

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN MINING ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS, (COMEG) ALHAJI INUWA GOMBE, FNMGS, FNSME AT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> INDUCTION CEREMONY AND PUBLIC REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS.**

**6 MARCH, 2008**

It is with great pleasure, honour and privilege and glory of the Almighty Allah that on behalf of the council that I welcome you to our 4<sup>th</sup> Induction Ceremony holding at the Merit House, today 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

I wish to inform you distinguished ladies and gentlemen, that the Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG) was established by decree No. 40 of 1990 and was inaugurated on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2000.

The major thrust of COMEG is to regulate and control the training, practice and discipline of professionals in the fields of Geology, Geophysics, Geochemistry, Mining Engineering, Petroleum Engineering, Mineral Processing, Metallurgy, Hydrology and Hydrology, etc. These contribute over eighty percent (80%) of Nigeria's total foreign exchange earnings annually.

COMEG's regulatory responsibilities are essentially restricted tot the extractive industries which undoubtedly constitute the backbone of the nation's economy. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen by definition, mining engineering professionals include mining engineers, petroleum engineers, mineral processors, metallurgists and their technologies while Geoscientists include Geologists, Petroleum Geologists, Hydro geologists, hydrologists, Geophysicists, Geochemists and Exploration Geologists, etc.

Decree No 40. of 1990 charges the Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG) with the following responsibilities amongst others:

- Prescribing and enforcing minimum standards of education and experience to be obtained by the persons qualified to be registered as Mining Engineers, Geoscientists and Metallurgists.
- Prescribing and enforcing the Code of Conduct of registered mining engineers, petroleum engineers, metallurgical engineers and geoscientists.
- Regulating and controlling the practice of Mining Engineering, Metallurgy, Petroleum Engineering and Geosciences in all aspects and ramifications.
- Maintain discipline in the professions on accordance with the decree.
- Performing such functions, which in its opinion, are calculated to facilitate the execution of its activities under decree No. 40 of 1990.

The regulatory functions of COMEG cover professionals in all sections of the Nigerian economy and firms in the Solid Minerals, Water Resources, Power and Steel, Environment and others.

Section 17 of decree No. 40 of 1990 also stipulated that in order to practice legally, all professionals must first be registered by COMEG.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, we are thus carrying out i.e. to establish and maintain a register of persons entitled to practice as mining engineers, Petroleum Engineers, Geoscientists, Hydrologists, Metallurgist and careful

scrutiny of qualifications, age and experience of applications, publicly conducted induction ceremonies to register qualified members of the profession.

It would please you to know distinguished ladies and gentlemen that COMEG has two (2) categories of membership; they are Individual and Institution or Corporate. The Ministry of Mines and Steel Development is by law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the supervising ministry of COMEG.

Once again, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I welcome you formally to the 4<sup>th</sup> Induction Ceremony and Public Registration of qualified members by the Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geologists (COMEG).

Thank you and may Almighty God bless you.

**Alhaji Inuwa Gombe FNMGS, FNSME**

**(Chairman, COMEG)**