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Issue No. 29

# COPYRIGHT MATTERS

A NEWSLETTER OF THE NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION

## Judiciary Reaffirms Commitment to Strengthening IP Adjudication

**AS** part of efforts to foster innovation, creativity, and economic development in Nigeria, the Judiciary has pledged to strengthen its capacity for the adjudication of Intellectual Property (IP) cases.

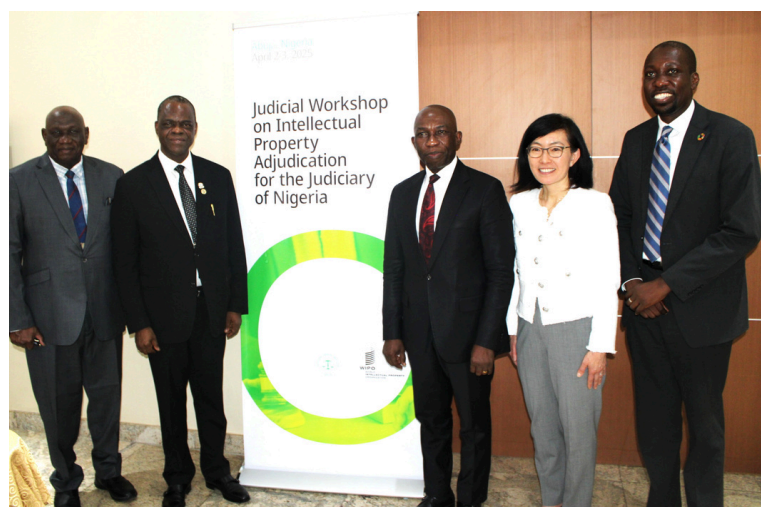
This commitment was made by judges of the Federal High Court, legal practitioners, and other stakeholders in the IP sector at the conclusion of a two-day Judicial Workshop on Intellectual Property Adjudication, held from 2nd to 3rd April 2025 in Abuja. The workshop was jointly organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the National Judicial Institute (NJI).

Delivering his opening address, Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Hon. Justice John Terhemba Tsoho, emphasised the pivotal role of IP rights in incentivizing creativity and innovation. He noted that such rights are fundamental in recognising and rewarding creators for their ingenuity and dedication.

He called on judges and legal professionals to continually deepen their knowledge and expertise in IP, urging a proactive and informed approach to adjudication that both protects the rights of innovators and serves the public interest.

"The evolving nature of IP disputes means that traditional methods of adjudication and legal interpretation are no longer sufficient. The cases before our courts today seem beyond physical property. They involve inventions, brands and digital contents. As Judicial Officers, your decisions in IP matters must not only dispense justice but also promote legal certainty, stimulate economic growth and contribute to national development" he stated.

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*L-R: Administrator, National Judicial Institute (NJI), Hon. Justice Salisu Garba Abdullahi (Rtd.); Chief Judge, Federal High Court, Hon. Justice John Terhemba Tsoho; Director-General NCC, Dr. John Asein; Director, WIPO Judicial Institute, IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, Ms. Eun-Joo Min; and Director, WIPO Nigeria Office, Dr. Oluwatobiloba Moody at the Judicial Workshop on Intellectual Property Adjudication, NJI Abuja, 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.*

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# NCC Holds Capacity Building Training for Staff Members

**THE** Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has reaffirmed its commitment towards enhancing the competence of its staff through an In-House Capacity Building programme for staff members on Grade Level 08 to 15, on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The one-day training session focused on enhancing professional writing and communication skills among personnel.

Declaring the programme open, the Director-General of the NCC, Dr. John Asein highlighted the significance of upskilling staff particularly in areas such as official correspondence, proposal writing and public presentations. He noted that these competencies are essential as staff increasingly engage with high level stakeholders both within and outside Nigeria. Dr. Asein also reiterated the Commission's dedication to ongoing staff development through targeted trainings.

The training featured presentations by former Directors of the Commission and Intellectual Property (IP)/ Copyright Consultants, Mr. Mike Akpan and Mr. Obi Ezeilo; Director, Finance and Accounts, NCC, Mr. Umoudo M. Etete and Assistant Chief Admin Officer (ACAO), Rules and Regulation Department, Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF), Mr. Dogo Michael.

Resource persons shared their expertise on the following topics: Reports and Proposals Writing, Fundamentals of the Copyright Act, NCC Operational Manual and Financial Regulations.

The Director, Human Resources Management (HRM) Department of the Commission, Mrs. Susan Bashorun, commended the Director-General for facilitating the capacity building session and enjoined staff to complement the training through continuous learning, reading, and practical application of the knowledge gained.

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*Principal Partner, Alpha-Edge Legal and former Director, NCC, Mr. Mike Akpan, delivering a presentation on Report and Proposal Writing during the capacity building training for NCC staff at the Commission's Headquarters, Abuja, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.*



# 2025 World Intellectual Property Day: NCC Sensitizes Abuja Residents on Copyright, Creators' Rights

**AS** part of activities to wrap-up the 2025 World Intellectual Property Day celebration, the Management and Staff of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) at the Headquarters, sensitized the public on the importance of Copyright and the protection of Creators' Rights, around the Federal Secretariat Complex, Abuja on 28th April 2025.

The Director-General NCC, Dr. John Asein, in his goodwill message acknowledged the crucial role of IP in protecting and promoting musical works, noting that Nigerian music has become a global phenomenon, showcasing the country's creative talents.

Addressing staff members before the exercise on behalf of the DG-NCC, the Director Operations Mr. Emeka Ogbonna, stated the Commission's commitment to create an enabling environment where creativity flourishes and creators are valued. He assured that the Commission will leverage the momentum of the 2025 World IP Day to drive programmes and interventions that support Nigerian Musicians.

"We envision a music industry where creativity thrives, creators are valued and receive fair financial rewards for their works" Dr. Asein stressed, while soliciting the support and collaboration of stakeholders and the public in this regard.

Recounting some of the challenges faced by Nigerian musicians, including low remuneration and digital piracy, he gave assurances that the NCC has put in place policies to provide necessary legal, institutional and technological support that will empower creators to ensure fair compensation.

The DG-NCC informed that the Collective Management Regulations has been revised to promote transparency and accountability of Collective Management Organisations. He added that following the recent designation of the Commission as a relevant organisation, by the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation, pursuant to Section 81 of the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act 2022, the Commission has been further empowered to fight online piracy.

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Some Directorate level staff of the NCC at the Commission's Headquarters with representative of the DG, Director Operations, Mr. Emeka Ogbonna (7th L) during the 2025 World Intellectual Property Day celebration in Abuja, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

# DG NCC Charges Women on Financial Discipline and Investment



*Guest Speaker, Mrs. Gbemisola Salako, delivering a lecture on Empowering Women through Financial Management to mark the 2025 International Women's Day celebration at the Commission's Headquarters Abuja, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.*

**The** Director-General, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John Asein, has called on female staff of the Commission to prioritise their financial security by embracing financial discipline and strategic investments.

Dr. Asein made the call during the 2025 International Women's Day (IWD) celebration, themed "Accelerate Action" held at the Commission's Headquarter in Abuja on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

In his goodwill message the DG encouraged women to take proactive steps towards improving their financial well-being, emphasising that empowered individuals can bring about broader societal transformations. He acknowledged the fears surrounding investment due to negative experiences but assured staff that there are reliable options such as government bonds. He advised them to consult financial experts to make informed decision and grow their investments sustainably.

