



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY PROF. UMAR GARBA DANBATTI, THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN /CEO OF NCC. ON THE OCCASION OF FOREIGN DEFENCE ATTACHES VISIT TO THE NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

PROTOCOLS

It is with profound honour and privilege that I formally welcome all the Foreign Defence Attaches/Advisers and all officials from Defence Intelligence Agency to the Commission.

Ladies and Gentlemen and members of the press here present.

I understand that the purpose of your visit to the Commission is to expose you to the huge investment opportunities that exist in the telecom industry in Nigeria.

As you are aware, the telecom sector has recorded huge achievements in several segments of the sector following the liberalization of the sector by the Federal Government in 2000. The liberalization of the Nigerian Telecoms market has helped to deepen and widen the telecoms market, this in turn has brought about multiplier benefits to the stakeholders. In addition, liberalization has brought about the emergence of five (5) GSM and three (3) CDMA Mobile operators, over 90 ISPs, increased revenue to the government with 8.69% contribution to the telecoms industry in 2013, 7.6% in 2014 and 8.5% as at 2015. Furthermore, tariff reduction from N50 to N6.40k and raised international recognition and goodwill because of the transparency of the regulator are some of the benefits recorded by the sector.

However, in spite of the massive increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) since the liberalization of the sector from mere \$50million in 2001 to over \$60billion in 2015, there are still abundant huge investment opportunities in the telecom sector. For instance, one of the key initiatives the Commission is currently embarking upon is how to increase broadband penetration in the country. To this end, the Commission, in line with its phased development of Fibre Optic

programme in the country, recently awarded licenses to two Infrastructure Companies (Infracore firms) to operate in the North Central and Lagos regions. The licenses for the other five regions would be awarded in accordance with our programme of action in this regard.

For the purposes of emphasis, it is envisaged that successful development of Fibre Optic across the length and breadth of Nigeria would accelerate the broadband penetration in the country, with resultant increase in contribution to the country's GDP.

In fact, the deployment of broadband in the country is the fulcrum for other e-initiatives and ICT programmes of Federal Government aimed at improving operational efficiency of the economy.

I also wish to use this opportunity to inform you that other investment openings such as installation of more Masts and Towers, deployment of Fixed Lines, bridging of infrastructure gaps, new technologies, etc. still exist in the telecom sector.

I hereby seek your indulgence to listen to some members of my Management Team whose portfolios deal with investment programmes in the Commission to throw more light in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

It is my fervent hope that the information made available to you at this visit would help you to advise your respective home governments to encourage interested corporate bodies and investors to invest in Nigerian telecom sector.

Thank you for your attention.

Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, FNSE
Executive Vice Chairman
Nigerian Communications Commission

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