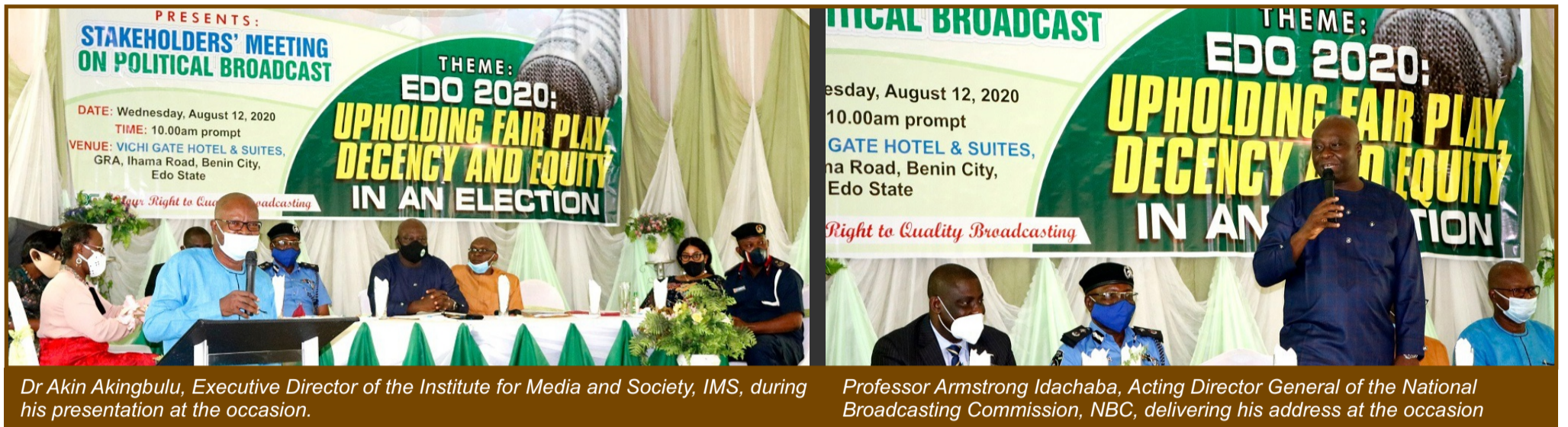


## EDO 2020: Stakeholders Urge Media to Work Safe, Fair and Stay Safe



The National Broadcasting Commission, NBC, and stakeholders have called on the broadcast media to work safe and stay safe during the coverage of the governorship election in Edo State coming up on September 19, 2020, amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

This call came on the heels of a stakeholders' meeting on political broadcast ahead of the governorship poll in the state, held on Wednesday, August 12, in Benin-City, the Edo state capital, with the theme: *EDO 2020: Upholding Fair Play, Decency and Equity in an Election*.

Acting Director General of NBC, Prof. Armstrong Idachaba, in his address, noted that; "As broadcasters, you, (media) set the tone for the conduct of elections. The content of your broadcasts either moderate or spike up the tempo of the elections.

"You should not allow politicians and other interested parties to use your medium to heat up the polity... This requires that you go back to the drawing board and remind yourselves of the provisions of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code".

Prof Idachaba also told the gathering that every political broadcast should be guided by decency and devoid of the use of hate speech, inflammatory, derogatory, and divisive remarks or allusions.

"It is noteworthy that the stipulations of the Nigeria Broadcast Media Code on political broadcasts are inconsonance with the extant laws of INEC and other relevant agencies," he said.

The NBC boss urged the media to also embrace the reality of the use of technology as a means of doing their job due to the

COVID-19 pandemic, which has reduced physical contacts and made the conduct of interviews, for example, through new media platforms.

In his presentation, Dr Akin Akingbulu, the Executive Director, Institute for Media and Society, said elections are, "key defining features in democracy and that every successful election was a contribution to the progress in the practice of democracy."

