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## **Nigerian Copyright Commission, intellectual property law enforcer**

By

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The vision of the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) is to create an enabling environment for the protection of copyright through effective administration and enforcement of all categories of copyright works protected under the law, including the combat against piracy.

Formerly a Parastatal of Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the NCC was recently retransferred to the Federal Ministry of Justice and has a seven-member Governing Board chaired by Honourable Damishi Sango, while Adebambo Anthony Adewopo is the Director General / Chief Executive.

In line with Sections 30 and 32 of the law, the Federal Government of Nigeria inaugurated Nigerian Copyright Commission in August 1989 as the sole agency responsible for the administration of copyright in the country. In 1996, the Council was upgraded to the status of a Commission and the Nigerian Copyright Act amended twice by the Copyright (Amendment Decree No. 98) of 1992 and Copyright (Amendment Decree No. 42) of 1999. Pursuant to the provisions of the Act (as amended), the Commission made the following regulations: Copyright (Collecting Societies) Regulations dated 16th August 1993; Copyright (Video Rental) Regulations dated 7th September 1999; and Copyright (Security Devices) Regulations dated 7th September 1999.

The Nigerian Copyright Commission is charged with the statutory mandate to:

- Be responsible for all matters affecting copyright in Nigeria as provided for in the Act;
- Monitor and supervise Nigeria's position in relation to international conventions and advise Government thereon;
- Advise and regulate conditions for the conclusion of bilateral and multilateral agreements between Nigeria and any other country;
- Enlighten and inform the public on matters relating to copyright; and
- Maintain an effective data bank on authors and their works.

Its additional responsibilities include:

- General enforcement of the criminal provisions of the Act;
- Regulation of the condition for the exercise of the resale right under Section 12;
- Prescription and enforcement of regulation on anti-piracy devices under Section 18A;
- General administration of the authorization scheme for the exploitation of expressions of folklore under Section 28;
- Grant of compulsory licenses in accordance with the provision of the fourth schedule to the Act including the establishment and regulation of the Copyright Licensing Panel under Section 30A;
- Appointment of Copyright Inspectors for the prosecution of copyright offences;
- Approval and regulation of collecting societies;
- Establishment of appropriate administrative infrastructure for the compulsory levy on copyright materials and the equitable disbursement of funds arising there from;
- Administration of the Copyright (Video Rental) Regulations and the Copyright (Security Devices) Regulations;
- Establishment of necessary legal framework for the giving of notice under Section 36, against the importation of infringing copies of copyright works;
- Formal approval or prescription of educational institutions, royalty rates, procedures and the taking of other necessary steps required as condition precedent to the activation of relevant sections of the Act, e.g. Prescription of the period required under paragraph (i) of the Second Schedule to the Act or the prescription of conditions and compensations with respect to the compulsory licensing of reproductive rights.

The Commission has successfully undertaken the following:

- Video Rental Regulation
- Hologram Scheme
- School and Youth Project (Copyright Club)
- Establishment of more offices across the country
- Prosecution of copyright offenders.
- Publication of Copyright Bulletin
- Copyright Notification Scheme.

Contact Address

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