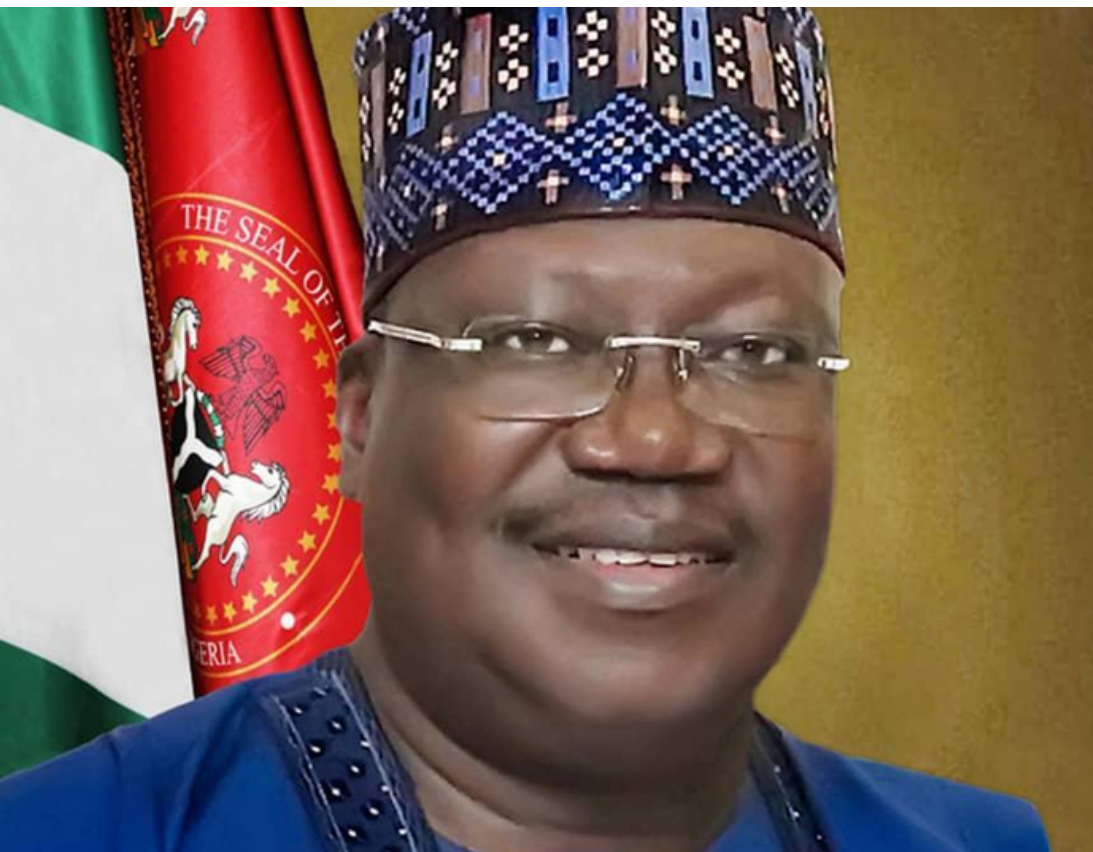




OCTOBER – DECEMBER
2021 | Issue No. 12

COPYRIGHT MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION



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- DG, NCC, Dr. Asein, others bag ANA Patriot Award

NASS, Stakeholders Commit to Speedy Passage of Copyright Amendment Bill

CREATIVE industry stakeholders have pledged massive support for early enactment of the Nigerian Copyright Amendment Bill just as Senate President,

Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Lawal, CON, and some key Senators have indicated the commitment of the National Assembly to its speedy consideration and passage into law.

At the executive and private member public hearing on the Copyright Bills by the Senate Committee on Trade and Investment and the Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, the Senate President, represented by Senator Aliu Sabi Abdullahi, underscored that the proposed repeal of the Copyright Act would play a crucial role in the development of the creative industry and the nation's economy.

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Copyright Commission Pledges Support for CMOs' Survival

THE Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) will do everything possible to assist Collective Management Organisations (CMOs) to survive in order to sustain wealth creation in the creative industry.

