

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 5TH E-GOVERNMENT SUMMIT
THEME: ATTAINING INCREASED IGR (Internally Generated Revenue),
EFFICIENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH SMART INNOVATIONS
HELD AT THE NAF CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABUJA, NIGERIA
27TH - 28TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

1.0 PREAMBLE:

The E-Payment Providers Association of Nigeria (E-PPAN) organized the 5th edition of the "**E-Government Summit**" from the 27th to 28th of September, 2016 at the NAF Conference Centre, Abuja, Nigeria.

The Summit with the theme, "**Attaining Increased IGR, Efficiency and Accountability through Smart Innovations**", brought together decision makers and thought leaders in the private and public sector.

The 2016 Summit was based on the latest report on IGR which revealed that there has been a 3.65% drop in IGR from the 36 States of the federation and 15 States may go bankrupt and may not be able to stay afloat outside the federal government account allocation.

This gave rise to the goal of the Summit which is to create a single platform to discuss, network, and set programmable agenda for the e-government that will yield quantum result for sustainable economic development.

In a welcome address made by Onajite Regha, Executive Secretary/COE E-PPAN, the importance of the Summit was emphasized. With the recent recession in Nigeria, she said the Summit was organized to leverage on how ICT can boost IGR. "We should seek for diversification to generate IGR. Participants are expected to proffer on how to improve on IGR." She urged participants to listen to the presentations and challenge themselves to make a difference from the presentations. NITDA and the Anambra State made a lot of difference from last year's Summit, she explained. She thanked everyone for coming, and special thanks to the different sponsors (NITDA, CBN, Galaxy Backbone, VISA, NIBSS, PenCom and FSS 2020).

Professionals and experts from the government, public and private sectors delivered papers to address the goal and objective of the Summit.

In the remark delivered by Senator Ayo Arise, he expected that most people have experienced the use of ICT for increased IGR. He says every organization should by now have a central system to link up for easier check of taxes paid by individuals.

2.0 ATTENDANCE

The Summit was attended by national and international experts from the government, public and private sectors and other stakeholders.

3.0 THE OBJECTIVE

At the end of this Summit, the delivered papers by different experts and authorities in the private and public sectors will proffer solutions and proactive measures for government to generate and increase IGR using smart solutions while achieving transparency and accountability.

4.0 PAPER PRESENTATIONS, PANEL SESSIONS AND FORUM

The two-day Summit attracted:

- a. 1 Showcase Presentation which enumerated that NITDA serves as a clearing house for the ICT development in the multisectoral development while e-government is a platform for the application of technology to improve public policies. This was presented by Bernard Ewah, representing Dr. Vincent Olatunji, NITDA Ag. Director General.
- b. 1 Forum which was facilitated by Bernard Ewah, Head, E-Government, NITDA, titled **NITDA Smart City Initiative Forum**. The forum brought together agencies from 6 States of the federation who have benefitted from the NITDA Smart Initiative to talk about their operations and successes in different economic sectors and infrastructures.
- c. 4 Panel Sessions. The different panel sessions which spanned through the two days of the Summit addressed subjects ranging from Increased IGR, for Government MDAs Through Implementation of Smart Solution, Smart Government through Shared Services Model, Adopting the Financial Inclusion Roadmap for Improved Economy and Good Governance, to, Data Integration and Analysis, for Strategic Economic Developments. The Lead

Papers were presented by members of professional agencies and discussants were pulled from experts in their fields from different supporting agencies.

5.0 OBSERVATIONS

Following the presentations and extensive discussions, the summit observed that:

