

News Letter

Volume 1, No. II November, 2024

-Providing assured identity

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365 DAYS OF EXCELLENCE

Since taking office as the Director-General/CEO of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Engr. Abisoye Coker has driven significant reforms, modernizing Nigeria's national identity system and expandina NIMC's reach, both domestically and internationally. Her leadership has been marked by technological innovation, improved operational efficiency, and stronger collaborations with stakeholders. Her achievements include:

Streamlining Enrollment and Verification Systems

Engr. Coker prioritized improving the enrollment process to increase accessibility and speed.

- Revalidation of FEP Licenses and Deployment of Advanced Enrollment Devices across Nigeria has significantly enhanced data collection, ensuring quicker and vice delivery.

 2. Digital Innotes

 A key focus of was digital traveled
 Vice delivery.
- The High Availability NIMC Verification Service (HA-NVS) was introduced and



It is significantly improving identity verification reliability and security.

2. Digital Innovation and Self-Service Platforms

A key focus of **Engr. Coker's** leadership was digital transformation to improve service delivery.

• The launch of Self-Service Mobile and Web Apps allow Nigerians to modify their records remotely, reducing the need for in-person visits.

- NIMC also upgraded its Android Enrollment System and developed an Advanced Biometric Verification System, enhancing both security and fraud prevention.
- 3. Infrastructure Modernization and Security Enhancements.

Under **Engr. Coker**, NIMC's infrastructure has been modernized for greater efficiency and security.

- Critical Middleware Upgrades have automated processes and improved the overall system, while the introduction of the Key Life Cycle Management System (KLMS) strengthened data encryption and security.
- NIMC's Database
 Upgrades improved processing speed and service delivery significantly.

TOP NEWS INSIDE:



4. Operational Efficiency and Data Integrity

Engr. Coker's reforms have greatly improved operational efficiency and data accuracy.

- A major achievement was the reduction of the Manual Adjudication Backlog, clearing over 6 million records by October 2024 and improving database accuracy.
- Self-Service Modifications allowed over 300,000 records to be processed independently, enhancing both local and diaspora service accessibility.

Global Expansion and Diaspora Engagement

Engr. Coker has expanded NIMC's global reach, making services more accessible to Nigerians abroad.

 Over 200 diaspora enrollment centers were established, allowing Nigerians worldwide easy access to identity services.

6. Staff Empowerment and Capacity Building

Recognizing the importance of staff development, Engr. Coker introduced programs to enhance skills and morale.

 Training in cybersecurity and technical skills, along with staff retreats, have contributed to a more motivated and efficient workforce.

7. Strengthened Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

Engr. Coker has strengthened relationships with key stakeholders, enhancing collaboration across sectors.

 NIMC's collaboration with federal agencies, like the FIRS, NPoPC, NIS, etc has streamlined processes and improved overall efficiency.

8. Sustainable Infrastructure and Energy Solutions

To ensure sustainable operations, **Engr. Coker** led the modernization of NIMC's infrastructure.

- Investments in high-capacity servers and energy-efficient UPS systems have made NIMC's operations more reliable and energy-efficient.
- Expanded cloud computing capabilities are supporting new initiatives like the e ID card scheme and HA-NVS.

Looking Forward

Engr. Coker's first year at NIMC has laid a solid foundation for continued growth and modernization. With a focus on improving service delivery, expanding global outreach, and enhancing security, NIMC is well-positioned for the future, continuing to serve Nigerians effectively both at home and abroad.

This version captures the highlights of **Engr. Coker's** leadership and the transformative changes at NIMC in a more concise format.



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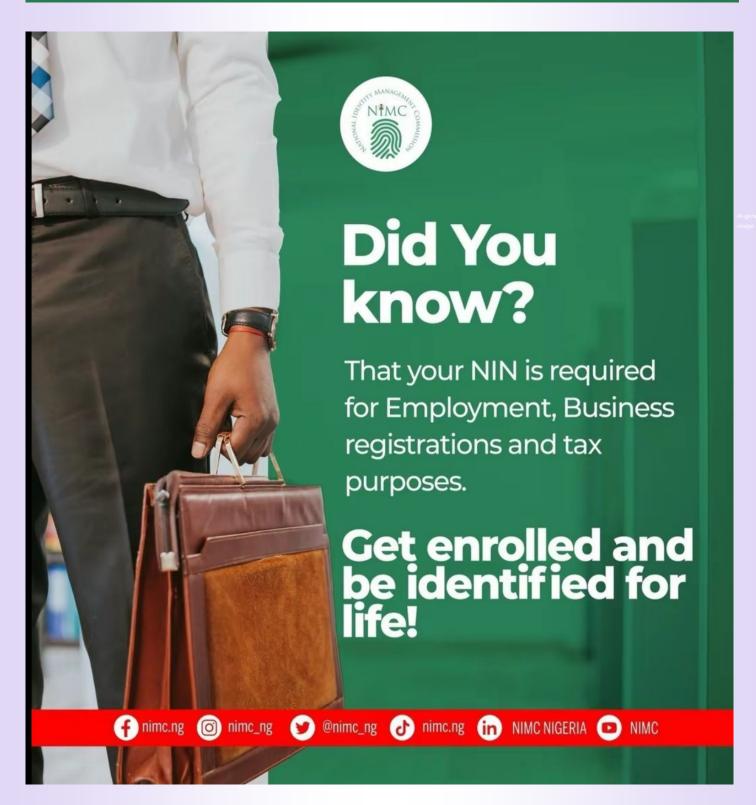


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THE SELF-MODIFICATION SERVICE DRIVE TO INCREASING

ENROLMENT IN TARABA STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Introduction: The Need for Accessible Identity Services

In recent years, the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) has expanded its efforts to make the National Identification Number (NIN) registration process more accessible and efficient across Niaeria. In Taraba State, a significant part of this push includes the introduction and promotion of the Self-Modification Service Drive aimed at encouraging local residents to take ownership of their identification processes. The drive is a key initiative that enables residents to update and modify their NIN details through convenient digital platforms, which has proven essential in bridging gaps in enrollment, particularly in underserved and remote areas.

The Role of the Self-Modification Service in Increasing Enrolment

Self-modification services are signed to allow individuals to easily update or correct their NIN details without having to visit the registration centres. This service is especially beneficial for those who may have errors in their data, such as incorrect spellings of names, wrong dates of birth, or missing information that could hinder their enrolment. By offering a simpler, more accessible means for individuals to modify their information, NIMC has empowered communities to take an active role in their registration and identification processes.

In Taraba State, the adoption of the Self-Modification Service has seen a notable increase in enrolment, particularly among local residents who previously found it difficult to travel to registration centres due to distance, financial constraints, or time limitations. By offering a more user-friendly option, NIMC has reduced the barriers that once discouraged participation, ensuring that more individuals from various Local Government Areas (LGAs) can now complete their registration.

Strategic Outreach in Taraba State: Community Engagement and Awareness

sianificant element of the Modification Service drive has been the strategic outreach efforts undertaken by NIMC across the state. In collaboration with local governments, community leadand media outlets, NIMC ers, launched awareness campaigns to ensure that citizens are well-informed about the benefits and availability of the Selfde- Modification Service. These campaigns have been particularly effective in educating rural communities, where access to information and technology may be limited. Community leaders, such as traditional rulers and local councillors, have been instrumental in spreading the message and encouraging their constituents to participate in the NIN registration and self-modification processes. Through town hall meetings, local radio broadcasts, and information dissemination via social media platforms, these efforts have successfully reached wider audiences, contributing to a surge in public interest and participation in the NIN program.



Approach to Registration

have served as essential partners in en-process forward. suring that the Self-Modification Service The Future of NIN Registration in Taraba reaches as many residents as possible. By working together with LGA officials, NIMC has been able to conduct registration drives, set up mobile enrolment centers, and offer educational support to those unfamiliar with the digital tools required for self-modification. The integration of local government structures into the process has enabled NIMC to reach remote areas more efficiently and ensure that no one is left behind in the quest for universal identity registration.

