



**THE ROLE OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
SECTOR IN THE DIVERSIFICATION OF THE
NIGERIAN ECONOMY – ACHIEVEMENTS,
PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES**

BY

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OUTLINES



- INTRODUCTION
- IMPERATIVES OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION
- ACHIEVEMENTS
- ARTICULATING A STRATEGIC VISION PLAN
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- IMPLEMENTING THE 8-POINT AGENDA
- PROSPECTS
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INTRODUCTION



- ❖ The economy of Nigeria has been monolithic in the recent past, owing largely to its dependence on crude oil revenues.
- ❖ The Nigerian Government has recognized the need to diversify the economy so as to attain solid and sustainable economic growth.
- ❖ Economic diversification is a global solution for overcoming rigidity of and vulnerability to economic sectors, in order to increase reliance and productivity.
- ❖ On the other hand; the telecommunications industry plays a crucial role in providing the requisite tools that support the diversification of the economy through improvising the knowledge economy using Information and Communications Technology (ICT).
- ❖ The telecommunications sector has enhanced human capabilities in areas such as health, education, agriculture, finance, transportation, commerce, governance, etc.

IMPERATIVES OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION



- Efforts have been made over the years by Nigerian governments to develop the non-oil sectors of the economy by initiating various supportive policies and incentives aimed at encouraging economic diversification with different degrees (levels) of success. These policies include:
 - Protectionism (1960 – 1986) import substitution industrialization aimed at expanding the industrial base, enhancing cash crops exports;
 - Trade Liberalization (1986 Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) era) aimed at deregulation, commercialization, privatization and liberalization of the economy and
 - Export promotion (Post SAP period) aimed at facilitating the diversification of the economy through policy support to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to enhance exports.

IMPERATIVES OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION (CONT.)



- ✓ The liberalization of the telecoms sector in 2001 has triggered a realistic opportunity of economic diversification, as the sector is adjudged to be one of the major support services needed to promote growth and modernization of other sectors of the economy.
- ✓ Telecoms breaks distance barrier, and as such, can act in its own right as an enabler to drive socio-economic transformation, growth, developments and modernization across all sectors of the economy.
- ✓ The telecommunications sector has globally brought about radical changes in the way people
 - ✓ interact,
 - ✓ learn,
 - ✓ work and
 - ✓ transact commercial activities.
- ✓ The telecoms sector also acts as the fulcrum and catalyst that propel the socio-economic transformation and growth of economies of nations.

IMPERATIVES OF ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION (CONT.)



- ✓ The impact of telecoms sector is evident in virtually all countries, Nigeria inclusive, and is likely to continue in the years to come, as technology penetrates and fosters vital changes in all sectors and dimensions of human life and condition.
- ✓ Telecommunications sector plays a dual role in economic activities;
 - ✓ 1. Itself, as a distinct circle in economic system and
 - ✓ 2.. Acting as a supplying means to other sectors.
- ✓ Therefore, this inaugural lecture will discuss the role played by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Strategic Vision Plan in addressing the telecommunications infrastructure challenges in Nigeria and also the crucial role the telecoms sector plays in the diversification of the economy.



ACHIVEMENTS

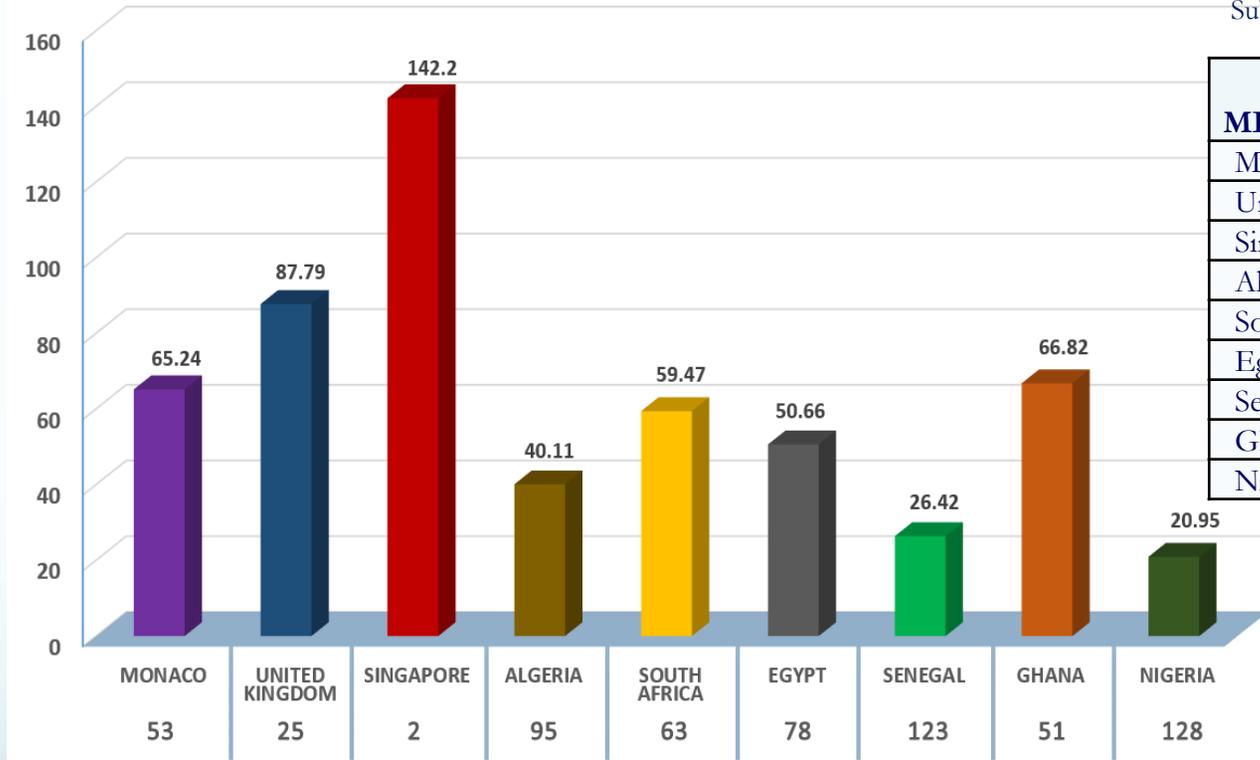
The current administration of the NCC has attained some major milestones in its mandate of developing the telecoms sector.

ACHIEVEMENT (CONT.)



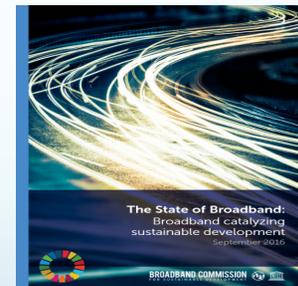
Active Mobile-Broadband Penetration

Table 1: Active Mobile-Broadband Subscriptions (MBS) % Penetration in selected ITU Member States.



