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NIGERIA COMPUTER SOCIETY FAULTS FG, MICROSOFT'S ANTICIPATED PARTNERSHIP

The Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) has said the recent collaboration between the federal government and Microsoft, a foreign software giant, will stifle indigenous technology growth and hamper local content development.

NCS President, Prof. Adesina Sodiya, who raised the concern said: "Vice President Yemi



Osinbanjo is trying to engage Microsoft on National Economic Development. Although the area of engagement is still not clear to us, but if it is in the area of software development, we have indigenous software developers in Nigeria who are NCS members that are capable of developing indigenous software solutions that could address specific challenges of Nigeria."

According to him, the idea of government recognising a foreign software company and neglecting indigenous software developers, would dampen the spirit and zeal for technology innovation, while discouraging local content development.

"Government must collaborate with NCS on matters that have to do with National Economic Development in order to grow indigenous technology and promote local content development. Nigeria has a regulatory council that is saddled with the responsibility of regulating the practice of Information Technology

in Nigeria, which is the Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN), and the NCS is the umbrella body for all IT professionals in Nigeria. "Government should begin to engage these professional bodies in matters concerning National Economic Development, and not a foreign software company like Microsoft," Sodiya said.

He further said in developed countries of the world, governments would always engage the national IT bodies of their countries when it comes to issues of national development, and advised Nigerian government to learn from them in order to grow the Nigerian economy much faster.

He insisted that NCS could develop the software needs of Nigeria, and advised government not to look elsewhere to get things done. Recently our members developed e-meeting and e-conference platform that can compete favourably with Zoom and the likes, Sodiya said.

He equally blamed the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for not believing in NCS and the Nigerian IT professionals in matters of technology that would drive electoral processes in the country.

"INEC is another government body that is ignoring the IT profession in Nigeria. NCS has made several attempts to assist INEC in addressing some technicalities in election matters, especially in the area of card readers for election process. We have written INEC severally to allow us be part of the

process so that we can give technical advice in the use of card readers for elections but such request was never granted. Instead, INEC will prefer to engage foreign tech companies and expatriates in technical issues that we can handle internally in Nigeria," Sodiya said.

We wrote a letter to INEC recently, asking for collaboration for the proper guidance in the purchase of card readers in the next general elections and to our greatest surprise, INEC did not honour the letter.

Last year, INEC invited over 20 organisations to discourse the deployment of e-voting system in Nigeria, but NCS as a critical stakeholder in IT development in Nigeria was not invited to be part of the screening process and that is why Nigeria has not been able to successfully address the issues around e-voting system, Sodiya further said.

While citing some of the technical hitches that the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) is facing, Sodiya said NIMC would overcome such challenges if properly funded.

He called on the federal government to focus on policy implementation that would enhance capacity building in 2021, having dwelt so much on digital transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), e-governance and automation processes in 2020. "We need implementation plan to drive these initiatives and we also need to see action plan on policy implementation on these emerging technologies," Sodiya said.

NCS MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS READY TO ASSIST NIMC, OTHERS ON IT DEVELOPMENT - PROF SODIYA

The Nigeria Computer Society have again offered to assist the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), to deliver on the ongoing project – that is, to have all citizens/residents enrolled on the national identity database.

The workload appears overwhelming for the Commission following a directive by the Federal Government of Nigeria that all SIM Card holders should link them to a National Identification Number (NIN).

The Nigerian National ID project started in 1976 during the Military rule of General Olusegun Obasanjo.

Meanwhile, the IT professionals are unhappy that despite the efforts so far, less than one-quarter of the country's population are yet to be enrolled on the national database which calls for more capacity on the side of NIMC.

To this end, the professionals under the umbrella – Nigeria Computer Society – have expressed their willingness to provide both technological and human capacity needed to executive the project.

It could be recalled that NCS had offered to assist NIMC before now, but as the February 19 deadline draws closer and with the report that about 47.8 million NINs have been linked to SIM cards, it now obvious that many citizens risk disconnection from using mobile network services.

The President of the Nigeria Computer Society, Prof. Adesina Sodiya, said that the Society have always expressed their readiness to partner with

both private and public organisations towards execution of IT-related projects.

Sodiya said that as a Society they had foresaw that NIMC's project requires extensive work and expanded project partners to meet-up with the expectations of the government.

He said that NCS had at a time 'challenged' NIMC's management on better ways of realising the NIN enrolment target. The Society even went ahead to constitute a 'Committee on NIMC' which is meant to analyse and recommend better ways to executive the project and other similar registrations.