Success Stories: How the Service is Transforming Communities

The impact of the Self-Modification Service drive has already begun to show **Across** through measurable results. Taraba State and its LGAs, the number of individuals successfully enrolled and who have updated their records has steadily risen. Many residents who initially faced challenges with NIN registration, due to incorrect or missing data, have now been able to complete their enrolment, leading to an increase in the total number of registered individuals. One notable success story comes from [insert LGA or community], where a dedicated awareness campaign led

Collaboration with LGAs: A Seamless by local leaders and supported by NIMC's outreach efforts resulted in a One of the key factors driving the suc- 25% increase in registrations within just cess of the Self-Modification Service in two months. Such success stories under-Taraba State is the collaboration be-score the importance of collaboration tween NIMC and the various Local Gov-between NIMC, LGAs, and local comernment Areas (LGAs). The state's LGAs munities in driving the NIN registration

State: A Model for Other Regions

As the Self-Modification Service drive continues to grow, the lessons learned in Taraba State can serve as a model for other states and regions. By ensuring that the Self-Modification Service is accessible, well-promoted, and supported by local communities, NIMC has set a standard for increasing enrolment and improving national identity access.

In the coming months, NIMC plans to enhance the service with additional features, including an even more simplified digital platform and greater outreach through partnerships with mobile network operators and technology firms. The ultimate goal is to ensure that every resident of Taraba State, and indeed every Nigerian, has the opportunity to be properly identified and gain access to the many services that the NIN enables.

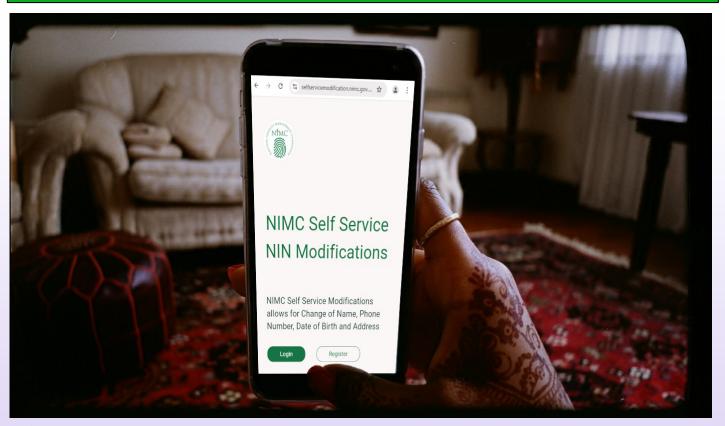




Conclusion: Continuing the Push for Universal Registration

The Self-Modification Service drive represents a critical component in NIMC's strategy to increase NIN enrolment and improve access to digital identity services across Nigeria. Through strategic partnerships with local governments, media, and communities, NIMC has empowered citizens in Taraba State to take control of their own identification processes. With sustained efforts, NIMC aims to ensure that every Nigerian has access to secure, reliable, and recognized identity services, thus contributing to the growth of a more inclusive and digitally empowered nation.





Al image

TECHNOLOGY-INNOVATIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION...by Kingsley O. David



National The Identity Commis-Management sion was established by Act an of parliament: NIMC Act No. 23 of 2007, to establish, own. oper-

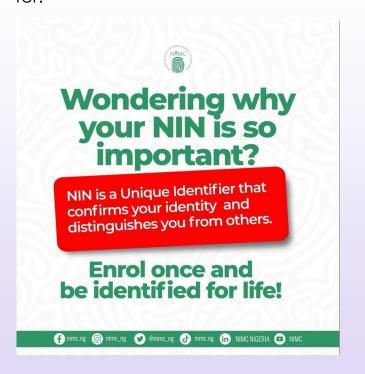
ate, maintain and manage the National Identity Database in Nigeria, register persons covered by the Act, assign a unique National Identification Number, issue a General Multipurpose Card. Additionally, the Commission conducts identity verification, authentication and harmonizes existing Databases of Ministries, Departments and Agencies - disparate databases, with the National Identity Database.

NIMC is an IT-based foundational identity provider cum regulator, poised to serve Nigerians and legal residents by providing enrolment, authentication, verifications and card issuance vices. These services are provided in collaboration with licensed partners and donor agencies, to reach a wider audience, especially, the marginalized, underserved, vulnerable and unreached communities, to promote equity and inclusion as well as to increase enrolment data that will facilitate national planning and socio-economic empowerment of citizens.

Within the last decade (2013-2023), the Commission has introduced groundbreaking technology driven innovations to enhance operations and achieve mission objectives.

These innovations which cuts the entire spectrum of its operations: Enrolments, Verification, Authentication, and Card production and distriservices, bution has remarkably improved service delivery and promoted efficiency by reducing turn-around time leading to high level of productivity and optimization of resources.

These gains were made possible through partnership and collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the digital identity management subsector of the digital economy by fostering a culture of mutual trust, loyalty and cooperation in the project planning, coordination and implementation process, to promote sustainable growth and development in the sector.





TECHNOLOGY-INNOVATIONS AND SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION.....CONT'D

Recent Innovations in Card Management Services determined to improve Customer Service Experience:

Recent innovations in the National Identity Card scheme are quite impressive. Plans are on by the federal government to launch a new national identity card with payment and social service delivery capabilities. This innovative card, powered by AfriGo, a subsidiary of the Nigerian Interbank Settlement Systems (NIBSS) of the Central Bank of Nigeria, will enable citizens to access various government and private intervention services, including financial transactions, healthcare and education. It is a two card program designed as a National Identity card and social safety net card.

The AfriGo card scheme is an indigenous financial solution/scheme with transaction in local currency (Naira), determined to reduce excessive exposure to foreign currency (Forex). It will compete favorably with other card schemes like Master Card and Verve Card etc, whose transactions and operations are dominated by foreign currencies. It will serve as a payment gateway for the general multipurpose e-ID card. Also, it has two applets and thirty-two wallets which will be activated for several social intervention programs of interests.

When operational, citizens and legal residents can request for the card through a self-service portal being developed. The card will increase access to financial services and ensure stability and financial inclusion for the

unbanked, improve efficiency in government service delivery, and empower citizens to assert their identity and benefit from social services.

Conclusion:

Conclusively, the integration of technological innovations in the National Identity Management Commission service delivery processes like the introduction of the Self-Service Modules will significantly improve customer service experience, increase efficiency, and enhance security.

Furthermore, by implementing a robust Self-service framework

that encompasses the entire spectrum of the Commission's ser-

vices, will promote the Commission's corporate reputa-

tion, visibility, patronage, productive capacity and cohesion.

This would engender socio-economic empowerment of citizens in all social brackets, promote national unity and guarantee equality in the distribution of socio-economic empowerments in the administration of social intervention programs of the government using the National Identification Number – NIN, as a unique identifi-

er. It would also enhance customer satisfaction experience and national security needed to support national development and international cooperation.

NATIONAL DAY OF IDENTITY 2024



The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) celebrated National Day of Identity on September 16th 2024, at the NAF Conference Centre in Abuja. This year's event marked the 6th edition of National Day of Identity and brought together key dignitaries, government officials, and NIMC staff to highlight the importance of digital identity in driving Nigeria's socio-economic development.

The theme for this year's commemoration, "Digital Public Infrastructure: Enabling Access to Services in Nigeria," underscored the critical role of digital identity in shaping the future of Nigeria, particularly in

terms of economic inclusion, public service delivery, and national development. In her welcome address, the Director-General/CEO of NIMC, **Engr. Abisoye Coker-Odusote**, eloquently spoke about the Commission's significant contributions to the nation's identity management landscape.

She highlighted the milestone achievement of enrolling over 110 million Nigerians into the National Identity Database, emphasizing how this massive reach has positioned NIMC as a key enabler of access to vital services such as healthcare, financial inclusion, and social welfare. She stated, "As we commemorate National Identity Day, we reflect on the crucial role that digital identity plays in enabling access to essential services and driving national growth. Our work at NIMC is vital to the success of government initiatives, such as the Student Loan Scheme, and the advancement of our digital public infrastructure to build a more resilient and inclusive economy."