Reflecting on the day's theme, Dr. Asein noted that while its common to feel that money is never enough, saving is a choice that comes with long term benefits and consequences. He stressed the importance of adopting a disciplined mindset towards financial empowerment and urged staff to take practical steps such as reading relevant books and seeking credible investment information to build a solid financial foundation.

The keynote speaker, Mrs. Gbemisola Salako, delivered a lecture titled **"Accelerate Action: Empowering Women through Financial Management"**. She spoke extensively on financial inclusion and its benefits for women, effective budgeting and saving strategy, for investment; Understanding how budget works; access to credit and loans, and practical tools for economic empowerment.

Mrs. Salako emphasised the importance of shifting financial mindset regardless of personal background. She highlighted the role of financial education in enabling women to make better economic decisions and drive meaningful change in their finances.

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## NCC Reaffirms Commitment to Sustainable Growth of Nigeria's Music Industry

**AS** the world marks World Intellectual Property (IP) Day 2025, the Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John Asein, has reaffirmed the Commission's dedication to enhancing monetisation strategies and supporting the sustainable growth of Nigeria's dynamic music industry.

Dr. Asein made this declaration in his opening remarks at a webinar titled "Copyright Essentials in the Music Business: Protecting Creativity and Maximising Value", held on Friday, 25th April 2025, as part of global activities commemorating World IP Day. The theme for this year's celebration is "IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP."

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## Teachers, Students Delight at Copyright Knowledge, as NCC Recommits to Strengthening the Creative Sector



Director, Nigerian Copyright Academy (NCA), Mrs. Funmi Adewale (M), some staff members of the Commission and staff and students of Lead British International School, Gwarinpa Abuja during a copyright awareness programme in the school, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

**TEACHERS** and students have expressed optimism that the Copyright enlightenment Programme of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) will help bridge copyright knowledge gap and boost creative in the country.

Students and staff members of Lead British International School (LBIS), Gwarinpa, Abuja disclosed this during a sensitization exercise on the *Basics of Copyright and the Economic potentials of Creativity* organised by the Nigerian Copyright Academy, the training arm of the Commission in the school on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

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DG NCC, Dr. John Asein (3rd L) and Director, Human Resource Management, Mrs. Susan Bashorun (3rd R) with Corp members serving at the Commission's Headquarters during a two-day training session in Abuja, 12th March 2025.

## DG-NCC Urges NYSC Members to Serve as Change Agents in Protecting Creativity

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John Asein, has called on members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) serving with the Commission to be proactive, creative, and digitally skilled in promoting copyright awareness and safeguarding intellectual property in Nigeria.

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## NCC, IFPI and RELPI Hold Strategic Session on Digital Rights Enforcement



Representative of the DG NCC, Director, Operations, Mr. Emeka Ogbonna (2<sup>nd</sup> L) and International Federation of Phonographic Industry (IFPI) Regional Director, Ms. Angel Ndabule (3<sup>rd</sup> L) with representatives of Record Labels Proprietors Initiative (RELPI) and staff of NCC during an interactive session at the Commission's Headquarters, Abuja, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**STAKEHOLDERS** in Nigeria music Industry have been urged to show greater commitment towards the effective implementation of key digital provisions under the Copyright Act.

This call was made during an interactive session hosted by the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) at its headquarters in Abuja on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025, involving representatives from the International Federation of Phonographic Industry (IFPI) and the Record Labels Proprietors Initiative (RELPI).

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Director PRS, Mr. Collins Nweke (R) receiving a copy of the Nigerian Startup Act and souvenirs from National Coordinator, Office of the Nigerian Digital Innovation (ONDI), Mrs. Victoria Fabunmi, during an advocacy visit to NCC Headquarters, Abuja, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## NCC, ONDI to Foster Creativity and Innovation

**THE** Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) and the Office of Nigerian Digital Innovation (ONDI), a parastatal under the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) are set to commence a strategic partnership that will drive creativity, innovation, growth in the nation's digital space, while also safeguarding the rights of Copyright owners.

The initiative was disclosed during the visit of the Office for ONDI to the NCC Headquarters, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, to explore areas of possible collaborations that will strengthen creativity, innovation and growth of the country's technological and digital economy.

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## 2025 Abuja Book City Flag-Off 2025: NCC Calls for More Investment in Reading Infrastructure



Representative of the DG NCC, Director, Public Affairs, Mrs. Ijeoma Egbunike, delivering the Keynote Address during the Flag-off ceremony of the 2025 Abuja Book City organized by Network of Book Clubs and Reading Culture Promoters (NBRP) at TETFUND Auditorium Abuja, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**NIGERIAN** Copyright Commission (NCC) has urged stakeholders, private sector partners, and international development agencies to increase investment in reading infrastructure such as libraries, reading corners, book fairs, literacy programmes and to publish books in accessible formats.

Director-General, NCC who was represented by the Director, Public Affairs, Mrs. Ijeoma Egbunike noted that reading is not just a skill but a partway to empowerment and growth, adding that literate nations

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# NCC Lauds Dr. Okediran at 70

**THE** Copyright Commission (NCC) has applauded the outstanding contributions of Dr. Wale Okediran, renowned physician, author, literary icon, and Secretary-General of the Pan African Writers Association (PAWA), for his enduring legacy in shaping the literary landscape of Nigeria and Africa.

The commendation was delivered in a goodwill message from the Director-General of the NCC, Dr. John Asein, in commemoration of Dr. Okediran's 70th birthday at the **April Reading and Writers' Dialogue**, themed "Pen, Politics and Practice." The event, hosted by the Abuja Chapter of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA), took place on Saturday, 19th April 2025, at the Mamman Vatsa Writers' Village, Mpape, Abuja. It also featured the launch of Dr. Okediran's latest book, *Medicine and Literature Without Borders*.

The DG represented by Assistant Director, Public Affairs, Mr. Andrew Dyege, praised Dr. Okediran for his unwavering dedication to the growth of African literature, national development, and community service. He assured participants of the Commission's continued support and collaboration in promoting literary excellence and protecting the rights of authors, ensuring they receive just rewards for their intellectual exertion.

During a panel discussion held as part of the celebration, Dr. Okediran encouraged Nigerian writers to use their craft to confront societal issues and promote positive change. He acknowledged the challenges of the writing profession but emphasized the importance of excellence and mutual support among writers.

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Representative of the DG, NCC, Assistant Director, Public Affairs, Mr. Andrew Dyege, delivering DG's Goodwill Message at the Association of Nigerian Authors' April Reading/Writers Dialogue and 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Dr. Wale Okediran at Mamman Vatsa Writers Village, Mpape Abuja, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



# NEWS FROM STATE OFFICES



Assistant Director, NCC, Port-Harcourt Office Mr. Joseph Ojika with Officers of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) during the Broadcast Raid in Port-Harcourt, 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## NCC Kano Celebrates World IP Day with Music Competition

AS part of activities to mark World Intellectual Property Day celebration 2025, the Kano Office of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) organised a music competition on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at Izzazudeen School Complex, Gwale LGA, Kano State.

NCC Kano State Coordinator, Mr. Ahmad Sani said the competition was organised to promote creativity among the youth in line with the WIPO Day theme for the year, *IP and Music: Feel the Beat*.