According to him, "despite the progress in the past 20 years, key challenges remain in our electoral practices. One

**“As broadcasters, you, (media) set the tone for the conduct of elections. The content of your broadcasts either moderate or spike up the tempo of the elections.**

**“You should not allow politicians and other interested parties to use your medium to heat up the polity... This requires that you go back to the drawing board and remind yourselves of the provisions of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code”.**

of them is the attitude of key political actors who define electoral competition in warfare terms, meaning that they see election as a war at all costs.”

He lamented that the key political actors see the media as a potent tool to be employed in prosecuting the war

and warned that if the media fall to the bait, the result would be unimaginable.

Dr Akingbulu called on the media to carry out voter education ahead of the Edo state governorship election, especially, in the area of COVID-19 containment, election management by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, as well as against vote buying and selling and against violence. He added that the media should also advocate for a peaceful electoral process and ensure professionalism in the conduct of their business.

Lauding the NBC for the timely meeting with relevant stakeholders ahead of the Edo state governorship election, Dr Akingbulu further called on the media to ensure self-regulation and conform to the statutory regulations as articulated by the Nigeria Broadcasting Code.

Also represented at the event were the Commissioner of Police in Edo State, Mr Johnson Zikumo, INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner in Edo State, Dr. Johnson Alalibo, officials of Nigeria Civil Defense Corps Service, NCDSCS, and Civil Society Organisations.

Two resource persons, namely, Mrs Bunmi Cole, a former director with NBC, and Dr. Tony Anigala, Director of Broadcast Monitoring with NBC, delivered papers at the event. Mrs. Cole's paper was titled: *Political Coverage in the Broadcast Media: The Need for Professionalism*; while Dr. Anigala's, was: *Political Broadcasts, What the Code Says*.

**Nigerian Journalist Attacked by Police While Covering COVID-19 Lockdown**

**A** Nigerian journalist, Sikiru Obarayese was on August 3 assaulted by four policemen while he was reporting on officers' enforcement of COVID-19 restrictions in Old Garage, a suburb of the western Osun State's capital Oshogbo.

Obarayese who works with the privately owned Daily Post newspaper told the Committee to Protect Journalists, CPI, that at least four police officers slapped, kicked, and used their batons to beat him.

He said that police questioned him after he photographed officers beating people who had allegedly violated the state's requirement to wear face masks, and said that Adebayo Adeleke, a local state commissioner who was at the scene, ordered the officers to attack him.

The attack left Obarayese with injuries on his elbow, a scratch on his right leg, and pains in his knees, according to the Daily Post and Obarayese. He received an x-ray on his knee following the attack, but told CPJ that the injury was not serious.

Reacting, CPJ's Africa programme coordinator in New York, Angela Quintal, said, "The attack by police on journalist Sikiru Obarayese is an alarming reminder of the Nigerian police's willingness to target the press for doing their jobs," said Angela Quintal, CPJ's Africa program coordinator, in New York. "Journalists must be free to report on how authorities enforce COVID-19 response measures, and those responsible for violence against the public and the media must be held accountable."

Obarayese disclosed that the Osun state chief press secretary, Ismail Omipidan, called and apologized for the attack, and gave him N50,000 to cover his medical bills.

Adeleke published an article on the privately owned news website News Indicator, disputing Obarayese's account of the incident, and denied that police had attacked the journalist at all.

**Police Arrest, Detain NAN Correspondent In Kaduna**

**A** journalist with the News Agency of Nigeria, NAN, Malam Mustapha Yauri, was on Wednesday arrested and detained briefly by the Sabon Gari Divisional Police in Zarai, Kaduna State.

Malam Yauri, a correspondent with NAN, was reportedly arrested for taking pictures of a trailer that blocked the Samaru- Zaria Fly-over road in a protest during a rift between the Kaduna State Traffic and Environmental Law Enforcement Agency, KASTLEA and trailer drivers.

According the Yauri, he had conducted interviews with eyewitnesses and was about to take photographs of the trailers that block the road in protest , when he was accosted by the police.

He said; "A police officer in mufti attempted to seize my phone where I declined, I then went further to show him my Identity card which he proceeded to seize.

