



**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS  
(REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA) [CPN] FORUM HELD AT THE  
SHERATON HOTELS AND TOWERS, IKEJA-LAGOS ON TUESDAY 27<sup>TH</sup>  
MARCH, 2018**

**PREAMBLE**

In continuation of the efforts of the present Council to reposition the **Computer Professionals (Registration Council of Nigeria) [CPN]** for sustainable development in the Information Technology sector in Nigeria, an interactive forum of Media Executives was held to promote and seek the support and partnership of the media in giving adequate publicity to the programmes and activities of CPN, especially towards her forthcoming 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations.

The forum was held in order to improve on the already established relationship between Council and the Media and to foster a mutually beneficial relationship between Council and the Fourth Estate of the realm, the Press. The Media remains a partner in progress that is critical to improving the visibility of CPN.

The well-attended programme which took place at the **Sheraton Hotels and Towers, Ikeja, Lagos** was attended by over thirty (30) Media Executives from the Print, Electronics and Online/New Media.

**ABOUT CPN**

The **Computer Professionals (Registration Council of Nigeria) [CPN]** was established by Act. No. 49 of 1993 (CPN ACT CAP C22 LFN 2004). CPN is a government agency responsible for the regulation, control and supervision of the computing profession and practice in Nigeria as well as developing local IT capacity in tune with national and international requirements.

The act makes it mandatory for all persons and organizations seeking to engage, or engaged in IT training, education, sale and/or use of computing

facilities, the provision of professional services in computational or related computational machinery in Nigeria to be registered by the Council and licensed to carry out such activities.

The President/Chairman-in-Council, Professor Uwadia who took over the leadership of CPN in September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017, after the Council was inaugurated by the Minister for Education Mallam Adamu Adamu, reaffirmed that the CPN Council would continue to support government in achieving its goals of driving the Nigerian economy with the right technologies.

Information Technology (IT) is the fulcrum of any thriving economy and cannot be ignored by the players in the knowledge economy, Council has therefore chosen to focus on this invaluable tool that will propel our economy and prepare our industries for global competitiveness.

## INTRODUCTION

The forum was borne out of the belief that the media is critical to improving the visibility of CPN and highlighting the importance of professionalism in the Information Technology (IT) industry in Nigeria.

The following are the objectives of the forum: -

1. To canvass and seek support for Council's activities and ensure excellent media coverage towards her forthcoming 25th Anniversary,
2. To create awareness and propagate the importance of Council, the right perspectives for Council programmes, and her achievements these past 25 years,
3. To position CPN members as professionals and experts in IT (Information Technology).

The Principal Officers of the Council delivered speeches at the event; these include the **President/Chairman-in-Council**, Professor Charles O. Uwadia, the **Vice-President/Vice-Chairman-in-Council**, Mr. Kole Jagun as well as the **Registrar/Secretary to Council**, Mr. Allwell C. Achumba. Their presentations dwelled extensively on the need to forge strategic partnership with the media in promoting the programmes and activities of Council. Therefore, the importance of the media in the promotion and enhancement of the

visibility of the CPN brand was adequately stressed in the three presentations. The forum was informed that CPN has lined up several programmes of activities as part of the initiatives and strategic intervention of the present Council.

The Deputy President, **Nigeria Computer Society (NCS)**, Mr. Chinenye Mba-Uzuokwu represented the President, NCS, Professor Adesola Aderounmu.

The forum was moderated by **Mr. Jide Awe** and **Mr. Idowu Olusile**, the **Director of Education and Training** of CPN.

### **PROCEEDINGS**

In his presentation, Professor Uwadia, the President/Chairman-in-Council, highlighted the following activities / achievements of Council from July 2017 to March, 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018:

1. Council was working with the **National Universities Commission (NUC)** and **National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE)** in the area of joint accreditation by the two bodies. The relationship will complement the joint accreditation exercise which the Council already has with the **National Board for Technical Education (NBTE)**.
2. Council has reached an advanced stage with the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (**JAMB**) on the registration and accreditation of the CBT centers for the purpose of quality control.
3. Council has also earmarked various programmes for Information Technology teachers in higher institutions.
4. Recently, Council engaged the Chief Executive Officers of Information Technology organizations in a roundtable discussion on the challenges facing the industry and how the industry CEOs can work together to source for government support
5. A similar programme for the Directors of Information Technology in Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) will be held in few weeks time
6. The efforts of the Council in exterminating quackery has led to the establishment of a joint Committee between CPN and NITDA for the

review of Information Technology projects in the public sector with a view of ensuring local content in the award of Information Technology projects in Nigeria. This will also address the anomalies in the lopsided award of government contracts that are IT related to ensure that qualified contractors with good knowledge of IT are awarded IT related projects.

7. **National Universities Commission** has also accelerated discussions with the Council on the development of standards for online programmes in Nigeria. The support and partnership of the media is therefore solicited for adequate publicity and success of the programmes and activities.
8. As part of the programmes of Council, the Head Office of CPN will be relocating to Abuja this year, while it will still maintain its Lagos office
9. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CPN will be celebrated during this year's Information Technology Assembly/Annual General Meeting. Several programmes of activities have been lined up for the event.

The Chairman of **Nigeria Information Technology Reporters Association (NITRA)**, **Mr. Emma Okonji** responded on behalf of the association. He observed that there has been a gap between CPN and the media. He therefore thanked the Council for recognizing the importance of the association in the industry and requested that CPN and the media collaborate in the following areas:

1. The assistance of CPN in organizing capacity building programmes for the members.
2. A closer relationship between CPN and the association to make the partnership work better.
3. A better and cordial information flow from CPN to make their job of publicizing the activity of the Council easy and seamless.
4. He advised the Council to improve on its press engagement. He thereafter suggested a quarterly press briefing.

After his presentation, questions and comments were taken from the media representatives and answers were provided as appropriate.

## **SUMMARY**

At the end of the interactive session, the two bodies agreed to work together for mutual benefits in the following areas:

1. The two bodies agreed to promote free flow of information on the activities of CPN to the media. The new channel of partnership will be allowed to thrive, and efforts will be made to sustain it.
2. Additionally, a quarterly press briefing will be instituted to sustain the relationship and ensure that the media is carried along in CPN's activities.
3. CPN to have a database of NITRA members for easy access to information and dissemination.
4. The Media to be carried along in all the programmes and activities of Council. The Principal Officers of the Council should be introduced to the media as and when necessary.

*Signed:*

Prof. Charles O. Uwadia fncs, mcpn

*President/Chairman-in-Council*

Mr. Allwell C. Achumba fncs, mcpn

*Registrar/Secretary to Council*