



NBRRI

NEWSLETTER

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The Quarterly Newsletter of the Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute

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Director-General/CEO of NBRRI.

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MAKE AN IMPACT
ON THE NATION**

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former Permanent Secretary, FMST

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NBRII CONSTRUCTS NEW ROAD AT NLC, OTA



objective is to provide access for the movement of goods and services to these two new infrastructures at the NLC.

The Pozzolana Pilot Plant is a NBRII pet project just established for the production of pozzolana using clay as the raw material. This will be used to produce pozzolana cement with the partial replacement by Ordinary Portland Cement. On the other hand, the Skills Acquisition Centre is another

As part of efforts geared towards revamping and re-engineering the Institute, Prof. Danladi Slim Matawal, the Director-General/Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute, NBRII has embarked on yet another laudable project which is the construction of a new road at the National Laboratory Complex (NLC), Ota, Ogun State. The road will link the NBRII Pozzolana Pilot Plant with the Skills Acquisition Centre through the major roundabout in the Complex. The primary

flagship project of NBRII just constructed using NBRII interlocking blocks.

The construction of the road is being carried out from resource persons from the Road Research Department of NBRII. The construction is under the supervision of Mr. Bobzom B.G. Other members of the construction team include Mr. Ajayi Abiodun, Mr. Oshiodi O.R., Mr. Adeyemi Adeyinka, Mr. Akanbi Dayo, Engr. Quadri H.A.



EDITORIAL

How time flies..... On 1st March 2014, the Director-General/CEO of the Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (NBRRI), Professor Danladi Slim Matawal will be three years in Office. The saying goes that "It is not how long but how well." The Institute, in the last three years has witnessed a lot of activities, programs, transformation and recorded significant and landmark achievements which have repositioned the Institute for effective service delivery and recognition in the Nigerian construction industry. The success rating from feedback from practitioners and professionals in the construction industry as well as staff of the Institute is very high. To highlight some of these successes, significant activities, landmark achievements and challenges, *NBRRI Newsletter* Team had a comprehensive interview with Prof. Matawal to share from his experiences in the last three years. Excerpts from the interview are presented in this edition. It is as informative as it is educative.

With the opening of additional three NBRRI Zonal Offices in Jos (North-Central Zone), Uyo (South-South Zone) and Gombe (North-East Zone) to complement the existing ones in Lagos (South-West Zone), Nnewi (South-East Zone) and Kano (North-West Zone), NBRRI has established Zonal Offices in all the six geo-political zones of Nigeria. The aim of these zonal offices is among other things to bring NBRRI activities, innovations and services on alternative technologies closer to the grassroots. To adequately empower these

Zonal Officers for better service delivery, a 3-day Workshop was organized for the Zonal Coordinators and their team at the Administrative Headquarters of NBRRI in Abuja. The highlights of the objectives and paper presentations of this Workshop are presented in this edition of *NBRRI Newsletter*.

The efforts of NBRRI to improve the quality of its human capacity received a boost within the period. Two of NBRRI staff on study leave for post-graduate studies in Nigeria and the UK excelled. Their research works and papers earned them Awards. To celebrate them, *NBRRI Newsletter* has showcased these Officers. Also spiced in this edition of *NBRRI Newsletter* are stories on the visit of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Makurdi Branch to NBRRI, the election of the Executives of the Senior Staff Association in NLC Ota office and the construction of an Access Road in NLC, Ota using local capacities in NBRRI.

Last but not the least is the story on the setting up of an Inter-organizational Planning Committee to organize the 2014 Annual NBRRI Conference, which has been tagged *NATIONAL HOUSING SUMMIT*. The Conference is slated to hold between the 2nd and 4th June at Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja. *NBRRI Newsletter* seizes this opportunity to extend invitation to ALL concerned with housing and housing delivery in Nigeria to keep a date with this Conference.

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NBRRI (VISION, MISSION & CORE VALUES) BUILDING CAPACITY & SETTING THE PACE IN INDIGENOUS CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

VISION

To evolve and use a comprehensive and integrated approach in appropriate technology development and transfer, sustainable capacity building and investment promotion.

So as to foster the application of environment-friendly and energy-efficient technological innovation and knowledge-based practices in the fields of building, road, and engineering materials will be used to provide adequate and affordable building and road construction practices.

Which will enhance job-creation, wealth generation and poverty reduction as well as nurture the emergence of vibrant, knowledge-based and highly competitive indigenous construction companies capable meeting global standards.

MISSION

Integrated R&D, capacity building and robust extension services in which technological innovation and knowledge-based practices in the fields of building, road, and engineering materials will be used to provide adequate and affordable housing and road infrastructure as well as increased economic empowerment.

CORE VALUES

- Professionalism
- Commitment and integrity
- Resourcefulness
- Innovativeness

THERE ARE LOTS OF CAPACITY AND LOCAL TECHNOLOGIES WAITING TO BE UTILIZED IN NIGERIA

...DR (MRS.) DERE AWOSIKA, mni, former Permanent Secretary, FMST

The Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute received an august visitor to its Administrative Headquarters in Abuja. The august visitor was none other than the amiable Dr. (Mrs) Dere Awosika, mni, the erthswile former Permanent Secretary. She spent considerable time of her tenure as a Federal Government Permanent Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, which supervised the activities of NBRII. Though retired from the Federal Government service, Mrs. Awosika was her usual active and bubbling self, full of confidence and air of authority around her. Her visit was at the instance of DG/CEO to give the opportunity of having a full complementation of the results of some of her initiatives in the Institute when she was in Office. As usual, NBRII Newsletter took advantage of the opportunity to have an interview with Mrs. Awosika, which she gladly obliged. Below are excerpts of the interview

NBRII Newsletter: To what do we owe this pleasant visit today, ma?

Mrs Awosika: Well firstly, let me congratulate the entire Institute especially the leadership headed by Professor D.S Matawal for the new office which has affected the morale of staff. As I can see, everyone is happy and eager to work. Why did I come today? Well while I was the Permanent secretary of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (FMST), I was very busy and so did not have the time, more so, this office was not ready. So when I met the DG at a recent function, Prof Matawal invited me again to come and see the new office and that is why I am here to fulfill the promise I made to the DG.

NBRII Newsletter: In the Civil Service, you rose to the pinnacle of your career as a Permanent Secretary. How can you recall your stay in the service and what motivated you while in the public service?

Mrs Awosika: Well my entire civil service career which spanned 35 years, because I came direct into the service, was a very good experience for me. Let

Yes, I love discipline and I think the Institution of the civil service is one of discipline. So if you follow it and adhere to its rules and regulations, you will enjoy public service. It however becomes poor when the rules and regulations are not adhered to. So for me, I enjoyed it because everywhere I was posted to, there was order.



DR (MRS.) DERE AWOSIKA, mni,
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me say that I enjoyed it as a Grade Level 8 officer and even up to my stay as a Permanent Secretary. I am a professional (a Pharmacist); so I started my public service career in the hospital until I rose to the post of Chief Pharmacist. I was then seconded from Ministry of Defence to Ministry of Health where I became a pioneer Chief Executive. From there I went to the *National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies*, NIPSS, Kuru near Jos, Plateau State, which also gave me an exposure to top level administration. I then came back and after a while I became Permanent Secretary. Yes I love discipline and I think the Institution of the civil service is one of discipline. So if you follow it and adhere to its rules and regulations, you will enjoy public service. It however becomes poor when the rules and regulations are not adhered to. So for me, I enjoyed it because everywhere I was posted to, there was order.

When I came to the FMST, I felt it was a God-given opportunity for me. I must say that I enjoyed the Ministry because I never knew there were lots of researches being carried across board by Agencies in the Ministry

NBRII Newsletter: Looking particularly into your tenure as Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (FMST), what was your experience like?

Mrs Awosika: When I came to the FMST, I felt it was a God-given opportunity for me. I must say that I enjoyed the Ministry because I never knew there were lots of researches being carried across board by Agencies in the Ministry. For example I never knew there was a Research Institute for road and building; a similar Research Institute for Nuclear and Space technology; for Biotechnology; for Leather technology; for Food technology, etc. There was also the National Agency for Science and Engineering

Infrastructure (NASENI) and many others. So it was an eye opener for me; and that was why I was busy because I was learning every day. I had a good time in the Ministry also because all the Directors-General of the Agencies worked together very well with me to make sure we take the various technological innovations from the laboratories to the markets.

NBRII Newsletter: One of your personal initiatives when you were PS of FMST was the Cluster Project. What was the idea behind this initiative?

Mrs Awosika: I must give God the glory first on this project. Secondly my heart was burning because I have travelled the length and breadth of this country not only the cities but also the rural

communities as well. All through my travels, I see that there are lots of capacities and local technologies that are waiting to be utilized in Nigeria. So my mind went to putting these issues together and with some few funds, to make a new meaning to the lives of people. So with that inspiration, I checked myself into a hotel for days and was writing anything that came to my mind about clustering technology and available capacity with some little financing that will cause a transformation of rural and sub-urban areas. After I wrote and articulated all my ideas, I called all the DGs of Agencies in the FMST for more brainstorming. We then used the document which listed all the raw materials found in each local government in Nigeria. I further charged the DGs that they can do better by setting up communities to

look into raw materials found in every ward in the country. There are 9,555 wards in Nigeria and to our surprise every ward has at least a raw material. So, after we came out with the document, we decided to choose a ward in each of the geo-political zones of the country where



we travelled to meet the people there and see how we can translate our document into reality with the people owning the project. So we went to one of the wards in Kuje in the FCT, we discussed with them and wanted their buildings to be transformed by NBRII from what they have. We wanted to also train the people on how to build their houses using their laterite and the people were ready to do that. This to my mind will transform the environment where the people stay, because your environment

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can affect your mind. If our people keep staying in poor houses, they will be looking at themselves as not developed; but once they begin to live in a better place, then they will be confident. So for that ward in Kuje, NBRI was to building 10 model houses and construct a feeder road so that the people can bring in their rice and yams from the farm. They produce about 10,000 tubers of yams. In Zaria, we met the people and found out that the people are into mining because they have a lot of rocks, and there is technology for that in the ministry. We just need to pick them from the shelves, give it to the people, train and equip them with some funding.

