

KEYNOTE ADDRESS PRESENTED BY PROF. UMAR GARBA DANBATT, EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN/CEO OF NCC, ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMISSION'S 2016 MANAGEMENT RETREAT FOR PMs AND ABOVE, HELD AT TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA. FROM 4TH – 6TH FEBRUARY 2016

PROTOCOLS

Let me formally welcome the entire Management staff of the Commission to the New Year 2016.

Management Retreat is a serious business.

It is a time for us to review our strategic activities of the immediate past year, evaluate our scorecards, and plan our strategies for the New Year.

We have come a long way as a Commission in the execution of our mandate as outlined in the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003. While we have made significant achievements in certain aspects, a lot still needs to be done in other aspects.

Not long after I assumed duties as the EVC of the Commission last year, I approved the setting up of a 20 man committee on 26th October 2015, to produce a roadmap aimed at refocusing activities of the Commission towards stimulating developmental activities in the ICT sector, in line with the Federal Government's "Change Vision".

Members of the committee were carefully selected in line with their expertise and were drawn from all departments of the Commission. The committee was given the following tasks:

- a) Recommend mechanisms that may be adopted by Management to propel and provide regulatory leadership for the telecoms industry for the generation of youth employment in the country
- b) Recommendations to facilitate the continuous growth and development of the industry with respect to voice segment; data segment; increased contribution to the GDP; etc.

- c) Broadband development: Assessment of the current broadband framework and measures required to further strengthen it
- d) Identify other key salient issues as it concern the telecoms industry but not limited to the NCC SMP (2014 – 2018)

While executing its assignment, the committee made reference to several documents, among which were: Hand-over notes of the immediate past Management of the Commission; Strategic Management Plan (2014 – 2018); Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003; Nigerian National Broadband Plan 2012; etc.

The committee held its sittings at Le Meridian Hotel, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, from 7th – 11th December 2015 to avoid distractions that may have occurred if it was held in Abuja.

At the end of its assignment, the committee produced an 8-Point Agenda in line with guidelines of the assignment. The 8 Point Agenda, which was unveiled to both local and international press in Lagos last week, has consequently become the roadmap towards achieving the Commissions objectives during my tenure.

I wish, at this juncture to make a calculated guess that some minds in this gathering must be wondering about what would happen to the Commission's SMP (2014-2018), especially with the introduction of my 8th Point Agenda.

Well, in allaying your fears, I am confident to inform you all, as earlier stated, that one of the key documents considered by the committee during its sitting, at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, was the SMP (2014-2018) hence, the 8 Point Agenda was distilled from that document amongst other documents, therefore, it is not at variance with the SMP.

Highlights of the 8-Point Agenda are as follows:

1: Facilitate Broadband Penetration

Provide and optimize access to and use of affordable fixed and mobile broadband everywhere in Nigeria.

2: Improve Quality of Service

Promote the availability of reliable, interoperable, rapidly restorable critical information and communications technology infrastructure that are supportive of all required services.

3: Optimize Usage and Benefits of Spectrum

Maximize the availability of spectrum in order to provide diverse and affordable ICT services and ensure spectrum acquisition does not distort market competition.

4: Promote ICT Innovation and Investment Opportunities

Promote ICT innovations in a manner that improves the nation's ability to compete in the global economy, through increased investment in youth and promotion of SMEs in ways that can deliver new business breakthroughs.

5: Facilitate Strategic Collaboration and Partnership

Develop effective partnership with relevant stakeholders to foster ICT for sustainable economic development and social advancement.

6: Protect and Empower Consumers

Protect consumers from unfair practices through availability of information and education required to make informed choices in the use of ICT services.

7: Promote Fair Competition and Inclusive growth

Ensure a competitive market for communications services that fosters fair inclusion of all actors, in innovative ways that facilitate new investment, job creation and consumer satisfaction.

8: Ensure Regulatory Excellence and Operational Efficiency

Ensure an effective regulatory framework, efficient processes, strict compliance monitoring and enforcement, efficient management of internal resources and structure, and maintain a commitment to transparency.

From the foregoing, ladies and gentlemen, it is important to reiterate that the 8-Point Agenda is in sync with the SMP. As we study the

document and make our valuable contributions towards enriching its content, I believe that the Commission shall be better strengthened to drive the growth and development of the ICT sector in the direction of the Change Vision of the Current Administration.

In view of this, ladies and gentlemen, I hereby urge you all to take advantage of this retreat to come up with resolutions that will galvanize the Commission towards breaking new frontiers in the achievements of set targets.

Thank you

EVC