MEMBER STATE	MBS/100	RANK
Monaco	65.24	53
United Kingdom	87.79	25
Singapore	142.2	2
Algeria	40.11	95
South Africa	59.47	63
Egypt	50.66	78
Senegal	26.42	123
Ghana	66.82	51
Nigeria	20.95	128

Figure 1: Active Mobile-Broadband Penetration in selected ITU Member States.
[Source: ITU-UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development (2016)]



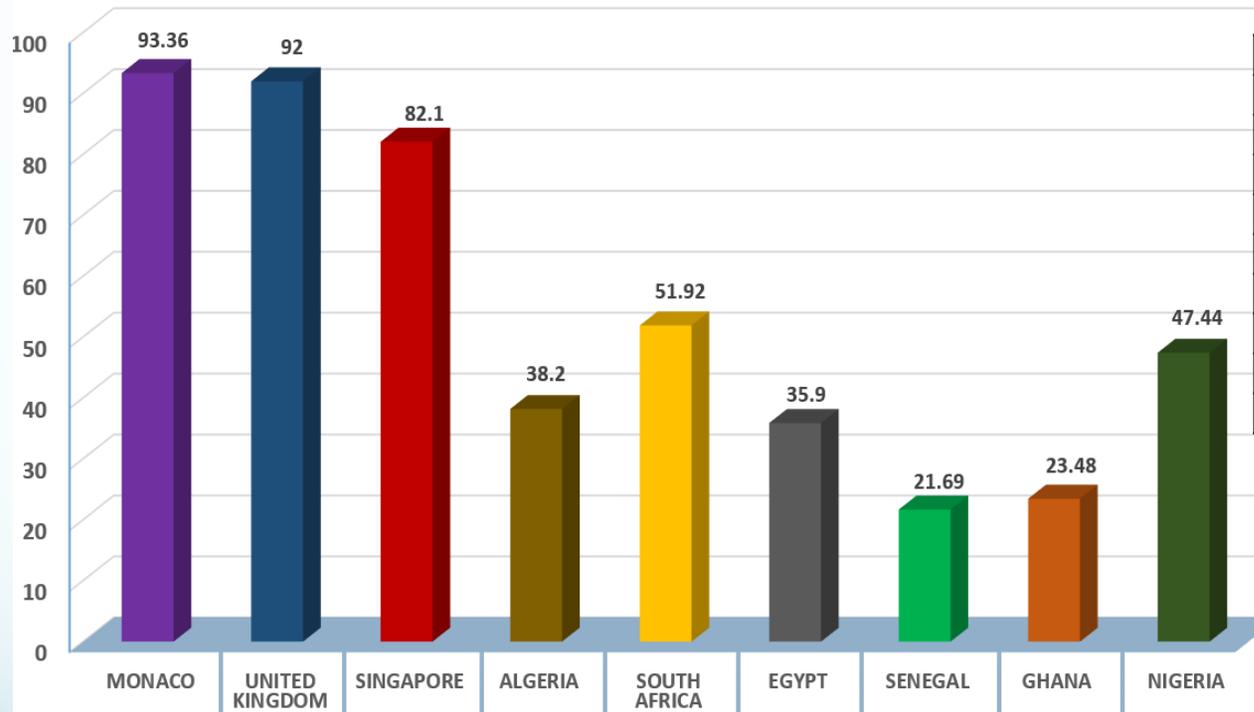
✓ **Nigeria's Active Mobile-Broadband Penetration has increased within the space of one year from less than 10% in 2015 to 20.95% in 2016.**

ACHIEVEMENT (CONT.)



Internet Penetration

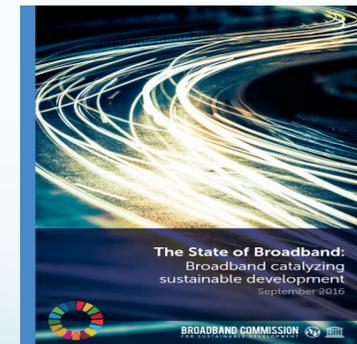
Table 2: Percentage of Individuals using the Internet (PII) in selected ITU Member States



MEMBER STATE	PII	RANK
Monaco	93.36	8
United Kingdom	92	13
Singapore	82.1	28
Algeria	38.2	114
South Africa	51.92	87
Egypt	35.9	116
Senegal	21.69	127
Ghana	23.48	132
Nigeria	47.44	96

Figure 2: Internet Penetration in selected ITU Member States.

[Source: ITU-UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development



- ✓ **Nigeria's Internet Penetration reached a milestone of 47.44%.**
- ✓ **Nigeria is Africa's highest active internet users (over 90 million subscribers) and ranks 10th globally .**

ACHIEVEMENT (CONT.)

Contribution to GDP



Table 3: % Contribution of the Telecommunications Sector to GDP (Q1, 2016- Q1, 2017)

Quarter	1st Qtr, 16	2nd Qtr, 16	3rd Qtr, 16	4th Qtr, 16	1st Qtr, 2017
Value Cont.(Trillion)	N1.411	N1.580	N1.398	N1.662	N1.452
% Contribution	8.85	9.74	7.97	9.13	9.16

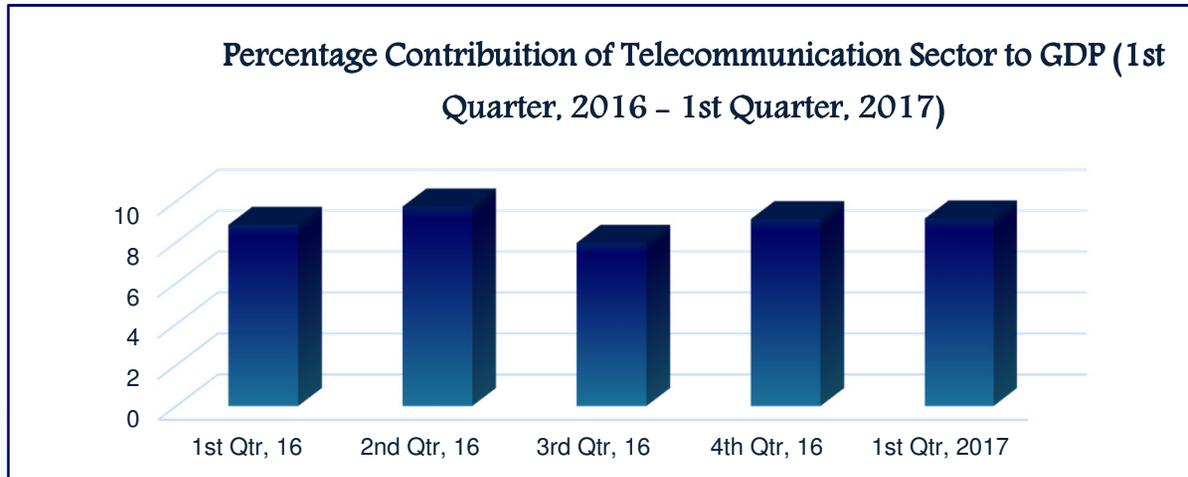


Figure 3: Contributions of Telecoms Industry to GDP (2016 Q1 – 2017 Q1)

- ✓ the share of Nigeria's telecoms sector in total GDP has stabilised in the last six quarters as released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) report.
- ✓ In the First Quarter (Q₁) of 2017, the telecoms sector contributed N1.452 trillion to the GDP, i.e. 9.16 %. This is an increase of 0.2% compared to the First Quarter of 2016, indicating stable growth in the sector .