NBRI Newsletter: We noticed that the federal budget for Science and Technology (S&T) is dwindling every year. What is your take on the funding of S&T in Nigeria?

Mrs Awosika: Well S&T funding cannot be budgetary-sufficient. The issue of funding was part of the Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) Policy document; and a recommendation was to have a Science, Technology and Innovation Fund. This Fund is supposed to be generated from various sources like some percentage of the National Lottery, etc. The generated Fund is to be allotted to

ST&I but tied up to definite research programmes or projects that will translate into innovations and have impact on the people. Also a percentage from the excess crude account was to be set aside for ST&I. This must be done to ensure that the local technologies in Nigeria is developed and applied for the benefit of its citizenry. India did the same thing and today they are self-sufficient, especially in SMEs. Here we are trying to revolutionize our industries but this can only be done through small and micro enterprises before moving on to the medium and large ones. The technologies in the FMST, if galvanized and utilized, will assist in driving the Small- and Micro-enterprises, because it will help in the non-importation of equipment. For example the interlocking block making machine by NBRI is ideal as against the imported versions. So, Local technology is needed to drive small and micro industries.

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NBRI Newsletter: As PS of FMST then, you had special interest in NBRI and its technologies. What were the potentials that you saw in the Institute?

Mrs Awosika: Don't forget that NBRI does three things: one, you are dealing with housing the people and I am yet to see any industry that creates jobs like housing;

because every part of housing development needs direct and allied labor. Not only that, you will be able to transform immediately the lives of people by transforming the type of house that they have; and because the materials of NBRI is local, there is no need for any importation to build houses. Two,

The technologies in the FMST, if galvanized and utilized, will assist in driving the Small- and Micro-enterprises.... So, Local technology is needed to drive small and micro industries



DR (MRS.) DERE AWOSIKA, mni, and DG/CEO NBRI

There are 9,555 wards in Nigeria and to our surprise every ward has at least a raw material

and other facilities and it is cooler than the conventional houses. So, the technology is very good and the skills are there. I have tried it and I know it works. It shows that NBRI have the quality of staff that can address issues of housing in Nigeria as well as feeder roads for our rural communities.

NBRI looks at road and you can see that Nigeria is going into Public, Private Partnerships (PPP) for roads in major cities. Definitely nobody will go into PPP for rural roads; so NBRI becomes vital in that regard as we cannot have micro and small industries in the rural area without having these feeder roads to bring out the goods. You talk about training and putting things in order, you find out that NBRI is skilled. When I first met your DG, I found out that he is focused and I see that the capacity among NBRI staff is there. I remember taking a decision to pull down my boys' quarters. I called your DG and told him that I have seen your house now I want to know whether it is cheap. Build it with your materials. Some friends told me that I was crazy for taking that decision. I can tell you that not only is that place well built, it is also cheap. It was a three-bedroom bungalow before but now it is a four-bedroom, with kitchen

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NBRI also have the quality of staff that can address the issue of housing in Nigeria as well as feeder roads for our rural communities.

NBRI Newsletter: How will you rate the current NBRI Management?

Mrs Awosika: Focused, they keep their word; excellent and good management of human and financial resources; transparent.

NBRI Newsletter: How is life like after retirement?

Mrs Awosika: Life after retirement is good as I am still very busy.....

NBRI Newsletter: Busy doing what now, ma?

Mrs Awosika: Busy by involving and applying myself in the various

sectors that I have served within the system. I have different consultancies. I am busy with some consultancy with the United Nations; busy with God's work which is a primary thing on my mind; staying with my family and friends which I look forward to doing more of that. I am involved with professional activities. I also travel a lot as I am invited all over the world to give talks. So I am quite busy.

NBRI Newsletter: On a lighter note, you are a Princess! How is royalty?

Mrs Awosika: I am a Princess of the most high God. (Laughter)

NBRRI ORGANISES WORKSHOP FOR ZONAL COORDINATORS

The Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (NBRRI) organized a Workshop for the Coordinators and key Officers of the six NBRRI Zonal Offices located in Lagos, Jos, Nnewi, Gombe, Kano and Uyo. The 3-day workshop took place at the Conference Room of NBRRI Administrative Headquarters in Abuja between the 25th and 27th March 2014. The objective of the workshop was to build the capacity of these Zonal Coordinators with the necessary tools; administrative, technical and marketing skills to enable them discharge their duties in line with the mandate of the Zonal Offices. This was to enhance effective linkages and collaboration on the massive use of NBRRI technologies in construction at grassroots level with communities in the six geo-political zones of Nigeria. The target participants included the following Zonal Coordinators:

Mrs. Mabel Igweonu
Mr. Terver Tyosar
Mr. Baba Yerima
Mr. Moyi Zayyanu
Mr. Sunday Ezirim
Mr. Etuk Enefiok

Lagos, Lagos Zonal Office
Jos, North-Central Zonal Office
Gombe, North-Eastern Zonal Office
Kano, North-Western Zonal Office
Nnewi, Eastern Zonal Office
Uyo, South-South Zonal Office



Group photograph of Participants and Facilitators at the Conference; with the Director-General/CEO, NBRRI

On hand to declare the workshop open was Engr. Austin Eneh, a member of NBRRI Governing Board and Chairman of the Commercialization and Revenue Generation sub-Committee of Board. The Director-General/Chief Executive Officer of the Institute, Prof. D.S. Matawal delivered the keynote address while the Director, Consultancy and Extension Services Department, Bldr. Hafizu Illyasu Wali gave the welcome address. Present at the Opening ceremony were the heads of Units and Departments in NBRRI Abuja Office which included the Head of Admin & Personnel, the Head of Audit Unit, the Head of Public Relations Unit, some Management Staff; some Research Officers and Extension Officers based in Abuja Office; and the head of Consultancy and Extension Services Department in NBRRI Ota.

Six (6) papers were presented at the Workshop and these addressed the following critical aspects, namely: administration, funds utilization, public relations, commercialization through consultancy as well as artisanal training. These papers were delivered by high

profile resource persons drawn from within the Institute. There were robust group and syndicate sessions.

At the end of the three (3) day meeting/workshop, the following recommendations were proposed for management consideration and approval:

- Ø Meetings of Zonal Coordinators should be held quarterly and should rotate around the six zonal offices and Ota in order to expose the Coordinators to the activities in other zones.
- Ø Similar Workshops should be conducted for other cadres of NBRRI staff, utilizing internal resource persons to build the capacity of staff members.
- Ø Zonal officers should establish collaboration with tertiary institutions within their zones (Universities, polytechnics, etc) towards actualizing the institute's mandate and creating awareness on its R&D results/innovative technologies.
- Ø Training manuals on various innovative technologies of the Institute should be produced by the Consultancy and Extension Services department.



Cross-section of Participants at the Workshop

Continued on pg.11

EXCERPTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE NBRI ZONAL COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

BASICS OF CONSULTANCY AND EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

By Bldr. Hafizu Ilyasu Wali (Director, CES, NBRI)



The Paper was divided into 6 parts. Part 1 focused on Consultancy activities which it defined as the deployment of an entity's resources to generate additional income. In doing this, consideration was given to *Resources*

Availability, General feasibility, Commercial viability and Commercialization of Technologies. The paper noted that the issue of modeling (Enterprise and Business) is crucial in the process of planning for commercialization.

In part 2, the paper looked into extension activities stating that *Extension is the promotion of a 'product' in order to secure sales through effecting attitudinal change.* It listed three basic steps as Strategy for Extension services as: Formulation of an appropriate message; Dissemination through an appropriate medium; and targeting it to an appropriate receiver. It listed the two common approaches to the provision of Extension services as: Experiential and Promotional. The paper further discussed the concept of *Quality Function Deployment (QFD) as Feedback Mechanism from Extension defining QFD as a method of determining which type or model of a 'product' economically satisfies market demand.* It added that *QFD provides the necessary feedback in order to: correct an anomaly; redesign the product; or altogether withdraw it from the market.*

Part 3 was on *Work plan which is described as a project management tool that is vital for the implementation of all extension and consultancy activities.* It divided work plan into two: Work and planning adding that the types of work plan are: Activity Work Plan; Work Plan & Budget and Annual Work Plan & Budget. Uses of work plans include: Target setting; Proper Budget Implementation; Deployment of resources (human + material) and Monitoring of progress.

Part 4 focused on *Modalities for commercial activities in NBRI.* It emphasized that NBRI is at the moment not empowered by its law to carry out

commercial/business activities; hence such dealings require the kind of flexibility which government general rules/regulations do not provide. As a way out/way forward for NBRI, the paper proposes special purpose vehicles (SPV) to conduct commercial business. These SPVs could be:

- i) Business Enterprises that have MOU with MDAs;
- ii) Business Enterprises which are wholly or partially owned by the MDA; or
- iii) An NGO with which the MDA has good understanding.

NBRI according to the paper has already set up two SPVs: *Messrs NBRI Consult Ltd* (for technical issues, consultancy, training and capacity building) and *Messrs Brem Technologies Ltd* for contracting/supplies, etc. It therefore states that the Zonal Coordinator, by implication, is a commercial officer and must see his/her role as the representative of both SPVs in the Zone in which he/she operates.

In part 5, the paper suggested the *formation of three syndicate groups* to look into the following issues in zonal offices:

- Group 1:** To look into the functions, structure of Zonal Offices and to draw up responsibilities of key officers;
- Group 2:** To come up with programmes and activities for all Zonal Offices for the year 2014 and also to generate a Work Plan and a Budget; and
- Group 3:** To look into the possibility of resuscitating NBRI-Consult as a commercial entity, determine its modus operandi and how it can harvest the outreach of Zonal Offices to the benefit of NBRI.

