



## Report of a two-day workshop on trends in public procurement systems and practices for management of Kano state ministry of public procurement, monitoring and evaluation held at the FABS Hotel, Zaria- February 10-11, 2025—cont

The workshop targeted the management staff (Directors) of the ministry handling various sections of the ministry. Ten Directors were carefully selected by the ministry for the workshop. Facilitators set the ground with overview of procurement practice and another on some selected case studies for lesson learning. Similarly, a seasoned public procurement officer in Jigawa state, former Director General of the state's Due Process & Projects Monitoring Bureau shared experiences at the sessions.

To introduce technology into the procurement process, CITAD's M&E Officer as well as the senior technical officer made different presentations during the two-day sessions with a view to introduce/strengthen the ministry's IT skills for improved documentation, Data analysis, planning and monitoring of projects.

### Objective of the workshop:

In his welcome remarks, the Executive Director of CITAD stated the main objective of the workshop is to strengthen the ongoing effort being carried out by the staff of the ministry on public procurement. The workshop was not meant to conduct a series of group works rather, on sharing experiences and to identify best practices in order to build more public trust in the area of procurement which ultimately concerns service delivery.

ments and disposal plan from May 2023-December 2024).

### Goodwill Message by the Hon Commissioner of the ministry:

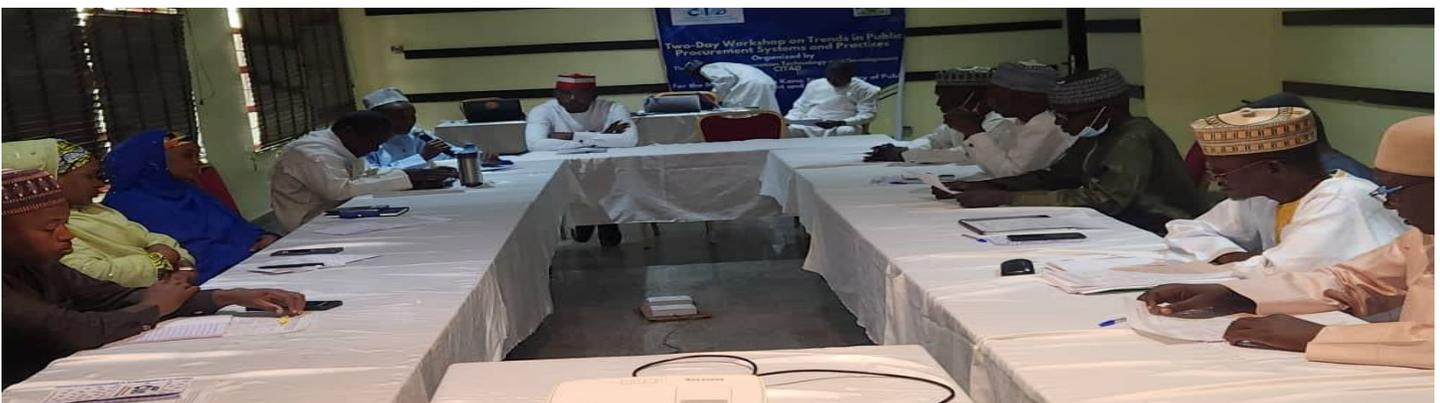
According to the commissioner, the session workshop has already provided an opportunity for partnership, collaboration and development for the ministry and the state at large. The state has started the review of its public procurement law within the context of Kano state. The governor approved (the audit of the state procure

### Revolutionizing E-Commerce: Ahzan Emporium Takes Center Stage at CITAD's ICT Forum

reach. Attendees engaged actively, discussing the app's impact on various business sectors and the role of ICT skills in modern entrepreneurship. CITAD reaffirmed its commitment to supporting tech-driven business initiatives, emphasizing the role of digital innovation in local economic transformation.

The event concluded with a call for businesses and entrepreneurs to embrace digital solutions and capitalize on e-commerce for sustainable growth. CITAD pledged to continue fostering similar engagements to bridge the gap between technology and entrepreneurship.