The NCS President further warned that decentralization of the process is one of ways to ensure COVID-19 protocols are adhered to, even as COVID-19 cases in the country have been on increase recently.

He further explained that, "As a Society, we see things ahead, especially in the area of IT development. Of course, that is why we are there. We challenged NIMC at that time on better ways of realising the National Identification Number (NIN) registration. Even last year when the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board wanted to enforce the NIN usage for candidates' registration; they had to ditch it, even for that small number of people.

"Now, we are talking about over 70% of the population. You want to force them to complete this registration within how many weeks? It is actually a problem.

When we heard they have registered or accredited about 2,000 organisations to assist in

.....NCS members are always ready to assist NIMC, others on IT development – Prof Sodiya

Contd. from Pg 3

the registration, I quickly placed a call to the Director General of NIMC with the intent to understand why the previously approved partners (by NIMC) could not deliver on this project.

“What I could deduce from the responses and other investigations I carried out was that NIMC was expected to release the initial mobilization fund. Unfortunately, NIMC didn’t have the funds. Secondly, some of them were said to lack the capacity to deliver on the project.

“Then, the question NIMC needs to address is: Why did you approve their participation in the process in the first place? This is the time they really need those people; to assist in the registration process. I understand they (the registrants) were to be paid an equivalent of \$1/NIN registered. And that project is sponsored by the World Bank. In all fairness to the DG, Engr. A. Aziz, he is very open to receiving advice.

“The Nigeria Computer Society recently constituted a Committee on NIMC –activities. Whatever recommendations we have, we sent to the DG and will continue to do that until the goal

is actualised.

“In fact, we had proposed to NIMC to leverage the NCS Chapters across the States to extend the NIN registration centres. In a case that is not visible, we have members who care credible and capable to make this work”.

Prof. Sodiya also advised the Federal Government to have a rethink on the plan to bar SIM card users who failed to link-up with a NIN, stressing that it will affect many Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that are reliant on SIM cards to carry out their businesses.

He also said called on the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMoC&DE), to convene stakeholders’ meeting to discuss further steps to be taken to achieve the digital economy agenda.

The Body was formed in 1978 based on the vision and aspirations of the initial members and was initially called Computer Association of Nigeria (CAN).

The name was soon changed to COAN. COAN was established as the umbrella body of all IT professionals in Nigeria.



www.ncs.org.ng



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
**INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS FOR
 DIGITAL ECONOMY**



3RD - 5TH AUG., 2021.



UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE.

NCS National Secretariat

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IFIP RESTORED NCS MEMBERSHIP

The International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) has restored the Membership of Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) after the present administration led by Professor Adesina S. Sodiya showed commitment and readiness to be fully involved in all IFIP activities. NCS Membership was suspended about 4 years ago due to NCS inactivity and lack of participation at IFIP events.

International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) is the umbrella organization for national societies all over the world working in the field of information processing and technology. It was established in 1960 under the auspices of UNESCO as a result of the first World Computer Congress held in Paris in 1959.

With this development, NCS remains Nigeria representative at IFIP and can now be represented at all IFIP events and meetings. This



current NEC is assuring members that NCS will certainly attain desirable status and take its rightful places in the structure and operations of IFIP. The President, Prof. A. S. Sodiya, has also mentioned that NCS will be represented at the next general assembly of IFIP holding in Geneva, Switzerland.

NCS is working towards enhancing further internal collaborations and affiliations.



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BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NIGERIA COMPUTER SOCIETY (NCS)

...Umbrella Organisation for all IT Professionals & Stakeholders in Nigeria

OUR MISSION

Advancement and Promotion of Computing/Information Technology Education and Practice for the benefit of all.

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NIGERIA COMPUTER SOCIETY (NCS)

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- Mentorship
- International collaboration and partnerships
- Internships
- Supports for startups and young innovators
- Research and innovation funding
- Professional recognitions
- Exhibition of products and services of members
- Local content development
- And many more

To register, visit www.ncs-portal.org.ng
For further information, visit www.ncs.org.ng

Come, Let us promote IT together in Nigeria.

NCS National Secretariat

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Nigeria Association of
Computing Students (NACOS)

Are you a Computing Student?

Are you studying Computer Science,
Computer Engineering, Information
Technology, Information System,
Cyber Security, Software Engineering
or any other IT Related Courses.

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Register and become a bonafide
member of the association.



