

NITDA places prize on ICT graphic book

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The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), has announced a N250,000 prize for any youth who publishes the best Information and Communication Technology (ICT) graphic book for primary schools in the country.

The director-general of NITDA, Prof. Cleopas Angaye disclosed this at the second annual Nigerian IT Youth Rally that was held recently at the National Stadium in Lagos. The winning book is expected to explain the composition, functions, and benefits of ICTs within the global community.

The competition, with its deadline fixed for 31 December 2007, is a challenge by his office to the Nigerian youths, Angaye said; further adding that the NITDA would soon introduce an annual software contest among the youths on a regional basis.

The grand finale, Prof. Angaye revealed would be held for the maiden edition at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja.

According to the professor, this would increase awareness, encourage youths and position Nigeria well within the global software market whilst earning additional revenue for the country.

He equally advised those out of school that IT studies could be taken at any stage of one's life and must take full advantage of the available opportunities in both the private and the public sectors to empower themselves with these technologies so as to be relevant in the new global economy.

"I wish to challenge our youths to be innovative in IT application and learn to develop technologies to suit our needs and not just bask in the euphoria of 'consuming' the technology of others," he counselled.

Angaye further said that this would require youths to adequately appreciate IT as the major tool of the new world.

"Innovations in this area would assist Nigeria in the development of the much talked about 'Nigerian content' that would enhance our presence in cyberspace and improve technological advancement," he declared.

He assured of government support to any initiative from any group that could enhance the development of Nigerian youth and channel their energy towards activities that could enhance job and wealth creation, poverty alleviation and general improved standard of living.

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