He said the officer demanded for his phone but he declined to surrender it.

"The police officer whom later I learnt that is the Divisional Crime Officer then called some armed policemen and told them to take me to police station to detain me and bring my phone back to him".

"On our way to the station in the police Hilux van, the armed police men forcefully collected my mobile phone and dropped me at Sabon Gari Divisional Police Office at the Area Command Headquarters at PZ Zaria.

"While at police detention I begged one of the police officers for a mobile phone to reach my Zonal Manager and other colleagues who make efforts to reach higher authorities for my release.

"I was detained at the police station for many hours before the DPO, Mr Ibrahim Abdullahi came into the office and called me for a meeting in his office where he apologized for what happened to me," Yauri said.

He was subsequently released from detention and his mobile phone, NUJ and NAN staff Identity cards earlier seized, were also returned to him.

**Editors' Guild To NBC: Rescind The Fine on Nigeria Info 99.3 Station Now**

**T**he Nigerian Guild of Editors, NGE, has called on the National Broadcasting Commission, NBC, to rescind with immediate effect the N5 million fine it imposed on Nigeria Info 99.3 FM radio station in Lagos, for allegedly providing its platform to be used to promote "unverifiable and inciting views that can incite public disorder."

The NBC had cited the unprofessional conduct of Nigeria Info 99.3 FM in the handling of the Programme, "Morning Cross Fire", which aired on August 10, 2020, between 8.30am and 9.00am. The NBC alleged that the guest, Dr. Mailafia Obadiah, made unverifiable and inciting views that could lead to public disorder.

The Commission drew its power and authority to sanction the radio station from provisions of a so-called revised Nigeria Broadcasting Code (No. 6) in which the fine for perceived infraction was reviewed from half a million Naira to N5 million.

The Guild said it finds "the action of the NBC preposterous, vexatious and grossly undemocratic because the instrument that gives any tincture of legal credence to such a fine, to wit – the Nigeria Broadcasting Code – is illegal and illegitimate having failed to go through the recommended and mandatory due process for its review."

In a statement signed by the President, Mr Mustapha Isa and Mrs Mary Atolagbe, General Secretary, the Guild said; "Having carefully studied the statement of Mr. Ikra Aliyu Bilbis, the Chairman of NBC Board, the body of Editors is constrained to believe that the NBC acted with inexplicable desperation, using a revised Code that lacked the input of the relevant stakeholders who ought to be part of the review of the Code.

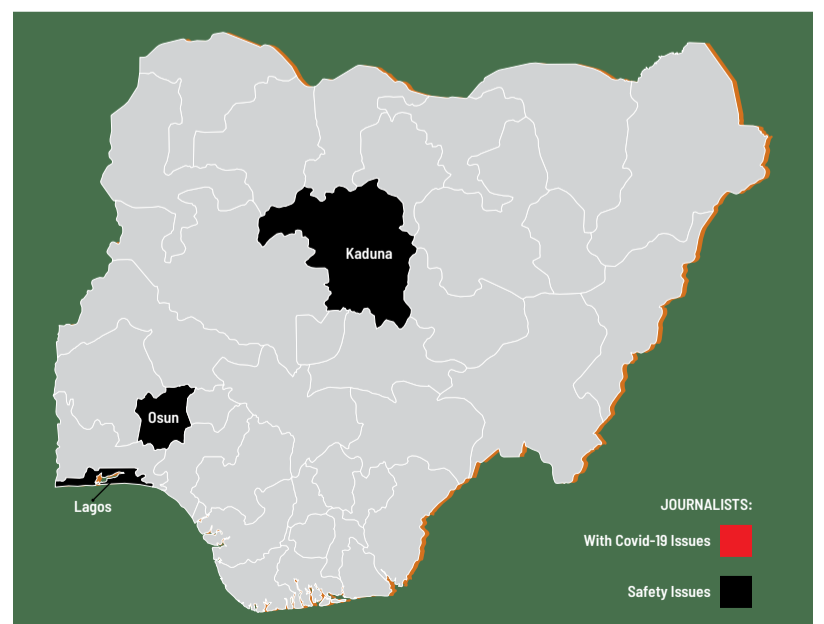
"This makes the action of the NBC null and void, ultra vires and of no justifiable effect. The Guild hereby demands an immediate reversal of the fine and nullification of any other punishment meted out to the radio station.