NCC Director-General, Dr. John O. Asein, gave this assurance while speaking at the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the Musical Copyright Society Nigeria (MCSN) in Lagos on 15th December 2021.

In his words: "We will do everything to ensure the survival of CMOs. Every CMO must be helped to survive because the anti-piracy battle has to be fought together. So, we will support CMOs just as we believe they will support us."

He added: "We will go the extra mile to assist CMOs to survive. We must do anything we can to show our belief in the CMO system and our support for the sustainable growth of CMOs."

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Director-General, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein, speaking at the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Musical Copyright Society Nigeria (MCSN) held on 15th December 2021 at LTV Event Hall, Lagos. Listening on the high table are (L-R): Musician, Sunny Neji; Chief Executive Officer, MCSN, Mr. Mayo Ayilaran; Juju Maestro, King Sunny Ade; Chairman, MCSN, Mr. Orits Williki and Flutist, Tee Mac Omatshola Iseli.

WIPO Nigeria Canvasses Integration of IP into National Planning Strategies

THE Federal Government has been urged to fully incorporate issues of Intellectual Property (IP) within the country's National Planning Strategies.

Counselor and Head of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Nigeria Office (WNO), Dr. Oluwatobiloba Moody, made the call in Abuja recently, as the Director-General of Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein inducted 18 winners and finalists of the WIPO National IP Essay Competition 2021 as Copyright Ambassadors.

The theme of the competition, instituted as part of activities marking the World Intellectual Property (IP) Day 2021, is: "IP, SMEs and Economic Recovery in Nigeria".

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During the induction of the 18 winners and finalists of the WIPO National IP Essay Competition 2021 as Copyright Ambassadors at the Headquarters of Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Abuja were: the overall winner, Miss Oyin Komolafe (M), flanked by (L-R) a runner-up, Miss Chimdiebere Anya-Awa; the representative of Director-General, NCC and Director, Finance and Accounts, Mr. Mark Obasi; Counselor and Head, WIPO Nigeria Office, Dr. Oluwatobiloba Moody; and another runner-up, Miss Honour Dahunsi.

NCC Arrests 3 Suspected Pirates, Books Worth N5m Confiscated

THREE booksellers have been arrested and suspected pirated books worth about five million Naira (N5,000,000) were impounded by operatives of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) during an enforcement operation at the Garki Modern Market in Abuja.

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Copyright Inspectors of Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) confiscating suspected pirated books at one of the bookshops in Garki Modern Market, Abuja, during an antipiracy operation on 14th December 2021.

NCC To Partner ANA to Boost Creativity in Schools

THE Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) is set to revive its youth and schools programme with the establishment of more Copyright and Creativity Clubs in schools to develop creativity and creative talents, promote respect for copyright and enhance the Commission's delivery on its statutory mandates.

Director-General of NCC, Dr. John O. Asein, made this known at the 40th Anniversary of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) and the commissioning of the ANA International Conference Centre at the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Mpape, Abuja on 5th November 2021.

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(L-R): At the opening ceremony of the 40th Anniversary of Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) at the Mamman Vatsa Writer's Village, Mpape, Abuja on 5th November 2021, Director-General, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein grants an interview while ANA President, Dr. Camillus Ukah (M) and Secretary-General, PAN African Writers' Association (PAWA), Dr. Wale Okediran (L), listen.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor-In-Chief

John O. Asein, Ph.D.

Editor

Vincent A. Oyefeso

Editorial Assistants

Ijeoma Egbunike
Olumide Oduntan
Mary Adegbile
Amos Abutu

IT

Yinka Lawal

Graphics

Uwem Udoh

Photography

Jacob Adache

COSON's Operating Licence Has Lapsed – Federal High Court

THE Federal High Court, Lagos, has upheld the position of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) that, in line with the Copyright Act and the Copyright (Collective Management) Regulations, the Copyright Society of Nigeria (COSON) ceased to exist as an approved Collective Management Organisation (CMO) with effect from 19th May 2019 when its operating licence lapsed.

