

VOTE OF THANKS DELIVERED BY TGST. OPADEJI TAIBUDEEN KOLAWOLE, CHAIRMAN, LAGOS STATE BRANCH OF NATE AT THE OFFICIAL COMMISSIONING OF THE RICE DESTONING MACHINE DESIGNED AND FABRICATED BY NATE ON TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 2016 AT AKINRELE AUDITORIUM, FIIRO, OSHODI - LAGOS..

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen of the press.

It is personally a great privilege to be here today as a member of the team that worked to actualize the dream to deliver this rice de-stoner into our agricultural system.

Having said that, my duty at this time is to deliver a vote of thanks. I must begin by acknowledging and thanking Almighty Allah to whom is ascribed all the glory and honour, who in His infinite mercies has paved the path which we have walked to reach this moment.

I also express our unqualified appreciation to our host, the Federal Institute of Industrial Research under the indefatigable leadership of Dr. (Mrs.) Gloria N. Elemo (FNATE), the Director General/CEO FIIRO has not only provided us accommodation for our secretariat, She has also availed us usage of this gorgeous auditorium free of charge for this commissioning. Our thanks also go to Engr. Kashim A. Ali FNSE, FNATE, whose presence here today is proof of the solid backing for NATE since his assumption in office as President of COREN. Special thanks go to our President, Tgst. Ahmad Mohammed Yabagi (FNATE), who, with the NATE Executive Council, provided the drive and overall leadership for the project. We cannot fail to recognize the presence of our Past Presidents (**Engr. J.W.O. Toby-Lade FNATE, Engr. O.A. Sami FNATE, Alhaji Engr. Ahmadu Rufai Muhammed FNATE, MON, Tgst. Ramsey Nanna FNATE, Tgst. (Dr.) Leo Okereke FNATE**) who have given us the guidance and moral support to come this far.

We thank also all the representatives of the various institutions and agencies who are here today. Of special mention are the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) and Bond FM.

We would not have gathered here today if we had not found accommodation for conducting our experimental work and fabrication to actualize the machine which has just been commissioned. For this our thanks go to Tgst. Elvis Odemene MNATE who also led the technical crew that carried out the work. Also, we appreciate Alhaji Ajayi Adebayo Monsuru (Hadjison Rice Mills, Ifo, Ogun State) who volunteered to make available over 200kg of Rice for test running of the Rice Destoner.

Finally, we appreciate all our friends and members who have left their busy schedules to be with us today on this special occasion.

We pray that God who brought you here safely will grant you all safe passage to your various destinations and give us the opportunity to meet again in celebration of an even bigger breakthrough in the quest for technological independence of our motherland.

Thank you all and God bless.

Jazakumlahi Khyiran