"The Guild frowns at the arbitrary imposition of fines on broadcast stations without being given an opportunity to defend themselves. By its action, the NBC acted as the accuser and the judge at the same time. The NBC referred to sections of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code to justify the fine but it failed to acknowledge the sad fact that it puts itself in the way of fair hearing in a manner that undermines fair comment and free speech.

"For the avoidance of doubt, no section of the Broadcasting Code shall override and invalidate the provisions of sections 22 and 39 of the extant Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria which upholds the inviolable freedom of every Nigerian, including the Press, to freely express themselves and freely hold opinion and "to receive and impart ideas and information without interference."

"The Guild maintains that no fine is justified until the errant station is given fair hearing and opportunity to defend its actions or inactions in a court of competent jurisdiction. Acting without fair hearing is a negation of the tenets of democracy and civil liberty. We abhor this.

We reiterate our position that the N5 million fine for alleged 'Hate Speech' or for promoting views that can 'incite public disorder' as contained in the recently 'amended' NBC Code, which has been roundly disowned by a properly constituted Board of NBC for not following due process, be rescinded forthwith. The NBC should be a truly independent body devoid of any interference from the Minister of Information or any other quarters."



## Stakeholders Raise Alarm NB Code 6 Would Negatively Impact Media Business.

The alarm being sounded by critical stakeholders that the revised Nigerian Broadcasting Code 6 will impact negatively on broadcast media business and investment in Nigeria was raised a notch higher and perhaps confirmed on Thursday when the Chairman of the Board of the National Broadcasting Commission, NBC, Ikra Aliyu Bilbis made the same submission, while accusing the Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed of single handedly orchestrating the revised code, at a press briefing in Abuja.

According to Bilbis, "The danger of allowing the unilateral amendment of the NB Code to stand is that investors in the industry will lose confidence in the stability the broadcast ecosystem has enjoyed to date before the advent of the current Minister of Information.

"Our President and his team have worked so hard to galvanise local and foreign investment in Nigeria. Allowing obnoxious policies to take root in our Investment Culture will spell doom for creativity, enterprise, diversity, and the general development of broadcasting in Nigeria."

He explained further, "The very controversial portions of the purported amended code certainly aim at destroying hard work and enterprise. It aims at taking people's freedom and intellectual property. It aims at depriving hard-working entrepreneurs to empower new entrants who have not cut their teeth and it aims at stifling investment. That is the main reason why stakeholder inputs are being avoided."

Sections of the Code that have particularly drawn the criticisms of many stakeholders for their perceived anti-business and investment content are Section 6.2.8 and Section 9.0.1.

Section 6 deals with the acquisition of sporting rights and section 6.2.8 states: "In the broad national interest, exclusivity of sporting rights is prohibited." Section 9 tackles anti-competition and section 9.0.1 caps it up by stating that: "The Broadcaster or licensee should immediately after the coming into force of this Amendment be prohibited from entering into any form of agreement, contract, concerted practices or take any decision which have as their object and intendment the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition in, or in any part of, the broadcast media industry in Nigeria: and for this purpose, no broadcaster or licensee shall enter into any form of broadcasting rights acquisition either in Nigeria or anywhere in the world to acquire any broadcasting right (s) in such a manner as to exclude persons, broadcasters or licensees in Nigeria from sub-licensing the same."

Bilbis, who in his long statement which dwelt on the lack of wide consultation and adherence to the statute governing the review of the code before the Minister launched it, echoed similar submissions that players in the broadcast industry have been making since the Minister launched the amended NB Code 6 on August 4, 2020.