Delivering his ruling in an application for interlocutory injunction brought by COSON in **Suit No. FHC/I/CS/425/2020**, Hon. Justice A. M. Liman on Wednesday, 1st December 2021 held, among others, that COSON was not entitled to the relief of an injunction to restrain the Commission from revoking its operating licence because the said licence that it sought to preserve had lapsed.

The court, in refusing the application, aligned with the position canvassed by the Commission that COSON did not satisfy the necessary conditions that would have enabled the Court to exercise its discretionary powers in its favour.

[Read More](#)



MCSN Donates Operational Vehicle, Equipment to Copyright Commission

MUSICAL Copyright Society of Nigeria (MCSN) has donated a Toyota Hiace bus, 20 HP Laptops and an HP Laserjet Pro-MFP colour printer to the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) to boost its regulatory and enforcement operations.

The donations were presented to the Director-General of NCC, Dr. John O. Asein, at the Commission's Headquarters, Abuja by MCSN Chairman, Mr. Orits Williki on 13th October 2021. He was accompanied by the Chief Executive Officer of MCSN, Mr. Mayo Ayilaran; President, Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN), Mr. Pretty Okafor and the Chairman of Audio Visual rights Society of Nigeria (AVRS), Dr. Mahmood Ali-Balogun.



Director-General, NCC, Dr. John O. Asein (R), receives the keys of a new operational vehicle – a Toyota Hiace bus – from the Chairman, MCSN, Mr. Orits Williki, during the presentation of the donation to the Commission at its Headquarters, Abuja.

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DG, NCC, Dr. Asein, Others Bag ANA Patriot Award

THE Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) has honoured the Director-General of Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein with the ANA Patriot Award in appreciation of his enduring and proactive partnership with the Association.

Other long-standing benefactors of ANA conferred with the prestigious ANA Patriot Award were the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Federal University, Lafia, Prof. Idris Amali and Mallam Yusuf Olaolu Ali, SAN.

National President of ANA, Dr. Camillus Ukah conferred the award on the beneficiaries at the ANA 40th Anniversary Dinner and Awards Night at the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Mpape, Abuja on Saturday, 6th November 2021.

[Read More](#)



In commemoration of the International White Cane Day 2021 on Friday, 15th October 2021, the Director-General, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein leads members of the Nigeria Association of the Blind (NAB) during an awareness walk from the Federal Secretariat to the National Centre for Women Development, Abuja.

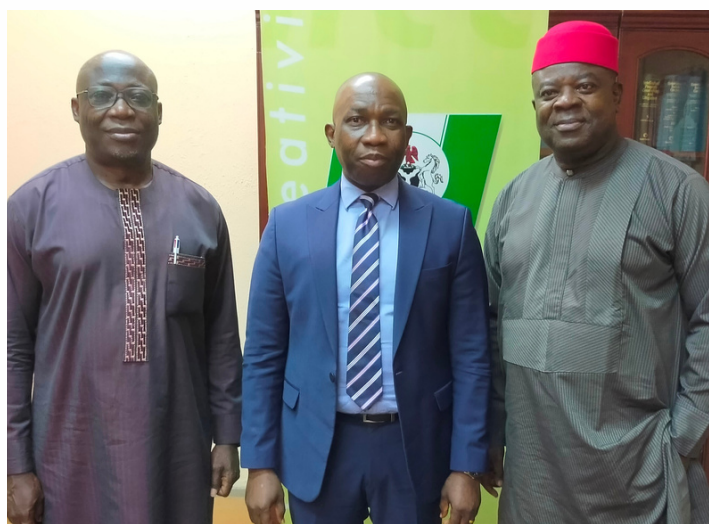
Copyright Commission Set for Regulations to Sanitise Book Industry

MORE regulatory interventions for total copyright compliance in the book chain will soon be introduced for publishers, printers and booksellers in the country.

Director-General of Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein, disclosed this during a consultative meeting with the new President of the Nigerian Publishers Association (NPA), Chief (Hon.) Uchenna Cyril Anioke and the immediate past NPA President, Mr. Gbadega Adedapo at the NCC Headquarters in Abuja recently.