A key highlight was a panel discussion featuring Abdulghaniyyu Hamza, the lead developer of Ahzan Emporium, alongside Salihu Gimba, CITAD training assistant. They shared insights on how digital platforms enhance e-commerce, streamline operations, and expand market



**On 23rd January, 2025 CITAD’s Abuja office Staff Received Mr. Lucas Laursen from Madrid, Spain on a Visit to Tungan Ashere Community**

**Introduction to Unconnected.org’s Platform**

Dave Naxim, representing Unconnected.org, introduced the organization’s services, highlighting their ability to provide affordable internet connectivity, digital vouchers, advertising support, and device subsidies. The platform, which has already been piloted in Abuja and other locations, received positive feedback from users.

The connectivity setup process involves ordering a Starlink dish through the website, ensuring proper installation with a clear line of sight, and utilizing Wi-Fi management software for centralized control, data collection, and voucher distribution. Troubleshooting strategies and mesh network configurations were also discussed.

**Key Presentation by Unconnected.org**

Toby from Unconnected.org outlined the five-phase operationalization process for their services:

**Setting Up the Starlink-Powered Internet Solution**

**Installing and Managing the Dish**

**Bypass Mode and Troubleshooting**

**Setting Up a Mesh Network**

**Demonstration of the Wi-Fi Management Software**

CITAD’s tech team was tasked with reviewing the presentation and assessing the usability of Unconnected.org’s products in alignment with CITAD’s operational framework.

**Action Points**

**Follow-Up Support** – Engaging with Unconnected.org’s support team to facilitate negotiations, procurement, installation, and overall implementation guidance.

**Community Package Consideration**

– CITAD’s community networks align with Unconnected.org’s “community package” model, determining the appropriate voucher system and data limits based on community needs.

**Data Collection via Wi-Fi Management Software**

– CITAD’s tech team would explore the feasibility of using survey and quiz features within the Wi-Fi management software to collect and analyze user data at the community level.

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| <b>ONLINE MARKETING</b><br>1-week program<br>16 hours<br>9am- 1pm<br>#10,000   | <b>DATA ANALYSIS</b><br>1-week program<br>16 hours<br>9am- 1pm<br>#10,000            | <b>CANVA FOR DESIGN</b><br>1-week program<br>16 hours<br>9am- 1pm<br>#10,000   |
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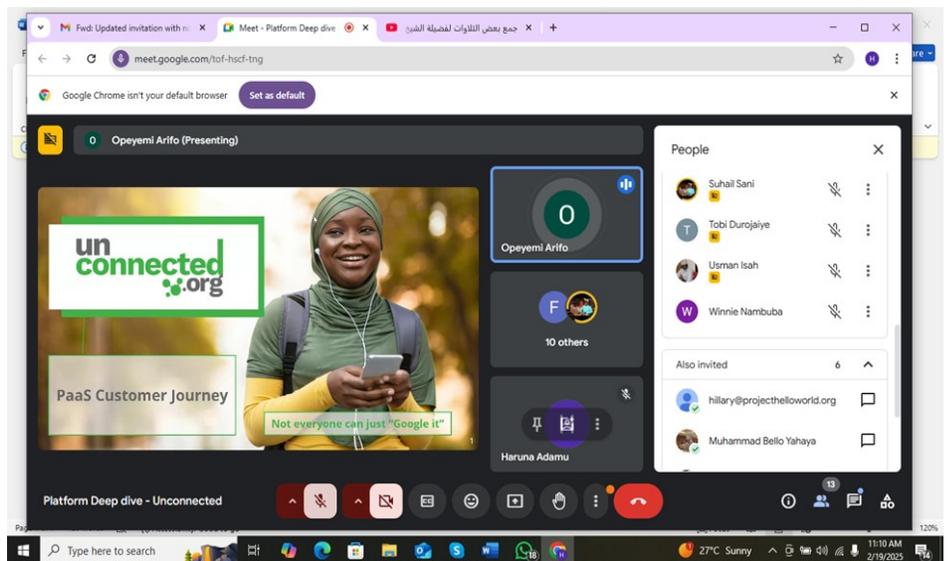
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**Key Observations and Questions**

**Mesh Network Services Discontinued** – Unconnected.org no longer provides mesh network services due to the lack of in-house specialists.

