

Book Piracy as a Criminal Business: Upturning the Apple Cart



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“The Nigerian book publishing industry has an annual books sales volume of one hundred million genuine and pirated copies of books sold per year in Nigeria. At an average unit price of one thousand naira per copy of each book sold, this translates into one hundred billion naira in book sales realized from the sale of genuine and pirated copies of books sold in Nigeria per year. At a profit-sharing ratio of 1:2:5:2 for the Nigerian book publishing industry, the copyrights commission will receive ten billion naira in Government tax revenue income, authors will receive twenty billion naira in royalties payments, the publishing houses will earn fifty billion naira in company profit and the book vendors will earn twenty billion naira as commission on books sold in Nigeria.”

Introduction

The United Nations Education, Scientific And Cultural Organization(UNESCO) defined the word “Book” to mean a non-periodical printed publication of at least 49(Forty nine) pages excluding the cover page 1.

UNESCO by its definition of the word “Book” has characterized the book as having the following features 2:

- a. It is printed. It is created using one or more machines rather than written or painted by hand.
- b. It is a publication, printed in multiple copies for circulation to more than its creators.
- c. It is comprised of at least 49(forty nine) pages. In effect, this excludes pamphlets and short documents.
- d. It has a cover called the cover page.
- e. It is not a periodical that requires updating from time to time.

The historical origin of the paper book is in the ancient papyrus roll that existed around 3000 BC³. Papyrus was made from a reed-like plant in the Nile valley of the ancient Egyptian empire. You could only write on one side of the papyrus sheet after which it was rolled up and stored. 3b With the advent of the Greek empire and its conquering of Egypt, the Greeks who were then called Hellenists adopted the use of the papyrus sheet to record their speeches and they stored the rolls in libraries. The library rolls of written papyrus sheets were called “scriptoria”^{3c}

Sequel to the rise of the Roman Empire, the Romans also adopted the papyrus roll and advanced it as a business by training slaves who were made to copy the writing in a papyrus roll, and, thus create multiple copies of the said writing. This can be regarded as the birth of book publishing and the book publishing business. In the year AD 100, the Christians invented the “Codex” using papyrus but this time the papyrus sheets were made to face each other and then bound. It made easy reading and enabled writing to be done on both sides of the papyrus sheet. 3d Unknown to the European and North African world that had the papyrus rolls and the codex as its book forms, around 1300 BC the Chinese invented a book writing and publishing form using wood and bamboo.

The content of books has since its advent in human civilization been the object of debates, disputes, censorship and outright ban of its circulation. A case in point is the burning of books by the ancient Chinese king named Emperor Shih Hung Ti in the year 213 BC. 3fAnother case in point is the burning of “heretical” books by the ancient Christian church in Europe. The question arising is what is heretical and what is not heretical. History documented heresy to mean what the church or the church-state outlawed as heresy. Some of the then heretical books that survived are today part of the compulsory reading for students of theology and philosophy. So a book considered heretical today may tomorrow become staple reading. In the year 1439, Johannes Guttenberg invented the moveable type of printing press in Mainz, Germany. It was advancement over woodblock printing.

Johannes Guttenberg's printing press was used to print the Vulgate Bible in about 1455. With the invention of the mechanical printing press, the “book” entered another age of its evolution in the current form of printed paper books. The spread of the mechanical press printing machine brought exponential growth in the book publishing industry with the attendant worldwide growth in book sales. At the heels of the evolution of the book publishing industry came the unauthorized reproduction and sale of published books as a phenomenon of the book industry. Thus the word

