NATIONAL DIGITAL ECONOMY POLICY AND STRATEGY (NDEPS): 2020-2030

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Outline

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Introduction

• We have started with the Digital Economy Ministerial Mandate because the pillars of the Policy and Strategy address all the Ministerial mandates of the FMoCDE.

• The National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) has been developed by contacting representatives and stakeholders in both the public and private sector. We got input from over 300 Stakeholders. We also integrated findings from the World Bank Diagnostic Report on Nigeria. NDEPS was also presented at the International Conference Centre, Abuja during the International e-Nigeria Conference 2019, where over 2,500 attendees participated.

• NDEPS was graciously unveiled and launched by His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, on the 28th of November 2019

• NDEPS is made up of 8 Pillars and will create an enabling environment for the promotion of digital jobs across the country.
Launch of NDEPS by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR

Receiving the World Bank Digital Economy Report for Nigeria from the Country Director
## Mapping Pillars to the Ministerial Mandates (1/2)

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<th>NDEPS Pillar</th>
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<td>Developmental Regulation</td>
<td>Broadband Connectivity; 4G Deployment; Digital Economy Strategy; Support Digital Identity; Optimize Revenues; Large well-paying jobs for Nigerian youths; Strategy to take 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in the next 10 years;</td>
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## Mapping Pillars to the Ministerial Mandates (2/2)

<table>
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<td>Indigenous Content Promotion and Adoption</td>
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Importance of the Digital Economy

- The Digital Economy is a significant portion of the global economy (16%; $11.5 trillion) - Oxford Economics and World Economic Forum

- African Digital Economy in Africa is expected to grow to over $300 billion by 2025 - McKinsey

- The World Economic Forum also predicts that over 60% of global GDP will be digitized by 2022 and that within the next decade, digital platforms will be used to create close to 70% of new value

- In 2017 alone, the digital economy contributed 5.1 million jobs to the economy of the United States.
Vision & Mission

VISION

“To transform Nigeria into a leading digital economy providing quality life and digital economies for all”.

MISSION

“We build a nation where digital innovation and entrepreneurship are used to create value and prosperity for all”.
Pillars

• The National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy shall be anchored on the 8 pillars of the ‘DIGITAL NIGERIA’ Roadmap of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMoCDE). These pillars are listed below:
  1. Developmental Regulation
  2. Digital Literacy and Skills
  3. Solid Infrastructure
  4. Service Infrastructure
  5. Soft Infrastructure
  6. Digital Services Development and Promotion
  7. Digital Society and Emerging Technologies
  8. Indigenous Content Development and Adoption
8 Pillars of NDEPS

8 Pillars to Accelerate the Development of the Nigerian Digital Economy

#1 Developmental Regulation
(effective regulation of the ICT and digital sector in a way that enables development);

#2 Digital Literacy and Skills
(providing policy backing for massive training of Nigerians from all works of life in order to enable them obtain digital literacy and other digital skills. This pillar will also facilitate the training of Nigerians);

#3 Solid Infrastructure
(deployment of fixed and mobile infrastructure to deepen the broadband penetration in the country);

#4 Service Infrastructure
(support for Government Digital Services and the provision of robust digital platforms to drive the digital economy);

#5 Digital Services Development and Promotion
(development of a vibrant digital ecosystem that supports Innovation Driven Enterprises (IDE) and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in a way that engenders innovation);

#6 Soft Infrastructure
(strengthening public confidence in the use of digital technologies and participation in the digital economy);

#7 Digital Society and Emerging Technologies
(focus on tying the development of the digital economy to indices of well-being in the lives of the ordinary citizens; mentoring startups on emerging technologies and deploying their solutions);