Eleven students from various classes participated, showcasing their talents in music and lyrics writing. Contestants were given 20 minutes to compose their lyrics, after which each performed their work before a panel of judges who assessed them based on creativity, presentation, and lyrical quality.

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## NCC Port-Harcourt Raids Piracy Spots, Impounds Contrivances

THE Nigerian Copyright Commission, NCC, Port-Harcourt Office on the 7th March, 2025 carried out a Broadcast Piracy Raid at two locations in Port-Harcourt Metropolis, Agip Village and Mile 2, Diobu.

Director, Port-Harcourt Office, Mr. Abdul Salami Babatunde, informed that the raids were carried out following reports of widespread illegal rebroadcasting of signals belonging to Multi-choice Nigeria.

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Master Muhammad Aminu Tahir, winner of 1st position in the music composition competition organised by NCC Kano Office to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day 2025 receiving his prize from retired Director, Ministry of Education Kano, Malam Aminu Yahaya on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in Kano.

## NCC Institutes Copyright Prizes in Honour of Directors-General

THE Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), has instituted Copyright Prizes for outstanding students in copyright-related disciplines in universities. The prizes, which will be named in honour of each of the past Directors-General, (DGs) of the Commission will be awarded to the universities to be chosen by the DGs.

The first of the prizes, the MOSES EKPO COPYRIGHT PRIZE was announced for the best student in a related course in the Performing Arts Department of Akwa Ibom State University (AKSU) at the third edition of AKSU Festival of Performance, held on 17th April 2025.

Delivering the keynote address at the symposium, the Director-General of NCC, Dr. John Asein,, thanked His Excellency, Mr. Ekpo, the immediate past Deputy Governor of Akwa Ibom State and pioneer Chief Executive of the Commission, for laying a solid and

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The pioneer DG, NCC, HE, Moses F. Ekpo, MFR (M) flanked by the DG, Dr. John Asein (L) and the Vice-Chancellor, Akwa Ibom State University (AKSU), Prof. Nse Essien (R) at the AKSU Festival of Performances 2025, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



# NEWS FROM STATE OFFICES

## NCC Ibadan Strengthens Collaborations with Police in Ogun State to Combat Piracy

**NIGERIAN** Copyright Commission (NCC) Ibadan Office and the Nigeria Police Force, Ogun State Command have assented to an intensified collaboration to curb piracy and ensure the protection of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights in the State.

This agreement was reached during a courtesy visit by the NCC Ibadan Office, led by the State Coordinator, Mrs. Oluropo Oke to the Commissioner of Police, Ogun State Command, CP Lanre Ogunlowo, on 24th March, 2025.

Emphasising on the necessity of the partnership, Mrs. Oke highlighted the Commission's mandates and the strides being made so far to stem the tide of piracy in the State. While presenting pirated books being seized from pirates in the State, she stressed the debilitating impact of piracy on authors, publishers and the nations economy.

Responding, the Commissioner of Police (CP), Ogun State assured the NCC team of the Command's support

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## NCC, Stakeholders Mark 2025 World IP Day, Advocate Strict Enforcement & Protection

THE Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) and stakeholders in the Nigerian creative sector have called for strict enforcement of copyright laws to protect owners of Intellectual Property (IP) and ensure adequate compensation for their intellectual efforts.

Creative industry stakeholders in Ibadan consented to this resolve during the commemoration of the 2025 World IP Day themed "IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP," organised by the NCC in collaboration with various stakeholders to promote awareness and understanding of IP rights among creative professionals on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Delivering the Director-General, NCC's address at the event, State Coordinator, NCC Ibadan office, Mrs. Oluropo Oke said the theme of the day was apt as music has gone beyond just entertainment to become the heartbeat of Nigeria's cultural identity, expressions and economy. She stated that in line with the NCC mandate, the Commission remains steadfast in its effort to strengthen the copyright system, foster collaborations across sectors, enhance enforcement mechanisms and raise awareness about the value of intellectual property.

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State Coordinator, NCC Ibadan office, Mrs. Oluropo Oke with Commissioner of Police, Oyo State, CP Lanre Ogunlowo during a courtesy visit to the Commissioner in Abeokuta, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

## NCC Enugu Celebrates 2025 Copyright Week

**IN** Commemoration of the 2025 Copyright Week, during which the World Book and Copyright Day, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April and World Intellectual Property Day (WBCD), 26<sup>th</sup> April were celebrated, the Enugu Office of the Commission (NCC) held several activities to enlighten the public on the importance of IP and Copyright.

The WBCD celebration which was held at the state National Library office brought together stakeholders from various background including members of the Nigerian Library Association, Publishers, Students and Staff from both the Enugu Office of the Commission and the National Library.

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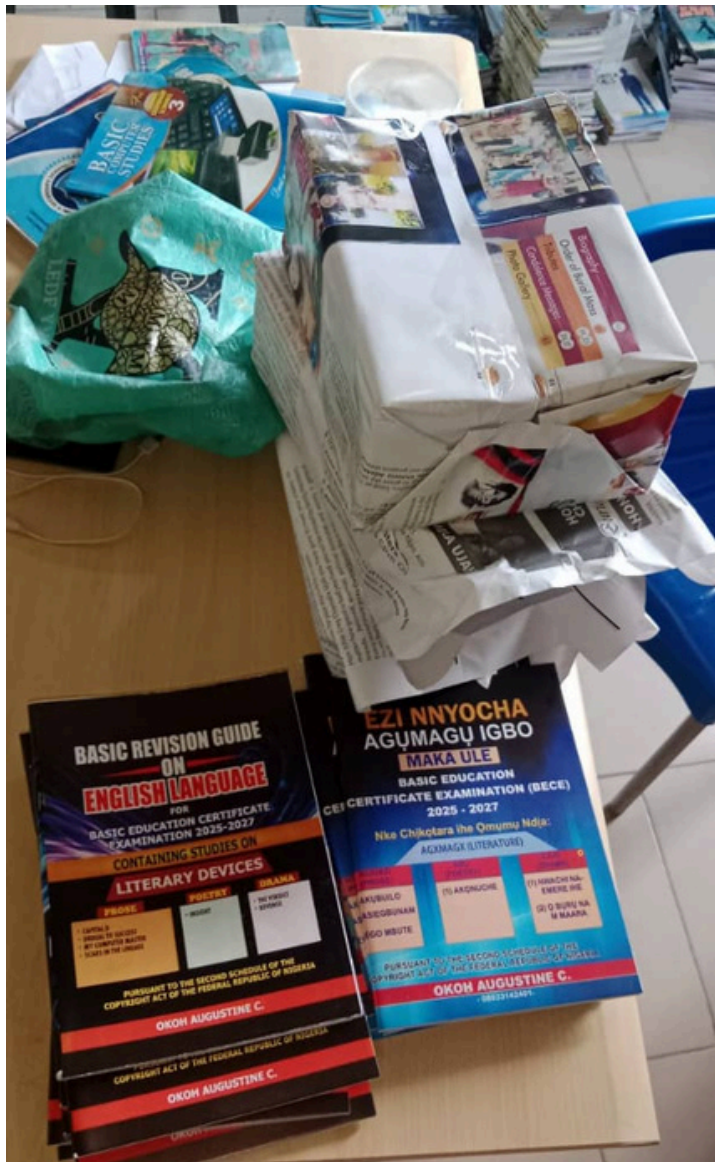


A cross section of NCC Enugu Office staff and members IP Club of the University of Nigeria Nsukka, Enugu Campus, celebrating World Intellectual Property Day in Enugu on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



# NEWS FROM STATE OFFICES

## NCC Raids, Arrests Suspected Book Pirate in Enugu



Copies of suspected pirated books seized from a suspected copyright pirate in Enugu on display

**FOLLOWING** petitions filed by right owners and necessary investigations, the Enugu Office of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) carried out a raid and arrested a suspected book pirate, Mr. Augustine Okoh on 19th March 2025.