In a swift reaction after the Minister unveiled the NB Code 6 at an event in Lagos on August 4, Mr Jason Njoku, Managing Director and founder of irokovtv expressed disagreement with the Minister's statement on the occasion, that, "as it currently stands, the 6th edition and the amendments, which we are unveiling today, remain the regulations for broadcasting in Nigeria. Our intention remains the good of the country. We need to catalyze the growth of the local industry. We need to create jobs for our teeming creative youths. The opportunities must be created and we believe that effective regulatory

interventions are a sure way of attaining this. That's why we will not waver." In his reaction, Mr Njoku said on his Twitter handle that the new law, if implemented, would destroy PayTV in Nigeria.

"Nigeria Broadcasting Commission, NBC, in making exclusivity illegal, compelling sub-licensing of content & regulating price, are effectively turning private enterprise into state property. Interference Distorts Markets. If implemented this 100% destroys PayTV in Nigeria.

"This our champagne socialism & zero input style of policymaking is the reason Nigeria is stunted in everything. I invest billions Naira in content then I am compelled to share with everyone else as NBC sets the price Why? Dark forces or incompetence is at play here. Ridiculous," he tweeted.

For Acting Director-General of NBC, Prof Armstrong Idachaba, Njoku's view was not only unpatriotic but also monopolistic, the very business ideals that the revised code are meant to check.

During an appearance at *The Osasu Show* hosted by Osasu Igbinedion on the *TOS TV Network*, last week, Idachaba, said the code is essentially meant to "re-dynamize and redistribute wealth in a way that there'll be more participation, more engagement more opportunity."

Using irokovtv as an example of outfits rip-off the country, when he was asked to react to Njoku's statement, the NBC DG, said;

"irokovtv you mentioned, where is the base of irokovtv? Do you know, where did they start? London. And all the money they do through Netflix and other things that they sell, where does the revenue go? How much of it is invested into the country? The involvement they do is like a creative investment that allows them to take artistic, cultural materials, original to the Nigerian people and export, maximize the profit, suck it out of Nigeria, and still take abroad. Is that not injustice to the Nigerian society?"

Mrs Onoshe Nwabuiku, columnist, a renowned TV/film critic, film scholar and communications consultant, in her syndicated column, *Airtime Roaming*, on Nigerian newspapers and online publications, said sections 6 and 9 of the code are business unfriendly.

In her column of August 12, *Why Is The BNC Fighting Investors and The Media*, she said, among other things, "Before the launch of the amended Code, I had resisted the urge to enter into the fray simply because I thought that in dealing with people as important as investors, who provide jobs to hundreds if not thousands of Nigerians, government would be super receptive to any concerns they may have. And that as they had been quite vocal in voicing these concerns, there was no way they were going to be ignored. Well, as the launch has shown, not only were stakeholders brushed aside, all kinds of accusations were made against those who dared to speak out.

She continued; "Some lawyers and other experts have had a lot to say about how the



Acting Director-General of NBC, Prof Armstrong Idachaba

Code conflates exclusivity with anti-competition, and the limits of the NBC Act. But I'm not a lawyer, so, I will not quibble about legal matters. I'm interested in the words and actions of the regulator. And my focus is on a recent interview granted by the acting Director-General (DG) of the NBC, Professor Armstrong Idachaba to *The Osasu Show* hosted by Osasu Igbinedion on the *TOS TV Network*.

In the aforementioned interview, Prof. Idachaba gives the impression that the amendments to the Code may actually be punitive measures against certain targeted interests. And although he didn't answer the question as to whether Nigeria was practising the US or the Chinese model, his jab at capitalists whom he said 'are very greedy, extremely self-centred, they don't want to give out' is quite telling.

She said Idachaba's position is made clearer when he gives what he calls "ideological philosophical understanding of the motives of the policy."

According to the acting DG, she maintained, the amendments are meant to "redynamise and redistribute wealth in a way that there'll be more participation, more engagement more opportunity."

