

Nigeria's Digital Economy Outlook: Q1 2026 Snapshot

Nigeria's Digital Tipping Point

Regulators, Banks, Healthtech,
and Infrastructure Leaders
Drive 2026 Transformation

- **Nigeria's Digital Economy at a Crossroads: Why 2026 Must Deliver the Digital Economy & e-Governance Act**
- **Regulation as a Trust Anchor: Nigeria Data Protection Commission**
- **Digital Finance and Enterprise Transformation: FirstBank Nigeria**
- **Healthcare Innovation Beyond the Coast: Jos University Teaching Hospital**
- **Data Centres as Digital Spine: Digital Realty**
- **Open Access Infrastructure and Cloud Readiness: Open Access Data Centres**
- **Closing the Digital Divide: Infratel Africa**

This Is Where You Need to Be

Thursday, 25 June 2026

Where Politics, Policy, and Nigeria's Digital Future Converge
Be There. Be Counted. Be Relevant.

Event Details

Event:

West Africa Convergence Conference (WACC) 2026

Recognition:

50 Most Influential Figures in Nigeria's Digital Economy 2026

Theme:

Reworking Nigeria Progressively into the Digital Economy with Emerging Digital Tools

Date: Thursday, 25 June 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

Venue: The Providence Hotel, Ikeja GRA, Lagos

Why WACC 2026 Matters

Nigeria's digital economy is at a defining moment. WACC 2026 convenes decision-makers shaping policy, investment, infrastructure, and innovation—creating a rare platform where influence, ideas, and impact meet.

WACC 2026 Highlights

High-Level Keynotes – Where politics, policy, and business intersect

Industry Conversations – Humanising Nigeria's digital economy for people-centred impact

Recognition Ceremony – 50 Most Influential Figures in Nigeria's Digital Economy 2026

Exclusive Leaders' Business Lunch – By invitation only

Nigeria Digital Economy Special Report 2026 – Insights that shape strategy

Investment & PPP Pitch Sessions – Turning ideas into partnerships

CEO & Executive Notes – Direct insights from industry leaders

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Contact & Participation

✉ editorial@itedgenews.com

✉ partnership@knowhowmediaint.com

✉ mostinfluentialnigeriasdigital@gmail.com

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Nigeria's Digital Economy at a Crossroads: Why 2026 Must Deliver the Digital Economy & e-Governance Act

Nigeria's digital economy has reached a tipping point. By Q1 2026, it contributes an estimated **20% of GDP**, with revenues projected at **\$18.3 billion** by year-end. Innovation is surging across finance, healthcare, data infrastructure, and connectivity. Yet one risk overshadows the gains: **Nigeria still lacks a unifying National Digital Economy and e-Governance Act.**

While progress has been made with the **National Digital Economy and e-Governance Bill 2025**, momentum must accelerate. The gap between fast-moving innovation and slow policy is now the **biggest threat to sustainable digital growth.** Fragmented regulation no longer works. Nigeria needs coherence—now.

From Growth to Governance

Infrastructure is expanding. Regulation is tightening. Technology adoption is deepening. But without a single, comprehensive law covering data, digital finance, cloud, cybersecurity, healthtech, and inclusion, these gains remain fragile.

A Digital Economy & e-Governance Act would:

- Provide **policy certainty** for investors
- End **regulatory overlap and confusion**
- Strengthen **digital rights, trust, and accountability**
- Enable **scale across converging sectors**

Without it, Nigeria risks policy drift in a world where competitiveness depends on integration, not silos.

Proof That Regulation Works

Data protection has shown the way. Clear rules, consistent enforcement, and capacity building have turned compliance into an **economic enabler**, generating billions in value. The lesson is simple:

clarity unlocks growth. What worked for data must now work for the entire digital economy.

Digital Is Now National Infrastructure

Banks operate as platforms. Healthtech is scaling beyond Lagos. Data centres are becoming the backbone of commerce. Rural connectivity is driving inclusion and productivity. These are not experiments—they are **core national infrastructure**, demanding long-term legislative certainty, not ad-hoc policy.

The Signals Are Clear

- Policy frameworks are being updated to reflect **5G, AI, and cloud**
- Investors are prioritising **sustainable, regulated markets**
- Skills are shifting toward **AI ethics, data governance, and digital trust**

The Imperative

Nigeria's digital economy is no longer emerging—it is **systemic.** Convergence across government, markets, and society requires **one legislative anchor.**

Passing the **National Digital Economy and e-Governance Act** will align regulators, protect rights and capital, unlock infrastructure financing, and position Nigeria as **Africa's most credible digital market.**

The choice is stark: **coherence or constraint.**

The time to act is **now.**



Olusegun Oruame
Editor

Editorial Chair

Fadairo, Dayo

Editor/CEO

Olusegun Oruame

Associates

Eric Osiakwan (Accra)
Theodore Kouadio (Abidjan)
Nseobong J. Akpan

Technology Analyst

O'Seun Ogunseitan
Jide Awe

Senior Writers

Anthony Nwosu
Osasome, C.O.

Executive Business Assistant/Writer

Nana Theresa Timothy

Social Media

Raihanatu Saleh Hassan

Writer-in-Training

Elisha Chebwawaza Gideon

Production

RealDesign

Legal Services

Johnson Elegboja & Associates

Email:

editorial@itedgemail.com

Lagos Office:

8A, Ojei Imavian Street,
Juli Estate, Ikeja - Lagos

Senegal-Gambia Office:

40 Garba Jahunga Road, Bakau,
The Gambia (+220-4496936)

Freetown Marketing Office:

92, Circular Road, Freetown,
Sierra Leone,

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Nigeria's Digital Economy at an Inflection Point: How Regulators, Banks, Healthcare and Infrastructure Leaders Are Powering Transformation in 2026

Nigeria's Digital Economy Outlook: Q1 2026 Snapshot

As of Q1 2026, Nigeria's digital economy is entering a decisive acceleration phase, contributing an estimated **20% to national GDP** and projected to generate **\$18.3 billion in revenue by the end of 2026**. This growth is being shaped by three defining forces: tighter regulatory compliance, rapid expansion of digital infrastructure, and deepening technology adoption across critical sectors such as finance and healthcare.

At the centre of this transformation are cross-sector institutional actors whose collective impact is redefining trust, access, resilience, and competitiveness within Nigeria's digital economy.

Regulation as a Trust Anchor: Nigeria Data Protection Commission

Data protection has evolved from a compliance requirement into a strategic pillar of Nigeria's digital economy. The Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) has emerged as a central trust-building institution, anchoring investor confidence and citizen protection.

By Q1 2026, the Commission had generated over **5.2 billion in compliance-related revenue**, with Nigeria's data protection ecosystem now valued at more than **16.2 billion**. In a landmark enforcement move, the NDPC initiated sector-wide compliance investigations across **649 tertiary institutions**, reinforcing the reach of the Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023.

Beyond enforcement, the Commission has driven capacity-building for Data Protection Officers (DPOs), launched the **National Data Challenge** for secondary schools, and pioneered sub-national data privacy governance models—particularly in northern Nigeria. Under the leadership of Dr Vincent Olatunji, the NDPC is steadily embedding privacy, accountability, and transparency into Nigeria's digital growth narrative.

Digital Finance and Enterprise Transformation: FirstBank Nigeria

As confidence and resilience become defining currencies of economic growth, FirstBank continues to play a pivotal role in redefining Nigeria's digital financial services landscape.

In Q1 2026, the Bank deepened automation across its service channels, unveiling a fully automated **Digital Experience Centre** powered by artificial intelligence and humanoid robotics. With over **15 million active users** on its *894# USSD platform and more than **3 million users** on its FirstMobile app, FirstBank is scaling secure, AI-driven banking while reducing physical branch congestion.

Beyond transactions, the Bank is strengthening fraud prevention, enterprise digitisation, and customer experience—cementing its role as both a financial institution and a digital transformation enabler within Africa's largest economy.

Healthcare Innovation Beyond the Coast: Jos University Teaching Hospital

Innovation leadership in Nigeria's digital economy is no longer confined to commercial hubs. Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) stands out as a national model for technology-led healthcare reform.

Once challenged by fragmented and missing patient records, JUTH has undergone a sweeping digital transformation under the leadership of Dr Pokop Wushipba Bupwatda. By Q1 2026, the hospital had integrated **biomedical informatics, genetics, and digital diagnostics** into routine clinical practice, significantly improving care coordination and outcomes.

JUTH also partnered with the Federal Ministry of Health to deliver **North-Central free cancer screening programmes**, supported by digital data capture and reporting tools—demonstrating how health technology can scale access, accuracy, and trust in public healthcare systems.

Data Centres as Digital Spine: Digital Realty

Nigeria's data centre market is entering a high-growth phase, projected to expand from **56MW in 2025 to over 218MW by 2030**, driven by cloud adoption, fintech growth, data localisation requirements, and AI workloads.

Within this landscape, **Digital Realty Nigeria—formerly Medallion Data Centres**—has evolved into the **most interconnected digital infrastructure hub in West Africa**. Acting as the region's primary peering and interconnection nexus, the company underpins subsea cables, cloud providers, telcos, and enterprise platforms that power Nigeria's digital economy.



Its investment strategy aligns closely with national objectives around digital sovereignty, latency reduction, and scalable infrastructure, positioning Nigeria as a core connectivity gateway for Africa and emerging global markets.

Open Access Infrastructure and Cloud Readiness: Open Access Data Centres

As Nigeria's digital economy advances into 2026, Open Access Data Centres (OADC) is emerging as a pioneer redefining data centre access, neutrality, and scale. Backed by the WIOCC Group, OADC is investing **over \$240 million** to expand its Lagos data centre campus to **24MW by 2027**.