Mr. Okoh was alleged to be summarizing several copyright protected novels into single books which he titled "Basic Revised Guide on English Language for Basic Education Certificate Examination 2025-2027" and another "Ezi Nnyocha Agumagu Igbo; for Basic Education Certificate Examination 2025-2027."

The Commission's team of Officers led by ACCO, Mr. Odo Ambrose, backed by mobile policemen arrested the suspect at his residence in Awkunanaw area of Enugu State, seized several copies of the books and other copyright contrivances.

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## NDLEA Trains NCC Enugu Officers on Enforcement Duties



Director, NCC Enugu Office, Mrs Ngozi Okeke (6th R) and the Chief Superintendent of Narcotics, Mr. A.B.J. Archibong (7th R) with NCC Enugu Officers after the training on 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2025.

**OFFICERS** of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) Enugu office, undertook a comprehensive training on General Enforcement Duties by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) on 6th March 2025.

The training, conducted by Chief Superintendent of Narcotics, ABJ Archibong and ICT expert Mr. Bright Uzodinma, of the NDLEA, is meant to equip the NCC Officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their enforcement duties.

Topics covered during the training session include: General Enforcement Duties; Meeting International Standards, Informant Management and the Role of Covert Human Intelligence Source (CHIS); Framework for Planning and Executing Raid Operations; Covering Information Gathering, Intent, Method, Administration, Risk Management, Communication, and Humanitarian Issues.

The highly interactive training session had active participation of the Commission's Officers.

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# NEWS FROM STATE OFFICES

## NCC Yola Marks 2025 Copyright Week, Visits Music Studios



NCC Yola Office staff with the Head Librarian, Karatu Library Foundation, Mr. Efada (2<sup>nd</sup> R) during a visit to the Library to celebrate the World Book and Copyright Day

**TO** mark the 2025 Copyright Week, the Yola Office of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) held a Radio Talk Show featuring selected pupils and students from top private schools in Jimeta and its environs and visited some music studios in the state.

According to the NCC Yola State Coordinator, Ibrahim Yusuf, the Radio Programme in commemoration of the World Book and Copyright Day on 23rd April 2025, was organised by the NCC Yola Office and the National Library of Nigeria, Yola to promote book-reading culture among children and to highlight the dangers of piracy.

He noted that other highlights of the event included presentation of the DG, NCC's Statement on the day, question-and-answer session and prize presentations to outstanding pupils and students. Over 17 participants from different schools attended the event, 15

Similarly, the Yola Office paid working visits to five music production studios on the 26<sup>th</sup> April to celebrate

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A Student of Christ Dominion Imperial School, Lagos, Muiz Shodeinde reading a poem titled "Eko" in Yoruba language during an event to mark the World Book and Copyright Day at the NCC Lagos Office on 23rd April 2025.

## NCC Benin Marks 2025 WBCD, WIPD with Sensitisation, Stakeholders' Parley



A cross section of participants at a seminar organised by NCC Benin Office to celebrate World Book and Copyright Day in Benin, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025

**THE** Benin Office of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) celebrated the World Book and Copyright Day and the World Intellectual Property Day on the 23<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 with a copyright awareness walk, an event at the State Library and media outreach in Benin.

According to the State Coordinator (SC), NCC, Benin Office, Mr. Joseph Ajang, the World Book and Copyright Day was celebrated with stakeholders at the Edo State Library in Benin City where he presented the Director-General's Press Statement for the Day and sensitised on the importance of reading, early discovery of creative abilities, harnessing creative abilities for financial benefits and the Commission's e-Registration system.

He reported that the Director, Edo State Library Board, Mrs. Emilia Ayeni, in her goodwill message encouraged participants to imbibe the culture of reading, praised the Commission for the laudable event and called for more of such enlightenment programmes to promote reading and respect for copyright in the state.

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## NCC Lagos Marks 2025 Copyright Week with Engaging Multi-Event Celebration

**THE** Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) Lagos office commemorated the 2025 Copyright Week with series of impactful events held across various locations in Lagos State highlighting the importance of copyright, intellectual property rights and creativity in Nigeria.

Kicking off the week on April 23, 2025, the Lagos Office marked the World Book and Copyright Day

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# NEWS FROM STATE OFFICES



Director, NCC, Lagos Office, Mrs Lynda Alphaeus staff members of the Lagos Office during the celebration of World Book and Copyright Day held at the Lagos Office on 23rd April 2025.

**AS** part of the Copyright Week activities Mrs. Alphaeus, also participated as a panelist in a webinar hosted on 24th April 2025, by leading IP firm Aluko & Oyeboode to commemorate the 2025 World Intellectual Property Day 2025.

The webinar focused on the role intellectual property in the music industry and covered key topics such as *copyright protection for musical works, trademark use for artist branding, music licensing and royalties*. The session offered valuable guidance for composers, performers and music industry stakeholders.

The Commission's activities culminated in a collaborative event on 28th April, 2025, organised with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) and the Intellectual Property Club of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos.

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## NCC Makurdi Collaborates with Music School to Celebrate 2025 World IP Day

**MAKURDI** Office of the Nigerian Copyright Commission on 26th April 2025 joined the global community in commemorating World Intellectual Property Day. The celebration themed "IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP" featured events and discussions on Intellectual Property Rights and their role in encouraging innovation and creativity.

State Coordinator, NCC, Makurdi office, Mr. Thomas Mgbangun informed that the celebration began with a Sensitisation walk through Makurdi metropolis, where staff of the Commission engaged with the public on the relevance of Intellectual Property, Copyright laws, and the Commission's initiatives particularly the advantages of e-registration for creative works.

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## WBCD 2025: NCC Onitsha Promotes Reading and Writing



Staff of NCC Onitsha Office with the 3 Schools that won prizes at the 2025 World Book and Copyright Day Celebration, 23rd April 2025.

**THE** Director-General Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), has reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to nurturing young talents in reading and writing while encouraging students to harness their Intellectual Property into economically viable works.

State Coordinator, NCC Onitsha office, Mr. Gabriel Anikwem stated this at a seminar organised by the NCC, Onitsha Office in commemoration of the 2025 World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) in collaboration with some secondary schools in the state.

The seminar which aimed to encourage students in reading, writing and recognition of creative talents was held at the Anambra State Zonal Library, GRA Onitsha, on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025. The event featured reading competition, issuance of certificates of participation, presentation of books to participants and the State Library.

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Young Violinists of the Storehouse School of Music, Makurdi performing to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day 2025 on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026 in Makurdi.

# NEWS FROM STATE OFFICES

In another development, the Makurdi Office of the Commission on April 17, 2025, paid a courtesy visit to the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Benue Sector Command, in Makurdi in a bid to foster cooperation and strengthen community relations.

State Coordinator, Mr. Thomas Mgbanngun, stated that the purpose of the visit was for familiarization and to explore areas of possible collaboration.

Mr. Mgbanngun emphasized the importance of working closely with the FRSC, particularly to ensure safety and coordination during Copyright Sensitisation Road Walks and Outreach activities.