ARTICULATING A STRATEGIC VISION PLAN



- ❑ The NCC, under my stewardship, has developed an NCC Strategic Vision Plan (SVP) for the fiscal years 2015 to 2020.
- ❑ The process for the development of this five-year Strategic Vision has taken a lot of efforts and time.
- ❑ The **SVP provides a comprehensive roadmap** within the telecoms industry for:
 - ❑ **promoting innovation,**
 - ❑ **investment,**
 - ❑ **competition,**
 - ❑ **consumer empowerment, and**
 - ❑ **improving Quality of Service (QoS).**
- ❑ The SVP responds to the policy goals of the NCC in recognizing the immense socio-economic importance of ICT to national development and therefore seeks to ensure that the ICT infrastructure are to the standard necessary to provide ubiquitous broadband services in Nigeria.



THE 8-POINT AGENDA

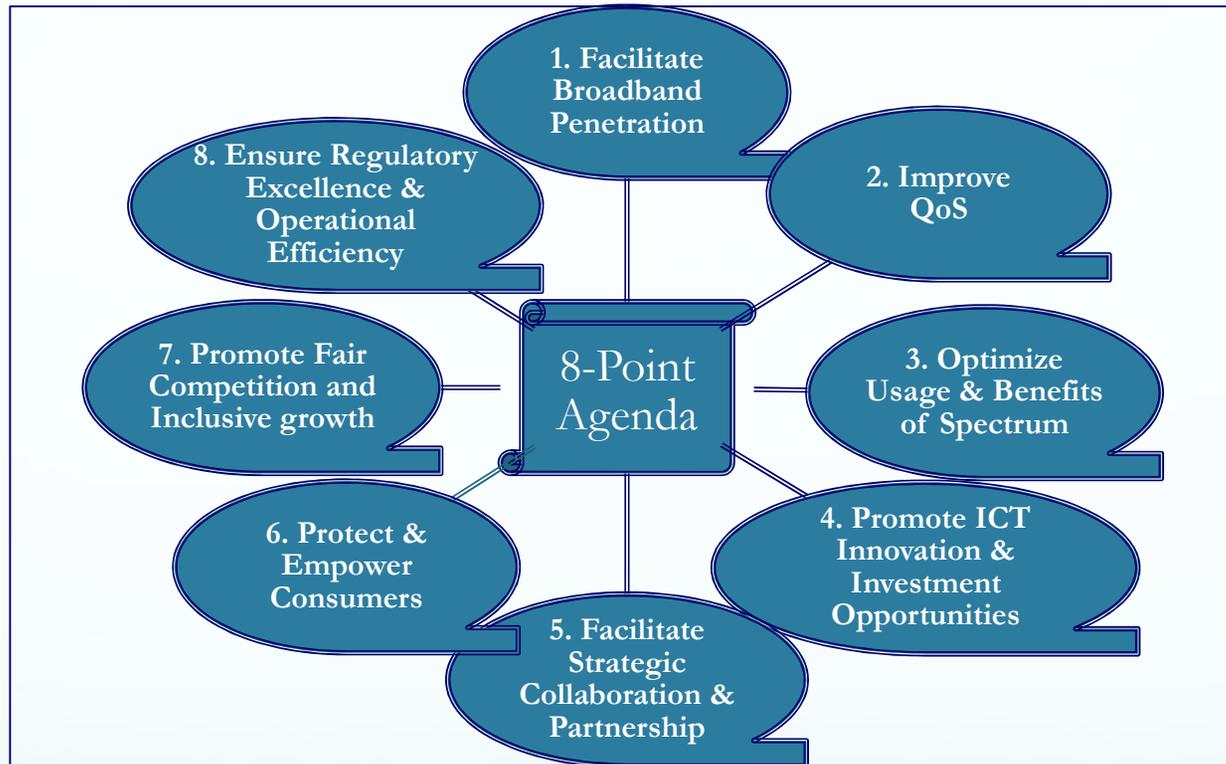


Figure 4: The 8-point Agenda of NCC

- ❖ We deliberately developed a strategic vision centred on eight (8) pillars to address the NBP challenges and ensure the attainment of 30% broadband penetration by 2018, amongst others.

IMPLEMENTING THE 8-POINT AGENDA



The methodology adopted for the implementation of the SVP is based on Hoshin Kanri /Policy Deployment method.

This method ensures strategic goals of the Commission drive progress and action at every level.

In the case of our SVP, four levels are adopted to eliminate waste that comes from inconsistent directions and poor communications.

Table 4: The SVP Tactics

Level	Strategy	Tactics
1	Tactical Planning	Concentrating on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
2	Catchball	Structuring workable plans through consensus
3	Measuring progress	Carefully selecting KPIs that will drive the desired behavior
4	Closing the loop	Using regular follow-up to keep progress on track

IMPLEMENTING THE 8-POINT AGENDA (CONT.)



- ✓ The SVP action work focuses on achieving vital annual stretch goals that are linked to the five-year SVP within the systematic planned Hoshin Kanri method.
- ✓ The SVP Tactics forms the framework for the systematic implementation of the SVP goals and objectives in ways that ensure:
 - ✓ 1. strong alignment between strategy and tactics, and
 - ✓ 2. KPIs are meaningful and appropriate.
- ✓ The Hoshin Kanri method caters for flexibility and adaptability, which are important to successful implementation of the SVP.
- ✓ As a result, progress reports are reviewed at regular intervals, at which results are assessed and tactics are recalibrated.

IMPLEMENTING THE 8-POINT AGENDA (CONT.)



Subsequently, the Commission unveiled the SVP in Lagos and later in Kano on 27th January 2016 and 12th February 2016 respectively for the fiscal years 2015 – 2020.

