

EDITOR

Vol. 1 No. 1

Newsletter of the Nigerian Guild of Editors

March 1989

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

THIS newsletter is a fulfilment of one of the promises made by your executive, namely to keep members informed about activities of the Guild. It will be published monthly and it is the hope of the executive that it will help to ensure members' interest and involvement, on a continuous basis, in the Guild's affairs.

Since our convention at Abuja, many issues affecting our members have engaged the attention of the Standing Committee. One of these is job security or the lack of it, which has resulted in some of our members losing their seats.

First, it was the Nigerian Observer, which was shut for a drastic re-organisation. Then there was the Daily Star, where many key staff-members were replaced.

In both cases, the Guild made quiet representation on behalf of its members while at the same time recognising the need for the affected media to be strengthened for their survival. Happily, the Observer is back in circulation and shows every sign of having received a new lease of life.

There has also been the matter of police harassment of members

There has also been the matter of police harassment of members for things done in the course of their duties. Two cases that stood out concerned Mr. Chris Okogie, Deputy Editor of the Vanguard (He was acting Editor at the time) and Mr. Lewis Obi, Editor of African Concord. In both cases, Guild officials intervened. This was done quietly because of a belief that, while public statements may attract attention, they may not be as effective as quiet contacts in resolving arguments and may even be counterproductive by encouraging intrasigence.

The NPO

The Standing Committee has taken an active interest in the re-invigoration of the Nigerian Press Organisation (NPO). Partly because of the revival of the Guild, this body that comprises all the media organisations has again become a vibrant body that can speak for all journalists in the country.

Following a meeting of the NPO held in Lagos on 29 September 1989 under the Chairmanship of Chief Segun Osoba, President of the NPAN, the media bodies were able to submit a joint memorandum to the Constituent Assembly seeking the incorporation of Press Freedom in the constitution. Before then, the NPAN and the NUJ had submitted separate memorandums. As you already know,

the CA refused to make any special provision for Press Freedom. But you can rest assured that that failure was not due to a lack of effort from the Press Organisations.

Nigerian Media Council

The Nigerian Media Council Decree was promulgated on December 30, 1988. The Standing Committee of the Guild met in January and discussed the decree, among other things. The Committee took the view that the one seat given to the Nigerian Guild of Editors in the 18-member council was inadequate and unacceptable. The Committee also took the view that, while the decree had some merits, it was so defective in some other areas that the Guild would not accept it as it is.

The position of the Guild was confirmed by a meeting of the NPO on January 20, 1989. At that meeting, the Press Organisations decided to seek amendment to some critical sections of the decree. Another meeting was fixed for February 24, 1989 to discuss objectives in detail. Three NPO meetings on this subject have been held since then. And what promises to be

the last, before a meeting with the information minister, would take place in April.

Nigerian Journalism Review

As you will find elsewhere in this newsletter, the Guild proposes to publish a journalism review. There is currently a deficiency in this area, and the Standing Committee believes that a journalism review that discusses issues arising in the practice of journalism, fits in with the Guild's objective of taking a "keen interest in the general advancement of the mass communication media." The magazine proposed will be of an intellectual quality that will enhance the prestige of the Guild. It will also, hopefully, fill an important gap for both student journalists and those in the field.

This maiden issue of this Newsletter also includes the accounts of the convention. It was promised at Abuja and the Standing Committee has decided that the Treasurer's report be circulated to all members. I hope it meets your expectations.

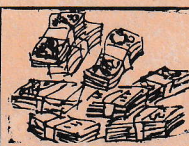
Your executive is at the same time looking at other ways to advance the practice of journalism in Nigeria. Several proposals are still under discussion. You will certainly be kept informed as they mature and progress.