The DG's speech set the tone for the day's celebrations, urging all Nigerians to unite with a renewed sense of purpose in advancing the country's digital public infrastructure. She emphasized that such infrastructure supports everything from entrepreneurship to gender equality and healthcare, reinforcing NIMC's commitment to building an inclusive and sustainable economy.

The event was graced by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Senator George Akume. In his address, Senator Akume reiterated the government's focus on leveraging Digital Public Infra-



structure (DPI) to improve access to services like healthcare, education, and financial inclusion. He also pointed to the essential role a strong digital identity system plays in enhancing transparency, supporting sustainable development, and boosting the success of key government programs like the student loan initiative and housing projects.

President Tinubu, through his representative, commended NIMC for its tireless efforts in advancing Nigeria's digital identity system. He recognized the Commission's pivotal role in driving economic growth, promoting inclusion, and providing essential services across the country. This recognition reaffirmed the importance of digital identity as a tool for national progress.

NATIONAL DAY OF IDENTITY 2024

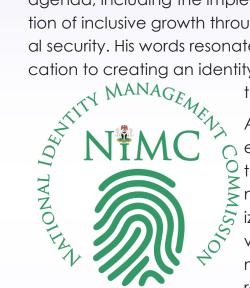


Honorable Minister of Interior, **Mr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo**, also delivered a powerful address, emphasizing the government's commitment to using identity management as a catalyst for inclusive growth. The Minister reiterated the need for a secure verifiable identity system to ensure equitable public service delivery, bolster national security, and promote the welfare of every Nigerian citizen. He also as-

sured the public that the government is committed to safeguarding data privacy and ensuring that identity management systems remain secure and transparent.

Minister Tunji-Ojo outlined key commitments under the administration's Renewed Hope agenda, including the implementation of robust data protection policies, the promotion of inclusive growth through identity management, and the strengthening of national security. His words resonated with all attendees, reinforcing the government's dedication to creating an identity system that enables every Nigerian to thrive and unlock

their full potential.



A major highlight of the event was the unveiling of the new NIMC logo. This new logo marks a modernized and forward-thinking visual identity for the Commission, symbolizing NIMC's role in shaping Nigeria's fu-



ture through innovative identity management solutions. To mark this milestone, the winners of the NIMC logo competition were honored and presented with gifts. The competition, which attracted numerous creative submissions from across the country, saw the winning designs being celebrated for their embodiment of NIMC's values of security, inclusivity, and progress.







The day also included panel discussions featuring experts from the fields of technology, identity management, security, and government services. These panels explored the intersections of digital identity, economic growth, and public service delivery, offering valuable insights into how Nigeria can maximize the benefits of its national identity system.

NATIONAL DAY OF IDENTITY 2024

The event wrapped up with a captivating cultural display by staff of the Commission, showcasing Nigeria's rich heritage through traditional music, dances, and performances. The cultural showcase served as a reminder of the diverse and unified nation that NIMC strives to represent through its work in identity management.







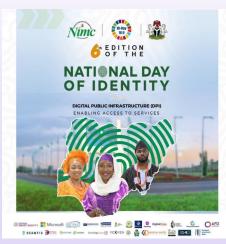






The National Day of Identity 2024 event not only celebrated the strides made in identity management but also reinforced the collective commitment of all Nigerians to building a stronger, more inclusive, and resilient economy.

All in all, the work of the National Identity Management Commission is central to Nigeria's development, and National Day of Identity 2024 served as a powerful reminder of the role that digital identity plays in creating a more equitable and prosperous society. The Commission remains steadfast in its mission to provide every Nigerian with a secure, accessible, and verifiable identity, which is critical to unlocking the full potential of the nation.







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DG/CEO'S ACOLADES (PHOTOS)













EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN TARABA STATE

Introduction: NIMC's Collaborative Approach to Expanding Identity Access In Taraba State, the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) has prioritized partnerships with local stakeholders to underscore the importance of the National Identification Number (NIN). These collaborations, involving government entities, media outlets, and community leaders, not only boost public awareness but also enhance access to identity services across the region. This unified approach reinforces NIMC's commitment to providing inclusive and secure identity registration services for all Nigerians.

Engaging Key Institutions and Leaders State Taraba Across

On April 23, 2024, the Regional Coordinator (RC) for North East 2, Mr. Favour Odetah, along with the Taraba State NIMC team, embarked on strategic outreach visits to several influential institutions across Taraba State. These visits included engagements with the Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Taraba Television (TTV), Taraba Broadcasting Service (TSBS), Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Jalingo, and the office of the Executive Chairman of Ardo-Kola, LGA. Each meeting provided an opportunity for the RC and his team to highlight the importance of the National Identification Number (NIN) as a vital national resource. The visits also encouraged collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing public awareness and participation in the NIN registration process.

Bridging Communities through Traditional Leadership, Media Partnerships, and Institutional Engagements, including FMC Jalingo

A significant aspect of these outreach efforts was the meeting with traditional rulers at the Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, where the Regional Coordinator (RC) North East 2, Mr. Favour Odetah, emphasized the critical role of the National Identification Number (NIN) in accessing vital national services and resources. The RC underscored that traditional leaders are invaluable advocates in promoting NIN registration, particularly in rural communities.

Furthermore, alliances with media outlets such as Taraba Television (TTV) and Taraba State Broadcasting Service (TSBS) have opened new avenues for public education. Through television and radio broadcasts, NIMC has been able to reach diverse audiences and raise awareness, even in the most remote of Taraba. areas

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN TARABA STATE CONT'D.....

During the visits to these institutions, including FMC Jalingo, the RC provided a detailed explanation of the importance of the NIN and informed the management teams about the President's approval for its usage. At each location, the RC presented copies of the NIMC Act and the official gazette signed by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, titled Mandatory Use of National Identification Number (NIN) for Digital Services and National Public Key Infrastructure (nPKI) Compliance, Service-Wide.

Positive Impact: A Measurable Increase in NIN Enrollments and Community Support

These collaborative efforts have fostered strong community backing and heightened awareness of NIMC's mission. Over the last quarter, Taraba State has seen a 15% increase in NIN enrollments, a testament to the effectiveness of these strategic partnerships. Local leaders, traditional authorities, and media representatives have all pledged continued support, aligning with NIMC's goals to improve identity access for residents and bridge the gap in underserved areas.



A group photograph featuring the management and staff of Taraba State Broadcasting Service (TSBS) alongside the Regional Coordinator North East 2 (RC NE2) and team members from the NIMC Taraba State Office during a courtesy visit.



Mr. Favour Odetah, the Regional Coordinator North East 2, during a presentation to the Traditional Councils of Taraba State on the importance of the National Identification Number (NIN) to the entire community.



From left to right: The Regional Coordinator North East 2, Mr. Favour Odetah; Mrs. Wabuji Ishaku, Enrollment Officer, NIMC Taraba; Mr. Ismala Zakari, Chairman of Ardo-Kola LGA, Taraba State; Mrs. Serah Babangida Siksumi, State Coordinator, NIMC Taraba State; and Mr. Isa Ishaku, Media Staff, NIMC Taraba State.

STAYING HEALTHY DURING

CHRISTMAS



Go FOR THE HEALTHY ALTERNATIVES

Even if a meal is already somewhat healthy, there is always room for improvement.

If brunch is not your thing, pick the HEALTHIEST options and stick to them.



DRINK MORE WATER

During the holidays, people often don't worry about how much water they drink.

But one of the most basic approaches for maintaining good health is to drink lots of water.



AVOID ALCOHOL & OTHER LIQUID CALORIES

Most people associate the holidays with eating more food, especially sugary drinks and alcohol. Remember, avoiding sugary and alcoholic beverages is one of the simplest methods to manage your weight, and avoid WEIGHT RELATED MORBIDITY



KEEP ACTIVE

If you lack the motivation or time to exercise, do it first thing in the morning so that it can become part of your waking-up ROUTINE.