Dr. Asein indicated that the Commission's interventions were geared at sanitising the book industry by creating an effective regulatory regime to enhance the protection and development of the creative industry.

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Director-General, NCC, Dr. John O. Asein flanked by the newly elected President of NPA, Chief (Hon.) Uchenna Cyril Anioke (R) and the immediate past President of NPA, Mr. Gbadega Adedapo, during a courtesy visit to the Commission on, 27th September 2021.



NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION

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Head Office:

Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Annex II (Ground Floor),
Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama. P.M.B. 406, Garki Abuja.

Tel: 090 1900 1400 Anti-piracy: 090 1900 3200

www.copyright.gov.ng info@copyright.gov.ng

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NCC Establishes Copyright and Creativity Club in Secondary School

THE Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has established a Copyright and Creativity Club at the Government Senior College, Ikoyi, Lagos. The event, which took place in the school on 24th November 2021, featured the induction of students and teachers into the club as well as lectures on the Basics of Copyright, copyright-based poems and songs.

Speaking during the launch of the club, the Director of NCC Lagos Office, Mr. Matthew Ojo, who represented the Director-General, Dr. John Asein, said that establishing the clubs in secondary schools became necessary in order to enlighten the students on the laws guiding copyright and the importance of creativity to the nation.

"The aspiration of the Director-General is that we launch the programme across the nation so that more secondary schools will have the opportunity to be introduced to the essence of copyright at the early stage," he said.

According to him, "The expectation is that from the beginning, the students would have been inculcated with the idea of what copyright is, how copyright is protected and what rights are embedded in copyright. The students will be exposed to the basics of copyright and the Copyright Act."

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Deputy Director and Head of Legal, NCC Lagos Office, Mrs. Lynda Alpheus inducts Miss Titiloluwa Oye, an S.S. 3 student of Government Senior College, Ikoyi, during the launch of the school's Copyright and Creativity Club and induction of the students into the club in Lagos on 24th November 2021.

NCC Arrests 3 Piracy Suspects in Benin, Seizes Books Worth N800,000

THE Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), in its efforts at curbing book piracy in the country, has impounded books worth about eight hundred thousand Naira in an antipiracy operation carried out in Benin, Edo State, on 10th November 2021.

The State Coordinator of NCC Benin Office, Mr. Joseph Ajang, disclosed that three piracy suspects were arrested during the strategic raid carried out on two bookshops in Benin metropolis, namely Hi-mark Bookshop located at No. 1 Ibiwe Street and Fine Country Bookshop, located at No. 2 Ibiwe Street, Benin City.

He indicated that, following a tip off from a copyright stakeholder in the state, operatives of NCC swung into action, by conducting surveillance activities leading to the raid on the shops.

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The Assistant Director and State Coordinator, NCC Benin Office, Mr. Joseph Ajang (L) and other Copyright Operatives inspecting books on display for sale at Fine Country Bookshop, No. 2 Ibiwe Street, off Ring Road, Benin, during the antipiracy operation on 10th November 2021.

NCC, Publishers Urged to Partner Education Boards to Curb Piracy

EXECUTIVE Chairman of Akwa Ibom State Secondary Education Board, Hon. (Dr.) Ekaete Ebong Okon has canvassed effective collaboration between the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), the Board and publishers to enhance the success of the national anti-piracy campaign in Akwa Ibom State schools.

The Executive Chairman made the call on 14th October 2021 during a copyright awareness visit by the NCC State Coordinator, Uyo Office, Mr. Elijah Akpan, to solicit the support of the Board for the Commission's quest to check the rising incidence of book piracy in the State during the 2021 book season.

Hon. (Dr.) Okon urged the Commission to check the ugly trend of publishers delaying the release of books during the book season, thereby giving room for the influx of pirated books into the distribution outlets. She added that the delay also encouraged the practice of some publishers and their representatives who allegedly engaged in piracy.

The Executive Chairman called for proper enlightenment of teachers, students and pupils on copyright values in schools. She thanked the Commission for the sensitisation on the scope and mandate of the Commission and for also recognising the Board as an important stakeholder in the fight against piracy.

