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**A COMPENDIUM OF  
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION  
TECHNOLOGY POLICIES AND  
FRAMEWORKS IN NIGERIA**

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## About this publication

The Telecommunication and Technology Working Group (TTSWG) - a multistakeholder network of corporate organisations committed to the development of the telecoms and technology sector through global best practices, innovation and thought leadership in business sustainability - in collaboration with key partners, organised its first webinar themed: 'Collaboration for a Resilient ICT Sector' on Tuesday, 17 August 2021 – a virtual event which sought to proffer solutions to national issues by mobilising human and material capital available to stakeholders in the sector to ensure sustainable practices that benefit the sector and the country at large.

By the end of the webinar, the following recommendations/action points were highlighted as catalysts towards achieving resilience in the sector. They include:

1. Designing milestones for the sector for the next five years.
2. Awareness creation - The TTSWG was advised to make a compilation of all existing ICT policies in Nigeria and distill it into a handbook for all industry practitioners for awareness.
3. Collaborate with the Nigerian Government - The problems of the ICT sector is too big for one stakeholder group to fight, thus cross-functional and sectoral partnership is required.
4. Consider congregating critical stakeholders - youth, NGOs, organisations – together to ensure that policies are

known, integrated and implemented across the sector to ensure that members get prerequisite result on their actions.

5. The creation of a list/curriculum of top ICT innovations or projects that have been undertaken in Nigeria with positive impact.
6. The creation of a digital museum in Nigeria that will showcase innovation by Nigerians, both at home and abroad to enhance governance.
7. Taking gender issues into consideration, as this is fundamental to the achievement of the TTSWG goal. The inclusion of the girl-child should be a drive in the sector.
8. The creation of expert groups within the TTSWG.
9. Advocacy – Aim to be a voice that will reverberate positively to the rest of the country as a national telecommunications/ICT thinktank, that will directly advise the President.

**This publication is a step by the TTSWG towards achieving some of the above recommendations, spooling together a compilation of all publicly available ICT policies within Nigeria.**



## Introduction

The advent of the Global System for Mobile Communication (GSM) in Nigeria changed the developmental strides of the ICT sector in Nigeria, as a number of telecommunication companies were granted operating license, leading to the progressive growth of the sector in the country, which has led to series of technological changes such as openness, connectivity, decentralization and accessibility (Anie, 2011). The ICT sector in Nigeria has evolved over the years, accounting for about 11 per cent of the National Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2017 (National Bureau of Statistics, NBS, 2018), with over 148 million active mobile telecommunication subscriptions (Nigerian Communication Commission, NCC, 2018). Information Technology (IT) encompasses all forms of technology that are used to create, store, exchange and use information in its various forms, including telephony and computer technology (Enakrire, 2018).

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a broad spectrum of technologies that allows users to access, produce and share ideas and resources (Enakrire, 2018). It refers to any technology that enables the communication and electronic capture, processing and transmission of information (Enakrire, 2018). ICT drives business activities, productivity, trade and social development globally. ICTs and their solutions are essential for development, particularly for developing

countries like Nigeria. However, a country's ability to thrive in ICT will depend on the set objectives of the ICT policies and the implementation strategies that are put in place to drive the policies (Anie, 2011). While a number of ICT policies exist in Nigeria, ICT companies are also influenced and referenced by some key national policies in their broader implementation frameworks, buttressing the relevance of ICTs to national development in Nigeria. For example, the National Vision 20:20:20, which is a strategic document that identifies the long-term developmental goals in the country, identified the relevance of ICT skills development and greater diffusion of ICT across sub-sectors within the country, including education, finance, agriculture, trade, manufacturing, services, oil and gas and the public sector (Gillwald, Odufowa and Mothobi, 2018).

Also, the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) of the Buhari Administration identified the critical role of ICT in driving economic growth and national development. This is contained in the Nigerian ICT Roadmap (2017-2020) which was meant to fill the delays in policy drafts, and provide a framework for ICT development by articulating four pillars:

- Governance.
- Policy, Legal and Regulatory.
- Industry and Infrastructure.
- Capacity Building (Gillwald, Odufowa and Mothobi, 2018).



