

CYBERLAW IN NIGERIA

By

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Introduction

- ▣ This presentation provides a brief overview of cyberlaw in Nigeria
- ▣ Cyberlaw in its simplest form is synonymous with:
 - 1) Information and Communication Technology (ICT Law)
 - 2) Internet Law
 - 3) Information Technology and Telecommunications Law
 - 4) Any other variant of the above ie Internet Law & Policy
 - 5) By Cyberlaw in this presentation, it includes Laws, Policies, Regulations and Guidelines in the ICT and related field

Introduction Cont...

- ▣ It is right to say that Cyberlaw in generally still at infancy in Nigeria in terms of its development
- ▣ However, there are some notable progress made already in the area of enactment of some ICT related/Cyberlaw in Nigeria
- ▣ Examples: NCC Act of 2003, which dates back to the NCC Decree of 1992; NITDA Act, CBN Act, and the various regulations and guidelines that have emanated from these institutions such as e-Payment regulations and guidelines, National IT policy, National Security Policy etc

Cyberlaw Development in Nigeria

- ▣ The immediate objectives of this short presentation are:
 - To show that cyberlaw issues is not related to enactment of ICT related laws alone such as Cybercrime law, Digital/Electronic Signature Law, Electronic Voting Law, Electronic Evidence Law etc
 - To show that serious gaps exist in the human development area with short, medium and long term impact on the development of ICT and an Internet/Information Society economy in Nigeria

Cyberlaw Development in Nigeria

- ▣ The immediate objectives of this short presentation are:
 - To show that the human capital formation and utilization affect the core legal profession (practitioners), those at the bench (magistrates, judges and their supporting staff), those in the Ministries of Justice/Offices of the Attorney General (Federal & States), those in the ICT industries and ICT enabled industries (almost if not all industries today are ICT enabled in one way or the other

Cyberlaw Development in Nigeria

- ▣ Some initiative and approach to address highlighted issue for the development of the information economy and Internet enabled society:
 - Embark of short, medium and long term production of law graduates that will go into the bench as magistrate and judges, become practising lawyers, legislators and policy makers and legal advisers to various companies, organizations in particular e-commerce companies, telcos, governments and international organizations
 - Start a process for legal education reform through strategic emphasis on law degree programmes with substantial cyberlaw content and specialised degree programme in cyberlaw and Policy

Cyberlaw Development in Nigeria

- ▣ Some initiative and approach to address highlighted issue for the development of the information economy and Internet enabled society:
 - Through collaboration between our universities, the industry and government and the councils responsible for legal education embark on curriculum design in cyberlaw education and programme
 - Programme should also have special attention that addresses issues of mandatory continuous cyberlaw programmes for legal practitioners, legislators, policy makers and the support staffs of various organizations

Cyberlaw Development in Nigeria

- Spindlar Cyberlaw Centre have been set up to address some of these issues
- Details about Spindlar Cyberlaw Centre and its approach to address some of the identified issues is available at <http://www.spindlar.com.ng>
- For more opportunity to learn more about development of Cyberlaw in Nigeria and progress made so far, participants in this forum are welcome to attend the upcoming Nigeria's 1st Spindlar Cyberlaw Forum
- The forum has scheduled as a key note speaker His Excellency, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria – Prof. Yemi Osinbajo.

Conclusion

- There have been a lot of progress on the technical and business side of ICT in Nigeria and Africa generally
- The progress made is being hampered substantially by lack of capacity in the cyberlaw domain
- Without appropriate legal regime and know-how by all stakeholders involved in the use and development of ICTs in Nigeria and Africa, our progress will be very limited
- As the saying goes, “Rome was not built in a day”. Development of the Cyberlaw field as compliment to the technical and business side require the contribution of all. The time to start is now!

Thank You.



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