**Community Package Benefits** – This package supports wider coverage, making it suitable for community network deployment by CITAD.



## Inspiring Leadership Reflection interactive Series (ILERIS)

The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) successfully hosted Malam Kabiru Musa Jammaje as the guest speaker for its monthly Inspiring Leadership Reflection Interactive Series (ILERIS) on Thursday, February 27, 2025.

Jammaje, a renowned English teacher, author, radio presenter, and film producer/director, shared his diverse experiences and insights, sparking a vibrant and engaging discussion with participants. The session left attendees inspired by his journey and contributions across multiple fields.



## CITAD Receives Canadian High Commissioner

The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) had the honour of receiving Colton Brydges, First Secretary (Political Affairs) at the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria, on a courtesy visit to its Head Office in Kano.

Mr. Brydges was warmly welcomed by the Executive Director of CITAD, Dr. Y.Z. Ya'u, along with senior staff members of the organization. During the visit, Dr. Ya'u briefed the diplomat on CITAD's ongoing work in promoting good governance, digital inclusion, peacebuilding, youth empowerment, and countering misinformation and hate speech across Nigeria.

The interactive session provided an opportunity for fruitful exchanges on key areas of mutual interest, particularly in strengthening democratic values, civic engagement, and inclusive development through technology. Mr. Brydges expressed appreciation for CITAD's impactful grassroots work and reaffirmed the Canadian government's commitment to supporting initiatives that promote human and digital rights, transparency, and community resilience.

CITAD deeply appreciates Mr. Brydges and the Canadian High Commission in Nigeria for the visit, which further deepens the relationship between both institutions and underscores the importance of international partnerships in advancing sustainable development goals.



# CITAD Convenes Roundtable on Education Quality Assurance in Kano State

The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) recently organized a high-level roundtable discussion focused on addressing the challenges of education quality assurance within Kano State’s education system.

Discussions centered on key issues such as teacher training and supervision, curriculum implementation, infrastructural deficits, monitoring mechanisms, and data-driven policy-making.



The forum brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB), Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), Kano Educational Resource Department (KERD), Kano State Senior Secondary Schools Management Board (KSSSMB), Science and Technical Schools Board, relevant departments of the Ministry of Education, academics, civil society organizations, and education-focused NGOs.

The participants also explored practical strategies to enhance accountability, improve learning outcomes, and strengthen institutional collaboration across various education bodies in the state.

CITAD emphasized the need for sustained dialogue, community engagement, and policy reforms to ensure inclusive and quality education for all. The roundtable concluded with a call for collective action to address systemic gaps and reinforce quality assurance structures at all levels of the education sector in Kano State.



# CITAD Pushes for Greater Transparency with FOIA in Bauchi

On December 5, 2025, the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), in collaboration with its partners under the Open Government Partnership (OGP), urged the Bauchi State Ministry of Information to support the domestication of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) within the state.

During the advocacy visit, Mujahid Ibrahim from CITAD emphasized the importance of transparency in governance and called on the Ministry to take the lead in ensuring the adoption of the FOIA. He commended the Bauchi State Government for joining the Open Government Partnership in 2022, stressing that domesticating the FOIA would empower citizens with access to crucial information, fostering accountability and good governance.

CITAD reaffirmed its commitment to working with the Ministry to advance this initiative, expressing optimism that Bauchi State will take a significant step toward institutionalizing openness

and accountability in governance.

## **Unlocking Business Potential: CITAD's ICT Forum Champions Digital Innovation**

The ICT Business Forum, organized by the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), was held at its Bauchi office on Wednesday, 13th, 2024. The event brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and tech enthusiasts to discuss how digital technologies can drive business growth in Northern Nigeria.

In his keynote address, the Director of the Digital Economy Unit at the Bauchi State Bureau for ICT commended CITAD's role in promoting technological innovation and urged participants to engage actively in discussions.