The implementation of the SVP will further strengthen the telecoms industry consistent with the National Broadband Plan (NBP) that will in turn lead to the desired socio-economic transformation of our country by leveraging the power of ICT to drive and accelerate the process – digital transformation.

IMPLEMENTING THE 8-POINT AGENDA (CONT.)



© Can Stock Photo

A.

Since the commencement of the SVP implementation, the telecoms sector has played a greater role in Nigeria's economic diversification, prominent amongst which include: contributions to the Education, Health, Financial Services and Transportation Sectors of the economy.



B.



C.



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E.



D.

Figure 5: A – E The role of the Telecoms sector in the diversification of Nigeria's economy

EDUCATION SECTOR



The use of ICT has transformed learning processes in educational environments as it helps in shrinking the long-standing equity and accessibility gaps of the education sector.

The NCC interventions play a vital role in supporting the educational sector in the provision of ICT infrastructure and tools, and also in addressing capacity development of manpower.



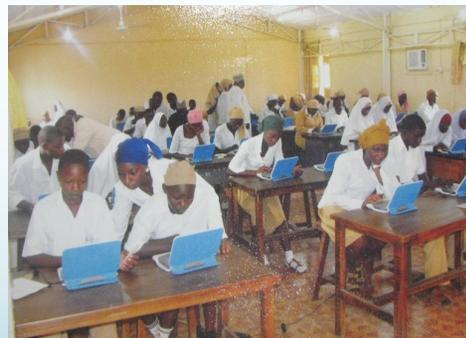
E



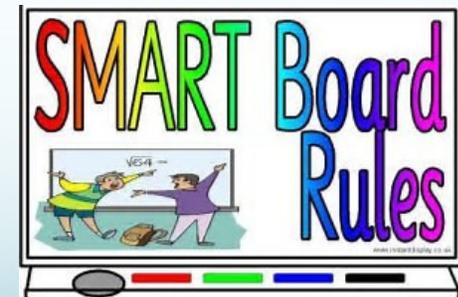
D



A



B



C

Figure 6: e-education platforms (A – E)



- ❖ **Set up Public Access Points and ICT Training Centre's**
- ❖ **Connect all Universities, Schools, Colleges and Hospitals**
 - ❖ Training facility with modern infrastructure to promote learning at DBI Learning Centres in Kano, Lagos, Yola, Enugu, Asaba and Oshodi.
 - ❖ **UnICC Project** - This is a USPF support project to deliver broadband infrastructure using OFC to Universities to facilitate research and learning. At the moment the deployment of OFC is ongoing in 9 (nine) Universities.
 - ❖ **UnICC-Electronics** - The Project involves interconnecting end-user Electronics within the University Campus. Currently, provision of connectivity is ongoing in five (5) Universities across the country.
 - ❖ **Stakeholder Initiated Projects (SIP)** - Provision of ICT/CBT (Information and Communications Technology/Computer Based Test) Centres. Currently, twelve (12) ICT/CBT Centres have been completed in various institutions and locations across the country under the SIP initiative, and an additional four (4) Skills Acquisition Centres are scheduled for completion

EDUCATION SECTOR (CONT.)



- ❖ **Set up Public Access Points and ICT Training Centre's**
- ❖ **Connect all Universities, Schools, Colleges and Hospitals**
 - ❖ Establishment of Virtual Examination Centre's in two-selected WAEC approved Secondary Schools each in the Northern and Southern Zones.
 - ❖ Data Sharing, e-Learning Platforms & ICT Infrastructure for four (4) Universities in the Northern and Southern Zones.
 - ❖ School Knowledge Centre (SKC) in 136 schools across the country to Equip Students and their neighboring communities with ICT Learning tools,
 - ❖ National Teacher's Institute e-learning Centre Kaduna to bridge ICT gap in teacher education in Nigeria.
 - ❖ Information Resource Centres (IRCs) to create ICT-driven knowledge management (digital libraries). More than 30 state libraries and 12 tertiary institutions across the geo-political zones of the country are beneficiaries. .

HEALTH SECTOR



- ✓ The health sector has grown significantly in recent years, particularly using e-health platforms that are proven catalyst for significant healthcare improvement, especially in areas of qualitative health, continuity of health services, availability and record keeping of healthcare information.
- ✓ The Commission has provided data sharing, e-health platforms and ICT infrastructure to teaching Hospitals across the country

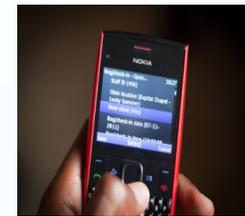


Figure 7: e-health platforms

Hospitals	Location	Remarks
Data Sharing, e-Health Platforms & ICT Infrastructure for four (4) Teaching Hospitals in the Northern Zone	ABUTH Zaria, BUKTH Kano, BSUTH Makurdi, UDUTH Sokoto	To Equip Teaching Hospitals with e-health infrastructure
Data Sharing, e-Health Platforms & ICT Infrastructure for four (4) Teaching Hospitals in the Southern Zone	Univ. College Hosp. Ibadan, OAUTH Ile-Ife, UNNTH Enugu, State Univ. of PH Teaching Hospital	



The Telecoms sector has continued to change the way financial institutions and their corporate relationships are organized worldwide through the variety of innovative devices and Over-the-Top (OTT) applications available to enhance the speed and quality of service delivery.

To this effect, the NCC has developed an effective partnership with Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in order to foster use of ICT for sustainable economic development and transformation of financial services.

The Commission has also offered Short Code to CBN mobile payment service licensees, on request, to improve e-banking services among others.



Figure 8A: e-financial services

FINANCIAL SERVICES SECTOR (CONT.)



The NCC continues to promote and facilitate universal access to ICT to ensure implementation of **e-taxation, e-commerce and e-government** financial sector areas, which were identified as the economic enhancement needed for diversification of the Nigerian economy.



Figure 8B: e-financial services

TRANSPORTATION SECTOR



There has been tremendous streamlining of the transportation sector through the use of ICT. The Commission has provided spectrum for this sector in order to facilitate roll out of diverse and affordable ICT services. The impact of the telecoms sector in the transportation sector includes:

- a) Improving user (traveler) experience – such as online ticketing, boarding, and check in processes; and
- b) Vehicle tracking and navigations through mobile and Internet services.



Figure 9: e-transport platforms



PROSPECTS

The prospects of the telecommunications sector to the diversification of economies are enormous.

To that effect, the Nigerian Government has recognized the dual role-played by the sector in contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), socioeconomic transformation of the society and its contribution to other sectors of the economy.

