



# NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY

OFFICE OF THE MD/CEO & CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR OF THE FEDERATION  
CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, ABUJA



**WELCOME ADDRESS BY ENGR. PETER O. EWESOR, MANAGING DIRECTOR/CEO, NIGERIA ELECTRICITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES AGENCY (NEMSA) AND CHIEF ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR OF THE FEDERATION AT THE FLAG-OFF EVENT OF THE NATIONAL CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION CONTRACTORS IN NIGERIA, HELD AT FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER AUDITORIUM, ZAMBEZI CRESCENT, MAITAMA, ABUJA ON 26<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2016.**

## PROTOCOL

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome you all to this epoch making event of the flag-off ceremony for the **National Certification of Electrical Installation Contractors in Nigeria**, by the Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency, holding today here in Abuja. We are gathered here today to highlight the importance of the certification of Electrical Installation Contractors working in the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry (NESI) and other workplaces and to sensitize the general public on the consequences and risks associated with the patronage of quacks/uncertified electrical installation contractors/electricians.

2. Let me start by thanking the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Muhammadu Buhari, whose administration's change mantra paved the way for an era of



doing the right thing in all sectors of the economy, particularly the Power Sector, of which this flag-off is a product.

3. The Nigeria Electricity Management Services Agency, (Formerly Electricity Management Services Limited (EMSL)) is established by the Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency Act of 2015 to carry out the functions of 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 (NESI) and other allied industries/workplaces.

4. Let me reiterate that the issuance of certification (formerly Electrical Wiring Licences) to qualified electrical installation wiremen and contractors began with the birth of the electricity industry in Nigeria in the sixties and in the early seventies with the aim of checking against quackery and bad electrical wiring and installations in Nigeria. The certification exercise was delegated to the then Federal Ministry of Power, Mines and Steel to Electricity Corporation of Nigeria (ECN), later Nigerian Electric Power Authority (NEPA) due to/because of inadequate technical manpower and spread (Just with only three offices nationwide) in the then Federal Ministry of Power, Mines and Steel.



5. However, with improved technical manpower and spread (with over fifteen zonal offices) this function was taken over by the Electrical Inspectorate Services Department (EISD) of the Federal Ministry of Power, Mines and Steel in 1987. With the establishment of Electricity Management Services Limited (EMSL) in 2013 and subsequent enactment of NEMSA ACT 2015, all the functions and responsibilities of the Electrical Inspectorate Services Department of the Federal Ministry of Power were transferred to and taken over by the agency which include the **Certification of Qualified/competent Electrical Installation Contractors/Personnel** in Nigeria.

6. As you all know, many lapses have been identified in the power sector and other workplaces where electricity is used in the area of electrical installation, which have resulted to the unstable networks and fire incidences over the years. These lapses include:

- i. Design and construction failures.
- ii. Improper planning and execution of electrical projects.
- iii. Use of substandard materials and equipment.
- iv. Deliberate oversight of the procedures, codes and requirements for executing electricity projects as specified by regulations and standard codes of practice.
- v. Lack of adherence to standard construction and installation.



vi. Inadequate safety provisions during construction and subsequent utilization of the network.

7. These lapses are largely responsible for the networks getting into states of disrepair soon after commissioning them for use, and not aging equipment and networks, as regularly adduced as the causes of frequent networks/system collapse and failures. Therefore, the safety, reliability, quality and efficiency of power supply to the populace largely depend on the quality of networks and systems that are built according to specification and standard.

8. It is worthy to note therefore, that the objective of the Certification of Electrical Installation Contractors/Personnel is to ensure that electricity power projects and Electrical installations are executed by only qualified, competent and experienced personnel who are conversant and in tune with standard installation and construction practices and as well as adherence to safety regulations. Their activities are to be closely monitored to ensure compliance with technical standard and regulations at all times towards checking against quackery and indulgence in sharp practices that may lead to electrical accidents; most especially electrocution and the outbreak of fire which normally result in the loss of lives and property worth billions of naira yearly.



9. Therefore, for the effective enforcement and easy monitoring of the activities of Electrical installation contractors/personnel working in the Power Industry and other workplaces in Nigeria, they will be mandated to have a nameplate of their details visibly displayed on the customer's premises, networks/power systems, substation and any other electrical installation upon completion with a view to tracing the contractor in case of observed sharp practices and mishap as a result of poor workmanship.

10. There are attendant penalties associated with incidences of sharp practices and non-compliance with guidelines and procedures listed as precondition for the issuance of Electrical Installation Competency Certificate. These range from suspension/revocation of certificate and prosecution in the court of law depending on the level of violation of the terms governing the certification.

11. Let me, in a special way, thank the Honourable Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, the Honourable Minister of State, Hon. Mustapha Baba Shehuri, the Chairmen of Senate and House of Representatives Committees on Power, and Engr. Louis Edozien who have worked assiduously in ensuring the delivery of uninterrupted power supply to citizenry.

12. Our utmost goal is to play our part in stamping out quack/unqualified electrical installation contractors and bad electrical installations in Nigeria to



ensure the delivery of uninterrupted power supply to Nigerians, ensuring safety of lives and property and taking Nigerians out of darkness into light.

13. Thank you and God bless you.

**Engr. Peter O. Ewesor**  
Managing Director/CEO