#8 Indigenous Content Development and Adoption
(provision of a policy framework that gives preference to digitally skilled Nigerians for government funded projects in line with the Executive Orders 003 and 005 of the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR).
Some of the objectives of this Digital Economy Policy and Strategy document are listed below:

i. Target 70% broadband penetration in 4 years;

ii. To accelerate the digitalization of government processes and improve service delivery, transparency and accountability;

iii. To improve trust, confidence and security around digital processes and activities;

iv. To attract and grow digital jobs across all sectors of the economy;

v. To develop the technology start-up ecosystem by actively promoting innovation and entrepreneurship;
Objectives of the National Digital Economy and Strategy

vii. To support the digital literacy of Nigerian Citizens, Business and Government workers and enable them to acquire cutting edge digital skills;
viii. To achieve a 95% Digital Literacy Level in Nigeria within the next 10 years;
ix. To develop digital education curriculum to meet the current and future needs of the Digital Economy;
x. To ensure that indigenous technology companies are able to participate actively in the government funded technology programmes; and
xi. To ensure that the policy and regulatory instruments are fit-for-purpose and actually support the digital business environment.
Pillar #1: Developmental Regulation

- Regulation is a key tool for achieving the social, economic and environmental policy objectives of government.
- Need to ensure that the proper regulatory instruments are in place.
- Regulation is usually perceived as a negative word, one that stifles development and innovation.
- The approach of the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy is one that promotes, rather than stifles development.
- Converged regulation
Pillar #1 : Developmental Regulation (Objectives)

- The objectives of the Developmental Regulation Pillar include the following:
  1. To create a dynamic regulatory environment that fosters, rather than hinders, the development of a digital economy;
  2. To review existing legislation and facilitate, where necessary, the enactment of laws that would enhance the development of the digital technology sector for national growth;
  3. To facilitate the enactment of appropriate legislation that ensures protection of digital technology infrastructure and enhances national security; and
  4. To support the issuance of converged regulations, as well as address the issue of multiple taxation in order to create a healthy business environment for the development of the Nigerian Digital Economy.
Pillar #1 : Developmental Regulation (Strategies)

• The Government will:

  i. Identify constricting regulations stifling digital economy development and growth;
  ii. Identify gaps in the existing legislations that need to be bridged (or harmonised) to enable a vibrant digital economy;
  iii. Review and harmonize all frameworks laws, standards, guidelines, frameworks and government circulars in order to create a dynamic environment for the development of a digital economy;
  iv. Enact new requisite laws (digital economy promotion acts and data protection acts), regulations, standards and guidelines necessary to address identified gaps;
  v. Create a framework of appropriate funding to catalyze innovation at all levels for the creation of a digital economy;
  vi. Review multiple taxation by creating a framework for bundling payment of taxes, especially those aspects that can affect the digital economy; and
  vii. Creation of a National Digital Economy Council (NDEC) with membership drawn from public and private stakeholders.

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, FMoJ, NITDA, NCC, NGOs, Financial Institutions
Pillar #2 : Digital Literacy and Skills

- A digital economy can only be as vibrant as the level of digital literacy of its citizens.
- Today, literacy no longer means just an ability to read and write.
- This pillar will provide policy backing for massive training of Nigerians from all works of life in order to enable them obtain digital literacy skills.
- A Digital Skills Database will also be created to identify the digitally literate Nigerians and their levels of competence. This would make it easy to match skills to jobs.
Pillar #2 : Digital Literacy and Skills (Objectives)

The objectives of the Digital Literacy & Skills Pillar include the following:

i. To integrate digital literacy and skills into the national education curriculum at all levels;

ii. To support training and capacity building among public sector employees in the development and use of digital tools and applications to improve the delivery of government services;

iii. To create a pool of Nigerians with digital skills validated by globally recognized certifications;

iv. To bridge the gap between the academia and industry; and

v. To lower the access barrier to digital tools for the citizens.
Pillar #2 : Digital Literacy and Skills (Strategies)

The Government will:

i. Partner with relevant institutions to promote globally competitive trainings that focus on digital technologies

ii. Integrate digital literacy and skills development into the curriculum of schools at all tiers of education

iii. Provide support for digital literacy and skills development for Nigerians across the country and in various sectors of the economy

iv. Develop a digital literacy and skills development framework that will lead to trainees acquiring globally recognized certifications

v. Ensure that digital literacy becomes a basic requirement for public sector employees

vi. Leverage the existing network of schools, training institutes, Computer Based Testing (CBT) centres, community resource centres, amongst others, to facilitate digital skills training programmes across the country

vii. Facilitate the training and retooling of teachers and facilitators at all levels, to enable them serve as trainers in the digital literacy and skills programme

viii. Ensure that the digital skills training programme incorporates children, women, internally displaced persons and the physically challenged
Pillar #2 : Digital Literacy and Skills (Strategies)

