



THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

NO. 24, MAGAJI MUAZU CRESCENT, KATAMPE EXTENSION, P. O. BOX 10015, GARKI, ABUJA, NIGERIA
TEL.: +234-9-2900081 – 3, +234 903 000 1032 WEBSITE: www.nia.ng E-MAIL: nia@niamails.com

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ARC. MOBOLAJI A. ADENIYI FNIA, DURING THE COURTESY VISIT TO THE HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STEEL DEVELOPMENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, SHUAIBU ABUBAKAR AUDU BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE NIA ON WEDNESDAY, 31ST JANUARY 2024

PROTOCOLS

I bring warm greetings from the Executive Council and the entire membership of the Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), the umbrella association of Architects and Architecture in Nigeria recognized by the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN 2004) CAP A19 titled Architects (Registration, ETC,) Act.

The Nigerian Institute of Architects was established on the 1st of April, 1960 and has grown to a total membership of about 15,000 cutting across various cadres with Chapters in all thirty-six States of the Federation and the FCT as well as a diaspora section in the United Kingdom.

The NIA has over the years, directly and indirectly through its members, has consistently played and continues to play vital roles in the life of our nation.

The importance of Steel to the development of Architecture and indeed the Industrial Revolution since the early 19th century cannot be overemphasized. It has enabled the mechanization of human activities including construction, provides strength in buildings, allowing flexibility in planning and spacing requirements, allowing for the erection of high-rise buildings as well as facilitating the artistic expression of clients desires.

In Nigeria, our Architecture and Steel industry grapples with the challenges of environmental and health impact of mining activities, lack of self-sufficiency leading to extreme high costs, high degree of substandard products in our markets, poor investment as a country in the entire value chain of iron ore extraction and steel production, a lack of public awareness of the importance of quality/ standards and pitfalls of sub-standard steel products in Nigeria.

Honourable Minister, as the custodian of a foremost stakeholder in policy formulation and regulation the Nigerian Institute of Architects lauds your position on creating an enabling environment for the recovery of the Steel Manufacturing sector of Nigeria's economy especially your well documented stand on the completion of the Ajaokuta Steel Plant in Kogi State.

The Ministry of Steel Development must as a matter of priority take more than a passing position of the menace of sub-standard steel in our market. While noting its dangerous correlation with a fair share of incidences of building collapses nationwide, it further has the potential of diminishing the value of our

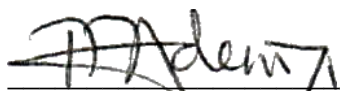
Steel sector, discourage significant investment in the sector as well as scuttle our nation's drive for economic diversification in the near future.

The Federal Government led by your Ministry must invest in public enlightenment initiatives across the country while strengthening the regulatory framework especially with the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) as well as the professional bodies in the built environment to educate the populace on the menace of substandard products while guarantying and safeguarding standards and quality of the various products. This is imperative for both locally produced and imported steel products.

A thriving Steel sector in Nigeria will provide the necessary stimuli in the manufacturing and construction sectors of our nation's economy. Emphasis should be placed on developing the downstream sub sector to enable the unlocking of the key value-added products within that sub sector so as to fully support Nigeria's drive to further reduce the housing deficit in a cost effective manner while opening diversification streams.

Finally, I wish to extend our most sincere gratitude to you for granting us audience even with your tight schedule. We hope that this relationship budding will transcend several Ministers of this Ministry and Presidents of our Institute as we begin the journey of sanitizing and deepening the Steel Manufacturing sector in Nigeria.

Thank you and may God continue to Bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria. God bless the Nigerian Institute of Architects



Arc. Mobolaji A. Adeniyi FNIA, PNIA
President,
Nigerian Institute of Architects