Corps Sector Commander Steve Ayodele welcomed the initiative and expressed the Command's readiness to support and partner with the Commission in achieving mutual goals that promote public safety and community engagement.



State Coordinator, NCC Makurdi office, Mr. Thomas Mgbanngun with the Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Benue Sector Command, Mr Stephen Ayorinde during his courtesy visit to the Sector Command in Makurdi, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

## 2025 World IP Day: NCC Commits to Strengthening Copyright Systems in Imo State, Environs



State Coordinator NCC Owerri Office (4<sup>th</sup> L) with the HOD Music Department, Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education (M) and some artistes during the celebration of the World IP Day on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**, Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Dr. John Asein has emphasized NCC's commitment to building a robust copyright system that protects and promotes creativity across Imo State and environs.

This was stated during the commemoration of the 2025 World Intellectual Property Day by the Owerri Office of the Commission held in collaboration with the Music Department of Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

The DG who was represented by the State Coordinator, NCC Owerri Office, Mr. Martin Oseji, highlighted the importance of Intellectual Property (IP) in the music industry noting that it was important for artistes to protect their works for return on their intellectual investment.

**[Read more](#)**



## NCC Ilorin Commemorates 2025 Copyright Week with Media Outreach, Copyright Seminar



*The State Coordinator, NCC Ilorin Office, Mrs Bello B.R. (1<sup>st</sup> L) and ACCO Barr. Abdullahi L.A. during a Radio programme on Gerin FM to mark the World Book and Copyright Day in Ilorin on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.*

**THE** Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), Ilorin office, celebrated the 2025 World Book and Copyright Day with a media outreach appearance on Gerin FM 95.5, Ilorin on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.

Speaking during the programme, State Coordinator, NCC Ilorin Office Mrs. B.R Bello, emphasised the significance of World Book and Copyright Day while also stating the need to promote copyright protection. Head, Legal Unit, NCC Ilorin Office, Mr. Abdullahi Abdullateef used the platform to highlight on the dangers of piracy and copyright infringement which he said had taken a negative toll on creativity. Speaking further, Mr. Abdullateef encouraged youths in the State to explore the opportunities that abound in the creative industry which he said could serve as a sources of income and employment.

Further discussions on the programme centred on the significance and benefits of the Commission's e-Registration Scheme.

In a related development, the NCC Ilorin Office celebrated the World Intellectual Property Day with a Seminar on April 26, 2025, at the Mustapha Akanbi Library Ilorin.

**[Read more](#)**

# NEWS FROM STATE OFFICES

## World Book and Copyright Day: NCC Bauchi Office Celebrates with Community Outreach



NCC Bauchi Office staff in branded T-Shirts with the Honourable Commissioner of Education, Bauchi State, Dr. Mohammed Lawal Rimin Zayam (4<sup>th</sup> R) and the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education Bauchi, Mr. Ali Babayo (4<sup>th</sup> L) with some Directors of the Ministry during the courtesy visit of the NCC to the Ministry on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025 in Bauchi.

**IN** commemoration of World Book and Copyright Day, 2025, the Bauchi Office of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) joined the global community in celebrating the power of books and the importance of copyright through a series of enlightenment initiatives held on April 23, 2025.

Staff of the Commission paid a courtesy visit to the Bauchi State Library, where they engaged with stakeholders and interacted with readers at the facility. During the event, selected readers were invited to read excerpts from their favourite books, highlighting the joy of literature and the importance of protecting literary works through copyright.

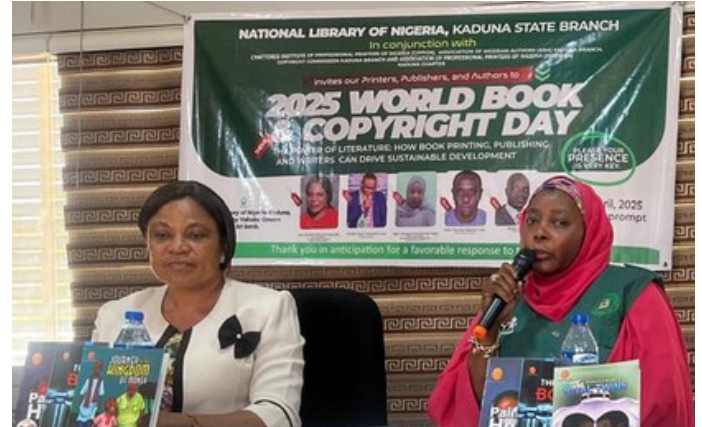
In a related move, the NCC team visited Albishir Radio Station in Bauchi where the Commission's representative Mr. Aliyu Dadi featured on an interview programme centred on the essence of the Day.

In another development, the Acting State Coordinator NCC, Bauchi Office, Mr. Nasiru Ahmed Tijani, paid a courtesy visit on the Honourable Commissioner of Education, Bauchi State, Dr. Mohammed Lawal Rimin Zayam, on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as part of ongoing efforts to foster strategic partnerships with critical stakeholders in the state.

The State Coordinator informed the Commissioner that the visit was aimed at exploring additional avenues for promoting respect for copyright within academic institutions across the state. Mr. Tijani expressed appreciation to the Commissioner for the Ministry's support and collaboration with the NCC over the years while reaffirming the Commission's commitment to promoting creativity and protecting intellectual property state wide.

**[Read more](#)**

## NCC Kaduna Marks World Book and Copyright Day



State Coordinator, NCC Kaduna Office, Mrs Rukkaya Yeldu Muhammad delivering the DG's Address during the celebration of the World Book and Copyright Day held at the National Library Kaduna on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.

**THE** Kaduna Office of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) in collaboration with the National Library of Nigeria, celebrated the 2025 World Book and Copyright Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025 at the National Library in Kaduna.

Speaking at the event on behalf of the Director-General, State Coordinator (SC), NCC Kaduna Office, Mrs. Rukayya Muhammad Yeldu, emphasised the importance of reading in shaping character and empowering individuals. She reaffirmed the Commission's commitment to promoting access to books, enhancing the culture of reading in the country, raising copyright awareness and protecting copyright works. The SC also delivered the DGs goodwill message at the event

Other speakers emphasised the crucial role of literature, book production and printing in national development. Notable contributors at the event include Mrs. Martina Egwuibe of the National Library, Mr. Stephen Adinoyi of Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) and Mr. Koko Clement of the Chartered Institute of Professional Printers of Nigeria (CIPPON).

**[Read more](#)**







# NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION

*Protecting Creativity for Wealth Creation*



## VISION

To harness creativity for national development

## MISSION

To advance the creative industry in Nigeria through an efficient copyright system.



SCAN ME

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# 2025 WORLD IP DAY PICTURE GALLERY



Official Banner of the 2025 World Intellectual Property (IP) Day celebration for the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC).



Director-General, NCC Dr. John Asein, addressing staff members during the commemoration of the 2025 World IP Day in Abuja, 28th April 2025.



A cross section of the NCC Staff members during the celebration of the World IP Day in Abuja.