REFLEX, RECHARGE AND REFRESH

The holidays are a time to unwind. Make sure you take time for yourself even if you may find yourself returning to family meals, office parties, and other holiday celebrations.

STAFF APPRECIATION OF DG'S STAFF WELFARE INITIATIVES (PHOTOS)











INDIGENOUS FESTIVE ENTERTAINMENT: CELEBRATING CULTURAL HERITAGE ACROSS TARABA STATE

Introduction: Festivals and traditional celebrations are an essential part of Nigeria's rich cultural heritage, and indigenous festive entertainment is key in preserving and showcasing these traditions. Throughout Nigeria, festivals serve not only as a time for community bonding but also as vibrant expressions of identity and unity. Taraba State, known for its rich cultural diversity, stands out as a prime example of how indiaenous entertainment contributes to cultural preservation and community engagement. From the Mambilla Plateau in Sardauna LGA to the lush landscapes of Gashaka Gumti National Park, and across all other LGAs in the state, indigenous festivals bring people together to celebrate their unique identities.

The Role of Indigenous Entertainment in Festivals: Indigenous festive entertainment includes music, dance, storytelling, drama, and traditional games, each offering insights into the cultural practices of different ethnic groups. In Taraba State, these cultural expressions play a vital role in festivals that celebrate local cultures, stories, and traditions.

1. Music and Dance: Music and dance are central to indigenous festivals across Taraba State. In Sardauna LGA, particularly on the Mambilla Plateau, the Shadi festival features lively dance performances, accompanied by traditional music and drumbeats that celebrate the region's rich heritage. Similarly, in the Jalingo LGA, the annual Badi Festival showcases performances from local communities, blending traditional songs and dances to celebrate the history and beliefs of the Jukun people.

In Donga, Wukari, and other areas, festivals like the Shadi and Tiv New Year's Day celebrations also offer vibrant musical expressions that highlight the diversity of Taraba's communities.

- 2. Storytelling and Drama: Storytelling is another integral aspect of indigenous entertainment in Taraba. In many LGAs, elders gather during festivals to pass down oral histories, often through dramatic performances or verbal storytelling. The Tiv people in Donga LGA, for instance, have a rich tradition of oral literature that is passed down through generations during festive seasons. Similarly, in Gashaka LGA, near Gashaka Gumti National Park, stories of the land's history and cultural significance are shared through lively narrations and dramatic reenactments, offering valuable insights into the indigenous cultures of the area.
- 3. Traditional Games and Competitions: Traditional games are a popular form of entertainment during festivals in Taraba State. In areas like Bali, Zing, and Ardo-Kola LGAs, wrestling and other physical competitions are central to the celebration of indigenous traditions. These games are not only entertaining but also serve as a display of strength, skill, and courage, embodying the values and customs of the local communities. In some LGAs, such as Ussa and Karim-Lamido, traditional competitions are held to encourage community participation and promote physical fitness.

INDIGENOUS FESTIVE ENTERTAINMENT: CELEBRATING CULTURAL HERITAGE ACROSS TARABA STATE CONT'D...

Cultural Preservation through Festive Entertainment: Indigenous festive entertainment in Taraba is not just about fun and celebration but also about preserving cultural heritage. In each of the 16 LGAs, festivals play a critical role in passing down languages, customs, and traditions that have been practiced for centuries. In Sardauna LGA, the Shadi festival is a prominent example of how the Mambilla people celebrate their cultural identity. In Wukari LGA, the Jukun people celebrate their unique history through traditional rituals, dances, and music. This helps ensure that future generations stay connected to their roots and heritage, even in the face of modernization.

Indigenous Festivals as Tourist Attractions: Indigenous festivals in Taraba State also have the potential to boost tourism and contribute to the state's economy. The Mambilla Plateau in Sardauna LGA, with its stunning views and the Shadi festival, attracts visitors from across the country and beyond. Gashaka Gumti National Park in Gashaka LGA, known for its biodiversity, is also a major draw for eco-tourists, especially during festive periods when the cultural celebrations create a vibrant atmosphere. Similarly, in Jalingo LGA, the Badi Festival draws people to witness the exciting displays of local talent and traditional performances, increasing tourism and local business opportunities.

Conclusion: Indigenous festive entertainment plays a significant role in shaping the cultural landscape of Taraba State. Across all the 16 LGAs, from the Mambilla Plateau in Sardauna LGA to the plains of Karim-Lamido, indigenous festivals celebrate the diverse cultural heritage of the people of Taraba. Through music, dance, storytelling, and traditional games, these festivals not only provide entertainment but also serve as vital means of preserving and sharing the unique traditions that define each community. As Taraba State continues to embrace its cultural diversity, indigenous festive entertainment will remain a key part of its identity, strengthening communal bonds and showcasing its rich heritage to the world.



NIN Enhances border security and streamlines travel procedures.

SIGHT AND VISIONS FROM NIMC'S OPERATIONAL AREAS...by Isa Ishaku

Introduction

The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of identity management in Nigeria, with its operations spanning across diverse regions of the country. From the bustling urban centers to the remotest rural areas, NIMC has worked tirelessly to ensure that every Nigerian has access to secure and inclusive identity services. This article delves into the sights and visions emerging from NIMC's operational areas, exploring the tangible and intangible impacts the Commission is making in different regions and how its efforts are aligning with the broader vision of a unified and secure national identity system.

Bridging the Geographical Divide: Access for All Nigerians

One of the most striking aspects of NIMC's work is its commitment to ensuring that identity services are not limited by geography. The Commission recognizes that urban centers are often more easily reached with services, while rural areas face more logistical challenges. As part of its outreach strategy, NIMC has developed targeted initiatives to ensure that every Nigerian, regardless of location, is able to access National Identification Number (NIN) registration services.

In urban areas, where populations are dense, NIMC has implemented large-scale enrolment drives, making use of permanent enrolment centers that are well-equipped to handle high volumes of registrants.



From left: Honorable Commissioner for Digital Economy and Innovation, Taraba State, Mr. Nonso Gideon; District Head of Jalingo and Galadiman Muri, Alhaji Tukur Abba Tukur; and NIMC Taraba State Coordinator, Mrs. Serah Siksumi Babangida, during a courtesy visit to the district head's palace for sensitization and enlightenment on the use of the National

However, it is in rural and underserved areas where NIMC's commitment truly shines. By deploying mobile enrollment units and conducting community outreach programs, NIMC ensures that no one is left behind. These mobile units travel to remote regions, providing much-needed services and breaking down the barriers posed by distance and inaccessibility.

Additionally, NIMC has worked closely with state governments and local authorities to set up temporary registration points in hard -to-reach communities. This approach has allowed the Commission to enroll previously excluded populations and ensure that everyone can benefit from the services tied to the National Identity Number, including access to education, healthcare, and government services.

SIGHT AND VISIONS FROM NIMC'S OPERATIONAL AREAS CONT'D...

Reach Through Community Engagement

In addition to its efforts in expanding access to NIN registration, NIMC has also forged strong partnerships with local governments, community leaders, and civil society organizations. These collaborations have proven to be key in fostering trust and facilitating the acceptance of the NIN system across Nigeria.

In various operational areas, traditional rulchampions of the NIN initiative. Traditional leaders, who hold significant influence in their communities, have played a crucial role in encouraging people to register for their NINs.

By understanding the cultural dynamics and concerns of their people, these leaders have been instrumental in mitigating the reluctance to participate in national programs, which is often seen in rural settings.

For example, in certain regions, traditional community have organized councils meetings where NIMC staff are invited to explain the benefits of the NIN and answer questions. These meetings often lead to increased enrollment as the community receives first-hand information from trusted local figures. NIMC's approach to community involvement ensures that the voices of the people are heard and their concerns addressed, making the process smoother and more inclusive.