This expansion—part of a broader **\$500 million pan-African investment programme**—is designed to support cloud services, AI-driven workloads, and digital sovereignty. By strengthening local hosting and interconnection capacity, OADC is positioning Nigeria as a strategic node in Africa's data-driven future.

Closing the Digital Divide: Infratel Africa

While data centres anchor urban digital growth, inclusive connectivity depends on reaching underserved communities. Infratel Africa is emerging as a transformational enabler of rural connectivity and digital inclusion.

Through an integrated **telecom and power infrastructure model**, the company has delivered connectivity to more than **400 rural communities** across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones—many previously considered commercially unviable. By combining open-access infrastructure with renewable energy solutions, Infratel is not only closing Nigeria's digital

divide but laying the foundation for long-term socio-economic development.

Q1 2026 Digital Economy Signals

- **Regulatory Shift:** The Nigerian Communications Commission revised the National Telecommunications Policy for the first time in 26 years, integrating 5G, AI-enabled services, and cloud computing.
- **Investor Pivot:** Capital is increasingly flowing toward sustainable, profitable digital ventures rather than growth-at-all-costs models.
- **Workforce Evolution:** New digital roles—such as AI ethics consultants and prompt engineers—are becoming mainstream.

Outlook: A Converging Digital Future

Nigeria's digital economy in 2026 is no longer defined by isolated sectoral advances but by **convergence**—of regulation, finance, healthcare, infrastructure, and inclusion. Institutions such as NDPC, FirstBank, JUTH, Digital Realty, OADC, and Infratel Africa collectively demonstrate that sustainable digital growth depends on trust, access, resilience, and long-term investment.

As these forces align, Nigeria is steadily repositioning itself as a leading digital economy in Africa—capable of supporting innovation, attracting investment, and delivering inclusive national growth.

Privacy, Power and Accountability: How **NDPC** is engineering trust in Nigeria's digital economy

As Nigeria's digital economy expands at unprecedented speed, **data protection has evolved from a compliance afterthought into a strategic pillar of national competitiveness, investor confidence, and citizen trust.**

At the heart of this transition stands the **Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)**, a young but increasingly influential regulator redefining how privacy governance underpins sustainable digital growth.

Under the leadership of **Dr Vincent Olatunji**, the NDPC has moved decisively beyond advisory functions to become a **robust supervisory authority** with clear investigative, enforcement, and sanctioning powers. Despite institutional constraints ranging from limited funding and technology support to human capacity gaps, the Commission is steadily building a **national culture of privacy awareness, compliance, and accountability.**

For IT Edge News.Africa's **Q1 2026 Forecast**, the NDPC emerges not simply as an institutional actor, but as a **transformational enabler of Nigeria's data economy.**

From Margins to the Mainstream: NDPC's Expanding Strategic Mandate

The signing of the Nigeria Data Protection Act by **Bola Ahmed Tinubu** marked a turning point in Nigeria's digital governance journey. With the Act fully in force, the NDPC has been repositioned as a **central authority responsible for supervising data controllers and processors across both public and private sectors.**

This shift has empowered the Commission to:

- Conduct sector-wide audits and compliance assessments
- Launch independent investigations into data breaches
- Issue remediation orders and impose proportionate sanctions



- Hold even global technology platforms accountable within Nigeria's jurisdiction

The result is a regulatory environment where **privacy is no longer optional, but foundational to doing business in Nigeria's digital ecosystem.**

Building a Privacy-Conscious Nation: Awareness as Infrastructure

Recognising that effective data protection begins with public understanding, NDPC has placed **awareness and education at the core of its 2023–2027 Strategic Roadmap.**

In 2026, the Commission is deploying a **multi-layered national sensitisation strategy** that cuts across geography, age, and social strata.

Key Awareness and Education Pillars

- **General Application and Implementation Directives (GAID):** Simplifying the Nigeria Data Protection Act for citizens and organisations, clarifying rights and responsibilities.
- **Mass Sensitisation Campaigns:** Nationwide outreach using radio, TV, billboards, road walks, print, and social media—supported by influencer engagement.
- **Grassroots Engagement:** Partnerships with traditional rulers, community leaders, and civil society groups, including translation of the law into major Nigerian languages.
- **Privacy Clubs and Digital Privacy Awareness Campaign (DPAC):** Bringing privacy education to tertiary institutions, with a target of reaching one million young Nigerians before the end of 2026.
- **Adopt-A-School & Data Challenge:** Introducing privacy fundamentals to primary and secondary school students, embedding data responsibility early.

Through these initiatives, the NDPC is **normalising privacy as a civic value**, not just a legal requirement.

Regulatory Architecture for a Data-Driven Economy

Beyond awareness, NDPC's 2026 agenda focuses on **deepening institutional compliance** through a clearer, more enforceable regulatory framework.

Key Regulatory Interventions

- **Sector-Specific Guidelines:** Tailored compliance frameworks for finance, healthcare, telecommunications, and digital platforms.
- **Strengthened Supervision:** Enhanced audit processes, reporting obligations, and risk-based compliance monitoring.
- **Data Protection Compliance Organisations (DPCOs):** Continuous vetting and oversight of licensed private compliance partners.
- **Global Alignment:** Ensuring interoperability with international data protection regimes to support cross-border data flows.
- **Privacy by Design White Paper:** Supporting startups and early-stage innovators to embed privacy into emerging technologies, including AI.

This approach positions NDPC as both **a regulator and an ecosystem enabler**, balancing innovation with accountability.

Enforcement with Purpose: Accountability Without Overreach

While enforcement remains a defining pillar, NDPC has adopted a **measured, proportionate enforcement philosophy.**

In 2026, the Commission is scaling:

- Advanced breach detection and monitoring tools
- Investigative capacity for timely resolution of complaints
- Structured remediation frameworks before financial penalties
- The **Standard Notice to Address Grievance (SNAG)**, empowering data subjects to seek redress

With over **327 licensed DPCOs** and a growing cadre of certified Data Protection Officers, NDPC is driving **institutional compliance from within organisations**, not just through sanctions.

Protecting the Most Vulnerable: Child Online Safety

Children's data protection has emerged as a national priority amid rising digital exposure. NDPC's response includes:

- Collaboration with the **Federal Ministry of Communications Innovation and Digital Economy** on child online safety frameworks
- Public awareness campaigns for parents and guardians
- Domestication of the African Union Child Online Safety and Empowerment Policy
- School-based privacy education initiatives

These efforts aim to ensure Nigeria's digital future is **inclusive, safe, and rights-respecting.**

Capacity Building: Growing Nigeria's Privacy Workforce

To sustain long-term impact, NDPC is investing in **human capital and institutional capacity:**

- Scaling certification programmes for Data Protection Officers
- Launching a **Virtual Privacy Academy** using creative storytelling formats
- Establishing **Centres of Excellence** linking academia, industry, and regulators
- Strengthening public sector data protection capabilities

This ecosystem-first strategy is critical to overcoming current capacity and funding constraints.

Privacy as Economic Infrastructure

For NDPC, data protection is not a barrier to growth—it is **economic infrastructure.**

Strong privacy governance:

- Attracts fintech, cloud, and digital services investment
- Builds trust in digital public services
- Positions Nigeria as a credible data hub in Africa
- Protects citizens' fundamental rights while enabling innovation

As 2026 unfolds, NDPC's trajectory signals a clear message: **trust, accountability, and enforceable privacy standards are now central to Nigeria's digital competitiveness.**

Building Trust in a Data-Driven Economy: **NDPC's mandate and enforcement push**



National Commissioner/ CEO, NDPC, Dr Vincent Olatunji.

As Nigeria's digital economy accelerates, data protection has moved from the margins of regulation to the very centre of national competitiveness, citizen trust, and institutional accountability. At the forefront of this shift is the **Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC)**, which has rapidly evolved into one of the country's most strategically important regulators in the digital age.

In this interview, the **National Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the NDPC, Dr Vincent Olatunji**, outlines how the Commission is scaling public awareness of privacy rights, tightening compliance obligations across public and private sectors, and strengthening enforcement actions—including penalties against defaulting organisations and, where necessary, global technology platforms operating in Nigeria.

Dr Olatunji explains how the full implementation of the Nigeria Data Protection Act, signed into law by **Bola Ahmed Tinubu**, has repositioned the NDPC from an advisory body

into a robust regulatory authority with clear supervisory, investigative, and sanctioning powers. From grassroots sensitisation in local languages and privacy education in schools, to sector-specific compliance frameworks, audits, and proportionate sanctions for breaches, the NDPC is embedding a culture of accountability across Nigeria's fast-expanding digital ecosystem.

The conversation also explores child online safety, capacity building for data protection professionals, and how strong privacy governance is becoming a competitive advantage for Nigeria—boosting investor confidence in fintech, cloud services, and digital platforms while safeguarding citizens' fundamental rights. As 2026 unfolds, the NDPC's message is clear: privacy awareness, institutional compliance, and credible enforcement are no longer optional, but essential pillars of Nigeria's digital future. He shares with IT Edge News.Africa – **Olusegun Oruame, Theresa Nana Timothy, and Anna Emmah.**

Awareness and Public Education

Nigeria's digital economy is expanding rapidly, yet many citizens still have limited understanding of their data privacy rights. What strategies is the NDPC implementing in 2026 to deepen public awareness of data protection across both urban and rural communities?

NDPC has been working with traditional rulers and other stakeholders to drive awareness and translate the data protection law into local languages. Following the signing of the Nigeria Data Protection Act by Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) recognises that effective data protection begins with widespread public awareness. This priority is reflected as the second pillar in the Commission's strategic roadmap and action plan under the Nigeria Data Protection Strategic Roadmap (2023–2027).

In 2026, the Commission is intensifying its multi-layered awareness strategy to ensure inclusivity across Nigeria's diverse population.