The Government will:

ix. Promote the development and distribution of instructional materials in electronic format
x. Partner with the private sector to make it easier for Nigerians from all walks of life to acquire digital tools
xi. Support the ‘catch-them-young’ programmes to create an enabling environment for Nigerians to become conversant with digital skills from a young age
xii. Encourage the states and local governments to support the goal of 95% digital literacy levels over the next 10 years
xiii. Support relevant mentorship models for experience sharing, skills and confidence building
xiv. Support the creation of rural coding academies (RCAs) to meet the training needs of rural dwellers
xv. Increase the synergy between all institutions that have a mandate related to education in the digital literacy and skills programme

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, NITDA, Educational Institutions, Development Partners, Youth, NCC, States USPF, NigComSat
Pillar #3 : Solid Infrastructure

- Deployment of fixed and mobile infrastructure to deepen the broadband penetration in the country.
- The level of broadband penetration above its current level of about 35%.
- This pillar will aim to boost the penetration of 3G and 4G networks.
- It is estimated that to achieve full broadband penetration, 120,000km of fibre need to be installed.
- The Nigerian National Broadband Plan (2020-2025) has been developed to address this Pillar.
NNBP (2020-2025)

- The Nigerian National Broadband Plan (NNBP) was graciously unveiled and launched by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, on the 19th of March, 2020.

- There are 4 critical pillars in the Plan, namely Infrastructure, Policy, Demand Drivers and Funding & Incentives.

- Among other things, the new Broadband Plan is designed to deliver data download speeds across Nigeria of a minimum 25Mbps in urban areas, and 10Mbps in rural areas, with effective coverage available to at least 90% of the population by 2025 at a price not more than N390 per 1GB of data (i.e. 2% of median income or 1% of minimum wage).
Launching and Unveiling of the NNBP by Mr President
The objectives of the *Solid Infrastructure Pillar* include the following:

1. To accelerate the penetration of affordable and quality broadband Internet in the country;
2. To foster broadband usage for national development;
3. To ensure the rapid development of a broadband policy support and implementation framework;
4. To harmonize physical infrastructure planning and deployment to include planning for telecoms services; and
5. To support the proliferation of Data centres across the country.
Pillar #3 : Solid Infrastructure (Strategies)

- Some of the implementation strategies for Solid Infrastructure Pillar are listed below.

- The Government will:
  
  i. Develop a new Broadband Plan;
  
  ii. Deepen Broadband penetration from 35% to 75% in 4 Years;
  
  iii. Support the deployment of optic fibre cable using options under the Open Access Model;
  
  iv. Promote both supply, and demand side policies that create incentives for broadband backbone and access network deployment;
  
  v. Facilitate broadband development and deployment, leveraging existing universal service frameworks;
  
  vi. Deepen broadband penetration through the launch and use of satellite systems;
Pillar #3 : Solid Infrastructure (Strategies)

The Government will:

vii. Promote the development and deployment of robust and scalable data centre infrastructure;

viii. Promote efforts to close access gaps, through the use of satellite system, Whitespace, as well as other novel and innovative systems;

ix. Provide special incentives to encourage the increase of investment in broadband rollout;

x. Enhance the capabilities of the Nigerian population to make use of, and contribute to broadband, in order to increase its relevance to the socio economic development of the country and its populace;

xi. Establish a methodology for assessing progress of broadband development in a structured way;

xii. Ensure that all parties adhere to the prevailing Right of Way (RoW) agreement;

xiii. Create legislation to classify core digital infrastructure as Critical National Infrastructure; and

xiv. Boost capacity and activities of the Internet Exchange Points of Nigeria (IXPN);

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, NCC, Galaxy, USPF, NSA, Private Sector, NGF, States
Pillar #4: Service Infrastructure

- The service infrastructure pillar will address the provision of robust digital platforms to drive the digital economy.