Moreover, NIMC has partnered with local media outlets such as regional radio statelevision networks, further tions and

Local Partnerships: Strengthening NIMC's strengthening its outreach efforts. By using these platforms, NIMC has reached a wider audience, ensuring that information about NIN registration and its importance is communicated effectively. These media campaigns are particularly impactful in areas where literacy rates are low, as they allow information to be broadcast in local languages, making it accessible to all.

The Role of Media in Public Education: **Shaping Public Perception**

ers and local leaders have become Media partnerships have proven to be one of the most effective tools in raising public awareness and educating the population about the importance of the NIN. Through collaborations with outlets like Taraba Television (TTV) and Taraba State Broadcasting Service (TSBS), NIMC has been able to reach millions of people, using television and radio to broadcast essential messages about the NIN and its significance.

> The success of these media campaigns is evident in the growing number of individuals registering for their NIN, particularly in areas where traditional methods of communication may not have been effective. Media outlets have provided an avenue for NIMC to engage with the public at scale, allowing for the dissemination of vital information and reinforcing the Commission's message of inclusivity and accessibility.

> Envisioning the Future: The Role of Digital Identity in National Development

SIGHT AND VISIONS FROM NIMC'S OPERATIONAL AREAS CONT'D...

operational areas are already beginning ed in the national identity system. to see the benefits of this vision as more These positive results are a testament to individuals are enrolled into the NIN sys- the power of strategic partnerships and tem, and its utility begins to unfold.

sion is the push for greater compliance ues to expand its reach, it is confident with the National Public Key Infrastruc- that it can achieve even greater sucture (nPKI) standards, ensuring that the cess, further bridging the identity gap NIN is not only a means of identification and ensuring that all Nigerians are embut also a secure tool for accessing es-powered with a secure, digital identity. sential services.

With the approval granted by the Presi- ly Empowered Nigeria dent for the mandatory use of the NIN, NIMC is working to create a seamless integration between national databases and digital platforms. As this vision is realized, Nigerians will be able to access services more efficiently and securely, contributing to national development and improving the delivery of government services.

The Tangible Impact: NIN Enrolment and Community Support

ter, Taraba State alone has seen a 15% identity is the key to accessing essential

Looking to the future, NIMC envisions a increase in enrolments, a clear indication Nigeria where every citizen is digitally in-that NIMC's collaborative approach is tegrated into a national identity system working. These numbers reflect not only a that unlocks access to a wide range of successful outreach strategy but also services. This vision includes the integra- growing community support for the NIN tion of the National Identification Num- initiative. Local leaders, media partners, ber with digital services across various and civil society organizations are all ralsectors, including healthcare, banking, lying behind the Commission's mission, education, and social welfare. NIMC's ensuring that more Nigerians are includ-

community involvement in achieving the At the heart of NIMC's digital identity vi- Commission's goals. As the NIMC contin-

Conclusion: A Unified Vision for a Digital-

The sights and visions emerging from NIMC's operational areas underscore the Commission's ongoing efforts to build a unified, secure, and inclusive identity management system for all Nigerians.

Through strategic partnerships with local authorities, traditional leaders, and media outlets, NIMC has successfully enhanced public awareness and participation in the National Identification Number One of the most measurable outcomes registration process. These efforts are not of these outreach efforts is the increase only helping to integrate Nigerians into in NIN enrolments in Taraba State and the digital economy but are also laying other operational areas. In the last quar- the foundation for a future where digital

SIGHT AND VISIONS FROM NIMC'S OPERATIONAL AREAS CONT'D...

services and resources.

NIMC's work in its operational areas is an embodiment of its vision—a future where every Nigerian has access to a secure digital identity, driving national development and transforming the way services are delivered across the country.





During the visit of the National Health Insurance Agency (NHIA) to the NIMC Taraba State Office, discussions centered on collaborative efforts to streamline identity verification processes and enhance service accessibility for health insurance beneficiaries.



From left: Former NIMC State Coordinator, Taraba State, Mr. Moses Mamidu; Honorable Commissioner for Digital Economy and Innovation, Taraba State, Mr. Nonso Gideon; NIMC Taraba State Coordinator, Mrs. Serah Siksumi Babangida; Provost, College of Education Zing, Prof. Ejika Sambo; and TY Danjuma Foundation State Coordinator, Taraba State, Mr. Asogwa Ishaku, during the 2024 ID4D Celebration at the State Office.



During the visit of the Federal Mortgage Bank representatives to the NIMC Taraba State Office, discussions were held to explore areas of collaboration and to enhance service offerings.

IMAGES FROM STATES CELEBRATION OF THE 6TH NATIONAL DAY OF IDENTITY















OGUN STATE







ONDO STATE







DELTA STATE







ADAMAWA STATE

IMAGES FROM STATES' CELEBRATION OF THE 6TH NATIONAL DAY OF IDENTITY







ANAMBRA STATE







KOGI STATE







KADUNA STATE





SOKOTA STATE







OSUN STATE

Achievements

significant strides in made knowledge, improving processes, and en- QA UNIT: One Year Achievement of Engr. Abisove's tenure in office.

Grievance Redress in an Organization" and "An Assessment of the Rate of Extortion in NIMC and its Implications." These studies identified organizational challeng- We are pleased to report that we have es and proposed actionable recommenpractices and mitigate extortion.

The department also concluded nine edi- The Self-Service mobile app was launched "An Afternoon with Research" (September 2023 – July 2024), which sensitized staff on various topics, including the DG/CEO's 5were facilitated through a one-year Zoom cessful registration. license, ensuring participation across the states.

expanded the e-library ment Knowledge Management Repository, granting all staff access to critical resources, regardless of location.

Additionally, staff benefited from specialized training in data analytics, grievance redress mechanisms, and research man-

NIMC RESEARCH UNIT: Records Milestone agement, equipping them with the tools to deliver on the Commission's mandate.

The Research Unit of the National Identity These initiatives underscore the depart-Management Commission (NIMC) has ment's commitment to excellence and infostering novation in driving NIMC's goals forward.

hancing staff capacity within just one year Over the past year, the Quality Assurance (QA) unit has played a pivotal role in sup-Director-General/CEO porting the In June 2024, two impactful reports were achieving the mandate of the Commissubmitted to the DG/CEO: The Role of sion. As the commission's QA unit, our primary responsibility involves rigorously testing software applications to ensure they meet the required standards and are fit for their intended purposes.

successfully completed or are nearing dations to align NIMC with global best completion on several key solutions, including:

NIMC Self-Service Mobile App

tions of the capacity-building programme, to significantly reduce the stress and inconvenience faced by Nigerians during the enrolment process. It aims to streamline the procedure, making it more userfriendly and accessible, thereby enhanc-Point Agenda and its alignment with the ing the overall experience for users while President's 8-Point Agenda. Virtual sessions minimizing time and effort required for suc-

NIMC Self-Service Web Modification

The Self-Service web modification app was developed to alleviate the stress and In knowledge management, the depart- difficulties often encountered by Nigerians when modifying their records. This app aims to streamline the modification process, making it more accessible and userfriendly, thereby reducing delays and enhancing the overall experience for users who need to update their information.

NIMC Contactless Enrollment Software

hances the system's functionality, allowing distribution of benefits. for more efficient and secure data collec- PIU Driven Projects tion, in alignment with national objectives for Metadata & Device Management management.

NIMC Android Enrollment System

to boost the application's stability and ro-cient management. bustness. These improvements

quality data that meets international stand-dation framework that ensures the integrity ards for data security and integrity. Ultimate- and security of our systems. It manages the ly, this will result in populating the NIMC Na-entire lifecycle of cryptographic keys, from tional Identity Database (NIDB) with reliable, generation to revocation, guaranteeing the secure, and trustworthy information.

NIMC NADRA Middleware Change Requests data.

The robust upgrades made to the NIMC Mid- Billing dleware by NADRA will significantly enhance This component facilitates accurate and efbirth (DoB) modifications, among several seamless financial operations. proving efficiency and security within the mation System (M&E MIS) system.

