

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE SMART CITIES
SUMMIT NIGERIA, 2017 HELD AT TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL,
ABUJA FROM 8TH – 9TH 2017**

1.0 Preamble

1.1 The Federal Ministry of Communications in conjunction with Messrs Afritex Initiatives (Consultants to FMC), and the Organized Private Sector, hosted a Smart Cities Summit Nigeria [SCSN] with the theme: ‘Leveraging on Technology Solutions to Improve Efficiency of Cities’ at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja from the 8th – 9th of August, 2017. The Summit was declared open by the Acting President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo, SAN GCON while the keynote address was delivered by the Honourable Minister of Communications, Barrister Abdu-Raheem Adebayo Shittu while the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Arc. Sonny Echono, FNIA delivered the welcome address.

1.2 In attendance were members of the National Assembly, State Governors including His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, Governor Umaru Tanko Al-Makura, Muhammad Musa, Minister of FCT, Aminu Bello Masari Governor of Katsina, Honourable Ministers of Labour and Productivity, Information and Culture, Federal Capital Territory, Honourable Ministers of State for Budget & National Planning, Environment, Chief Executives of Agencies and Parastatals in-charge of ICT at Federal and State levels, international blue-chip companies, representatives of professional bodies, city planners, security agencies, NGOs, academia and development organizations.

1.3 The Summit was supported by several State Governments, various Federal MDAs and private sector enterprises including HUAWEI Technology, the Title Sponsors for the SCSN. A total of 1,700 visitors, 215 delegates registered and attended the Summit, while 13 organizations exhibited several innovative products and services tied to the smart cities initiative.

1.4 Objectives

The main objective of the summit was to look at the preparedness of the country, the challenges and best approach to adopt in the quest for a Nigerian Smart City Development. Additionally, the summit was expected to advise government on the best international practice to prepare policy road maps for mainstreaming smart city initiatives into the urban development policy and regulatory framework in Nigeria

2.0 Sessions and Sub Themes

The summit featured a total of 10 enlightening smart talks, 4 Executive sessions, 5 goodwill messages, 4 key note speeches and addresses. Under the broad banner of the main theme, the Summit critically examined the following sub-themes:

1. *Economic benefits and investment opportunities of smart cities,*
2. *The technologies and processes required for smart cities,*
3. *Economic and infrastructural challenges to the smart cities initiative,*
4. *The proper approach to engaging private sector participation,*
5. *Benchmarking of global standards and creating viable templates for Nigeria,*
6. *Practical considerations in setting up smart cities,*
7. *The necessity of cooperation of tiers and agencies of government,*
8. *Identification and engagement of relevant stakeholders in the process,*
9. *The co-relation between smart cities initiative and other government policy such as physical planning, land use management etc,*
10. *Citizen benefits and protection within the smart cities concept.*

3.0 Observations

1. In the course of the two-day deliberations, **the Summit noted:**

- a. That Smart cities are programs that are better able to intelligently improve the quality of citizen's life through adoption of appropriate technologies and efficient processes, the primary aim of which is not necessarily financial or economic gain;
- b. The need to ensure that privacy and other rights of citizens are not jeopardized during the implementation of the smart cities initiative;
- c. That effort must be put into setting a solid legal and regulatory framework to drive the smart cities initiative;
- d. The need for stakeholder buy-in, especially among citizens and the communities where projects are to be executed;

2. The Summit also noted the need for:

- a. A regulatory body that would be required to manage and drive the smart city initiative within the context of IoTs and as a collaborative program of government and private sector players;

- b. The development of credible demographic data and the interoperable aggregation of data silos currently available in Nigeria if the development of smart cities is to become a reality;
- c. The challenges of power, funding, population explosion and urban migration to be addressed;

3. The Summit specifically:

- a. **Decried** the tendency of relevant players to work in silos which was a significant draw back and threat that could derail the smart cities initiative;
- b. **Noted** that there are several economic benefits that flow from smart cities such as analytics from big data, smart transport, health, efficient waste management, amongst others;
- c. **Considered** the opportunities that current disruptive technologies such as blockchain, autonomous vehicles, Internet of Things, artificial intelligence/machine learning can bring to the smart cities drive and encouraged a leap frogging of these innovations;
- d. **Agreed** that the design of smart cities will ensure access to education, access to health facilities, greater community safety, improved accessibility, improved mobility and provide a wide range of employment opportunities for the citizenry within a high quality of environment.