- These platforms enable transactions and interactions online. They also have the added advantage of enabling a supply of data from which both government and the private sector can gain useful insights with which to develop the digital economy.

- This pillar supports the provision of a one-stop online platform for government to interact with citizens and investors.

- It supports the deployment of government digital services and a paperless system.
The objectives of the Service Infrastructure Pillar include the following:

i. Implementation of the approved e-government Masterplan, including the e-Government Interoperability Framework (NeGIF) and Nigerian Government Enterprise Architecture (NGEA);

ii. Promotion and adoption of digital platforms;

iii. Use of digital platforms for the extraction and warehousing of anonymized big data for public good; and

iv. Promoting the creation and use of digital platforms in private and nongovernmental sector.
Pillar #4: Services Infrastructure (Strategies)

The Government will:

i. Support a process for the establishment of a Presidential Committee on e-Government;

ii. Ensure the promotion and adoption of a Nigeria e-Government Interoperability Framework;

iii. Ensure the promotion and adoption of the Nigeria Government Enterprise Architecture (NGEA) across Federal Public Institutions (FPIs);

iv. Create Digital Transformation Technical Working Groups (DT-TWG) across all FPIs;

v. Enhance the Nigerian Open Data programme across the Federal and State Governments;

vi. Create/review enabling laws and regulations to enforce the eGovernment masterplan;

vii. Support the training of relevant government officials to use data to make better decisions;

viii. Provide funding to network all FPIs and digitize some of their key services;
Pillar #4: Services Infrastructure (Strategies)

The Government will:

ix. Increase sensitization on the provisions of the Nigeria Data Protection Regulation (NDPR);

x. Promote the development of creative e-commerce platforms;

xi. Enhance and promote the www.services.gov.ng one-stop online platform and GOVNET for accessing government services; and

xii. Support the development of special intervention platforms for microbusinesses.

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, GBB, NITDA, NCC, NASS, FMFBNP, SMEDAN, NIPOST, OSGF
Pillar #5: Digital Services Development and Promotion

- The concept of Innovation Driven Enterprises (IDEs) has been promoted by leading institutions such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and these enterprises, no doubt, have great advantages.

- Opportunities for job creation are a key outcome for the implementation of the strategies of this pillar. We want to have enabling environment for the creation of jobs, not only in the public sector but mainly in the private sector.

- The Nigerians in diaspora can be a key asset in driving the Digital Economy, especially as it relates to this pillar. Nigerians in the diaspora should be engaged with a view to creating a support network for the IDEs and digitally-enabled MSMEs in the country.
Pillar #5: Digital Services Development and Promotion (Objectives)

The objectives of the Digital Services Development and Promotion Pillar include the following:

i. Support for the creation of innovation driven enterprises and digitally enabled MSMEs;

ii. Facilitation of mentorship and funding programmes to support innovation driven enterprises and digitally-enabled MSMEs;

iii. Enabling innovation driven enterprises and digitally-enabled MSMEs to participate in the government procurement process, through the introduction of a bimodal procurement system to accommodate them; and

iv. Facilitate the launch of Digital Innovation and Scale-up Centres (DISC), IT and innovation hubs around the country to target digital innovations and the scale-up of digital startups.
Pillar #5: Digital Services Development and Promotion (Strategies)

The Government will:

i. Identify, promote and celebrate Innovation Driven Enterprises (IDEs);

ii. Support MSMEs to integrate digital technologies into their operations;

iii. Create an incentivized mentorship programme that connects to MSMEs to indigenous and foreign digital technology mentors;

iv. Incorporate IDEs and digitally enabled MSMEs into government funded projects and projects of large corporations;

v. Facilitate funding for the Innovation and Start-Up Ecosystem;

vi. Conduct a technology adoption survey of MSMEs with a view to lowering the barrier to adopting technology;

vii. Based on the technology adoption survey in the first year, double the number of digitally-enabled businesses annually;
Pillar #5: Digital Services Development and Promotion (Strategies)

The Government will:

viii. Create an enabling environment for Nigerians in the diaspora to support the IDEs and digitally-enabled MSMEs;

ix. Foster collaboration between the stakeholders of the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem;

x. Encourage States, as key stakeholders, to support digital entrepreneurs with co-working spaces, incentives and enabling policy environments for success;

xi. Update the curricula of schools (through the Federal and State Ministries of Education) at all levels to include training on emerging technologies; and

xii. Create an enabling environment for building the capacity of IDEs and MSMEs, mainly through e-learning channels.

