

WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY DR. AMINU MAIDA, EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN/CEO, NCC AT THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL BROADBAND ALLIANCE FOR NIGERIA (NBAN), ON 4TH FEBRUARY, 2025 AT THE RADISSON BLU HOTEL, IKEJA, LAGOS

Good morning, distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and all our valued partners.

Today, we gather to celebrate the official launch of the **National Broadband Alliance for Nigeria (NBAN)** – a transformative step forward in our nation's digital future. This initiative goes beyond just building broadband infrastructure; it is also about creating a foundation for sustainable growth, social inclusion, and economic transformation.

The theme of the launch, "**The Broadband Alliance: Accelerating Our Collective Prosperity through Connectivity**," perfectly captures the essence of our mission. Broadband is not merely a communication tool; it is the cornerstone of progress in an increasingly digital world. It is the key to unlocking economic growth, innovation, and improved quality of life for all Nigerians.

We stand here at the intersection of opportunity and transformation, recognizing that the true potential of Nigeria's digital economy can only be realized when we come together – government, private sector, regulators, and civil society – in a spirit of collaboration. The launch of NBAN is a key step toward realizing this collective vision.

The success of this initiative is deeply aligned with the forward-thinking leadership that has propelled Nigeria's digital economy to the forefront of our national agenda. Under the guidance of **President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR**, technology and innovation have been firmly positioned as pillars of Nigeria's socio-economic development. The President's recognition of the power of digital connectivity to drive national growth has been pivotal, and his vision is now taking shape through initiatives like NBAN. The recent signing of the **Executive Order on Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII)** is a clear reflection of his unwavering commitment to securing and strengthening Nigeria's digital infrastructure for a more resilient and connected future.

This vision is being realized through the leadership of our **Hon. Minister, Bosun Tijani**, whose commitment to broadband access, digital innovation, and inclusion has been pivotal in shaping NBAN – a testament to his dedication in creating a digital landscape where broadband is accessible, affordable, and transformative, ensuring no Nigerian, whether in urban centres or rural areas, is left behind.

The launch of NBAN today represents a pivotal moment in driving collaboration and tackling the key challenges that have hindered our broadband expansion. From high Right-of-Way charges and infrastructure vandalism to investment barriers and the need for demand-driven solutions, NBAN offers a comprehensive framework to overcome these obstacles and unlock the full potential of broadband connectivity. This framework will steer our collective efforts to bridge digital divides, ensuring broadband connectivity becomes a powerful catalyst for job creation, innovation, economic growth, and social development.

It is important to note that broadband is not an end in itself – it is the key to unlocking the vast potential of every sector of our economy. It is the gateway to improving education, healthcare, commerce, and governance. As we move forward together, we will continue to build an ecosystem that not only strengthens our nation’s digital infrastructure but also empowers our people to unlock their full potential.

I am excited for the journey that lies ahead and deeply grateful to each of you for your commitment to this cause. Let us embrace the collective prosperity that broadband connectivity will bring to all Nigerians.

Once again, welcome, and thank you for being part of this transformational journey.

Dr. Aminu Maida
Executive Vice Chairman/CEO