NCC Lagos Staff during the 2025 World IP Day programme at the University of Lagos, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



# 2025 WORLD IP DAY PICTURE GALLERY



NCC Lagos Office staff dancing to music during the programme held to mark the 2025 World IP Day celebration in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) and IP Club, Faculty of Law, University of Lagos at the Ayo Ojomo Auditorium, University of Lagos, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



NCC Enugu staff celebrating the 2025 World IP Day during a road walk with stakeholders at the Okpara Square in Enugu, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



Staff of NCC Port Harcourt with stakeholders during the commemoration of the 2025 World IP Day at the Federal Secretariat, Port Harcourt, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



# 2025 WORLD IP DAY PICTURE GALLERY



Staff of NCC Ibadan Office with the Governor, PMAN and Chairman 2025 World IP Day celebration, Sir Taiwo Omotunde (4<sup>th</sup> L) during the World IP Day celebration in Ibadan.



Representative of the Hon. Commissioner for Tourism, Imo State, Mr. Victor Nwokocha (6<sup>th</sup> L) and NCC Owerri State Coordinator, Mr. Martins Oseji (5<sup>th</sup> L) with NCC staff and students of Music Department, Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri during the celebration of the 2025 World IP Day in Owerri, Imo State, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



Staff of NCC Benin with participants at the copyright symposium organised to commemorate the 2025 World IP Day with copyright stakeholders, civil servants, students at the NCC Benin Office on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



# 2025 WORLD IP DAY PICTURE GALLERY



Coordinator, NCC Makurdi, Mr. Thomas Mgbanguum (4<sup>th</sup> R) and Coordinator, Storehouse School of Music, Makurdi, Ms. Abigail Akogwu (4<sup>th</sup> L) with some State PMAN officials and NCC staff during the commemoration of the 2025 World IP Day at the Storehouse School of Music, Makurdi, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



NCC Kaduna State Coordinator, Mrs. Rukayya Yeldu (6<sup>th</sup> R) and staff members with participants at the Kaduna State Music stakeholders meeting to commemorate the 2025 World IP Day, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



NCC Ilorin State Coordinator, Mrs. R.B. Bello (M) and other participants at an Education and Enlightenment Seminar held in commemoration of the 2025 World IP Day at the Mustapha Akanbi Library Ilorin, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



NCC Kano Office Team with the Winners of the Music Competition held at Izzazudeen School Complex in Gwale Local Government Area, Kano as part of activities to commemorate the 2025 World IP Day in Kano, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



Staff of NCC Onitsha Office with staff of Noble Resources Limited, Booksellers Association members and Ministry of Justice staff during the road walk to commemorate the 2025 World IP Day in Onitsha, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



# 2025 WORLD IP DAY PICTURE GALLERY



Staff of NCC Yola at True Sound Studios as part of activities to celebrate the World IP Day in Yola, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



NCC Bauchi Office with Artists, Musicians, Producers and key players in the creative industry at the Open-Air Theatre, Bauchi, during the celebration of the World IP Day, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026.



# Photosplash



Director-General, NCC, Dr. John Asein, delivering his goodwill message during the 2025 International Women's Day celebration at the Commission's Headquarters Abuja, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



Director, Human Resource Management, NCC, Mrs. Susan Bashorun (6<sup>th</sup> R) in a picture with facilitators and Corp members serving in NCC Abuja during the Two-day Training Session, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



A cross section of NCC staff during the International Women's Day (IWD) celebration at the Commission's Headquarters Abuja, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



# Photosplash



Guest celebrant, Dr. Wale Okediran (3<sup>rd</sup> L) flanked by ADPA, Mr. Andrew Dyege (L) and PCO (PA) Mr. Amos Abutu (R) and other guests during the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) Abuja April Reading/Writers Dialogue and 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Dr. Wale Okediran at Mamman Vatsa Writers Village, Mpape Abuja, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



L-R: News Reporter, Nigeria Info FM, Joy Ngozi Eberebe; Assistant Director/Head Regulatory and Compliance, NCC, Mr. Kunle Olatunji; On Air Personality, Nigeria Info FM, Swat Duniah and Assistant Director, Public Affairs, NCC, Mr. Andrew Dyege at the Nigeria Info FM Studios during a Sensitisation Programme to mark the 2025 World IP Day, 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.



International Federation of Phonographic Industry (IFPI) Regional Director, Ms. Angel Ndabule, presents an IFPI catalogue to the Director, Operations, NCC, Mr. Emeka Ogbonna during an interactive session at the Commission's Headquarters, Abuja.



Director, Nigerian Copyright Academy (NCA), Mrs. Funmi Adewale, enlightening participants on the Basics of Copyright and the Opportunities in the creative sector during a copyright awareness programme at Lead British International School, Gwarinpa Abuja, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



Head of Secondary, Lead British International School, Gwarinpa Abuja (LBIS), Mr. Mathew Ezugwu (R), receiving copies of the Commission's publication "WHAT IS COPYRIGHT" and a literary work "Mojo's Musings" donated to the school library by the Commission from the DNCA, Mrs. Funmi Adewale during the Copyright Awareness programme in the school.



# Photosplash



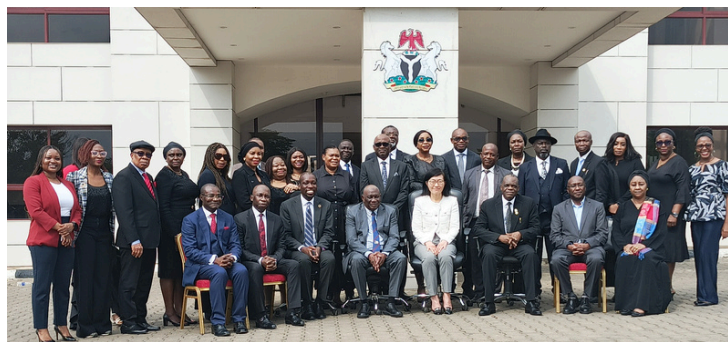
National Coordinator, Office of the Nigerian Digital Innovation, (ONDI), Mrs. Victoria Fabunmi (2<sup>nd</sup> L) and others L-R. Senior Officer, Ms. Irene Akatugba; Legal Expert, Mr. Osagie I. Edey and Programme Officer, Mr. Abulmalik Adedayo Omidiran, during an advocacy visit to the NCC, Abuja, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



Director, PRS, NCC, Mr. Collins Nweke (5<sup>th</sup> R) and National Coordinator, Office of the Nigerian Digital Innovation (ONDI), Mrs. Victoria Fabunmi, (4<sup>th</sup> R) flanked by staff members of NCC and ONDI during the advocacy visit to the Commission's Headquarters, Abuja.



DG, NCC, Dr. John Asein (R), making a presentation on Principles Arising in Copyright Disputes; others L-R: Director, WIPO Nigeria Office, Mr. Oluwatobiloba Moody and Director, WIPO Judicial Institute, IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector, Ms. Eun-Joo Min, at the workshop on Intellectual Property for the Judiciary of Nigeria, organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the National Judicial Institute in Abuja, 2nd-3rd April 2025



Participants at the Judicial Workshop on Intellectual Property (IP) for the Judiciary of Nigeria, organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the National Judicial Institute in a photograph during the workshop in Abuja, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2025.



DG NCC, Dr. John Asein (4<sup>th</sup> L) with Directors at the Commission's headquarters, Abuja during the celebration of the DG's birthday in Abuja, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.



# Photosplash



Retired Director Operations, NCC, Mr. Emeka Ogbonna (8<sup>th</sup> L) with staff of Operations Department during the celebration of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and retirement from service, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024.