She quipped: "If acquisition of sporting rights can achieve this, in a Nigeria with epileptic power supply, one must wonder how much progress the provision of a more sustainable infrastructure could yield."

A former editor with *The Punch* Newspaper, Mr Alex Ogundadegbe concurred with her, stating that any policy and regulation such as the amended Code 6 should aim to make the environment more conducive for investment.

He said; "I don't understand the people they put in charge of television. The other day Lai Mohammed said they would ban Nigerians from shooting movie scenes outside of the country. Instead of them focusing on changing the environment so investment will thrive, they are running after crumbs."

The arguments for and against the business and investment contents of NB Code 6 are still raging. It would be interesting to see how they would be resolved in the coming days ahead.

## N5m Fine: FG Explains What Constitutes Hate Speech



**Lai Mohammed**  
Minister of Information and Culture

The Federal Government has said that, “any speech, broadcast or publication that denigrates a person, a group of people on the basis of their sex, religion, political belief or origin is hate speech”.

The Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, gave the explanation on Thursday in Abuja.

According to him, any broadcast or publication that tends to erode social cohesion that is an attack on “our inclusion and common value is hate speech.”

“Those who go to television and denigrate one person or the other with a view to cause social disharmony have breached the hate speech code.

“They know what they are doing and they must be made to pay for it,” the minister said while justifying the increase of hate speech fine from N500,000 to N5m. The minister said the fine was raised for national security and to serve as deterrent to those bent on destabilizing the country through the use of fake news and hate speech.

He said; “No country is going to sit down and fold its arms and be destroyed by fake news or hate speech especially in Nigeria where we are divided along ethnicity, religion and culture.

“In practice what we found was that when the fine for hate speech was just half a million, people were reckless because they could easily pay the half a million fine.

“As a matter of fact, our findings shows that when people take advert to broadcast houses and the broadcast houses refused the advert on ground that if they air them they will be fined half a million Naira, the purveyor of hate speech will say, don't worry, we will pay you N1 million extra.

“With the N5 million we want to see whether they will add another N10 million to their advert rate.

“For us, it is very practical and for those who said it is primitive, we disagree with them because we want to safe Nigeria from purveyors of hate speech,” he said. Mohammed said that hate speech had a long history and government had been proactive in addressing the menace because of its potential threat to national security and cohesion.

He recalled in 2017, that the ministry devoted an entire National Council of Information meeting to discuss the effect of fake news and hate speech.

The minister said he equally launched national campaign against hate speech and fake news and embarked on advocacy visits to media houses across the country on its dangers.

Speaking on the effects of hate speech, Mohammed said it led to genocide in Rwanda where over 800,000 lives were lost as well as the killings in Bosnia and Cambodia.

“What we are doing in terms of sanction is minor when compared to what have been done in other countries like Iceland, Norway, UK, Germany and South Africa where hate speech is criminalised.

“Hate speech attracts either fines or jail term or both in many countries, including the UK and South Africa,” he said.

The minister added that the social media has aggravated the menace of hate speech and fake news and the government will not relent in its resolve to control the medium without stifling freedom of speech.

## NBC Fines Nigeria Info 99.3FM, 5million for Unprofessional Conduct

The National Broadcasting Commission said it has noted with grave concern, the unprofessional conduct of Nigeria Info 99.3FM, Lagos, in the handling of the Programme, “Morning Cross Fire”, aired on August 10, 2020, between 8.30am and 9.00am.

A statement by the commission said the station provided its platform for the guest, Dr. Mailafia Obadiah, to promote unverifiable and inciting views that could encourage or incite to crime and lead to public disorder.

The Commission, according to the statement, wishes to reiterate again that Broadcasters hold Licenses in trust for the people. “Therefore, no Broadcast Station should be used, to promote personal or sectional interests at the expense of the people.”

