

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE QUANTITY SURVEYORS
REGISTRATION BOARD OF NIGERIA (QSRBN) AT THE COURTESY
VISIT TO THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE INDEPENDENT
CORRUPT PRACTICES (AND OTHER OFFENCES) COMMISSION
(ICPC) ON WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH, 2016**

PROTOCOL

I wish to thank the Executive Chairman, Commissioners and Management of the ICPC for finding time to receive me and my team on this courtesy visit. We appreciate the giant strides and successes recorded by your Commission especially since your assumption of office as its helmsman.

The Quantity Surveyors Registration Board of Nigeria (QSRBN) is a body corporate of the Federal Government of Nigeria. It is a Federal Government Agency under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Power, Works & Housing. It was established about 30 years ago by the Quantity Surveyors (Registration, etc) Act No. 31 of 1986 with the mandate of:

- (a) Determining who are quantity surveyors for the purposes of this Act;
- (b) Determining what standards of knowledge and skill are to be attained by persons seeking to become registered as quantity surveyors and raising those standards from time to time as circumstances may permit;
- (c) Securing in accordance with the provisions of this Act the establishment and maintenance of a register of persons entitled to practice as quantity surveyors and the publication from time to time of lists of those persons;
- (d) Regulating and controlling the practice of the quantity surveying profession in all its aspects and ramifications;
- (e) Performing such other functions that may be conferred on the board by this Act.

In regulating and controlling the practice of quantity surveying in all its aspects and ramification, the QSRBN ensures the enforcement of ethical conduct and moral probity among quantity surveyors. By their training and professional calling, quantity surveyors have a major role to play in promoting good governance, value-for-money and an anti-corruption regime. I say this because a quantity surveyor is the expert who is trained

to ensure financial probity and value-for-money in the conceptualization, planning and execution of construction and infrastructure projects in the national economy. In ensuring financial probity and value for money, the quantity surveyor deploys his expertise in many areas a few of which are:

1. Project costing (Building, Road, Bridges, Railway) to stop deliberate cost inflation, padding and other corrupt practices among public officials.
2. Contract cost auditing to check the amount of works done against the money spent on the project to know if value for money has been obtained.
3. Cost/price estimating for budgeting and planning of capital projects.
4. Price intelligence to promote integrity of prices used to conduct government business.

The bouquet of services which the quantity surveyor can offer to the nation is long and it is the duty of the QSRBN to ensure that Registered Quantity Surveyors uphold the highest standard of ethics, proficiency and competence. Only quantity surveyors who are registered by the Board are licenced to practice the profession in Nigeria.

In the past few years, the QSRBN has embarked on a massive restructuring to position the agency to effectively achieve its statutory mandate. This has led to the approval of a Masterplan for the Board to seamlessly transit into a proper body corporate of the Federal Government as required by the enabling Act.

The Board is developing a Data Centre which will host a national construction cost data base. This construction cost data base will enable government through the Board to track construction cost across the country, setting mean/median costs for all types of construction projects across the country. With this, the increasing incidents of wide variations in costs of similar projects across sectors and geo-political zones in Nigeria will be reduced. We should be able to establish templates for costing of construction projects especially roads, bridges and railways, which are often used by public officers to siphon away public funds. With this effort, we shall establish cost-bands across project types locations, etc and determine central tendencies and dispersions as are necessary.

Our construction cost data base will provide the nation and international community with immense knowledge-based information on building and

construction cost especially with respect to labour, material, machinery and equipment.

It will also enhance the QSRBN capacity in monitoring and evaluating standards in construction projects, policy-frameworks, technical framework, legal frameworks and institutional/organizational frameworks.

Hence the ICPC can depend on the QSRBN to recommend registered quantity surveyors whose services can be engaged by the Commission to do the following:

- 1) Value for money auditing to investigate cases of contract cost inflation/padding.
- 2) Contract auditing to check cases of violation of due process in contract award.
- 3) Valuation of actual work done on site by any contractor against the amount of money paid to him by government.
- 4) All matters of cost services, financial management and claims administration on construction projects executed with public funds.

We require the partnership of enduring anti-corruption Agencies such as ICPC in which we can support you with our expertise on cost of construction projects of all type to enable your decisive intervention to curb inflated contracts in our public service domain while on your own you provide us with institutional support such as capacity building etc to enable both parties achieve the desired synergy.

Our training and expertise as quantity surveyors equip us to know when project costs have been corruptly inflated and when construction projects are being smokescreens and conduit pipes to loot public funds.

We thank you for the audience given to us as we explore all opportunities and areas where we can mutually support each other.

Thank you and God Bless.

Husaini A. Dikko FNIQS, PPNIQS, RQS