

MEMO

From: President
To: Members and Stakeholders
Date: November 24th, 2020
Subject: Framing a National Consensus on Social Media Regulation

Background

ISPON, the Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria, is the industry association for the policy-making, advocacy and other matters related to the growth of the software sector of Nigeria's economy as a key contributor to GDP growth, employment and sustainable national competitiveness through building innovation as a national capability and driver.

ISPON has been concerned with the hard and soft infrastructure of the emerging Digital Economy as well as the policies that regulate and support the maturing of these components and systems as Nigeria grapples with the digital transformation journey that all nations are undergoing. Nigeria cannot become a player in the global economy unless it accelerates the growth of the human capital and propagation of information technology adoption and use exponentially. Yet, technology while neutral by default, will have differing effects on ecosystems and society itself based on the character of its deployment.

Of recent, the role of social media in the national socio-economic and political agenda has come to the fore and ISPON desires to support the articulation of a constructive proposition that accommodates the expectations of stakeholders in the public and private sector, domestically and internationally. Working in collaboration with the Office of the Senior Special Adviser to the President (Digital Transformation), ISPON is proposing a Working Group 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.

Collaborating for Success

The proposal is in 2 (two) phases:

- **Phase One:** An Advisory Group will be constituted of selected expert resources from the private sector covering youth, gender, legal, civil society, technology, cybersecurity and technology, while the public sector will do same from relevant MDAs covering Digital Economy, Information, National Security and Justice. The Advisory Group will aim to exchange views and develop a post engagement report that captures key recommendations.
- **Phase Two:** Deriving from the adoption of the recommendation in Phase One, the Advisory Group will reconvene as a Working Group possibly expanded to accommodate other stakeholders as may be recommended. The Working Group will sit in plenary to receive inputs from the general public for its internal consideration. At its discretion, it may call for the submission of memoranda from expert stakeholders such as platform owners with the goal of socializing the report from phase one engagement for broader consensus building.

It is expected that Phase One will be for a duration of two days in early December, while Phase Two will be a duration of 21 days in January/February 2021.

Signed
President