Concluding the paper in part 6, the following were suggested as roles/ responsibilities of the CES Department at NBRI Administrative Headquarters, Abuja: Facilitating the programmes/activities of the Zonal Offices and NBRI Consult in the Zones; coordinating the programmes/activities of the Zonal Offices and NBRI Consult in the Zones; Providing technical support/expertise to Zonal Offices and NBRI Consult in their programmes/activities; Providing technical back-stopping for programmes and activities of Zonal Offices; Provide technical support for the development of Enterprise and Business Models by Zonal Offices and NBRI Consult in the Zones; Assist in carrying out QFD tests in conjunction with Zonal Offices for the various technologies that may be deployed in the Zones by NBRI for feedback; Give Zonal Offices continuous guidance

EXCERPTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE NBRII ZONAL COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

By **Mrs. Ifeoma Jude-Iloma,**
Deputy Director, Administration and Personnel

The paper began by defining Office Management as the act of running and controlling a business or organization. This involves among other things, Planning, Organising, Staffing, Leading/Directing, Controlling/Monitoring and Motivation. It also stated that Administration is in consonance with Office Management as it refers to the activities that are done in order to plan, organize and run a business, school or other organisation.

With regards to Administrative/Office procedures, the paper listed the flow of communication to be either: downwards from superior to subordinate; upwards from subordinate to superior officers or horizontal/sideways. It added that for easy flow of communication there must be clarity of writing, thoughts, and assemblage of facts. It also stated that the proper Line of communication is very essential to avoid hiccups in administrative procedures. Under minuting of files, the paper states that minutes must be clear and concise while the language should be polite and straight to the point. It should be devoid of ambiguity and probability especially when giving directives or making recommendations, adding that if in doubt, reference books like the Public Service Rules, Guidelines for Appointments and Promotions, Schemes of Service, Conditions of Service, etc. or more experienced colleagues can be consulted.

The paper stated that every staff has Personal, Confidential, Financial files opened for him or her in the Administrative Headquarters and urged the zonal coordinators to open ancillary files for zonal staff for record purposes. It also stated that files should be opened for a variety of items such as Projects, General Administration, Collaborations, Sub-files, etc.

The paper further touched on *induction of new staff* saying relevant file(s) should be opened for the staff after documentation, and Variation Advice raised for the staff to be pay rolled. Stressing on attendance register, the paper said it is mandatory that every staff signs the book as failure to do so amounts to

insubordination; and the staff may be declared absent from duty which will attract strict sanctions. On leave roster, it stated that this Roster allows for proper planning so that key staff of any given department may not embark on leave at the same time.

Discussing the issue of discipline, the paper warned that indiscipline amounts to irresponsibility; hence, it is the duty of every officer to be acquainted with the extant rules as ignorance is no excuse in law. It noted that it is the duty of every superior officer to bring to the notice of his or her subordinate officers their misconduct either orally or in writing. This may be in the form of a query or a reprimand, as the case may be. Likewise the superior officer is to bring up the misconduct of a subordinate officer to the notice of



Management for corrective measures; or for punitive measures in cases of serious misconduct(s) where the offender may get to the level of appearing before a Disciplinary Committee. Some of the misconduct listed include: dishonesty, false claims against government, foul language, insubordination, negligence of duty, falsification of records, suppression of records, sleeping on duty, improper dressing to office or while performing official duties, hawking merchandise on office premises during office hours, engaging in political activities, corruption, fighting while on duty, membership of secret societies, etc. It

emphasized that sanctions such as dismissal, termination of appointment, suspension from duty, interdiction, retirement, reduction in rank, withholding of annual increment, letter of warning, letter of advice, may be applied depending on the magnitude of the misconduct. The paper noted that mentoring is a very good and effective administrative technique for a recalcitrant subordinate who might need some probing and counseling.

The paper, in conclusion, stated that the Office Manager/Administrator is an all rounder, an organizer, a planner, a leader, a monitor, a motivator and a mentor. It therefore urged the participants to imbibe these seven habits of highly effective people which are: being proactive; begin with the end in mind; putting first things first; think win-win; seeking first to understand, then to be understood; supervise (Networking) and sharpening the saw.

EXCERPTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE NBRI ZONAL COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

RETIREMENT OF FUNDS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

By Boniface AJAH (Head, Internal Audit Unit) NBRI

The paper stated that Fund Accounting is one of the fundamental principles underlying the Public Sector Accounting; and defined *Fund* as a separate fiscal and accounting entity in which resources are held, governed by special regulations, separated from other funds and established for specific purpose.

It classified Funds into 3 categories: Government, Proprietary and Fiduciary Funds. It also listed the various types of Funds in Public Accounting as: General, Capital Project, Special, Contingency, Trust and Inter-Governmental Service Funds.

The paper defined *Virement* as expenditure from one expenditure head for another without a due approval from the National Assembly while *Fund Retirement* was defined as the act of rendering accountability or stewardship of Public money advanced or entrusted to a responsible Public Officer.

Quoting the Financial Regulations 1401 with regards to Advance, the paper noted that Personal Advances, which are cash loan to individual officer in the employment of the Federal Government of Nigeria, may only be granted on the authority of Financial Regulation and the Public Service Rules. It also quoted FR 1402 dealing on Non-Personal Advances being

advanced to an officer in his official capacity such as imprest.

Elaborating on imprest, the paper defined it as a sum of money advanced to an officer of Government to

meet daily expenditure as the case may be under the current estimates for which Vouchers cannot be raised immediately to Sub-Account. It also stated the types of imprest account as *Standing Imprest* (amount given which is replenishable from time to time and are retired as soon as it is expended to make way for a new one) and *Special Imprest* (meant for Special Projects, not reimbursable and is to be retired at the end of the project life).



On advances that are retireable, the paper noted that all Non-Personal Advances are retireable.

Also official oversea trips may need to be retired. However, some Personal Advances such as Duty Tour Allowances are not retireable.

The paper concluded by defining some common words used in Public/Government Finance such as: Appropriation Bill, Budget Estimate, Warrant, Authority to incur expenditure (A.I.E) and Treasury Circular.

Continued from p.8

- ∅ Libraries, Laboratories and Display Centres should be set up in all zonal offices in order to deliver optimum services to the public within the zones and its environs.
- ∅ NBRI Consult, a company incorporated by the Institute, should be resuscitated to boost commercial activities of the Institute. NBRI Consult will handle matters related to consultancy, Capacity Building and Training expositions.
- ∅ The working environment of the zonal offices should be upgraded in order to build a good corporate image for the Institute. Vehicles should be provided for easy mobility and coordination of activities in the zones.
- ∅ The staff of the zonal offices should comprise Extension Officer (with technical background), Admin Officer, Account officer, Research Officer and a Library Officer. The zonal coordinators will be the image maker in the zone.
- ∅ Zonal Officers should be equipped to participate in programmes and activities organised by the State Governments in their respective zones. The Zonal Coordinators and/or other staff of the zone will represent the Institute in any programme or activity that falls within their Zones.
- ∅ The zonal Coordinators should keep proper account/records in order to keep track of all funds released to them.

EXCERPTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE NBRII ZONAL COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

ORGANISING ARTISANAL TRAINING/LEARNING EVENTS

By INOH, A. G. (Chief Technical Officer, NBRII)



The paper highlighted issues for consideration by a Trainer/Training Facilitator when organizing a training/learning event, especially when it involves the introduction of a new technology. It defined Training as “the process of learning the skills that one needs to do a particular job; and defined Artisan as a class of persons who do skilled work, making things with their hands. Examples of Artisans include Carpenters, Brick/Block Layers (Masons), Iron Benders, Painters, Plumbers, Welders, Machine Fabricators, Electricians, etc. Artisanal Training was therefore defined as the Acquisition of Skills, Concepts or attitudes that results in improved performance within the Job and Environment. They are very essential tools for extension of new technologies.

The paper noted that it is important to first select area(s) that the training will be conducted based on the need to create awareness on a new technology or product and to improve the proficiency of those who have basic skills. In case of NBRII, it can be in the areas of: Buildings (Materials production and usage and maintenance.); Roads (Construction and Maintenance); and Equipment (Machine fabrication, assemblage and maintenance).

It stressed that the trainee is key to having the training. When organizing a training programme, the following issues have to be considered with

respect to the trainee: Age; Gender; Background; Education Background; Technical/Professional competence; Cultural background; etc. In addition, the training needs of the trainee must be identified via the Needs assessment or Skills gap analysis. The paper further stated that the Identification of training materials is crucial; and can be carried out through physical appearance of the materials or through simple tests. The training venue such as Classroom; Workshop; Building Construction Site; Road Construction Site; Production Shed, etc. should also be determined based on the type of training to be carried out and the materials to be used.

The Training method to be adopted will depend on several factors but primarily on the ability and level of knowledge of the trainee as well as the objective of the training. The paper suggested the following methods to be adopted in conducting Artisanal Training: Introduction; Lecture/Discussion; Skill lesson; On the job training and Group exercise.

The paper stated that a good presentation of the Training exercise should be lively while the required information are conveyed to the Trainees. This strategy elicits the attention and interest of the Trainee. Trainers should therefore try to build their own credibility in the introduction of the subject matter; and create a safe, comfortable environment for the trainees while considering the following: Putting up smiles; Avoid taking too much time on a particular issue; Language (Reader friendly/User friendly) and Dressing.

In conclusion, the paper stressed on Training Impact Assessment (TIA) which is a tool used in evaluating the impact of training on the social and economic well being of an organization, community, group and/or individual. TIA could be done through the following ways: Physical assessment; Interviews; and Questionnaires. Some practical and hands-on demonstration exercises were provided.

EXCERPTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE NBRI ZONAL COORDINATORS WORKSHOP

ENHANCING AND PROPAGATING NBRI IMAGE THROUGH EFFECTIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS STRATEGIES

By Makava Daniel, Head Public Relations Unit

The paper discussed the basic components of the principles and practice of Public Relation; and related these to the need for effective publicity, creation of favourable awareness and/or good corporate/product image for the Institute and its products and activities.

According to the paper, it is a paradox that a large number of people lack adequate knowledge of Public Relations (PR) which everyone needs; and indeed which everyone applies consciously and unconsciously. The confusion about public relations could be linked to the fact that everyone uses it anyhow. Public relations, as the name implies, deals with the public. Whatever is done rightly or wrongly by anyone who intends to have a good relationship with any member of the public is referred to as Public Relations. It should be noted that it is impossible to build good corporate image or product image on words (Publicity or Advertising) alone. The best image is formed as a result of action or good performance.



The paper further gave several definitions of Public Relations. Some of them are:

- ✓ According to the British Institute of Public Relations: 'Public Relations practice is the deliberate, planned and sustained effort to establish and maintain mutual understanding between an organization and its publics.'
- ✓ Dr. Chuks Osuji defined PR as 'a process of creating a favourable public opinion for an organization, institution, individual, commodity or for intangible things (such as names) so that relevant members of the public who have something to do with these tangible or intangible things may perceive them in good way'.
- ✓ The widely accepted definition of Public Relations is the Mexican Statement reached in 1978 at an International Conference of PR practitioners held in Mexico. It says 'Public Relations practice is the art and social science of analyzing trends, predicting their consequences, counselling organizations' leaders and implementing planned programmes of action which will serve both the organization and the Public interest.

The paper also looked at the need for PR. The need for explanation and education on many aspects of our lives and other activities has never been as serious as it is in recent times. This is because organizations survival now depends largely on public approval, and this comes as a result of the understanding and knowledge of their (organization) relevance. There is need to explain

new technologies, government programmes and the Institute's policies. People can no longer be left uninformed or just expect to know what is going on in an organization. There are many products, services, ideas and organizations and they all compete for the attention and understanding of the general public. The dynamism of our social, political and economic systems has made free flow of information more compelling than ever before.

According to the paper, all organizations, in-fact, everybody uses PR to get along with his fellow human being. Even religious bodies apply a lot of PR to get follower-ship. All organizations need and use public relations whether they are aware of it or not. In the execution of our jobs in the Institute, there is absolute need for effective PR Planning. It should be noted that every management wants nothing but results; therefore for our duties to be more respected and

Continued on p.23

NBRRI IS HERE TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE NATION

On 1st March 2014, Professor Danladi Slim Matawal was three years in the helm of affairs as the Director-General/CEO of NBRRI. Followers of events at NBRRI in the last three years will attest to the remarkable turnaround which NBRRI experienced in the short period. These achievements span all areas including but not limited to the tremendous improvement in the Administrative and Financial Management of the Institute; enhanced Human Resources Development for Staff; the provision of remarkable leadership in Research and Development activities; development of Pilot and Flagship Developmental projects; provision of Welfare schemes for staff; his Open Door Policy in running the Affairs of the Institute; etc. NBRRI Newsletter had an interview with the erudite Professor of Civil Engineering to find out from him about the journey so far and his aspirations for the future. In his characteristic manner, Professor Matawal gave a frank and candid overview of his impression on the activities and achievements of the Institute as well as its relevance to the construction industry and the nation at large.

NBRRI Newsletter: Congratulations on your three years in office as the DG/CEO of NBRRI. In summary how will you describe your journey so far after these years?

Prof. D.S Matawal: Thank you very much. First, I want to thank the Almighty God for attaining three years in Office. It has been years of all kinds of experiences. It has been a time for synergizing with the Federal Civil Service structures, for charting new frontiers for NBRRI, etc. People now have a positive outlook about NBRRI and so its future is now in proper perspective. In this regard, it has been a very satisfying experience in the sense of touching on the lives of the people, giving people an assurance for their future and giving R&D a proper focus and vision for the betterment of Nigerians in the future.



Danladi Slim MATAWAL
DIC, PhD, Ceng, FNSE, RE(Coren)
Professor of Civil Engineering

DG/CEO, NBRRI

NBRRI Newsletter: When you assumed office in 2011, you must have set for yourself some goals to achieve. What will you say are the goals you have so far achieved and the ones you are still pursuing?

Prof. D.S Matawal: There were many goals that I wanted to achieve: I needed to build a new profile for the Institute; to build appropriate infrastructure for R&D; to address the accommodation challenge of the Institute; to secure land in Abuja to accommodate the permanent administrative office of the Institute; and so on. I will say that a number of these goals have been realized while a few are still within the timeline for actualization. Staff are now happy for the movement of office to a more conducive edifice and environment; we have set off re-equipping our laboratories in Ota as well as establish a

new Materials Testing Laboratory in Abuja; we have set up three new zonal offices to complement the existing three in such a way that the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria are covered; we have cleaned up the main research centre of the Institute at Ota (the National Laboratory Complex, Ota) and given it a befitting background and corporate image, with adequate water and power supply there. There is an injection of young and very enthusiastic research officers to pursue the Institute's goals of conducting concerted R&D and building requisite capacity. We have also continuously held an annual National Conference on topical issues in the construction industry; and this has now taken an international focus, with the participation of people from abroad. We have renovated the Lagos Zonal Office as well as reactivated the Nnewi

and Kano Zonal Offices. We have established a Construction Materials Library in Abuja and made it lively by injecting new and relevant books every year. We have also published Proceedings of our annual National Conferences; technical reports on some of our research findings. Modest interventions have been made in the area of staff training and retraining. By and large, there have been a number of achievements and more are still in the pipeline. In spite of all the successes mentioned, the acquisition of Land in Abuja to commence the construction of our Administrative headquarters using wholly local technology, has remained a big challenge. It is a fact that it is more expensive to acquire land than to build in the FCT, but it is one of the primary issues in focus.

“...it has been a very satisfying experience in the sense of touching on the lives of the people, giving people an assurance for their future and giving R&D a proper focus and vision for the betterment of Nigerians in the future

NBRI Newsletter: What are some of the major research initiatives the Institute is pursuing presently?

Prof. D.S Matawal: There are quite a number of researches completed or ongoing. We have looked at the issue of traffic and speed in Abuja. We have intervened in the issue of cement classes, grades and its quality as a primary construction component; we even picked some nano-technological solutions and researched into their application in the Nigerian environment; we have continued with the digitization of sub-grade soils maps of States in Nigeria. Only three States in the North-East (Borno, Yobe and Adamawa) are left to complete the field and physical investigation of the sub-grade soils in Nigeria; and this is due to the security concern in those areas. The laboratory work on the field samples has been completed. We have our finger prints on the issue of building collapse in this country; because we have made our technical contributions in that regard. One of the critical Developmental projects we embarked upon at NBRI to make impact on the Nigerian construction industry is the setting up of a pilot plant for the production of Pozzolana Cement in Nigeria. This is one of our flagship projects targeted at introducing pozzolana cement into Nigeria. I believe the construction of a pozzolana pilot plant in Ota is a major R&D activity. Everybody praises that initiative especially those who have been to the plant site in Ota, as it is a major step to put Nigeria on the global scale in the application of a critical construction cementitious material that had hitherto been ignored but now being harnessed globally. There are also issues in

the Engineering Materials Research Department like the walling machines (blockmaking machines) which we have looked into with the aim to modernizing them. We are developing a machine that will produce interlocking blocks with conduit to allow internal conduit wiring. We are looking into capacity building for artisans like masons, iron binders, craftsmen, etc. in order to increase their capacities and technical abilities to give very fine construction and finishing to Nigerians. We are looking at issues of specifications in the road sector. In this regard, we are developing a road capacity manual and the road safety guidelines for the country. This is apart from the artisan curriculum development issue that is still being pursued to date.

NBRI Newsletter: When you resumed office, one of your major pet projects is the development of a pilot pozzolana cement plant. What is the update on the plant?

Prof. D.S Matawal: As at today, test firing of the plant is on-going. One of the major obstacles that need to be addressed is the appropriate firing regime for the raw materials and we have had a number of firing tests to determine the optimal regime. All the machines in the plant are in place and working. Even where there were some challenges of the hammer crushers for grinding, we were able to fabricate our own palm kernel grinding machine to replace the crusher and it is working steadily. So we are looking forward to finishing the work on the appropriate firing regime. Thereafter, we will begin ball

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milling into pozzolana cement and bagging. Once we start bagging, we will then proceed into setting up standards for application in the construction industry. So for me it has been a very highly successful project; the only thing I will be blamed for now is that we have not yet formally commissioned it because it is a project of national interest. However, I don't think we should commission the project until there is an appropriate bagging in process. But the principle behind establishing the pilot plant has been achieved and that is to have a complete production line that is able to produce this substance called pozzolana. In the past, even for research experimental purposes in the universities, other tertiary institutions and also in research institutes; they had to use rudimentary processes to fire and grind to powder; but we have now established a baseline for production. Added to this, we have set out to establish another pilot plant using volcanic ash as the raw

materials. This is in the pipeline and we are working very hard for it to succeed. The primary reason is that the baseline has been set. The secondary reason is that we should have a material that is applicable in construction for partial substitution. Ultimately when we start bagging, that second goal will be achieved. Thirdly, to set up a pilot plant based on basic baseline raw material and ultimately to expand it for other

pozzolanic materials particularly agro-industrial wastes like rice husk ash, groundnut hush ash, etc. So I think all the objectives have been achieved as much as 90%. But when all these objectives are fully achieved, then national specifications for field applications would be set. Indeed, this may serve as a commercial base for NBRI to generate revenue for the Institute.