## The Need for a Collation of Relevant ICT Policies in Nigeria

Effective implementation of ICT policies in Nigeria is a precondition to the emergence of a strong market economy, as the development of social activities in the society is dependent on the implementation of ICT policies, in addition to adequately skilled labour (Anie, 2011).

The aim of the Federal Government is to enhance the national economy through the development of the ICT sector; a situation that has become more imperative and more clearly highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As the benefits and impacts of the telecommunication and technology sector are daily touted as the catalyst for driving growth, inclusion, innovation and governance, it has become necessary to build capacity for the sector. This compendium, therefore, seeks to identify the institutional framework for ICTs in Nigeria and the regulations and ICT policies in Nigeria, in order to prepare ICT companies for compliance with the government and regulators' expectations.

### The Institutional Framework for ICTs in Nigeria

The Information and Communication Technology sector in Nigeria according to the National Information and Communication Technology Policy, encompasses the following institutions; the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (responsible for communications and information technology), a proposed merger of the Nigerian Communications Commission

and the National Broadcasting Commission (referred to as the 'converged regulator' for telecommunications, broadcasting, postal and information technology, IT), National Information Technology Development Agency (the ICT development agency), NIPOST (the public postal operator), and government-owned companies like Galaxy Backbone PLC and NigComSat Plc (Obutte, 2014).

### Core ICT Regulatory Institutions

A description of the core institutions established by the government to guide the sector are summarised below.

#### A. Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)

The Nigerian Communications Commission was established by the Nigerian Communications Act as an independent national regulatory authority for the telecommunications industry in Nigeria. The NCC is responsible for creating an enabling environment for competition among operators in the industry, as well as ensuring the provision of qualitative and efficient telecommunications services.



## **B. The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC)**

The National Broadcasting Commission is established by the National Broadcasting Commission Act 23. The NBC is responsible for advising the Federal Government on the implementation of the National Mass Communication Policy, with particular reference to broadcasting as well as licensing cable, Direct-to-Home (DTH), and all terrestrial radio and television services. The NBC is also responsible for undertaking research and development in the broadcast industry, upholding the principles of equity and fairness in broadcasting, and establishing and disseminating a national broadcasting code, while also setting standards with regards to the contents and quality of the materials broadcast.

## **C. The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)**

Following the approval of the National Information Technology Policy (National IT Policy) by the Federal Government of Nigeria in March 2001, the National Information Technology Development Agency was established in 2001 under the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. It was initially given with the task of implementing the policy through coordinating and promoting the development and use of information technology in Nigeria, however, in 2007, NITDA was formally established under an Act of the Nigerian National Assembly. The primary functions of NITDA under the law comprise:

i. Creating a framework for the planning, research, development, standardisation,

application, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and regulation of information technology practices, activities and systems in Nigeria and all matters related thereto and for that purpose.

ii. Providing guidelines to facilitate the establishment and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure for information technology and systems application and development in Nigeria for the public and private sectors, urban/rural development, the economy and the government.

iii. Developing guidelines for electronic governance.

iv. Developing guidelines for the networking of public and private sector establishments.

v. Developing guidelines for the standardisation and certification of information technology Escrow Source Code and Object Code Domiciliation, Application and Delivery systems in Nigeria.

vi. Rendering advisory services in all information technology matters to the public and private sectors.

vii. Introducing appropriate regulatory policies and incentives to encourage private sector investment in the information technology industry.

viii. Determining critical areas in Information technology requiring research intervention and facilitating research and development in those areas.

ix. Accelerating internet penetration in Nigeria and promoting sound internet governance.



## Other Non-Core Government Institutions with ICT Guidance

### D. The National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA)

The National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency was established in 2007 by the National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act. The Agency is responsible for ensuring the effective enforcement of environmental laws and regulations in the country, except in the oil and gas industry. The Act establishing the Agency provides for the setting of air quality standards and atmospheric protection. The Act also prohibits the discharge of hazardous substances into the air or upon the land and waters of Nigeria or at the adjoining shorelines except where such discharge is permitted or authorised under any law in force in Nigeria. The provisions of the agency constitute a framework for controlling hazardous emissions from telecommunications and ICT equipment to prevent environmental and health hazards.

### E. The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria was established under the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act 42 as a regulatory framework for enforcing standardising methods of production in Nigeria. The SON is required under the law to be actively involved in the inspection of imported goods and quality assessment at the ports and manufacturing establishments. The regulatory function of the SON also extends to the ICT industry in the regulation and enforcement of standards of ICT products and equipment either manufactured in the country or imported.