Earlier, the NCC State Coordinator had used the opportunity to sensitise the Board members on the ills of piracy and the Commission's commitment towards changing the copyright narrative for sustainable wealth creation in the country.



NCC State Coordinator, Uyo, Mr. Elijah Akpan addresses the Executive Chairman of the State Secondary Education Board in Akwa Ibom State, Hon. (Dr.) Mrs. Ekaete Ebong Okon (R) in her office, during a courtesy visit on 14th October 2021, while other visiting NCC Staff listen.

NCC DG Visits Uyo Office, Attends Deputy Governor's Birthday Thanksgiving

THE Director-General of Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein, as part of his proactive drive to reposition the State Offices of the Commission for administrative efficiency, paid a working visit to the Akwa Ibom State Office of the Commission to assess the state of the office building for possible renovation.

During the visit on 26th December 2021, he tasked staff members of the Uyo Office on the need for resourcefulness, dedication to duty and safeguarding of all Government properties entrusted to their care while reassuring them of the Commission's commitment to staff welfare and continuous improvement of working conditions.

The DG used the occasion of the visit to attend a thanksgiving mass at St. John Pro Cathedral Church, Abak, Akwa Ibom State, to mark the 80th birthday of the pioneer Director-General of the Commission and incumbent Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State, His Excellency, Mr. Moses F. Ekpo. The event, attended by the State Governor, His Excellency, Udom Emmanuel and his wife, had in attendance friends, political appointees and associates in the state and beyond.



His Excellency, Deputy Governor, Akwa Ibom State and pioneer Director-General, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Mr. Moses Ekpo (L) and Director-General, NCC, Dr. John O. Asein after the thanksgiving mass marking the 80th birthday of the Deputy Governor in Abak, Akwa Ibom State on 26th December 2021.

NCC Lauds Nollywood Veterans in Enugu

IN the spirit of the yuletide season, the Director-General, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein has paid a goodwill visit to some veteran actors, stakeholders and founding members of the film industry in Enugu State.

Represented by the Director of NCC Enugu Office, Mrs. Cecilia Okeke, Dr. Asein stated during his visit on 19th December 2021 that the courtesy visit was necessary as a token of appreciating the veteran creators and celebrities for their contributions to the development of the creative industry.

He gave assurances that the Commission would continue to administer the copyright law and regulations to guarantee the protection of the rights of authors and encourage creativity.

The veteran actors who were very elated, thanked the DG and the Management and staff of the Commission for the various efforts geared at repositioning the copyright industry.

Mrs. Okeke who was accompanied by other staff of the NCC Enugu Office used the opportunity to assure the veterans that the Commission remained committed to fighting copyright piracy, sanitising the distribution channels of copyright works and prosecuting pirates across the country.



Director, Enugu State Directorate, Mrs Cecilia Okeke (L) presenting a gift to veteran Nollywood actor, Chief Chika Okpala a.k.a. Zebrudaya (R) in his home in Enugu on 19th December 2021; while other NCC staff look on.

Oyo Info Commissioner Pledges Support for Anti-piracy Campaign

OYO State Commissioner for Information, Culture and Tourism, Dr. Wasiu Adewale Olatunbosun has assured Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) of support in the implementation of the national copyright protection and anti-piracy campaign in the state.

Dr. Olatunbosun gave the assurance when the Deputy Director and State Coordinator of NCC Ibadan Office paid him a copyright advocacy visit in his Ibadan office on 13th October 2021.

The Information Commissioner noted the relevance of copyright promotion and protection to the quest for sustainable national economic development. He commended the Commission for its regulatory and enforcement interventions aimed at ensuring that authors and copyright owners get return on their investments.