Conditional Cash Transfers

or other social objectives. One of the key improvement. benefits of these programs is the creation of These accomplishments demonstrate our ments often need to establish and maintain port of the commission's mission. accurate records of beneficiaries. This process helps build a reliable database of indi-

viduals and households eliaible for social as-The contactless enrollment software now in-sistance, which can be used for other social cludes seamless integration with the Nation-programs and policy planning. This register al Population Commission, fulfilling the man-improves the targeting of resources, reduces date set by Mr. President. This update en-fraud, and enhances transparency in the

streamlined and modernized population This module enables comprehensive management of devices throughout their entire lifecycle, from initial onboarding. It stream-The enhancements made to the NIMC An-lines device tracking, monitoring, and condroid Enrollment System (AES) are designed trol, ensuring seamless integration and effi-

Key Lifecycle Management System (KLMS)

focus on ensuring the collection of high- Our KLMS is a robust authentication and valiconfidentiality, integrity, and authenticity of

NIMC's identity management service deliv- ficient billing processes, ensuring transparent ery. These upgrades include the implemen- and reliable financial management. It also tation of an amputee workflow to prevent enables precise reconciliation of transacsystem abuse and the automation of date of tions, minimizing discrepancies and ensuring

other critical enhancements aimed at im- Monitoring & Evaluation Management Infor-

Our M&E MIS serves as the primary reporting tool for the system, providing real-time insights and analytics to support informed de-Conditional cash transfers (CCTs) are social cision-making. It enables the tracking of key welfare programs where cash payments are performance indicators, identification of made to beneficiaries under certain condi-trends, and evaluation of system effectivetions, typically related to health, education, ness, ensuring data-driven optimization and

a credible social welfare register. By requir- unit's commitment to upholding the highest ing specific conditions to be met, govern-standards of quality and excellence in sup-



NIMC IT/IDD: Records of Achievements Under DG/CEO's Leadership

The National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) has witnessed transformative milestones under the visionary leadership of its Director General/CEO, Engineer Abisoye Odusote-Coker. Since assuming office, the reforms within the IT/Identity Database De- Analysis (BA) partment (IT/IDD), solidifying NIMC's role as an African leader in identity management.

Below are some of the notable achieve- Point Agenda: ments recorded by NIMC's IT/IDD in the past year:

1. Software Development Unit

The NIMC has tackled longstanding challenges in record modifications, enhancing operational efficiency:

ModApp Portal: Launched in October 2023, this platform streamlined date-of -birth (DoB) modification requests, with 140,000 records successfully treated, including 59,000 from the diaspora.

Self-Service Modification Web App: Intro- 4. Database Unit duced in February 2024, it empowers citizens to modify records remotely.

Middleware Upgrade: Completed in April 2024, ensuring enhanced functionality and system security.

2. Biometrics Unit

Faced with over 2.3 million records awaiting manual adjudication as of August 2023, the DG introduced measures to streamline biometrics processing:

Reduction of Pending Records: By Octo-

ber 2023, unique records awaiting adjudication dropped to fewer than 200,000, a massive improvement.

Enhanced Service Delivery: Biometrics services now operate with 24-hour turnaround times, ensuring faster customer service.

DG has spearheaded key innovations and 3. Quality Assurance (QA) and Business

The QA and BA units have implemented several critical projects aligned with NIMC's 5-

Self-Service Mobile App: Launched in September 2023, reducing the stress of physical enrolment.

Device Management System: Introduced in September 2023 to monitor and regulate enrollment devices at all centers.

NIMC eID Card Project: Commenced in March 2024, enabling citizens to conveniently request improved national identity cards.

Significant upgrades have been made to NIMC's core systems:

Database Upgrades: Migration of verification and application databases to advanced systems (19c) in August 2024.

Biometric Identity Verification: Development of an advanced system to reduce fraud risks and improve on boarding processes.



Global Expansion: Establishment of 200 CORPORATE AUDIT UNIT new diaspora enrollment centers across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, expanding NIMC's reach and solidifying its global reputation.

5. Data Center Modernization

Critical improvements to the data center's infrastructure have ensured operational resilience and efficiency:

- Grid Voltage Stabilizers: Installed in August 2024 to guarantee clean power supply and eliminate failures.
- Collaboration and Harmonization: Integration with the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) in November 2023 to enhance service delivery and data exchange.

6. Personnel Capacity Building

A focus on human capital development has resulted in:

- Cybersecurity Awareness Training: Delivered in November 2023 to enhance staff capabilities in safeguarding sensitive data.
- Workshops and Conferences: Participation in ID4Africa, NCS, and other jobrelated events in 2024, bridaina knowledge gaps and fostering innovation.

Conclusion: These innovations and achievements under Engineer Abisoye Odusote-Coker's leadership have not only enhanced the efficiency, security, and accessibility of NIMC's systems but have also positioned Nigeria as a trailblazer in identity management.

The Corporate Audit Unit of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) has achieved remarkable progress in its mandate to ensure the efficient use of resources, compliance with policies, and the improvement of processes. Under the visionary leadership of the Director-General/CEO, Engr. Abisoye Coker-Odusote, the Unit has delivered on key audit projects and activities that enhance the Commission's operational integrity.

1. Audit Reports:

- Internal audits are up-to-date, with reports completed for 2023 and the first two quarters of 2024.
- The ongoing external audit for 2024 and ISMS Surveillance Audit align with the ISO 27001:2022 standards.
- The DG/CEO approved ISO 27001:2022 training for departmental representatives, ensuring alignment with global standards.

2. Personnel Audit:

- Nationwide personnel audit, approved and funded by the DG/CEO, is near completion.
- Implementation of the predecessor's personnel audit recommendations commenced in September 2023.

3. Other Activities:

- Reviewed the Non-Current Assets Register and conducted annual stocktaking.
- Performed regular pre-audit reviews of payment vouchers.



4. Staff Training:

Employees benefited from training on IPSAS, investment management, ISMS standards, ICAN conferences, and a management retreat.

Impact of Activities

The Unit's efforts have significantly strengthened the Commission by:

Ensuring compliance with financial regulations and fostering accountability.

Proactively maintaining processes through ISMS audits to prevent losses and uphold public confidence.

Providing timely data for management Operational and Structural Enhancements reporting and enhancing resource efficiency.

Future Plans: The Unit remains committed to exploring proactive ways to improve its mandate, including advocating for automation to enhance efficiency and add value to NIMC's operations.

These milestones highlight the Corporate Audit Unit's dedication to transparency, effi-NIMC's processes.

SERVICOM UNIT: Innovations and Achievements Under the Leadership of NIMC DG/ **CEO**

The SERVICOM Unit of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) has rec-Coker-Odusote. Engr. Abisove achievements highlight the Commission's

commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and delivering exceptional service to Nigerians.

Key Recognitions

1. National Awards:

Most Improved Parastatal SERVICOM Unit (Team B), 2023 by SERVICOM National. 3rd Best Parastatal SERVICOM Unit (Team B), 2023 by SERVICOM National.

- 2. Reorganized the SERVICOM Unit into five sub-units for improved operational efficiency.
- 3. Expanded Customer Care Representatives to states and regions to enhance grassroots arievance resolution.

Customer-Centric Innovations

- 4. Updated the online Customer Satisfaction Test (CSAT) on the NIMC website to gauge public perception and customer satisfaction.
- ciency, and strengthening public trust in 5. Inaugurated the NIMC Parastatal SER-VICOM Committee to drive service delivery improvements through regular engagements.
 - 6. Expanded the Contact Center from 15 seats to 45, ensuring 24/7 availability for customer support.
- orded remarkable milestones under the ad-7. Introduced weekend and public holiday ministration of the Director General/CEO, operations to provide seamless week-long These services.

