

**REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR/SECRETARY TO COUNCIL, MR.
ALLWELL C. ACHUMBA, FNCS AT THE 25TH ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING OF COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS
(REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA) HELD ON
THURSDAY 27TH JUNE, 2019 AT NICON LUXURY, ABUJA**

The President/Chairman-in-Council

Vice-President/Vice-Chairman-in-Council

President of the Nigeria Computer Society

Members of Council

Past Presidents/Chairmen of Council

Members of the Information Technology Profession

Members of the Press present

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great honour and joy that I welcome you all distinguished registered members of the Information Technology profession in Nigeria to this Annual General Meeting. I am overwhelmed with your presence and give glory to Almighty God for His mercy in upholding us and making it possible for us to come together today for the 25th Annual General Meeting. I therefore, warmly welcome you all.

To begin with, let me congratulate you for your contributions to the growth of the profession. Your contribution has been fundamental to achieving the status that we enjoy today. Also, I am highly delighted to see the impressive attendance this year and this shows that we care so much about the future of our noble profession in Nigeria.

The Annual General Meeting is coming up at a time when our efforts at making Information Technology penetration and development part of our democratic dividends is receiving attention at the highest level of government. The general election of this year witnessed the use of Digital Infrastructure to the highest level.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I want to appreciate your steadfastness and co-operation to the Council in the course of promoting professionalism in the industry and the nation.

Distinguished colleagues, the year under review is a year of milestones for the Council. Apart from the new grounds which the profession is breaking, we are also exploring various avenues of raising the profile of the profession to match and even surpass the expectations of Nigerians.

The consolidation of our democratic experience and the relative political stability in the country has placed a huge responsibility of making efforts at realizing the objective of making Information Technology the driver of government operations in the country on our shoulders. Council embarked on series of activities during the year which has assisted in moving the profession forward.

The Council - CPN is getting deserved attention and recognition from the public and private sector of the economy as well as within the country and abroad. We are therefore repositioning CPN for increased relevance, visibility, profitability and sustainability.

Distinguished colleagues, I hereby present the highlights of the Council's activities in the last one year.

A. COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Council held four meetings during the period under review as follows:-

Date	Venue	Nature of Meeting
Thursday 20 th September, 2018	Ocean Suites Hotels, 1/3, Safuratu Sekoni Street, Gbagada, Lagos	Regular
Wednesday 30 th January, 2019	Online	Regular
Wednesday 17 th April, 2019	Centre of Excellence, Abuja	Regular
Tuesday 18 th June, 2019	Online	Regular

B. COUNCIL'S COMMITTEES

Committees of Council held series of meetings during the period and deliberated on various issues that are germane to the growth of the profession. Recommendations were thereafter forwarded to the Council for consideration and requisite action.

The following are the Standing Committees of Council:

1. Registration, Regulation and Control Committee
2. Education and Manpower Development Committee
3. Finance and Administration Committee
4. Public Relations and Corporate Affairs Committee
5. Research, Innovation and Development Committee

6. CPN Investigating Panel

7. CPN Disciplinary Panel (Tribunal)

In addition, the following relevant Ad-hoc Committees were set up with their Terms of Reference (ToR).

1. Standards for E-government Programme in Nigeria
2. Standards on Online Programmes in Nigeria
3. Review of CPN and NITDA Acts.
4. Electoral Committee for 2019
5. Agenda for the Board of NITDA

I want to use this opportunity to thank all Committee Members for their selflessness and commitments to the cause of the profession. The effects of the workings and the commitment of the Committees of Council have had very great impact on our operations and it has provided necessary policy direction for the various activities at the Secretariat.

C. COMMITTEES' REPORTS

1. REGISTRATION, REGULATION AND CONTROL

Ladies and Gentlemen, I am delighted to inform you that the membership base of our profession is on the increase. This is a good development and a manifestation of the fact that IT practitioners in the country are conforming to the provision of the Act that established the Council.

The current membership status of the profession is as follows:

STATUS	ADMITTED 1999-2018	NEWLY ADMITTED	TOTAL
Chartered Member	3,469	225	3694
Associate members	398	34	432
Affiliate (Graduate)	2, 537	1	2538
Affiliate Members	416	12	428
Corporate Members	322	44	366
Total	7, 458	316	7,774

The total number of newly admitted members are **316** which represent an increase of 4.42%

MEMBERSHIP ADMISSION

I will like to inform this gathering that the **Executive Registration Programme (ERP)** approved by Council has really assisted in increasing the membership base of CPN.