“Book Pirate” came to life. “Piracy” is a word that describes the action or actions of pirates. 4 The English word “Pirate” has its origin in the Latin word “Pirata” which means a “Sea Robber”. 4b The act of violating the intellectual property right of the owner of a published book or drama or poem was first described as a crime by an ancient Pharaoh of Egypt who after a poetry competition and the presentation of prizes was informed by the panel of judges that the poet whose poem was adjudged the best had indeed plagiarized the poem of another poet. In reaction, Pharaoh had the prizes withdrawn from all the winners whose works were plagiarized poems. At the end of the day, the poem that was adjudged the least poetic was the only original poem that was left standing. The poet of this original poem was adjudged the best poet, he was given the prize and all the other poet competitors who had plagiarized were banished from the walls of the city and chased out of the city as criminals. Thus history has it on record that the first King and Government to treat the violation of intellectual property rights as a crime was an African King who was a Pharaoh of the ancient Egyptian civilization. Flowing from the narrated historical account, as a consequence of using the word “Pirate” acquired the additional meaning of being used to refer to and describe a person who has stolen the intellectual property rights of the author of a book or the owner of a book publication by engaging in the unauthorized reproduction and sale of the illegal copies of the said book. Such a person is now called a “Book Pirate”. 5 The label “Book Pirate” which means “ Book Robber” is in historical tandem with the historical pronouncement of Pharaoh that those who stole and plagiarized the intellectual works of others be chased away from the city as criminals who are unfit to live in civilized human society. We now turn to examine the phenomenon of book piracy as a criminal business existing in human society.

Thereto, I must define what a criminal business is. Next, I will define the criminal business of book piracy. Thereafter, I will examine how the criminal business of book piracy can be contained. A criminal business entails the deliberate act of one person or a group of persons to conduct criminal activity, to earn criminal monetary profit therefrom. Within the context of the definition, the deliberate act of one person or a group of persons unlawfully reproducing a book publication, distributing the same and selling the same for monetary earnings at the loss of the owner of the copyright in the book constitutes the criminal business of book piracy. To upturn, an apple cart means to empty an apple cart by upturning the same so as to spill the contents of the cart on the ground. In the literary sense, it means to expose

an act or a process for its falsehood by spilling its secrets on the ground in public view.

Thereto, the objective of this paper is to critically interrogate the criminal business of book piracy by an investigative interrogation of the phenomenon so as to understand its secrets, its secret workings, its fault lines, the state of affairs that sustains the phenomenon in human society and based on the investigative interrogation finding recommend practical solutions for containing, managing, stemming and possibly eliminating book piracy as a criminal business in Nigeria, Africa and any other part of the world whereat the recommendations made herein are adopted and applied as a means of bringing book piracy to an end in that country. This paper shall be composed of seven sub-segments of discussing to wit:

- a. Relevant Laws.
- b. Relevant International Institutions.
- c. Relevant Nigerian State Institutions & Agencies.
- d. Relevant Nigerian Non State Organizations.
- e. The Book Piracy Phenomenon.
- f. Recommendations & Action Plan.
- g. Conclusion.

Relevant Laws.

- a. Berne Convention of 1886.
- b. Universal Copyrights Convention of 1952.
- c. Nigerian Copyrights Commission Act.
- d. Criminal Code.
- e. Penal Code.
- f. Nigeria Police Act.
- g. Nigerian Customs Service Board Act.
- h. Federal High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2009.

The Berne Convention of 1886 is the first international treaty that was signed by the signatory member states to herald the protection of intellectual property rights on a global level. Today, all member states of the World Trade Organization(WTO) are required to sign the Berne Convention of 1886 and to domesticate the same national law of the signatory member state.

The Universal Copyrights Convention of 1952 is the second international treaty signed by the signatory member states on the protection of intellectual property rights by the signatory member states. It also requires

the signatory member states to domesticate the treaty as national law and thereby incorporate the minimum standards contained in the treaty in their national laws.

The Nigerian Copyrights Commission Act LFN 2004 established the Nigerian Copyrights Commission (NCC) and charged the commission with the registration and protection of copyrights in registered works in Nigeria. The central element of the legislative powers of the commission is that the work sought to be protected must first be registered in Nigeria. Though the commission acts to protect the unregistered rights of copyrights owners of Nigerian extraction and sister nations with reciprocal arrangements for the protection of Nigerian works in their country. To activate the process for unregistered work from a sister nation, a formal request must be made to the commission by the owner of the copyright.

The Criminal Code which applies in the southern states of Nigeria provides a penalty of less than N5, 000 (Five thousand naira) as the punishment to be imposed on an offender convicted for the criminal violation of a copyright. Conversely, the real cost of apprehending, documenting and successfully prosecuting a copyrights case in a Nigerian court of law is at its least in the sum of N1,000,000 (One million naira). The rational ironical question arising becomes, “how do you justify spending one million naira to compel the payment of five thousand naira fine”. The Penal code which applies in the northern states of Nigeria does not specifically provide against book piracy. Rather, it accommodates book piracy with the offence of counterfeiting which it punishes with a term of imprisonment of between one year to two years or a fine or both. The point to note is that the quantum of the fine is not fixed and likewise the term of imprisonment is not fixed. Thereby, the same ironical question arises “how do you justify spending one million naira or more to obtain a conviction for the payment of a fine which is less than ten thousand naira?”

