

**ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN OF  
COUNCIL AT THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING OF COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS  
(REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA) HELD  
ON FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE, 2012 AT NICON  
LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA**

Vice – President/Vice Chairman of Council

The President, Nigeria Computer Society

Past Presidents/Chairmen of Council

Members of Council

Registrar/Secretary to Council

Distinguished Professional Colleagues

Ladies and Gentlemen

1. It is one year today since we last gathered here for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. It is also one year since you renewed your confidence in us by reelecting us for a second term. Two years may seem to have been long but half of it has gone already since we last met. The last one year, like other periods in the past, has been eventful and exciting. This is notwithstanding the challenges which we faced and are likely to be turning points in the history of the Council. All through this period, however, members had continuously supported the Council in many ways. On behalf of Council, therefore, I wish to thank all of you most immensely for your support.

2. Distinguished colleagues, soon after the 2011 – 2013 Council was inaugurated, the Council standing committees were put in place. Because of its growth in membership, Council realized that complaints from its members, member of the public and other stakeholders arising from unethical conducts were on the increase. In accordance with Section 14(2) of the CPN Act, therefore, Council constituted the CPN Investigating Committee and CPN Disciplinary Committee. Members are therefore urged to adhere strictly to the code of ethics of the profession as may wish to be informed that appeal against the decision(s) of the Disciplinary Committee, in particular, can only be entertained by the Federal High Court.
  
3. I wish to inform members that the collaboration with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) on the review of information technology education curricula at all levels is approaching its final stage. Although the Registrar will elaborate on the issue in his report, I wish to reiterate Council's profound gratitude to NITDA and specifically the Director-General, Professor Cleopas O. Angaye for continuously supporting us in all our activities.
  
4. Dear colleagues, it is gladdening to note that the Computer Professional Examination is increasingly gaining acceptance. New grounds are being broken as we are recording tremendous increase in the number of candidates that are sitting for the examination. However, this gain is spurring as to continuously improve on the current level of acceptability of the examinations. In recent times, Council has mapped out strategies that will enable students of tertiary institutions to write CPN examinations while still in school.

During the last diet of CPN examinations which took place in April this year, we received tremendous assistance from members who made their facilities available

to us for our use as examination centres. Council extends its words of gratitude to all of you for this gesture of service to your profession.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to inform you that construction work on our Centre of Excellence has not made any appreciable progress in the past one year. This is due to dwindling financial resources from the Federation Account. As a matter of fact, the present situation has made it imperative for us to look for alternative sources of revenue that will enable us complete phase one that we have embarked upon.
6. My dear colleagues, you may wish to be informed that there has been a robust media campaign on our unique identity in the cyberspace, that is the “.ng” country code top level domain name. The simple explanation is that the domain ending with .ng is a natural resource which is a unique identifier for every Nigerian on the World Wide Web while “.gov.ng” is exhaustively preserved for the use of government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). The mass migration to the *.ng ccTLD* by all of us will enable us to connect with government on a safe common platform. CPN has been playing an important role in this development along with other stakeholders on the Board of Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA). Therefore, I want to implore all of us to migrate to the .ng and start using it especially in our official transactions. To facilitate this, you should endeavour to get across to NIRA registrars through its website.
7. Council is working hard to strengthen research and make it a catalyst for development in the information technology profession. This has become imperative in light of the need for us to keep ourselves abreast of new developments. Towards this end, registered members of the profession with special skills, competence and knowledge were coopted into the Research and

Development Committee. Council has approved several proposals of the Committee cutting across various research areas that would impact positively on the lives of our people and the society. Members are encouraged to visit our website for further information.

8. In its bid to enhance its visibility, Council has improved its relationship with the media to the extent that matters that concern the Council are often published in the newspapers and IT magazines. Furthermore, our relevance in our mother Ministry, the Ministry of Education has been acknowledged as we often play vital roles at the highest level of decision making within the Ministry.
9. My dear colleagues, although Council has improved on the recovery of unpaid subscriptions, the cumulative effects on nonpayment by members are telling on the ability of Council to discharge some its responsibilities. I will further like to draw your attention to the recent recommendations made by the Orosanye Committee to the effect that all professional regulatory bodies including CPN should not be funded by government any longer. Should government accept this recommendation, it will no doubt pose a short term threat to the ability of the Council to sustain itself. This has, however, created an opportunity for us to go back to the drawing board in order to asses our areas of strength in order to move the profession forward.

Consequently, I implore all of us as individual and corporate members to fulfill your obligations by paying your subscriptions promptly in order to assist the Council to carry out its functions. May I therefore cease this opportunity to specifically thank the Management of *Accenture, Sidmach Technologies, HiiT, Upperlink, SystemSpecs, Computer Warehouse Group and Zinox Technologies* for their continuous promptness in fulfilling their financial obligations and supporting Council in times of need even at short notice. We encourage other corporate members to follow in their footsteps.

10. In conclusion, I wish to once again thank all of you for your continuous support over the years and to remind you that the future is bright but will only be possible if we continue to take matters of the Council with the initial zeal and commitment we started with. It is my prayer that God will grant us the willingness to act as this will be the energizer for our sustainable future. I wish all of us a memorable Assembly

11. Thank you and God bless

Ibrahim Tizhe

**President/Chairman of Council**