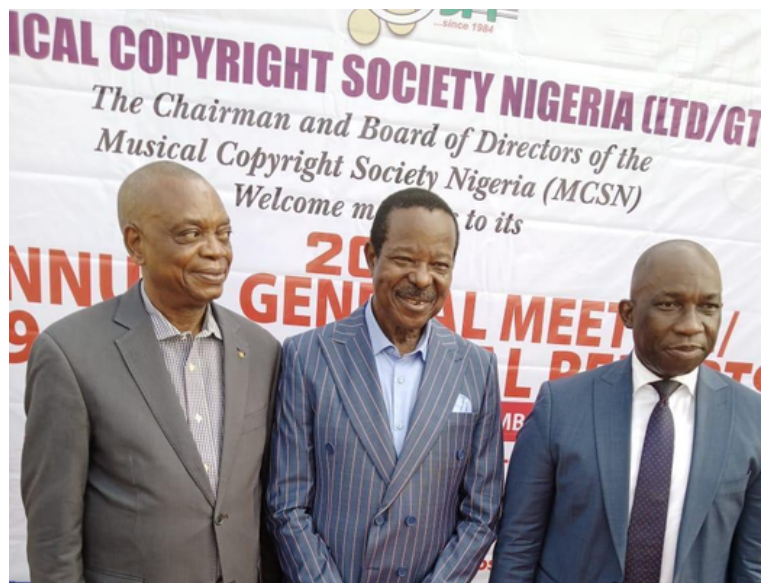
Earlier, the NCC State Coordinator had canvassed the Commissioner's partnership for the nation's antipiracy campaign "geared towards ensuring that all stakeholders and the public know and understand what copyright entails and its administration and enforcement for the benefit of creators and the country at large".

The State Coordinator also led a five-member NCC staff delegation on a copyright advocacy visit to the Honourable Justice Uche Agomoh of the Federal High Court, Ibadan on 26th November 2021.

Mrs. Ogundiran underscored the need for speedy adjudication of copyright cases in the interest of the creative industry and the nation's economic well-being.



The Deputy Director and State Coordinator of NCC Ibadan Office, Mrs. Olabisi Ogundiran presenting the Copyright Act to the Hon. Commissioner, Oyo State Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Dr. Wasiu Adewale Olatunbosun on 13th November 2021.



Juju music legend, King Sunny Ade, flanked by Director-General, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John O. Asein (R) and Chief Executive Officer of Musical Copyright Society Nigeria (MCSN), Mr. Mayo Ayilaran at the 2021 Annual General Meeting of MCSN held in Lagos on 15th December 2021.



The Counselor and Head, WIPO Nigeria Office, Dr. Oluwatobiloba Moody (M), with Director, Public Affairs, NCC, Mr. Vincent A. Oyefeso (3rd L), grants a press interview during the study visit of 18 winners and finalists of the WIPO National IP Essay Competition 2021 at the NCC Headquarters, Abuja, recently.



Director-General, NCC, Dr. John O. Asein, welcomes the General Manager, National Theatre, Lagos, Prof. Sunday Enesi Ododo (R) to the NCC Exhibition Stand during the ANA 40th Anniversary at the Mamman Vatsa Writers Village, Mpape, Abuja, while (L-R), NCC Assistant Director, Public Affairs, Ms. Oyebola Oyewo and Senior Copyright Officer, Public Affairs, Mr. Amos Abutu, watch.



The Counselor and Head, WIPO Nigeria Office, Dr. Oluwatobiloba Moody (R) makes some remarks during the study visit of the 18 winners and finalists of the WIPO National IP Essay Competition 2021 at the NCC Headquarters, Abuja while the representative of Director-General, NCC and Director, Finance and Accounts, Mr. Mark Obasi listens.



Director-General, NCC, Dr. John O. Asein, delivers a goodwill message during the International White Cane Day 2021 commemoration programme at the National Centre for Women Development, Abuja, on 15th October 2021. With him are (L-R): Women Leader, Nigeria Association of the Blind (NAB), Ms. Amina Usman; Chairman, NAB FCT Chapter, Jacob Agada; and Women Leader, Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD), Mrs. Mube Beatrice.



Director-General, NCC, Dr. John O. Asein (M) makes a remark during the donation of one operational vehicle and some equipment to NCC by MCSN in Abuja. Listening are (L-R): CEO MCSN, Mr. Mayowa Ayilaran; Chairman, MCSN, Orits Williki; Chairman of Audio Visual Rights Society (AVRS), Dr. Mahmood Ali-Balogun and President, Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN), Mr. Pretty Okafor.