## Acts Governing ICT Practices in Nigeria

A number of Acts have been enacted in Nigeria to drive the ICT sector in Nigeria. These include:

### A. The Wireless Telegraphy Act (1990)

The Wireless Telegraphy Act (WTA) was initially enacted in 1961, preceding all other extant laws in the sector. However, the WTA continues to provide clarity to the regulatory management of communications in Nigeria. Essentially, the Act seeks to regulate the licensing, location and operation of wireless telegraphy services in Nigeria (Obutte, 2014).

### B. The National Broadcasting Commission Act (1992)

The Act was first promulgated as a Decree on 24 August 1992. However, the Decree and its amendments have been adopted as an Act of the National Assembly. The National Broadcasting Commission Act regulates radio broadcasting activities in Nigeria, as well as the licensing of Cable, DTH and all terrestrial radio and television services (Obutte, 2014). It was established to implement the National Mass Communication Policy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and sets standards on the contents and quality of materials broadcasted over the country's radio waves.

### C. The Nigerian Communications Act (2003)

The Act was enacted in 2003 to create a regulatory framework for the Nigerian communications industry. The Act established the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) as an independent National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the telecommunications industry in Nigeria (Obutte, 2014). The Act further created provisions for the licensing and operations of telecommunications service providers and other related matters (Obute, 2014).



## Information and Communication Technology Policies in Nigeria

ICT policies are set principles and strategies that guide the course of action that are pursued towards the achievement of any given goal (Enakrire, 2018). They are official statements that define the objectives, goals, principles, strategies, etc., that guide and regulate the development, operation and application of ICT (Anie, 2011). Several policies have been designed for implementation towards ICT transformation in Nigeria in line with global trends. These are highlighted.

### 1. National Policy for Information Technology (2001)

The Information Technology (IT) Policy was established to develop reliable infrastructure, skilled human resources, open government and essential issues of capacity building (FGN, 2001). The National IT Policy has the following objectives:

- i. To ensure that Information Technology resources are readily available to promote efficient national development.
- ii. To guarantee that the country benefits maximally, and contributes meaningfully by providing the global solutions to the challenges of the Information Age.
- iii. To empower Nigerians to participate in software and IT development.
- iv. To encourage local production and manufacture of IT components in a competitive manner.
- v. To improve accessibility to public administration for all citizens, bringing transparency to government processes.
- vi. To establish and develop IT infrastructure

nationwide.

vii. To improve judicial procedures and enhance the dispensation of justice.

viii. To improve food production and food security.

ix. To promote tourism and Nigerian arts & culture.

x. To improve healthcare delivery systems nationwide.

xi. To enhance planning mechanisms and forecasting for the development of local infrastructure.

xii. To enhance the effectiveness of environmental monitoring and control systems.

xiii. To re-engineer and improve urban and rural development schemes.

xiv. To empower children, women and the disabled by providing special programs for the acquisition of IT skills.

xv. To empower the youth with IT skills and prepare them for global competitiveness.

xvi. To integrate IT into the mainstream of education and training.

xvii. To create IT awareness and ensure universal access in order to promote IT diffusion in all sectors of our national life.

xx. To encourage government and private sector joint venture collaboration.

xxi. To enhance national security and law enforcement.

xxii. To endeavour to bring the defence and law enforcement agencies in line with accepted



best practices in the national interest.

xxiii. To promote legislation (bills & acts) for the protection of online business transactions, privacy and security.

xxiv. To establish new multi-faceted IT institutions as centres of excellence to ensure Nigeria's competitiveness in international markets.

xxv. To develop human capital with emphasis on creating and supporting knowledge-based society.

The strategies for implementation include:

i. Establishing a coordinated program for the development of a National Information Infrastructure (NII), State Information Infrastructure (SII) and Local Information Infrastructure (LII) backbone by using emerging technologies such as satellite including VSAT, fibre optic networks, high-speed gateways and broad band/multimedia technologies.

ii. Providing adequate connectivity to the Global Information Infrastructure (GII).

iii. Addressing open standards for further liberalisation and the fiscal measures including incentives to substantially improve telephone tele-density and make IT more affordable to the citizenry.

iv. Establishing IT parks as incubating centres for the development of software applications at national, state and local levels.

v. Restructuring the education system at all levels to respond effectively to the challenges and imagined impact of the information age and in particular, the allocation of a special IT development fund to education at all levels.

