

RESPONSE BY THE CHAIRMAN SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL ON CONSTRUCTION

PREAMBLE

The phenomenal growth and importance of the Construction Industry in the country has led to an impressive increase of workers of various skills that labor to sustain it.

Government ministries and agencies in tandem with various professional bodies and especially the management of the various companies engaged in the realization of the many construction projects have so far to various degrees contributed their best to employ, train and encourage workers to acquire the necessary skills and specialize in the many professional aspects of the Construction Industry. However, if by and large, this has been achieved judging by the many construction landmarks built in the country, there are still many areas that need further improvements.

This has highlighted the need to complement, rationalize, increase, improve, and merge manual with Intellectual capabilities, to further develop and enhance high standard of safety, quality and professionalism capable of adopting and master the technological improvements in all spheres of building and construction.

The module of the Sector Skills Council (SSC) is therefore:

1.0 To strategize and organize the development of appropriate skills.

- a. To design and approve an Apprentice Scheme regulated by appropriate Agreements.

To achieve this, the Council aims at cooperating with all other stakeholders.

- 1.1 To address gaps and shortage of skills in the industry.
- 1.2 To improve the quality of the skilled people to prepare them for technological advances in the industry for effective communication, for better understanding of design drawings, for the use of information technology and for improved safety and health. This will be achieved by imparting lessons followed by practical training.
- 1.3 To improve the performance and the productivity: This is to be achieved by improving skills and training and by focusing on accident prevention.
- 1.4 Transfer of new trends: To be achieved by identifying, sourcing, adapting and developing of new technologies.
- 1.5 To develop skill competency standards and qualifications: To be achieved by organizing appropriate entry qualification, training and registration criteria of various level of tradesmen.
- 1.6 To develop a hybrid occupational and entrepreneurial training to prepare them to excel in their trades.

- 1.7 To develop a sector skills development plan and inventory: to be achieved in consultation with the construction project owners and by observing general developments in the construction industry and by formation of first line and middle managers.
- 1.8 To participate in the Accreditation and Standardization of training programs to provide opportunities in a chosen career.
- 1.9 To influence how training is delivered in Nigeria.

The SCC shall influence the training program through appropriate rigorous training and competence transfer within feasible time scale of quality and cost.

Leadership and Governance Structure of the SCC aims to formulate policies and guidelines for ethical practice of the building trades and to develop relevant trade materials and explore appropriate informational links.

The SCC Accreditation committee is to formulate appropriate policies for accreditation and guidelines of building vocational programs to consider and review curricula of building trade courses, to ensure equal standards in all training schools and to ascertain the qualification and ability of those impacting knowledge and skills for building trades.

The SCC will have a research and development room to conform itself with international standards, with labor market information systems to conduct productivity analysis of human resources and keep abreast of the latest technological trends.

The SCC will sustain quality assurance of the Certification framework.

The SCC will work with the Industry to train existing workers and master trainers, categorize training delivery organizations to meet industry requirements and organize e-learning modules.

The SCC will monitor and evaluate periodically all training institutions and centers.

2.1 SSC structure will consist of 6 (six) zonal offices nationwide. With one research officer, one quality assurance manager, one master trainer and one I.T. professional in each zonal office and two each in Abuja office. The I.T. professional will operate a robust Data Base.

2.2 Seven levels are considered for each skill with levels further categorize in 3 categories as follows:

Training Level -	Level 1- Apprentice
Operative Level –	Level 2- Tradesman
	Level 3- Senior Tradesman
	Level 4- Headman

	Level 5- Foreman
Managerial Level	Level 6- Works Inspector
	Level 7- Works Superintendent

CONCLUSION.

To establish and entrench the above in the Country, the SSC counts on the support of this program by all relevant stakeholders, both the Government and the Private Sector, there will be a lot of huddles to cross, but with the patriotic help of all those concerned, we believe that we also do Nigeria proud by qualifying and equipping a very large number of citizens to contribute more consciously to the Country's development and help to create an informed and capable middle class, trained in the art of building, from solid foundations to impermeable roofs, a capability that will help the Country's solid growth with abundant benefits to all citizens.

I am indeed delighted to lead this team of committed men and women to achieve these laudable objectives.

On behalf of the sector Skills Council for Construction in Nigeria, we appreciate the Honorable Minister for this opportunity to service the Construction Industry and Nigeria. We promise to do our very best to make the SSC a great success.

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