The statement noted that Dr. Mailafia Obadia's comments on the “Southern Kaduna Crisis”, were devoid of facts and by broadcasting same to the public, Nigeria Info 99.3FM, is in violation of the following sections of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code:

- 3.1.1 No broadcast shall encourage or incite to crime, lead to public disorder or hate, be repugnant to public feelings or contain offensive reference to any person or organization, alive or dead or generally be disrespectful to human dignity;
- 3.1.2 Broadcasting shall promote human dignity, therefore, hate speech is prohibited; 3.1.2 Broadcasting shall promote human dignity, therefore, hate speech is prohibited;
- 3.3.1 (a) The broadcaster shall ensure that any information given in a programme, in whatever form, is accurate;
- 3.3.3.1(b) The Broadcaster shall ensure that all sides to any issue of public interest are equitably presented for fairness and balance;
- 3.11.1(a) The broadcaster shall ensure that language or scene likely to encourage or incite to crime, or lead to disorder, is not broadcast;
- 3.11.1(b) No programme contains anything which amounts to subversion of constituted authority or compromises the unity or corporate existence of Nigeria as a sovereign state;
- 5.4.1(f) The Broadcaster shall not transmit divisive materials that may threaten or compromise the indivisibility and indissolubility of Nigeria as a sovereign state.

Consequent on these provisions and in line with the amendment of the 6th edition of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code, Nigeria Info 99.3FM Lagos, has been fined the sum of N5,000,000.00 (Five Million Naira), only.

The statement explained that this is expected to serve as a deterrent to all other broadcast

stations in Nigeria, who are quick to provide platform for subversive rhetoric and the expositions of spurious and unverifiable claims, to desist from such.

“The Commission wishes to put it on record that it will not hesitate to suspend the Broadcast Licence of broadcast stations that continue to breach the Code.”

Stations are, by this statement, admonished to desist forthwith, from airing unwholesome content, or be ready to face appropriate sanctions.

## NBC Board Says Reviewed Code Sole Work of Minister of Information

The Board of the National Broadcasting Commission, NBC, on Thursday, accused the Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed orchestrating the 6th reviewed edition of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code.

Addressing journalists in Abuja on Thursday, Chairman, Ikra Aliyu Bilbis said the views of the Board were not carried along in the review of the amendment and disclosed that apart from exclusion of the Board, other relevant stakeholders like the “ Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON), Independent Broadcast Association of Nigeria (IBAN), Private Media outfits, Broadcasters, Notable media Intellectuals, Communication experts, Digiteam and the Academia, were sidelined by Mohammed.”

He said in the statement, that; “The current edition (6th Edition) was presented to the public in 2019 at an elaborate ceremony in Kano which attracted a broad section of various stakeholders.

“Following the 2019 national elections, some members of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) made observations to the Honourable Minister of Information at an FEC meeting about the divisive broadcasts engaged in by some broadcast media before, during and after the elections and the need to strengthen the operations of the NBC to avert such future occurrence.”

“This noble observation of Mr. President was unfortunately misunderstood by the Hon. Minister of Information.

“Instead of studying and following the law, relevant rules and regulations, and direct the appropriate authorities as stipulated by the Law to act on, he erroneously embarked on the review alone,”

“The Board of the NBC was neither informed nor represented.” You may all recall that by 26th march 2020, (the day of the “Public Presentation” in Lagos), the Federal Government had already announced a COVID 19 lockdown of Lagos, Ogun states and the FCT. It was therefore not a sincere effort to present such an important 'review document' which affects people's investments and livelihoods under such a situation.

He attempts by the Board to seek further stakeholder's input following public criticism, was rebuffed by the Minister. “There are very serious and disturbing amendments which have been unilaterally carried out by the Hon. Minister. This has attracted very critical comments with threats of litigation from concerned organisations and individuals.

“The danger of allowing the unilateral amendment of the NB Code to stand is that investors in the industry will lose confidence in the stability the broadcast ecosystem has enjoyed to date before the advent of the current Minister of Information.”

## Editor's Note

Stakeholders' interest to see to the conduct of free and fair election during the governorship election in Edo and Ondo states, is mounting. After holding virtual meetings, they have taken the meetings to the doorstep of the respective states.