DG, NCC, Dr. John Asein (R) speaking during a Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) 7am Network News Programme, in commemoration of the 2025 World IP Day and FRCN Newscaster, Yahaya Umar, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



(Front row) Chairman, Abuja Book City Project 2025, Chief Lowo Olowookere (6<sup>th</sup> L) flanked by Representative of the DG NCC, Director, Public Affairs, Mrs. Ijeoma Egbunike (5<sup>th</sup> L), CEO, National Library of Nigeria, Prof. Chinwe V. Anunobi (6<sup>th</sup> R) and other dignitaries with winners of the reading competition (back row) at the Abuja Book City 2025 flag off ceremony organised by Network of Book Clubs and Reading Culture Promoters (NBRP) in Abuja, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



A cross section of NCC staff members at the capacity building programme organised for Officers on Grade Level 08 – 15 at the NCC Headquarters, Abuja, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



# Photosplash



DG NCC, Dr. John Asein (3rd R) with resource persons and some NCC Directors during the capacity building programme organised for officers on Grade Level 08 – 15 in Abuja, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



(Seated) L-R: Dr. Kayode Aiyegbeni; DG, NCC, Dr. John Asein; Mrs. Maimuna Onukaba and Dr. Tunde Olusunle with creatives and participants at the Arojah Royal Theatre powered event: An Afternoon of Reflections, Remembering Onukaba Adinoyi Ojo at the Korean Cultural Centre, Abuja, 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



Representative of the DG, NCC, Director, HRM, Mrs. Susan Bashorun (2<sup>nd</sup> R) presenting some copies of the Commission's publication to the Occupational and Safety Health Association (OSHA) UK, Nigeria Region's National Project Coordinator, Captain Godbest Uwalaka during an advocacy visit to the Commission, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.



Director, PRS, NCC, Mr. Collins Nweke (3<sup>rd</sup> R) and Managing Partner of Nina Jojer, Hon. Chukwuemeka Ujam (2<sup>nd</sup> R) with some NCC and Nina Jojer staff during a courtesy visit to the Commission, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.



Director, Operations, Mr. Emeka Ogonna, delivering the Director-General's Press Statement during the commemoration of the 2025 World IP Day in Abuja, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



L-R: Record Labels Proprietors Initiative (RELPI) National Coordinator, Mr. Chinedu Chukwuji; International Federation of Phonographic Industry (IFPI) Regional Director, Ms. Angel Ndabule and Chief Executive Officer, Premier Records Ltd, Mr. Michael Odion, during an interactive session at the Commission's headquarters, Abuja, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.



# Photosplash



*L-R: State Coordinator, NCC Uyo office, Mrs Cornelia Ibanga; DG, NCC, Dr. John Asein; pioneer DG, NCC, His Excellency Moses Ekpo; Vice Chancellor, Akwa Ibom State University (AKSU) Prof. Nse Essien; Head of Department, Performing Arts (AKSU) Dr. Lucy Iseyen and Pastor Kings Udoidua at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of AKSU Festival of Performances held at the University campus on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025*



*Director, NCC Lagos Office, Mrs. Lynda Alpheus, at the 2025 World Drummers Day celebration organised by the Guild of Theatre Arts Drummers Nigeria (GOTHAD), in collaboration with the National Troupe of Nigeria, Lagos 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.*



*Representatives of NCC and other participants during the IP and Women Business Summit organised by the WIPO Nigeria Office at the UN House, Abuja, 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025.*



# Photosplash



DG, NCC, Dr. John Asein (2<sup>nd</sup> R) and other discussants L-R: Partner, Hightower Solicitors and Advocates, Mr. Akinyemi Ayinoluwa; Music Producer and Musician, Cobhams Asuquo; Moderator, Programme Officer, WIPO Nigeria Office, Ms Olaronke Famuyiwa and Executive Vice-President, Chocolate City Group, Ms. Ibukun Abidoye at the Music Industry and IP Roundtable organised by the WIPO Nigeria Office in Commemoration of the 2025 World IP Day at UN House, Abuja, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



DG, NCC, Dr. John Asein (5<sup>th</sup> R); UN Assistant Sec-Gen, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, Nigeria, Mr. Mohammed Malick (6<sup>th</sup> R); Director, WIPO Nigerian Office, Dr. Oluwatobiloba Moody (6<sup>th</sup> L) with other dignitaries at the Music Industry and IP Roundtable, UN House, Abuja, 25<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

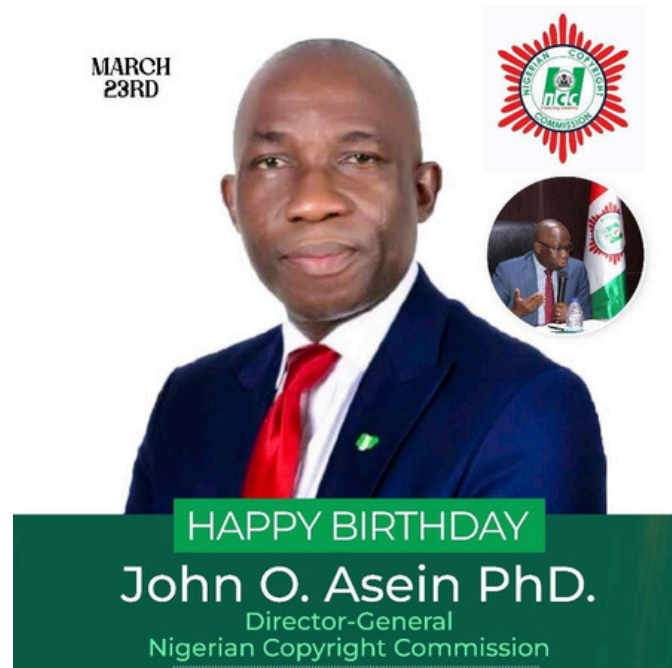


Director, NCC Port Harcourt Office, Mr. Babatunde Salami (5<sup>th</sup> R) with students from the Music Department, University of Port Harcourt during a courtesy visit to the Commission's Port Harcourt Office, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

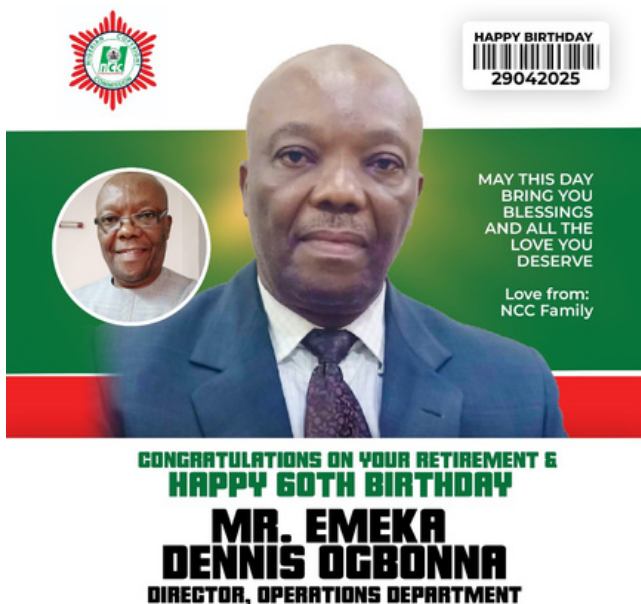


# Social Page

**The** Management and Staff of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), felicitate with the Director-General, Dr. John Asein on his birthday, 23rd March 2025 and four staff members of the Commission on the occasion of their 60th birthday and statutory retirement from the public service.