NBRI Newsletter: Part of the things you did when you came into office is to create three new zonal offices apart from revamping the existing three zonal offices that were inactive. What has been the response from Nigerians on this development?

Prof. D.S Matawal: First of all, I know that some of the new zonal offices were set up on very urgent request like the one in south-south where the people there craved for a zonal office. There is also the one of north-east where it was a tussle between two states on where it will be sited. The old zonal offices have been revitalized and rehabilitated with nominal staff sent to occupy them. For the physical structures of the new

offices, the one in north-central zone was donated by the Plateau State Government while the ones in south-south (Uyo) and north-east (Gombe) zones are rented accommodations. Overall, there has been a lot of enthusiasm on the opening of these zonal offices. I recall a situation where there was major public occasion in the north-east; and when NBRI was introduced, it received a large ovation from the gathering; primarily because of our visibility on ground. Of course you are aware that we just held a workshop for the zonal coordinators where ideas were exchanged on how to make the zonal offices more functional. I believe when they are able to reach out to the people either in terms of the presence of laboratory facilities, display centers, construction materials, library, technological promotion documents, research pamphlets and reports, I am sure it will further lift the prestige of the Institute and make it an indispensable component of the infrastructural

development requirements of this country. You are also aware that Universities and other tertiary institutions even from outside the country, like from Kenya for example, have come to our laboratories to do their work. So people have been coming, post-graduate students have been looking at our technical reports in trying to pursue their researches, projects and other academic as well as professional duties and functions that will put Nigeria on a very high level

of technological achievement.

NBRI Newsletter: Another area we have ventured into in the last two years is the construction of Skills Acquisition Centers. What is the idea behind this initiative and can you give an update on the current status on these centers and the benefits to the Nigerian public?

Prof. D.S Matawal: Let me say that the Institute has engaged in developmental projects that are based on research findings and output. In addition to the Skills Acquisition Centers, there are other such projects. We have been involved, very successfully, in promoting NBRI technologies in the provision of access and feeder roads using Community-Based construction technology. A typical example is the project in Kaduna State, and the benefiting communities of these facilities have been full of praises for NBRI. In 2013 we embarked on a similar project in Benue State. We are planning more of such road projects in order to propagate the technologies used.



Coming back to your question, the Skills Acquisition Centers are prototype structures built to a large extent with local technologies, primarily developed by NBRRI. The Skills Acquisition Centers are in two categories: The first category are those belonging to NBRRI, like in those located in Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom and Plateau States as well as the one in our (NBRRI) Office Complex in Ota. Incidentally, the one in Ota is providing an expansion facility for our laboratories and offices. The second category refers to Skills Acquisition Centers brought to the purview of NBRRI for implementation as Constituency projects by some National Assembly members, mainly from Benue State. In 2013, we had projects in Ogun, Ondo, Kano and Sokoto States. The main purpose for these Centers is to use local technologies to provide facilities for the training of community members in different aspects of Skills and Trades. Of great significance is that the provision of the structure harnesses abundant locally available construction materials in the form of laterite. When these projects are being constructed, it is expected that the people of that particular constituency should participate so that they can benefit in the end. It is also expected that when the projects are completed, there should be facilities for community assembly as well as for imparting training on different Trades such as carpentry, computer and ICT training, training for construction techniques, metal work as well as for women (cosmetology and weaving).

So Skills Acquisition Centers is a complex and a one-stop shop that is provided with cheap alternative technology for people to have a central facility for community services. The philosophy behind this project has been well achieved; firstly, we have completed a number of these facilities; one center has been handed over; the one that is going to be an extension for Offices in NBBRI Ota is about to be handed over. This is going to change the outlook of the Institute there because the Conference Hall itself will provide an attraction for people to come and rent. There is a Cafeteria big enough to service staff and other members of the community. The Skills Acquisition Centers in Benue State has been completed while the one in Akwa Ibom and Plateau are at advanced stage of completion.

Even as we complete these flagship projects, we must then begin to look into the next phase which is to equip

with relevant equipment. It is important that we must not lose the vision that these Centres are supposed to be the focal areas for people to acquire skills that will make them self-sufficient. We also need to go ahead to obtain Certificate of Occupancy because they are NBRRI property. Although they are built for the communities but some day they can be centers of research for the Institute. The center in Ota is going to be phenomenally useful because ever since the Institute moved to Ota, there has not been any tangible building expansion. The Building and Road Research departments are congested in one building; the laboratory facilities are decaying and in need of a bigger space than the ones presently occupied. So the new Skills Acquisition Center located in NBRRI Complex Ota, will actually address some of the office and laboratory challenges that the Institute is facing right now.

NBRRI Newsletter:

Among the technological innovations that you met on ground, one that is giving the Institute so much challenge is the interlocking block making machine. What steps have taken so far to address this and what are the results?

Prof. D.S Matawal: Well, the first step that I took is to deploy some of the machines to the field. Of course it was not a huge success as a number of them were returned because they did not perform very well. But when they were returned, all the faults and challenges posed in the field were noted.

Secondly, we set out to search for fabricators; because the objective of some of these innovations is not for us to become producers and manufacturers but to create commercial enterprises out there, that can key in and set up fabrication workshops and even industrial ventures that will create jobs and generate wealth for the people.

The first success I had is very recent, when the machines that were said not to be working turned out producing in 2-3 weeks, what people could not produce in 6 months. This was after some reworking; and the appropriate department has also designed a cooling system which we are also attaching to these machines to increase their efficiency. But I have also set up a committee comprising of high powered personnel and I am waiting to see their report to tell me what the problems with the machines are and how they should be addressed.

We have also set an agenda for the future as we cannot continue at the same level all the time. We need to forge ahead so that we can make these machines compete

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with those in the international arena. For example if a lot of the processes were manual, how can we automate it or how can we have a production line? Let me also just emphasize very plainly that to me the problem has not been the technology but rather the patronage. This is because if there is an industrial venture, I believe that the challenges in the field would have become a thing of the past. They would have, through collaboration with our research team, perfected these machines and produce them on large commercial scale. They would have also been deployed massively in the field, check foreign exchange drain in the country by domesticating the production process of many of these machines in-house instead of importing their equivalents from outside Nigeria.

NBRI Newsletter: What are the other major challenges that are still besetting the Institute?

Prof. D.S Matawal:

Up till now, I think the public has found it very hard to depart from a past impression that the Institute had created. Many are still finding it very difficult to give the Institute another chance, but I want to assure everybody that nobody is joking. We are here to make an impact on this nation; we are here to make a difference in the Nigerian construction and engineering materials development sector; as an Institute we are here, to free Nigeria from the legacy of over-dependence on foreign services and goods, even in the areas of codes of conducts, of standards and of specifications.

But very importantly, in order to achieve this, we also need to take the bull by the horn and this is in terms of a very strong manpower base. You can see that most of the research officers that we have now are very young and enthusiastic. They are looking into the future and are still learning. I think we are still lacking the supervisory cadre of Research personnel to bring up these young researchers to be leaders of research tomorrow; thereby lifting Nigeria to the higher realm to be globally and technologically competitive and comparable with other peer nations; perfect our technologies and fine tune their production beyond any reasonable doubt. I expect to see a generation of People (Researchers) who are self-confident, officers who are meticulous both with their brains and with their hands, with zero tolerance for errors and ensuring that there is

perfection in every output that gets out of this Institute. I look forward to Officers who will work with zeal to build this nation to the kind that we dream of, which is comparable to any country of the world.

NBRI Newsletter: Looking at the National budget, what is your comment on the present funding of Science, Technology and Innovation sector and what is the way forward for Nigeria to achieve its technological goals?

Prof. D.S Matawal: Firstly, it is important that Nigerians should appreciate themselves. Let us not be over-dependent on foreign technology. Secondly, it is instructive to know that other nations made it through quite tortuous and difficult processes to be where they are today. Our Nation has to be disciplined, thorough, have self-esteem, realize our inner strengths and look in-

ward in order to make it. Having said this, our budget is baffling to everyone because the Science and Technology Ministry receives the least budget in the country. To me, we can emphasize this point by looking at the fact that priority is not being given to the Ministry of Science and Technology in the appointment of a Minister. Our budget has continued to slide down. In 2011, I understand that the Ministry and its Parastatals were given

a budget of 22 billion Naira. This reduced to 15 billion Naira in 2012 and 8 billion in 2013. In 2014 it has further gone down to 5 billion; and keep in mind that in all these, the national budget keeps increasing yearly while the budget for the Science & Technology Ministry keeps on dwindling.

Of course you are aware of the predicament that has been affecting many of the research Institutes in the Ministry of Science and Technology. The Research institutes have been threatened with either merger or becoming abolished. Nearly 10 out of the 17 Agencies under the Ministry were penciled down to be abolished but somehow it has not been carried out. That shows the lack of appreciation of the role of Science and Technology to national development. It is important to note that the budget is not adequate. For example, for the first set of equipment bought for our laboratories, the budgetary provision was about 25 million Naira; and when this was presented at a public forum, a high ranking Official with the Federal Ministry of Works stated

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that their Materials Testing Laboratory alone has received 600 million Naira for their laboratory. So you can compare 25 million to 600 million which shows they have 24 times more budget allocation than our research laboratory, which is supposed to provide the solutions for tests and innovations that cannot be found in any laboratory in the country. This is the sad event that we are having in the Science and Technology family in Nigeria. I dare suggest that we compare ourselves with countries that are developed. I hear that in South Korea, to win an election, any Presidential candidate must appreciate the role of Science & Technology to the growth of their economy. So these are issues that need to be emphasized all the time.

NBRI Newsletter: Can you comment on the achievements recorded and your current Management's plan for Staff welfare and training?