The first meeting was held in Benin-city, the Edo state capital on Wednesday with focus on the role of the broadcast media in the conduct of free and fair polls.

Given the importance of role of the media in shaping the outcome of electoral contest through education and information dissemination, fair and ethical coverage of the entire exercise, the meeting in Edo state where election would hold on September 19 before the one in Ondo on October 10, was timely. Hosted by the state's zonal office of the National Broadcast Commission, NBC, the meeting attracted officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, the security agencies and Civil Society Organisations, CSOs. We bring you the story on the meeting. It is our cover story.

Journalists are still going through assault, this time in the hands of the police, who, as public law enforcers, ought to be more civil in their interactions with journalist. Funny, the assaults are usually meted on the journalist in the course of their work.

Just about when stakeholders were yet to come to grip with the contents of the amended Nigerian Broadcasting Code 6, which the Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, recently launched with the accompanying controversial N5million sanction for hate speech violators, the Nigeria Broadcasting Commission, NBC, struck.

The Commission on Thursday fined a radio station a whopping N5million for broadcasting what it considered a breach of the new code on hate speech. Hours later, all hell was let loose. The Board of the Commission accused Alhaji Mohammed of orchestration the new, revised code and washed its hand of the new code. Then the Nigerian Guild of Editors demanded the immediate withdrawal of the N5 million fine on the radio, Nigeria Info 99.3 FM. Well, we bring you in this edition, the government's definition of what constitutes hate speech, the Board's disclaimer of the code and the editor's guild reaction, barely a week after the public unveiling of the revised NBC code.


The COVID-19 numbers in the country are coming down today, going up tomorrow, which shows it is too early to keep your guards down. Check our regular national data on the viral pandemic and please stay safe. See you next week.


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### NCDC Confirmed COVID-19 Cases by State, August 14, 2020

States Affected	No. of Cases (Lab Confirmed)	No. of Cases (on admission)	No. Discharged	No. of Deaths
Lagos	16,256	2,923	13,132	201
FCT	4,632	3,261	1,325	46
Oyo	2,935	1,400	1,504	31
Edo	2,399	178	2,121	100
Rivers	1,991	160	1,775	56
Kaduna	1,706	201	1,493	12
Plateau	1,665	905	736	24
Kano	1,661	287	1,320	54
Delta	1,626	152	1,430	44
Ogun	1,521	209	1,288	24
Ondo	1,373	575	770	28
Enugu	976	307	650	19
Ebonyi	908	30	852	26
Kwara	888	274	591	23
Katsina	746	265	457	24
Osun	719	365	341	13
Borno	698	86	576	36
Abia	677	126	546	5
Gombe	647	48	576	23
Bauchi	580	33	533	14
Imo	494	316	168	10
Benue	430	282	139	9
Nasarawa	372	141	223	8
Bayelsa	346	9	316	21
Jigawa	322	3	308	11
Akwa Ibom	241	26	207	8
Niger	228	48	168	12
Ekiti	194	110	81	3
Adamawa	185	69	104	12
Anambra	156	7	131	18
Sokoto	154	0	138	16
Kebbi	90	0	82	8
Taraba	78	19	55	4
Zamfara	77	1	71	5
Cross River	73	23	42	8
Yobe	67	2	57	8
Kogi	5	0	3	2

#### Highlights

- On the 13th of August 2020, 373 new confirmed cases and 10 deaths were recorded in Nigeria.
- Till date, 48,116 cases have been confirmed, 34,309 cases have been discharged and 966 deaths have been recorded in 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.
- The 373 new cases are reported from 20 states - Lagos(69), Osun(41), Kaduna(40), Oyo(40), FCT(35), Plateau(22), Rivers(19), Kano(17), Ondo(17), Ogun(15), Abia(14), Gombe(12), Imo(9), Enugu(7), Kwara(6), Delta(5), Niger(2), Borno(1), Bauchi(1) and Nasarawa(1)
- A multi-sectoral national emergency operations centre (EOC), activated at Level 3, continues to coordinate the national response activities