Key initiatives include:

- **General Application and Implementation Directives (GAID):** A document developed by the NDPC to simplify and clarify the provisions of the NDP Act. It enables individuals to better understand and exercise their data subject rights, while also guiding data controllers on their responsibilities to protect and manage personal data within their databases.
- **Mass Sensitisation and Awareness Campaigns:** Nationwide campaigns leveraging billboard, radio, television, road walk, social media, as well as print media to educate citizens on data subject rights and the obligations of data controllers and processors. The NDPC also partnered with social media influencer, Enioluwa Adeoluwa, popularly known as Eni, to drive awareness on social media, considering his large followership.
- **Grassroots Engagement:** Expansion of partnerships with traditional rulers, community leaders, and civil society organisations to localise data protection awareness, including translation of the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDP Act) into the three major Nigerian

languages.

- **Privacy Clubs & Digital Privacy Awareness Campaign (DPAC):** These initiatives bring data protection awareness directly to tertiary institutions across Nigeria. They educate students on privacy, their rights, and career opportunities in the data protection ecosystem, while also empowering them to lead conversations on privacy within their campuses. Currently, there are nine Privacy Clubs nationwide, and DPAC has been held at Nile University, University of Lagos, and the University of Port Harcourt. DPAC aims to reach 1,000,000 young people before the end of 2026 and serves as a pipeline for establishing more Privacy Clubs. These clubs help raise awareness on campus, encourage universities to comply with data protection regulations, and promote responsible and ethical data practices among students.
 - **Adopt a School:** This initiative is designed to sensitise primary and secondary school students to the fundamentals of data protection and privacy. In January 2026 alone, it reached over 8,000 students across 50 schools, demonstrating its significant scale and impact.
 - **Data Challenge:** It's a platform where secondary school students are trained, and subsequently engaged in a competition to determine their understanding of data protection and privacy.
 - **Institutional Collaboration:** Engagement with educational institutions to integrate data protection principles into academic curricula.
 - **Courtesy Visits:** Visiting and receiving delegations from the public and private sectors to sensitise and further create awareness on data protection and privacy. In the public sector, these visits are usually targeted at regulators in different sectors.
- These efforts are designed to foster a culture of privacy consciousness nationwide.

Regulatory Outlook for 2026

With the implementation of the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDP Act), how is the NDPC strengthening Nigeria's regulatory framework to ensure organisations across sectors comply with data protection requirements? (Context: The NDPC oversees the implementation of Nigeria's data privacy laws and regulatory compliance across public and private sectors.)

With the full implementation of the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDP Act), the NDPC is focused on consolidating a robust, transparent, and enforceable regulatory framework. In 2026, the Commission is:

- **Issuing Sector-Specific Guidelines:** Providing clearer compliance frameworks tailored to industries such as finance, healthcare, telecommunications, and digital platforms.

- **Strengthening Supervisory Mechanisms:** Enhancing audit processes, compliance assessments, and reporting obligations for data controllers and processors.
- **Vetting Private Partners:** Continuous assessment of the technical competencies and capabilities of our Data Protection Compliance Organisations (DPCOs) to ensure they are guided and well equipped to support organisations in meeting their compliance obligations.
- **Aligning with Global Standards:** Ensuring Nigeria's framework remains interoperable with international data protection regimes to facilitate cross-border data flows.
- **Collaboration and Co-operation with Sector Regulators:** Executing and implementing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with regulators to deepen sector compliance.
- **Guidance Notice for Data Protection and Privacy Training for Employees:** This initiative supports organisations in developing effective training

programmes, recognising that employee awareness is a critical organisational measure under the Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023 (NDP Act) and the General Application and Implementation Directive, 2025 (GAID), and is essential for safeguarding the rights and interests of data subjects.

- **White Paper on Privacy by Design in Early-Stage Innovation:** This initiative is designed to support innovators in addressing common challenges such as limited funding, an underdeveloped ecosystem, and capacity gaps. With the emergence of AI intensifying both risks and opportunities, the initiative promotes stronger data protection and governance measures. It advances best practices in data protection and sharing, encourages privacy-by-design, empowers innovators, and strengthens the broader startup ecosystem.

These measures are aimed at ensuring that organisations are accountable in their operations.

Enforcement and Compliance

In recent years, the NDPC has taken enforcement actions against organisations that violate data protection rules. How does the Commission plan to strengthen compliance monitoring and enforcement mechanisms in 2026 to deter data misuse? Will 2026 be the Year of Data Privacy Enforcement and Penalty Impositions as envisaged previously? (Context: The Commission has launched investigations and penalties against companies that fail to comply with data protection rules.)

The NDPC remains committed to a balanced approach that combines guidance with firm enforcement. In 2026, the Commission is committed to investigating and implementing enforcement measures where organisations violate the NDP Act.

The Commission is dedicated to:

- **Strengthening Compliance through Data Protection Compliance Organisations:** The NDPC licenses private organisations to support data controllers and processors in achieving compliance. To date, 327 of these organisations have been licensed.
- **Code of Conduct for DPCOs:** The NDPC issued Code of Conduct to guide Data Protection Compliance Organisations on how to operate professionally, ethically, and in compliance with the NDP Act when carrying out their obligations like audit filing, training, and registration of data controllers and processors, among others.
- **Driving Compliance -** Encouraging organisations to implement internal compliance frameworks, including the designation of Certified Data Protection Officers (CDPOs), and the training of staff on data protection and privacy standards.
- **Scaling Compliance Monitoring, Evaluation and**

Assessment: Deploying advanced monitoring, evaluation and assessment tools to proactively identify, trace, and assess data breaches.

- **Strengthening Investigative Capacity:** Enhancing staff capacity to ensure rigorous and in-depth investigations for the timely resolution of complaints and independent investigations.
- **Applying Proportionate Sanctions:** Adopting an enforcement framework that prioritises remediation as an initial corrective measure and reserving administrative fines for instances of recalcitrance regarding remediation orders, or where the violation results in substantial harm to the public.
- **Accountability and Enforcement of Remedial Measures:** We recognise the right of a data subjects to lodge complaints with the Commission. We are democratising this process through the Data Subjects Standard Notice to Address Grievance (SNAG). We will ensure that through this measure, cases of privacy breaches are resolved expeditiously.

While enforcement will remain a critical pillar, 2026 will not solely be defined by penalties but by **sustainable compliance and institutional accountability** across sectors.

Child Safety and Online Protection

Children and young people are increasingly exposed to digital platforms that collect and process personal data. What steps is the NDPC taking to strengthen safeguards that protect children's data and ensure that digital platforms operating in Nigeria comply with child privacy standards?

Protecting children's personal data is a top priority for the NDPC.

The Commission is advancing:

- **Collaboration with FMCIDE on Child Online Safety:** The Commission is partnering with the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy (FMCIDE) to survey Nigerians' views on child online safety, addressing risks like cyberbullying, harmful content, data misuse, and AI-related challenges.
- **Public Awareness for Parents and Guardians:** Educating families on safe digital practices and children's data rights.
- **Implementation of the African Union Policy:** The Commission is working to domesticate the African Union Child Online Safety and Empowerment Policy in Nigeria.
- **Adopt-A-School:** This is an initiative meant to sensitise primary and secondary school students on the basics of data protection and privacy.

These efforts aim to create a safer digital environment for Nigeria's younger population.

Capacity Building and the Data Protection Ecosystem
NDPC has initiated training and certification programmes to develop professionals such as Data Protection Officers (DPOs). How will the Commission continue to build capacity and expand Nigeria's data protection ecosystem in 2026? (Context: NDPC has launched training initiatives to equip thousands of

Nigerians with data protection and privacy skills.)

The NDPC will continue to expand Nigeria's data protection ecosystem through strategic capacity development.

Key focus areas for 2026 include:

- **Scaling Training Programmes:** Increasing the number of certified Data Protection Officers (DPOs) and privacy professionals across the country.
- **Virtual Privacy Academy:** This is a Nollywood-styled initiative aimed at teaching basic data protection and privacy standards using movie scenes.
- **Strengthening the DPCO Framework:** Supporting DPCOs to provide high-quality compliance services.
- **Public Sector Capacity Building:** Enhancing data protection capabilities within government institutions.
- **Youth and Innovation Engagement:** Encouraging secondary school students, undergraduates in tertiary institutions, young professionals and tech innovators to integrate privacy principles into emerging technologies.
- **Establishment of Centres of Excellence (CoEs).** The Commission is working on establishing CoEs as platforms for engaging industry practitioners as well as the academic community. These platforms will be involved in exploring technological frontiers and complex themes of data governance with a view to ensuring that our ecosystem benefits from the advancements in these areas.

These initiatives are critical to building a sustainable and self-reinforcing data protection ecosystem.

Data Protection and Nigeria's Digital Economy

As Nigeria continues to attract investment in fintech, cloud infrastructure, and digital services, how does NDPC see strong data protection frameworks supporting economic growth while maintaining citizens' trust in digital systems? (Context: NDPC leadership has emphasized that strong data protection frameworks help attract investment and strengthen trust in the digital economy.)

A strong data protection framework is foundational to Nigeria's digital economy.

The NDPC views data protection as:

- **A Driver of Investment:** Providing regulatory certainty that attracts local and foreign investment in sectors such as fintech, cloud computing, and e-commerce, in line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR.
- **An Enabler of Trust:** Ensuring that citizens and

consumers have confidence in digital platforms and services.

- **A Competitive Advantage:** Positioning Nigeria as a trusted destination for data-driven innovation in Africa.
- **A Safeguard for Rights:** Balancing economic growth with the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

By fostering trust, accountability, and transparency, the NDPC is supporting a digital economy that is both innovative and rights-respecting.