Prof. D.S Matawal: Well I would urge staff of the Institute to be patient for now. The reason is that we are emphasizing on research staff because I want us to pursue an aggressive plan to train and retrain our research staff. This is in addition to the routine that has been going on like management training schemes for our administrative staff. I have said this earlier that most of our staff are young; they are just getting to be confirmed and will be looking forward to training opportunities and we must encourage them in this regard. Staff welfare will continue to be giving priority; because unless the staffs are happy, you cannot expect high productivity. We have also addressed the issue of transportation of staff over the years and will continue to improve on it in the coming months. Even if the policy of Government changes, the Institute will continue to devise some technological promotions programmes like housing projects and in the process assist staff in this regard. We will continue to emphasise on staff welfare. After all, systems exist for mankind and unless man's needs are being addressed or some of its challenges assuaged, then all our efforts will come to nothing. I also want to see a situation where the staffs themselves are contributing towards the growth of the Institute. One hand alone cannot build a house and so it is important that at every forum in the nation, staff of the Institute should take the opportunity to educate their friends and the general public about the importance of research in the building, roads and

construction sectors of the Nigerian economy. This will increase the awareness in the consciousness of Nigerians and will enable it receive appropriate public attention, training opportunities and constructive engagements in national discourse on issues relating to the construction industry. Furthermore, collaborative effort with other relevant and cognate Institutions will elicit due respect that we deserve. As I said earlier, training is very important and we must emphasize it. I hope that Government listens and provide sufficient approvals and cash backing for a myriad of training programs to take its critical place in this Institute.

NBRI Newsletter: What is your current assessment of staff of the Institute and in what areas would you want them to improve?

Prof. D.S Matawal: It is very important that indolence in staff be a thing of the past. A Research Institute is a very active environment in which people are constantly brainstorming; constantly engaging in activities that will evolve into new ideas, new products and new innovations for the country. This does not involve only research staff alone. The senior departments should also know about issues of administration which they are constantly liaising with the relevant agencies of Government so that every administrative item and machinery, which continuously

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makes the Institute relevant, is appropriately pursued. Finance, budgeting and accounting issues should be addressed very seriously. I sometimes get overwhelmed when proposals get to my table without so intermediary staff scrutinizing it or not making any valuable addition nor making corrections. I think we have departed from the past where we just fold our hands and sat in our offices while waiting for our monthly salaries without any tangible output. I don't want to see this at the Institute again. I want to see every staff making himself or herself indispensable in the chain of activities of the Institute and I will like to promise to encourage every staff who continues in this regard.

NBRI Newsletter: In November 2013, the new NBRI Governing Board was inaugurated. What has been your working relationship with the Board?

Prof. D.S Matawal: Well you have seen me go all over the place, almost hand in hand with the Board Chairman as if we grew up together. I give him all my respect. The Board has been quite a very calculating

in the sense that it has been taking its time; it is encouraging the Institute and giving it a free hand to pursue research as it should be. The Board members have also made attempts to look at some of the challenges, particularly the issue of funding. I am aware that a board member has made an effort to try and get a capital intervention from the Central Bank of Nigeria. We will like to encourage that Board member to continue to pursue that initiative in spite of the recent changes in the apex bank. The Board Chairman has also been struggling to get enhanced interventions for personnel and capital through the budgetary procedure. So by and large, I have appreciated their presence even though it has just been a period of 6 months or so now. We have held only one major Board meeting since the inauguration and we are planning to hold the second one soon. So far, there has been no time I have had cause to complain about a single Board member. There has been no occasion when we have asked a Board member to come up with a suggestion or to participate in activities and has failed. One came recently to commission a Workshop on NBRII Zonal Coordinators and another had earlier inaugurated the Committee on NBRII technologies. So we thank the Board members for their cooperation.



NBRII Newsletter:

What is the update on the critical collaborations entered into by the Institute? What is the relationship between NBRII and its parent Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (FMST)?

Prof. D.S Matawal: Let me take the second one first. There has been a very cordial working relationship between NBRII and the FMST in all facets. Even today, I was pleasantly surprised as I just got a call from the Legal Department of FMST intimating me that *Draft NBRII Enabling Law* which had been in the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation was ready; and I have the Draft here now. We will look at it again and send it back through the appropriate channels for processing, to the Federal Executive Council and the National Assembly. You are aware that in 2013, the FMST took the NBRII DG/CEO to New York, United States to represent Nigeria in the UN General Assembly on the Science & Technology Forum. You are also aware that for every engagement of NBRII, the FSMT has been duly present to support us. Also in the budgeting process, there has

been a lot of fairness. Very importantly the FMST has looked up to NBRII as an Agency with speciality and has always sought our advice in that regard.

Now, let me go to the second question. We have had quite a number of collaborations both international and national. In every national conference of ours, our cognate stakeholders have participated so actively. These include the Federal Ministries of Works; Lands, Housing and Urban Development and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) who have been deeply involved with us. Others include COREN, ARCON, CORBON, SON, NEMA, NSE, TOPREC, the University sector, FMBN, Ministries of works and housing in the States across the country, etc. There has been also substantial international collaborations like with Building and Road Research Institute, Ghana, in which we are about to release our joint journal titled *West African Journal of Building and Road Research (WAJBRR)*. We have received publisher's interest to publish the journal. We have also been very close to South African groups. Even, Hydrafoam has been inviting us, but the one that has engaged us and displayed our logo as well as interacted with us online via skype is a group in Johannesburg that researches into cement and

concrete called *HYPERNICA*. This is a very beneficial collaboration as they gave us a speaking engagement in 2013 and want to engage us in numerous activities in 2014. There is also collaboration with an equipment manufacturer in the United Kingdom called ELE Ltd which is useful in equipping our laboratories. We have *Nigerian engineers in the Diaspora* that have picked up interest in the Institute in addition to Imperial College, London. At the home front, we are collaborating with local fabricators and are trying to promote them to an entrepreneurial level. We have identified some local machine shops and tried them on the fabrication of some of our technological innovations. This is to enhance the capacity of these centres for mass production of these NBRII innovations for the benefit of Nigerians.

NBRII Newsletter: Since you assumed office in 2011, you have organized conferences annually. What is the 2014 conference looking at?

Prof. D.S Matawal: The primary focus of the 2014 conference is on affordable and comfortable housing for Nigerians. The reason for this is multi-fold. Firstly, people talk of housing deficit in Nigeria; but what is the definition of a house and how do people come up with their deficit figure. Secondly, we want to be able to define what a comfortable house is and what an affordable house is. Thirdly, we want to evolve housing policies and schemes that will be for long-term benefit for this country. At the moment, houses are very expensive in Nigeria especially in the cities as most workers cannot afford their own houses. The cost of land in cities is a major issue as it is more expensive to get land than to build a house in urban towns in this country. Fourthly, there is the issue of relevant technologies for housing. Fifthly, there is the issue of Housing Finance. These are issues that are in line with the mandate of the Institute.

Every year we identify a major challenge to this nation and we try to tackle it at the conference. In 2011, we had a *Stakeholders' Forum* to which was designed to reposition NBRII and get a feedback on what Stakeholders' expect from NBRII. The objective was achieved. In 2012 we delved into the issue of *Building Collapse* which had become a cause for concern by professionals, Governments and Nigerians at large because of the high frequency of their occurrence. The Conference yielded dividends. No building collapse was recorded in Abuja while in Lagos it went down by 50%. In 2013, we looked at *Road Pavement Failure* which had become a national challenge to all. This year 2014, our focus is targeted on another topical issue of national concern which is tagged *NATIONAL HOUSING SUMMIT*. So this year, it is housing and many issues are to be considered as earlier mentioned. Other issues are; Do we want this kind of spread housing as we currently have? Do we want massive housing without recreational or sporting facilities? All these issues have to be addressed; and I am happy that the time is now to tackle them, and the Institute is bracing up for it. Of course in the future we will look at other topical issues like Road Traffic, Transportation, Cement and Local Building Materials, etc.

"The primary focus of the 2014 Conference is on affordable and comfortable housing for Nigerians. The reason for this is multi-fold. Firstly, people talk of housing deficit in Nigeria.... Secondly, we want to be able to define what a comfortable house is and what an affordable house is. Thirdly, we want to evolve housing policies and schemes that will be for long-term benefit for this country..... Fourthly, there is the issue of relevant technologies for housing. Fifthly, there is the issue of Housing Finance. These are issues that are in line with the mandate of the Institute."

NBRII Newsletter: As you enter into your fourth year, what will be your major focus and what should Nigerians expect from the Institute?

Prof. D.S Matawal: There are a number of businesses that must be finished: firstly, there is the issue of developing a Curriculum for artisan training in this country, which we have initiated. This is paramount and I want to see to its conclusion. Secondly, I want to accelerate the release of two critical documents, which NBRII initiated, to the construction industry. These are the *Road Safety Guideline* and the *Road Capacity Manual*, which are a set of criteria that will guide practitioners in the transportation engineering discipline towards a number of activities. For example, how you keep proper data base for traffic and accidents in this country is important for planning purposes, to identify and tackle black spots, etc. on our roads. There are other issues like traffic congestion, how to ease traffic

congestion as well as provision of indigenous design criteria. I also like the NBRII Governing Board to join me in solving the issue of land acquisition in Abuja to build NBRII permanent Administrative Office in Abuja. If we don't solve this soon, my time will run out as DG; and this Office we are in will soon become too small for staff. It will also not meet the aspirations and expectations of young zealous staff that are looking into the future that is growing skywards. NBRII and its staff must not be left behind in this glorious future. All these are in addition to other primary objectives like the expansion and

modernization of NBRII laboratory facilities, establishment of a research base where there will be a lot of output for this country. We are planning optimal use of our Lagos zonal office which I believe we can put into useful application.

NBRII Newsletter: The Editorial team of the NBRII Newsletter congratulates you on your achievements within the last three years and wishes you the best in your future plans for the Institute and for Nigeria in general.

Prof. D.S Matawal: Thank you and God bless you all.