4.0 Recommendations:

Against the background of the foregoing observations, the Summit:

1. Called on The Federal Ministry of Communications to:

- a. **Consolidate the successes** of the maiden edition by setting up, as soon as possible, a Multi-Stakeholder Smart Cities Working Group with the approval of the Federal Executive Council to chart the course for the implementation of the Initiative in Nigeria;
- b. **Make the Summit an annual event** and begin the planning for the 2018 Smart City Summit Nigeria (SCSN) in earnest so as to include more participation from different sectors in the smart city space;
- c. **Remain resolutely committed to ensuring** the full implementation of the Broadband Plan and the New ICT Roadmap;

2. **Enjoined State Governments and Government Agencies** to adopt a phased, pilot approach to implementing their smart cities project, focusing on quick wins and areas of immediate need before scaling up.
3. **Recommended that:**
 - a. Series of focus groups and sector stakeholders' technical workshops should be organized to assist government at State and Federal levels to prepare policy road maps for mainstreaming smart city initiatives into the urban development policy and regulatory framework in Nigeria;
 - b. Government Agencies at all levels with the mandate to approve plans and designs for the built environment and construction should, as a matter of urgency, digitize and automate their operations, and employ electronic approval methods to grant approval to all design approval applications, especially as the current practice is cumbersome and far from smart;
 - c. Synergy between the public and private sectors should be orchestrated with a view to attaining the goal of smart cities in Nigeria, to ensure the deployment of required infrastructure towards meeting the National Broadband Plan objectives as well as as building the foundation for smart cities in Nigeria.

5.0 Conclusion

In conclusion, the Summit expressed profound gratitude to the Presidency and members of the Federal and State Executive Councils, Distinguished and Honorable Members of the National Assembly for their participation and endorsement of the Summit. The Summit also thanked the Honorable Minister of Communications and the Parastatals under his Ministry for their support and sponsorship of the event. Others to who the Summit expressed deep gratitude were the numerous sponsors in the private sector, delegates to the Summit and members of the press.

Issued this ^{9th}..... day of August, 2017.


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(Chairman LOC)


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(CEO, AFRITEX Initiatives)

CONSULTANTS RECOMMENDATION / NEXT STEPS

- (i) Call for meeting of the SCSN LOC and its subsequent dissolution / *FMC*
- (ii) Inauguration of an **Expert Working Group** [EWG] to deepen the findings of the summit, keep the conversation going, and to meet with the various sector stakeholders to fashion out the best approach and strategy towards the Nigerian Smart City Initiative. *[FMC/Consultants]*
- (iii) Inauguration of a **Multi-stakeholder Supervisory Body** [MSB] to oversee and drive the Nigeria Smart City Initiative. *[FMC, NITDA, Consultants]*
- (iv) Appointment of a Chief Technical Officer (CTO) and retinue of staff in the Directorate Cadre, to oversee the various initiatives of the EWG, MSB, etc. *[FMC]*
- (v) Allocation of funds, office space and facilities, project vehicle to the CTO's office *[FMC]*
- (vi) Design Concept Note, Terms of Reference for the EWG, MSB *[Consultants]*

Finally, on behalf of the Hon. Minister and stakeholders, participants, the Lead Consultant, Mr. Oyesola Oworu thanked all who made it to the closing ceremony. He also registered his profound appreciation to the Acting President, Members of the National Assembly, Ministry of Communication and heads of Ministry's parastatals, State Governors, Title sponsor and others for their support and active participation throughout the duration of the Summit.