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and imagined impact of the information age and in particular, the allocation of a special IT development fund to education at all levels.

vi. Restructuring the healthcare system by providing a national data bank to provide on-line national healthcare information, administration and management at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

vii. Encouraging massive local and global IT skills acquisitions through training in the public and private sectors with the view to achieving a strategic medium-term milestone of at least 500,000 IT skilled personnel by the year 2004.

viii. Empowering the labour force with IT skills and improving Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) productivity.

ix. Establishing adequate institutional frameworks at the federal, state, and local government levels in order to effectively accomplish the objectives of the IT vision and mission.

x. Establishing national IT awareness machinery at all levels of government and encouraging private sector participation in exposing Nigerians to the features and benefits of IT.

xi. Strengthening government and private sector collaboration for the attainment of national self-reliance.

xii. Utilising IT facilities to develop and transform the entertainment industry for wealth and job creation.

xiii. Establishing appropriate mechanisms to accelerate and enhance trade and commerce transactions in the sector.

xiv. Creating national database management systems as a tool for effective planning and communication between citizens at home and



abroad.

xv. Establishing national databases and other IT infrastructure to enhance defence and law enforcement.

xvi. Enacting bills and acts to stimulate and protect the rights of users and developers including intellectual property rights.

xvii. Bringing the government to the doorsteps of people by creating virtual forum and facilities to strengthen accessibility to government information and facilitating interaction between the governed and government leading to transparency, accountability and the strengthening of democracy.

xviii. Utilising IT opportunities to restructure government, citizens and business interfaces for better governance, improved trade and commerce and administrative effectiveness.

xix. Establishing, for short to medium term objectives, a National Information Technology Development Agency to implement the IT Policy, regulate, monitor, evaluate and verify progress on an ongoing basis under the supervision and coordination of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology. Its operations will be funded amongst others with a start-up grant of at least \$10 million.

xx. Establishing a National Information Technology Development Fund (NITDEF) under the aegis of NITDA and funded as follows:

- Start-up grant of at least \$150m.
- Two per cent of the national budget allocated to the fund until the articulated vision is attained.
- 3% tax on all imported finished IT products paid directly to the fund.

## 2. National Information and Communication Technology Policy (2012)

The National Information and Communication Technology policy was formulated in June 2012 by the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (then called the Federal Ministry of Communication Technology). The National ICT Policy provides a framework for streamlining the ICT sector and improving the sector to catalyse and sustain socioeconomic development of the country in achieving the vision of Nigeria becoming one of the top 20 economies by the year 2020 (FGN, 2012). The Policy is also to facilitate the transformation of Nigeria into a knowledge-based economy, organise the ICT sector for performance and efficiency.

In order to achieve these goals, specific objectives of the National ICT Policy sought to address issues on the areas of regulation, operation, and service delivery; unify policy administrators under a single ministry; develop the framework for the implementation of community broadcasting in Nigeria; promote cyber, digital, ICT infrastructure and national security; foster the development of broadband services and reposition the postal subsector for efficiency, in summary.

## 3. The National Broadband Plan (2013-2018)

The National Broadband Policy for 2013–18 recognises the positive linkages between increased broadband penetration and GDP growth (FGN, 2019). The plan envisages a more than five-fold increase in internet and broadband penetration, from 6 per cent in 2013 to 30 per cent in 2018.

The key objectives of the Nigerian National Broadband Plan include:

- i. Promoting pervasive broadband deployment.



- ii. Increasing broadband adoption and usage.
- iii. Ensuring availability of broadband services at affordable prices.