Some of the working tools – LaserJet Pro MFP M428dw Colour Printer and HP Laptops – on display during the presentation of the facilities to the NCC by the MCSN, at the Commission's Headquarters, Abuja.



Director, Lagos Office, Mr. Matthew Ojo and some NCC staff pictured with students of Government Senior College, Ikoyi who were newly inducted into the school's Copyright and Creativity Club during its launch in Lagos on 24th November 2021.



The Assistant Director and State Coordinator, NCC Benin Office, Mr. Joseph Ajang (L) and other Copyright Operatives inspecting books on display for sale at Fine Country Bookshop, No. 2 Ibiwe Street, off Ring Road, Benin, during an antipiracy operation on 10th November 2021.



Operatives of NCC carting away suspected pirated books during an antipiracy operation carried out at Garki Modern Market, Abuja on 14th December 2021.

Photosplash



NCC State Coordinator, Uyo Office, Mr. Elijah Akpan (4th L) and Executive Chairman, Akwa Ibom State Secondary Education Board, Dr. (Mrs.) Ekaete Ebong Okon (3rd R) in a group photograph with some Board members and NCC staff during a courtesy visit by officers of NCC Uyo Office on 14th October 2021.



Veteran Actor, Chief Pete Edochie, aka Ogadagidi, the Ebudedike 1 of Nteje, Anambra State (M) and Director, NCC Enugu Office, Mrs. Cecilia Okeke (4th-L) in company of other NCC Enugu staff during a courtesy visit to the veteran actor.



The KPG Show kiddies in a group photograph with an author, Mr. Charles Eze aka Naniboi (R) and Director, NCC, Enugu Office, Mrs. Cecilia Ngozi Okeke (L) during the Commission's copyright sensitisation of the children at a Christmas party for kids of Kiddies Play Group organised by 100.9 FM Radio Station, Enugu on 11th December 2021. The girl in red is carrying the NCC Christmas Cake provided for the occasion.



The Deputy Director and State Coordinator of NCC Ibadan Office, Mrs. Olabisi Ogundiran during her copyright advocacy visit to the Honourable Justice Agomoh of the Federal High Court, Ibadan, on 26th November 2021.



From the Director-General

LET THE BLIND READ

This is a good time to reflect on the book as an enduring legacy with which humanity has been endowed, and address the perceived decline in the reading culture in Nigeria. The essence of reading, particularly for leisure and personal enjoyment, cannot be over emphasised. Reading is to the mind what physical exercise is to the body; it is food for the soul, the chisel that helps shape who we become in today's knowledge driven world. Books develop the personality and stimulate imagination, taking us to faraway lands that we may never visit physically. Reading unlocks the potentials in us and fires our creative talents to innovate and build our society.

Incidentally, the book remains the most resilient and prevalent copyright work today. It has helped grow human civilization and, over the centuries, has contributed to the development of virtually all fields of human endeavour, including education, religion, research and entertainment. In today's digital world, it is imperative that authors and publishers should make changes in their business and distribution model so as to make the book more attractive to younger readers on the new media and digital platforms.

The Commission will continue to develop policies and strategies to facilitate a culture of respect for authorship and copyright works. We will step up our enforcement and prosecutorial activities to stem the tide of copyright infringements both off and online. We are discussing with the Nigerian Publishers Association to explore ways of creating safe corridors for the distribution of legitimate books in Nigeria. We will also reinvigorate our compliance checks in schools and other institutions of learning to sensitise them on the need to patronise only genuine copies of books through legitimate channels of distribution.

Henceforth, proprietors, heads of schools and authorities in charge will be held vicariously responsible for any pirated books distributed to pupils and students through their schools.

We shall also be taking appropriate steps under the law to sanction institutions found involved in mindless and unconscionable use and promotion of pirated books.

The Commission has also embraced developments in the international copyright community to create a more inclusive culture of access to published works for blind and visually impaired persons, as well as persons who are otherwise print disabled. Nigeria, in October 2017, ratified the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled. We have also gone ahead to make provision for the domestication of the treaty in the new Copyright Bill which is now at the National Assembly.