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- ✓ Download your Membership Certificate
- ✓ Register for NACOS events
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- ✓ Get direct Registration with Nigeria
Computer Society (NCS) and other
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0803 779 1078.**



STAY SAFE: PROTECT YOURSELF AND THOSE AROUND YOU

THE COVID-19: WE WANT YOU TO STAY ALIVE

Dear professional colleagues, Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) as a Professional body in Nigeria are not oblivious of the pandemic ravaging the world called COVID-19.

We care for our members. Therefore, we wish to inform our precious and distinguished members of the need to pay utter attention to basic preventive measures against COVID-19.

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and through your national and local public health authority. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others.

Take care of your health and protect others by:

- a. Constantly getting basic preventive measures and current updates from WHO (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>). Kindly always follow the guidelines as outlined
- b. Paying attention to national and international information on COVID-19
- c. Being an health ambassador by helping to sensitise the public on preventive measures against the virus
- d. Ensuring you always take advice from healthcare professionals
- e. Taking general measures to improve your health conditions

Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) wants our members to always be strong and healthy. Together we shall continue to build strong and virile IT Profession.

Stay Alive!!!

Executive Secretary
NIGERIA COMPUTER SOCIETY (NCS)
www.ncs.org.ng

STAY AT HOME IF YOU ARE UNWELL

WASH YOUR HANDS REGULARLY

COVER COUGHS AND SNEEZES WITH FACE MASK OR DISPOSABLE PAPER TISSUES

STAY 1.5 METRES AWAY FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE COUGHING OR SNEEZING

AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE, NOSE AND MOUTH WITH UNCLEAN HANDS



YEAR 2021 EVENT PLANNER

| S/N | Event | Proposed Venue | Proposed Date |
|-----|--|---------------------|--|
| 1 | Cyber Security Forum | Abuja | January 7 th , 2021 |
| 2 | Webinar on Smart Agriculture | Virtual | February 17 th , 2021 |
| 3 | Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) President Dinner | To be Determined | February 26 th , 2021 |
| 4 | Information Technology/Computer Science Research & Development Workshop | Lagos State | March 23 rd - 25 th , 2021 |
| 5 | Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) - Quarterly Roundtable | To be Determined | March 26 th , 2021 |
| 6 | Information Technology Professionals Assembly (Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria) | Abuja | April 7 th - 8 th , 2021 |
| 7 | Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) Annual General Meeting | To be Determined | April 14 th , 2021 |
| 8 | NCS-Pantami Hackaton for Digital Economy | Abuja | May 9 th - 17 th , 2021 |
| 9 | Cybercrime Detection and Forensic Investigation Workshop | NOUN, Lagos | June , 8 th - 10 th , 2021 |
| 10 | Nigerian Women in Information Technology (NIWIIT): Annual Conference and Exhibition | To be Determined | Jun-21 |
| 11 | Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) - Quarterly Roundtable | To be Determined | June 25th, 2021 |
| 12 | Information Technology Business Forum | Lagos | July 1st, 2021 |
| 13 | Annual International Conference | Akwa Ibom State | August 2nd - 4th , 2021 |
| 14 | Grand Finale of the National IT Competition for Tertiary and Secondary Schools | Akwa Ibom State | August 17th - 19th, 2021 |
| 15 | Workshop on Business Approaches to Web and Mobile Application Developments | Kaduna | September, 14th to 16th , 2021 |
| 16 | Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) - Quarterly Roundtable | To be Determined | September 24th, 2021 |
| 17 | Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain Technology for Smart Business Management | Lagos | October 5th - 7th, 2021 |
| 18 | e-Health Workshop | Virtual | October 19th, 2021 |
| 19 | Summer School Camp on Multidisciplinary Perspectives to Data Sciences and Artificial Intelligence | Awka, Anambra State | October 4th - 9th, 2021 |
| 20 | National Information Technology Merit Awards (NITMA) & Fellowship Conferment | Lagos State | November 25th, 2021 |
| 21 | National Information Technology Exhibition (NITEX) and Innovation Show | Lagos State | December 8th - 10th, 2021 |
| 22 | Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) - Quarterly Roundtable | To be Determined | December 17th, 2021 |

UPDATE FROM MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

DATA PROTECTION DAY: NIN SILVER LINING FOR E-GOVERNMENT, DIGITAL ECONOMY- PANTAMI

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Ali Pantami said the present administration attaches much importance to the ongoing registration for the National Identity Number (NIN), because it is strategic to e-government and digital economy drive of government.

Pantami who spoke on Thursday in Abuja during the 2021 Global Privacy Day Celebrations.

While he called on Nigerians to take data protection, privacy very seriously, he stressed that NIN has been designed to correct the long existing lapses in the country's database.