Staff members of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC), felicitate with the Director-General, Dr. John Asein on his birthday, 23rd March 2025.



The Nigerian Copyright Commission, celebrates and congratulates the Director, Operations, Mr. Emeka Dennis Ogbonna on his 60th birthday celebration and retirement from service on 30th April 2025.



Director, Operations, Mr. Emeka Ogbonna (1<sup>st</sup> R) and Director, Nigerian Copyright Academy, Mrs. Funmi Adewale (M) presenting a gift to the Director-General, NCC, Dr. John Asein during the DG's birthday celebration at the Commission's headquarters, Abuja, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025.



# Social Page



Retired Director Operations, NCC, Mr. Emeka Ogbonna (3<sup>rd</sup> R) joined by some Directors L-R: Director PRS, Mr. Collins Nweke; Director HRM, Mrs. Susan Bashorun; Director Legal, Mr. Michael Madueke; Director Public Affairs, Mrs. Ijeoma Egbunike; Director Finance and Accounts, Mr. Umoudo M. Etete, in the cake cutting to mark his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and retirement from public service, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and retirement from service of Director, NCC Bauchi Office, Mr. Emeka Ofonagoro on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025.



60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and retirement from service of Chief Accountant, Lagos Office, Mr. Moses Olowookere, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025.



60<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration and retirement from service of Principal Executive Officer I, Makurdi Office Mr. Joseph Bede, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025.



# Press Statement

## **STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION DR. JOHN ASEIN, ON THE WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY 26TH APRIL 2025**

In celebration of this year's World Intellectual Property Day, under the inspiring theme IP and Music: Feel the Beat of IP, the Nigerian Copyright Commission joins the rest of the world in acknowledging the power of music as the heartbeat of creativity. Music is a universal language that not only entertains but also educates, motivates, and unites us.

Nigerian music, in particular, has become a global phenomenon. From the irresistible energy of Afrobeats to the lyrical brilliance of our artists, Nigerian musicians are selling out stadiums worldwide, topping international charts, and forging powerful cultural connections. Through their music, they have become ambassadors of our identity, values, and resilience as a people. This global impact highlights the soft power of Nigeria's creative economy and the crucial role of intellectual property in protecting, promoting, and monetizing our cultural assets.

Behind every rhythm is a composer, a singer, a sound engineer, and many others who rely on intellectual property—especially copyright—as the legal framework that protects their works and ensures a reward system that allows them to continue creating. Unless those who create music feel the beat of intellectual property, society may never fully enjoy the richness and diversity of musical expression.

As the value of Nigerian music continues to grow exponentially, it is essential that we provide the necessary legal, institutional, and technological support to empower our creators to explore their talents and achieve their dreams through music. This is our intellectual capital—it must be nurtured and protected.

We also acknowledge that despite international acclaim and the vast fanbase enjoyed by many of our artists, the royalties earned by the average Nigerian musician remain alarmingly low. This challenge is further compounded by the scourge of digital piracy. To address these concerns, the Nigerian Copyright Commission has recently revised the Collective Management Regulations to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance among collective management organisations (CMOs), in line with global best practices.



# Press Statement

These organisations are tasked with facilitating the negotiation, collection, and distribution of royalties from users to right holders. There is no reason they should not contribute significantly to ensuring that musicians truly feel the beat of the intellectual property system.

While we insist on higher operational standards for CMOs, we also urge all who engage in the commercial use of music to obtain the appropriate licences from right holders or the approved CMOs. This is not only a gesture of respect for creativity; it is also a legal requirement and failure to do so could result in civil and criminal liability.

Furthermore, the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 81 of the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act, 2022, has recently designated the Nigerian Copyright Commission as a relevant organisation for the purposes of implementing that law.

This designation complements the new provisions under the Copyright Act, 2022, which empower the Commission to take down infringing materials and block websites hosting illicit content. With these enhanced tools, the Commission is better positioned –alongside other enforcement agencies—to intensify its fight against online piracy and create a more enabling digital environment for musicians and other creatives to monetise their talents.

The Commission will also collaborate with private sector stakeholders to launch a robust anti-piracy campaign, especially targeting the online environment. We must establish legally enforceable standards for transparency, digital audits, and real-time royalty reporting.

As in previous years, the Commission will continue to use the positive momentum of World IP Day 2025 to guide its programmes and sector-specific interventions aimed at growing the music industry and uplifting the lives of Nigerian musicians. We envision a music industry where creativity flourishes, creators are valued, and financial rewards reflect the true worth of their contributions.



# Press Statement

## **STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION DR. JOHN ASEIN, ON THE WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY, 23RD APRIL 2025**

It is with pleasure that the Nigerian Copyright Commission joins the global literary community, copyright stakeholders and the rest of the world to celebrate the World Book and Copyright Day today 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2025, a day set aside by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to focus on the importance of books, promote reading and raise awareness on the role of copyright in promoting and protecting the rights of authors.

The theme of this year's celebration: Read Your Way, same as that of last year, focuses on the importance of reading as a lifelong habit with numerous benefits. The day is also a time to highlight the importance of books, authors, publishers, libraries and also safeguarding the copyright of authors

World Book and Copyright Day 2025 emphasises on how books can pave way for a better future, how literary expressions shape global institutions and the importance of copyright in the digital age. The day also aims to interweave the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with literature, promoting a future where knowledge, culture coexist and to promote the enjoyment of books and reading, ensuring that everyone has access to this beautiful invention for sharing ideas across time.

The transformative power of reading to shape character, stimulate the mind and empower the individual to realise his or her potentials cannot be over-emphasised. Technological advancements in the digital age to overcome limitations of time, space, reach for knowledge and gain insight for quality life has continued to shape policies for societal benefits. The book, in whatever form, remains a veritable vehicle for transporting ideas between generations, cultures, and civilisations.

Enhanced collaborations of government, development partners and institutions towards entrenching a sound reading culture through promotion and publishing of books and readable publications across indigenous languages and digital platforms

must be encouraged to actualise the vision of promoting books and reading across board.



# Press Statement

The NCC reaffirms its commitment to champion and promote models that will make more books available in accessible and readable formats, enhance and promote reading among the youth and develop policies and strategies to promote copyright awareness and respect for copyright works.

In celebrating the 2024 World Book and Copyright Day, the Commission launched a year-long intervention programme to promote reading for pleasure and to build respect for copyright through an A.B.C Action Plan: to Adopt measures to make reading more fun; to Bring books closer to more children and to Choose change champions for books and copyright.

It will be recalled that Nigeria's Nobel Laureate in Literature, Playwright, Essayist, Literary Icon and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Professor Wole Soyinka was named the first Copyright Change Champion in 2024.

The Commission is, more than ever, poised to achieve the action plan with the setting up of more Copyright clubs and increased Copyright sensitisation programmes in schools to encourage creativity, promote reading, encourage non-discriminatory access to knowledge and to raise copyright awareness.

Through deepened synergy with Commission's stakeholders in the renewed fight against copyright piracy, Rights will be better protected and Authors encouraged to create more readable materials, readily available to a greater population of people and in accessible formats for persons living with disabilities, especially blind and visually impaired persons

The UNESCO World Book Capital for 2025 is Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This designation recognizes the city's commitment to fostering reading and promoting books. Rio de Janeiro remains the World Book Capital from April 23, 2025, to April 22, 2026.





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