

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY DR. AMINU MAIDA, EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NCC) AT THE ALL NIGERIAN EDITORS CONFERENCE (ANEC) HELD ON NOVEMBER 11, 2025, IN ABUJA.

Protocols.

It is with a deep sense of responsibility and great pleasure that I join you at the **All Nigerian Editors Conference (ANEC) 2025**. Allow me to commend the Nigerian Guild of Editors for sustaining this influential platform, which continues to foster informed national dialogue, particularly at a time when our democracy and national cohesion call for thoughtful engagement, responsible journalism, and strategic communication.

This year's theme, **"Democratic Governance and National Cohesion,"** is timely and significant. Nigeria is a nation of over 230 million people, with diverse cultural backgrounds and identities, yet united by a shared aspiration for national unity, responsive governance, protection of civil liberties, and sustained social and economic progress.

The mandate of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)—to ensure effective regulation of the communications industry, expand universal access, promote digital inclusion, and build a secure and trusted connectivity landscape—strongly aligns with this theme.

Telecommunications plays a foundational role in supporting democratic governance. It empowers citizens to access credible information, voice opinions, engage in civic discourse, participate in policymaking, and benefit from e-government services. These digital platforms, enabled by robust telecom infrastructure, have become critical to strengthening democratic participation and transparency in governance.

Our goal as a Commission remains clear: *to ensure that every Nigerian is meaningfully connected, especially those in underserved and unserved communities.*

To advance this vision, we are strengthening the fundamental pillars of digital access. This includes unlocking spectrum and making it more affordable, strengthening infrastructure-sharing frameworks to reduce deployment costs, and collaborating with state governments to eliminate Right-of-Way bottlenecks. We are also finalising

a National Spectrum Roadmap that will give operators regulatory clarity and confidence for long-term investment.

Secondly, we are deepening the use of data to drive targeted interventions. Through broadband coverage maps and field validation in partnership with Ookla, we now have granular visibility of connectivity gaps down to individual communities. This enables precision deployment and ensures the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) is directed to the areas that need it most.

Thirdly, we are building strategic partnerships to address one of the biggest barriers to rural connectivity—power. Our collaboration with the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) is focused on deploying renewable energy solutions for telecom sites, reducing dependence on diesel, cutting operating costs, and making rural broadband expansion more sustainable.

Additionally, we are advancing a technology-neutral regulatory approach. Whether through fibre, satellite, fixed wireless, or emerging 4G/5G solutions, every Nigerian, whether resident in a dense urban hub or a remote rural settlement—regardless of geography—must have a viable path to meaningful broadband access.

To safeguard the infrastructure that powers our digital future, **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, signed the Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII) Presidential Order in June 2024.** This designation elevates telecommunications assets as critical national infrastructure. In partnership with the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), NCC is operationalising this mandate. Our initiatives include public awareness campaigns, stakeholder engagement, and coordination with state governments, communities, security agencies, and the judiciary to curb vandalism, fibre cuts, and denial of access to telecom sites.

We use this platform to call upon the media—especially the esteemed editors gathered here—to partner with us in amplifying awareness. Damage to telecommunications infrastructure is not an abstract issue; it directly affects daily life. A fibre cut or blocked access to a telecom site translates immediately into service disruptions—preventing citizens from making emergency calls, businesses from conducting financial transactions, students from accessing learning resources, and indeed journalists from filing stories and carrying out research.

Ladies and gentlemen, the work of building a connected, inclusive, and resilient digital Nigeria requires partnership. The media plays an indispensable role in shaping national consciousness and strengthening democratic institutions.

The Role of Editors in National Development

Permit me to conclude by underscoring the pivotal role editors play as custodians of truth, gatekeepers of information, and shapers of public understanding. Your work sits at the very heart of democratic governance and national cohesion. A society is only as informed as its editors are discerning; and in moments of national reflection and transformation, your leadership in the information space becomes indispensable.

At the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), we deeply value the media as a strategic partner in our mission to build a digitally enabled and inclusive nation. We therefore invite the Nigerian Guild of Editors to continue collaborating with us to:

- Advance digital literacy and foster responsible online engagement among citizens;
- Amplify the voices and aspirations of underserved and unserved communities through fair and inclusive reporting; and
- Support national efforts to protect critical telecoms infrastructure, strengthen cybersecurity awareness, promote digital inclusion, and encourage innovation across the digital ecosystem.

Conclusion

Let me reiterate the NCC's unwavering commitment to supporting the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Agenda through strategic regulation, stakeholder engagement, and innovation. Together, we can build a Nigeria where digital transformation drives inclusive growth, democratic resilience, and national unity.

I thank you once again for the opportunity to be part of this auspicious event. I wish you fruitful and impactful deliberations.

Thank you.

Dr. Aminu Maida

Executive Vice-Chairman/CEO

Nigerian Communications Commission