"The current efforts of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy in encouraging Nigerians to register for the National Identity Number (NIN) is a strategic and critical national effort to ensure Nigerians have a credible, converged and consistent database for identity purposes.

"The value of this would become appreciated with the ease at which e-government services would be delivered, the reduction in crime, and general efficiency guaranteed by the database.

"Identifying every Nigeria is a soft infrastructure needed to achieve our digital economy objective", Pantami said.

He further urged the African Union to pay

more attention to data protection in the continent, saying that 1.3 billion people in Africa were great asset to its economic development.

He also called for the creation of an African Single Digital Market (ASDM) which he said was critical to having a data sovereignty.

"I implore the African Union Commission and our international partners to support Nigeria's call for creating an African Single Digital Market (ASDM).

"This would enable the continent gain the advantage of economies of 1.3 billion people. The ASDM would also help us have data sovereignty in such a way as to protect data while also protecting the multinational technology investors", he added.

Meanwhile, in his address at the webinar, the Director General of the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Mr. Kashifu Abdullahi, said the issue of identity, data collection and management were imperative and government must put in place the necessary mechanisms to get things right.

He said since the country started implementing digital economy policies, over 2,686 new jobs had been created.

He also said data protection sector which is valued at N2.3billion had been created.

NIN, SOFT INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY - PANTAMI

The Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Dr. Isa Pantami, on Thursday 28th January, 2021 urged Nigerians to register for their National Identity Number (NIN) which would be a great tool toward achieving a digital economy.

Pantami said this at the Global Data Privacy Day celebration organised nationally by the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) in Abuja.

Global Privacy Day is being celebrated every Jan. 28, to raise awareness on the need for data privacy both for individuals and public institutions in line with best global practices.

In Nigeria, the week-long programme had its theme as “Harnessing Data as Critical Infrastructure for the Digital Economy” and featured webinars, quiz competition by secondary school students, among other activities.

“The current efforts of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy in encouraging Nigerians to register for NIN is a strategic and critical national effort to ensure Nigerians have a credible, converged and consistent database for identity purposes.

“The value of this would become appreciated with the ease at which e-government services would be delivered, the reduction in crime and general efficiency guaranteed by the database.”

“Identifying every Nigeria is a soft infrastructure needed to achieve our digital economy objective,” Pantami said.

According to him, the needed pieces for the digital economy is falling in place and we are committed to laying a solid and lasting

foundation for a digital Nigeria.

He said that the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation (NDPR) established on Jan. 25, 2019 was a critical regulation to a digital economy and needed all stakeholders to take it seriously.

Pantami commended NITDA on its effort to implement the NDPR adding that the Federal Government would support the agency to ensure compliance to the regulation and enforcement where necessary.

“Data must therefore be harnessed and properly regulated in order to achieve an orderly use of such valuable asset.”

“Public and private sector data controllers must now take note that non-compliance with the NDPR is a breach with administrative, civil and criminal liabilities,” he said.

He added that the ministry was working with relevant organs of government to ensure a comprehensive Data Protection Act that would drive digital economy.

According to him, lessons from the NDPR would form the foundation for the Act and we hope to continue playing a leading role in deepening data protection and digital economy in Africa.

Pantami urged African Union Commission and international partners to support the country toward an African Single Digital Market (ASDM) to boost economy in the region.

“The ASDM would also help us have data sovereignty in such a way as to protect data while also protecting the multinational technology investors.”



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SMART AGRICULTURE WEBINAR



**Wed., 17th
Feb. 2021**



Online



9am - 5pm





PANTAMI

HACKATHON FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY

Organised by
Nigeria Computer Society

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2ND STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON CYBERSECURITY

PARTNERS



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA



THEME:

ADDRESSING NIGERIA CYBERSECURITY CHALLENGES

Venue: Sheraton Hotel, Abuja

Date: January 7, 2021 | Time: 9.00am - 5.00pm

Registration: Free

(Visit www.ncs.org.ng to Register)

POSTPONED!
A New Date will be Announced Soon

Current local and international reports indicate that cyber attacks in Nigeria is still on the increase despite the fact that many of the incidences in Nigeria are not reported. Today, individuals, governments and corporate organisations are losing huge sum of money and properties as a result of cyber attacks. Threat landscape continue to change rapidly, and attacks are increasing in magnitude and sophistication. It is also believed that this trend will continue in the nearest future.