FirstBank at the vanguard of Nigeria's digital finance future



FirstBank Sets the Strategic Tone for 2026

FirstBank remains a central force redefining Nigeria's digital, financial, and enterprise landscape. At a time when confidence, resilience, and innovation are critical to economic recovery and growth, FirstBank stands out as a financial institution that continues to inspire trust, reimagine possibilities, and lead systemic transformation across one of Africa's largest economy.

From Legacy Institution to Tech-Driven Financial Powerhouse

Established in 1894, FirstBank has sustained a 130-year legacy by blending institutional trust with continuous technological reinvention. Over the past two decades, the bank has undergone a far-reaching digital transformation; evolving from a traditional banking model into a technology-led financial services group. Today, over 95 percent of customer transactions are conducted through digital channels, underscoring the scale and impact of this transformation and reinforcing

FirstBank's status as Nigeria's most enduring yet forward-looking financial institution.

Leadership Anchored on Transformation

Under the leadership of Olusegun Alebiosu, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, FirstBank has sustained its position at the forefront of banking innovation. With over 28 years of experience in the financial services industry, Alebiosu has steered the institution's strategic shift toward building a next-generation digital bank. One designed to meet modern banking needs while maintaining a strong pan-African footprint.

Inside FirstBank's Digital Transformation Strategy

FirstBank's transformation agenda is anchored on re-engineering its core infrastructure, automating customer engagement, and deploying advanced technologies that deliver speed, security, and convenience at scale.

Digital Experience Centres (DXC)

FirstBank's fully automated Digital Experience Centres

represent a redefinition of branch banking. These paperless, 24/7 facilities feature teller cash recyclers, interactive smart screens, instant card issuance, and self-service banking—reducing dependency on traditional branch models.

AI, Robotics, and Automation

The bank has deployed humanoid AI robots within select branches to support customer interaction, video banking, and assisted services.

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) now underpins multiple internal workflows, driving efficiency, accuracy, and improved turnaround times.

Core Technology Overhaul

A comprehensive modernization of FirstBank's core IT infrastructure has enabled faster transaction processing, enhanced cybersecurity, and seamless omni-channel experiences for millions of customers.

Cloud and Digital Platforms

Migration to Oracle Fusion Cloud ERP and HCM platforms has strengthened scalability and service availability, while modernized digital platforms—including FirstMobile and FirstOnline—support a growing “beyond-banking” proposition.

A Record of Industry Firsts

FirstBank's innovation leadership is rooted in a long history of sector-defining milestones:

- **ATM Pioneer:** Introduced Nigeria's first Automated Teller Machine in 1991]
- **Digital Innovation Lab:** Launched Nigeria's first bank-led Digital Innovation Lab in 2018
- **DXC Rollout:** Unveiled its first fully automated, human-less digital branch in 2021
- **Digital Reach:** Over 15 million users on its *894# USSD service and more than 7.8 million FirstMobile App users
- **Agent Banking Scale:** Africa's largest bank-led agent banking network, exceeding 200,000 locations

Financial Performance: Resilience amid Market Volatility

Despite a challenging macroeconomic environment, First HoldCo demonstrated resilience in early 2025, supported by strong core earnings and disciplined balance sheet management.

Key 2025 Financial Highlights

- **Gross Earnings:** ₦1.66 trillion in H1 2025, up

18.1% year-on-year

- **Net Interest Income:** Rose 75.7% to ₦904.8 billion, driven by higher yields
- **Profit After Tax:** ₦289.8 billion, reflecting deliberate impairment charges to strengthen asset quality
- **Total Assets:** Grew to ₦27.2 trillion
- **Ratings Upgrade:** Fitch Ratings upgraded FirstBank's National Long-Term Rating to A+(nga) following improved capitalization from a ₦147 billion rights issue

The bank remains consistently ranked among Nigeria's top five most profitable and strongest banking brands.

Recognition and Global Accolades

FirstBank's leadership in innovation and sustainability continues to earn international recognition:

- **Most Valuable Bank Brand in Nigeria**—six consecutive times by The Banker Magazine
- **Digital Bank of Distinction, Nigeria**
- **Best SME Bank in Nigeria and Africa (2025)**
- **Best Corporate Bank and Best ESG Bank at the 2026 Global Banking & Finance Review Awards**

Economic Outlook: FirstBank's 2026 Forecast

At its Nigeria Economic Outlook 2026 event themed “*The Great Calibration: Mastering Resilience in an Era of Asynchronous Growth*”, FirstBank projected a cautiously optimistic outlook for Nigeria.

Key 2026 Projections

- **GDP Growth:** 4.1%–4.4%, driven by digital adoption and infrastructure expansion
- **Inflation:** Expected to moderate to 12.5%
- **Exchange Rate:** Stabilization between ₦1,400–₦1,500/\$
- **Banking Sector:** Credit expansion supported by recapitalization
- **Growth Sectors:** AI, robotics, renewable energy, agri-tech, and fintech

Institutional Confidence for a Digital Future

As IT Edge News.Africa's Institutional Focus for Q1 2026, FirstBank exemplifies what it means to combine legacy, innovation, and strategic foresight.

Through disciplined governance, advanced technology adoption, and unwavering commitment to customer-centric banking, FirstBank is not only navigating change but it is shaping the future of Nigeria's financial ecosystem.

Digital Realty: Powering Nigeria's digital backbone as Africa's interconnection powerhouse enters *hyper-growth phase*



In Nigeria's rapidly accelerating digital infrastructure landscape, Digital Realty stands out not merely as a market participant, but as a **driving force, interconnection pioneer, and transformational enabler of Africa's connectivity ecosystem**. Featured as the *Institutional Focus* in the IT Edge News.Africa Q1 2026 Forecast Report, Digital Realty is redefining how scale, interconnection, and resilience converge in West Africa's data economy.

Led in Nigeria by Managing Director Ikechukwu Nnamani, Digital Realty Nigeria—formerly Medallion Data Centres—has evolved into the most interconnected digital infrastructure hub in West Africa, anchoring the region's peering and connectivity ecosystem.

Nigeria's Data Economy: A Market in Hyper-Growth

Nigeria's data centre market is entering a decisive

expansion phase, projected to grow from approximately **56MW in 2025 to over 218MW by 2030**, driven by:

- Rapid fintech and digital services expansion
- Cloud adoption across enterprises and government
- Increasing data localisation requirements under the Nigeria Data Protection Act 2023
- Surge in AI, IoT, and 5G-driven workloads

Digital Realty's investment strategy is aligned with this trajectory, positioning Nigeria as a core digital infrastructure hub for Africa and emerging global markets.

Lagos: West Africa's Interconnection Epicentre

Digital Realty's Lagos ecosystem is anchored by its high-performance facilities in Lekki, where the company operates a deeply interconnected data centre environment.

Key milestones include:

- **LKK2 Launch (August 2025):** A 2MW high-performance data centre designed for next-generation workloads
- **Interconnection with LKK1:** LKK1 serves as a landing station for the 2Africa submarine cable system, enabling ultra-low latency global connectivity
- **Carrier-Neutral Ecosystem:** Supporting submarine cables, Tier-1 operators, cloud providers, ISPs, fintechs, and OTT platforms

This infrastructure has positioned Digital Realty as the number one peering and interconnection point in West Africa.

The Interconnection Engine of West Africa

Digital Realty Nigeria has built one of the most advanced interconnection ecosystems on the continent, supporting:

- Subsea cable systems and global carriers
- Metro fibre and long-haul providers
- Cloud and hyperscale platforms
- Internet Exchange ecosystems including Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN)
- Enterprise, fintech, and OTT networks

This makes Digital Realty not just a hosting provider, but a critical

Key milestones include:

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infrastructure layer powering Africa's digital economy.

Expansion Strategy: Building for Hyper-Scale Demand

Digital Realty's Nigeria growth roadmap is structured around sustained expansion and ecosystem integration:

- **LKK2 expansion:** Adding scalable capacity to meet rising enterprise and cloud demand
- **IXPN Point of Presence (2026):** Enhancing local peering and reducing latency for operators
- **Edge strategy advisory:** Supporting deployment of 72 edge data centres nationwide to decentralise compute power
- **Market leadership:** Recognised as *Data Centre Provider of the Year* at the African Digital Economy Awards

These initiatives reinforce its role in enabling Nigeria's ambition toward a \$1 trillion digital economy by 2030.

Demand Drivers Reshaping the Market

Several structural forces are accelerating Digital Realty's growth trajectory:

- **Data sovereignty regulations:** Driving local hosting requirements
- **AI and cloud adoption:** Increasing demand for high-density compute environments
- **Subsea cable expansion:** Including 2Africa boosting international bandwidth
- **Colocation demand:** Nigeria's facilities operating at over 90% occupancy rates

Digital Realty's infrastructure is designed to meet this persistent demand-supply imbalance in West Africa's digital ecosystem.

Challenges in a High-Growth Environment

Despite strong demand, the sector faces structural constraints:

- **Power reliability and cost:** Heavy reliance on diesel generation
- **Currency volatility:** Impacting capital expenditure planning
- **Infrastructure scaling pressure:** Need for rapid expansion of edge and metro data centres

Digital Realty continues to address these through efficiency-driven design and long-term infrastructure planning.

Leadership and Ecosystem Impact

Under Ikechukwu Nnamani's leadership, Digital Realty Nigeria has evolved from a colocation provider into a strategic digital infrastructure orchestrator.

Its ecosystem impact includes:

- Strengthening West Africa's peering architecture
- Enabling cloud and fintech scalability
- Reducing latency across regional networks
- Supporting enterprise digital transformation

This positions Digital Realty as a foundational pillar of Africa's connectivity future.

