

THE VISIBLE TRACKS OF A REFORMER AND ADMINISTRATOR.



Echono was born on the 16th of December, 1962 at Otukpo, Benue State. He had his early education at St. Mary's Primary School, Otukpo before proceeding to Jos, then capital of Benue-Plateau State, to complete his primary and secondary education at St. Theresa's and St. Muramba's College respectively, after

which he enrolled at the Murtala College of Arts, Science and Technology (MUCAST), Makurdi for his 'A' Levels/IJMB. He was admitted to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria in 1980 to study Architecture and graduated with a BSc. (2nd Class Upper) in 1983 and a MSc. in 1985. After his National Youth Service Corps

(NYSC) in 1986, Echono had a brief stint with the Benue State Housing Agency before joining the Federal Civil Service in January, 1987. Within this period, he served in various management capacities at the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing including, Secretary, Implementation Committee on National Housing Policy – 1991 to 1995; Secretary, Special Projects Task Force – 1992 to 1995; Secretary, Committee on Lands and Housing – 1993 to 1995; Chief Executive Architect in charge of Administration of the Department – 1993 to 1994; Special Assistant to Permanent Secretary – 1994 to 1999; Head, Council Affairs and Parastatals – 2003 to 2004; Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board – 2004 to 2005. With the advent of procurement reforms in Nigeria, Echono was among the first set of civil servants deployed to the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU) or Due Process Office in February, 2015. In 2016, he was appointed Head of Team 'A' with responsibility for procurement review and certification of projects for Ministries of Works and Housing, FCT Administration, Transport, State House, Defence, Police and all the Security Agencies. His service to the profession of Architecture in Nigeria is equally impressive. From being Secretary of the Admissions Committee in 1991, he rose to the position of Honourary General Secretary (HGS) in November 2001. He chaired the Disciplinary Committee of the Institute for two successive terms from 2009 to 2013, when he was elected to the position of the 3rd Vice President. He attained the pinnacle of the profession when he was elected president, Nigerian Institute of Architects in November 2019. He also served on several Boards and Councils including – Board of Architectural Education in Nigeria (BAE), Architects Registration Council of Nigeria (ARCN), National Environmental Standards, Regulations, Enforcement and Administration (NESREA), International Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST), Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and TETFund.

The TETFund boss has attended several management courses and workshops at top institutions across the globe including: University of Bradford UK; Oxford University UK; University of Cambridge UK; Japan International Cooperation Agency; Japan Institute of Development Studies; Indonesia International Law Institute; American Institute of Peace and Harvard Business School, USA. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Architects, Founding Member and Trustee of the Procurement Professionals Association of Nigeria. The technocrat is a recipient of several awards of excellence and commendation by the Federal Government as well as Professional and Management Institutions. He is widely travelled and has presented over 40 papers at national and international fora. So far Echono has brought to the TETFund job, diverse wealth of experience spanning infrastructure, business administration, procurement management, ICT and in-depth mastery of the education sector.

Arc. Sonny Echono was exemplary in the Civil Service. He grew through the ranks and served in various capacities at various times covering various ministries. At the federal Ministry of Works and Housing, he was Secretary, Implementation Committee on National Housing Policy, 1991-1995; Secretary, Special Projects Task Force, 1992-1995; Secretary, Committee on Lands and Housing, 1993-1995; Chief Executive Architect in charge of administration of the department, 1993-1994; Special Assistant to the Permanent Secretary, 1994-1999; Head, Council Affairs and Parastatals, 2003-2004; Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, 2004-2005. Arc. Sonny Echono was among the first set of civil servants deployed to the Budget Monitoring and Price Intelligence Unit (BMPIU) in the wake of procurement reforms in February 2015. In 2016, he was appointed Head of Team 'A' with responsibility for procurement review and certification of projects for Ministries of Works and Housing, FCT Administration, Transport, State House, Defence, Police and all the Security Agencies.

While in service, Arc. Sonny Echono acquired the following additional qualifications: Postgraduate Diploma in Management, University of Calabar, 2002; Master of Business Administration (MBA) Benue State University, 2004; Msc, Procurement Management, University of Turin, Italy, 2011. In October 2014, Arc. Sonny Echono was appointed Permanent Secretary in the Federal Civil Service. This saw him serve as Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Agriculture 2014-2015; Federal Ministry of Communications 2015-2017, and the Federal Ministry of Education from 2017 up until his retirement this year. His service to the profession of Architecture in Nigeria is equally impressive. He rose from being Secretary of the Admissions Committee in 1991 to the pinnacle of the profession as President, Nigeria Institute of Architects in November 2019. The TETFUND Executive Secretary attended several management courses and workshops at top institutions across the globe including; University of Bradford ,UK; Oxford University UK; University of Cambridge UK; Japan International Cooperation Agency; Japan Institute of Development Studies; Indonesia International Law Institute; American Institute for Peace and the Harvard Business School. He is also a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Architects founding member and trustee of the Procurement Professionals Association of Nigeria. A reformer per excellence, Arc. Echono has brought his wealth of experience as a seasoned technocrat to transform and improve the fortunes of TETFund. The tracks are beginning to be visible and it is hoped that the present administration and the other arms of government will give him the necessary support and encouragement to fulfill and exceed the mandate of the Fund. For Arc. Echono the Executive Secretary with a Midas touch it is not yet dawn as the sky is just the beginning. Keep soaring on the wings of Destiny.