

OPENING REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN
IN-COUNCIL, PROF CHARLES UWADIA , FNCS, AT THE
INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS INTO THE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) PROFESSION ON
WEDNESDAY 26TH JUNE, 2019 AT NICON LUXURY,
ABUJA

The Vice-President/Vice-Chairman of Council

President of **Nigeria Computer Society**

Registrar/Secretary to Council

Distinguished inductees

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with utmost joy that I address you this morning on this occasion of your admission into one of the noblest professions, the Information Technology (IT) profession, as practitioners. I congratulate you on your being found fit and worthy, both in character and in learning/training to be part of this prestigious profession. It is my pleasure to welcome you to this year's induction ceremony where you will be exposed the more to the profession and what it offers with a view to preparing you for professional practice.

Given that you are new entrants into the burgeoning world of Information Technology (IT), I do not want to take anything for granted regarding your knowledge of the profession. I therefore would like to go through what the professional body that you are joining today, the **Computer Professionals (Registration Council of Nigeria)[CPN]**, is all about,

CPN was established by Act No 49 of 1993. The Act was passed into law on 10th of June and gazetted on the 9th of August that year. It is a regulatory body charged with the regulation, control and supervision of the computing profession and practice in Nigeria in line with Section 1 (2) of the Act, and is under the supervision of the **Federal Ministry of Education**.

The functions and responsibilities of CPN include, but is not limited to the following:

1. To determine the standards of knowledge and skills to be attained by persons seeking to become members of the computing profession and improve those standards from time to time as circumstances may permit.
2. To secure, in accordance with the provision of the Act, the establishment and maintenance of a register of persons seeking to be registered under the Act to practice the computing profession and the publication from time to time of the list of such persons.

Consequently, the Council is responsible for the following among other things:

- a. Organization, control and supervision of computing practice in Nigeria
- b. Screening of individuals seeking to be registered to engage in the sale or use of computing facilities and the provision of professional services in computing in the country.
- c. Ensuring high computing professional Ethics and Standards.

- d. Creation and sustenance of local and international contacts for our numerous members,
- e. Reduced charges for some specific professional services and facilities.
- f. Determining academic standards in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and other related disciplines.
- g. Accreditation of institutions' courses and programmes as well as evaluation of certificates in computing.
- h. Conducting professional examination in computing (CPE).
- i. Opening of Regional Offices covering all the geo-political zones in Nigeria. Our offices presently exist in Abuja, Lagos, Ibadan, Owerri, Port-Harcourt, Gombe, Jos, Kaduna and Yola.
- j. Publication of the Register of Computer Professionals and other professional works like journals, books, magazines and newsletters.

Act 49 of 1993, earlier referred to, makes it mandatory for all persons and organizations seeking to engage, or already engaged, in the sale and/or use of computing facilities, and in the provision of professional services in computing or related computing machinery in Nigeria, to be registered by the Council and licensed to carry out such activities. **The Act makes it illegal to engage in computing and professional practice without satisfying the above condition -that is, registration and possession of a current valid license.**

Consequently, persons and corporate bodies that are registered and hold current valid licenses, apart from being eligible to carry out their businesses, stand to enjoy several benefits including but not limited to:

- Elevated professional standing/status
- Protection from the public from exploitation and harassment in the course of performing bonafide and legitimate professional activities.
- Right to use the Council's insignia: individualized seal, crest, plaque, ties, clips and brooches
- Reduced rates for computing professional books, publications and events
- Access to and attendance at regular professional programmes like Conferences, Seminars, Symposia, Workshops and **Mandatory Continuing Professional Development programmes (MCPD)** for registered members of the profession.
- Facilitating of Local and International contacts with relevant associations and bodies abroad to facilitate the international mobility of our members
- Reduced charges for some specific professional services and facilities.
- Our registered members enjoy reciprocal registration with foreign Computer professional bodies abroad

One of the hallmarks of professionalism, especially in Information Technology (IT), is training and retraining, given the high obsolescence of Information Technology and the need to be updated on regular basis, It is therefore your responsibility to keep yourselves abreast of current

developments in the industry if you are to remain competent, relevant and competitive. It is toward this end that the Council has put in place a platform for **Mandatory Continuing Professional Development Programmes (MCPD)** held at various locations at different times across the country. Your attendance of these **MCPD** trainings is a prerequisite for the renewal of license and upward mobility in the profession.

The Council places high premium on ethical conduct of professionals. We are conscious of the impacts which the use of computational machinery and related techniques have on the public, employers, clients and the professionals. This is what informed the introduction of **Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct**. The document details the standards of conduct that are expected from professionals in the Information Technology industry, similar to what obtains in other professions. While Council will protect you in matters that infringe on your rights as members of this noble profession, I want to urge all of you to play your own role by conducting yourselves in the most ethical manner befitting of a professional in your daily activities.

I wish you the best as you start your induction programme, hoping that you would have been better prepared to face the future at the end of the exercise. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude by reminding you that as you join the league of professionals in the IT industry, imbibing the virtues of honesty and integrity in your professional dealings remains the minimum expectation. This is key to your being worthy ambassadors of the IT practice everywhere you go.

I thank you for your attention, and I wish you a successful induction ceremony.

Professor Charles O. Uwadia *FNCS*
President/Chairman-in-Council