A Transformational Infrastructure Force

As highlighted in the IT Edge News.Africa Q1 2026 Forecast, Digital Realty is not simply expanding—it is reshaping the architecture of Africa's digital economy. Through interconnection leadership, hyperscale readiness, and ecosystem integration, the company is defining what next-generation digital infrastructure looks like for Nigeria and beyond.

Infratel Africa: Powering Nigeria's Rural Digital Future as a Catalyst for Inclusive Connectivity in 2026

As Nigeria's digital economy advances into 2026, **Infratel Africa** is emerging not merely as an infrastructure provider but as a driving force behind rural connectivity, digital inclusion, and sustainable access.

With an integrated telecom and power infrastructure model, the company is redefining how underserved and remote communities connect to the digital world. Infratel Africa has delivered connectivity to more than 400 rural communities across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones, many of which were previously considered commercially unviable.

By combining open-access telecom infrastructure with renewable energy solutions, the company is actively closing Nigeria's digital divide while laying foundations for long-term

socio-economic growth.

Leadership Driving Vision and Execution

At the helm is **Tunji Alabi**, Managing Director of Infratel Africa, whose more than three decades of international strategic leadership have shaped the company's execution of complex, mission-critical infrastructure projects.

Working alongside him is **Dr. Tola Yusuf**, Founding Partner and a respected telecom strategist and thought leader. Yusuf has been instrumental in pioneering Infratel Africa's open-access infrastructure philosophy, positioning the company as a platform for inclusion, sustainability, and shared growth.

Strategic Rural Deployment and Innovation

Infratel Africa's rural-first strategy goes beyond connectivity to deliver resilient, future-ready infrastructure:

- **Satellite Connectivity Partnership:** In June 2024, Infratel Africa partnered with Nigerian Communications Satellite Ltd to migrate 100 rural locations to a Ka-band satellite hub, strengthening rural communications and supporting Nigeria's target of achieving 95% digital literacy by 2030.
- **100% Renewable Energy Model:** All rural deployments are powered by solar energy and battery storage, eliminating reliance on diesel and ensuring environmental sustainability.



- **Smart Rural Centres:** Through SMART Centres, Infratel delivers e-learning platforms, digital tutors, and standardized curricula to underserved schools, directly addressing education gaps.
- **Shared Infrastructure Approach:** Acting as a neutral-host and co-location provider, Infratel enables mobile network operators to expand faster and more efficiently into unserved regions.
- **Community-Centric Sustainability:** Local community members are trained to support infrastructure operations and security, embedding ownership and long-term resilience.

Measurable Impact Across Rural Nigeria

By late 2024, Infratel Africa had facilitated rural telephony projects in over 200 communities, deploying greenfield tower sites in areas lacking grid power or existing infrastructure. These deployments now support broadband access, mobile services, fintech platforms, e-health delivery, and digital public services for millions of Nigerians previously excluded from the digital economy.

Institutional Focus in IT Edge News.Africa's Q1 2026 Forecast

Given its leadership in telecom colocation, infrastructure sharing, power-as-a-service, enterprise security, and telecom backhaul, Infratel Africa stands out as the **Institutional Focus** for Nigeria's rural digital expansion agenda in the IT Edge News.Africa Q1 2026 Forecast Report.

Navigating Challenges Through Innovation

Operating in Nigeria's most challenging terrains, Infratel Africa faces rising energy costs, logistics constraints, climate stress, and security risks.

Rather than retreat, the company continues to innovate—deploying smart monitoring systems, resilient infrastructure design, and clean energy solutions to ensure uptime and cost efficiency.

As competition intensifies and consolidation accelerates across Africa's telecom infrastructure market, Infratel Africa is championing deeper infrastructure sharing, neutral-host models, and strategic partnerships as the pathway to scale and resilience.

The 2026 Outlook: Building Sustainable Digital Inclusion

Looking ahead, Infratel Africa anticipates stronger collaboration among governments, regulators, mobile operators, and infrastructure providers to close the rural connectivity gap while ensuring commercial viability.

With accelerating demand for mobile broadband, fintech, e-health, and digital public services in rural communities, Infratel Africa is aligning its investments to meet both present needs and future demand—cementing its role as a pioneer and transformational enabler of Nigeria's rural digital future.

From Paper to Platforms:

How JUTH is setting the pace for Nigeria's digital healthcare transformation

Pokop Wushipba Bupwatda:

Why digital transformation is no longer optional for Nigeria's public hospitals

In this exclusive interview with *IT Edge News.Africa*, the Chief Medical Director of Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH), Dr. Pokop Wushipba Bupwatda, outlines how digital transformation is reshaping healthcare delivery in Nigeria and positioning JUTH as a reference model for tertiary health institutions nationwide.

Appointed in 2022 to lead the federal teaching hospital in Jos, Plateau State, Dr. Bupwatda brings a strong public health background and prior experience as Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee to a reform agenda anchored on technology, efficiency, and patient-centered care. He makes a compelling case that digital transformation in healthcare is no longer optional but a strategic imperative. It is critical to improving service quality, strengthening accountability, and future-proofing health systems in a resource-constrained environment.

Under his leadership, JUTH has made significant investments in digital infrastructure, electronic medical records (EMR), real-time communication systems, and foundational platforms for telemedicine and artificial intelligence-assisted care. These interventions are already delivering measurable gains: faster clinical workflows, reduced waiting times, improved interdepartmental coordination, and the elimination of long-standing inefficiencies associated with paper-based systems. Beyond operational efficiency, the hospital's digital reforms have also helped plug revenue leakages, enhance transparency, and markedly improve the patient experience.

Dr. Bupwatda acknowledges the complexity of change management in a large public health institution, noting that digital transformation is as much about people and culture as it is about technology. Yet, he is unequivocal that reverting to legacy systems is no longer an option. For him, JUTH's journey demonstrates how visionary leadership, sustained investment, and stakeholder buy-in can turn a public hospital into a digitally enabled, high-performing institution.

In this interview with *IT Edge News.Africa*, Dr. Bupwatda also calls for a nationally integrated healthcare data infrastructure; one that connects teaching hospitals, state hospitals, and other health facilities. He argued that such interoperability is essential to delivering equitable, efficient, and modern healthcare across Nigeria. He shares his thoughts with Olusegun Oruame, Nana Theresa Timothy

It takes vision and leadership to begin a transformation journey, especially moving from paper-based records to an electronic system. How did you reach the point of deciding that the hospital must adopt technology to drive efficiency, expand services, and impact more people?

By 2018, there was a directive from the Ministry through a partnership involving the **China Medical Advisory Committee** to start **electronic medical records (EMR)**. A company called **Health in a Box** came in through a partnership between the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Finance. My predecessor, Professor Edmund Banwat, began the process. Initially only three

departments were covered: **pharmacy, accounts, and records**.

The plan was to scale up and expand to other departments so that the system would be end-to-end. Unfortunately, that expansion did not happen before his tenure ended.

When I became Acting Chief Medical Director and was later confirmed, I felt that an EMR system could not work if it only covered three departments. The departments are interrelated. For example, if a clinical department sends a request to the laboratory, the lab must upload the result into the system so that the doctor can see it.

One of the biggest challenges we had with the manual system was missing patient folders. Patients would come and their files could not be found in the records library. The library contains records



from many years back, and searching manually was very difficult. Sometimes files were misfiled or missing entirely, so temporary folders had to be opened. That meant losing important patient history.

“Digital transformation is real and necessary. My vision is to achieve a completely stable system with no interruptions. This requires investment in infrastructure, reliable hardware, and stable power supply.”

So, I asked: how do we move forward? The board reviewed the progress and agreed that we needed to expand the system. The vendor told us that to achieve a full system we needed more hardware—desktops and a larger server. The old server was slow. I wanted a system that works in real time so that users enjoy using it.

We purchased about 180 desktops and a new high-end server. The goal was to digitize processes such as inventory, patient records, and service monitoring so that everything could be tracked easily.

However, the vendor could not deliver the level of functionality we wanted. The board then decided to open the process and invite other companies. Four companies presented their solutions. I allowed the ICT experts and end users to evaluate them to ensure transparency. Eventually, a company called **Private E-Health** was recommended. Their system, **Smart Clinic**, is what we currently use.

From the beginning, I asked for a hybrid system because we operate in a resource-limited environment where internet connectivity can be unreliable. When internet access is slow, it frustrates users. So, I wanted a system where if one method failed, another could work.

We started implementation with the **General Out-Patient Department**. Later we realized the system would not work fully without the laboratories, so we added the labs. The goal was that once a doctor sends a request, the lab conducts the test and uploads the result directly to the system. The doctor can see it without the patient carrying paper results around the hospital. Introducing the system also helped block financial leakages.

Under the paper system, investigations could sometimes be done without confirmed payment. With the EMR system, if a patient has not paid, the system does not allow results to be uploaded. Another benefit is the reduction in paper usage and printing costs. More importantly, the patient experience has improved because patients no longer move around the hospital carrying files and results.

How are you handling capacity building and change management so that staff across all levels can adopt the system?

Capacity building is essential. Before implementation, we organised departmental training sessions so staff could learn how the system works. Training continues because the software evolves and new features are introduced. New staff members such as interns and resident doctors also receive orientation on the system when they arrive. We also strengthened the ICT team by hiring additional technical staff to support users. These staff members are stationed across the hospital and are easily identifiable.

In addition, we introduced communication systems such as walkie-talkies to improve response time. Over 150 devices are distributed across service points including emergency units, wards, the oxygen plant, ICT units, and operating theatres. This allows staff to communicate instantly about patient needs or bed availability. We also created digital reporting platforms so that issues can be reported and resolved quickly.

Looking ahead, what is your vision for digital healthcare in the hospital and in the country?

Digital transformation is real and necessary. My vision is to achieve a completely stable system with no interruptions. This requires investment in infrastructure, reliable hardware, and stable power supply.

