



The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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website: www.nseph.org

e-mail: info@nseph.org

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Interview with the Deputy Governor of Rivers State Engr. Tele Ikuru FNSE on Engineering & Development

Engr Tele Ikuru FNSE, is the Deputy Governor of Rivers State. He is a mechanical engineer and a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers.

E-Newsletter: *Sir, how is engineering connected with development?*

Engr. Ikuru: Well the entire basis for human development rotates around engineering from time immemorial. We cannot devoid development from engineering even in its crudest form.

So if you ask me, I will say that has not changed so much. The best thing that can ever happen and that has always happened is, anytime there is development be sure that there is an engineering input. It is so much that engineering seems to rule every other thing. If you go to medicine, all the equipment that are used are products of engineering, if you go to road construction, it is engineering; if you go to building, it is engineering. So you cannot devoid engineering from development, both of them go together.

E-Newsletter: *Looking at development and engineering, we have situations where people employ the services of non-professionals to carryout engineering services. How does that affect development?*

Engr. Ikuru: Naturally, like every other profession, once you bring in quacks, eventually you will find out that standards will not be kept, standards will not be maintained and the end result is in some very bad cases, total breakdown of engineering infrastructure. It is not uncommon especially in this part of the world to see houses collapse, bridges collapse and to see quite a number of infrastructures fail. The reason is because they were not subjected to engineering professionals. Engineers should take total control of the profession and make it difficult for quacks to practice; and also punish engineers who do not do their home work in the process of producing engineering infrastructures. Unless that is done we will still have these challenges.

E-Newsletter: *What kind of framework and policies do you think the engineering bodies should put in place that can actually checkmate engi-*

neering personnel and quacks?

Engr. Ikuru: Well, if you ask me, in terms of policies what I will simply say is first, we have the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria. That in itself is a body whose responsibility is the regulation of engineering in Nigeria. If you ask me my honest opinion, when you ask a man to regulate himself, it is a little bit difficult the extent to which he is able to regulate himself. That simply mean that you cannot be the accused and at the same time be the judge; so if you ask me, I think the first thing we need to do by a way of policy is to remove regulation from the hands of those who are practicing engineering. That simply means, when you setup a regulatory body, once that body is set up, the work of that body is to regulate engineers; and that simply means, if you are regulating, you cannot practice because when you are practicing and you are regulating, you are a judge in your own matter. So we need to separate these two. Once you separate these two the next thing will be to make sure that the regulatory body has the names of all engineers in its record and whoever is found practicing engineering and is not suitable or is not qualified to so practice, that person should be made liable, not only should he be fined, he should be made to go to prison. You know the popular adage, if a medical doctor makes a mistake a patient dies, but any day an engineer makes a mistake, for instance, in the construction of a bridge or a building, you know the number of people that can be affected. So it is very important that by way of policy, the first thing we need to do is to systematically separate the regulatory body from practitioners. If you are a regulator, you cannot be a practitioner and if you are a practitioner, you cannot be a regulator. In this way, you can separate who does what; but as long as one person is on both sides, who is he going to regulate? So I think that is the first policy we need to put in place. Now, once we have that policy all other ones will simply fall in place because the man who is regulating first must have been a practitioner for some time. Of course, for you to be a regulator you must have been a practitioner at one point or the other so by the time you move over to the other side you know it is just like having a judge and a lawyer; once you are a judge you cannot go to the court again as a lawyer. There has to be a way to separate the man who will regulate and the man who will practice. I think that is the basic policy we really need to put in place and once that is in place, every other thing will eventually fall in place because the man who is the regulator will make regulation for the practitioners.

E-Newsletter: *Thank you very much sir.*



Engr. Tele Ikuru FNSE



Left—Right: Engr. B. T. D. George FNSE (NIEEE PH Chapter Chairman), Engr. George Okoroma FNSE (NSE Omoku Branch Chairman), Engr. Denis Dania MNSE (NSE PH Branch Chairman), Mrs. Dania and Engr. Fyne C. Ogolo FNSE during the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch Annual Dinner and Induction of new members held on Saturday 17 November 2012 at the Engr. Ishmael Banigo secretariat, Port Harcourt.

Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch 2012 Engineering Week



Photo Right: Senator Engr. Lee Maeba FNSE giving the key note address during the opening ceremony of the Engineering Week



Photo Left: Engr. Prof. Mike Onyekonwu making a presentation titled "Technology A Sine Qua Non To Production Driven Economy" & Photo Right: Engr. D. M. Princwill making a presentation titled "The Role of Technical Education In A Production Driven Economy" on Thursday 15th November 2012 during the NSE PH Branch Technical Evening Lecture held at the Branch secretariat.



Photo Left: NSE PH Branch Chairman Engr. Denis Dania MNSE, inducting the new members during the Annual Dinner
Photo Right: Engr. Prof. H. I. Hart FNSE, Engr. Mrs. Hart (middle) and Barr. Mrs. Oruye during the Annual Dinner.



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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: 1000183629 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of **N9,000.00** for **Corporate Members** & **N11,000** for **Fellows** directly to **Main Street Bank ACC No. 6500374224** & forward all tellers to the secretariat for reconciliation. All payments should be made at the Bank