



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

## PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



### e-newsletter

2010 / VOLUME 76

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MARCH, 13TH 2010

NSE Port Harcourt Branch EXCO members holding their regular monthly meeting at the branch secretariat on the 4th of March 2010. The meeting was chaired by the Branch Chairman Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni. After the EXCO meeting NSEPH hosted EXCO members to a dinner. During the dinner, some EXCO members who had contributed to the growth of NSEPH were awarded with certificates of merit.



### UPCOMING EVENT

Symposium on: **Alternative Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Management System** in Port Harcourt Metropolis.

**Date:** 25th March, 2010

**Time:** 9am-5pm

**Venue:** NSE PH Branch Secretariat.

### An Interview with Engr. Emeka M. Ezeh, FNSE (Director General, Bureau of Public Procurement) On Due Process.

**E-Newsletter:** Sir, could you please tell us about yourself?

**Engr. Ezeh:** My name is Engr. Emeka Ezeh. I was a President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. I am the Director General of Bureau of Public Procurement and I am a Civil Engineer by training.

**E-Newsletter:** Sir, could you tell us about the Bureau of Public Procurement, popularly known as Due Process?

**Engr. Ezeh:** Well, the Bureau of Public Procurement is like a child of circumstance. You do know that in the past there used to be what is called "abuse of public office", where you have nepotism; people who find themselves in top authority use that position to amass wealth, not only for themselves, but for their friends, members of the community that they know, their church members, their class mates and others. And the effect is that government loses a lot of money because contracts are inflated, value for money is not obtained, efficiency is not achieved and of course, we have a lot of projects abandoned because the right people are not given the job to do. So arising from those ills, the government of Nigeria, in 1999, conducted what is called "contract procurement assessment report", among which they recommended that because there was no country system in public procurement; everybody was just doing what they understood to be the right thing but those things that they were doing were not giving government value for money and that report also indicated that for every naira Nigeria spend as at that time, we lost 60 kobo to underhand prac-



Engr. Emeka Ezeh, FNSE

are going to reform our public procurement system and that led to a lot of workshops, stakeholders, including professional associations. In June 2007, a bill was passed by the National Assembly and signed into law by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. As a matter of fact, we pride ourselves as been the first bill he signed as a demonstration of his commitment to transparency. And that is exactly what we have been doing. Basically, the job is very simple, to ensure efficiency, value for money, competition and a fair playing ground for all sort of bidders. You don't have to know me to qualify for jobs. The beauty of it is that it encourages creativity and innovations just like in football. If you work hard, you win and if you don't work hard, you don't have to depend on manipulations to win; and if you work based on manipulations there will be complains, that is the principle of due process, competition. So our job as a regulatory body is to set down the ground rules for MDAs to follow and they will go there after to see if they are following it. If they are not

following it, then we will go the next level of recommending both the administrative and criminal sanction as provided in the law. That is exactly what we do; but you know, when people are stopped from doing what they are used to doing, all kinds of complains would come; some genuine, some misplaced, some mischievous, some with all kinds of interior ulterior motives. So that have been part of the challenges, but people say we delay projects and I ask them, "What projects do we delay?" If somebody comes to you with a project in November of a year and you go to ask him in December and he says it is the due process, it means one or two things: either that he didn't need the project or he didn't know what to do or he just put the project for the sake of project. Most people don't even know what project they are going to do. They just want to have money in the budget without having any clear idea of what they want to do with it. That is what 'Due Process' is all about. **Engr. Ezeh:** You see we are not as corrupt as people say. Perhaps it takes a thief to catch a thief. Those birds who are crying foul! foul!, perhaps they are the people who are more corrupt. Because I must tell you, my being here has shown me that most public officers are not corrupt. Most public officers are made to be corrupt by the private people who go to them to make up facts.

**E-Newsletter:** What are the successes of Due Process since its inception, because Nigerians still cry "Corruption, Corruption?"

...contd. in page 2

### DISCLAIMER

Dear Colleagues,

We have noticed that our Port Harcourt Branch E-Newsletter has been associated with a so-called Professional Engineers Association of Nigeria (PEAN). We want to state categorically that we have not in any way either related or known anything on PEAN. Henceforth we are sending this message to dissociate our publication from PEAN. Thank you.

**NSE Port Harcourt Branch E-Newsletter Team.**

## An Interview with Engr. Emeka M. Ezeh, FNSE (Director General, Bureau of Public Procurement) On Due Process. ...contd. from page 1

Of course, I won't mention names but you should know that a lot of people approach me with offers and I say "No, I can't do it" and if you don't agree with them, you become a bad person. Some people would over inflate their contracts and you say "No, can't you see that the money is so much?" and they would come to a public forum and provide a platform to castigate you. Like what happened today



Engr. Emeka Ezeh & Engr. Otuneh, O. J.

