



18th August, 2020

Secretary to Government of the Federation
Office of the Secretary to Government
Shehu Shagari Complex
Three Arms Zone
Abuja

Received
Nicholas
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27/8/2020

Dear Sir,

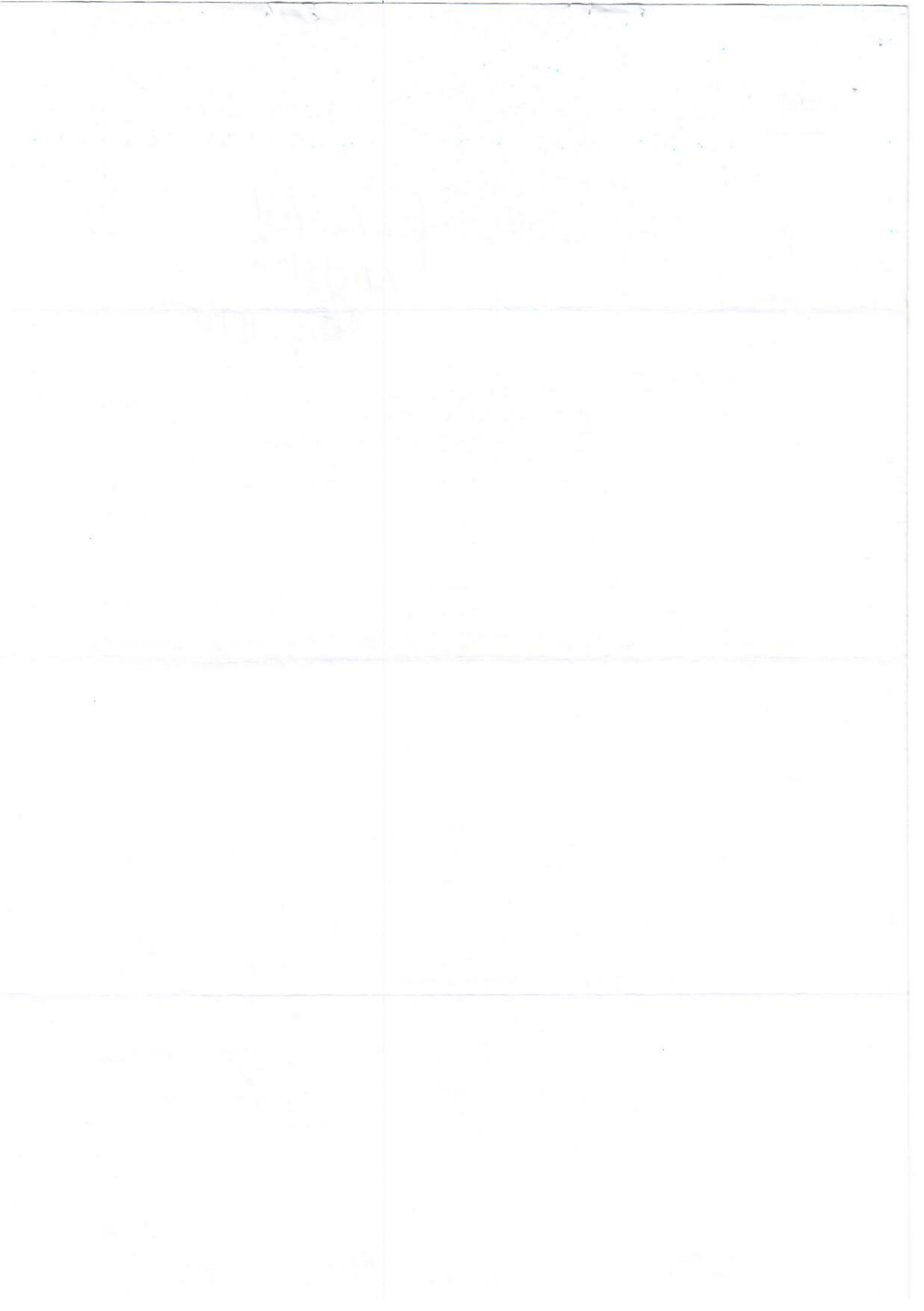
**DEMAND FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE NIGERIAN COPYRIGHT COMMISSION
DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. JOHN ASEIN OHIREIMÉ PENDING CONCLUSION OF HIS
INVESTIGATION BY CODE OF CONDUCT BUREAU**

We write concerning the above subject matter as a non-governmental organization and non-partisan human rights and development league with the mandate to protect and promote universally recognized human rights, accountability and environmental justice in Nigeria and Africa, following international standards.

As part of our work as civil society organization keen on strengthening and ensuring public awareness and participation, our organization devised a means for the public to reach our organization directly and other law enforcement agencies indirectly by availing the public the privilege to blow the whistle on cases related to corruption and human rights violation via our toll-free line.