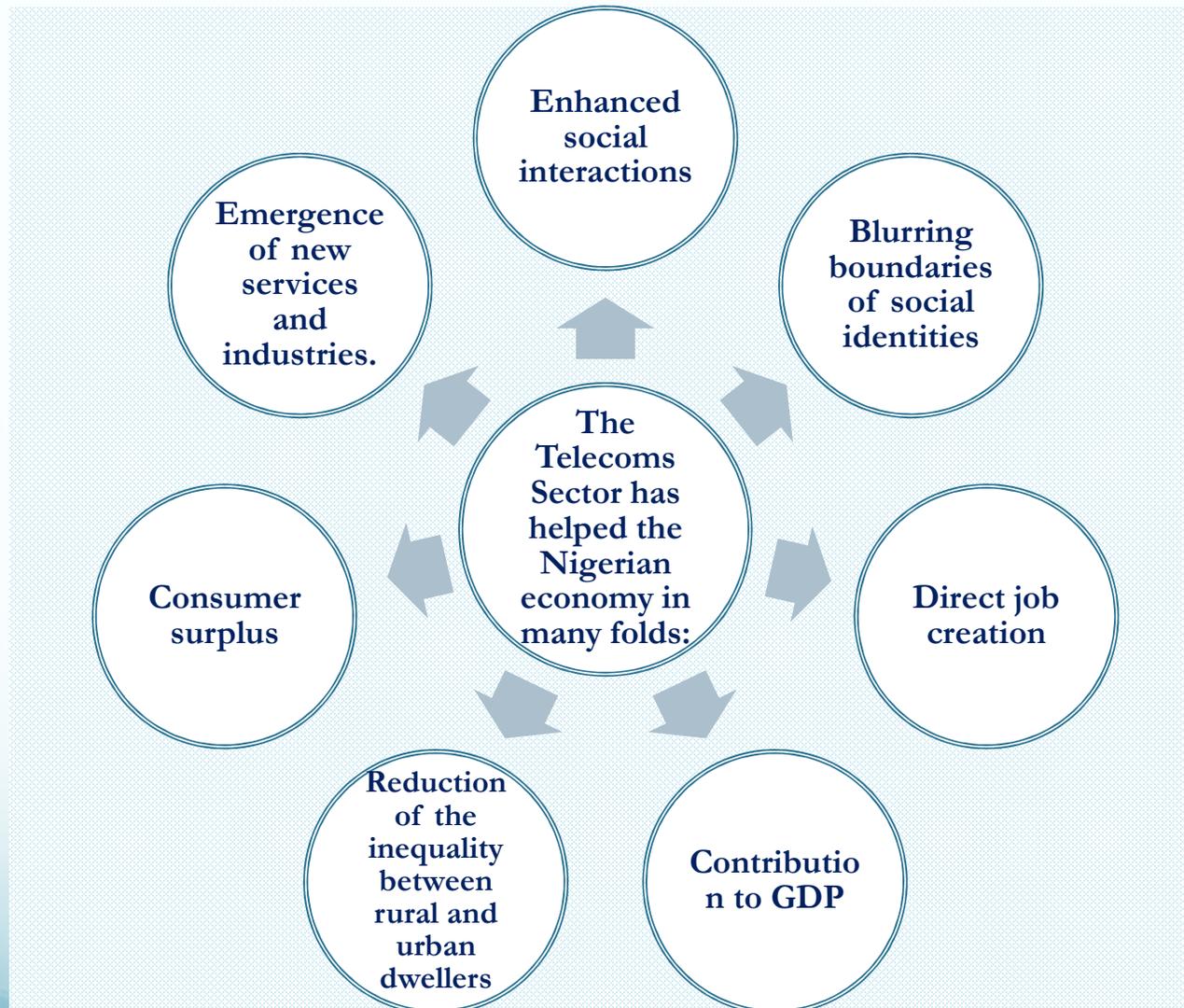


Figure 10: Telecoms sector areas for economic and social transformation

Direct job creation



In Nigeria, the Telecommunications sector through the ICT has created direct and indirect employment in the form of business centers; vendors, kiosks, operators call centers, umbrellas, shops and computer villages that require less capital.



Figure 11: Direct job creation



Contribution to GDP growth

- GDP is the dollar value of a country's total output of good and services at market prices.
- Essentially, the best way to compare GDP between countries is through their GDP per capita, which measures the standard of living in a nation

The World Bank has found that a 10 % increase in broadband penetration in developing countries results in a commensurable increase of 1.38 % in GDP

Deloitte, GSMA and Cisco also found that to every 10 % increase in mobile penetration, there is an increase in total factor productivity in the long run by 4.2 % ^[20]. The report also indicates that for a 10 % migration of consumers (subscribers) from using 2G to 3G technologies and services, there is a corresponding 0.15 % increase in GDP per capita growth

Contribution to GDP growth (cont.)



In Nigeria, the volume of data usage from February to April 2017 has continued to increase, despite the decrease in active voice and mobile Internet subscriptions.

Largely due to migration of subscribers using Internet subscriptions of 2G (legacy) technologies and services to the exciting improved subscribers experience offered by the 3G and 4G (broadband) technologies and services as shown.

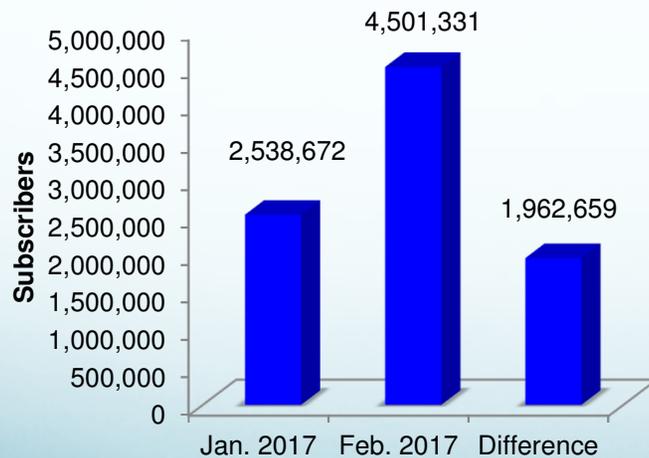


Figure 12: 4G Active Internet Subscriptions Jan. to Feb. 2017

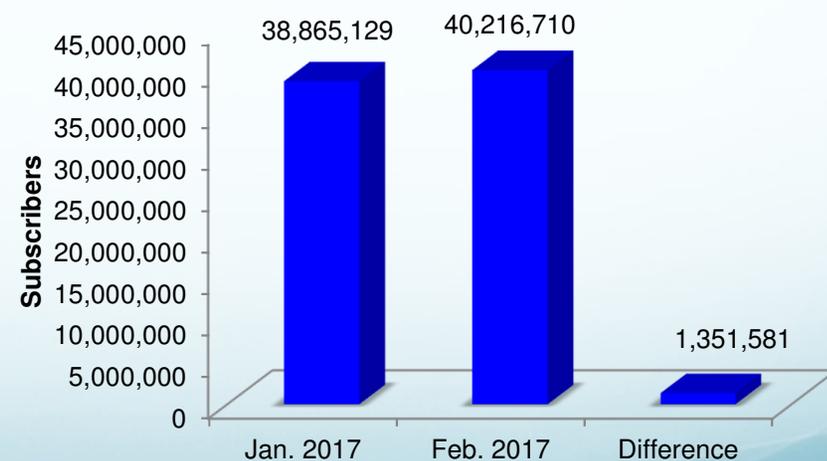


Figure 13: 3G Active Internet Subscriptions Jan. to Feb. 2017

Contribution to GDP growth (cont.)

