



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER, WORKS AND HOUSING

**ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF POWER, WORKS AND
HOUSING, BABATUNDE RAJI FASHOLA, SAN,**

AT THE

**OCCASION OF FLAG-OFF EVENT OF REVALIDATION/CERTIFICATION OF
ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS IN NIGERIA**

JULY 26, 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's event is more than a programme for revalidation/certification of Electrical Installation Contractors in Nigeria.

It is a restatement of our commitment to standard and best practices in the power sector. It is a commitment to our people that their interest is paramount to us. With this certification and revalidation exercise, we are assuring the citizens of this great country that their safety and that of their property will not be compromised.

Often times, we tend to see the power sector in terms of only generation, transmission and distribution. However, an important component of the industry is the quality of electrical equipment as well as qualification of those responsible for our electrical installations.

I must therefore commend the Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA) for the strategic role it is playing in this regard.

As we heard in the course of Engineer Ewesor's Welcome Address, NEMSA was primarily established by the Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency Act of 2015 to carry out Enforcement of Technical Standards and Regulation, Technical Inspection, Testing and Certification of all categories of electrical installation/power systems, electricity meters and instruments etc. to ensure the efficient production and delivery of safe, reliable and sustainable electricity supply and guarantee safety of lives and property in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and other allied industries/workplaces.

Arising from the provisions of the Act, it becomes expedient on NEMSA to intensify its effort in ensuring the issuance of certificates to electrical installation contractors working in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and other allied industries/workplaces in line with international best practices. This will promote and increase technical capacity of the electrical installation contractors to guarantee safety of workmen, lives and property in the industry.

The overall objective of the certification is to ensure that only skilled, experienced and competent professionals engage in the business of electrical installation work in the country. The role of NEMSA, therefore, becomes critical in NESI to stamp out sharp and unethical practices hitherto engaged in by uncertified electrical installation contractors.

This will guarantee safety, security, reliability and quality of service at all points of the electricity supply value chain. The task of sanitizing the industry in terms of safety and standards should therefore be a collective responsibility of all stakeholders, with NEMSA driving the process.

We are all aware that, until recently, there had not been any practical substantial new investments made in the Generation, Transmission and Distribution networks in Nigeria. NESI had thus suffered serious investment neglect in new infrastructure in transmission and distribution networks, and other electrical installations, with the attendant repercussion of obsolete power facilities, the quality of which can no longer sustain steady power supply and safety of lives and property.

As we make efforts towards achieving incremental, stable and uninterrupted power supply in the country, the functions and responsibilities of NEMSA become even more critical to the industry. It is important to state that when we eventually achieve regular and uninterrupted power supply, the state of our networks will play a crucial and significant role in ensuring the uninterrupted power supply to Nigerians. If networks collapse as a result of poor workmanship, construction and installation of our networks, then uninterrupted power supply will be seriously hindered.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we must therefore insist on the best quality and demand for full value in the power sector. The era of

substandard products, and the period of 'managing' electrical installation is gone for good.

With today's programme of revalidation/certification of electrical installation contractors, Nigerians will no longer accept bad poles. Our people will not accept poor materials and poor workmanship. Nigerians must get value for their hard-earned money.

I therefore wish to state in unequivocal terms that government will no longer condone substandard electrical installations and use of substandard electrical materials and equipment within our networks. The life of every single Nigerian is important to us. It is our responsibility to ensure that our people do not lose their lives and properties due to someone's negligence and poor judgment.

By institutionalizing certification as a core component of our power industry, the Government is making a definitive statement of its readiness to apply and implement all relevant legal instruments in this regard.

Certification as Electrical installation contractors is therefore not a right. It is a privilege and being a privilege it is subject to professionalism, competence and good standing. It follows therefore that the certificate could be withdrawn where the holder is adjudged to be incompetent or negligent.

In addition to having their certificates withdrawn, such professionals will also be reported to their professional institutes for necessary sanctions to be applied.

Where the misconduct also constitutes a criminal offence, the affected contractor will be liable to prosecution under the relevant legislation. For instance, it is a criminal offence, punishable with a term of imprisonment under the Criminal Code for a person to unlawfully does any act, or omit to do any act which it is his duty to do, by which act or omission harm is caused to any person.

Let me conclude by reminding us that safety is our collective responsibility. As citizens, it is our responsibility to ensure that we engage only electrical installation contractors certified by NEMSA. As Government, through NEMSA, we are committed to ensuring that electrical installations in NESI and other workplaces in Nigeria are handled by only qualified and certified electrical personnel. I am convinced that this will go a long way towards ensuring stable networks, quality electrical installations in residential, commercial and industrial premises to deliver safe, regular and uninterrupted power supply to Nigerians and safety of lives and property at all times.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on this note, it is my singular honour to flag-off the National Certification of Electrical Installation Contractors in Nigeria.

Thank you very much for your attention.

Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN

Honourable Minister of Power, Works and Housing

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