The Nigeria Police Act LFN 2004 establishes the Nigeria Police vests, the Police with the statutory duty to detect, investigate, stop and prosecute crimes committed in Nigeria. The reality is that the Nigeria Police does not have the requisite professional training to engage in the process of detecting, investigating, stopping and prosecuting book piracy committed in Nigeria. The Nigeria Police which has departments such as the Judges Protection Unit(JPU), Special Protection Unit(SPU) Explosives And Ordinance Department(EOD), Canine Department, Homicide, Anti-Fraud, Anti-Robbery and Internal Affairs(X-Squad), does not have a department charged with the specialized investigation of intellectual property crimes or book

piracy or copyrights crime when this class of cases are reported to the Police. The Nigeria Police do not have the manpower, the logistics, the operational capabilities, nor the corporate enthusiasm to conduct a Police invasion of the criminal space occupied by the book pirates operating in Nigeria. This state of affairs is a derivative consequence of the security architecture of the Nigeria State which is primarily tailored to protect the institutions of the state and its state apparatus, as against the provision of Policing service as a service rendered by the state to its citizens.

The Nigeria Customs Service Board Act, empowers the Board to impound and destroy unauthorized publications brought into Nigeria. In the exercise of this power, the board has often interpreted the provision to mean censored publications and publications which offend the state. In effect, the book pirates are largely undisturbed by the board.

The Federal High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 2009 provides for the protection of evidential material required to prove a book piracy case or any copyright violation case through the grant of *ex parte anton pillar* injunctions for the impounding of such evidential material. The real-life experience has often been that the enforcement of the *anton pillar* order using the Police as the law enforcement agents has worked the converse effect on the judicial process. It is either that it does not have the manpower or there is no operational vehicle available or a superior Police command is issued to stop the enforcement team based on a contrived petition. Furthermore, the threatening of the lives of the copyrights owner and that of their counsel have often brought high-profile copyright piracy cases to an abrupt end.

In summary, the existing laws of Nigeria are inadequate for the purpose of checkmating the current trends and dimensions of book piracy as a criminal business carried on in Nigeria.

Relevant International Institutions

In the context of this paper, the relevant international institutions are the global players in the protection of Intellectual Property Rights. They are namely:

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Trade Organization (WTO). The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is the global umbrella organization for the coordination of global efforts to enthrone the protection of intellectual property rights globally. Member nations are signatories to its establishment treaty and other relevant treaty instruments. The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural

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Organization (UNESCO) is the global organ of the United Nations Organization (UNO) charged with the protection and advancement of education, scientific development and cultural evolution of the human race. In the discharge of this mandate, it must necessarily protect the intellectual property rights of individuals and people in their educational curriculum information, scientific discoveries or innovations and their cultural process. This is done through the promotion of the adoption of the Universal Copyrights Convention of 1952. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the umbrella body of nations that supports and engages in the free flow of trade across the world. Fundamental to its operation is the undertaking by nations that are signatory to its establishment treaty that they will protect the intellectual property rights of the owners of the goods and services traded upon by businesses in the member states.

The non-domestication of the treaties of these international institutions by many member nations have impeded the global effectiveness of the named international institutions to protect the legal interest of copyright owners.

Relevant Nigerian State Institutions & Agencies.

Nigerian Copyrights Commission

Federal MDA'S State MDA'S

The Nigerian Copyrights Commission is the pivot agency in Nigeria that is statutorily empowered with the mandate of protecting copyrights in Nigeria. The relevant Federal Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDA's) are the ministry of education, the ministry of information, the ministry of communication technology, the ministry of arts, culture and tourism, the ministry of trade and commerce and the ministry of industries. The relevant State Government MDA are the ministry of information, the ministry of arts, culture and tourism, the ministry of trade and commerce and the ministry of industries. The cardinal issue is that all the relevant national and state government agencies are functioning below par. They are bequeathed with outdated laws, inchoate Government policies, deliberate underfunding, infrastructure deficit and acute shortage of manpower both qualitative and quantitative.