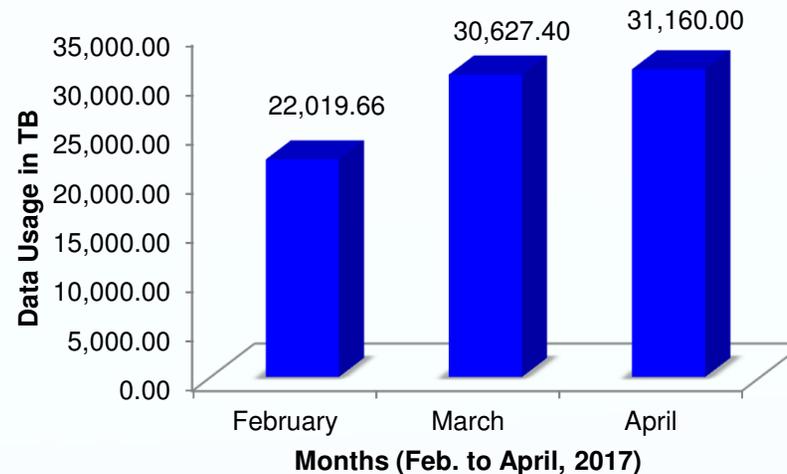


Figure 14: Data Usage Statistics Feb.- Apr. 2017

- ✓ Deriving from Figure above, the volume of data usage from February to April 2017 has continued to increase, which indicates that the Internet economy continues to prosper in terms of critical number of usage in this period.
- ✓ Therefore, stabilized telecoms sector contribution to the GDP over the period of turbulence, in spite of drop in total subscriptions.

Emergence of new services and industries



- ✓ Numerous public services have become available online and through mobile phones.
- ✓ The transition to cloud computing is one of the key trends for modernization, which was brought in via the ICT infrastructure.
- ✓ ICT has enabled the emergence of a completely new sector, the OTT applications industry.
- ✓ The OTT apps have blossomed over the short period of their existence, contributing billions of dollars to economies around the Globe.



Figure 15: OTT applications and services.

DEPLOYMENT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE



- ✓ Broadband is completely transforming the way essential services are delivered from e-health to e-education to e-commerce to e-government.
- ✓ It's about helping countries to diversify their economy to meet the Sustainable Development Goals in every sector.



DEPLOYMENT OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE (CONT.)

- ❖ Build an efficient broadband networks and everything else will follow:
 - ❖ The ability to control and use energy more efficiently.
 - ❖ The ability to manage healthcare in poor, or isolated populations.
 - ❖ The ability to deliver the best possible education to future generations.
 - ❖ The ability to take better care of our environment.
 - ❖ The ability to streamline transport networks.
 - ❖ And, crucially, the ability to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals
- ❖ So, Nigeria's first step was to establish very clear strategies and milestones for its journey towards national availability of **affordable, accessible and available** broadband infrastructure and services.



LICENSING OF INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES

- Currently, Nigeria has more than 10 terabytes of telecommunications capacity exists at the landing points in Lagos, but the challenge is the deployment of fiber infrastructure to effectively deliver this capacity to the distribution nodes at the metropolitan areas of all regions in the country.
- The wide gap between the existing and planned Fibre Infrastructure has been identified in the NBP as an obstacle towards the achievement of broadband penetration target of 30 % by 2018.
- In order to address this gap, the Commission put in place a new broadband deployment environment through an Open Access Model in line with NBP.
- The “Open Access Model” has been examined as the model for optic fibre transmission network deployment to bridge the current gap and deliver fast and reliable broadband services to households and businesses.
- To that effect, the Commission established a Broadband Implementation & Monitoring Committee (BIMC) to drive the broadband infrastructure licensing and deployment using the Open Access Model.

LICENSING OF INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANIES (CONT.)



A - International Cable Landings in Nigeria B - National Fibre Optic Map [Source: USPF]

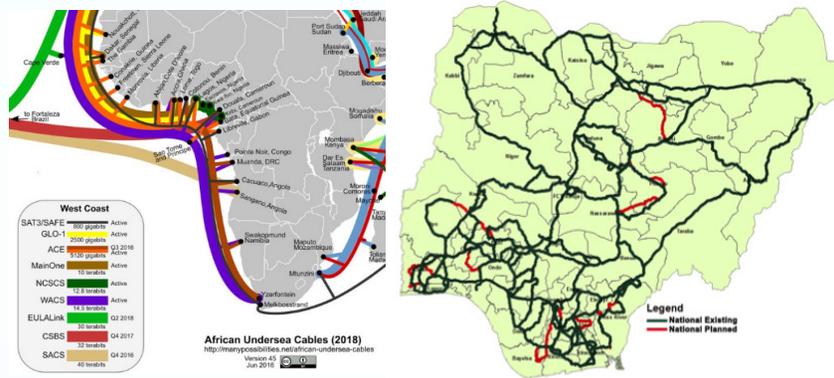


Figure 16: Fibre infrastructure in Nigeria

Table 5: National Existing Fibre infrastructure in Nigeria

National Existing	Length in km
MTN	11,549
AIRTEL	7,168
Globacom	13,375
EMTS	4,011
USPF	1,001
Total	37,104

- ✓ Presently, BIMC is finalizing the Phase 1 of the Infrastructure provision licenses awarded for the Lagos and North Central Zones.
- ✓ Furthermore, the NCC has advertised the Phase II project, i.e. bidding and selection process for service providers (Infrastructure Companies – Infracos) in the remaining five zones; North-East, North-West, South-East, South-South and South-West.
- ✓ So far, the evaluation criteria for the selection of the remaining five zones for Phase II of the Project has been developed by the BIMC and the technical and financial evaluation of the bids have commenced.
- ✓ Furthermore, the Commission is in the process of selecting a consultant to oversee the project rollout by the prospective licensees.



SPECTRUM

- ❑ Despite the overwhelming reliance on mobile access, the Commission is currently reviewing its spectrum licensing framework to accommodate stakeholders' needs.
- ❑ Consultations have commenced on spectrum trading, active infrastructure sharing, refarming and replanning of available spectrum resources in the 2.6 GHz and other suitable bands.