- i. There is low service quality across the board on technology development.
- ii. There is low support of the legislation towards creating a single data generating platform for the public and private sectors to access information.
- iii. Most States do not support dependable IT.
- iv. Many bills are still awaiting the President's signature.
- v. Nigeria came late to the light of using e-government so they are still trying to get to where other countries are today.
- vi. The component of funding to run States is no longer effective, hence the growth of the State IGR.
- vii. States by-pass protocol in revenue collection without drawing out strategies.
- viii. There are no clarity on revenue heads as well as clarity on who should pay tax.
- ix. There is no enumeration of the level of the supposed tax payer.
- x. People do not know why they should pay taxes and bills.
- xi. There is inconsistency in government policies.
- xii. Many records are in the hands of few persons.
- xiii. People are not sure of where to pay their bills and taxes.
- xiv. Government cannot give acknowledgement to the payments done through phone.
- xv. It is easier, faster and transparent to pay official bills using credit cards provided by organizations.
- xvi. Many people in the informal sector do not pay taxes.
- xvii. Some consultants make people to pay more.
- xviii. Smart innovation helps to harness IGR but involves funding.
- xix. Some States practice multiple taxation which the citizens are not comfortable.

- xx. Poor payment for services encourages workers to be fraudulent.
- xxi. Galaxy Backbone do not have the legislative power that will enable them implement all that is expected of them.
- xxii. There is resistance and lots of pressure on the MDAs in accessing money to carry out operations.
- xxiii. Agencies are struggling through sharing ICT space.
- xxiv. Vendors of the ICT space do not disclose the entire application to consumers, which makes the vendors return in no time to propose on the same ICT issue which was supposed to have been earlier addressed.
- xxv. Some Ministries are not well informed on the activities of the e-government.
- xxvi. Government workers hide their inability to use the IT in spite of their years of service.
- xxvii. Nigeria is not planning on how to manage the increasing population in 4 years' time.
- xxviii. Policy makers are not invited to fora as this, so they are not understanding the current situation on financial inclusion.
- xxix. Many rural or hard to reach areas do not have financial institutions or ATMs.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. Citizens' participation in the development of ICT policies should be encouraged.
- ii. The legislature should increase their support on the development of ICT policies.
- iii. Creation of safe means of exchanging data between the government and the public.
- iv. There should be promotion of IT entrepreneurship among citizens.
- v. There should be an open government whereby information are accessible by citizens.
- vi. There should be increased number of public service online to provide job opportunities for citizens.
- vii. Guidelines for integrated economy should be put in place.
- viii. States should support a dependable IT.

- ix. Application of importance to the use of digital identity cards.
- x. The President should go through and approve long pending bills for implementation of policies.
- xi. Legislature should provide data to analyze figures between States on the reason overhead cost is more than the population.
- xii. There should be promotion of the use of Smart technology among citizens.
- xiii. There should be policy on the use of one bank account by citizens to curb fraud.
- xiv. Centralization of data in the States for easy information access.
- xv. Payment of tax should be a pre-requisite for owning an asset.
- xvi. Creation of avenue of payment that will not involve spending. This will encourage quicker and less fraudulent operations.
- xvii. Creation of meaningful enumeration system for easier citizens' assessment.
- xviii. Review workers payment upwards to curb fraud.
- xix. Legislature to empower IT service providers on implementation of necessary services to agencies.
- xx. Encourage the sharing of information space.
- xxi. Increased education of government workers on the use of e-government.
- xxii. Digitalized identification cards should be adopted as a means of tracking.
- xxiii. The government, individuals and agencies to be responsible for financial getting and spending.
- xxiv. Bring policy makers to discussion fora as this.
- xxv. Branches of financial institutions and ATMs should be built in rural or hard to reach areas to enable easy access to money.
- xxvi. Build infrastructure where individuals can invest on.

7.0 CONCLUSION

At the end of the Summit, it was resolved that:

1. Carrying citizens along to participate in policy development will help in boosting the IGR.
2. Government transparency with their IT portals open to the public will improve information access, reduce questions on the need to pay bills and taxes, and, enable feedback through the portal.
3. The creation of Smart Solutions by revenue collection agencies will enhance IGR.
4. The interest imputed by the legislature in developing a strong IT policy will improve IRS.
5. The use of digitalized identity to capture individual will monitor the individual and reduce fraud.
6. Building financial institutions in rural areas and education will improve financial inclusion.

Members of the Communiqué Drafting Committee

Signature

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| 1. Mrs. Onajite Regha | |
| 2. Mrs. Pearl Wonder | |
| 3. Mrs. Hannah Olayinka | |

The motion for adoption of the communiqué was moved by and supported by

on

28th day of September. 2016.