



## **NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION'S INPUTS TO THE KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AT THE 4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF NATIONAL COUNCIL ON COMMUNICATIONS - NOVEMBER 2015 – DATE**

The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) is mandated by the Nigerian Communications Act, 2003 to regulate telecommunications services in Nigeria and promote universal access, among other functions. The Commission has ensured that the communications sector remains dynamic and continues to contribute to the economic and social development of Nigeria.

Detailed below are some of the Commission's activities and programmes from November 2015 to date.

### **TELECOMS INDUSTRY PERFORMANCE**

As at August 2016 the total number of active telecoms subscribers stood at 152.28 million lines as against 148.70 million lines in the same period in 2015. This shows an increase of 4 million lines or 5.9%. In the same vein, Teledensity rose from 107.67% in August 2015 to 109.14% in August 2016, showing an increase of 1.47%.

### **CONTRIBUTION OF TELECOMS TO THE GDP**

The telecoms sector has made significant contributions to Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The sector's contribution to GDP stood at 9.8% as at June 2016 as against 8.5% in the last quarter of 2015. This shows an increase of 1.3%. Also, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sector has increased to \$38b as against \$32b in 2015.

## **FACILITATION OF BROADBAND PENETRATION**

Broadband has been identified globally as a tool for accelerated socio-economic development. In view of this and in line with the 30% penetration target set from 2013 – 2018, by the National Broadband Plan, the Commission has committed resources and efforts towards deployment of its services across the country with some significant impacts as highlighted below:

- **Increase in Broadband Penetration**

The active mobile broadband penetration released by the Broadband Commission for sustainable development shows that Nigeria has reached a penetration of 20.95%. Equally, on the percentage of Internet Penetration, the country has reached a milestone of 47.44%, second to South Africa in the continent.

- **Deployment of Regulatory Framework for Broadband Penetration**

One of the key ingredients for successful implementation of broadband penetration is the availability of a robust regulatory framework upon which an appropriate strategy could be based. The Commission has been able to articulate a regulatory framework that will enable strategic and systematic licensing and deployment of broadband infrastructure across the country.

A Broadband Implementation and Monitoring Committee has also been established within the Commission to give proper assessment, on regular basis, of broadband infrastructure deployment. These steps are critical success factors which the Commission has identified and primed for the various broadband initiatives.

- **Licensing of Infrastructure Service Providers**

In 2015, MainOne Cables and HIS Consortium fibre were licensed as infrastructure companies (InfraCos) to provide metropolitan fibre infrastructure in Lagos and North Central Zones respectively. In 2016, the Commission announced its intention to commence selection and licensing of five more InfraCos through an Open Access Model, to provide similar services in North East, North-West, South-South, South-West and South-East Zones.

- **Issuance of Wireless Broadband License**

In its efforts to broaden broadband penetration in Nigeria, the Commission recently licensed 6 slots of the 2.6MHz Spectrum for the deployment of 4G-LTE services. MTN Nigeria Ltd, emerged as the winner of the bidding process.

In the same vain, processes for licensing more broadband services on the 5.4 GHz Spectrum Band and allocation of frequencies in the 70/80 GHz band (E-Band) have commenced. Also, approval has been granted for the deployment of 4G Long Term Evolution Technology by NATCOM Development and Investment Limited to launch the first VoLTE call.

## **IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF SERVICE**

NCC is committed to improvement of the quality of telecommunications services in Nigeria. To this end, a high level taskforce has been set up to identify all the issues militating against quality of service. The report of the committee is already being implemented for the resolution of issues identified. The Commission is also promoting a Telecom Industry Working Group on Quality of Service that engages service providers to discuss germane matters that would lead to resolution of critical quality of service issues.

## **LICENSING OF SPECTRUM BANDS**

The Commission has unveiled its proposed licensing framework for the 38GHz and 42GHz bands as well as the re-planning of the 23GHz Microwave spectrum band for improved telecommunications services in Nigeria.

Licensing these spectra will help the telecoms industry to:

- Address the growing demands for high speed and high capacity spectrum for data services
- Increase access to National Broadband Wireless Access Initiative
- Reduce the pressure and management challenges experienced with the traditional Microwave Frequency bands

## **PROMOTION OF ICT INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

The Commission has intensified efforts in the promotion of research in higher institutions of learning and have also encouraged innovations with plans to sponsor and promote some Nigerian youths to compete at ITU World coming up in Thailand in November 2016.

## **CONSUMER PROTECTION AND EMPOWERMENT**

- **Unsolicited SMS: Implementation of "DO-NOT-DISTURB" Code**

Implementation of the 'Do-Not- Disturb' code to be observed by telecoms operators has commenced. All operators are now mandated to activate the 2442 code which allows subscribers block unsolicited/unwanted messages.

- **Consumer Complaint Platform**

The 622 Secondary Consumer Complaint platform has been upgraded to become more proactive and responsive to consumer complaints. This Toll Free Code is designed to enable consumers to lodge complaints to the Commission when service providers fail to resolve complaints.

## **TYPE APPROVAL OF PHONE MODELS**

The Commission has type approved no fewer than 139 equipment made up of routers, microwave radios, Bluetooth devices, mobile phones, access points devices, wireless audio devices, Wi-Fi devices and modems.

## **MANDATORY CORPORATE GOVERNANCE CODE**

In a bid to sustain the success attained in the industry and replicate lessons learnt in other industries, the Telecommunications Code of Corporate Governance was launched in 2014. Compliance to the code was made voluntary for a period of one year. In 2015 an assessment of compliance level by operators was carried out. Feedback indicated that

compliance was minimal. In 2016, the Commission held a stakeholder's engagement session to mark the commencement of processes leading to a mandatory telecommunications code of corporate governance.

## **BOOK DONATIONS**

As part of the Commission's book donation project, over 80 books on contemporary ICT/Engineering titles and publications were donated to schools in Gombe in November 2015.

## **AWARDS**

- Nigeria beat 63 other countries to win the European Award for Best Practices 2016 at a ceremony in Brussels. This award is the prestigious European Society for Quality Research (ESQR) Award.
- NCC also won the award of African Regulator of the year at the African Information Technology and Telecoms Awards (AITTA) in Ghana.