We had received several anonymous call relaying allegations of corruption, abuse of office and violation of the Constitution against the above-named public officer. In the light of the report and the allegations by the anonymous callers, we have distilled the following actions/allegations initiated against the Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission as follows:

1. The collection of remuneration after retirement, allegations of receiving salary between January – April 2016 after retiring in December 2015 which is contrary to the Code of Conduct for Public Officers and the Public Service Rules. Attached to this letter are payment slips.
2. Whilst being a director at the Nigerian Copyright Commission, he served as a director of the Books and Gavel private Company Limited by Shares. Attached are the incorporation documents of the private company.
3. Also, the allegation of receiving salary from a public office and holding the position of Executive Director of the Reproduction Rights Society of Nigeria (REPRONIG), a Collective Management Organisation (CMO) regulated by the Nigerian Copyright Commission. Attached are bank statements of account showing receipt of salary.



It is on the basis of the above that our organization wrote to the Code of Conduct Bureau in a letter dated 8th June 2020 demanding the investigation of the above relayed allegations. Enclosed is the petition to the Code of Conduct Bureau for ease of understanding.

Our positions are that the above allegations run afoul of the Code of Conducts for Public officers, Part 1, of the fifth schedule in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Altered), Section 1 of the Code states that a public officer shall not put himself in a position where his interest conflicts with his duties and responsibilities. Section 2 of the Code states that without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing paragraph, a public officer shall not receive or be paid the emoluments of any public office at the same time as he receives or is paid the emoluments of any other public office. Also, Section 10 of the Code states that public officer shall not be a member of, belong to, or take part in any society the membership of which is incompatible with the functions or dignity of his office.

The allegations levelled against the Director General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission, is such within the definition of Serious Misconduct as defined in the Federal Government Civil Service Rules, approved under signature, in Rule 030401 which defines *Serious misconduct as a specific act of very serious wrongdoing and improper behaviour which is inimical to the image of the service and which can be investigated and if proven, may lead to dismissal*. Also, Chapter 3, Section 4, 030402 (a-w) also enumerates acts that constitute serious misconduct. The allegations to be tried by the Code of Conduct Tribunal if indicted, is such that carry some weight and, in the circumstance, to aid the speedy and smooth adjudication of the prosecution, we demand that in the best interest of justice, the Director General be suspended.

The fact that the Bureau has commenced investigation does not affect the disciplinary action to be taken against the Director General as stated in Rule 030411 which states that *nothing shall prevent disciplinary action being taken or continued against an officer whether or not- (i) Criminal proceedings have been instituted with respect to such a person in any court of law in Nigeria or elsewhere or are about to be instituted or are contemplated*. Summarily, we write this letter to demand your office to take immediate and urgent disciplinary action against the Director General, through his interdiction.

We hereby demand that Rule 030406 which states that *suspension shall apply where a prima facie case, the nature of which is serious, has been established against an officer and it is considered necessary in the public interest that he/she should forthwith be prohibited from carrying out his/her duties and pending investigation into the misconduct, the Federal Civil Service Commission or the Permanent Secretary/Head of Extra-Ministerial Office (if within his/her delegated powers) shall forthwith suspend him/her from the exercise of the powers and functions of his/her office and from the enjoyment of his/her emolument*. We demand that this rule be visited on the Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission.

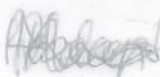
We write this petition to your office because the Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission is a political appointee of the President, and your office, coordinates and monitors the activities of Ministries and Government Agencies, especially on the implementation of Government decisions, policies and programmes. And your office also deals with constitutional, political and economic matters as may be referred to the Presidency. In essence, the

interdiction of the Director-General, Mr. John Asein Ohireime, is well within your power to implement and facilitate. We make bold confirm that investigation is in process at the Code of Conduct Bureau against Mr. John Asein Ohireime. The Bureau, via a letter dated June 24, 2020 with reference number CCB/HQ/IM/007/2041 extended to our organisation for the adoption of the above-referred petition against Mr. Asein and confirmed investigation of the allegations (copy of the letter is attached). We reiterate that the investigation being carried out by the Code of Conduct Bureau which may lead to eventual prosecution of the Director-General does not hamper the disciplinary procedure to take its full course. It is important to note that our organisation believes in presumption of innocence and the basis of our request is premised on the allegations to warrant immediate suspension.

In this circumstance, we hereby request that the Director-General of the Nigerian Copyright Commission be suspended with immediate effect. Our request is founded on our mandate to promote transparency, accountability and good governance to keep the nation sanity and to foster the course of ridding the nation of every form of corruption across all levels of government.

We thank you for your prompt response.

Yours faithfully,

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Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman

CC:

His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
The President, Federal Republic of Nigeria
Aso Villa
Federal Capital Territory
Abuja

Encl.

Pls Rtn ACK COPY TO CU Lagos