

A KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY SEGUN AJANLEKOKO AT THE CASLE GOLDEN JUBILEE LUNCH HELD ON 14th. SEPTEMBER 2018

Good afternoon distinguished ladies and Gentlemen!

Let me welcome each one of you to this special and indeed momentous event - the commencement of the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of CASLE next year 2019.

I wish to recognise the presence of CASLE Management Board, CASLE Task Force members, representatives of RICS (Our Mentor), FIG, Built Environment Professionals in the Commonwealth (BEPIC), Commonwealth Human Ecology Council (CHEC), Aubrey Baker Fund, Survey Review Ltd, The Land Registry, Overseas Development Institute and The University of the West of England (Our Land Lord). Much of the day to day work of CASLE is carried out by the Secretary General, Susan Spedding, from a small office in the Faculty of Environment & Technology at the University of West of England and we are extremely grateful to the Executive Dean and Staff members for all their support since the CASLE office was established there in June 2004. (I can recognise some of them here today.)

I would particularly also like to warmly welcome and acknowledge the presence of Mr. Brian Harris. I cut my first teeth in quantity surveying at the then EC Harris now Arcadis where both Mr Brian Harris & Mr Simon Kolesar were Partners. One was a Super Boss and the other The Boss! I do owe them a world of gratitude for that early tutelage and encouragement.

Of course not to be forgotten to be mentioned into this gathering our spouses!

When I was growing as a child, I used to be fascinated and amazed about exotic cars that my Father's friends especially the Politicians used to ride in. (Please note that Politicians in Africa are not the same as the ones we have here nor indeed in Europe. I frequently would say to my Father that I will like to be very wealthy and rich when I grow up so that I can amass a lot of these exotic cars! Also own a lot of properties! My father, a private sector person, will nod his head and just say work hard son and they will all be yours. Then one day, as I started repeating the same statement of owning all exotic cars, he interjected and said to me. You know son it is good to be ambitious, to be rich and wealthy BUT and a big but for that matter and said 'The true wealth of a person is determined by the people that you surround yourself with, the people that you can call upon at anytime, at odd times, in whatever circumstances and they will be there for you! Just being rich cannot buy you happiness, cannot guarantee you good health! Today's gathering is an attestation of that statement.

Here today, in this gathering, seated here, CASLE has an array of people from all walks of life-dependable, reliable and loyal! You are indeed our wealth!

So when did the morning of CASLE start and the dream end? At a Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in 1965, the decision was taken to encourage

professional bodies to form associations of independent professional societies within the Commonwealth. As a result of this RICS brought together professional bodies in the field of surveying and land and marine economy and 'The Commonwealth Association of Surveying and Land Economy (CASLE)' was ratified by RICS General Council and inaugurated in September 1969.

We hope that you have received a copy of 'CASLE Retrospective - 1969-2019' pamphlet, which has been compiled by the Secretary General, Susan Spedding, and which contains many facts and figures particularly from the last 25 years. Much of the information from the early years of CASLE is contained in 'A history of the first 40 years' which was recorded by the late Dr Clifford Dann and which is available on the CASLE website. It is important to state here and now that as of today, CASLE has membership in 34 Commonwealth countries and correspondents in 19 other countries.

In the early years CASLE was funded by RICS and The Commonwealth Foundation, in addition to member association and individual and group associate annual subscriptions. Conferences, workshops and technical sessions were held every year in most regions of the Commonwealth and CASLE always had a very big presence and very high profile. Unfortunately over the years, funding was cut back by RICS and CASLE had to work on much smaller budget and was thus forced to cut down on its activities.

In 2013, The Commonwealth Foundation took the decision to withdraw all core and activity grants from Commonwealth Organisations and replace them with 'participatory grants', which tend to be for projects concerned with human/social issues rather than the sort of activities that CASLE undertakes in technological and educational transfer and exchange as well as issues designed to improve economic activity. This was a great blow which inevitably put huge constraints on the sort of activities that we could undertake and it meant that every event would have to be self-supporting. In addition this meant that we now rely heavily on members' subscription to fill this huge gap. But rather unfortunately these were relatively small compared to the activities that could be undertaken.

In 2013, the CASLE Task Force was set up with representatives from the built environment professions, academia and business, who work closely with the Secretary General and members of the CASLE Management Board. Members of the Task force provide international and Commonwealth liaison, advice on most areas of surveying education and the academic and technical/professional content of CASLE conferences. The Task Force has also provided Trustees in the following RICS International Standards Coalitions: Ethics (IES), Property (IPMS), Construction (ICMS), Land(ILMS) and Fire Safety (IFSS). I've often attended these Task Force meetings and it is insightful, exhaustive and indeed commendable.

During my Presidency in the past 4 years, CASLE has focused more on collaborating with Member Associations in organizing Annual conferences: - Takoradi in Ghana in 2015, Abuja in Nigeria in 2016, Dar es Salaam in Tanzania in 2017. We are now working with the Surveyors Institute of Zambia to organise an event in Lusaka in November/December 2018. Future plans include events in Botswana, and Zimbabwe. We will also be collaborating with CASLE Member Associations on specific projects in other regions of the Commonwealth most especially in the Asian countries and the West Indies.

