



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR (PRESS & PR)

Press Release



EDUCATION PERM SEC EMERGES PRESIDENT OF NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Arc. Sonny Echono, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, is set to resume duties as the 28th President of the Nigerian Institute of Architects, (NIA), with a promise to work with regulatory and funding agencies to ensure better quality buildings in the nation and her tertiary institutions.

This is in addition to guaranteeing the use of local contents and enhancing energy efficiency in the nation's building.

Echono disclosed this recently in Abuja during his investiture as the new president of the NIA, emphasizing that as a trained architect, it behooves on him to ensure that the buildings are constructed in accordance with globally accepted standards in order to protect the inhabitants as well as ensure that resources expended on them are not wasted.

To this end, the President said that his Administration will concentrate on development control mechanisms to curb the menace of poorly designed, constructed and spaced buildings in the country.

He noted that his Administration has been and will continue to work with the agencies involved with the provision of these infrastructure to ensure that properly constructed structures are in place.

Echono revealed that the Ministry was also working with funding agencies like the Universal Basic Education Commission, (UBEC), and Tertiary Education Trust fund, (TETFUND), to ensure that the quality of these buildings improves.

He added that his Administration will be keen on ensuring that the procurement process is diligently handled to ensure that competent contractors are used to provide these infrastructures.

The President further hinted that his Administration will evolve policies that will ensure that architects contribute to the development of the economy, through the construction of long-lasting buildings that will be maximally utilized as the country cannot continue to bear the cost of collapsed buildings.

In this light, Echono assured that the Institute will work with relevant stakeholders in the building sector to end the scourge.

He stated that one of the strategies is to ensure that properly trained and accredited professionals are used in the construction of buildings and other infrastructure in the country.

Echono stressed that this was paramount as the activities of poorly trained professionals have tainted the image of architects and other professionals in the building industry.

Subsequently, he called on members of the NIA to stick to the ethics of the profession and contribute to the development of the country through the provision of meticulous services.

In his remarks, Arc. Adibe Njoku, outgoing President of the NIA enjoined Echono not to be fazed by the challenges of the profession.

While urging members to give their new president the support and love shown him, he stressed that though the institute has surmounted many challenges in the quest to develop architecture in the country, there was still room for improvement.

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