#### 4. National Broadband Plan (2020-2025)

The new Broadband Plan was designed to deliver data download speeds across Nigeria of a minimum 25Mbps in urban areas, and 10Mbps in rural areas, with effective coverage available to at least 90% of the population by 2025 (FGN, 2020). The plan focused on the recommendations of four critical pillars which are outlined.

a. Infrastructure - The objectives of this pillar are:

- i. the issuance of an Executive Order to Declare Telecoms infrastructure as CNII and full implementation of Plan.
- ii. to establish a coordinating body for Fibre Builds, which will ensure open access, prevent overlap and facilitate Right of Way (RoW) issuance at statutory rates.
- iii. satellite adoption – leverage existing NIGCOMSAT infrastructure to reach unserved/rural areas.

b. Policy - Policy drives in the pillar include to:

- i. implement and enforce national uniform RoW charges for fibre builds at a rate of N145/m and ensure Open Access/Accounting Separation.
- ii. work with states to implement one-stop shops to accelerate approvals and harmonise fees.
- iii. ensure efficient use of spectrum.

c. Funding.

d. Demand drivers.

For the funding and demand drivers' pillars of the policy, similar objectives were set, which include:

- i. Incentivise low cost smart phone devices and promote local assembly manufacturing of telecom network and end device components.
- ii. Coordinate government spending, schemes and programs to ensure access in public institutions e.g., schools, hospitals and Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs).

#### 5. Data Protection Bill (2020)

The objective of the Bill is to create a regulatory framework for the protection and processing of personal data and to safeguard the rights and freedoms of data subjects which are guaranteed under the Nigerian Constitution (PwC, 2020). The scope of the Bill covers the collection, storage, processing and use of personal data of persons residing in Nigeria and Nigerians residing outside Nigeria by private and public sector entities in Nigeria. Specifically, the following categories of persons are required to comply with the Bill:

- a data subject who is a citizen of Nigeria;
- a data subject who is ordinarily resident in Nigeria;
- a body incorporated under the laws of Nigeria;
- an unincorporated joint venture or association operating in part or in whole in Nigeria; and,
- any person who does not fall within paragraphs (a), (b), (c) or (d), but maintains an office, branch or agency through which business activities are carried out in Nigeria.

The Bill also sets up the Data Protection Commission (the Commission) with responsibility to implement and monitor compliance with the provisions of the Bill, provide the process to obtain, store, process, use or disclose personal information, investigate any complaints arising from non-compliance with the Bill, impose fines and



penalties, to enforce compliance and make regulations necessary for carrying out its functions (PwC, 2020).

Some notable matters included in the Bill are as follows:

i. Data controllers are now required to submit their annual data protection audit report on the 30th of March of each year as opposed to 15 March as provided in the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR).

ii. Fixed penalties for non-compliance as against the percentage of annual gross revenue under the NDPR. For instance, knowingly obtaining information, disclosing information to a third party or retaining information without the consent of the data controller can attract a fine of N5 million upon conviction or one year imprisonment.

iii. Sale of personal data obtained without proper consent or advertising the data where it was improperly obtained could attract up to five years' imprisonment upon conviction in addition to a fine.

iv. A data controller or processor that does not put in place appropriate technical and managerial safeguards could be liable for up to N10 million for every year of default or one-year imprisonment. It further imposes stricter penalties on data protection officers or officials of the Commission where such persons are involved in a breach of data confidentiality.

v. The Bill stipulates that privacy of personal data will not apply when the data is processed to protect members of the public from financial loss or malpractice, dishonesty or malpractice in the provision of professional services, misconduct or mismanagement in the administration of a non-profit making entity, health, safety and welfare of persons at

work, to protect non-working persons against the risk to health or safety arising out of or in connection with the action of persons at work, and on the grounds of public interest which may include the prevention or detection of crime, the assessment or collection of tax or duty or the publication of a literary or artistic material.

## **6. National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (2020-2030)**

The Nigeria National Policy on Digital Economy defined digital economy as any aspect of the economy that is based on or driven by digital technologies (FGN, 2019). The national digital economy policy was established to create new technological platforms and industries and to enhance the efficiency and productivity of existing industries in Nigeria (FGN, 2019). The Policy is anchored on the 8 pillars of the 'Digital Nigeria' Roadmap of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMoCDE) (FGN, 2019), which are listed below:

i. Developmental Regulation: Effective regulation of the ICT and digital sector in a way that enables development.

ii. Digital Literacy and Skills: Providing policy backing for massive training of Nigerians from all works of life in order to enable them obtain digital literacy and other digital skills. This pillar will also facilitate the training of Nigerians.

iii. Solid Infrastructure: Deployment of fixed and mobile infrastructure to deepen the broadband penetration in the country.

