**CONSTRUCTION, ECONOMYAND MANAGEMENT WRITTEN BY: Prof. Kunle Ade Wahab, *OON OFR***

**A book review by Mallam Husaini A. Dikko, *FNIQS, PPNIQS*, *RQS,* President Quantity Surveyors Registration Board of Nigeria on the occasion of the Public Presentation and formal launching of the book on Thursday, 9th October, 2014 at the Shehu Musa Yar’Adua Centre Abuja FCT**

**PROTOCOL**

I consider it a rare honour to be called upon to review the book “CONSTRUCTION ECONOMY & MANAGEMENT” written by our most respected and accomplished Professor Kunle Ade Wahab *OON, OFR.* Of all the many contributions that our eminent Professor has made, I consider his writing of this book as the most remarkable because it creates a lasting memory and enduring legacy. It is a reservoir that captures Professor Wahab’s numerous contributions to humanity, knowledge, education and mentorship in an odyssey spanning over 40 years in the ivory tower, industry and government.

This book is one of a trilogy that is hitting the public space simultaneously. The other two volumes are “HOUSING EXPLORATION” and “MAINTENANCE of BUILDINGS and INFRASTRUCTURE”.

The good Professor must have taken my background as a quantity surveyor into account when he invited me to do the review of Volume One of this trilogy. Pursuit of construction economy and management to achieve value for money, efficient allocation of resources for public good is the foundation of the quantity surveying epistemology.

**The book is in Five (5) sections**

**Section I** generally covers the vexed matter of effective and efficient construction and is presented in ten chapters delving extensively on Prescriptions for an efficient construction industry, Building trends in Nigeria, System for stimulating the productivity of Nigeria contractors, Improving efficiency in the building sector, Helping indigenous building entrepreneurs, Working capital requirements constraint’s to productivity in the developing countries, Target output in Nigerian Construction Industry. The rationalisation of construction resources for housing investment in Nigeria, Coping with inflation in the construction industry through a rationalisation of building process and The roles of registered builders in the construction industry. All that is required to improve productivity, increase output and assure quality in the building and construction sector can be found right in section one of the book of reading. Thus, the solution to the challenge of productivity, performance and output of our indigenous contractors are provided under this section.

**Section II** which comprises five chapters is presented under the broad theme of “BUILDING MATERIALS-USAGE, COSTING AND RESEARCH” It is a clear dissection of the policy issue on use of local materials and their effects on cost of building and made far reaching recommendations of ways to reduce cost of construction using local building materials. Chapters 11 - 15 fall under this section and cover well researched works by the professor on the Use of local materials and effect on cost of buildings, Building materials prices in selected locations in Nigeria, Construction Overseas-Historical Cost Information in Nigeria. A new direction for Building and Road Research efforts in Nigeria – and Building and Road Research in Nigeria - the journey so far. This section tells the reader all that he needs to know about the efficacy of local building materials.

**Section III** covers chapters 16 – 22 and is presented under the broad heading of MANPOWER – CAPACITY, EDUCATION AND TRAINING. The seven chapters of this section are articulated under the following respective topics, namely: Apprenticeship training as a solution to manpower problems in the construction industry, Manpower Development and Training for construction industry, The training of professional builders, Satisfying the training needs of management and staff in the construction industry, Formal and informal training and education of registered builders, Education and training in construction and Contributions of Professional bodies in National Development: Prospect and Challenges.

**Section IV** has its thematic focus as ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT and the various sub-themes are covered respectively in Chapter 23 – 30 (eight chapters). Topics treated under this section presented in broad outline include, Organisation of Construction Projects Planning in Nigeria, Options for Project Planning in the Nigerian Construction Industry, Construction Management Organisations in the Public Sector of Developing Countries, Improving Productivity in the Construction Industry through Human Resources Development. The place of construction industry in National Development, Public Procurement Reforms:- The challenges of economic development and the options for state governments, Improving urban governance and accountability and Builders &Procurement of goods and services.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION is treated in section V under chapter 31 – 35 (five chapters). The respective topics covered in these five chapters are Project Management – its scope in the construction industry, Project evaluation & development appraisal, Project monitoring – A vehicle for accountability in Construction Contract, and Effect of Budget Planning and Contract Auditing.

I make a particular note of chapter 35 under the title, Lagos – Ikorodu Road – Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow – its economic effects on the people as it reminds the reader that our dear Prof. is an illustrious son of Ikorodu who cares so much about the welfare and prosperity of his people.

The writing style is lucid thus making the book easy to read and understand by practitioners, students, researchers and policy makers in the building and construction sector. Since this book is largely an edited collection of seminar, conference, workshop and journal papers/articles written by the author; some dating back to over forty years ago, some examples, illustrations and figures in the book appear out of place and require to have been updated in a book that is being published in 2014 to make more sense to the reader.

It is important to state that the building and construction sector has witnessed a lot of changes and developments in the past forty years and these ought to be captured in the book. For example, while the quantity surveyor was referred to in the book as a building economist (which may have been correct some forty years ago but, not anymore), the quantity surveyor of today is a construction economist, cost engineer, construction project cost manager and construction value manager / engineer. The bouquet of services and competencies within the quantity surveying body of knowledge today has increased tremendously over the last four decades than was ever imagined. This development is also true for the building, engineering, estate management, land surveying (geo-informatics) and town planning professions.

Although Professor Wahab is a registered builder, quantity surveyor and engineer, it is unmistakeable that his first love is the building profession as over fifty percent of the book is devoted to his involvement in the research, teaching and practice of the building profession.

The book spots a few typographical errors but generally the editors did a very commendable work.

This book is a highly technocratic book which reflects the very rich exposure and experience of the Professor as a man who has seen it all and successfully traversed the unmistakable landscapes of the academia, industry and government to be the icon and doyen of the built-environment professions that he is today in Nigeria. The perspectives of the book are historical, contemporary and futuristic meaning that it will take a while before a new and revised edition will be contemplated.

This book is based on many papers which the Professor has presented at numerous national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, colloquia and indeed many training manuals which Prof. Wahab has developed over the past four decades or so. It is really vintage Professor Kunle Ade Wahab, the university icon, the public servant, the international scholar and built-environment professional in Private Practice. The last chapter, which is Chapter 35 presents Prof. Wahab, the humanist, the socio-economic activist/emancipator.

On a final note, I dare say that no better legacy can be bequeathed to humanity than what we celebrate today with our dear Prof. Kunle Ade Wahab OON, OFR. Once again I say congratulations to Professor Wahab, congratulations to the Built-environment Professions, and congratulations to Nigeria.

God Bless you all.

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