NIGERIAN SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS (NSE) MAKURDI BRANCH, VISITS NBRRI



A group photograph of the Exco of NSE, Makurdi branch with some NBRRI management staff

The Nigerian Society of Engineers, Makurdi Branch led by its Vice-Chairman, Engr. Alex N. Akorigyah paid a courtesy visit to the Institute's administrative headquarters in Abuja on 13th February, 2014. On hand to receive the delegation was NBRRI Management team led by its Director-General/ Chief Executive Officer, Prof. D.S Matawal.

Addressing the Institute's team, Engr. Akorigyah thanked the DG/CEO and its management team for welcoming them. He took the opportunity to commend the Institute on some of the giant strides it has recorded under its current leadership adding that Makurdi branch has come to felicitate with NBRRI as a whole and with Prof Matawal in particular since he is also a Fellow of the NSE. The vice-chairman further encouraged the NBRRI DG/CEO to continue with the good work; describing him as a worthy ambassador of the NSE and a good mentor to most of the members.

Engr. Alex Akorigyah informed the DG/CEO and NBRRI Management that the NSE Makurdi Branch is currently embarking on a project known as *Community Engineering*. He revealed that the project was designed to execute some community development projects in the locality using direct labour and local technology. He therefore called on the Institute to partner with the Branch in executing this very important social responsibility programme.

He took time out to speak on some of the ways in which the current executive intend to make the NSE Makurdi Branch vibrant, despite the fact that they came into office when the branch was very much inactive. The vice-chairman said that, as a way of reinvigorating the branch, the executive decided to embark on courtesy visits and partner with progressive organizations, NBRRI inclusive. He called for effective collaboration between the Branch and

NBRRI.

In welcoming the group, the Director-General/Chief Executive Officer of NBRRI applauded the steps the new executive has taken in visiting some institutions like NBRRI. He promised to collaborate with and render appropriate technical assistance to the Branch in some of its laudable projects under the *community engineering programme* and in the refurbishment of its Office.

Prof Matawal intimated the delegation with a brief on the mandate, activities and some of the achievements recorded by NBRRI since 2011. He informed the Team that NBRRI is tasked with the mandate to carry out capacity building, conduct integrated and applied research in the areas of building, road and engineering materials sectors of the economy. He further highlighted some of the activities and successful achievements recorded within the period. The DG/CEO of NBRRI, Prof Matawal specifically made mention of the successful hosting of a Conference annually on topical issues since 2011; the development and setting up of a pilot Pozzolana Cement pilot plant in its National Laboratory Complex in Ota, Ogun State; the setting up of another similar pilot plant in Plateau State which will use volcanic ash as its raw materials; and the on-going construction of seven skills acquisition centers in Benue State which when completed, will go a long way in providing jobs for the people.

SENIOR STAFF ASSOCIATION NBRI BRANCH ELECTS NEW EXECUTIVES



Mr. Ameh
(Newly elected SSA Chairman)

At the quadrennial election held at the Institute National Laboratory Complex in Ota, Ogun State on 23rd January, 2014, a new Executive of the Senior Staff Association (SSA) NBRI Chapter emerged. The election, which was supervised by the

National Officers of the Senior Staff Association of Universities, Teaching Hospitals, Research Institutions and Associated Institutions (SSAUTHRIAI), saw Comrade J.S. Ameh being re-elected as the Association Chairman while Comrade Mbaso Ebele became the newly elected vice-chairperson. Other elected Officers of the Executive included Comrade Ibadobe Osagie as the Secretary, Comrade Nwaigwe Daniel as the Assistant Secretary, Comrade Ibe Kingsley as the Treasurer, Comrade Bayo Olaifa as the Financial Secretary, Comrade Ajayi A.A. as the Public Relations Officer and Comrade Samson Fiyebo as the Trustee member of the Association.

In his acceptance speech on behalf of the newly elected Executive members, the Chairman Comrade Ameh promised a more vibrant association that will provide better service and performance to members. He called on the other newly elected executive to join hands with him in making sure that the Branch becomes a centre-piece for emulation by others in terms of service delivery and performance. He promised to sustain the cordial relationship which has existed between the Branch, the Institute and the national body.



Newly elected SSA exco

Continued from pg.13

viewed more seriously, PR planning programmes will be necessary and relevant to our various tasks.

The paper dealt with the functions of an extension officer and the reasons why the Institute established the zonal offices. It went further to look at avenues to employ in the promotion of the corporate identity of the Institute. It tasked the zonal coordinators to make sure that the following are in order in their various offices:

- Institute's Flag
- Institute Corporate Colours
- Institute's Products
- Manner of Approach of staff of the office to visitors
- Ensure Clean Office Environment (building,

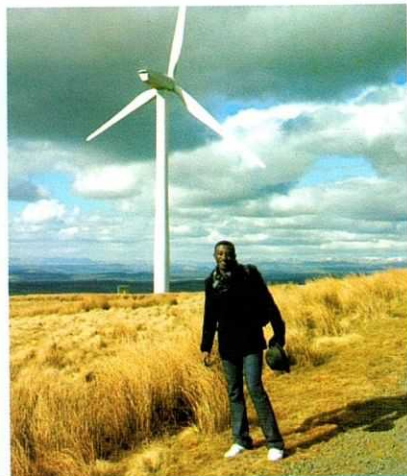
sanitation, equipment, method of operation, etc)

- Zonal Coordinators should have Complimentary Cards and are on hand
- Styles of correspondence, quality of paper used, etc, should be of standard.
- Life styles of top management staff should be presentable

Way and manner in which the Institute responds to government laws and regulations, fulfils its civic obligations is important, NBRI therefore encourages its employees to do the same.

In conclusion the paper opined that in the promotion of the Institute's corporate image, both the management and staff of the Institute must contribute positively.

AWARD WINNING PAPERS



Mr. Abu Sunday Paul Agwu
Engineer II (Electrical)

Two members of staff of the Institute, on post-graduate studies in Nigeria and UK, had their thesis winning awards at the respective institutions. Mr. Israel Haruna who just concluded his Masters degree studies at the Federal University of Technology, Akure (FUTA) had his Thesis adjudged the best paper presentation at the 8th International Conference for Internet Technology and Secured Transactions held in London, United Kingdom in December, 2013

The paper titled *DGM Approach to Network Attacker and Defender Strategies* was presented at the Conference by Dr. Kayode Alese on behalf of the co-authors who are Messers. Iwosukun Gabriel Babatunde and Haruna Danjuma Israel, all from the Department of Computer Science, FUTA. The paper was adjudged by a Panel of assessors as the overall best paper amongst 1241 papers received from 96 countries. The paper dwelt on novel strategies to checkmate infiltrations of secured transactions on the information super highway. A lot of uplifting remarks from the international faculty went in favour of the authors which included NBRRI's own Mr Israel Danjuma Haruna. Mr Haruna is currently a Chief Technical Officer (Computer) in the Planning and Information Technology (PIT) Department of the Institute.

Also, Mr. Abu Sunday Paul Agwu, who also concluded his post graduate studies in Renewable



Mr. Israel Haruna
Chief Tech. Officer, PIT Dept

Energy Engineering from the University of Central Lancashire, United Kingdom, was awarded a distinction in Research on his paper titled *Maximum Power Point Tracker (MPPT) for Photovoltaic (PV) Application*. The paper dwelt on major factors that have effects on the efficiency of PV technology and how the use of low cost power electronic devices such as MPPT can help mitigate problems associated with some aspects of the technology, and eventually optimize the ratio between power generated from the PV device and the overall installation cost; thereby allowing the application of PV technology to be economically viable in comparison to other options for illumination in buildings.

Aside from focusing on his studies, Mr. Agwu was involved in various International relationship development projects. In particular, he actively engaged and assisted in activities organized by the Confucius Institute, centred on the promotion of Chinese Culture during the Harris Flight Project. Additionally, Mr. Agwu was awarded Member of the Institute of Engineering & Technology (MIET) for his commitment and demonstration of proven level of knowledge relevant to sustainable development. He was recognized for his services to the Engineering community at Cumbria, North - West England. Mr Agwu, is currently an Engineer II (Electrical) with the Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute.

BIRTHDAY WISHES

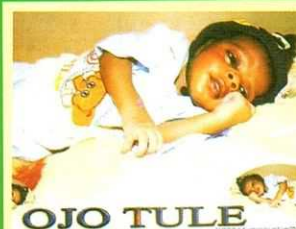
The Management and Staff of the Institute wish the under-listed staff long life, prosperity and God's abundant blessings as they mark their birthdays.