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, NITDA, NCC, NGOs, FMITI, FMFBNP, CBN, Financial Institutions, BPP, SMEDAN
Pillar #6 : Soft Infrastructure

- The soft infrastructure pillar focusses on strengthening public confidence in the use of digital technologies and participation in the digital economy.
- The pillar will address the importance of cybersecurity and other standards, frameworks and guidelines that encourage citizens to go digital.
- Data privacy and the deployment of technologies like the public key infrastructure are addressed in this pillar.
Pillar #6: Soft Infrastructure

The objectives of the *Soft Infrastructure Pillar* include the following:

i. Review and strengthen cybersecurity instruments to ensure that Nigerians are secure online;

ii. Strengthening of the regulatory instruments and institutional framework that governs data protection and privacy; and

iii. Support for the accelerated implementation of a Digital Identity Programme.
Pillar #6 : Soft Infrastructure (Strategies)

The Government will:

i. Identify gaps in existing and relevant regulatory frameworks, cybersecurity frameworks, standard operational procedures and guidelines;

ii. Review and harmonize all existing regulations, cybersecurity frameworks, standards, procedures and guidelines;

iii. Establish a compliance framework to ensure adherence to standards, procedures and guidelines;

iv. Register and certify Cybersecurity Service Providers (CSP) who will ensure that standard procedures and guidelines are complied with;

v. Establish a framework for a sustainable capacity development approach to develop a knowledgeable and skilled cybersecurity workforce across digital economy institutions;

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, FMoJ, NITDA, NCC, NGOs, Development Partners
Pillar #6: Soft Infrastructure (Strategies)

The Government will:

vi. Support the enhanced coordination of sectoral Computer Emergency Readiness and Response Team (CERRT) across sectors;

vii. Support Cybersecurity Centres of Excellence (CoE) focused on Research and Development, Innovation and Entrepreneurship;

viii. Support the ratification and signing of global treaties that can sustain and enhance digital economy;

ix. Identify and assign responsibilities and roles to specific government institutions for data and privacy protection, intellectual property right enforcement, cybercrime enforcement, research and development, innovation and entrepreneurship, in order to foster the coordinated growth of digital economy;

x. Identify the barriers militating against the full implementation of digital identity scheme and data harmonization in order to accelerate full scale digital identification; and

xi. Support the development of specific cybersecurity training programmes to enhance the capacity and capability of law enforcement agents to tackle cybercrime.

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, FMoJ, NITDA, NCC, NGOs, Development Partners
Pillar #7: Digital Society and Emerging Technology

- This pillar will focus on tying the development of the digital economy to indices of well-being in the lives of the ordinary citizens. Digital and financial inclusion are some of the issues that this pillar seeks to address.

- The *Digital Society and Emerging Technology* pillar will map the development of the digital economy to the attainment of 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are most relevant to the digital economy, namely:
  1. Poverty Eradication;
  2. Good Health and Well-being;
  3. Quality Education;
  4. Decent Work and Economic Growth;
  5. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure;
  6. Reducing Inequality; and
  7. Sustainable Cities and Communities.
The objectives of the Digital Society and Emerging Technology Pillar include the following:

i. Enable a progressive increase in the contribution of digital technologies to the economy;

ii. Promote research in emerging technologies with a view to getting digital technology to improve the livelihood of Nigerians;

iii. Actively focus on Skills-rather than-Degrees; and

iv. Accelerate digital inclusion in the country by taking advantage of the spread of existing infrastructure across the country.
Pillar #7: Digital Society and Emerging Technology (Strategies)

