

THE COMMUNIQUE OF THE 53RD SURVEY COORDINATION AND ADVISORY BOARD ON SURVEY TRAINING CONFERENCE AND THE MAIDEN CONFERENCE OF SURVEYORS GENERAL OF NIGERIA HELD AT TA'AL CONFERENCE HOTEL, LAFIA NASARAWA STATE FROM TUESDAY 17TH TO FRIDAY 20TH, DECEMBER 2019.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF) organized the 53rd Survey Co-ordination and Advisory Board on Survey Training Conference with the theme “Surveying and Mapping in Sustainable Infrastructural Development and Good Governance” and “Conference of Surveyors General of Nigeria with the theme Surveyors Critical Role and Inputs in National Security and Integrated Infrastructural Development” from Tuesday, 17th to Friday, 20th December 2019 at Ta'al Conference Hotel, Lafia Nasarawa State.

The Conference was declared open by the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, His Excellency Engr. Abdullahi Sule, ably represented by the Honourable Commissioner for Lands and Urban Development, Nasarawa State, Prof. Salihu A. Alizaga. Also present were the Royal father, the Emir of Nasarawa His Royal Highness, Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Jibril *fgeoson*, the President of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) Surv. Alabo C.D Charles, fnis and the Chairman of Northern Surveyors Forum (NSF) Surv. Winston Ayeni. It was well attended by participants from Federal, State, Academia, Oil and Gas industry and students from tertiary institutions.

In his address, the Acting Surveyor General of the Federation (SGoF), Surv. S. A. Taiwo, the convener of the Conference, expressed the excitement of the participants to be in the beautiful city of Lafia. He noted that there is a state function going on in Nasarawa State which is the reason for the low turnout of the invited State Government Officials. There were five (5) presentations and Goodwill messages from various stakeholders. The Vote of thanks was given by the Director, Survey Coordination, (OSGOF) Surv Anyadiegwu G. Uzoma. The opening ceremony was followed by the presentation of reports from various stakeholders.

2.0 OBSERVATIONS

The conference observed that:

- i. Some Offices of the State Surveyors General (OSSG) have still not been upgraded to Extra Ministerial status even in some states that the State Surveyors General are Permanent Secretaries, despite the approval from the National Council on Works From 1999-2014.
- ii. Some States still accept analogue Survey plans for issuance of title.
- iii. Some State Surveyors General do not know the exact Boundaries of their States.
- iv. Some State Governors do not fully appreciate the importance of Surveying and its deliverables.
- v. Some States still carry out Survey Projects using Local Origins.
- vi. Some Continuously Operating Reference Stations (CORS) established by States Government and Institutions are too closed to one another.
- vii. Some existing CORS are yet to be integrated into the NIGNET.
- viii. Some Institutions requested for equipment and capacity development from relevant stakeholders in line with current advancement in technology and international best practices.

3.0 RESOLUTIONS

- i. The conference emphasized the need for the offices of the States Surveyors General yet to be upgraded to extra-ministerial status to be so upgraded. It is not enough for the States Surveyors General to be made Permanent Secretaries but the offices must be fully Extra-ministerial.
- ii. Analogue presentation of Survey Plans should end with the year 2019.
- iii. The Conference urges States Surveyors General, Office of The Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF), States Surveyors General, National Boundary

Commission (NBC) and other Stakeholders to put more effort in determining the Boundaries of their various States.

- iv. OSGOF, NIS and SURCON to embark on advocacy visits to States Governors, to emphasize the importance of Surveying and Surveyors. And also to appreciate those that have upgraded their Surveying Offices to Extra-Ministerial departments.
- v. No Survey Plan should be accepted on Local Origin henceforth.
- vi. State Government and Institutions that wishes to establish COR Stations should liaise with the Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation for proper identification of CORS location.
- vii. All existing CORS must be integrated into the NIGNET and as such all operators of such CORS should furnish OSGOF with the information and details to achieve this. This will also be in line with the Survey Coordination Act of 1962 as amended.
- viii. Stakeholders should assist Tertiary Institutions of Surveying and Mapping in provision of equipment and training.

4.0 APPRECIATION

The Conference participants and organisers hereby express their gratitude to the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, His Excellency *Engr. Abdullahi Sule*, the government and the good people of Nasarawa State (Home of Solid Minerals) for hosting the Conference and their show of hospitality. Our appreciation is also extended to the Honourable Minister of Works and Housing, His Excellency Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN), the Minister of State for Works and Housing: His Excellency *Engr. Abubakar Danlami Aliyu*, the Royal father, the Emir of Nasarawa His Royal Highness, *Alhaji Ibrahim Usman Jibril fgeoson*, and the President of Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS) *Surv. Alabo C.D Charles fnis*, the Chairman of Northern Surveyors Forum (NSF) *Surv. Winston Ayeni*, the Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation (OSGOF), Surveyors Council of Nigeria

(SURCON), Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS), Tertiary Institutions, Armed Forces, all the Resource Persons and the Management of Ta'al Conference Hotel, Nasarawa 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 20TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2019 AT LAFIA, NASARAWA STATE.