

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN-IN-COUNCIL, PROF. CHARLES O. UWADIA, AT THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS (REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA) HELD AT NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA, ON THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019

The Vice President/Vice Chairman-in-Council

Past Presidents/Chairmen of Council

President of Nigeria Computer Society

The Registrar/Secretary to Council

Past Registrars/Secretaries to Council

Distinguished Professional Colleagues

Distinguished Friends from the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

### **Opening**

On behalf of Council members, I welcome you all to this Annual General Meeting, the 25<sup>th</sup> in the series. This year's **Annual General Meeting** is coming up at a time when a new civilian administration has just been sworn in after the general elections that witnessed Information Technology (IT) playing a very important and pivotal role. Therefore, I congratulate us all for the successful general elections that have deepened our democratic experience and smoothed our transition to another civilian administration. Fellow

professionals, it is about two years since you gave the current Council members the mandate to run the affairs of our great profession. The experiences of the past two years have really strengthened our profession and broadened our scope of opportunities for growth. We have put in efforts to serve you to the best of our ability, and we can only hope that you have been satisfied with our performance and conduct these past two years. I wish to report that I received maximum cooperation and support from Council members, and we worked together as a team along with the **Nigeria Computer Society** and other stakeholders in the profession. Distinguished colleagues, I will also like to thank all of you for your co-operation and understanding that have assisted us immensely in running the affairs of Council. This past year in particular, could be said to have been relatively peaceful and stable with landmark progress and achievements recorded on some fronts. The core mandate of CPN is the control and supervision of the Computing profession. Council realized that fulfilling this mandate in a more effective way requires repositioning CPN for increased relevance and sustainability. We have therefore intensified efforts at improving the visibility of the Council through more vigorous engagement of our parent Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Education and other MDAs. Please permit me to report on some strategic events and activities that took place during the period under review.

**Representation on the Board of National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)**

I wish to inform the AGM that the Board of NITDA has been reconstituted. It was formally inaugurated on 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018 with Prof. Adeolu Akande as its Chairman. Under the NITDA Act 2007, provision was made for four Persons representing affiliate bodies of the Computer Professionals Registration Council to be members of the Board. In consultation with the President of NCS, four members of the Society were selected to serve on the Board of NITDA. These members are Mr. Mohammed Musa Abubakar FNCS, Dr. Muhammad Sirajo Aliyu FNCS, Prof. G. A. Aderounmu (President NCS), and Professor C. O. Uwadia (President CPN). The members had their first meeting on the Board on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2018. Let me on your behalf, first congratulate these members for their selection to serve on the Board, second; thank them for their contributions and services so far, and third exhort them to do more for the profession in the months and years ahead. As you are aware, NITDA remains a veritable partner in fulfilling our core mandate. Council had also gone a step further by setting up an ad-hoc committee to develop an agenda that will serve as a guide for our members on the Board of NITDA. The committee, which is already at work, is headed by Dr. Yele Okeremi and has the following as members: Dr. Galadima Madu Baba, Engr. Uche Dike, Mr. Umar Bawa, Mr. Liberty Echewodo, Mr. Kola Okunola, Dr. (Mrs.) Bukola Onashoga, and Mr. Nicholas Eyimks

**White paper on Scheme of Service for Computer Professional cadre in the Public Service**

I am happy to report that the Federal Executive Council has finally approved the creation of Computer Engineer cadre in the Schemes of Service structured on SGL 08 – 17 for graduates. This is coming thirteen years after recommendations to that effect were made by the **National Council on Establishments**. Approval was also granted for the re-designation of the Data Processing Officer (Intermediate) and the Programmer / Analyst cadres as Programme Officer (SGL 06 – 14) and Programme / System Analyst cadres (SGL 08 – 17) respectively. The re-designation is with a view to aligning the nomenclatures with current global practices especially as regards job contents and definitions. We thank the Federal government for this laudable and landmark achievement, which will boost the morale of IT professionals in the public service, attract young and quality professionals into service, and act as a catalyst for the effective deployment of IT in the public service.

### **Relocation of the Head Office to the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja**

I am happy to report that our Abuja office (the Centre of Excellence) has now been re-designated as the Headquarters/Head office of CPN. This was made possible by the completion of the ground floor of the building thereby facilitating the relocation of the Registrar / Secretary to Council and other key staff to the Head office on 28<sup>th</sup>February, 2019. It is expected that other staff will move as progress is made in completing the building. I wish to thank past and present Council for their efforts in making this relocation possible. The movement of the Head Office to Abuja has indeed improved our visibility and relevance, especially among

MDAs. Consequently, the Lagos office now becomes a zonal office, and it will continue to play a crucial role in the activities of Council.