With a stable system, patients will be able to book appointments online instead of waiting long hours in the hospital. Telemedicine consultations will also become possible, allowing patients to communicate with doctors remotely.

Artificial intelligence will eventually support diagnosis and improve efficiency, although it will not replace doctors. Instead, it will assist clinicians in decision-making.

At the national level, I hope Nigeria develops an integrated healthcare database connecting hospitals across the country. Data from teaching hospitals and state hospitals should be integrated so that healthcare information can be accessed nationwide.

What has been the most challenging part of this transformational journey, and have you ever regretted starting it?

There have been moments of frustration, especially when technical glitches disrupt hospital operations. During such times patients and staff become frustrated, and the pressure is intense. However, when I look back at where we started, I know we cannot return to the old system. We have gone too far.

Transformation is difficult, especially in a large institution like JUTH. But problems must be treated as challenges to be solved. When we identify the problem, we work toward the solution and continue progressing. Although the journey is demanding, I have no regrets. Digital transformation is the future of healthcare, and we must continue moving forward.

JUTH sets the strategic tone for Nigeria's digital health future

Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) stands out as a compelling institutional focus. From its base in central Nigeria, JUTH has become a model of how technology-led reform can redefine healthcare delivery, restore confidence, and improve outcomes at scale. All of these demonstrating one fact: innovation leadership is no longer confined to coastal or commercial hubs.

From Missing Files to Real-Time Care: A Turning Point

A decade ago, a patient scheduled for surgery at JUTH discovered his medical records were untraceable, despite nearly ten years of visits. X-rays, lab results, prescriptions, and clinical history were missing, forcing clinicians to restart care from scratch. That moment crystallised the urgency for change.

Today, that experience belongs firmly in the past. Under the leadership of **Dr. Pokop Wushipba Bupwatda**, Chief Medical Director of JUTH, the hospital has executed a sweeping digital transformation that has fundamentally altered how care is delivered, coordinated, and experienced.

A Largely Paperless Hospital, Powered by Data

JUTH is now significantly paperless. It is digitally connected from outpatient arrival through emergency services, laboratories, wards, pharmacy, and finance. Clinicians access patients' historical records in real time, review lab results online during consultations, enter diagnoses digitally, and trigger next steps: tests, admissions, prescriptions, or payments.

All within a unified system. Every actor in the care chain operates from the same digital source of truth, enabling faster decisions, fewer errors, and better patient outcomes.

“One of the biggest challenges with the manual system was missing patient folders,” Dr. Bupwatda recalls. “That meant losing important patient history. We asked ourselves: how do we move forward? The answer was clear—expand and fully commit to a digital system.”

Inside JUTH's Digital Transformation Strategy

JUTH's transformation agenda is anchored on technology, infrastructure, and

change management; recognising that systems deployment must go hand-in-hand with people and processes.

Digital Payments and Financial Integrity

The hospital is transitioning to a fully digital payment system, eliminating cash handling, reducing delays, and blocking revenue leakages. With electronic medical records (EMR) integrated into billing, services cannot proceed without payment validation; improving accountability and efficiency.

Telemedicine Leadership in Northern Nigeria

JUTH established the **first Telemedicine Unit in Northern Nigeria**, expanding access to specialist care and enabling remote consultations, particularly critical for underserved communities.

Emergency Care Innovation (MediBoard)

The adoption of the **MediBoard system** in the Accident & Emergency unit has streamlined triage, reduced waiting times, and positioned JUTH as a reference model for emergency care digitisation nationwide.

Electronic Health Records and ICT Integration

Comprehensive EHR deployment has improved documentation, reduced clinical errors, and standardised data management—while ongoing upgrades continue to phase out residual paper workflows.

Infrastructure and Energy Resilience

A state-of-the-art solar power system now supports uninterrupted operations in critical units, especially emergency care—addressing one of healthcare's most persistent operational risks.

Research, Capacity Building, and Feedback Loops

Digital tools support research initiatives, including grant-backed work on sepsis diagnosis. JUTH has also deployed real-time patient feedback channels, dedicated complaint focal persons, and visible hotlines to continuously improve service quality.

Scale, Reach, and National Relevance

By official records, JUTH treats **over 200,000 patients annually**, operates a **672-bed capacity**, and employs **more than 3,000 staff** across clinical and specialist roles. It serves



as a major tertiary referral centre for **Plateau State** and at least **10 neighbouring states** across North-Central Nigeria and parts of Southern Kaduna.

“My goal was to create a fast system where information appears in real time. Patients no longer move around carrying files and results. The experience is simpler, faster, and safer,” Dr. Bupwatda tells *IT Edge News.Africa* in **Jos**.

Change Management: The Hidden Engine of Transformation

Beyond software and hardware, JUTH has invested heavily in training and communication. Over 150 walkie-talkies now link emergency units, wards, theatres, ICT teams, and the oxygen plant; cutting response times and improving coordination.

“Training never stops because systems evolve.

Transformation in a large institution is difficult, but once you start, there is no going back,” Dr. Bupwatda says.

Aligning with Nigeria's Digital Health Momentum

JUTH's progress mirrors broader national efforts under initiatives such as the **Nigeria Digital Health Initiative**, alongside growing adoption of telemedicine, AI-assisted diagnostics, electronic medical records, and health logistics platforms across Nigeria.

Innovations from eHealth startups, spanning remote

consultations, AI-driven diagnostics, and emergency logistics; are increasingly complementing tertiary institutions like JUTH, extending care beyond hospital walls.

Challenges, AI, and the Road Ahead

Despite progress, challenges persist. They include unreliable connectivity, infrastructure gaps, and skills shortages. All these remain barriers, particularly in rural areas. Yet JUTH views these not as deterrents but as solvable constraints.

Dr. Bupwatda is clear on the future:

“Artificial intelligence will support diagnosis and improve efficiency, though it will not replace doctors. It will assist clinicians in decision-making.”

He also calls for national data harmonisation: “Nigeria needs an integrated healthcare database connecting hospitals nationwide. That is how we unlock real efficiency at scale.”

A Model for Nigeria's Healthcare Future

Appointed CMD in 2022 after serving as Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Bupwatda has led JUTH through a demanding but irreversible transformation. Today, the hospital stands as proof that digital transformation is not optional in healthcare. It is foundational.

As *IT Edge News.Africa's Institutional Focus for Q1 2026*, **JUTH** exemplifies how technology, leadership, and vision can converge to redefine healthcare delivery. All of these impacting communities far beyond hospital walls and setting a new benchmark for Nigeria's health ecosystem.

OADC at the centre of Nigeria's digital future: Powering connectivity, cloud and AI at scale

As Nigeria's digital economy enters a decisive growth phase, **Open Access Data Centres (OADC)** is emerging not just as a participant, but as a **driving force and pioneer** redefining the country's data centre and connectivity landscape.

Featured as the *Institutional Focus* in **IT Edge News.Africa's Q1 2026 Forecast Report**, OADC exemplifies how infrastructure leadership can translate into broad-based digital transformation.

Backed by the strategic strength of **WIOCC Group**, OADC is positioning Nigeria as a critical node in Africa's cloud, AI, and data-driven future.

A \$240 Million Commitment to Nigeria's Digital Infrastructure

OADC is investing **over \$240 million** to expand its Lagos data centre campus to **24 megawatts (MW) by 2027**, signalling long-term confidence in Nigeria's digital infrastructure growth. This expansion forms part of a broader **\$500 million pan-African investment programme**, targeted at strengthening local data hosting, interconnection, and digital sovereignty across key markets.

Under the leadership of Chief Executive Officer **Ayotunde Coker**, OADC has become one of Africa's fastest-growing data centre providers, aligning capital investment with future-facing technologies and market demand.

Lagos: From National Asset to Regional Digital Hub

Strategically located in **Lekki**, OADC's Lagos campus already plays a pivotal role as the Nigerian landing station for the **Google Equiano subsea cable**. This status elevates the facility from a national asset to a **regional gateway for global connectivity**.

The four-hectare campus is being developed as one of West Africa's most advanced digital infrastructure environments, reinforcing Lagos' position as the epicentre of Nigeria's data economy.

Scaling for Cloud, AI and High-Density Workloads

OADC's Lagos expansion is purpose-built for the next wave of digital demand:

- **Massive Capacity Growth:** Scaling from an initial **1.5MW live capacity to 24MW**, delivered in two 12MW phases, with the first phase expected within **18 months**.
- **AI-Ready Design:** High-power density and advanced cooling systems to support AI, machine learning, and data-intensive applications.
- **Cloud and Colocation Focus:**



Meeting surging demand from hyperscalers, fintechs, enterprises, and digital platforms seeking reliable, local hosting.

This positions OADC as a **foundational enabler of Nigeria's AI and cloud adoption journey.**

OAfabric: Redefining Interconnection and Access

A key differentiator in OADC's ecosystem strategy is the deployment of **OAfabric**, its interconnection platform now live in Nigeria. Through OAfabric, customers gain:

- Direct, low-latency access to global cloud providers
- Seamless peering with the **Internet Exchange Point of Nigeria (IXPN)**
- Efficient connectivity to regional and international networks

By simplifying interconnection and reducing latency, OAfabric accelerates service delivery and lowers the cost of digital access—core pillars of inclusive digital growth.

Beyond Hyperscale: The Edge Data Centre Vision

OADC's strategy extends beyond Lagos. The company plans a roll-out of **30+ Edge Data Centres** across the region, with a strong focus on Nigeria. This approach brings compute and storage closer to users, enabling:

- Faster application performance
- Improved content delivery
- Broader digital inclusion for underserved locations

Edge infrastructure strengthens national resilience and ensures that digital benefits are not limited to major urban centres.

