



Welcome Address by Engr. Peter O. Ewesor, Managing Director/CEO (NEMSA) and Chief Electrical Inspector of the Federation at the second (2nd) NEMSA Stakeholders Forum holding at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Garki, Abuja, FCT on Tuesday 13th November, 2018

Protocols

1. It is a unique opportunity and pleasure for me to welcome you all to the Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA) second (2nd) Stakeholders' Forum on Enforcement of Technical Standards and Regulations with the very apt theme: *"Importance of Enforcement of Technical Standards & Regulations, Testing & Certification: A Veritable Tool for Safety and Improved Power Supply in Nigeria"*.
2. Let me reiterate that prior to the power sector reforms and the privatization of the generation and distribution companies, the inspection, testing and certification of all categories of electrical installations were carried out by the Electrical Inspectorate Services Department (EISD) of the Federal Ministry of Power, Works & Housing (the then Federal Ministry of Power) under the Electricity Act – Chapter 106 (Cap.106) through its headquarters and fifteen (15) Inspectorate Field Offices (IFO's). Also, the testing, calibration, verification and certification of electricity energy meters were carried out by the three (3) National Meter Test Stations of the defunct PHCN before deployment. Both entities were later taken over by NEMSA, formerly Electricity Management Services Limited (EMSL) in 2015 by the NEMSA Act - 2015.
3. In 2015, the Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA) was established by NEMSA ACT 2015 to carry out the Functions of



NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY (NEMSA)



Enforcement of Technical Standards and Regulations, Technical Inspection, Testing and Certification of all Categories of Electrical Installations, Electricity Meters and Instruments, to ensure the Efficient Production and Delivery of Safe, Reliable and Sustainable Electricity Power Supply and Guarantee Safety of Lives and Property in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry, and other allied industries/workplaces in Nigeria. By this Act, NEMSA is the sole agency authorized by Law to carry out these critical and essential functions outlined above in Nigeria.

4. As at today, NEMSA has nineteen (19) Inspectorate Field Offices (IFO), three national meter test stations and one engineering and chemical laboratory manned by qualified, well-trained, skilled and well-motivated engineers, technical officers and other professionals with full complement of state-of-the art test equipment, instruments and devices with logistics backup. In the course of carrying out its mandate in the power sector and other allied industries/workplaces in the past few years, NEMSA has observed that part of what contributes to poor power supply and electrical accidents in the country includes:
 - i. the poor state of the distribution networks – new and existing,
 - ii. use of substandard electrical materials and equipment such as bad electric concrete poles, untreated wooden poles and wooden crossarms, non-galvanized steel tower members, etc;
 - iii. undersized cables and conductors, e.g. 120mm^2 (instead of 150mm^2); 90mm^2 (instead of 100mm^2); 50mm^2 (instead of 70mm^2), etc.
 - iv. split conductors, i.e. removal of some strands of aluminium or copper conductors to reduce the size;



NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY (NEMSA)



- v. under-rated and out-of-specification transformers, such as transformers with zig-zag and yyn0 vector groups and connections, contrary to the provisions of extant rules and regulations;
 - vi. falsified equipment capacities/ratings via nameplates, especially on transformers, switchgears and isolators;
 - vi. poor installations in public and residential buildings, commercial premises etc.
 - viii. unresolved issues of metering services, accuracy and integrity of energy meters, etc.
 - ix. Inadequate clearances of power lines to structures/buildings, and right-of-way issues, leading to accidents, loss of lives and prosperity etc.
 - x. Proliferation of substandard solar power materials, equipment and installations nationwide, particularly batteries and charges associated with these solar projects, etc.
5. As a means of mitigating these drawbacks in our networks and building premises, NEMSA has issued enforcement directives on the following:
- i. Use of only 150mm² ACSR conductors for 33kV primary feeder lines,
 - ii. banning the use of 33kV primary feeder lines supplying 33/11kV injection substations for point loads
 - iii. disconnection of structures, buildings, premises, etc. with the right-of way (ROW) of power lines from public supply systems and networks,
 - iv. banning the use of untreated wooden poles and crossarms,,
 - v. banning the use of ungalvanised channel and angle iron, bolts/nuts for construction of networks,



vi. etc.

Also, NEMSA is at the concluding stages of producing the “Nigerian Electrical Installations and Construction Guidelines Manual” (NEICGM) which will be a blueprint for best electrical installations and construction practice in the Distribution subsector. A summary of this will be given during the course of this forum.

6. In view of the proliferation and use of substandard electrical materials and equipment, poor state of the power supply networks, lack of compliance with standard construction/installation practice and most importantly, the increased wave of electrical accidents and electrocutions in the power industry and beyond, it has become imperative to organize this stakeholders’ forum at this time of the post-privatization era.

7. This Stakeholders Forum will provide the perfect mix of broad spectrum of industry players in the power sector, other allied industries and workplaces to discuss the way forward in addressing the above identified issues/challenges and to proffer solutions that will engender and enhance enforcement compliance by industry operators/stakeholders towards achieving safe, reliable, efficient and stable power supply and safety of lives and property in Nigeria. More importantly the topical issues for discussion at this forum have been carefully selected and this will also make NEMSA’s enforcement roles and responsibilities much easier, and help drive down drastically the number of installations, construction and safety infractions, electrocutions and poor networks as experienced in the past.



NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY (NEMSA)



8. I want to express my sincere thanks to President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, the Vice President, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, *SAN, GCON* and the Honourable Minister of Power, Works & Housing, H.E. Babatunde Raji Fashola, *SAN*, for their steadfastness and commitment to the change agenda especially in strengthening the Power Sector with innovative ideas and progressive energy mix schemes which NEMSA, through its mandate, functions, roles and responsibilities has aligned with to achieve improved power supply in Nigeria. Also, I thank H.E. distinguished Senator Enyinnanya Abaribe, the distinguished Chairman Senate Committee on power, metallurgy and steel; Rt Honourable Daniel Asuquo, the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on power, for their enthusiasm and commitment in their legislative support to NEMSA in particular and the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing in performing its enforcement mandate in the power sector, other allied industries and workplaces.
9. I also thank the Permanent Secretary (Power), Engr. Louis Edozien and the Directors of Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing – Power Sector, for their support and team spirit in driving the process of steady progress thus far. I am grateful and indebted to my management team and the Stakeholders Forum Planning Committee that put this forum together.
10. Finally, I must thank all here present for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend this unique NEMSA's second (2nd) Stakeholders Forum aimed at brainstorming and fostering a good relationship towards ensuring technical integrity of our power supply systems, networks and all other electrical installations nationwide. Therefore, I pray for fruitful



NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY (NEMSA)



deliberations that will propel the Power Sector back on track and get Nigeria working again in line with the wishes and aspirations of this administration.

11. Thank you all and God bless.

Engr. Peter O Ewesor
Managing Director/CEO NEMSA and
Chief Electrical Inspector of the Federation.

13th November 2018