

Survey Professional Ethics in Nigeria – On a Downward Spin?

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SUMMARY

Among other duties, a surveyor is obligated to promote the highest level of professional practice to the end of delivering high quality and efficient service to their clients. Founding fathers of the surveying profession in Nigeria, with less refined tools and many hurdles to surmount, painstakingly and religiously adhere to the rules and ethics of the profession, leaving in their wake monuments of professional significance. In recent times, however, the character and status of the modern Nigerian surveyor is being questioned, especially in areas of cadastral concerns. It is not uncommon to see forged survey plans used in land registrations and approving building plans. Survey beacons demarcating parcel boundaries are seen with archaic identities, which is a tell-tale sign of foul play to the discerning eye. These, amongst many other anomalies, are perpetrated by unscrupulous elements that profit themselves on the ignorance of the populace. More disheartening is the scourge of using the wrong tools on the job. Equipment like handheld GPS and compass, both intended for use as approximate tools are now being used on precise jobs intended for registration. This paper researches into the immediate and remote causes of this menace. It discusses a number of malpractices and ethical misconduct marring the image of the Nigerian Surveyor. It also outlines the roles shouldered on the surveyor, both individually and as a body, in order to redeem their image.