The **Executive Registration Programme (ERP)** is the programme that is designed to enable eligible members of the profession who missed direct registration to register through the attendance of the well-packaged workshop/programme. Through this programme, several eligible members of the profession who missed the December 2009 deadline had been able to register as bonafide members of the profession.

2. INDUCTION OF GRADUATING COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS OF TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

The induction of graduates of Computer Science in institutions of higher learning is ongoing. The programme which is geared towards bringing all

the graduates of Computer Science and all other related IT courses into the profession has come to stay and its tentacles are spreading.

Graduates from tertiary institutions in Nigeria were inducted as follows:-

INDUCTED SCHOOLS, 2018-JUNE 2019			
S/N	Name of Schools	Date of Induction	Number of Students Inducted
1.	Federal University of Technology, Owerri	October 25 th 2018	82
2.	Michael Opara University, Umuahia	October 26 th 2018	22
3.	Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin	November 27 th 2018	47
4.	Crescent University, Abeokuta, Ogun State	October 19 th 2018	14
5.	AfeBabalola University, Ado-Ekiti	October 17 th 2018	33
6.	Joseph Ayo Babalola University (JABU)	January 23 rd 2019	26
7.	Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta	June 10 th 2019	67

3. EDUCATION AND MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

a. REVIEW OF THE SYLLABUS FOR THE COMPUTER PROFESSIONAL EXAMINATION (CPE)

I am happy to inform this gathering that as part of efforts on quality assurance, the Education and Manpower Development Committee of Council is presently working on the review the Computer professional Examination syllabus. It is expected that this will also help attract people to write the examination.

b. UPDATE ON THE MANDATORY CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT [MCPD] PROGRAMMES

Dear distinguished professional colleagues, you are all aware of the **Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD)** programmes which were put in place to take care of training and retraining of registered members in order to keep them abreast of new developments in this highly dynamic profession. However, we observed that most of our members have not shown positive attitude to the programme. As a result of this, Council has approved the re-introduction of the credits system to be awarded to the participants of the programme and evidence of attendance will now be a prerequisite for the renewal of annual practicing license and upgrading of members from one level to another. Therefore, I enjoin all to endeavor to attend the MCPD programme.

We implore our corporate members to ensure that their staff attends our MCPD programmes for their professional development and enhancement. The Time-Table for the programme has been circulated to all members.

The following programmes were held during the period under review:-

S/N	TOPICS	VENUES	DATES	NOS OF PARTICIPANTS
1	CLOUD COMPUTING & CYBERSECURITY	NUT ENDWELL CONFERENCE HOTEL, MOGADISHU CITY CENTRE, KADUNA.	TUESDAY 28TH – THURSDAY 30TH AUGUST, 2018.	12
2	BIG DATA ANALYTICS	IBADAN BUSINESS SCHOOL, 65, OKEDIJI AVENUE, OLD BODIJA, BEHIND DAVIS HOTEL, BODIJA, IBADAN.	TUESDAY 09TH – 11TH THURSDAY OCT, 2018	6
3	WIRELESS, MOBILE AND QUANTUM COMPUTING	NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH (NIMR), 6, EDMUND CRESCENT, YABA, LAGOS	TUESDAY 06TH – 08TH THURSDAY NOVEMBER, 2018.	17
4	CORPORATE DATA, RECORD MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY	BABCOCK UNIVERSITY, CONFERENCE HALL, GUEST HOUSE, ILLISHAN, OGUN STATE.	TUESDAY 04TH – THURSDAY 06TH DECEMBER, 2018	7

5	DEEP LEARNING(MACHINE LEARNING,ROBOTICS)	THE NEW KEFFI HOTEL, KEFFI-AKWANGA EXPRESSWAY, NASARAWA STATE	TUESDAY 11TH - THURSDAY 13TH DECEMBER,2018	11
6	CLOUD COMPUTING & PENETRATION TESTING	ZEEN NOOR HOTEL LTD, KANO, KANO STATE	TUESDAY 07TH - THURSDAY 09TH MAY, 2019	26

c. ACCREDITATION VISIT TO TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS

CPN teams conducted accreditation visits to some public and private computer training institutions in Nigeria. Accreditation visits were paid to the following institutions of higher learning in the period under review:-

S/NO	NAME OF INSTITUTION	DATE OF VISITATION	ACCREDITATION STATUS
1.	University Of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.	13th -16th August, 2018	Full Accreditation
2.	Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos State	29th -31st October, 2018	Full Accreditation

4. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

I wish to express our profound gratitude to our supervising Ministry, the **Federal Ministry of Education**, for its unflinching financial support. There is no gainsaying that the appropriation that was given to us through our supervising Ministry has continued to be of immense assistance to us. Distinguished colleagues, I will like to inform you that our budgetary appropriation is dwindling while the internally generated revenue that could supplement the government allocation is decreasing because of the non-payment of membership subscription fees by some individual and corporate members. Most corporate members of the profession have not been

discharging their financial obligations. This is having an adverse effect on our operations. Therefore, I want to use this forum to implore all of us especially the Corporate Members to ensure that we discharge our financial obligations because that is part of what will strengthen us in the execution of our mandate for registered members of the profession and for the benefit of the nation and IT Practitioners.

5. STAFF TRAINING

Efforts will be made to increase the tempo of training for the Secretariat staff so that their competency and productivity level could be bettered. This will enable us to get maximum benefit from the skills of the staff.

6. UPDATE ON CPN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE/RELOCATION OF THE REGISTRAR TO ABUJA

Distinguished Colleagues, I am glad to inform you that between the last AGM and now, appreciable progress has been made regarding the **Centre of Excellence** project. Council has completed the entire Ground Floor of the Four-Story building. This has provided offices for the Registrar, who has since relocated to Abuja since 28th February, 2019, and other members of staff who will be joining him any moment from now.

7. RELATIONSHIP WITH GOVERNMENT AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER SISTER AGENCIES

Our relationship with other sister Agencies can at best be described as very robust. CPN continues to collaborate with different Associations and Agencies in the Information Technology profession in order to keep on

educating the professionals and members of the public sector on Information Technology.

8. PUBLIC RELATIONS

Adequate attention is been paid to the enhancement of the image of the establishment. Our media presence has improved and we try to make useful information available to registered members of the profession. Ladies and Gentlemen, the visibility of the Information Technology profession in Nigeria is improving. We get due attention in the print media on a regular basis now. Efforts are being taken to ensure that we maintain, and improve on our visibility rating. Part of this measure is the constant interaction with the Media (traditional and New Media). The Council had a follow up Media Forum with IT Journalists on Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. The programme was well attended with CPN and the media agreeing to work together.

ATTENDANCE AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It is very clear that members of the profession have continued to renew their interest in attendance of the Annual General Meetings. There has been a remarkable increase in members' attendance at the Annual General Meetings in the past few years.

CONCLUSION

Fellow Professionals, there is no doubt that we have a lot of task ahead of us. We need to work hard to win a pride of place for our country in the Information Technology world where no nation stops for those who stand

idly on the roadside of development. Information Technology should be pervasive in our daily life such that every agency of government, every school, every home in Nigeria should have access to Information Technology. We have to work hard to make Nigeria a knowledge center in Africa as well as leader in IT education, IT assisted training and complete application of Information Technology to businesses, professional services and the arts.

We need as a nation to create wealth and sustain our prosperity through Digital Infrastructures by giving more people the knowledge and skills to compete, collaborate and connect in a way that drives our Country forward. Digital Knowledge and Skills have become the global currency of the 21st- Century economies. In this Digital Economy, there is no Central bank that prints this currency. The thing that will keep you moving forward is always what you bring to the table yourself- Your knowledge and skills.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we should endeavor to accelerate the development of our IT infrastructure. If we are able to achieve that quickly, the distance separating the thirty-six states of the federation and the FCT will compress dramatically in our minds – because we must have built virtual bridges over the waters, across the air and into the cyberspace. By virtue of the enormous task ahead of us, I believe that everyone here will agree with me that the time has come for the establishment of a full Ministry for Information Technology and the appointment of a full-fledged Minister for Information Technology.

I thank you all for listening and GOD bless you all.

Allwell C. Achumba, FNCS, MCPN
Registrar/Secretary to Council