*Yours faithfully,
Onyema Ugochukwu,
President, Nigerian Guild Editor.*

**MAIN
FEATURES**



**A silent but
sure and steady
upbuilding P.2 — 3**



**New.... Titles,
faces and chairs
P.4 — 5**

A silent but sure and

THE Executive and Standing Committee of the Guild have been working intensely, though quietly, since the association was re-activated in Abuja between September 24 and 27 last year. Against all odds, three well-attended bi-monthly meetings have been held, as required by the Constitution, between then and now; the pre-88 Guild bank account has been located, reported member's welfare problems have been promptly attended to; this newsletter has been produced; a Guild quality quarterly journalism review should hit news stands next month; nominations have been made to the Guild's two chairs on the Nigerian Institute of Journalism (NIJ) governing board; a visit to President Ibrahim Babangida is being pursued; in the Nigerian Press Organisation (NPO), our voice has, once again, broken through, either in the strong denunciations of the harassments of journalist, the newsprint crisis, quests for better professional standards, or the opposition to objectionable portions of the Nigerian



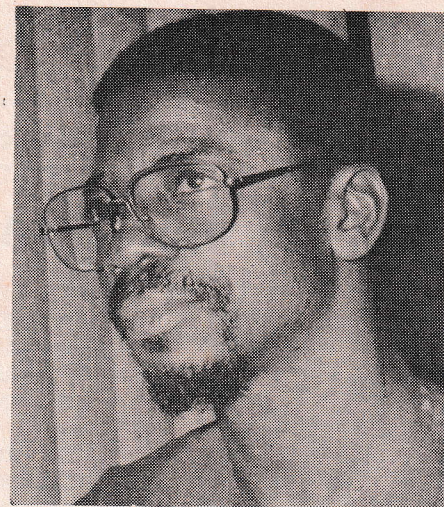
• Greg Onwuemene

Media Council Decree (No 59) 1988.

These and other matters can only be discussed hereunder in summary:

MEMBERS WELFARE

The following cases warranted attention: Greg Onwuemene (Observer), Banji Kuroloja (Tribune), and Reginald Ibe (Guardian



• Banji Kuroloja

Financial Weekly). That of Chris Okogie (Vanguard) was also mentioned, although he is his paper's deputy editor. The Observer had been closed, pending fresh editorial appointments, among others. Onwuemene was keen to quit for a number of personal reasons, but wanted the Guild to help obtain

THE NIGERIAN JOURNALISM REVIEW

THE Nigerian Guild of Editors is pleased to announce its plan to publish, from April 1989, a quarterly journal which will be called the "Nigerian Journalism Review". A professional publication of academic stature, the journal will publish papers which report results of research, as well as descriptive articles related to journalism and society.

NOTES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

1. Three copies of articles are required. They should be type-written, double-spaced, on one side of quarto size sheet. Ample margins should be provided, please.
2. Articles should not be more than 9,000 words, excluding an abstract of not more than 200 words.
3. They should be accompanied by the author's name, address, and a short note on the author, typed on a separate sheet.
4. The Editorial Board of the Nigerian Journalism Review adopts the following APA (Manual) style of citation:-
 - (a) It has been argued (Ayodele, 1980) that the effect of.....
or
Ayodele (1980) argues that the effect of.....
(wherever appropriate, the precise pages referred to should be given: Ayodele (1980:125) argues that the effect of
 - (b) All references in the text must be accounted for at the end of each article. They should be presented

in alphabetical order by author's surname.

- (c) Quoted passages which are more than three lines should be extracted and indented five (5) spaces and typed single-spaced. Shorter quotations should be enclosed in doubled inverted commas within the text.
5. Footnotes are not acceptable.
6. Tables and figures should be kept to the barest minimum.
7. All figures should be camera ready. Receipt of all manuscripts will be acknowledged promptly. The decision of the Journal's assessors to publish or not will be communicated without delay.
8. Rejected manuscript(s) will be returned to the author(s).
9. To be considered for publication in the maiden issue, manuscripts must be received by April 15, 1989.
For subsequent issues, manuscripts will be accepted all year round.
10. Three copies of articles intended for publication and correspondence on editorial matters should be sent to:-

Nigerian Journalism Review,
c/o Femi Kusa,
Editor,
The Guardian
P.M.B. 1217, Oshodi, Lagos.