(16/01/2010), somebody who lied over his claims, using people who are not in his employment to say that they are in his employing and when you removed them, of course, they will not be happy. Somebody would go and make a claim that he pays people N5 Million naira in a month, only for you to go and find out that he pays them less than N200, 000 naira or N150, 000 naira and then pocket the rest of the money. When you find out, of course they will not be happy. These are some of the challenges. Apart from this year, last year alone there was a difference of about N45 Billion naira, in terms of what the ministries are asked for and what we ap-

proved. So really, in terms of money, there was a savings of about N42 Billion naira for last year. In terms of providing opportunities for more people to participate, we have provided opportunities for more people to participate in the bidding process, people who hitherto would not have dreamt of getting government jobs. I think that is even where our success lie more. We are providing level playing ground for more people to participate. But you know the few elites, those who have access to those that are in power, at various levels: at traditional level, political party level, at the church level, those who have access to them are not happy. They say "oh! I have contributed XYZ to the party, what am I getting? This man is not allowing me to get this job". And they will mount all kinds of campaigns against the organization. But luckily for me, we have a president that is focused, that is transparent, that is honest, and that is not being carried away by this government.

*E-Newsletter: Thank you very much sir. Our last question is, in line with Due Process, what advice do you*

*have to give to our readers?*

**Engr. Ezeh:** Your readers are mainly engineers...

*E-Newsletter: (cuts in) No. They are not only engineers. They cut across the society.*

**Engr. Ezeh:** My advice to the readers who want to participate in public procurement is that they should follow the rules; the A, B, C, of it. They can visit our website ([www.bpp.gov.ng](http://www.bpp.gov.ng)) and get all the rules. They are there. And if they notice anything not going on well, they should feel free to send an inquiry to our office. The email address is also there on the website. They should follow the rule and they would get the job, but they should help the system by not bringing undue pressure on those that they know that are in position of authority for them to do the wrong thing. Because part of our motive is "don't do the wrong thing to keep a friend or to make one". I'm losing some of my friends because they want me to do the wrong thing, but I will not do it. My religion tells me "don't do the wrong thing to make a friend or to keep one". I'm ready to lose all my friends, if they want me to do the wrong thing. I don't give a damn. I am happy inside that I have done what is right.

*E-Newsletter: Thank you very much sir for the opportunity you gave us to interview you.*

### HYDROTESTING

Hydrotesting as the name suggests is the process whereby a piping system or pressure vessel is pressurised with water to a preset pressure (usually < 1.5times the design pressure as per ASME B31.3) for the purpose of checking its ability to withstand the operational conditions and leakages. Piping systems are usually designed for a period of 30years during which they are subjected to a combination of operational parameters, deadweight of piping, valves, and in-line components. Others include seismic load, wind load and ice load (in temperate regions). The test fluid is usually water unless there is the possibility of damage due to freezing or to adverse effects of water on the piping or the process. In that case another non-toxic liquid may be used. For austenitic stainless steel piping the chloride content in the water shall be < 30ppm. The choice of water as a test medium is because it is cheap and readily available and its density is higher than that of the designed line.

One of the piping deliverables produced during the detailed design stage of process piping project is the test pack. Test pack is the document that specifies the limit of testing of the piping system as well as testing parameters. Documents included in the test pack includes P&ID, approved line list, NDT report, piping general arrangement drawing, pipe support location drawing, punch list, erection/fabrication weld inspection summary sheet, hydrotesting certificate, and flushing report. Prior to starting hydrotesting, the piping system shall be verified regarding its conformity to the P&ID by the client's inspectors. The NDT report and any other special treatment (if any) shall be accepted by the client and contractor. The client's inspectors shall also check that the pipe support system are as per designed.

In general

- All weld joints shall not be painted for easy identification of leaks,
- The piping system shall be flushed with water before the test,
- All control valves, relief valves, check valves, orifice plates, flow meters and other instrumentation shall be removed from the line before the test. Any valve remaining in the line shall be in full open position,
- Pressure containment shall be by rated blinds, spades or welded domed caps,
- High point vents and low point drains shall be installed on the piping system to facilitate the removal of entrapped air and draining of water after the test.
- A minimum of two calibrated pressure gauges shall be installed at the maximum distance apart and at the highest and lowest points whenever possible.

The system shall be pressurised at a constant and moderate rate (it should not exceed 2bars per minute) until 70% of the test pressure is achieved. At this point the pressurisation is discontinued for pressure stabilisation and when it is achieved, the process is continued until the test pressure is reached. This pressure shall be maintained for about an hour during which checks for leakages are performed. When the client representative is satisfied with the result of the test, the water is drained and the line reinstated for commissioning.

The HSE and Hydrotesting departments ensure that during the required testing of components and weld, adequate protection is provided to prevent injury to people and damage to property from missile fragments, shock waves, or other consequences any failure which might occur in the pressurised system.

### NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!

Dear colleagues,

The **PROJECT MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR ENGINEERS & MANAGERS** organized by the Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch which was to be held from 15<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010 has been postponed to 19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2010. We regret any inconvenience this change in date might cause would-be participants that are already registered and persons who intend to register at the venue.

Engr. Otuneh, Otunte John (*Publicity Secretary*)



### POINT ENGINEERING LIMITED

An independent and wholly (100%) Nigerian engineering consultancy company with a strong commitment to proving a POINT for indigenous participation in the Nigerian Oil & Gas and Petrochemical Sector by providing complete; quality assured engineering design, project management and related consultancy services capable of satisfying the most stringent requirements of our clients wherever it is required using the best available technical skills.

### 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