



OPENING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION DR. AMINU MAIDA AT THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNING WITH THE NIGERIAN DATA PROTECTION COMMISSION AT THE NCC HEADQUARTERS HOLDING FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Protocols

It is a pleasure to welcome my dear friend and brother, Dr. Vincent Olatunji, and members of his management and staff to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) for this momentous occasion that stands as a testament to our two institution's commitment to "the One Government approach" and the collaborative spirit that we must employ to ensure the ease of doing business and economic growth in our country.

No regulator operates in isolation, especially in today's complex and interconnected economy. As commercial activities increasingly cut across sectors, the benefits to the country—and in today's case, to the telecommunications industry—are significant when institutions move beyond talking to each other, but are working arm-in-arm for the national interest.

Pursuant to its mandate to regulate Nigeria's communications industry, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), is responsible for not only establishing an effective framework for the communications industry in Nigeria, but we are also charged with protecting the rights and interests of consumers and service providers. Given that the protection of individuals' privacy rights is guaranteed under the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, it is incumbent on the Commission to ensure that our regulatory activities are consistent with constitutionally guaranteed freedoms.

In an increasingly globalized world where technological advancements have blurred borders and jurisdictions, the protection of privacy rights has become more critical than ever. The growing accessibility and affordability of technology have increased individuals' exposure, underscoring the need for robust safeguards and strict regulatory compliance. This need is further heightened by the vulnerability of users of these technological platforms, particularly children and other unsuspecting individuals,

thereby reinforcing the importance of effective regulatory protections. As technology continues to permeate every aspect of daily life and plays an increasingly central role in societal activities, the imperative for diligent oversight cannot be overstated.

To safeguard these rights through regulatory compliance, the Commission actively pursues partnerships and collaborative engagements with relevant government agencies and departments to ensure consistency and effectiveness in enforcement. The Nigerian Data Protection Commission (NDPC) is statutorily mandated to protect the personal data privacy of individuals and to prevent the misuse or unlawful access of personal information without the lawful consent of data subjects. The legal framework established under the Nigerian Data Protection Act provides for the monitoring and regulation of data handling by data processors and other relevant stakeholders. Consequently, collaboration between the NCC and the NDPC is of paramount importance. A cohesive and coordinated approach enhances the capacity of our two institutions to provide adequate safeguards and the effective protection of privacy rights.

These principles, as enshrined in the Constitution and the Nigerian Data Protection Act, are equally reflected in the Nigerian Communications Act, with specific emphasis on the communications industry. Accordingly, alignment between the processes of the Nigerian Data Protection Commission and the Nigerian Communications Commission is expected to be seamless, with outcomes that are both effective and commendable.

The Nigerian Communications Commission appreciates the importance of protection of personal data within its ecosystem and appreciates that transactional data, stripped of personally identifiable information, can still constitute regulatory challenges and extend to national security considerations. Therefore, a coordinated approach to managing personal and non-personal data is an important and necessary endeavour. In fact, today marks an effort that will guide and unify regulatory measures at the intersection between personal and non-personal data.

I commend the efforts of both agencies on this significant occasion as we mark this important milestone. I also take this opportunity to reaffirm the Commission's commitment to transparent regulatory processes and to fostering a communications ecosystem that meaningfully supports the sustainable development and diversification of the Nigerian economy.

Thank you for your time, and I look forward in keen anticipation of a successful collaboration.

Dr. Aminu Maida
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