



Council of Nigerian  
Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



**“RELEVANCE OF COUNCIL OF NIGERIAN MINING  
ENGINEERS AND GEOSCIENTISTS (COMEG)  
AS A REGULATORY BODY ON GEOSCIENCE EDUCATION”**

**PRESENTED**

**BY**

**ENGR. BELLO M. BUGAJE** *FNSME MNMGS*

**REGISTRAR/CEO COMEG**

**AT NAPE-UAP (UNIVERSITY ASSISTANCE) LEADERSHIP  
FORUM**

**12<sup>TH</sup> NAPE-UAP (UNIVERSITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM) LEADERSHIP FORUM / 15<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 20**





# Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



## TABLE OF CONTENT

1. INTRODUCTION
2. FUNCTIONS OF COMEG
3. WAY FORWARD
4. AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH NAPE
5. CONCLUSION





## Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



### 1. INTRODUCTION

Government has been playing participatory roles in the development and regulation of practice of education in Nigeria since Independence.

This has resulted in the constitution of relevant ministries, bodies, institutions and agencies whose primary interests are to see to the upliftment of the standard of education in Nigeria.

Prior to the emergence of the civilian rule, the standard of education was on the decline because of non-committal attitudes of our past leaders. This contributed to some visible distortions in learning in our higher institutions and the study of geosciences and other relevant programmes are not exception. However, the emergence of some regulatory agencies/bodies like COMEG has helped to re-shape the quality of output in that sphere.





## Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



### 2. FUNCTIONS OF COMEG

Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG) was established by Act No. 40 of 1990 as the regulatory body for all professionals in the extractive industries, which undoubtedly, constitute the backbone of the nation's economy. These professionals include but not limited to:- Petroleum Engineers, Petroleum Geologists, Geologists, Mining Engineers, Metallurgists, Hydrogeologists, Hydrologists, Geophysicists, Geochemists, etc.

The enabling Act establishing the Council mandates it among other things, in Section 1 – (2)(a) “... **to prescribe and enforce minimum standards of education and experience to be obtained by persons qualified to practice as registered Mining Engineers and Geoscientists**”; and in Section 1 – (2)(c) “... **and reviewing those standards, from time to time as circumstances may require**”.





## Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



Also part V, Section 13(1)(c) of the Act empowers Council to approve courses, and it states that “...**Any qualification which, as a result of examination taken in conjunction with the course of training approved by the Council under this Section, is granted to candidates reaching a standard at the examination indicating in the opinion of the Council, that they have sufficient knowledge and skill to practice the relevant profession**”.

Section 14(1) confers on Council powers for the supervision of institutions and examinations leading to approved qualifications and its states “... **It shall be the duty of the Council to keep itself informed of the nature of the instruction given at approved institutions to persons attending approved courses of training and the examination as a result of which approved qualifications are granted and for the purpose of performing that duty, the Council may appoint, either from among its members or otherwise, persons to visit approved institutions or attend such examinations**”.





## Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



On the basis of the above, Council has been working in tandem with regulatory bodies like National Universities Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), and other relevant bodies in improving the quality of geoscience graduates from our tertiary institutions. Their collaborative efforts are to produce professionals who can operate within the realm of international best practices.

COMEG commenced her Accreditation Exercises of tertiary institutions in October, 2003. These accreditation exercises have led to very significant improvement in the provision of facilities, equipment and conditions of learning.





## Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



COMEG also intends to introduce the Mandatory Professional Continuous Education (M.P.C.E) for different categories of professionals. (Geoscientists, Mining Engineers, Petroleum Engineers, Metallurgists etc). The M.P.C.E will update our registered professionals on new technological innovations in accordance to world's best practices and also to existing laws.





## Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



### 3. WAY FORWARD

Council of COMEG has strategized and developed areas to move the profession to greater heights through the following:

- Introducing Pre-Registration Examinations to ensure that only qualified professionals are registered with the council.
- Development of modules for **M.P.C.E** with a view to ensure that registered members are properly updated with modern technologies.
- Formation of **GEM CONGLOMERATE** to be inaugurated in October, 2013. This would create a forum for all registered professionals in the relevant sectors of the Extractive Industry to come together and chart a new course for our professionals in the Extractive Industry.
- To conduct Pre-Accreditation Workshop for Heads of Departments (relevant disciplines) in Tertiary Institutions.
- To organize Professional Training for members in the oil and gas sector.







#### 4. AREAS OF COLLABORATION WITH NAPE

- To promote the registration of NAPE members with COMEG.
- To encourage the employment of only COMEG registered professionals in the oil and gas industry as provided in COMEG's Act.
- To prepare modules for M.P.C.E for the Oil and Gas sector.
- To prepare modules for Pre-Registration Examinations in the Oil and Gas sector.
- Funding of Pre-Accreditation workshop.
- Capacity Building for COMEG staff (local and international)



## Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists



### 5. CONCLUSION

Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists (COMEG) would like to commend the Nigerian Association of Petroleum Explorationists (NAPE) on the University Assistance Program (UAP) initiative. This program will certainly go a long way in reducing some of the challenges faced in the running of geoscience departments by our tertiary institutions in addition to promoting high educational standards for our present and future members.

Without a strong and virile COMEG, it would be difficult to monitor and regulate the professions in the mining and extractive industries. Furthermore, the standards of training of prospective professionals in our tertiary institutions will deteriorate.

