



# The Nigerian Society of Engineers

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH



e-newsletter

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## An interview with Engr. Mike Essien on Nigerian Engineers in Diaspora.

Mike Essien is based in the United States of America. He is a Chemical Engineer, a Lawyer (intellectual property counsel) and he is a member of the Board of Directors of Books For Africa. He became the Chief of Staff to the President of the African University of Science and Technology in Abuja in June last year. Mike worked for 3M Company in the US for 14 years after his undergraduate days. Mike has a focus of transferring foreign technology to Nigeria.

**E-Newsletter:** *As a Nigerian engineer that resides in the US, can you tell us more about the Nigerian Engineers in Diaspora? Do you get feeds from back home in Nigeria?*

**Mike Essien:** I am always concerned that the level of communication between- let me say- us engineers in the US or in diaspora, and here (Nigeria) is not at its optimum. I do not know how many engineers in Nigeria who really interact on regular basis with Nigerian engineers in the US or in Canada or in any other international country for that matter. I am also the President of the Association of Nigerian Engineers in Minnesota. One of our main goals is the improvement of education in Nigeria; so for the last two to three years, I know we have been working; trying to get linkages in Nigeria, establish things with the COREN, work with other entities, schools in Nigeria, trying to establish scholarships, trying to see what our challenges are, what the Nigerian student's challenges are, the Nigerian working in industries, what are their challenges, and how do we relate with them, and how do we work with them to make our lives a little bit better. Engineers are by nature problem solvers, so how do we solve the problems that affect us?

**E-Newsletter:** *Okay sir. How best do you think the Nigerian engineers in diaspora can actually partner with Nigerian engineers back home? What measures do you think can be put in place so that there won't be communication gap between the Nigerian engineers residing in Nigeria and Nigerian engineers in diaspora?*

**Mike Essien:** You know, for starters, my association in Minnesota is a good example. We have been working diligently trying to find a workable



partner in Nigeria, Mike Essien, Esq. to share issues with. Of course by nature, engineers are problem solvers; what challenges do we have and how do we step into the methodical process that engineers are a kind of known for; how do we step through that process and solve problems. Irrigation in Nigeria, what are the challenges of road construction? We have professionals that are in these categories all over the world; and they work there, and they do not transfer their technology to Nigerians at home. An association here should find a partner; the same association, like the NSE should find an association to partner with in the US or in Britain or anywhere else with our engineers. Why are they not useful sharing their skills with you? Members of the society here should communicate with engineers outside. Those are the kind of things that can happen; and once you step through that process, then the combination issue will be bridged and people will start talking and once you talk, you start understanding each other, and you start walking together to solve whatever common problems that you have. So I think linkages with other engineers and other engineering society out there is a great way to solve one of these issues.

**E-Newsletter:** *Okay sir. Now, I don't know if there had been in the time past, The Nigerian Society of Engineers, had tried to reach you people in the US to become members because they recognize their members here in Nigeria. So since you are in the US, you are registered in the US, you are not registered here in Nigeria, don't you think that there will be a*

*bridge if the Nigerian engineers in diaspora can actually, be registered and be known here.*

**Mike Essien:** I did not know about that until I started talking about it. I want to be a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers because once an engineer - unless you really walk away from the skills- you are always an engineer. I practice as an engineer, not in the factories anymore. I practice in the law office as an engineer, because my clients come to me with engineering problems and I help them to solicit parts for them. So I think if the exposure is made such that more like me and the next set of people start becoming members of similar engineering society in Nigeria, we will bridge that. Take for instance, Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers, I have just submitted my application to join them and Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria. We are working to see how we can partner with them. So you now (E-Newsletter) is the next avenue and am hoping that we are going to start building things up from here, so that I become a member of a professional body in Nigeria.



Mike Essien, Esq & Engr. Otueneh, O. J

**E-Newsletter:** *Alright, Thank you very much sir. I believe this information will get across to over five thousand Nigerian engineers, and I believe something will be done about it.*

**Mike Essien:** Okay. Looking forward to being part of you.

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



Group photograph of participants of the NSE PH organized Engineering Project Management Training Course.

**NSE PH VISITS RIVERS STATE COMMISSIONER FOR ENVIRONMENT.**

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch on Thursday April 22nd, 2010 paid a courtesy call on the River State Commissioner for Environment. The team of NSE EXCO on the visit which includes Engrs. Prof. Hart, FNSE, Chf. Oruye, FNSE, F.C Ogolo, FNSE, Sam Nwakwo, FNSE, D. Dania, MNSE, (Vice Chairman), Chf. Gibson, MNSE, Okparanma, MNSE,( Tech. Sec.), Wari-Alabo Jumbo, MNSE, Charles, MNSE, Dr. Ayotamuno, MNSE Chmn, , was led by the Branch Chairman Engr. Dr. A.H Igoni, MNSE. Intimating the commissioner on the motive of the visit, Engr. Igoni highlighted areas of close collaboration between the Ministry and The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch which included among other things exploring the vast professional experience of engineers that are in NSE and using the services of NSEPH LTD and the Engr. Dr. Ayotamuno committee, for the enhancement of his ministry's services. Responding the Commissioner promised firmly to partner with NSE in the areas of engineering challenges but would frown seriously at any disappointment. In a vote of thanks to the Hon. Commissioner, Engr. Dania promised that NSE would not disappoint but would deliver.



**NSE PH BRANCH VISITS PHRC IN THE PROCESS OF ELEME BRANCH INAUGURATION**

The Nigerian Society of Engineers Port Harcourt Branch on Tuesday 20th April 2010 went on an industrial visit to the Port Harcourt Refinery Company (PHRC) of the NNPC at ELEME in Rivers State. The team of the branch EXCO members was lead by the Branch Chairman Engr. Dr. A.H. Igoni, MNSE. In his address, the branch chairman, explained that though the visit was at the instance of Element Branch inauguration committee it was also an industrial visit meeting. He explained that the need to have an Eleme Branch of NSE cannot be overemphasized considering the numerous engineering companies namely INDORAMA (EPCL), NOTORE (NAFCON), NPA, NAVAL COLLEGE, DAEWOO, etc with majority of engineers who have difficulty attending Port Harcourt branch programmes. Engr. Igoni noted that the establishment of Eleme branch, as it has been proposed for Bonny and Omoku, would enhance the reach out programmes of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. The inauguration process was immediately kick started with election of protem officers as 5-member committee to coordinate the chapter prior to the inauguration. Speaking on behalf of the management of PHRC, Engr.T.O. Olu-Tima, said that the management was enthusiastic about it and was ready to assist within its powers to facilitate the speedy inauguration of the branch. The members of NSE PH on the visit include Engr. Dr. A. H. Igoni, Chairman, Engr. D.A A Dania, Vice Chairman, Engr. B. M Ogariawo, IPC/ Chairman Eleme Branch inauguration committee, Engr. Chief (Wari Alabo) S. Jombo, Chmn, Engr. Chief. Belief Gibson, (Internal Auditor) Engr. Ebitei Charles (Asst. Tech. Sec.) Engr. R.O. Ogonia and Engr. Mrs J.O.Okeyea,



Engr. Alek Musa's daughter's wedding on Saturday 24th April 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