Sustainability as Infrastructure Strategy

Sustainability is embedded in OADC's expansion model. The company is implementing a multi-layered energy

strategy that includes:

- Natural gas-powered generation
- On-site power infrastructure for reliability
- Integration of renewable energy options
- Targeting **EDGE green building certification**

This ensures operational resilience while reducing environmental impact, positioning OADC as a **responsible, future-ready infrastructure provider.**

OADC and Nigeria's Digital Economy Outlook

OADC's expansion aligns closely with Nigeria's broader economic trajectory:

- **Digital Economy Contribution:** ICT and digital services already contribute about **19% of GDP**, projected to reach **21% by 2027**.
- **Market Growth:** Nigeria's data centre capacity is projected to grow from **56.1MW in 2025 to over 218MW by 2030**.
- **AI Impact:** Increased compute capacity is expected to support AI adoption that could add **\$15 billion to GDP by 2030**.
- **Jobs and Innovation:** Data centre expansion will drive job creation, skills development, and innovation across sectors.

A Transformational Enabler, Not Just a Participant

Through scale, interconnection, sustainability, and long-term vision, OADC is redefining what it means to build digital infrastructure in Africa. Its Lagos expansion is not merely about megawatts—it is about **unlocking access, accelerating innovation, and anchoring Nigeria's role as a regional digital powerhouse.**

As highlighted in IT Edge News.Africa's Q1 2026 Forecast, **OADC stands as a transformational enabler of connectivity access and a cornerstone of the continent's data centre ecosystem.**

Momentum builds for WACC 2026 as MOFI, APC Chairman, states, and industry leaders confirm participation

Momentum is steadily building ahead of the 15th West Africa Convergence Conference (WACC) 2026 and the 50 Most Influential Figures in Nigeria's Digital Economy, scheduled to hold in Lagos in June 2026. Industry leaders, investors, regulators, and state governments have begun confirming participation, underscoring the event's growing strategic importance.

Organisers say the conference comes at a critical moment as Nigeria accelerates its transition into a digitally driven economy.

The Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI) has been confirmed as a strategic partner for WACC 2026. MOFI is strengthening engagement around the use of technology, innovation, and investment to drive national development.

Established in 1959, MOFI serves as the Federal Government of Nigeria's asset-holding and investment management institution. It oversees more than 130 Government-Owned Entities (GOEs). The agency is targeting N100 trillion in assets under management within the next decade.

According to MOFI's Chief Executive Officer, Armstrong Ume Takang, the conference aligns closely with the organisation's mandate.

The keynote address at WACC 2026 will be delivered by Prof Nentawe Yilwatda, National Chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Yilwatda, who was recently re-elected at the party's 8th National Convention in Abuja, described the conference objectives as closely aligned with the APC's



commitment to inclusive growth. WACC aligns with APC's economic transformation, innovation-led development, and youth empowerment, said Yiltwada. He noted that it is particularly strategic as Nigeria prepares for the post-2027 development cycle.

Prof. Yilwatda is expected to speak at a high-level policy colloquium themed:

“Leveraging Technology for Development in Nigeria, 2027–2031: Delivering the Renewed Hope Agenda.”

WACC 2026 is taking place against the backdrop of rapid growth in Nigeria's information and communications technology (ICT) sector. Industry data show that ICT now contributes over 18% of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This remarkable growth is reinforcing its role as a major driver of economic growth and diversification.

Tinubu orders immediate funding for Nigeria's space assets, targets trillion-dollar global space economy

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu has directed the immediate release of approved funds for the maintenance of Nigeria's space assets. He declared that the country will not remain a bystander in the rapidly expanding global space economy, projected to exceed \$1 trillion by 2040.

The President, represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, spoke at the maiden meeting of the National Space Council in Abuja. He stressed that Nigeria's space ambitions must be driven by measurable outcomes, accountability, and tangible national value.

Tinubu said Nigeria is repositioning its space sector as a major economic driver. The country is targeting to generate over 200 billion annually from satellite

communications, data services, and regulatory licensing. Central to this effort is the revitalisation of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA). This goal is anchored on a revised 25-year roadmap focused on satellite maintenance for national security. Other goals within the framework are agriculture, maritime surveillance, and environmental monitoring.

To reinforce this commitment, the President approved the submission of the full implementation cost of the revised National Space Policy and Programme to the Federal Executive Council for consideration and approval.

FEC approves nationwide GIS-enabled digital postcode system to power Nigeria's digital economy

Nigeria's highest executive decision-making body, the Federal Executive Council (FEC), has approved the nationwide implementation of a GIS-enabled alphanumeric digital postcode system. This marks a major upgrade to the country's addressing infrastructure. The approval, granted on March 4, 2026, was disclosed by the Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy, Bosun Tijani. He said the initiative aligns with the ministry's Strategic Blueprint for building foundational digital public infrastructure. Nigeria's rapidly expanding digital economy has long

been constrained by outdated numeric postcodes. The situation is worsened by absence of formal street names or building numbers in many locations. These gaps have created persistent challenges for logistics, emergency response, security, navigation, and access to financial and government services.

The newly approved alphanumeric system replaces the legacy framework with a modern, data-driven addressing model. This new model assigns unique letter-and-number codes to precise geographic locations across the country.

Zamfara pushes full digital payments and ends cash revenue collection to curb leakages

Governor Dauda Lawal has ordered the immediate abolition of cash-based revenue collection across Zamfara State. The governor has mandated all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to adopt digital payment systems. This move is aimed at strengthening data integration, enabling real-time monitoring, and eliminating revenue leakages.

The directive was announced in a statement issued on Sunday in Gusau by the governor's spokesperson, Sulaiman Idris.

According to Idris, the governor made the announcement

during a town hall meeting themed "Diversifying Revenue Streams Under a New Tax Regime; Exploring Non-Tax Revenue Opportunities in Zamfara." The forum brought together key stakeholders from across the state and was convened by the Zamfara Internal Revenue Service.

Citizens and institutions were sensitised on the Nigeria Tax Reform Acts 2025 during the meeting. Idris said Zamfara was gearing up to implement the new national tax framework. The session aimed to equip stakeholders with the knowledge needed for seamless compliance and rollout.

Krishnan Ranganath exits Africa Data Centres takes helm at UniCloud Africa, targets industry leadership in sovereign cloud

The Regional Executive for West Africa at Africa Data Centres, Dr Krishnan Ranganath, has exited the company after five years marked by significant infrastructure expansion and market growth across the sub-region. His departure was confirmed via a LinkedIn post, in which he announced the conclusion of more than half a decade of

leadership as he prepares to begin a new professional chapter.

Africa Data Centres is among the continent's largest interconnected networks of carrier- and cloud-neutral data centre facilities, providing critical infrastructure services to enterprises, cloud service providers, and telecommunications operators across Africa.

Ranganath has since assumed office as Chief Executive Officer of UniCloud Africa Limited, marking a strategic leadership transition aimed at positioning the company as a dominant force in Africa's cloud and AI infrastructure ecosystem.

OADC approves \$240m investment to expand Lagos data centre to 24MW by 2027

Open Access Data Centres (OADC), a subsidiary of the WIOCC Group, has approved an additional \$240 million investment to significantly expand its data centre facility in Lagos. The expansion will scale the Lekki-based facility to 24 megawatts (MW) by 2027, strengthening Nigeria's role as a regional digital infrastructure hub.

Currently, the facility operates 1.5MW of its planned capacity, which became operational just two months ago.

Located in Lekki, the data centre also serves as Nigeria's landing station for the Google Equiano subsea cable. With the expansion, OADC aims to position the Lagos facility as a premier West African hub for cloud service providers,

telecom operators, content platforms, and emerging AI-driven services.

The company said the project will be delivered in two phases, with the first 12MW scheduled for completion within 18 months.

The Lagos expansion forms part of OADC's broader \$500 million investment plan, unveiled in 2021, to develop hyperscale and carrier-neutral data centre infrastructure across Africa. Speaking to reporters in Lagos, OADC Chief Executive Officer Ayotunde Coker reaffirmed the company's long-term commitment to Nigeria and the continent.

Benue seals \$2bn PPP deal to launch AI school, agro-processing hubs, and accelerate digital economy growth

The Benue State Government has finalised a landmark Public-Private Partnership (PPP) with KAOTHEEM Energy Services and TAICOP Capital Partners, facilitated by the Benue Investment and Property Company Limited (BIPC). The strategic partnership is designed to accelerate education, artificial intelligence (AI), agro-processing, wealth creation, and employment across the state.

Central to the agreement is the establishment of a world-class Artificial Intelligence (AI) School at the Benue State University of Agriculture, Science and Technology (BSUAST), Ihugh, alongside modern agro-processing

hubs for yam flour, tomato paste, and soybean value-chain expansion.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Makurdi, Deputy Governor Sam Odeh, representing Governor Hyacinth Iormem Alia, described the agreement as a “turning point” for the state's development trajectory. He announced the immediate constitution of a technical implementation committee and assured stakeholders that the administration is committed to delivering tangible outcomes beyond previous Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).

Abia govt approves SME Village and innovation hub in Aba to drive jobs and industrial growth

The Abia State Government has approved the establishment of an SME Village and Innovation Hub in Aba as part of a strategic effort to boost small and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs), stimulate innovation, and accelerate economic growth across the state.

Governor Alex Otti disclosed the approval on Friday during the

February edition of his monthly media parley held at the Government House in Umuahia.

According to the governor, the proposed facility will function as a centralised hub for enhanced productivity, innovation, and enterprise development. The SME Village will also serve as a dedicated centre for the sale, maintenance, and

repair of computers and mobile phones, supporting Aba's growing technology and artisan ecosystem.

Otti explained that the project would strengthen the capacity of local entrepreneurs and expressed confidence that collaboration with the Export Growth Lab at Ogbonnaya Onu Polytechnic would further reinforce the initiative.