### **Implementation of the Report on Standards for E-Government programmes**

Please recall that at the last AGM, I reported that the ad-hoc committee on Standards for E-Government programmes had just submitted its report, which was then being considered by Council. I wish to inform the AGM that consequently, Council had set up an Expert Workgroup to guide and supervise the implementation of the report. Members of the committee are as follows: Olorogun James Emadoye (Chairman), Dr. (Mrs.) Aderonke Bello, Mr. Charles Onyeukwu, Mr. Yomi Ismail, Mr. Abubakar Ibrahim, Dr. Emmanuel G. Eseyin, and Dr. (Mrs.) Veronica Osubor. The group has since commenced work.

### **Forum for Information Technology (IT) Teachers In Tertiary Institutions**

The **Forum for Information Technology (IT) Teachers in Tertiary Institutions** was conceived as an exclusive networking event, to bring together Information Technology Lecturers in all the institutions of higher learning in Nigeria with the objective of fostering togetherness amongst them. IT teachers were able to network and discuss on issues of common interest that are emergent in Information Technology in order to come out with decisions that will impact positively on the industry, the profession, and the nation. The meeting also created an interest on general fiscal policy as it affects the teaching of Computer Science and related IT subjects in all the institutions of higher learning.

The Forum which held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018 at Ayalla Hotel, Abuja had robust discussions on curriculum and other matters considered important.

### **Forum with Directors of ICT in Ministries, Departments & Agencies (MDAs)**

The **Forum for Directors of IT in MDAs** which held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018 at Ayalla Hotel, Abuja, was conceived by the 2017-2019 Council as an exclusive networking event, a gathering of Directors of ICT in Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government with the objective of networking and discussing on issues of common interest that are emergent in Information Technology in order to come out with decisions that will impact positively on the industry, the profession, and the nation. The meeting was also intended to create an interest on general fiscal policy as it affects the MDAs. ICT Directors at the Forum were unanimous in their resolve that ICTs have proven to be a strategic tool to drive and achieve organizational ends/direction – vision, mission, strategy, goals and objectives. The meeting also agreed that ICT Directors in MDAs are indeed vital to the survival and prosperity of the Public Service because information is the life wire of every modern economy; and information is important to the successful planning and implementation of government policies.

### **Forum with the Media**

In continuation of the efforts of the present Council to reposition CPN for sustainable development in the Information Technology sector in Nigeria, a follow up **Forum with IT Journalists** was held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May, 2019

at Sheraton Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos. The media parley/engagement was put in place to promote media interaction and seek the support and partnership of the media in giving adequate publicity to the programmes and activities of CPN.

The well-attended programme was a follow-up to an earlier one held at Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Ikeja, Lagos on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

CPN and the media agreed to work together for the mutual benefits of both parties. CPN was also expected to establish a process that enables free flow of information on its activities to the media. I am happy to report that all the recommendations from these fora are already being implemented.

## **Conclusion**

Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been quite an eventful year full of activities and challenges for Council. Indeed, a lot has been done but there is still so much to be done; we need to remain focused on those things to be done for the betterment of the profession. I wish to thank the generality of our members who have supported the profession in different ways in the last one year. We appreciate your support in form of payment of annual dues, serving in committees, representing Council at meetings and events across the country, offering advice on different issues, and in criticizing us when the need arise.

I want to thank the elders of the profession for their intervention and immense contributions at all times. The Federal Ministry of Education has been a pillar of support; I therefore want to thank the immediate past Honorable Minister of Education, the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Education – Architect Sonny Echono, as well as all the officials

of the Federal Ministry of Education. I also want to thank our partners, the NCS, NITDA, GreyMouth, NiRA, ipNX and Sidmach Technologies.

In closing, I express my sincere gratitude to Mr. Kole Jagun who has been a most effective and committed Vice President/Vice Chairman-in-Council. I appreciate the members of staff at the Secretariat under the able leadership of the Registrar/Secretary to Council, Mr. Allwell Achumba, *FNCS* for their steadfastness and unalloyed commitment to the cause of the Council.

Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to serve this Council for two years. There is no doubt that we have put in so much efforts at repositioning our profession for the betterment of the practitioners and the nation.

In the next few years, I foresee an avalanche of accomplishments for the profession and the nation in Information Technology. I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

I thank you all for your attention.

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