We are working with the National Frequency Management Council (NFMC) on harvesting digital dividend spectrum for broadband deployment.



ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS

Nigeria has since witnessed a great increase in the number of market players, unprecedented growth in the networks, empowerment of the Nigerian citizens, job creation, economic stimulation, and substantial increase in access to ICT.

This has been achieved through NCC's commitment to full, fair and transparent regulation.

For this, the NCC has reached an advanced stage in the implementation of a Code of Corporate Governance for the industry that will serve to strengthen telecom legal entities and attract investment.

Furthermore, the Commission engages investors in different fora to attract Foreign Direct Investments (FDI).

I have made presentations at key events like the World Summit on Information Society 2016 and GSMA World Congress in order to attract FDI for the sector.



ATTRACTING INVESTMENTS (CONT.)

Table 6: FDI in the telecommunications sector for the period January 2015 to December 2015

2015		2016	
MONTH	AMOUNT USD	MONTH	AMOUNT USD
January	304,696,754.21	January	704,201.00
February	8,574,565.70	February	6,979,892.37
March	29,094,209.47	March	5,756,476.84
April	56,172,318.10	April	47,378,265.66
May	76,740,520.82	May	28,301,431.66
June	5,807,621.70	June	67,018,269.50
July	241,252,359.51	July	4,256,309.10
August	20,576,281.64	August	118,123,478.35
September	107,663,500.62	September	122,420,006.76
October	60,920,848.51	October	319,292,120.37
November	20,166,606.92	November	90,346,697.08
December	12,280,619.15	December	144,609,849.65
Total	943,946,143.35		955,186,998.34
Trend and %		Increase - 1.19 %	

- ✓ From the Table, FDI has been stable in the last two (2) years with slight increase of 1.19 %.
- ✓ This is as result of engagement with targeted international partners and potential investors, which has further raised the profile of the Commission and the telecoms sector at large.



CHALLENGES

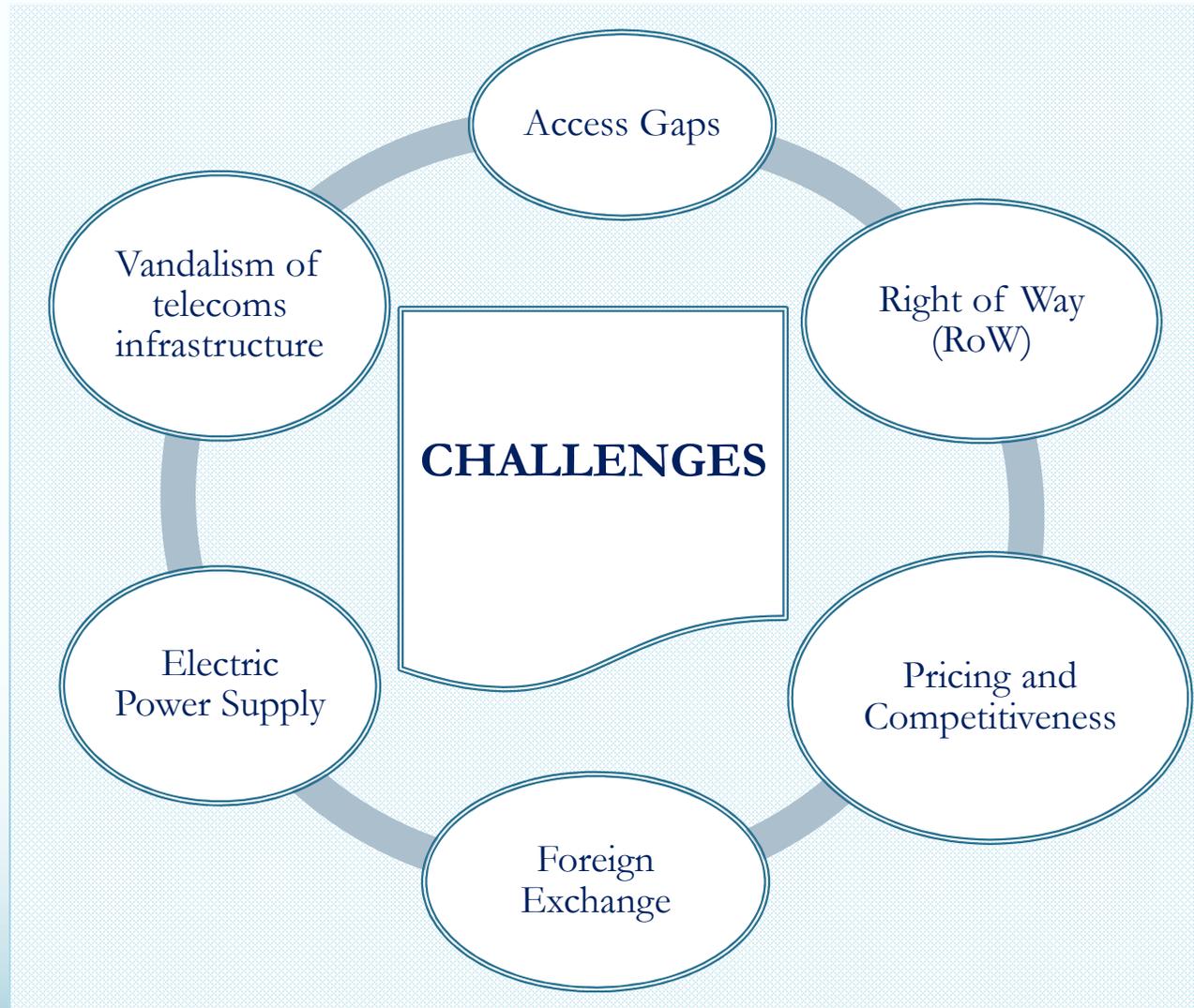


Figure 17: Challenges of the Telecommunications sector in Nigeria



RIGHT OF WAY (ROW)

The issue of RoW is a source of concern because of the imposition of huge levies or fees on telecoms operators, bureaucratic bottleneck in getting approvals to dig and lay cables in the ground. These are factors that are discouraging operators in expanding broadband penetration into all the nooks and crannies of the country.

The Commission through its Industry Working Group (IWG) on Multiple Taxation continues to maintain dialogue with organizations regarded as major players at the Federal, States and Local Government Levels to stop further imposition of different taxes, fees and charges on telecoms operators.



RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) (CONT.)

- ✓ The Commission was able to secure the support of the Government of Ogun State, to unseal 47 Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) shut down by an agency of the state government and
- ✓ Reduction of ground rent for BTSs from #360 million to #120 million in favour of Integrated Holding Services (IHS) Towers.