CITAD's Program Officer, Mujahid, highlighted the need for entrepreneurs to adopt digital technologies to stay competitive. Auwal Dahiru, Team Lead of Tensorflow, shared insights on leveraging websites and social media for business growth, while Muhammad

Aliyu Sambo of Five Star ICT LTD discussed emerging tech solutions in Northern Nigeria.

The forum provided a space for participants to share their experiences and challenges, fostering innovation and resilience in the startup ecosystem. The event also aimed to enhance participants' understanding of social media's role in accountability and equip them with advocacy skills.

## **Empowering Citizens: CITAD Launches Mobile App for Transparent Governance**

The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) recently held a workshop on November 27 at the M.A. Abdullahi Conference Hall, NUJ Secretariat Complex, Bauchi, to promote transparency and accountability in governance through technology.

The highlight of the event was the introduction of CITAD's innovative mobile application, *Office of the Citizens*, designed to empower citizens with real-time updates on government-funded projects

and enable public oversight. Mujahid Ibrahim, CITAD's Program Officer, emphasized that the app provides a platform for citizens to engage with government officials and ensure proper use of public funds.

"Public project tracking is essential for transparency and accountability. With tools like the *Office of the Citizens* app, we are giving citizens a voice and a means to demand responsible governance," said Ibrahim.

Key speakers included Lawan Bako, Director of Planning at the Ministry of Budget, Economic Planning, and Multilateral Coordination, who highlighted the role of technology in tracking public projects. A hands-on session followed, where participants were trained on how to use the app effectively.

Hajiya Halima Dimis, representing the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Secretariat, commended CITAD's efforts, emphasizing the importance of leveraging digital tools for good governance.

# Kano Assembly Seeks CITAD’s Support on ICT Capacity Building

The Center for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) received a delegation from the Department of Information and Publication of the Kano State House of Assembly to discuss collaboration on training and emerging technologies.

Led by Ahmed Ismail Haruna, the delegation met with CITAD’s Executive Director to explore joint efforts in capacity building, digital skills training, and the use of technology for governance and public information.

CITAD expressed willingness to support the Assembly in adopting modern communication and information management tools.

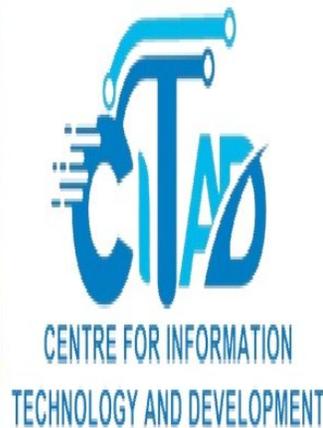
The Executive Director emphasized the need for public institutions to develop technological skills for better transparency, efficiency, and public engagement.

The visit aimed to strengthen cooperation between both institutions in using technology for development.

**Cont. On 23rd January, 25 Abuja office staff received Mr. Lucas laursen from Madrid Spain tungan ashere community together Lucas laursen from Madrid Spain**

The purpose of this visit is to conduct a needs assessment and understand the impact of the Internet some of the rural communities for the story of IEEE spectrum magazine

- Assess the current level of Internet access and usage
- Identify the benefits and challenges of Internet adoption
- Gather community members' insights on their Internet experiences and perceptions



## EDITORIAL

# PAYING MORE, LIVING LESS: THE COST OF DATA FOR LOCAL HUSTLERS

The recent increase in the price of Data and Airtime by telecommunication companies has sparked widespread concern, particularly for low-income earners who rely on affordable connectivity for their livelihoods. With inflation soaring and the cost of living at an all-time high, this development threatens to push many Nigerians further into uncertain economic hardship.

For small earners, petty traders, artisans, farmers or informal workers in rural and semi-urban areas, the price hike is unbearable. Many of these individuals operate on razor-thin margins, earning just enough to cover basic necessities. Telecom services aren't a luxury for them; they're a lifeline. They use mobile phones to connect with customers, check market prices, send or receive payments via mobile money and stay in touch with family or suppliers. When data and airtime costs rise sharply, say, from a weekly 1GB plan doubling or tripling in price, it's not just an inconvenience; it's a direct threat to their income and survival.

