



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



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19TH DECEMBER, 2009

**Merry X-Mas and Happy New Year**



## 2009 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### COMMUNIQUE

*"This is the continuation of the communiqué which was published in the last edition."*

The Nigerian Society of Engineers held its 42<sup>nd</sup> National Engineering Conference and Annual General Meeting tagged "HEARTLAND 2009" at the Disney Hotels and Resort, Owerri, Imo state between 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. The theme of the Conference was "Engineering Strategies for Confronting Challenges of Global Economic Meltdown".

At the opening ceremony eminent Nigerians and foreigners attended the conference. The keynote address was delivered by **Gen. Muhammadu Buhari, Rtd. GCFR** Former Head of State of Nigeria. The host Governor, His Excellency Chief Ikedi Ohakim, KSC and Rt. Hon. Gabriel Suswam, The Executive Governor of Benue State attended the conference and made remarks at the ceremony.

Well-researched papers delivered by eminent industrialists, scholars, agencies and entrepreneurs during brain storming technical sessions and Local Content Workshop on; 'Effective Resources Management for the Sustainability of the Nigerian Content Initiative' form the basis of the communiqué.

The Communiqué which emanated from all the sessions of the Conference is as follows:

#### **Sustenance of Nigerian Content Development (contd.)**

- The conference resolves that it is mandatory that the application of the Nigerian Content Policy should be extended to other sectors/areas of the Nigerian economy e.g. power, steel, automotive, aviation, marine, railways, highways, housing, water, electricity, chemicals, general infrastructure, etc. to ensure effective capacity building across all sectors of the economy.
- The Conference acknowledges the compelling need to commence restructuring of the curriculum for the training of our Engineers to allow for one year hands on training in various sectors to support the growth of Nigerian Content development in Nigeria.

#### **Infrastructure Maintenance and Development**

- The Conference notes with displeasure the deplorable conditions of 75% of roads in the country and enjoins the Government to speed up road rehabilitation and construction. NSE supports the creation of Road Funds, Road Board and Federal Road Authority for sustainable management of roads.
- The Conference notes that there is value in Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) in delivering critical infrastructure. It must be recognized that PPP is only feasible where there is tangible value for every stakeholder and where the legal framework protects both the investors and the public by ensuring transparency and accountability.
- In order to stem the effect of the economic melt down on the construction of new infrastructure, the conference advises that adequate effort and extra-budgetary allocation should be put on the maintenance of the existing infrastructure.
- Government should involve the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) and other organized private sectors in developing appropriate policies to accelerate infrastructure development in Nigeria.

#### **Power Supply**

- The Conference notes that the promise of progressive increase in electric power delivery to Nigerians is underpinned by a robust strategic plan which has as its elements in additional power plants, increased gas supply, upgrade of existing transmission and distribution network and construction of new ones. There is need for focused and consistent support for the plan.
- The Conference notes the pitiable state of power delivery system in Nigeria and recommends major institutional reforms that will decentralize generation, transmission and distribution of power in Nigeria and also the need to bring in other sources of power generation into our energy mix such as Coal and renewable sources of energy in Nigeria.

#### **Small and Medium Scale Enterprises**

- The Conference observes that global economic challenges can be turned into engineering opportunities. The Nigerian Society of Engineers enjoins its members to be more enterprising in job creation and proactive in pursuant and execution of government policies.
- The Conference advises manufacturing companies to focus on their core competencies and outsource the production of materials and components used for their final products. An attempt for a manufacturer to produce all components used for his main product leads to poor efficiency, quality and high cost.

*...cont. in page 2*

- The Conference notes, with serious concern, that manufacturing enterprise that commence operations with expatriate personnel often lose focus on technology transfer as production takes priority. It therefore recommends that manpower training be among the first steps in the establishment of local manufacturing industries.

#### **Information and Communication Technology**

- The Conference acknowledges the progress made in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Nigeria in the last one year and commends the government for creating the enabling environment. It particularly commends the private sector for the giant stride in the provision of ICT infrastructures and services. However, there is need to improve on sharing of facilities amongst various operators to enhance overall efficiency.

#### **Educational Development and Capacity Building**

- The Conference notes that the Nigerian Society of Engineers should commence partnership with University and training centers to offer specialized programmes in Risk Management, Project and Materials Management and Logistics. The Conference notes the urgent need to begin the institutionalization of a mechanism for the creation of sustainable joint ventures between indigenous and foreign companies as a way of rapidly building up engineering capabilities in all areas of economic and social development in Nigeria

**Engr. Ahmed K. Amshi, FNSE**  
Executive Secretary

*The election of officers which is the 10th item in the communiqué was published in the last edition.*

#### **NSE PH CAME OUT SECOND IN GROUP DYNAMICS**

In the just concluded 42nd National Engineering Conference & AGM of The Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Port Harcourt Branch of NSE came out 2nd while the Kano & Abuja Branches came out 1st and 3rd respectively in the branch group dynamics.

For the Divisions, Electrical Division came out 1st, Chemical Division came out 2nd while APWEN came out 3rd.

#### **PRESIDENTIAL MERIT AWARD TO NSE PH MEMBERS**

Engr. Chief Giandomenico Massari FNSE & Engr. Max Harrison Ogariawo MNSE, Branch Chairman NSE PH, received Presidential Merit Awards during the cultural night that was held in "HeartLand 2009". Congratulations to them.

Also during "HeartLand 2009" the Deputy Governor of Rivers State Engr. Tele Ikuru was conferred Fellow of The Nigerian Society of Engineers.

#### **Engr. Otuneh Weds in Church**

On Saturday 19th December 2009 Engr. Otunte John Otuneh exchanged matrimonial vows with former Miss Ijeoma Seed Wadibia at House On The Rock (Heritage House) Port Harcourt. The ceremony was witnessed by family members, friends, colleagues and well wishers.



Engr. & Mrs. Otunte Otuneh

#### **NSE PH END OF YEAR PARTY IN PICTURES**



NSE PH Branch Chairman Engr. Ogariawo MNSE (standing in top picture) giving his speech during the end of year party which took place on the 17th December 2009.



#### **POINT ENGINEERING LIMITED**

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#### **NOTICE! NOTICE!! NOTICE!!!**

All members of NSE PH should pay their **annual branch dues** of N4000 and **compulsory levy** of N5000 towards the Engineer Resource Center to UBA **ACC. NO: 0234-031-0000962 (Port Harcourt Main Branch)**. Also pay **National Annual Subscription** of N7,500.00 for **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