iv. Service Infrastructure: Support for government digital services and the provision of robust digital platforms to drive the digital economy.

v. Soft Infrastructure: Strengthening public



confidence in the use of digital technologies and participation in the digital economy.

vi. Digital Services Development and Promotion: Development of a vibrant digital ecosystem that supports Innovation Driven Enterprises (IDE) and MSMEs in a way that engenders innovation.

vii. Digital Society and Emerging Technologies: Focus on tying the development of the digital economy to indices of well-being in the lives of the ordinary citizens; mentoring start-ups on emerging technologies and deploying their solutions.

vii. Indigenous Content Development and Adoption: Provision of a policy framework that gives preference to digitally skilled Nigerians for government funded projects in line with the Executive Orders 003 and 005 of the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR.

**The objectives of the digital economy include the following:**

- i. Target 70% broadband penetration in four years.
- ii. Accelerate the digitalisation of government processes and improve service delivery, transparency and accountability.
- iii. Improve trust, confidence and security around digital processes and activities
- iv. Attract and grow digital jobs across all sectors of the economy.
- v. Develop the technology start-up ecosystem by actively promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.
- vi. Support the digital literacy of Nigerian citizens, business and government workers and enable them to acquire cutting edge digital skills.

vii. Achieve a 95% Digital Literacy Level in Nigeria within the next 10 years.

viii. Develop digital education curriculum to meet the current and future needs of the digitaleconomy.

ix. Ensure that indigenous technology companies are able to participate actively in the government funded technology programmes.

x. Ensure that the policy and regulatory instruments are fit-for-purpose and actually support the digital business environment.

**The strategies for the achievement of the objectives include:**

- i. Identify, promote and celebrate IDEs.
- ii. Support for MSMEs to integrate digital technologies into their operations.
- iii. Create an incentivised mentorship programme that connects to MSMEs to indigenous and foreign technology driven mentors.
- vi. Incorporate IDEs and digitally-enabled MSMEs into government funded projects and projects of large corporations.
- v. Facilitate funding for the innovation and start-up ecosystem.
- vi. Conduct a technology adoption survey of MSMEs with a view to lowering the barrier to adopting technology.
- vii. Based on the technology adoption survey in the first year, double the number of digitally-enabled businesses annually.
- viii. Create an enabling environment for Nigerians in the diaspora to support the IDEs and digitally-enabled MSMEs.
- ix. Foster collaboration between the



stakeholders of the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem.

x. As key stakeholders, states are expected to support digital entrepreneurs with co-working spaces, incentives and enabling policy environments for success.

xi. Update of the curricular of schools at all levels to include training on emerging technologies, by federal and state ministries of education.

xii. Create an enabling environment for building the capacity of IDEs and MSMEs, mainly through e-learning channels.

protection authorities, which will affect its implementation and the achievement of the stated objectives (Aliyu, 2016). Furthermore, the absence of broadband infrastructures and connectivity in rural areas is indicative of the marginalisation of a large proportion of the Nigerian population who reside in rural areas, and are denied internet access. The lack of capabilities and skills required to use various forms of digital technologies implies a limited proportion of the Nigerian population would access the benefits that such technologies offer.

## Observations from the Implementation of ICT policies in Nigeria

Several issues arise from the implementation of the ICT policies that have been implemented over the years in Nigeria. Firstly, the National ICT Policy is highly ambitious, with over a hundred strategies identified for achieving the objectives of the policy. Specifically, the converged regulator of the policy – the proposed merger of the NCC and NCA – is yet to be set up six years after the release of the document, such that the implementation appears more passive than active. It is also not clear whether the National ICT Policy was costed, and its implementation also lacks clarity (Lewis, 2018).

For the data protection policy, among other drawbacks, the Bill fails to consider privacy protection online, access to the internet, video surveillance, search engines and social networking. It also lacks a comprehensive database as well as the absence of data

In addition, most achievements in the ICT sector in Nigeria are driven by the private sector. Although a number of computer manufacturers exist in the country in line with local content development, most of the computers used in the country are imported (Oyesanya (2004). Poor implementation of most of the policies are due to the high cost of RoW, resulting in the high cost of leasing transmission infrastructure, multiple taxation at all levels of the government, etc. (Okonjo, 2016).



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