat and drink. At the party were different clowns that added fun to the event. Spouses were also present at the party to have fun with their children. We wish all the children of the Port Harcourt Branch members a Happy New Year and happy return to their various schools.

**Seminar On Public Procurement By The Rivers State Government Bureau On Public Procurement: December 17th 2010**



NSE PH Branch Chairman Engr. A. H. Igoni (left) & the Vice Chairman Engr. Denis Dania (2nd left)



Engr. Goodluck Ikenyiri (left) & Engr. Sam Nwankwo (middle)

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**Senator Maeba:** Well everybody is a stakeholder. Like I said the Nigerian Content Development Act, is not only for engineers. Lecturers, legal profession, the transportation logistic profession, medical doctors, caterers, the welders, everybody. So the challenge is now raised up. There is an opportunity there. The issue before was creating target base on capacity but now we create capacity to meet up target. The target is very high, high target with low capacity. So to provide capacity to meet up this target becomes the biggest challenge facing us as stakeholders. That is where we are today.

**E-Newsletter:** *Thank you very much Sir. We are very grateful for granting us the opportunity to have this interview with you.*



Engr. Otunte Otuench & Senator Lee Maeba JP



Engr Chief M. D. Derofaka (middle) with his daughter and son-in-law during their traditional marriage in Okrika Town on December 24th 2010. Congratulations to the couple.



Engrs. Goodluck Ikenyiri (right), Denis Dania (2nd right) & A. H. Igoni (3rd right) in Jerusalem on Christian pilgrimage on December 28th 2010



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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