The Government will:

i. Support the emergence of new services and industries that are enabled by emerging technologies

ii. Facilitate services and workforce transformation in the public service using emerging technologies, starting with some pilot Ministries, Departments and Agencies;

iii. Foster digital inclusion for People Living with Disabilities (PLWDs) and other digitally excluded people;

iv. Support the emergence of e-services in leading sectors of the economy;

v. Prioritize financial inclusion with a view to reducing the current percentage of unbanked adults by 50% within the next 4 years;

vi. Collaborate with the private sector, academia and development partners to create Centres of Excellence in Emerging Technologies;

vii. Include topics on emerging technologies across the broad spectrum of formal and vocational education in the country;
Pillar #7 : Digital Society and Emerging Technology (Strategies)

The Government will:

viii. Encourage tertiary institutions to introduce/enhance courses on emerging technologies through the relevant regulatory institutions;

ix. Support Awards of Excellence in Emerging Technologies to celebrate new innovations and innovators;

x. Create an enabling environment for National Youth Corps members to acquire digital entrepreneurship skills;

xi. Promote sector specific emerging technology centres through relevant FPIs such as NITDA and NCC;

xii. Convert campuses of the Digital Bridge Institute around the country to emerging technology, digital literacy and digital skills centres;

xiii. Enlist the support of Nigerian ICT Professionals in the diaspora; and

xiv. Establish viable Digital Technology institutions to promote the deployment of digital services across the key sectors of the country.

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, NITDA, NCC, NGOs, USPF, GBB, NUC, Educational Institutions, Development Partners
Pillar #8 : Indigenous Content Promotion and Adoption

- This pillar will give preference to digitally skilled Nigerians for government funded projects in line with the Executive Orders 003 and 005 of the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR.
- It will identify jobs that are currently being outsourced and support the repatriation of these jobs to digitally skilled Nigerians.
- It will also help to conserve foreign exchange for the country and boost exports. The activities in this pillar will ensure that “Made in Nigeria” digital economy products are of globally accepted quality.
- The pillar will also seek to make Nigeria a global outsourcing destination for digital jobs. The implementation of strategies within this pillar will also actively pursue the Impact sourcing business process outsourcing (BPO) model, where digital jobs are deliberately outsourced to economically disadvantaged areas in order to improve their economic conditions.
Pillar #8: Indigenous Content Development and Adoption (Objectives)

The objectives of the Indigenous Content Promotion and Adoption Pillar include the following:

i. To develop indigenous businesses to become world class service providers;

ii. To increase public sector patronage of indigenous digital technology businesses; and

iii. To create conditions for iterative problem solving by innovative indigenous digital technology service providers.
Pillar #8: Indigenous Content Promotion and Adoption (Strategies)

- The Government will:
  
i. Increase the patronage of digital startups, enabling them to access a minimum percentage of government funded jobs;
  
ii. Support the creation of a sustainable impact sourcing business process outsourcing (BPO) model, where a number of digital jobs are deliberately outsourced to economically disadvantaged areas in order to improve their economic conditions;
  
iii. Conduct a study on the types of digital jobs that are currently being outsourced in the telecom, banking, oil and other sectors with a view to developing a strategy and a policy environment that supports their repatriation;
  
iv. Ensure compliance with Regulatory Guidelines for Nigerian Content;
Pillar #8: Indigenous Content Promotion and Adoption (Strategies)

v. Highlight and promote indigenous capacities in digital technologies;

vi. Support the development of funding mechanisms and engagement of funding stakeholders to drive investments for the expansion of indigenous digital technology businesses;

vii. Provide technical support for Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs);

viii. Properly scrutinize and monitor every government funded ICT project with a view to ensuring compliance with local content guidelines;

ix. Facilitate partnerships with multinationals operating in Nigeria to create platforms for Indigenous Vendors to serve global markets; and

x. Ensure strategic partnerships with relevant regulatory agencies to create joint efforts to promote indigenous content.

Implementing Institutions: FMoCDE, NASS, NITDA, BPP, NCC, NGOs, Development Partners, FMFBNP, GBB, CBN, NOTAP
Conclusion

1. The National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) is set to accelerate the development of Nigeria’s Digital Economy.
2. The development of our Digital Economy will have a significant positive impact on the growth of the traditional economy.
3. The Federal Public Institutions have a critical role to play in the implementation of NDEPS.
Thank You