



# FUTA NEWS

## **HOW TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCE CAN AID HOUSING DELIVERY---- Lafarge Executive**

Technology and Finance have been identified as an indispensable component for effective and durable housing in Nigeria. The General Manager, Energy and Project Lafarge Africa PLC, Engr. Lanre Opakunle stated this while speaking at the school of Engineering and Engineering Technology 11th Annual Lecture. Speaking on “Construction of Durable Building and Infrastructure in a challenging Economy”, Opakunle said Technology determines the nature of houses built and their durability “while availability of finance determines access to other key input such as Land, Labour, building materials and infrastructure.” He laid emphasis on the economic benefits of sustainable design which only can be achieved through integrated design and innovative use of sustainable materials and equipment. He said “sustainable buildings can provide indirect economic benefits to both the building owner and society through better-health, comfort, well-being and productivity of building occupants” According to him, the key challenges in Nigeria Construction Industry apart from macroeconomic factors are shortage of Technical expertise, unfavourable Business Environment, Finance Misappropriation and poor Policy Implementation. The guest lecturer counseled experts in the industry to take advantage of concrete as a durable material that can be used for both road construction and buildings. In his words “Durable concrete are Fire Resistant, Provides faster construction, needs no additional application of fire protection, cost effective and can be re-used”.

He added that “a well-placed concrete offers exceptional durability and long life in construction because its impact brings about fire resistance, light reflectance, energy efficiency, reduced maintenance, faster construction, cost effectiveness and re use”.

He said Nigeria was lagging behind in every measure of infrastructure coverage because advancement in technology plays a big role in aiding African close the infrastructural development gap.

He therefore recommended the continuous training and development of core professionals and artisans to keep them abreast with new trends in construction world. Adding that construction work should only be carried out by licensed and registered professionals while stringent penalties be meted to those responsible for collapsed buildings.

Speaking at the event the Vice-chancellor, Professor Adebisi Daramola who was represented by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Olatunde Arayela said the title of the annual lecture is timely going by the spate of collapse of buildings and degrading infrastructures in our country which according to him is as a result of poor planning, implementation and general unethical project management.

Earlier in his welcome address, the Dean of SEET Professor Michael Alatise said the challenge of National development in Nigeria in the area of durable building and infrastructure has been subject of intense debate.

He said the spate of collapsed buildings and failed roads and other infrastructure have assumed a worrisome dimension in recent times which has caused negative implications on the Nigeria economy. Therefore there is urgent need for all stakeholders in the building and construction industry to come up with workable and durable building and construction policy that will stand the test of time.

