

THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE 52ND SURVEY COORDINATION AND ADVISORY BOARD ON SURVEY TRAINING CONFERENCE (NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SURVEYING AND MAPPING) HELD AT EMMAUS HOUSE, AWKA ANAMBRA STATE FROM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27–FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2017

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation organised the National Conference on Surveying and Mapping, the 52nd Survey Co-ordination and Advisory Board on Survey Training Conference with the theme “Surveying and Mapping in Nigeria in the 21st Century: “Prospects, Opportunities and Challenges” from Monday, 27th November to Friday, 1st December 2017 at the Archbishop Maxwell Anikwenwa Hall Emmaus House Awka, Anambra State.

The Conference was declared open by the Executive Governor of Anambra State, His Excellency Dr. Willie Maduaburochukwu Obiano, ably represented by the Deputy Governor of the State Nkem Okeke PhD It was well attended by participants from Federal, State, Military, Academia, Oil and Gas industry and students from tertiary institutions.

In his address the Surveyor-General of the Federation (SGoF), Surv. Ebisintei B. Awudu, *fnis, mni*, the convener of the Conference, expressed the excitement of the participants to be in the beautiful city of Awka. He informed the gathering that the conference this year would take a new trend compared to previous ones. This is because there would be presentation and consideration of memoranda from various stake holders for policy formulation in order to enhance the practice of surveying and mapping. Goodwill messages were delivered from various stakeholders. The Vote of thanks was delivered by the Director, Planning, Research and Documentation, Surv JO Okubadejo. The opening ceremony was followed by the presentation of memoranda and reports from various stakeholders.

2.0 OBSERVATIONS

The Conference observes that:

- 1) Some establishments are exempted by the Survey Coordination Act 1962 as amended from submitting Notice and Counter Notices. However they present reports of their activities for the year during the Survey Coordination and Advisory Board on Survey Training Conference;
- 2) Surveyors face dangers, hazardous situations and are exposed to attacks particularly as they are the first professionals to have contact with any environment before any meaningful development. Hard-line and hazard allowances hitherto paid to surveyors have been suspended;
- 3) There is need for a unified syllabus in Hydrography for tertiary institutions offering Surveying and Geoinformatics;
- 4) The offices of the State Surveyors General yet to be upgraded to extra-ministerial status are to liaise with the ones that are already extra-ministerial and the OSGOF for directives how to go about it;
- 5) Some institutions admit more students than they have manpower and equipment to train.
- 6) Many institutions carry out researches that are not need-based.
- 7) Little is known about Surveying and mapping, its products and services by the public;
- 8) There are no Surveying and Mapping departments coordinating surveying and mapping activities in the local government areas;
- 9) There is inadequate funding for equipment and training in Surveying and Mapping institutions;

3.0 CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

The Conference therefore:

- I) Agreed in accordance with the Survey Coordination Act 1962 as amended that all establishments generating or collating geospatial information using

- surveying techniques should send their meta-data to OSGOF not later than 31st December the preceding year;
- II) Urged that hard-line and hazard allowances including insurance cover be re-introduced and paid to surveyors in the public service, private, multinational and other corporate organizations;
 - III) Urged tertiary institutions offering Surveying and Geo-informatics to liaise with SURCON, NUC, NBTE and national Hydrographic Society for the harmonized syllabus in Hydrography;
 - IV) Urged offices of the States Surveyors General yet to be upgraded to extra-ministerial departments to seek the advice of OSGOF and other States already upgraded on how to fast track their upgrade to extra ministerial departments.
 - V) Tertiary institutions offering Surveying and Geo-informatics should admit students within their manpower and equipment capabilities.
 - VI) Encourage surveying and mapping industries to collaborate with institutions to engage in needs based research works.
 - VII) Urged Surveyors to embark on awareness and advocacy campaigns in order to improve on public appreciation of the importance of geospatial data in security and national sustainable development.
 - VIII) Urge Surveyors General in some states in part of the country to improve their practice to be at par with their counterparts in other part of the country.
 - IX) Urged governments at all levels to make adequate provisions for equipment and training in surveying and mapping establishments.
 - X) Recalled that one of the 2011 Council on Works resolution was that States' Geographic Information System activities be supervised by the Surveyors General and urged the States to implement.
 - XI) The next Survey Coordination and Advisory Board on Survey Training conference will hold in Gombe, Gombe State.

4.0 APPRECIATION

The Conference participants and organisers hereby express their gratitude to the Executive Governor of Anambra State, His Excellency *Dr. Willie Maduaburochukwu*

Obiano, the government and the good people of Anambra State (the light of the Nation) for hosting the Conference and their show of hospitality. Our appreciation is also extended to the Honourable Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN), the two Ministers of State, the Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation (OSGOF), Surveyors Council of Nigeria (SURCON), Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS), tertiary Institutions, Armed Forces and the Management of Emmaus House Awka, Anambra State for making the Conference successful and unforgettable. Furthermore, the Conference wishes to thank the Local Organizing Committee, the security agencies and the Press for adequate security and publicity.

DONE THIS 30TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, AT AWKA, ANAMBRA STATE.