Relevant Nigerian Non-Governmental Organizations

- International Publishers Association

- Nigerian Publishers Association
- Nigerian Librarians Association
- Nigerian Authors Association
- Society of Nigerian Artist
- Writers Societies
- Reading Clubs
- Printers Associations
- Literary Societies

The greatest challenge militating against the efforts of non-governmental associations in their bid to enthrone a virile regime of copyright protection is that they are largely uncoordinated at the intergroup level of networking. Contrariwise, the criminal syndicates that are engaged in criminal book piracy are highly coordinated at their syndicates' intergroup networking level. Hence, they have continued to thrive despite all efforts of copyright owners to combat them.

The Book Piracy Phenomenon.

The Enemy Within:

Book piracy thrives as a criminal business and will continue to thrive as a criminal enterprise so long as it can successfully recruit agents in the book industry to provide insider information on trending books that can be pirated and sold at a profit. As all intelligence-gathering outfits know, the recruitment of insiders by criminal syndicates or interest groups is largely based on the monetary inducement of the insider to betray the employer or group's interest.

Book Industry Group Mistrust:

In the book industry, there is a very high level of mistrust between the authors, playwrights, poets and researchers on the one hand and the printers together with the publishing firms on the other hand. This mistrust is exploited by book piracy syndicates to carry –on their criminal business by promoting the sustenance of the mistrust. This is done by engaging in various acts of piracy that gives the false impression that the author and the publisher are simultaneously engaged in the act of book piracy whence in fact it is a third party that is pirating and selling pirated copies of the book in question.

Book Industry Group Disharmony:

In the book industry, there are various levels of disharmony between printers who suspect and accuse each other of pirating works from each other's printing press. There are also various levels of disharmony among book publishing firms over market niche and poaching of authors. Furthermore, there are various levels of disharmony in inter-group exchanges as the authors, printers and publishers interface in the marketplace. The apparent inability to manage the industry's group dynamics is a factor that has allowed book piracy to thrive in Nigeria. Hence interactive efforts to manage the group dynamics through seminars and workshops are fundamental to the process of group survival in the industry.

Cost of Book Publishing

In Nigeria today, the entire materials required to publish a book are imported from overseas. As such with the devaluation of the Nigerian currency against the United State dollars, the cost of importing printing paper, ink, film plates, machines, spare parts and accessories is very high. This translates into a very high cost of publishing a book. In this circumstance, the cheaper pirated copy holds sway in the marketplace in terms of patronage.

Fifth Columnists Sabotage

The Nigerian book industry is a victim of fifth columnist sabotage operations which is gaining ascendancy as a global phenomenon perpetrated by non-state actors to destroy nation-states or the economy of a given nation-state. Thereto, government employees who are dissatisfied with the state give assistance to book pirates by screening book pirates from the law and in return receive monetary rewards. The relevant segment of government employees is in the regulatory and enforcement agencies of the government. Also, union officials of copyright-owning groups often betray the trust of their members in exchange for very hefty payments of money received from book piracy syndicates. Also, impoverished educationists, authors, playwrights, poets and unsung owners of published works trade their inside knowledge of the peculiarities of the book market in their locality with book pirates in exchange for a monetary reward with which to sustain body and soul in the absence of lost royalties.

Economic Depression

The economic depression of the Nigerian economy has imposed a state of impoverishment on the generality of the people. Consequently, available personal income is rationed to procure the basic necessities of life. In this circumstance parents, students and solicitors have little disposable income to spend on books. This state of affairs has to a very large extent promoted the patronage of the cheaper pirated books in Nigeria and in other developing nations.

Reverse Impact of Censorship

As history has shown time and time again, the act of state censoring a book usually produces the reverse effect of making the book to be much sought after by the public. State censorship fuels the deliberate public patronage of book piracy networks as a source of obtaining censored books. A classic case is Niccolo Machiavelli's book "The Prince". It was a highly sought-after book for ages because it was censored. The book was first censored by the Italian State and later by other Governments. Today, pirated copies of the same book are sold freely on street corners worldwide.