The potentials and trends of cyber attacks have also taken another dimension since the current pandemic (Covid-19) has forced many individuals, governments and corporate organizations to move most of their operations and activities online. We have also seen recently many reported attacks on public facing systems in Nigeria. Consequently, concerted effort is needed to enhance Cyber Security in Nigeria.

Nigeria Computer Society (NCS), the umbrella body for all IT practitioners and interest groups, has a core mandate of supporting government towards the realisation of a safe and secured deployment and use of IT resources. NCS intends to make this Stakeholders' Meeting a pungent platform for analysing the situation critically and provide reliable solutions to Nation's Cyber Security challenges. Experts from various aspects of the economy will be invited to lead discussions at the meeting. NCS remains committed to IT Development in Nigeria and has scheduled many programmes geared towards addressing the factors mitigating efficient use of IT for leapfrogging development.

Talking Points:

- Financial Frauds | Cyber Attacks | Social Media Hacking | Cybersecurity Education
- Formulating National Cybersecurity Strategies | Cybersecurity Regulations and Ethics
- Youths and Social Media | Fake News and Hate Speech

For whom?

- Financial Institutions | Regulatory Agencies | Governments | Corporate Organisations
- Telecommunication Institutions | Information Technology Professionals | Security Experts | Law Enforcement Agencies

"Come, let us discuss Nation's Cyber Security Challenges"

Enquiries:

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WED. 7TH -
THURS. 8TH
APRIL, 2021

2021

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS' ASSEMBLY

Theme:

HARNESSING DIGITAL
TECHNOLOGIES FOR SOCIAL
& ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Venue:

NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA

Quick Call:

08033588145
07035437642



**COMPUTER
PROFESSIONALS**
(REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA)
[Established by Act No. 49 of 1993]

NCS National Secretariat

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INNOVATIVE SYSTEMS FOR DIGITAL ECONOMY

A 3RD - 5TH AUG., 2021. **UYO, AKWA IBOM STATE.**

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION

PREAMBLE

The past decade has witnessed a major disruption in the way businesses are conducted globally. The digital economy is deeply changing the actions of both governments, businesses, and the citizen. Transforming a nation digitally is a daunting task that requires paradigm shift from the status quo. It is a journey that requires the right team with new mindsets and skills. At the core of digital economy is innovation. It drives growth and stabilizes the economy through a well-coordinated relationship between the interconnected businesses, consumers and machines, powerful computing technology, intelligent devices, and cyber intelligence. The international conference on **Innovative systems for Digital Economy** will provide opportunity for governments, businesses, Academia, the technical community and civil society to consider broad social, economic, and technical trends affecting the development of the digital economy and discuss policies that could respond to evolving societal demands.

SCOPE AND TOPICS

Authors are solicited to contribute to the conference by submitting articles that illustrate research results, projects, surveying works and industrial experiences that describe significant strategy in developing next generation digital economy relating to the theme and sub themes.

SUB-THEMES

- Technopreneurship: Powering Creativity
- Regulation and Digital Consumer privacy
- Inclusive vs. Disruptive Innovation
- IoT and Robotics on customer Behavior
- Globalization and its effect on a digital economy
- Digital Economy: Governance, Policy and Regulatory framework
- Cyber Intelligence for National Security
- Broadband: Citizen and Digital Access Rights
- Digital Technologies in Agriculture
- Redefining Healthcare in Digital Economy
- Education: Beyond the Wall
- Agenda for Digital Gender
- Energy efficiency (end user energy demand)
- Behavioral research (Human response to digital integration)
- Cloud and Edge computing
- Data, information, and knowledge (New frontiers for Data production, capture, and processing)
- Design and Human Computer Interaction (How modern designs are impacting usage of new technology)
- Pervasive / ubiquitous computing and social acceptance
- Social computing/interactions (Understanding social processes towards digital technologies)
- Security, privacy, and trust

REGISTRATION FEES:

| | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| Early Bird January 01 – April 15, 2020 | Late Bird April 16 – July 30, 2020 | Registration at Venue |
| Member fee is N50,000:00 | Member fee is N55,000:00 | Member fee is N60,000:00 |
| Non-Member is N60,000:00 | Non-Member is N65,000:00 | Non-Member is N70,000:00 |
| Student/NYSC: N15,000:00 | Student/NYSC: N20,000:00 | Student/NYSC: N25,000:00 |

For Registration and Paper submission, visit conference.ncs.org.ng

IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Full Paper Submission Deadline: | Feb. 21, 2021 |
| Notification of Acceptance: | April 15, 2021 |
| Final Manuscript & Registration: | May 30, 2021 |

FOR ENQUIRY, CONTACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING

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