

## DEVELOPMENT OF A POLICY FOR DEPLOYMENT OF 5G IN NIGERIA: UHURU FOR INDUSTRY PLAYERS FROM INTERNET HASSLES?

The Federal Ministry of Communications & Digital Economy (the Commission) has issued a Public Notice on the development of a policy for deployment of Fifth Generation (5G) Technology in Nigeria. By virtue of Section 4 (q) of the Nigerian Communications Act, 2003, being the enabling Act, the Commission is mandated to prepare and implement programmes and plans that promote and ensure the development of the Communications industry and provision of communication services in Nigeria.

The plan to develop a policy aimed at deploying the 5G is sequel, to a successfully concluded trial conducted on the 3.5GHz and 26 GHz bands, in November 2019, via a Proof of Concept (trial) with MTN in six locations using different equipment vendors for 3 months. The performance was witnessed by relevant stakeholders including members of the security agencies, and showed improvement of 5G over the previous technologies and with the radiation levels well below the specified human safety guidelines.

The 5G technology is an advancement of existing mobile technologies (2G – 4G) with enhanced capabilities providing new and enhanced mobile communications services. The enhancements include applications like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Robotics, Drones, Advanced Communications Systems, Cloud, 3D Printing, Mixed Reality, Simulation/Imaging, Gamification, etc. The improvements will be reflected in Manufacturing, Transportation, Public Services, Health and Social Works, Agriculture, Energy, Logistics, Media and Entertainment, Mining and Quarrying, Machinery and Equipment, Automotive, Education, Information and Communication, Urban Infrastructure, Consumer experience, Sports, Semiconductor Technologies etc.

The Commission is developing the Consultative Document to

be shared with stakeholders and the general public, consequently, Captains of the Industry, Stakeholders and the general public are advised to keep tab with us as we update them on the workings of the Commission and the upcoming Stakeholder Consultative Forum.

### COMMENTS

As skeptical, concerned and biased as some people may be, on not only the 5G technology, but also generally when it comes to innovations, it is pertinent to state here that while any valid concern should be addressed by the Commission, 7G or 8G network is operational in Norway.

Countries like Japan, Australia and New Zealand on the other hand have barred Huawei 5G deals. Many world powers are also undecided on the 5G technology, which is not helped by the fact that no one company or person owns the 5G, but several companies within the mobile ecosystem are contributing to bringing it to life.

Kindly contact us for further clarifications, guidance, information or legal advice.

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### Disclaimer

The write-up is meant for general information purposes only. It is not a fully comprehensive work or legal advice on this area of law. In any event, if more clarifications, questions or our assistance is required, kindly, contact us at J-K Gadzama LLP, J-K Gadzama Court, Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent by Kabo Way, P.O.Box 20304, Garki, Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Garki 2, Abuja, FCT. Tel: +234(0)96233600, E-mail: info@j-kgadzamallp.com, website: j-kgadzamallp.com.