



**WELCOME ADDRESS OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARIAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PROFESSOR CHINWE VERONICA ANUNOBI, AT THE SENSITIZATION WORKSHOP ON “STANDARDIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE PUBLICATIONS AND LEGAL DEPOSIT OBLIGATIONS” ORGANIZED FOR PUBLISHERS, RESEARCHERS, BOOK SELLERS, PRINTERS, LIBRARIANS ETC AT THE WATBRIDGE HOTEL AND SUITES, UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE, MONDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER, 2022.**

**PROTOCOL**

I am highly delighted to welcome you to this august occasion of the National Library of Nigeria’s 2022 Sensitization Workshop on “Standardization of Cultural Heritage Publications and Legal Deposit Obligations” organized for Publishers, Authors, Researchers, Book sellers, Printers, and Librarians.

The major mandate of the National Library of Nigeria is to collect all publications emanating from Nigeria, publications about Nigeria and any publication authored by Nigerians anywhere in the world. All publications emanating from Nigeria must comply with international standards through the issuance of ISBN and ISSN.

The National Library of Nigeria therefore, continually engages in sensitization workshops to simulate and educate authors, publishers, printers, booksellers, researchers, librarians and other stakeholders on the importance of adhering to international standards of publishing and legal deposit compliance. This year’s sensitization workshop is focused on the need to promote the production and standardization of cultural heritage materials. It is disheartening to note that some publications in Nigeria’s indigenous languages do not carry ISBN/ISSN and the stipulated legal deposit responsibility is hardly complied with by those whose publications were assigned ISBN/ISSN by the National Library of Nigeria as well those who may out of share indifference fail to comply. It is my firm belief that this

could be attributed to ignorance on the part of those concerned. We expect that this workshop will bridge awareness and knowledge gap.

It is equally important to note some publisher divergence from the global norm by way of wrong placement of bibliographic details such as the ISBN/ISSN, year of publication, publishers address etc on their publications. It should be reiterated Nigerian publications should not be allowed to fall below the global standard, hence stakeholders in our heritage industry must make sure that their standard numbers (ISBN, ISSN & ISMN) are obtained from the right source which is the National Library of Nigeria. The numbers should be appropriately utilized, placed at the appropriate part of the material and the relevant copies are deposited for posterity.

As a reminder, authors, publisher, printers and documentalists are mandated to deposit in the National Library as follows:

3 copies (individual / private publishers),

10 copies (State MDAs) and

25 copies (Federal MDAs)

Publishing in indigenous language plays a vital role in teaching and learning situations. It is however sad to note that Nigeria, a multilingual nation with over 250 living languages seems to be reluctant to tap into the benefits of using the mother tongue in her publications. One of the significant advantages of using indigenous language in Nigerian publications is its positive impact on national cultural heritage. Leveraging on indigenous language publications using Information and Communication Technology (ICT) would be one of Nigeria's most significant components of national identity. No language (foreign or indigenous) is inferior to the other. Publishers can in fact translate existing publications in foreign languages into indigenous languages, which of course will require obtaining new ISBN or ISSN as the case may be.

Furthermore, most indigenous languages are on the verge of extinction. Therefore, authors and publishers are encouraged to publish more in indigenous languages. Writing in indigenous language will keep the language alive and thus retain the knowledge that they hold which may prove to be important and useful in the future. The Nation will also contribute more to the global information and knowledge

society. There is an old saying “When an elder dies we lose an entire library” but when a language is lost, we lose just as much – if not more.

I will therefore enjoin participants at this workshop to take the lectures seriously and focus on every detail of the guidelines of ISBN/ISSN/CIP and the legal deposit provisions. The expected outcome is to concretize our collective efforts aimed at the preservation of our published materials for future generation’s research benefits

Permit me to say that the National Library of Nigeria is entering a new era in standardization and bibliographic control. We cannot afford to fail the Nation and the international community.

His Excellency Governor Udom Emmanuel, the Commissioner, Ministry of Education, Akwa Ibom State, able Chairman of this occasion, the Keynote speaker, distinguished participants and all invited guests, I once again welcome you to this workshop and wish everyone attentive and fruitful deliberations.

Thank you and God bless.

**Prof. Chinwe Veronica Anunobi**