The Social Reward System

In present-day Nigerian society, the social reward system does not celebrate the intellectual contributions of the educated citizenry. Rather, the crass display of unexplained sudden wealth, the economic frog leap into wealth from holding political office and the accumulation of wealth from criminal profiteering schemes are readily celebrated as social marks of success. In this circumstance, the quest for book-based knowledge as a medium for the socio-economic advancement of any person in present-day Nigeria has taken the center stage. The ripple effect has in its wake the societal disinterest in the deployment of government resources to protect intellectual property rights and the copyrights in published books.

Library Infrastructure Decay

All over Nigeria, public libraries are at various stages of infrastructure decay arising from government neglect, poor budget funding and lack of social interest in library development in Nigeria. If each major city in Nigeria is to establish and operate a functional public library, the book industry of Nigeria will experience a rebirth, and exponential growth in the patronage of the industry by the Nigerian population as a reading public.

Decline in Book Reading Culture

The internet and its various platforms such as Facebook, Google, Whatsapp, Instagram, YouTube, online video streaming, online games, social media chat platforms, and the availability of e-books for online reading via the use of tablet phones or android smartphones have been blamed for the decline in the book reading culture among the generality of Nigerians. In the use of this escapist rationalization to explain away a societal phenomenon, we shield ourselves from taking a hard look at the root cause of the present decline in the book reading culture among Nigerians. The real answer is in the dearth of books that are available to Nigerians during their formative education years as kindergarten pupils, primary school pupils, secondary school students, university students, post-degree scholars and working professionals. On account of the very acute shortage of books available per learner in the school system, the average Nigerian went through the school system reading to pass exams. Such a reading culture when imbibed across the years of schooling from childhood to adulthood will produce the present decline in the book reading culture of a country with three million graduates as in the case of Nigeria.

Inconsistency of Government Policy

The inconsistency of Government policy is a feature of governance in the African States, Nigeria inclusive. The disruption of the education system by the jaundiced imposition of half-baked education policies, with improper education administration policy directives, has contributed to a large extent to the growth of book piracy in Nigeria. Most changes in the public schools' list of the curriculum recommended school books were initiated to promote the interest of segments of authors, and publishing firms that felt cheated out of the public schools' market niche. The policies were not imposed for any national interest. In reaction to the loss of hitherto market niche, printers and publishing firms engage in underground production of the new set of recommended books and use book pirate networks to sell their pirated copies of the curriculum recommended books.

In the book industry, there are two opposing intellectual contentions of what is the ultimate end game effect of book piracy on the industry and the society at large. On one hand, Enang (2013) posits that the phenomenon of book piracy will not bring about the ultimate death of books in Nigeria. The position is premised on the postulation that based on historical analysis, it is the quest for fame and the satisfaction of the reader that has fueled the continued publication of written works by authors and that piracy occurs

because there is want, scarcity and inaccessibility of the publishers to serve the market 6. Contrariwise, Nkiko (2013) on the other hand posits that book piracy destroys creativity, denies authors the economic benefits of their works, and makes publishing unproductive and unprofitable 7. The reality is that the position taken by Enang (2013) has been negated by the reality on the ground today in the year 2018 which is that the book industry of Nigeria is gradually dying.

In summary, a disenchanted Nigerian book industry will be its own worst enemy. The neglect of the Nigerian state in fulfilling the public duty of ensuring a structured development and sustenance of the Nigerian book industry is akin to the state holding onto a box filled with timed bombs. The first of which has exploded in the northeast of Nigeria as manifested in the Boko Haram phenomenon that germinated and grew into a hydra-headed monster on the staple food called illiteracy. The unchecked spread of book piracy in Nigeria will ultimately bring about the death of creative thinking in the education system of Nigeria as the dearth of books heralded by the collapse of the book industry will bring to a stop the generational transmission of knowledge in Nigeria through books and will disrupt its multiplier effect of triggering creative thought process in mankind.

Recommendations & Action Plan

It must be observed that the plethora of recommendations presented by academic writers, book publishing firms and the book industry interest groups are often composed in a politically correct language without regard to the intellectual sincerity of calling a spade by its name. This has produced a body of publications on the subject of book piracy in Nigeria and Africa none of which contains a practical step on how the beautifully worded recommendations of the writers will be implemented by a human being. In intellectual sincerity to me, my name and my cause, the recommendations herein will be composed in plain language and shall contain working details for implementation. It is only proper that this august forum, the book industry and the Government if they elect to adopt and implement any or some or all the recommendations that I herein make, should not exclude me from the process of the utilization of my ideas. To act otherwise is to pirate my ideas. The recommendations will be presented in three basic segments:

- Short Term Action Plan.
- Mid Term Action Plan.

