

SPEECH DELIVERED BY TGST. A.A. EMMANUEL, VICE PRESIDENT SOUTH-WEST, NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF TECHNOLOGISTS IN ENGINEERING (NATE) ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNVEILING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE NATE MADE RICE DESTONING MACHINE AT THE FEDERAL INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH OSHODI (FIIRO) LAGOS STATE

The Representative of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture,
The Representative of the Chairman Senate committee on Agriculture,
The Representative of the Chairman House committee on Agriculture,
The Right Honourable Speaker Lagos State House of Assembly,
The Honourable Commissioner of Agriculture Lagos State,
The Director General/CEO (Federal Institute of Industrial Research) FIIRO,

The President Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria COREN,
The President Nigerian Association of Technologists in Engineering (NATE),
The Press & other Dignitaries Here present,
Ladies and gentlemen.

I have the singular honour and pleasure to welcome you to this great occasion which marks the unveiling and commissioning of the NATE made Rice Destoning Machine which was a vision conceived by this Noble Association at this crucial time of Economic Recession in our nation Nigeria. There is no doubt that the association has proved its worth to bring to light the motto of NATE “*design, build, and maintain for progress in Nation building*”. This initiative is the association`s contribution to the progress of our dear nation Nigeria to further enhance the growth and development of Engineering infrastructure and capacity building of Engineering personnel, as this will go a long way to generate employment opportunities and reduce poverty, which will lead to industrial revolution in our country.

We are aware of the expected rice harvest the Federal Government and Lagos State Government in particular are expecting on or before December, 2016, hence, it is an opportunity of exploit, technology innovation and support for federal Government on diversification to Agriculture. The association wishes to seek the support of the Federal and state Governments in Nigeria, as well as private investors in the large scale production

of this equipment in order to bring about an enviable turn-around in the production of quality rice and decrease the dependence on importation of this kind of equipment, and also promote the growth of our economy through the encouragement of the use of Made in Nigeria Products.

This milestone advancement in technology have been highly complementary, both adding significantly to farmers' productivity and the industrial growth. Today's technological advances hold enormous promise...to reduce farmers' unit costs, enhance management ability, reduce the environmental footprint, and enable superior information management to benefit the entire value chain. We are only beginning to realize the potential of these advances and their full uses. But, it is clear that enormous changes are still in the offing.

Mechanization is an often-overlooked factor in analysing the challenge of feeding the country. Not only on the improvement of the technological base of the nation it will also bring about the massive employment opportunity and also it will be a major boost to the country's foreign exchange as it can be exported to other countries of the world for use.

A unit of the Rice Destoning machine will create job opportunity for the unemployed youth in the locality. Ladies and gentlemen, we can imagine the teaming unemployed youths that will be gainfully employed if the Government can bring about the large scale production of this equipment knowing fully well that the high rate of rice consumption by Nigerians is unquantifiable.

Finally, COREN should see this Engineering Innovation by the Technologists, as a proof of competence to allow for equal authority in engineering designs and consultations so as to foster unity in the Engineering family.

You are heartily welcome to the state of Excellence, Enjoy your Stay.

Thanks.