

NATIONAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NITDA)



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eNigeria 2018 COMMUNIQUE

e-NIGERIA 2018 CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION AND AWARDS

HELD FROM
5TH – 7TH NOVEMBER, 2018

AT THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABUJA.

Background

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) organized the 2018 edition of the e-Nigeria Conference, Exhibition and Awards from 5th – 7th November 2018 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja. The theme of the Conference was "**Promoting Digital Economy in an Era of Disruptive Technologies through Effective Regulations**".

eNigeria is Nigeria's flagship International Conference, Exhibition and Awards that brings stakeholders together in the IT industry to deliberate on emerging technologies, local innovations and relevant Information and Communication Technology (ICT) issues for the socio-economic development of the nation.

2. The objectives of the 2018 edition are in response to digital opportunities and challenges created by increasing influence of emerging technologies on commerce and society, as well as a need to accelerate the development of and access to digital products and services to millions of Nigerian citizens, ultimately creating Africa's largest single digital market by 2020.

3. The Conference was attended by eminent dignitaries which included the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, who declared the Conference open. Other dignitaries at the Conference included the Executive Governor of Kaduna State, Mallam Nasir El-Rufai; Chairman, Senate Committee on ICT, Senator Abdulfatai Buhari; Chairman, House Committee on ICT, Honourable Mohammed Onawo Ogoji; the Honourable Minister of Communications, Barr. Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu; Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Mallam Muhammed Musa Bello; Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr Abubakar Malami, SAN; Minister of Sports, Barr. Solomon Dalung; Minister of State for Power, Works and Housing, Hon. Mustapha Baba Shehuri; Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall Sadiq Abubakar, Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ibok-Ete Ekwe Ibas; the Inspector-General of Police, represented by the Deputy Inspector General of Police in-charge-of Information Technology, Mr Emmanuel Tom Inyang; and the Director-General/Chief Executive, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Dr Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, FBCS- the host of the event and convener of e-Nigeria. The keynote address was delivered by Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, the Pioneer Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

4. The event was also attended by the Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria, Dr Godwin Emefiele; Acting Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Mr Ibrahim Magu; Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission(NCC), Prof Umar G. Danbatta; Chairman, Board of NITDA, Prof Adeolu Akande; Executive Secretary, Petroleum Equalization Fund (Management) Board, Alh. Ahmed Bobboi; Director General/CEO, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), Dr Dan-Azumi Ibrahim; Comptroller-General of Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Alh. Mohammad Babandede, MFR; Group Managing Director, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, Dr Maikanti Baru; Managing Director, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim; Director-General of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Engr. Aliyu Azeez; Managing Director/Chief Executive, Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company, Alhaji Abbas Umar Masanawa; Managing Director/Chief Executive, Galaxy Backbone Plc, Mr Yusuf Kazaure; Chief Medical Director of the Federal Teaching Hospital Gombe, Dr Abubakar Said.

5. Other dignitaries at the Conference include the Vice Chancellor, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, Prof Saminu Abdur-Rahman Ibrahim; Vice Chancellor of Nile University, Prof(Dr) Huseyin Sert M.D.; Vice Chancellor, Modibbo Adama University of Technology, Yola; Prof Kyari Mohammed; Acting Vice Chancellor, Military University, Biu, Prof David Malgwi; Captains of Industry in the Information Technology sector, Presidents of ICT related professional bodies such as Nigeria Computer Society (NCS), Prof Ganiyu Adesola Aderounmu, and Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN) and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs). The opening ceremony was also graced by the diplomatic community and members of the academia. A total of 2,983 participants from Nigeria and outside the country

attended the conference.

6. During the opening ceremony, the DG/CEO of NITDA, Dr Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami gave the welcome address, highlights of the Conference and achievements of the Agency. The Hon. Minister of Communications made some remarks. The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Nigeria Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR made a speech, gave some policy directives and declared the conference open. He then led dignitaries on a tour of exhibition stands.

7. The conference consisted of 10 Plenary Sessions which featured paper presentations, discussions by panelists as well as question and answer sessions.