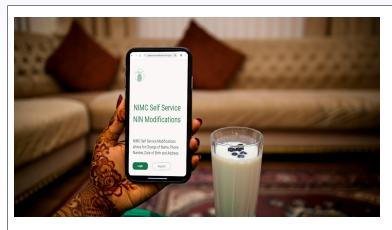


- vices and trends in customer care.
- agents, SERVICOM staff, and regional representa- cation to upholding NIMC's commitment to improvtives to boost efficiency.
- 10. Developed Quality Metrics to evaluate agent interactions and maintain service excellence.

Service Delivery Framework

8. Held monthly Knowledge Sharing Sessions (KSS) 11. Developed the NIMC Service Charter, which is to keep Contact Center agents updated on new ser- awaiting final approval and launch to streamline service delivery and ensure accountability.

9. Enhanced training programs for Contact Center These initiatives reflect the SERVICOM Unit's dediing customer satisfaction and operational efficiency. Under the dynamic leadership of Engr. Coker-Odusote, the Unit continues to enhance service delivery and foster trust among stakeholders, setting new benchmarks for excellence in public service.



FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME, OFFICE OR ANY OTHER CONVENIENT LOCATION YOU CAN MODIFY YOUR NIN DETAILS.

VISIT

http://selfservicemodification.nimc.gov.ng









Visit an Enrolment Centre Today to Get Enrolled

NIMC SOCIALS





Wedding ceremony of Head, Corporate Communications Unit NIMC, Mr Kayode Adegoke.



Staff of CCU NIMC celebrates their very own, Rosemaey Nwokemodo on her Birthday Anniversary







Staff of the Human Capital Management Department organized a surprise party to celebrate their boss, Mrs. Rhoda Jackden to mark her birthday.







Staff of the Finance and Investment Department organized a surprise party to celebrate their boss, Mr Akinola Abolaji to mark his birthday.







Internal Communications Sub-Unit Head, Nkem Omegara Celebrated her birthday the catholic way.



TRANSFORMING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY: THE DIRECTOR GENERAL/CEO'S VI-SIONARY LEADERSHIP IN DEPLOYING MANAGEENGINE SOLUTIONS... by Akilu Jega



NIMC, under the ex- mance and uptime. emplary leadership of Director General/ CEO, Engr Abisoye Coker Odusote, has embarked on a revolutionary journey to

processes, and bolster security. A pivotal milestone in this transformation has been the strategic deployment of Manage Engine modules/applications, seamlessly integrating cutting-edge technology to ele-- Increased first-call resolution rate by 30% vate the commission's performance.

The commission has successfully imple-mizing downtime mented the following Manage Engine modules: implemented by the service desk unit , of Enterprise services and Network infrastructure Department, (ESNI).

- 1. Service Desk: A comprehensive ITILready service management platform, streamlining incident, problem, change management.
- 2. Active Directory (AD) Manager: Simplifying AD management, ensuring secure and efficient user provisioning.
- 3. AD Self Service: Empowering users to tivity manage their own accounts, reducing helpdesk queries.
- 4. AD Audit: Providing real-time monitoring and auditing of AD changes, enhancing security and compliance.
- 5. OP Manager: Monitoring and managing Improved resource utilization IT infrastructure, ensuring optimal perfor-

6. Event Log Analyzer: Analyzing log data to detect security threats, compliance issues, and system anomalies.

Key Achievements Under Director General/CEO's Leadership

enhance operational The deployment of ManageEngine modefficiency, streamline ules has yielded remarkable benefits:

Operational Efficiency

- Reduced mean time to resolve (MTTR) by 40%
- Streamlined incident management, mini-

Security and Compliance

- Enhanced AD security through real-time auditing and monitoring
- Improved compliance with regulatory requirements
- and Proactive detection of security threats

Employee Empowerment

- Self-service portal reduced helpdesk queries by 25%
- Increased user autonomy and produc-

Infrastructure Optimization

- Proactive monitoring and management of IT infrastructure
- Reduced downtime by 20%



TRANSFORMING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY: THE DIRECTOR GENERAL/CEO'S VI-SIONARY LEADERSHIP IN DEPLOYING MANAGEENGINE SOLUTIONS.

ership

The success of this initiative is a testament to the Director General/CEO's visionary leadership and commitment to excellence. Under their guidance, the commission has:

- Fostered a culture of innovation and continuous improvement
- collaboration Encouraged and knowledge sharing among teams
- training

Director General/CEO's Visionary Lead- Conclusion: The Commissions deployment of ManageEngine modules, spearheaded by Director General/CEO, has transformed operational efficiency, security, and employee empowerment. This strategic initiative serves as a model for other organizations seeking to leverage technology for sustainable growth and excellence.

As the commission continues to push the boundaries of innovation, the Director General/CEO's leadership will remain instru- Invested in employee development and mental in driving progress, ensuring the organization remains at the forefront of technological advancements.



Al Image

ASSOCIATION OF SENIOR CIVIL SERVANTS OF NIGERIA: NIMC UNIT A REMARKABLE ONE YEAR WITH ENGR. ABISOYE COKER-ODUSOTE AT THE HELM OF AFFAIRS

welfare.

the five-point agenda.

These directorates and regional office structures have enriched the organizational structure with improved operational support and career progression for staff; these Furthermore, the introduction of the mandim worthy of applause.

achievement is the collaborative ap- inclusive promotion exercise. proach with which the administration has With these in mind, the prospect of aptaken towards collective bargaining and proaching the future with optimism benegotiations with the Staff labour union. This comes self-assuring; and we are persuaded robust relations and interactions between that the industrial harmony currently witthe management and the staff union have nessed in NIMC will birth renewed commitmade possible commendable achieve- ment to the attainment of the NIMC fivements.

These achievements connote; the constitution of the maiden staff welfare committee whose recommendations have been ap-

The staff labour union seeks out this oppor-proved by the Director-General to see the tunity of the One-year anniversary of Engr. return of staff bus scheme, introduction of Abisoye Coker-Odusote 's administration to transport allowance, and other bonuses applaud the giant strides recorded in the engineered to cushion the effect of the advancement of the NIMC vision and staff economic downturn, increased productivity, and welfare of staff members.

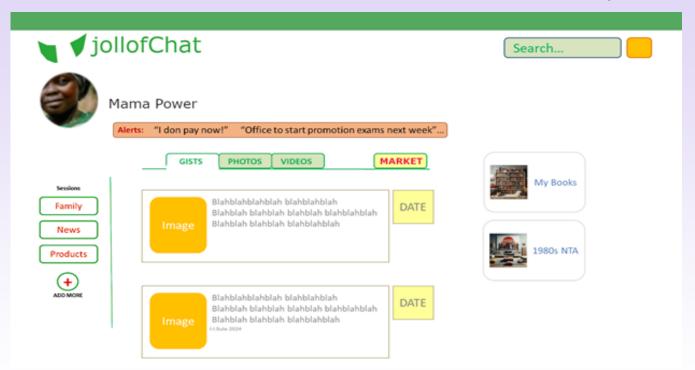
This administration has bent the chord of In furtherance to this relentless resolve to renewed hope towards the re-invigoration enhance staff productivity, this administraof the NIMC mandate through a five-point tive year has seen through the most freagenda that birthed the creation of Territo- quency of human capital development rial Directorates and additional regional su-through trainings and upskilling; more perperintendencies in all the geo-political sons have been trained in NIMC in the perizones to efficiently superintend the new od under review than ever recorded. This and improved strategic options wrought by manpower development strategy is in concordance with the performance-based initiative of the administration to maximize the career development potential of staff members.

strategic restructurings happened within agement information system for staff perthe first 100 days in office, a feat that we formance appraisal means that the implementation of staff promotion for this year In our opinion, the most praise worthy promises the most transparent and all-

> point agenda, and provide the necessary infrastructural backbone for citizens to affirm their identity.