Figure 18: RoW

RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) (CONT.)



- ✓ The Commission intervened with respect of RoW issues for deployment of fiber infrastructure in Kano State,
- ✓ The Commission amicably resolved the RoW issues regarding two (2) federal roads (Zaria and Maiduguri Roads) in Kano between the State Government and MTN Nigeria Communication Limited.
- ✓ Furthermore, the Commission secured a permit fee waiver of a whopping #221 million in favour of MTN.

RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) (CONT.)



✓ Additionally, the Commission at the Governors forum made a presentation, drawing the attention of State Governors to the National Economic Council's resolution on multiple taxation and multiple regulations on deployment of telecoms infrastructure.

✓ Abiding by this resolution will energize the economic activities in the states and attract investments.

ELECTRIC POWER SUPPLY

Inadequate electric power supply is a major setback in the drive towards enhancing quality of service in the telecommunications industry.

The situation, placed additional operational costs on telecoms operators with the attendant adverse impact of slow investment in building new BTSs and other infrastructure in the industry,



Figure 19: Electric Power Supply

The Commission, as part of its responsibilities continues to engage in discussions with telecoms operators and colocation service providers on how to ameliorate the burden of the huge investments in running their BTSs on generating sets.



VANDALISM OF TELECOM INFRASTRUCTURE

Vandalism of telecoms infrastructure have negative impact in the provision of good quality services to teeming telecoms customers.

the Commission continued to:

- ✓ collaborate with the Federal Government to provide adequate security to telecoms facilities,
- ✓ engage communities on the need to protect telecoms infrastructure through various platforms such as Town Hall meetings, Telecom Consumer Parliaments and other outreach programmes.

The NCC has commenced activities that would lead to the establishment of a ‘Telecommunications Critical Infrastructure Bill’.

When this bill is passed into law, government would rank telecoms infrastructure among the critical infrastructure, which should enjoy priority protection in the country, as well as specify definite sanctions for willful destruction of communications infrastructure.



ACCESS GAPS

Glaring access gaps exist in availability and usage of the ICT infrastructure in various spheres of the economy. The distinctions are in:

- i. Unserved areas: areas not served with ICT infrastructure;
- ii. Underserved areas: areas with insufficient ICT infrastructure and
- iii. Other sectors of the economy not maximizing the potentials of ICT infrastructure.

The NCC through USPF bridge the access gaps by facilitating and extending broadband services to the underserved and unserved communities and groups using the connectivity programme.

The connectivity programme comprises telecoms infrastructure projects that are implemented through a Public Private Partnership Model, which includes, Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs), Rural Broadband Initiative (RUBI), University Inter-Campus Connectivity (UnICC) and Backbone Transmission Infrastructure (BTRAIN).



FOREIGN EXCHANGE

The telecommunications operators are facing difficulties in accessing foreign exchange (Forex) for the deployment of telecommunications services in the country.

In addressing the Forex challenges, the Commission has engaged the CBN management and to that effect, the CBN agreed to include telecommunications as part of the CBN priority list for accessing the Forex. This has reduced the Forex burden on the telecom operators.



Figure 20: FOREX



PRICING AND COMPETITIVENESS

Despite the huge mobile access and growing smartphone penetration, there are still challenges with reaching an acceptable price point for data services.

The NCC had to intervene with a temporary retail data price floor – this is however in pending the conduct of the comprehensive cost-based study.

There are also issues with stimulating demand for local content and affordability that are being addressed on a national scale. There is therefore a huge opportunity for infrastructure providers to offer cost-effective solutions and bridge the competitiveness gap.



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- ❑ In spite of the challenges bedeviling the telecoms sector in Nigeria, the NCC has strived to ensure regulatory excellence and operational efficiency as enshrined in the 8-point Agenda of the SVP.
- ❑ So far, within the space of less than two (2) years, the Commission as a foremost telecoms regulatory agency in Africa has catalyzed the use of ICT for economic diversification and transformation of our dear nation.

- ✓ **In recognition of our landmark achievements, the Commission and the Executive Vice Chairman (EVC) have receive numerous awards**

Table 7: Awards and Recognitions



NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION			
S/N	ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION	YEAR
1.	European Society for Quality Research (ESQR)	Quality Achievement Award for Best Practices	2017
2.	Bureau of Public Service Reforms	Exceptional Public Service Performance in the Platinum category	2017
3.	Leadership Newspaper	Leadership Government Agency of the year	2016
4.	Africa Information Technology Awards (AITTA)	African Regulator of the Year	2016
5.	African Quality Institute (AQI)	African Quality Achievement Award	2016
6.	Constitutional Rights Awareness and Liberty Initiative (CRALI)	Human Rights Government Agency of the Year	2016
7.	European Society for Quality Research (ESQR)	European Award for Best Practices	2016
8.	Beacon of ICT Awards	Organization with best use of Social Media	
9.	Nigeria Internet Registration Association	Most supporting sponsor	2016
EVC/CEO NCC			
1.	Beacon of ICT Awards	Telecoms Regulator of the Year	2017
2.	Africa Leadership Magazine, New York, USA	Regulator of the Year	2016
3.	12 th Nigerian Telecoms Award, Lagos	Telecom Personality of the Year	2016
4.	Africa Digital Awards	Regulator of the Year	2016
5.	Bayero University, Kano	In recognition of selfless and dedicate service to the nation and for being a worthy Ambassador of the University	2016
6.	TELL Magazine	Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Year	2016



CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ The telecommunications sector plays a dual role in economic activities, not only in itself as a distinct circle in the economic system, but also a supplying means to other sectors.
- ✓ The NCC as an agency of government has been resolutely committed to the rapid and a pervasive deployment of broadband networks and services in the country.
- ✓ The EVC developed the Strategic Vision Plan (SVP) for fiscal years 2015 to 2020 to ensure that the ICT infrastructure are to the standard necessary to provide ubiquitous broadband services in Nigeria.
- ✓ The methodology adopted for the implementation of the SVP is based on Hoshin Kanri /Policy Deployment method, which ensures strategic goals of the Commission drive progress and action at every level.



CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ Within the space of two (2) years after the implementation of the SVP, quantitative results shows that, Active Mobile-Broadband Penetration has increased within the space of one year from less than 10% in 2015 to 20.95% in 2016 and Internet Penetration reached a milestone of 47.44%.
- ✓ The contribution of the telecommunications sector in the first quarter of 2017 is N1.452 trillion to the GDP, i.e. 9.16 %. This is an increase of 0.2% compared to the First Quarter of 2016, indicating stable growth in the sector.
- ✓ In general, our sector continues to contribute substantially to the socio-economic transformation of the country in the areas of employment, productivity and economic growth as well as GDP.



THANK YOU

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