

Quantity Surveyors Role in Sustainable Development in the Nigerian Construction Industry

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SUMMARY

Sustainable development is a critical aspect of the construction industry and has become a global priority as societies strive to balance economic growth, social progress, and environmental protection and Nigeria is no exception as a country with a rapidly growing population and increasing urbanization. The concept of sustainable development is to meet the needs of the present generation without putting in jeopardy the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The role of quantity surveyors in sustainable development is crucial as they play a vital role in managing costs, resources, and risks associated with construction projects. Quantity surveyors, as professionals specializing in cost management and procurement within the construction industry, are involved in all stages of a construction project, from inception to completion to final account settlement and have a unique position to contribute to sustainable development efforts.

The main objective of this paper is to explore the crucial role of quantity surveyors in promoting sustainable practices by integrating sustainability factors into cost estimation, procurement decisions, value engineering, risk assessment, and mitigation in line with sustainable development to balance economic, environmental and social needs, allowing prosperity for now and future generations. The significance of the paper is to identify quantity surveying competencies in contributing to sustainable construction.

The paper will begin by providing an overview of the concept of sustainable development and highlighting the need for interdisciplinary collaboration and the integration of sustainability principles into various sectors, including construction.

The paper will also delve into the specific contributions that quantity surveyors can make towards sustainable development through their expertise in cost management and whole life costing.

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Furthermore, this paper also addresses potential challenges that quantity surveyors may face in promoting sustainable development. These include resistance to change within the industry, limited awareness of sustainability issues among clients and contractors, and the need for continuous professional development to enhance sustainability knowledge and skills.

To conclude, this conference paper will emphasize on the indispensable role of quantity surveyors in advancing sustainable development within the construction industry. Their expertise in cost management, procurement, and stakeholder engagement positions them as key agents for driving positive change. By integrating sustainability principles into their practices, quantity surveyors can contribute significantly to achieving a more sustainable and resilient built environment.