Observations

The participants at the Conference observed that:

- 1) The theme of the Conference encompasses the 7 pillars of NITDA's Strategic Roadmap: Digital Job Creation, Capacity Building and Local Content Development & Promotion map to the aspect of the theme that talks about a Digital Economy. Digital Inclusion and Government Digital Services relate to the issue of Disruptive Technologies. IT Regulations and Cybersecurity cover the aspect of Regulations.
- 2) Participants commended NITDA's continuous efforts on the hosting of eNigeria, especially on the choice of the theme of this year's event.
- 3) Nations are moving away from a resource based to a knowledge based digital economy and Nigeria should not be left behind.
- 4) The Ministry of Communications has put several initiatives in place with the aim of restructuring the Nigerian information technology sector. These include the strategic ICT Roadmap, National ICT policy and other policy guidelines to promote the patronage of Nigerian goods in the IT sector.
- 5) Some notable achievements of NITDA within the last 2 years include:
 - The establishment of 80 digital jobs creation centres;
 - The establishment of 86 digital capacity building centres;
 - The establishment of 166 e-learning centres;
 - The creation of 8 world class Wide Area Networks in tertiary institutions;
 - The establishment of 8 virtual libraries;
 - The establishment of 3 IT innovation hubs;
 - The provision of postgraduate scholarships to 92 Nigerians to study ICT related courses;
 - The organization of capacity building for CEOs/Head of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and Heads of ICT departments/units;
 - The organization of capacity building for women and people with disabilities.
 - Saving N13 billion for the government through the clearance of IT projects of MDAs;
 - Significant role in the growth of the ICT sector and this played an important role in the unprecedented contribution of the ICT sector to the GDP of the nation; ICT contributed 13.63% to the Q2 GDP in real terms- the highest value ever recorded.
- 6) The Federal government is committed to ensuring that preference is given to locally developed technologies in line with Executive Orders 003 and 005.
- 7) President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, noted that Nigeria has to kill corruption to prevent corruption from killing Nigeria. He stated that "we are serious about fighting corruption. We must not fail in our quest to eliminate corruption in government businesses and in the wider society."
- 8) Mr President commended NITDA's initiative focused on the Registration of IT Contractors and Service Providers in collaboration with other regulatory bodies with special emphasis on competencies. He also commended the Agency's work on the Nigerian ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Vision.
- 9) The participants commended the efforts of NITDA in her support to the IT sector through ICT training for women, people with disabilities, CEOs and Heads of ICT departments of MDAs and many more activities and projects.
- 10) The Federal Government recognises NITDA's collaboration with the National Social Investment Office (NSIO), in coordinating Federal Government's initiative by establishing eight (8) Innovation Hubs,

one in each of the six Geo-Political Zones, then one in Abuja and the other in Lagos, to facilitate digital capacity building for employment creation, entrepreneurial skills development, job and wealth creation.

- 11) Nigeria has achieved a broadband penetration of 23% but is expected to hit 30% at the end of the year.
- 12) Disruptive technologies like Blockchain, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Computing, 3D printing, Big Data Analytics can be used to fight corruption in the public sector.
- 13) Nigeria currently has about 45,000 base transmitter stations and 120,000 kilometres of fibre broadband infrastructure. It is however ranked 135 out of 145 countries of the world in terms of infrastructure, hence, the need for greater investment in the area of infrastructural development.
- 14) The Federal Government of Nigeria has approved the sum of 443 million Dollars for identity management for the period of 3 years.
- 15) The EFCC has been able to secure 191 Convictions as well as recover 120 billion Naira as a result of the Whistle Blowing Policy. It was noted that no other country has achieved this.
- 16) The National Identity Management Commission currently has 32.7 million records of Nigerian citizens' in its data base and working towards ensuring that all Nigerian citizens' have a National Identification Number (NIN).

Policy Directives

The President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari gave the following directives:

- a. NITDA should work with relevant stakeholders to ensure that it clears all ICT projects by public establishments before implementation and defaulters should be reported to the Presidency for appropriate sanctions.
- b. All MDAs, and all other Federal Public Institutions, should give preference to locally manufactured goods and services in their procurement of information technology services in line with the Executive Orders 003 and 005.
- c. NITDA should work with relevant regulatory agencies to ensure strict compliance to the new regulatory instruments on the registration and certification process for OEMs developed by the Agency.
- d. NITDA should use its regulatory instruments to ensure the full implementation of the Nigerian ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Vision that focuses on the development of Digital Infrastructure, Education Reform, Skills Development and Research and Development as well as supporting the ecosystem.
- e. Efforts should be intensified at creating adequate awareness on the importance of these regulatory instruments.

