

THE KANO INTERNET ACCESS DECLARATION: SHAPING THE WEB WE WANT



INTRODUCTION

As the concluding activity of the campaign for cheaper and faster internet in Nigeria, conducted by Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), a Stakeholder Forum was convened on Saturday, 7th May, 2016 at the historic Mambayya House. The stakeholders included representatives of ISPs, professionals, academics, students, women groups and major internet users (cafes). The forum listened to presentations and testimonies by a number of speakers and resolved as follows:

OBSERVATIONS

1. That internet penetration in the country today stands at just about 42.68%, which means that the majority are not using internet
2. That internet is a critical resource for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
3. That internet access in the country is generally slow
4. That the cost of access is comparatively high, making it unaffordable for many Nigerians, with fixed broadband price is over 35.06% of disposable income, against the ITU set a cap of 5%
5. Nigeria is ranked low in Internet readiness
6. Slow speedy of internet is hampering educational other activities such as commerce in the country
7. Institutions cannot roll out e-learning programmes in the country because of the prohibitive cost of access to internet, that is against our national interest
8. That mass failure recorded in the computer based examination of Joint Matriculation Board (JAMB) was partly due to slow speed of internet
9. That over 90 of public schools do not have access to internet
10. That security over internet is porous in the country, making many people to fall prey to cybercrimes
11. If education is a right and internet is the tool to access education, then internet itself is a right.

DEMANDS

1. That ISPs must rollover unutilized data that subscriber have already paid to the net billing period
2. Government should attend to key internet infrastructure challenge In the country
3. Internet service providers should compensate subscribers for poor and undelivered services
4. We reject the proposed communication service tax that will require customers to pay 9% charge on communication services as this will further increase the cost of internet access In the country

5. Internet service providers should take active steps to improve speedy and reduce coat of access to their services
6. Internet service providers should ensure that they provide transparent quality service agreement that their clients can hold them accountable to
7. Expand their network coverage and capacity to reduce congestion that reduce speedy
8. Internalize and apply the “Respect, Protect and Remedy” framework to fulfill their duties to uphold internet rights in line with African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedom
9. That government should subsidize access to internet for educational institutions, especially at secondary school level to the tune of 50%

RECOMMENDATION

1. Nigeria Communications Commission should publicize it complaints handling mechanism so that citizens are aware about them and can use them
2. The projects of USPF should be made more functional and true means of digital inclusion
3. Direct USPF to drive connection in rural areas than just providing computers. While computers are important, without access to affordable bandwidth, these computers will remain underutilized
4. NCC to enforce its regulatory powers over ISPs with clear and publically known service thresholds
5. Ensure that the bridging affordability principle embedded in the establishment of the Universal Service Provision Fund is driven through diligent auditing of programmes, projects and initiative undertaken by the agency
6. Improve power supply as key factor in determining the cost of service by service providers
7. Ensure that all internet-related laws and policies are clear, transparent and in line with the principles contained in the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms
8. Address obstacles for the expansion and deployment of network rings by the ISPs
9. Government should review and implement the National Broadband Plan Network
10. The promotion and maintenance of the highest professional standards in the provision of access to the internet

COMMITMENTS

We are committed to the realization of these demands and the advocacy for the implementation of the recommendations we have made above. To continue with the campaign and sustain it to the level it will yield results, we commit ourselves to set up the Nigeria Internet Users Forum as collective platform to coordinate this campaign.

Kano, 7th May, 2016