On a more practical note, the Commission, with help from the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and its Accessible Book Consortium, is collaborating with the Nigeria Association of the Blind (NAB), the Nigerian Publishers Association (NPA), the Reproduction Rights Society of Nigeria (REPRONIG), and other key stakeholders to provide more books in accessible formats for blind and visually impaired persons in Nigeria.

A pilot project on capacity building assistance, provision of accessible books and assistive technologies to students in that category has already commenced. This is another demonstration of the Federal Government's policy on inclusiveness, equal access and non-discrimination against persons living with disabilities. On its part, the Commission will continue to propagate the campaign to **"Let the Blind Read"**.

Excerpts from an address by Director-General, NCC, Dr. John O. Asein, at the World Book and Copyright Day, 23 April 2019



NCC Offices

NCC HEADQUARTERS

Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase I, Annex II
(Ground Floor), Shehu Shagari Way, Maitama.
P.M.B. 406, Garki Abuja, F.C.T.

Antipiracy: 09019003200

Copyright e-Registration: 09019011230, 08183413611

DG's Office: 09019001400, 09019001401

Web: copyright.gov.ng

Email: info@copyright.gov.ng

E-Registration: eregistration.copyright.gov.ng

Facebook: Nigerian Copyright Commission

Instagram: @copyrightnigeria

BAUCHI

High Court Close, off Ahmadu Bello Way,
P.M.B. 0049, Bauchi, Bauchi State.

Mr. Nasiru Tijani Ahmed

Email: bauchi@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001404

BENIN

Block F1, Basement Floor, Federal Secretariat Complex,
Aduwawa, P.O.Box 13906, Benin-City, Edo State.

Mr. Joseph A. Ajang

Email: benin@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001405

ENUGU

10 Club Road, (1st Floor) Opposite Ikenga Hotel,
P.M.B. 05166, Enugu, Enugu State.

Mrs. Ngozi C. Okeke

Email: enugu@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001406

IBADAN

University Press Plc Premises, Magazine Road, Jericho,
P.M.B. 5095. Ibadan, Oyo State.

Mrs. Olabisi Ogundiran

Email: ibadan@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001407

ILORIN

Kwara State Art and Culture Complex, P.M.B. 1471,
Ilorin, Kwara State.

Mrs. Bilikis Bello

Email: ilorin@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001408

KADUNA

2nd Floor, Federal Secretariat, Ali Akilu Road, Kawo,
P.M.B. 2406, Kaduna, Kaduna State.

Mr. Hassan T, Usman

Email: kaduna@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001418

KANO

Ministry of Information Building, Audu Bako
Secretariat, P.M.B. 3186, Kano, Kano State.

Mr. Aliyu Shehu Gulani

Email: kano@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001419

LAGOS

16, Aloba Street Ebute Metta West , P.M.B. 12723,
GPO, Marina, Lagos State.

Mr. Matthew D. A. Ojo

Email: lagos@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001403

MAKURDI

37 J.S.Tarka Road, P.M.B. 102104, Makurdi, Benue
State.

Mr. Thomas Mgbannun

Email: makurdi@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001420

ONITSHA

Ministry of Justice Building, Enugu Road, Onitsha
Anambra State.

Mr. Gabriel Anikwem

Email: onitsha@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001421

OWERRI

Orlu Road Secretariat Complex, P.M.B. 1014, Owerri,
Imo State.

Mr. Michael O. Madueke

Email: owerri@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001422

PORT HARCOURT

Federal Secretariat, 7th Floor, Aba Road, Port Harcourt,
Rivers State.

Mrs. Nkechi Ezinma

Email: portharcourt@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001423

UYO

15 Wellington Basseway Way, P.M.B. 1226,
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Mr. Elijah J. Akpan

Email: uyo@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001424

YOLA

1 Ahmed Talib Way, P.M.B. 1221, Jimeta, Yola,
Adamawa State.

Mr. Yusuf Ibrahim

Email: yola@copyright.gov.ng

Telephone: 09019001425