### PEOPLE'S EXPECTATIONS IN A TECHNOLOGY DRIVEN SOCIETY. Kenneth Okereafor, PhD

TheNIGERIA eGOVERNMENT SUMMIT

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#### What are Nigeria's Challenges?

These challenges that tend to define us as a developing nation, can be addressed by applying digital technology in a strategic manner.



#### How can good governance tackle these challenges?

Confers power and authority

Meets citizens' needs

**Establishes safer societies** 

Ensures **security** of lives and property

Centres on the **welfare** of the people

# Is good governance a constitutional requirement?

#### Yes

Section 14, sub-section 2b, 1999 Constitution:

"The <u>security</u> and <u>welfare</u> of the people shall be the primary purpose of government".

# Does the Nigeria's constitution recognize technology?

Yes

Section 18, sub-section 2, 1999 Constitution:

*"Government shall promote science and technology".* 

## How do we measure people's welfare?

Level of satisfaction with the economy

**Extent of security** 

Social freedom and peace of mind

## Where does digital technology come in?

Globally recognized as an enabler

Acts as a facilitator of government procedures

Improves processes of good governance

Delivers positive impacts of governance

Introduces transparency into Government functions

Can technology work in Nigeria? Yes

Telecoms revolution, NCC, Tele-density growth

Banking reforms, Fintech, BVN, ATM, CBN

Health insurance automation, NHIA

Tax automation, revenue management, FIRS

ePassport, immigration control, NIS

Citizens' identity harmonization, NIMC

eVoting, road safety, Galaxy Backbone, NIGCOMSAT, etc.

NCC: Nigeria Communications Commission, <u>BVN:</u> Bank Verification Number, <u>CBN:</u> Central Bank of Nigeria, <u>NHIA:</u> National Health Insurance Authority, <u>FIRS:</u> Federal Inland Revenue Service, <u>NIS:</u> Nigeria Immigration Service, <u>NIMC:</u> National Identity Management Commission, <u>NIGCOMSAT:</u> Nigeria Communications Satellite Limited

### What is digital technology known for?

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Delivers positive impacts of governance

Improves government functions and procedures

## In what ways do people expect technology to help?

Fight corruption and deepen democratic rule Tackle insecurity and terrorism, to ensure safe and peaceful society

Fix the economy and stimulate fiscal growth Strengthen healthcare services

Revamp our education system

Drive foreign direct investment, improve national prosperity Automate budget implementation and checkmate leakages

Stimulate our production industries

Monitor and evaluate governance, through checks and balances

Foster interaction between government and society Establish, administer and regulate multilevel policing Harmonize identity systems for census, healthcare, population, immigration, etc

#### **Recommendation 1 for Government**

Digital literacy must be promoted to develop citizens' capacity in understanding and using technology.

### **Recommendation 2 for INEC**

INEC must embark on continuous improvement of its technology in line with Cybersecurity best practices, to maintain perpetual data protection.

<u>Pre-election</u> education & voter enlightenment, vote transmission, database security, server integrity, election monitoring and real-time tracking, <u>Post election</u> audit trails.

**INEC:** Independent National Electoral Commission

#### **Recommendation 3 for voters**

Voters and the electorates must take advantage of available digital tools to participate ethically in the process.

Citizens should be convinced with verifiable evidence that the technology is secure and adequately protected from cyber attacks.

#### **Recommendation 4 for candidates and parties**

Candidates should tailor their campaign promises to accommodate technology, and how it will address Nigeria's challenges.

Political parties are expected to include digital technologies in their manifestoes, and tell Nigerians how they intend to apply them.

#### **Recommendation 5 for private sector**

Private digital technology service providers should take advantage of existing legal frameworks and procurement protocols to improve upon automation. **The goal of eGovernment?** When federal institutions apply digital technology to facilitate government functions and procedures, to deliver citizen services more efficiently, they are said to be practicing **eGovernment**.



#### **CONCLUSION (1/3)**

In this digital era, any country that does not embrace technology is unlikely to make significant progress or sustain economic development.

#### **CONCLUSION (2/3)**

Digital revolution requires multistakeholder participation, therefore the government is encouraged to provide enabling environment to enhance private sector involvement.

### **CONCLUSION (3/3)**

Technology will not work if the ruling class does not bridge the trust deficit between the leaders and the followers.

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