THE BIG STORY

Startups and SMEs Inclusion In The Digital Identity Ecosystem, A Welcomed Initiative

It should be recalled that on the 19th of March, 2019, the National Identity Management Commission, NIMC, published an advert on Nigerian Dailies and its website calling for the expression of interest on the Digital Identity Ecosystem for Data Collection and Issuance of the National Identification Number (NIN).

The advert, calls for interested competent and qualified public and/or private sector Service Providers including Start-Up companies (SUC), Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), and Nigerian Representatives of Development Partners (NR-DPs) with proven track record of successful performance in similar capacity to express interest.

With the inclusion of Startups and SMEs, The Director General/CEO, NIMC Engr. Aliyu Aziz has not only set a precedence for other big government and non-governmental Organizations to emulate, but has also recognized the importance of giving Startups and SMEs equal opportunities and an avenue to compete and grow in the economy.

Most of the Startups and SMEs that will meet NIMC's requirements will operate mostly within but not limited to the grassroots level depending on their capacity and reach. This will create viable opportunities for the company and host communities.

Engr. Aziz understands that startups and SMEs provide economic flexibility and dynamism as they create jobs which are necessary for a thriving and responsive economy, startups inject the competitive forces that guarantees a highly-successful economy.

The minimum requirements Startups and SMEs as indicated in the advert includes Registration of Business name form, Certificate of registration of business name with CAC, Profiles of partner(s) and Key staff and their NIN, Tax Identification Number, Evidence of payment of Tax (Personal Income tax certificate), VAT certificate (where applicable), amongst others as indicated in section C(I) under eligibility requirements in the advert.

The Digital Identity Ecosystem is in line with NIMC's mandate to create, manage, operate and maintain a secure National Identity Database, issue the National Identification Number (NIN) and a General Multipurpose Card (GMPC), provide a platform for identity assertion and confirmation and harmonize all existing databases in federal government agencies.