DEVELOPING NIGERIA'S OWN INDIGENOUS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM...by Ismaila Sule



Concept image of a Nigerian social media platform account

Data and information in this digital age online group dedicated to website develbuilt around knowledge and values shared (Twitter), TikTok, orally, in the form of written text, drawn or WhatsApp, telegram, Bluesky and the like. captured images as well as audio and vid- Influence of Social Media eo in modern times.

video) globally. Schools, companies, mu- cial media pages. seums, governments, news agencies and even private individuals can say or show whatever they want on websites across the Web. According to siteefy.com, an

have become vital resources for the de-opment and matters, there were some 1.1 velopment of any nation in the world to-billion websites in the world as at October day. Humans beings have an intrinsic need 2024. A large amount of traffic goes to to communicate and share information, websites focused on social intercourse -Societies throughout history have been social media platforms like Facebook, X Instagram,

In the early days of the Internet, you need-The advent of the Internet widely opened ed to learn how to build and populate to the public in the 1990s led to a massive your own websites with content. Then explosion of information sharing whose blogs came along where you just subramifications are still being felt today. All of scribed to a service which you customized a sudden vast amounts of data and infor- then filled in your content into your blog mation have become available at your page like an online diary. Today, social very fingertips via computers and mobile media platforms like Facebook and others devices. The World Wide Web has provid-come with their own set templates and ed the interconnected means for people you don't do anything but join in and just to communicate and share information in share whatever content you have. No all possible digital forms (text, audio and technical skills required for running your so-



DEVELOPING NIGERIA'S OWN INDIGENOUS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM CONT'D...

Virtually everyone has some form of social media presence or the other now. For many people these platforms have become their primary source of communication and information over traditional mediums like books, newspapers, radio, television and even face-to-face physical social intercourse.

Social media trends have begun to heavily influence behaviours, habits, customs and education in countries around the world positively and negatively.

It has become necessary for governments to not only enact laws and standards control the flow of information via social media platforms but actually endeavor to build their own platforms and protect and promote their societal norms and values. The Americans gave the world the likes of Facebook, WhatsApp, X (Twitter), Instagram and so on while the Chinese brought TikTok them over your lives.

mation, collect huge amounts of data cific cultural and social needs. about users (private/public communica- The Task tions, photos, audios, videos, likes and dis-Building a social media platform from with little or no reason.

form

ing venture, one very necessary today see- works do not? It should not only focus on ing the increasing security and societal connecting Nigerians home and abroad risks/threats associated with foreign ones but also introducing the rest of the world to today.

might include complains about

no need to develop indigenous when clearly set from the onset.

the current ones used worldwide are already good enough - they also began indigenously in their countries, and new ones being developed and tried even now

lack of trust for an indigenous platform because it would be somehow controlled by the Nigerian Government the foreign platforms are all also somehow controlled by the government of their countries (there are things they expressly or "quietly" allowed or not allowed to do)

the quality of an indigenous platform will be poor - you have to start somewhere and improve over time

it not being able to compete with these foreign ones - just focus of the target local users (give pounded yam and okro soup to people not interested in burgers and chips).

into the game and some Russian brothers Having a local Nigerian social media platdeveloped Telegram. Everyone wants you form would be a source of national pride, to use their platforms and generate reve- a means of controlling content based on nue for them and also provide control for local interests and providing a means of educating future generations on positive Countries and companies controlling these local social values, customs and traditions. platforms can control what to see and Such an initiative can spur local innovation, hear online, restrict users' access to infor-protect data sovereignty, and address spe-

likes, etc.) and even block undesired users scratch involves a multi-faceted approach that would involve the following:

Nigeria having Its Own Social Media Plat- 1. Establishing a Strong Vision and Purpose First and foremost, the platform needs a Nigeria developing its own social media clear vision and purpose. What gap will this platform would be both a bold and excit-platform fill that existing social media netall the good and positive things Nigeria has Initial skepticisms of such an endeavour to offer The target audience and the unique value proposition will need to be



DEVELOPING NIGERIA'S OWN INDIGENOUS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM CONT'D...

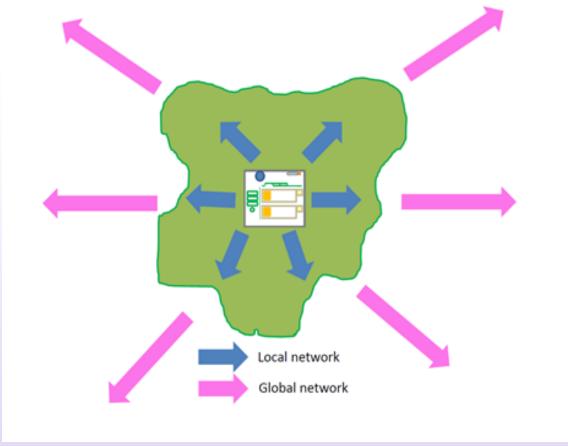
2. Securing Funding and Resources
Building and maintaining a social media
platform requires substantial financial investment. Initial funding can come from
government grants, private investors, or
partnerships with tech companies. Apart
from monetary resources, it is crucial to assemble a team of skilled professionals including software developers, UX/UI designers, data scientists, marketing experts, and
legal advisors.

3. Having a Scalable and Robust Infrastructure

The technical backbone of any social media platform is critical. Scalable and secure servers and databases able to handle large volumes of users and data need to be set up and also situated in secure locations with backups. Uninterrupted power provision needs to be available to keep the system working. Locally networked systems may be used to keep users connect-

ed around the country while secure cloud services will ensure connectivity with the rest of the world. This way given any Internet outages, local users would still be able to access and use the platform while when Internet services are restored the cloud systems can connect to the local systems and update data from them. It is vital to have robust security procedures in place for both the physical systems and the software as well as user data being used.

A secure means of using a virtual form of user's unique National Identification Numbers (NINs) for one-time identity verifications during registration as well as for business transactions on the platform should be put in place. The platform's system should securely connect to the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), confirm the NIN and user's identity then proceed without ever storing the user's NIN details.



Local and global network access to the platform



DEVELOPING NIGERIA'S OWN INDIGENOUS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM CONT'D...

4. Focusing on the Users

To attract and retain users, the platform must offer innovative and user-friendly features. This could include: easy-to-navigate personal spaces where users can share updates and multimedia content; real-time messaging, group chats, audio/video conferencing and multimedia sharing; personalized content feeds, family/friend/colleagues suggestions/categorizations, and promotion of relevant content; clear community guidelines, policies and tools for content moderation to ensure a safe and respectful online environment.

5. Ensuring Legal and Ethical Compliance

Navigating the legal landscape is crucial. Ensure the recognition and protection data privacy, intellectual property rights and user rights (especially when it comes to matters of identity verification using the NIN).

6. Developing a Sustainable Business Model

A long-term sustainable business model is key, if the project is to be maintained using self-generated revenue. Revenue could come from advertising, premium subscription models, or partnerships with businesses. Ensure regular updates based on user feedback, trends, and technological advancements to keep the platform up to date and relevant.

In conclusion, while creating a social media platform tailored for Nigeria is an ambitious and challenging task, but with clear focus and planning along with careful research and development the final product would be of great benefit in moving the nation forward with local solutions to pressing needs in a modern digital world.



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NIMC MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The Leadership Training for NIMC management staff under the theme "Empowering Leaders for Transformational Change" was held on two batch dates in November 2024 with the last one held from November 25th to November 26th.

The event was held in Lagos attracting all cadre of NIMC management staff from across Nigeria who attended the fun, educative and interactive sessions presented by Elpee Consults speakers in conjunction with NIMC's Human Capital Management team. The NIMC DG/CEO also attended the sessions engaging in fruitful interactions with staff.

Some of the main takeaways from the sessions were

 the importance of evolving leadership skills and knowledge to keep pace with the ever changing world.

- providing good leadership perceptions to followers to inspire them and carrying them along towards achieving organizational goals and objectives while ensuring followers also are educated, motivated as well as being prepared as successive future leaders themselves
- the importance of teamwork in achieving goals and overall "win-win" scenarios for the organization as a whole rather than selfishly focusing on individual or sectional successes and rewards to the detriment of the common good for all
- the importance of proper time and resouces management
- providing the necessary sense of belonging and harmonious working relationships between leaders and followers