Also in recent years CASLE has assisted member associations in matters relating to raising the profile of the profession and advising on the organisation and publicity of technical conferences and seminars, through advising on matters to do with costs, publicity, suitability of venues, accommodation, delegate fees, framework and programming of activities. Assistance is also given by advising on time scales, vetting of papers including peer review to comply with Global international standards. We also provide key note speakers.

Taking everything into consideration CASLE is still very influential and in addition it also maintain its Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), membership of the HABITAT Professionals Forum and the Global Land Tools Network.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have narrated to you the activities of the CASLE to date i.e. how far we have gone since inception. But today is the afternoon of CASLE! Must it die at 50? I must say without any equivocation that CASLE must survive!! It is the belief of the members of the Task Force and Management Board that there is indeed a big future for CASLEmore so now with post-Brexit. It is an unmitigated disaster if a man dies at mid-noon of his life. It is imperative that CASLE must live on!

The old cliché must guide us in this battle of survivability-which says ‘We must do it, if we don’t do it, we will be done’.

And so what we need to do is to change the narrative after 50 years of its existence. To help us to refocus and help chart a new road map which will make it more assertive and more relevant, is the kernel of this gathering this afternoon. (Mind you the food is free)!

While I have a firm conviction, for CASLE survival, we are all too anxious to hear from all of you what the journey should be after 50 years. We are very mindful of the pace of change Technology has brought into this 21st century to disrupt businesses and set a new tone for so many organisations. It definitely will or should come into the discussions of this afternoon.

We have therefore developed 7 questions that we hope will lead us into the activities (a work plan) that CASLE must embark upon if it is to survive and be more relevant after its golden jubilee. The questions are as follows-

1. Do you think the Commonwealth will be more relevant in member nations Post Brexit?
2. Is there still a need for organisations such as CASLE?
3. What are the areas CASLE must focus on?
4. How can we increase funding?
5. How can we increase its membership?
6. Who are the likely /possible sponsors?
7. The impact of technology on the future role?

Leaders will be identified to guide each discussion of what we will call the 7 point Agenda.

Finally, on behalf of CASLE management board and the Task Force I wish to express our profound thanks to RICS for their very generous contribution to this special CASLE event and in particular, James Kavanagh, the Director of Lands for all his assistance and support with the arrangements. There is hardly a request that Susan put across to him that did not meet with his tacit approval.

That takes me to my closing paragraph. RICS was responsible for the birth of CASLE. It can safely be said that RICS is the grandfather of CASLE after celebrating its 150 years of existence. That is no mean feat! What we hope for and solicit for is the establishment of a synergy between the two organisations. RICS can indeed leverage on the wide assemblage of Commonwealth member countries that are in CASLE, to warehouse its competencies, by investing in the FUTURE of CASLE. It must continue to invest in CASLE most especially now with post - Brexit. To buttress this assertion, I would like to narrate yet another story I read in Wikipedia about Ronald Wayne and 'Apple'.

A wise man once said that the future only belongs to those who have the ability to foresee it and sacrifice the pleasures of the present in order to gain it. As I read through a financial report that Apple (Company) has entered the trillion dollars realm, I was curious to know more about the company. In my search, I stumbled into a pathetic story concerning one of the co-founders of Apple by name, Ronald Wayne. This man co-founded Apple Computers (now Apple Inc.) with Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak. He drew the first Apple logo, drafted the first original agreement between the founders and wrote the first manual for their first computer. He held a 10% share in the company but soon decided to relinquish it for \$800 and was given additional \$1500 to forfeit all right of ownership two weeks after the company was officially registered in 1976. His reason for that decision was that the company was financially demanding. Today, if Ronald Wayne had kept his 10% share, he would have been worth over a 100 billion dollars. That would have

made him the richest or second richest man on earth. But the total value of what Ronald Wayne collected in 1976 stands at \$ 9,498 in 2017. Today Ronald Wayne is worth \$ 300,000 less than the million dollar mark, yet the agreement he drafted was sold for over a million dollars after he left. The first Apple product he ever owned was iPad 2 given to him in 2011. Ronald Wayne said it was demanding on him financially. If only he saw today, his decision of 1976 would have been so different. Everything of lasting value is highly demanding. Greatness is not a product of convenience. The greatness of tomorrow begins with the sacrifice of today.

If you need to live in a one room apartment today to own an estate tomorrow, do!
If you need to ride a tricycle today in order to distribute a Rolls Royce tomorrow, please do!

If you need to patronize fairly used clothes today to own a boutique tomorrow, please do!

The pain of knowing you had the opportunity at a point in life to change the course of your life is the greatest pain of regret to live with. Today Ronald Wayne in his right will be said to be financially OK at \$300,000 but hearing the news that the company he cofounded is the first company to hit the trillion dollars mark will send many thoughts to his mind - and the children? Had our father..... only God can describe what will be going on in their minds.

My counsel:

Where you see a future don't fail to invest.

Where you see a future don't fail to sacrifice.

Where you see a future don't fail to endure.

Where you see a future don't fail to persist

Where you see a future don't fail to believe.

The future truly belongs to those who can foresee it and give all it takes to get there. If you don't remember anything I have said so far, don't ever forget that 'Greatness in life is not a product of convenience - it is a product of sacrifice, perseverance and patience!'

Thank you all again for your attendance, for your time and indeed input; it is very much valued. I hope that you will enjoy the remainder of your day here with us.

Joseph Segun Ajanlekoko

President-CASLE

14th. September 2018