



The Civil Engineer in Democratic Government: a *Sine Qua Non* for National Development in Nigeria

by

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**INVESTITURE OF THE 14TH CHAIRMAN OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTION OF
CIVIL ENGINEERS (NICE)**

**DATE:
TIME:
VENUE:**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015
12:00NOON
SHERATON HOTELS AND TOWERS, IKEJA LAGOS**

Outline

- On the Marble
- Democratic Government
- National Development
- The **Sine Qua Non** in the Nation Development
- **Engineers Involvement in a Democratic Government**
- **Why Engineers must Work with Politicians**
- **Strategies for Expanding the Influence of Engineers**
- Poser to NICE
- Conclusion

On the Marble

□ *'A life spent making mistakes is not only more honourable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing'*

-George Bernard Shaw

□ "The worst illiterate is the political illiterate. He takes no interest in political life and pride himself on his political ignorance, sticks out his chest and says he hates politics. He doesn't know, the imbecile, that from his political non participation comes the robbers and worst of all corrupt officials'

➤ Bertolt Brecht

What is government?

- Government is an **organization** people set up to **protect** the community and make **rules**
- What does a government do?
 - **Protects the community**
 - **Makes laws**
 - **Keeps order**
- Why do people need government?
 - For **protection** of people and property
 - Making **rules**
 - **Enforcing** laws

Democractic Government

VOTE



- In a **democracy**, the government is **elected** by the people. **Everyone** who is eligible to vote has a chance to have **their** say over who runs the country.
- A democracy is determined either **directly** or through elected **representatives**.

Democratic Government

- Democratic government is a form of government in which the ruler are elected by the people.
- A democracy is one where the citizen have right to elect government through free and fair elections.
- They enjoy certain civil liberties guaranteed by constitution and protected by the government.

DEMOCRACY

- *In a democracy, the government gets its authority from the people.*

How do people tell the government what they want?

- *In a democracy, the people have certain basic rights.*

Why is it important that people have these rights and feel comfortable?

What are the people's basic rights in a democracy?

How are these rights protected?

DEMOCRACY

Direct Democracy

- First known democracy was in ancient Athens in the fifth century B.C.
- Democracy is Greek for “people-power”
- Citizens of ancient Athens assembled to make important decisions for their city-state
- They voted on issues directly

Representative Democracy

- The ancient Romans developed the first representative democracy
- Different social groups elected their own representatives
- Representatives met in assemblies
- The nobles were represented in the Senate
- Governmental power was divided between these two branches and they voted on various issues

LATER DEMOCRACIES

In England, land owners elected representatives to the House of Commons, one of the two chambers in the English Parliament.

When the English originally set up the colonies in North America, each colony had its own colonial legislature.

In the 1800s, several Latin American countries fought for independence, won, and set up democracies in their countries.

After the United States won the Revolution, it created Congress, a two part house, to govern. The two parts are the House and Senate.

Many countries were not democratic in Europe till after World War I.

Many countries in Asia and Africa became democratic after they won their independence following World War II.

EMERGING DEMOCRACIES

Think about it –

What is an emerging democracy?

An emerging democracy is a country that is in the process or has recently switched from an authoritarian rule to a democratic government.

National Development

- Federal Governments draw up national development plans and policies based on the perceived needs of their citizens with emphasis on reducing poverty, affordable and available housing and community development
- *It is worthy to note that no nation was ever developed by foreigners and Nigeria will not be that exception. Over dependence on foreign expertise at the expense or detriment of local expertise is antithetical to national development.*

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- the development of a nation can easily be measured by the degree of accessibility of its citizens to critical physical and social infrastructure such as
 - agriculture
 - water supply
 - housing
 - electricity
 - transportation
 - education and healthcare which invariably make up the basic amenities of life in the 21st Century

Civil Engineering as an indispensable and essential condition required for National Development



- Civil Engineering is a composite of many specific disciplines.
 - Structural
 - Waste Treatment
 - Transportation
 - Highways
 - Railways
 - Harbours and ports
 - Geotechnical
 - Water Resources Management
 - Public Procurement

Engineers Involvement in a Democratic Government

- Serve as the Experts to the Political Office holders such as legislature and the Executive
- Get involved in the political process by contributing sound scientific and technical advice in matters involving technological and engineering expertise.

Engineers Involvement in a Democratic Government

- the professional engineer has the responsibility to advise the society on technology issues and to express his view on technical matters for providing support to the decision-making process

Why Engineers must Work with Politicians

- These decision makers need help in order to respond effectively to complex technological issues involving
 - the environment,
 - procurement,
 - transportation,
 - energy,
 - telecommunications,
 - health care,
 - national defence,
 - and other legal, ethical and social issues that impact the work of professional engineers.

Why Engineers must Work with Politicians

- Federal funding has declined over time is a sobering fact that must be addressed if the profession is to play its role in society.
- Addressing and trying to reverse the trend requires that engineers present their demands to the politicians more forcefully.

