

MEMO

From: President
To: Members and Stakeholders
Date: January 1st, 2021
Subject: Framing a National Consensus on Social Media Management

The Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) is pleased to release to the public the report, **Who Decides Social Media Policy?** developed by the Office of the Chief of Staff to the President in collaboration with the Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON) based on the deliberations and meeting notes of the workshop meetings of December 3rd and 4th 2020.,

Nigeria has been navigating the digital transformation journey that all nations are undergoing with varying degrees of success. As the industry association for policy formulation, advocacy and other matters related to the growth of the software sector as a key contributor to Nigeria's GDP growth, employment, entrepreneurship and sustainable national competitiveness, ISPON has been concerned with the hard and soft infrastructure of the emerging Digital Economy as well as the policies that regulate and support Software Nigeria and ISPON's shared goal of building innovation as a national capability and driver.

In its memo of November 24th, 2012, ISPON noted the role of social media in the national socio-economic and political agenda and proposed to work in collaboration with the Office of the Chief of Staff to the President - Senior Special Adviser to the President (Digital Transformation), to consider and recommend an approach to designing a Social Media policy that protects all Nigerians and promotes its use in a positive and productive way.

This report serves as documentation of progress made to date in Phase One of the multi-stage programme envisaged. It represents the first step in a collective journey towards ensuring that Nigeria becomes a player in the global economy by accelerating the growth of the human capital and propagation of information technology adoption and use exponentially.

We thank the participants in the workshop from the private and public sector for their expert insights and commitment to harnessing the powerful forces of digitalisation currently shaping the 21st Century to our national aspirations. As the report notes in particular:

Nigeria's youth are already demonstrating to the world their capacity to leverage Internet and Social Media technologies and platforms for jobs, wealth creation and social good under the Digital Economy agenda that the Administration is actively driving. A transparent and mutually accountable strategy that better integrates and on-boards the stakeholder community in the shared goal for a prosperous, vibrant digital economy begins with clarity in communication between the Government and the youth, and an openness in taking a shared accountability for using the influence of social media technologies and platforms for the good of all.

ISPON joins the Federal Government, citizens and friends of Nigeria in signalling through this report, an auspicious start to a new year and a new decade, and importantly, an unequivocal statement of intent to realise the nation of our dreams, stronger and better together as aided by a policy roadmap for implementing a national strategy to leverage Social Media for nation-building and socio-economic development.



Signed
Chinenye Mba-Uzoukwu, President