- Long Term Action Plan.

Short Term Action Plan

First, all authors, playwrights, poets and writers at this august forum who have published books should resolve in this forum to form a network of persons with published books to be called the Nigeria Anti-Book Piracy Association or the Anti-Book Piracy Association of Nigeria. Second, the resolution forming the Nigeria Anti-Book Piracy Association should do the following:

- Appoint a national coordinator. Appoint six zonal coordinators, appoint state coordinators and Federal Capital Territory coordinator. They should give a three years mandate to the appointed coordinators.
- Mandate the coordinators to organize, establish and incorporate trustees for the association.
- Mandate the coordinators to realize the objectives of the association which are to stem book piracy in Nigeria and economically empower the genuine membership of the book industry by the protection of their intellectual property rights in copyrighted books.
- Mandate the coordinators to proactively engage the Nigeria Copyrights Commission and all other relevant Government agencies to realize the objectives of the association.
- Mandate the National coordinator to establish a secretariat and to co-opt at least three other members as Administrative officers of the secretariat.
- Mandate the state coordinators and the FCT coordinator to use their business offices as temporary contact offices for the association. Thereafter, each co-coordinator shall strive to establish a zonal office or a state office as is applicable.
- Prepare and present before the National Assembly of Nigeria (NASS) a wholistic bill for the comprehensive protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Nigeria.
- Prepare and present before the National Assembly of Nigeria (NASS) a bill for the repeal or amendment of any relevant law or the

enactment of any relevant law that will bring about the comprehensive protection of Intellectual Property Rights in Nigeria.

- Liaise with other anti-book piracy associations in the ECOWAS sub region for the enactment of an ECOWAS protocol on the protection of Intellectual Property Rights in the ECOWAS sub region with the ECOWAS court as the judicial institution for enforcement proceedings.
- Liaise with other anti-book piracy associations in Africa, the common wealth nations and globally for the review of existing international protocols on the protection of Intellectual Property Rights with the objective of reviewing existing protocol to adopt and recognize sub-continental regional courts as judicial institutions for the enforcement of cross border violations of intellectual property rights.

All authors, playwrights, poets, researchers and writers with published books should go to the nearest tax office in their respective states of residence and register as tax-paying citizens on or before the 30th day of November 2018.

All members with book publications that are reprinting copies for sale should demand denoted receipts from the printing press or publishing firm that they pay for book printing service.

The denoted receipt issued should bear the following features; the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) incorporation, number of the business or the business name, registration number of the printing press or the book publishing firm. The State Internal Revenue Service registration number of the printing press or book publishing firm is proof that it remits employee income tax to the state. If NIPOST has more than one accredited NIPOST agent in a state, the designated brand of stamps to be used shall be the brand of adhesive postage stamps sold to the judiciary and the banking sector in the state.

- On the 1st day of December, 2018, all state coordinators and the FCT coordinator shall convene a meeting for members to submit Photostat copies of their respective paid personal income tax for the year 2018 and the Photostat copies of receipts issued to them by the printing

- press and or book publishing firms for payments to these businesses in respect of published works of the author.
- Each State Coordinator shall forward the summary amount of the paid personal income tax of members and receipts to the Zonal Coordinator within three working days.
 - Each Zonal Coordinator shall forward the received summaries to the National Coordinator within three working days.
 - Based on the received summaries the National Coordinator shall make a formal request to the Director General, Nigeria Copyrights Commission (NCC) that effective the 1st day of January, 2019:
 - All book vendors operating in Nigeria shall be registered and licensed by the NCC or stop book vending business in Nigeria.
 - All book sellers who sell books at markets in Nigeria shall be registered and licensed by the NCC or stop book selling at markets in Nigeria. All book shop owners, book stand outlet operators, book sales representatives shall be registered and licensed by the NCC or stop book selling at bookshops, book stands, book sales outlets in Nigeria.
 - All printing press owners, in Nigeria shall register and obtain a license for the relevant regulatory office of the ministry of information in the state of operation or stop the printing press operations in the state.
 - All book publishing firms in Nigeria shall register and obtain a license from the relevant regulatory offices of the Federal Ministry of Information or stop the book publishing in Nigeria.
 - Embark on a nationwide enforcement of registration and licensing for operators in the book industry of Nigeria across the entire year 2019.
 - That all seized books shall not be destroyed by burning.
 - That all seized book of Nigeria authorship shall be delivered to the Nigerian author by the authority the had seized same.
 - That all seized books of non-Nigerian authorship shall be distributed free as gifts to public libraries and school libraries in Nigeria under the supervision of the association.