S/N	NAMES	DATE OF BIRTH	DEPT.
1.	Tejumade O.A	1 st Jan	RRD
2.	Surajo L. Abdullahi	1 st Jan	CES
3.	Olutayo Ainde Oyedapo	1 st Jan	A/F
4.	Nwasha M. J	2 nd Jan	A/F
5.	Amos Tabe	2 nd Jan	A/F
6.	Tsamiya Sani	3 rd Jan	CES
7.	Kadiri Zulukifilu O.	3 rd Jan	BRD
8.	Isah Saliu Dantala	4 th Jan	CES
9.	Abu Aminu	4 th Jan	A/F
10.	Abah Godwin	5 th Jan	A/F
11.	Haruna D. Israel	6 th Jan	PIT
12.	Ugo Ukawbasi	10 th Jan	RRD
13.	Sanni Reuben	10 th Jan	RRD
14.	Oyadosu S. A	11 th Jan	EMRD
15.	Egbuna Ikechukwu	13 th Jan	EMRD
16.	Stephen Okpah	15 th Jan	A/F
17.	Ojenike Lawrence A.	15 th Jan	A/F
18.	Igwe Rowland	18 th Jan	BRD
19.	Adio Fatimah F.	23 rd Jan	RRD
20.	Akinlade S. James	25 th Jan	CES
21.	Oneshi Umoche	26 th Jan	PIT
22.	Alozie Darlington E.	1 st Feb.	EMRD
23.	Jude-Iloma I. E.	1 st Feb	A/F
24.	Edibo Jibrin	2 nd Feb	A/F
25.	Kadiri Abdullahi	2 nd Feb	A/F
27.	Okunochae Reuben	2 nd Feb.	EMRD
28.	Legogie Josephine	2 nd Feb.	PIT
29.	Etuchere Prisca O.	2 nd Feb	CES
30.	Adeyanju Tunde M.	3 rd Feb	PIT
31.	Adeyemi James	3 rd Feb	CES
32.	Sosanya Oluwatoyin	9 th Feb	PIT
33.	Maton John Dafang	10 th Feb	BRD
34.	Danjuma Hassan U	13 th Feb	CES
35.	Okwunze C. Felix	13 th Feb.	BRD
36.	Emore R. A.	17 th Feb	A/F
37.	Emole Charles	18 th Feb.	A/F
38.	Ima-Ima Ime Amos	18 th Feb	PIT
39.	Olaife O. Adebayo	19 th Feb.	EMRD
40.	Hannah Aileku Ayedime	22 nd Feb	A/F
41.	Tyosa Terver Elijah	24 th Feb	CES
42.	Edeh Blessing O.	26 th Feb	A/F
43.	Yakubu Nda Umar	27 th Feb	A/F
44.	C.C. Osadebe (Dr.)	28 th Feb.	RRD
45.	Ogundola Temitope M.	28 th Feb	BRD
46.	Udenyi A. Wonah	4 th Mar	A/f
47.	Arabi Kehinde Paul	10 th Mar	PIT
48.	Anthonia Robert	11 th Mar	A/F
49.	Kareem Y.O	12 th Mar	BRD
50.	Iyaji J. Monday	12 th Mar	EMRD
51.	Rufus S. Olalekan	14 th Mar	CES
52.	Igwe Stanley	15 th Mar	CES
53.	Abubakar Musa Yola	15 th Mar	RRD
54.	Onuche S. Ataguba	17 th Mar	RRD
55.	Oludare Samuel Olu	17 th Mar	A/F
56.	Oyeleye Daniel O.	19 th Mar	A/F
57.	Abdulrasheed Bashir	19 th Mar	RRD
58.	Mohammed Ahmed K.	23 rd Mar	RRD
59.	Akpan Smart John	24 th Mar	CES

60	Abdullahi Aliyu	24 th Mar	CES
61	Aminu Momoh	27 th Mar	EMRD
62	Dauda, Yusuf Waziri	27 th Mar	EMRD
63	Asade B. E.	27 th Mar	EMRD
64	Ahmed Yushau Ibrahim	27 th Mar	CES
65	Iruobi E. O	28 th Mar	A/F
66	Ajah Boniface Audu	29 th Mar	A/F
67	Amobi Uchenna N	30 th Mar	PIT
68	Emmanuel Sarah D.	30 th Mar	DGs Office

BIRTHS

Mr. Ayegba M. O. of Road Research Dept. Ota was blessed with a Baby boy Daniel Emmanuel Ojochegbe Ayegba on 26th January, 2014.



Mr. Ibrahim Samuel of Administration and Finance Department, Ota was blessed with a baby boy Ojotule Moses Ibrahim on 23rd January, 2014.

Mrs. Gbemishola Famuyide of Administration and Finance, Abuja was blessed with a baby girl Esther Famuyide on 6th March, 2014.



Mr. Bassey Essien of Administration and Finance Department, Abuja was blessed with a baby boy Emmanuel Bassey Essien on 3rd March, 2014.

Arc. Tom Umoche of CES Dept, Abuja and Mrs. Oneshi Umoche of PIT Dept, Abuja were blessed with a baby girl, Elizabeth Ojodemi Ojoduene Umoche on 27th January, 2014.



50th Birthday



NBRI Newsletter congratulate Mrs. Oluwatoyin Sosanya of Administration and Finance Department, Abuja on the occasion of her 50th Birthday which was held on 9th February 2014

WEDDING



Former Miss Mondogha Elsie Bogofanyo of Road Research Department got married to Mr. Amakiri Inyekam on December 28th 2013 in Yenegoa, Bayelsa State.

CONDOLENCE VISIT

The Director-General, Prof D.S Matawal together with some top management staff of the Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute, NBRI on 4th February 2014, paid a condolence visit to the Chairman of the Institute Governing Board, Chief Dele Okeya over the demise of his Brother In-law.



The DG/CEO on behalf of the Institute, consoled the Board Chairman and his family

The DG/CEO in his condolence message on behalf of the Institute, prayed for God to grant the Board Chairman and his family the fortitude to bear the loss.

Responding, Chief Okeya while thanking the delegation from the Institute for the visit, described the deceased as a very friendly, sound, lively and easy going person. He added that the death was a great loss to him in particular as the deceased was more of a friend to him than a brother in-law.

CONDOLENCE VISIT

A powerful delegation from the Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute led by the DG/CEO were in the house of Mr. Ralph Menegbe (Director, Administration and Finance) to commiserate with him and his family over the death of his father-in-law, late Pa Reverend O.B Sule.

Speaking at the visit, Prof. Matawal urged the family to take heart and thank God for everything. He said based on what he has heard, the late Pa Sule lived a much fulfilled life and was a strong believer in God.

Responding, Mr. Ralph Menegbe thanked the delegation for the visit saying it is an indication that there is love and oneness in the Institute.



NBBRI INAUGURATES PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR 2014 CONFERENCE

In pursuant of one of its core mandate of building capacity, the Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute, NBRI, has in the last few years, been organizing technical fora that bring together stakeholders to address topical issues that affect the Nigerian Construction sector.

In 2011, the Institute organized a Stakeholders' Forum with the *Theme: Bridging the Gap Between Building & Road Research and Stakeholders*. In 2012, it was a National Technical Workshop on Building Collapse with the *Theme: Curbing the Incidences of Building Collapse in Nigeria* that came to the fore.

Last year (2013), the Institute organized a National Conference on Road Pavement Failure in Nigeria. This Conference which took an International dimension, based on attendance and active contributions of Stakeholders from countries like U.K, South Africa etc, had as its theme: *Challenges of Road Pavement Failure in Nigeria*.

The Institute has commenced planning for the 2014 Conference with the inauguration, on January 28th 2014, of an Inter Agency Committee to organize the Conference.

Speaking at the inauguration, Director- General/CEO of NBRI, Professor D.S Matawal said this year's conference is a National/International Technical workshop tagged *Housing Summit 2014*. Prof. Matawal said this year's forum aims at addressing some pertinent issues in the Housing sector of the country, such as: Is there a housing deficit in the country and what is the exact figure of deficit? What is the exact definition of housing shortage and does it apply to those employed or every citizen? What is the agreed concept of affordability and housing finance and mortgage, etc.?

Membership of the Planning committee mandated to organize the 2014 Conference included the representatives from the following Stakeholders: the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban

Development; Federal Housing Authority, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN), Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON), Architect Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCON), Town Planning Registration Council of Nigeria (TOPREC), Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), Nigerian Institute of Builders (NIOB), Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (NITP), Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigerian (FMBN), Federal Capital Development Agency (FCDA), Association of Housing Corporations of Nigeria (AHCN), NBRI, etc..

The DG/CEO listed the Terms of Reference of the committee to include: To plan the conference; to scrutinize suggested topics and select national and International resource persons; to advise on any support works that needs to be done to facilitate smooth conduct of the conference; to draw up a program of events and select dignitaries to the event.



Immediately after the inauguration, the Committee held its maiden meeting where it

deliberated and approved the theme of the Conference which is: *NATIONAL HOUSING SUMMIT: Achieving Affordable Housing in Nigeria*. The Committee also approved the following sub-Themes: Housing Availability and Affordability; Housing Finance and Mortgage; Building Materials and Technology; Housing Delivery models and Framework; and Technical capacity, Research and Development. Sub-committees were set up to ensure effectiveness. These are: Technical sub-Committee; Finance sub-Committee; Publicity/Public Relations sub-Committee and Organizing/Logistic sub-Committee. The Terms of Reference for the sub-Committees were also given to the various sub-Committees.

The conference is expected to hold between 2nd and 4th June 2014 at Shehu Yaradua Center, Abuja in the Federal Capital Territory with all the major Stakeholders in the Housing sector in Nigeria and abroad in attendance.

NBRRI



NIGERIAN BUILDING AND ROAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

ANNOUNCES

a Conference tagged

HOUSING SUMMIT 2014

2nd to 4th JUNE 2014

Venue: Yar'Adua Centre, Cental Business District, Abuja

Theme: HOUSING SUMMIT-ACHIEVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN NIGERIA

SUB-THEME 1: HOUSING AVAILABILITY AND AFFORDABILITY

SUB-THEME 2: HOUSING FINANCE AND MORTGAGE

SUB-THEME 3: BUILDING MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGY

SUB-THEME 4: HOUSING DELIVERY MODELS AND FRAMEWORK

SUB-THEME 5: TECHNICAL CAPACITY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Participation in the International Conference is open to Professionals and practitioners engaged in the Built Environment including Engineers; Builders; Architects; Quantity, Land and Estate Surveyors; Town Planners; Real Estate Developers, Geoscientists, Environmentalists, Engineering Technicians etc.; as well as public and private sector Agencies responsible for housing issues in the Academia; Local, State and Federal Governments; construction-related Professional and Regulatory Bodies; Mortgage & Financial Institutions; Housing Corporations; Development Control Units; Non-Governmental Organisations; the General Public, etc. Relevant State and Federal Government Ministries including Ministries of Works; Lands Housing and Urban Development; Defence, Environment; etc.

For further details, please contact:

NBRRI Administrative Headquarters; Plot 449, Samuel Ogedengbe Crescent, Off Patrick Bokkor Street; Jabi, Abuja; Website: www.nbrri.gov.ng Phone: 08023051647