Recommendations

- 1) Attempts should be made to establish a Micro-Small Medium Enterprise (MSME) based cybersecurity solutions sub-sector, principally driven by knowledgeable workers below 35 years.
- 2) NITDA, in collaboration with stakeholders, should in addition to its current capacity building program, build the capacities of CEOs and Heads of MDAs in States and Local Governments.
- 3) To accelerate digital promotion, NITDA should encourage states to implement the various digital inclusion policies and create massive awareness on the benefit of digital transformation.
- 4) Government should work towards automating the Nigerian procurement processes to effectively curb corruption.
- 5) Government should be encouraged to provide greater funding for the deployment of disruptive technologies.
- 6) Stakeholders commended NITDA on their good work of establishing incubation centres and hubs and advised the Agency to extend this initiative to tertiary institutions.
- 7) NITDA should collaborate with INEC to mandate all existing political parties in Nigeria to automate their membership registration process and database as it is crucial in ensuring effective elections.
- 8) NITDA should ignite Nigeria's Application Program Interface (API) economy by building a National Mobile Big Data Analytics Platform to enable business ecosystems create solutions for government organizations.

- 9) Stakeholders recommended that government should ensure the responsible use of social media in view of its importance towards national security.
- 10) The Federal Government should facilitate the establishment of Technology Banks focused on providing flexible credit financial services to empower Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (SMEs) to attain United Nations' (UN) requirements for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 11) There is an urgent need to establish a standard digital directory for all SMEs products and services in English and basic local languages – using graphic symbols as applicable.
- 12) Efforts should be made to facilitate capacity development in the adoption of emerging technologies, such as IoTs, Big Data, AI, in the Nigerian educational value-chain, through the provision of indigenous educational toolkits to support learning, teaching, research and administration.
- 13) The Government should speed up the deployment of affordable quality broadband networks to strengthen the competitiveness and growth of SMEs and accelerate the development of a Trust System for digital authentication and identification. NITDA and other relevant agencies should ensure that all custodians of data should focus on protection and privacy.
- 14) Stakeholders encouraged the Federal Government to pay extra attention to the development of ICT at the State and Local Government levels.
- 15) Awareness should be created to encourage and promote volunteer-based initiatives and create platform for feedback, sharing, and communication.
- 16) Relevant Agencies are urged to harmonise all citizens' data and put in place a proactive cyber security regime.
- 17) Adequate training and inclusion of digital technology in school's curriculum should be encouraged for service delivery while legislative backing necessary for the growth of digital solutions should also be provided.
- 18) NITDA, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, is enjoined to promote the development of a National Blockchain Technology Strategy, drafting relevant laws and regulations including regulations on the use of Blockchain Technology (BT) applications. More start-ups for the development of appropriate BT applications should be encouraged.
- 19) Government should strengthen social investment schemes to promote financial inclusion and provide source of data for policy formulation and planning.
- 20) Government was encouraged to relax the conditions for attaining the pioneer status so that start-ups can have extended tax holidays.
- 21) Start-ups should be given consideration during the procurement process of MDAs and should improve access to available funding for ICT start-ups.
- 22) Support for start-ups should not be limited to NITDA; there should be collaboration with other relevant institutions.

[Adoption of Communique]

Daniel Yakmut of the Federal University, Lafia moved for the adoption of the Communique and it was seconded by Daniel Manjang, Plateau State Commissioner of Science and Technology.
7th November, 2018.

[Remarks by Dr Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, DG, NITDA]

I wish to express my profound gratitude to His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, for declaring e-Nigeria 2018 open in person. I extend our gratitude to him for his great support for NITDA and the Nigerian ICT Sector.

I also wish to thank all the eminent personalities and our stakeholders for taking out time from their busy schedule to attend the Conference.

I enjoin all the stakeholders to join hands with us to implement the recommendations in this Communique for the benefit of the ICT sector of our country. Your partnership is important in our quest to develop a thriving ICT sector.

Thank you very much.

SIGNED

**Isa Ali Ibrahim Pantami, PhD, FNCS, FBCS, FIIM
Director-General/CEO, NITDA**