NCC, Plateau State Government deepen talks on broadband, AI and digital jobs



The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Plateau State Government are exploring a strategic partnership to accelerate digital infrastructure development, broadband expansion and technology-driven job creation in the state.

Senior officials of the NCC made this known during a courtesy visit to Caleb Mutfwang, Governor of Plateau State in Jos.

The Plateau State Government reaffirmed its commitment to building a technology-driven economy,

positioning the state as an emerging digital hub through targeted reforms, partnerships and investments aimed at job creation and sustainable growth.

Mutfwang disclosed plans to establish a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) initiative expected to create jobs for at least **500 youths**, enabling remote work opportunities from Jos. According to him, such opportunities are time-sensitive and must be seized promptly to maintain competitiveness.

Earlier, the NCC's Executive Commissioner for Stakeholder Management, **Rimini Makama**, described the visit as both official and personal, noting her strong ties to Plateau State. Makama assured the Plateau State Government of the NCC's readiness to collaborate closely and align regulatory instruments with the state's development priorities. She highlighted the Commission's willingness to deploy tools such as **Right-of-Way (RoW) support** and the **Universal Service Provision Fund** to reduce bottlenecks and expand connectivity.

Kuda Bank lays off hundreds in restructuring as Nigerian fintechs pivot to profitability

Kuda Technologies Limited, the Nigerian digital bank backed by global investors, has laid off employees across multiple departments as part of a broad operational restructuring, despite reporting steady improvements in its financial performance. The job cuts were communicated on Wednesday, March 25, during a company-wide virtual meeting with senior executives. According to employees familiar with the matter, hundreds of staff were informed that their roles had been terminated before the call ended.

The restructuring affected several teams, including marketing, where nearly half of the department—19 out of 40 employees—were laid off, according to affected workers. Other support and operational units were also impacted as the company reviewed its internal structure.

While some employees expressed concern over the manner and timing of the layoffs—especially following recent senior-level hires—management maintained that the decision followed a comprehensive strategic review.

MTN Nigeria Bears the Brunt of Large-Scale Selloffs

MTN Nigeria Plc suffered a sharp market reversal on Monday as aggressive profit-taking wiped 1.028 trillion off its market capitalisation, representing a 6.46% decline. Trading data from the Nigerian Exchange (NGX) showed that investors offloaded MTN Nigeria shares in large volumes, reflecting weakening sentiment in the equities market.

The telecom giant's share price fell to 709 after 24.59 million units worth 17.45 billion were traded in a single session. Analysts attributed the selloff largely to early profit-taking ahead of dividend payments, following a strong rally earlier in the year. Following a robust earnings performance in 2025, MTN

Nigeria proposed a total dividend of 20 per share, subject to shareholder approval. This includes a 5 interim dividend already paid in September 2025—amounting to 104.98 billion—and a proposed final dividend of 15 per share valued at 314.93 billion. The telco did not declare dividends in 2024 due to profitability constraints, making the 2025 payout particularly significant and a key trigger for the recent profit-taking cycle.

Alongside MTN Nigeria, Guaranty Trust Holding Company (GTCO) was a major drag on the market. GTCO shed 8.18% to close at 105, amid reports of a missed regulatory filing, compounding investor caution.

NITDA launches 'Cyber for Women' programme to boost female participation in cybersecurity workforce



The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has launched a specialised cybersecurity training programme. It is aimed at

empowering Nigerian women with critical digital security skills and increasing their representation in the country's rapidly growing

cybersecurity workforce. The initiative, tagged “Cyber for Women,” was organised in collaboration with Women in Cybersecurity and held on March 10, 2026, in Abuja. Globally, women currently represent only 20–25% of the cybersecurity workforce, a notable improvement from 11% in 2013. However, a significant leadership gap persists, with women occupying just 7–14% of Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) roles. NITDA's latest intervention is designed to address this imbalance by equipping Nigerian women with the expertise needed to compete and lead in the cybersecurity space.

NDPC warns content creators: Unauthorised public filming violates Nigerians' privacy rights

The Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) has issued a strong warning to digital content creators, skit makers, and social media influencers across Nigeria over the unauthorised filming of individuals in public spaces, describing the practice as a clear violation of citizens' privacy rights.

In an official statement released this week in Abuja, the Commission declared that the era of “unauthorised public filming” is over, cautioning creators to respect the privacy and dignity of Nigerians in their pursuit of online content.

According to the Commission, the act of taking photographs or video recordings of unsuspecting members of the public and sharing them on social media platforms without consent is unlawful. NDPC explained that such actions violate the constitutional right to privacy and the right to informational self-determination guaranteed under Section 37 of the 1999 Constitution, as well as provisions of the Nigeria Data Protection Act, 2023 (NDP Act).

“The attention of the Nigeria Data Protection Commission has been drawn to the activities of individuals who take pictures and video footage of unsuspecting members of the general public and share same on social media platforms. These acts violate the rights of citizens to informational self-determination,” the Commission stated.

Legend Internet–Spectranet merger to create Nigeria's largest broadband ISP



Legend Internet Plc is set to merge with Spectranet Limited in a landmark transaction aimed at strengthening Nigeria's broadband infrastructure and reshaping competition in the country's fast-evolving internet services market.

Announced in March 2026, the proposed merger is expected to be completed by Q2 2026. It will create Nigeria's largest Internet Service Provider (ISP), with

an estimated valuation of 80 billion. The combined entity is positioning itself as a next-generation broadband provider. It will focus on scale, quality of service, and long-term financial resilience.

The transaction received board and shareholder approval from Legend Internet in late 2025. It is currently awaiting final regulatory clearance from the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC).

Once approved, both companies will be integrated under a single corporate structure designed to drive operational efficiencies. As one company, it will expand broadband penetration, and improve service reliability nationwide.

The merger brings together Legend Internet's fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) infrastructure and listed-company status with Spectranet's extensive 4G LTE and wireless broadband assets and large subscriber base.

Ghana switches on shared 5G backbone as Next Gen InfraCo begins nationwide commercial operations

Next Gen InfraCo (NGIC) Limited has officially commenced full commercial operations of Ghana's shared 4G and 5G infrastructure. This launch marks a major milestone in the country's digital transformation journey. NGIC's rollout signals the transition from policy ambition to real-world execution of Ghana's next-generation connectivity framework.

Commercial launch follows formal clearance from the

National Communications Authority (NCA). The regulator confirmed that NGIC has met all regulatory, technical, and operational requirements under its Wholesale Electronic Communications Infrastructure Licence. With regulatory approval secured, the national 4G/5G backbone is now live and scaling across the country.

Kenya: Court of Appeal upholds cybercrime law but strikes down 'fake news' offences

On 6 March 2026, the Court of Appeal in Nairobi (Court) issued a landmark decision on the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act (2018) (Act). The Court held that sections 22 and 23 of the Act – which criminalised publication of

certain forms of 'false' information – are unconstitutional. The Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE), backed by media and civil society groups including Article 19 East Africa, the Kenya Union of Journalists, and the Law Society of Kenya, argued that large portions of the Act violated fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, privacy, and fair trial protections. The Attorney General, the Speaker

of the National Assembly, the Inspector General of the National Police Service and the Director of Public Prosecutions defended the law.

With this decision, Kenya's cybercrimes framework has been largely validated, but the Court drew a clear line – the government cannot use the law to silence speech or conduct unchecked surveillance. For Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and tech companies, this decision is both a compliance roadmap and a shield.

Nigerian artists earn over 60b from Spotify in 2025 as global demand surges

Nigerian artists generated more than 60 billion in revenue from music streaming on Spotify in 2025, underscoring the rapid commercial growth of the country's music industry. The figures were revealed in Spotify's annual "Loud & Clear" report, unveiled in Lagos, which provides insights into how artists earn income, grow audiences, and expand globally through streaming platforms. According to the report, earnings by Nigerian artists from Spotify alone have grown by over 140% in the past two years, reflecting increasing global demand for

Nigerian music. The report highlights strong international and domestic engagement with Nigerian music: 30.3 billion streams recorded in 2025
1.6 billion listening hours globally
Over 1.3 billion first-time discoveries, marking a 26% increase year-on-year
These figures demonstrate how Nigerian artists are not only reaching wider audiences but also sustaining listener engagement across global markets.

NIPOST, Galaxy Backbone explore digital infrastructure partnership to power Nigeria's GIS-enabled postcode system



The Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST) and Galaxy Backbone Limited (GBB) are advancing discussions on a strategic partnership covering cloud services, data hosting and digital infrastructure. Both organisations aimed at accelerating NIPOST's service delivery and nationwide logistics operations. The collaboration was explored during a strategic visit by NIPOST's Postmaster General and Chief

delivery. Welcomed by GBB's Managing Director and CEO, Prof. Ibrahim A. Adeyanju, discussions focused on how Galaxy Backbone's infrastructure can support NIPOST's operational transformation. The talks particularly focused on logistics, e-commerce support and digital service integration. A major pillar of the engagement

Executive Officer, Omotola Odeyemi, to Galaxy Backbone's headquarters in Abuja. Both government-owned institutions aligned on leveraging shared digital assets to modernise public service

was the newly approved GIS-enabled digital postcode system, endorsed by the Federal Executive Council (FEC), Nigeria's highest decision-making body chaired by President Bola Tinubu. Galaxy Backbone is expected to play a critical role in the successful rollout of the GIS-enabled digital postcode system. It will provide the high-speed, secure connectivity required for real-time geospatial data access. Through the National Information and Communication Technology Infrastructure Backbone (NICTIB), GBB's nationwide optical fibre network, spanning over 5,000 kilometres across 26 states, alongside its secure data centres, will enable NIPOST to efficiently map, store and utilise precise geographic coordinates.



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