Take an example of a petty trader in a local market of Kantin Kwari in Kano, Onisha market in Abia or Alaba market in Lagos. They might use Facebook or WhatsApp to take orders or advertise goods to customers beyond their immediate areas. If Data prices jump, they're forced to either cut back on this outreach which by implication means losing potential sales or spend more, eating into profits already squeezed by Nigeria's high inflation. For someone earning, say, ₦20,000-₦30,000 a month, a 2G Data plan that once cost ₦500 before but now costs ₦1,600 is a huge leap. That's money that could've

gone to food, transport, health, or school fees.

Then there's the ripple effect on digital inclusion. Small earners in local communities often rely on affordable telecom access to bridge gaps in education, information and opportunity. Young people, students or job seekers in these areas depend on cheap Data to study online, apply for jobs or build skills. When prices soar, they're pushed offline thereby deepening inequality.

Socially, it's a strain as well. These communities often use airtime for voice calls to maintain familial ties, especially in Nigeria where migration for work among young people from local communities to big cities like Kano, Lagos, Port-Harcourt etc is common. If a call that once cost 11 kobo per second now costs 21 kobo, a small earner might skip checking in on a sick relative or communicating with his family. It's a small cut that bleeds into their quality of life.

Telecom companies argue that rising operational costs, equipment maintenance, vandalism, necessitate these hikes. While this may be a valid point, for small earners, this justification rings hollow when service quality doesn't match the price increase. Dropped calls, slow internet, and patchy coverage are still common complaints, especially in rural areas where infrastructure lags. Paying more for the same shaky service feels like a betrayal to people already stretched economically and socially.

On the flip side, some might adapt, sharing data via hotspots, switching to cheaper plans, or relying on free Wi-Fi where available. But these workarounds aren't sustainable for

most. The reality is, many will simply use less, communicate less, and earn less as a result. For a country pushing digital transformation, this rollback for the poorest risks stalling progress. The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) has rejected the move, describing it as "insensitive" to the current economic realities of the country.

While telecommunications companies argue that these increases are necessary to sustain operations, it is crucial to strike a balance that does not further disenfranchise ordinary Nigerians. The government, regulatory bodies, civil society organizations and telecom firms must engage in meaningful dialogue to explore alternatives. Possible solutions include government subsidies for telecom services, reductions in industry taxes, or phased tariff adjustments to ease the financial burden on consumers.

As we navigate these challenging times, it is essential that the digital rights of Nigerians are protected. The ability to communicate and access information should not be a privilege reserved for the wealthy but a fundamental right accessible to all. If Nigeria is truly committed to digital inclusion and economic development, then measures must be taken to ensure that the cost of connectivity remains not only accessible but also, affordable to all citizens.

# Get to know us

CITAD is a non-governmental and non-profit organization that is committed to the use of information and communication technologies for the development and promotion of good governance. It was established first as a single project (Computer Literacy Project) in 1996 but was expanded in 2000 to include other projects. Now it incorporates six different thematic units. It sponsors to those that are similarly disseminated to either reinforce positive trends or counter and neutralize negative ones. It has offices located in Kano state, Abuja, Dutse Jigawa State, Bauchi, Jamaare, and Itas as well as two outreach units located in Gombe and Yobe States. The organization has a board of Trustees consisting of four people, a Governing Board of 8 people that is responsible for policy making including approval of annual budget as well as recruitment of senior staff. A management team headed by the Executive Director implements the organization's programs and provides management and administrative functions. It has 45 full-time staff and volunteers/interns.

CITAD sees technology as a tool to promote sustainable development, good government and peaceful co-existence. It uses ICT to empower youth and women through access to information, skills and online mentoring opportunities. It utilises such platforms such as social networking, web-to-text interface and tools such as Google Alert to provide information that would promote peaceful coexistence. It uses Google alerts to source information about trends of discussion in various platforms, sites and online discussion lists and sites with a view to understanding trends, attitudes and positions such that it can develop appropriate re-

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