Why Engineers must Work with Politicians

- It is not easy to find individuals with this unique combination of technical knowledge and political skills.
- Most state legislatures and National Assembly members are comprised of attorneys, business people, real estate and insurance brokers and retired military personnel, educators etc
- Only few politicians are engineers

Why Engineers must Work with Politicians

- Engineers' voice and votes do matter in the political arena and must work to make our voices heard.
- if we don't take it as one of our professional responsibilities to inform our fellow citizens about the importance of the engineering, then that public support, critical to sustaining it, isn't going to be.

Strategies for Expanding the Influence of Engineers

- **Lobby the Politician**

- It is important to recognize that lobbying is a democratic tradition.
- Lobbying has helped keep America's democracy evolving over more than two centuries.
- it is something all engineers must do if they believe in a good cause and in a democratic form of government
- engineer must understand lobbying as an accepted business practice in the field of public policy making

Strategies for Expanding the Influence of Engineers

- Engineers can urge legislators to pass laws and provide funds that solve a problem and also can impede actions that would have negative impacts on issues and communities.
- take the initiative to promote solutions that they know will work.
- Develop an idea, support it with solid information and stories about how the idea will make a difference, and then lobby until your idea becomes law.

Strategies for Expanding the Influence of Engineers

- **Building relationship with public official**
- volunteering to work on their political campaign and drafting of manifestoes
- Contest political positions
- Avoid pull him/her down (phd) syndrome
- Support engineers in politics
- Work professionally and effectively with non Engineers in politics

Strategies for Expanding the Influence of Engineers

- supports a zero tolerance policy toward bribery, fraud, and corruption in the design and construction among other
- be actively involved in Public Procurement
 - Design
 - Preparation of Bidding Documents
 - Evaluation of Engineering Projects
 - Specialist and Expert Advisers
 - Consultants
 - Contractors

Poser to the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers (NICE)

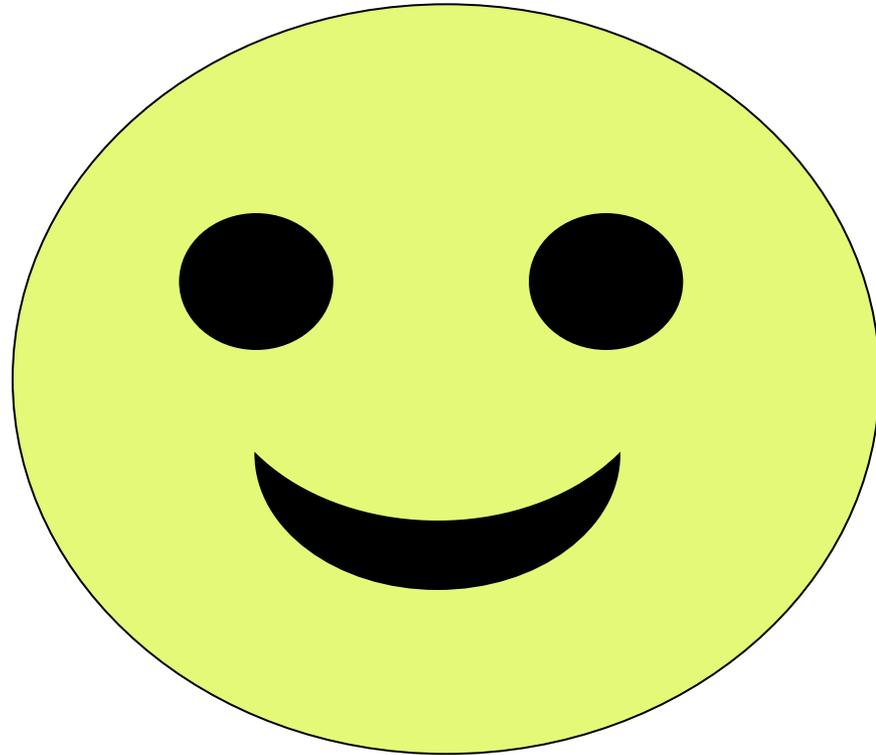
- NICE should emulate the ASCE in public policy and the formulation of legislation that support improvement on the United States infrastructure through the following approaches
 - **Congressional fellows program**
 - **Lobbying**
 - **ASCE report Card on America's infrastructure**
 - **Fight against corruption**

Poser to the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers (NICE)

- NICE's strategy must be to be a leader in shaping the civil engineering profession. It should aim to do this by:
 - maintaining high professional standards,
 - providing an international source of skills & knowledge for tomorrow's engineering,
 - influencing governments, industry & public debate, partnering with relevant bodies
 - Participates actively in planning and preparation of laws, legal arrangements, and rules about civil engineering

Conclusion

**DON'T BE A POLITICAL
ILLITRATE,
BE PROFESSIONALLY
ACTIVE IN POLICY
MAKING
NO NATION DEVELOP
WITHOUT THE ENGINEER**



Thank You!