If the association collates the sum total tax paid by Nigerian authors together with their payment receipts in proof thereof, the compilation of such tax papers can then be presented to the Nigerian Government on the actual monetary worth of the authors to the Nigerian economy as tax payers and patrons of book publishing business in Nigerian.

Mid Term Action Plan:

- Incorporation of the registered trustees of the Nigerian Anti Book Piracy Association or the Anti-Book Piracy Association of Nigeria.
- Election of national, zonal, state and the Federal Capital Territory, (FCT) Abuja executives of the association with a non-renewable five years tenure for the office held.
- Repeal of Nigerian Copyrights Commission.
- Repeal or Amendment of relevant legislations such as the Nigerian Police Act, the Federal High Court, Act, the Nigeria Customs Service Board Act, the Censorship Act and Public Information regulatory laws of states to address intellectual property rights issues.
- Enactment of Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement Procedure Rules by the Hon. Chief Judge of the Federal High Court.
- Secure 100% tax rebate for all book publishing imports by printing press and book publishing firms that are registred, lincenced and operating in Nigeria.

Long Term Action Plan

- Adoption of an ECOWAS protocol on the enforcement of the intellectual property rights through the ECOWAS Community Court.
- Adoption of an African Union Protocol on the uniform enforcement of intellectual property rights through the various regional courts of Africa, as well as, as the African Human Rights Court.
- Promoting legislative review in African States to adopt the WIPO protocol on the protection of intellectual property rights by the domestication of all relevant treaties in each African State.

Conclusion

In the course of my research for this paper, I read many published papers on the subject of book piracy in Nigeria, Africa and across the world. I thereupon, observed that among the Nigerian publications, all the published papers critically discussed the subject but none contained detailed recommendations on how the phenomenon of book piracy can be overcome or contained or stemmed.

Thereto, I conducted further enquires to ascertain the reason or reasons for the immediately afforested state of affairs. Thereto, I learned that most were genuinely worried that their superiors at the workplace or in academia or in the book publishing industry may put their recommendations to use without credit to the author of the idea. I also learned that others were worried that as they lacked practical experience in combating book piracy, their ideas on how to combat the same if expressed may be ridiculed for lacking depth. To avert injury to their career, they choose to make use of vague language recommendations.

With regards to the containment, stemming and overcoming of book piracy in Nigeria, Africa and indeed the world, it must be said that efforts thereto are akin to embarking on a space voyage to the stars. On that note, attention is drawn to the fact that those who travel to the stars must of necessity travel over very rough parts. The journey to overcome book piracy is a journey over rough parts.

The recommendations that I have made herein for overcoming book piracy in Nigeria, Africa and indeed the world are not utopian, they are not unattainable and they are not unrealistic. By the said recommendations, I have only held the mirror in our respective faces, so that we may take a good look and in the words of Michael Jackson “if you don't like what you see, made a change”.

I make bold to state that the key to the upturning of the apple cart of book piracy in Nigeria, in Africa and anywhere in the world is premised on the enthronement of qualitative leadership among the captains of the book publishing industry. Thereto, I borrow the words of the French Philosopher, Joseph de Maistre who said “Every nation gets the government it deserves”. On this note, it must be said that the fate of the victims of book piracy in Nigeria, across Africa and in other parts of the world will take a positive turn when conscious efforts are made to enthrone qualitative leadership in the books and book publishing industry's associations.

Remember that Plato went to war to prove that he was not just a man of words. Likewise, authors, playwrights, poets and owners of copyrights in existing published works must find the courage within themselves to go to war against the book pirates in their respective countries. Thus they can globally overcome the phenomenon of book piracy.

I thank you all for being a wonderful audience and wish you all the best in the outcomes of this festival of intellectual deliberations and creativity explosions.

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