



CENTRE FOR INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGY AND
DEVELOPMENT

SHOWCASING THE BEST OF **CREATIVITY** AND **INNOVATION** IN SOCIAL MEDIA FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

REPORT
OF THE

**FIRST KANO SOCIAL
INFLUENCERS SUMMIT**

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Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD)
3rd Floor, NSITF Building,
No.1A, Social Insurance Road, Behind Trade Fair Complex,
Off Zaria Road, Kano.
P. O. Box 10210, Kano, Nigeria.
GSM: +234-8068078282, +234-8030978777, +234-8065429784
E-mail: info@citad.org
Website: www.citad.org

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INTRODUCTION

Noting the potentials (and indeed the reality) of social media to impact positively in promoting good governance and the ambivalence with which citizens hold it, as purveyors of hate speech and enabler of civic conversation, the Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) with support from MacArthur Foundation, and in partnership with a number of other organizations convened the First Kano Social Influencers' Summit. The two-day maiden conference which took place at Aminu Kano Center for Democratic Studies (Mambayya House), Gwammaja Kano on 30th and 31st June, 2019 did feature plenary and parallel sessions numbering up to twenty-five (25). The two-day summit was born out of CITAD's quest for use of social media for accountability as well as its positive and impactful usage especially by teeming young Nigerians on different social media platforms and the cyberspace in general. Exploring and promoting potentials and deliverables of social media and cyberspace for development, accountability, good governance, entrepreneurial, educational, advocacy, etc were aims the summit was designed to achieve. Twenty six (26) social influencers working in different areas to promote accountability attended the summit and showcased their works before the over five hundred (500) participants. Guests and participants advocated that the summit be made an annual event, because, being first of its kind, the summit was an integral symposium where ideas and knowledge were shared about the role social media can play in improving accountability in governance processes, promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, youth development and societal wellbeing.

The objectives of the Summit whose theme was *Creativity and Innovation in Social Media for Transformation* were:

- i. To serve as a symposium of ideas, innovation and development of solutions.
- ii. To serve as a forum where modern advocacy tools and strategies will be showcased for CSOs to emulate
- iii. To instill zeal and interest of productive use of social media
- iv. To serve as a rendezvous of partners in different areas to network and collaborate

The idea was to bring different social media experts to share their experiences with the audience on how they have been deploying social media and technology in general to advance civil course. The summit was also meant to let people hear about successes recorded from use of social media in order for them to learn how to use it effectively. They needed to know that beyond connecting to friends and associates, there is a treasure to be unearthed in the social media. They needed to understand the terrain, the "do's and don't's", the challenges of using social media and how people and organizations are responding to these challenges, the opportunities that can be leveraged and what government and other stakeholders are doing to ensure that social media, or indeed the whole spectrum of ICTs is deployed for transforming society, creating jobs, generating wealth and deepening

democracy and peace in the country. This is the goal of the Social Influencers Summit.

Ranging from the commanding height of telecommunication regulation to service providers and other critical stakeholders including social media influencers, relevant academics to civil society leaders, the representation of stakeholders at the summit was reasonably multi-thematic. The rationale was not far-fetched.

Communication, offline and online activities of human beings are increasingly evolving as they manifest novel dimensions especially from the pedestal of internet. Already, there are policies and laws to address the development but they can only continue to evolve as they support technology transformation and add new capacities. In like manner, users are better informed on the new capacities and the laws when they organize to confer on the multifarious dimensions of internet-backed media better known and appreciated as social media.

The grand opening ceremony was graced by no less a person than that of the Executive Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta who delivered the Key note address. The opening session was chaired by late Prof. Haruna Wakili, then Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Bayero University, Kano; guests at the occasion included the Pioneer EVC of NCC, Chief (Engr.) C. O. Iromantu, the Secretary to Kano State Government, Alhaji Usman Alhaji who gave a good will message, the Chairman of the Board of Digital Bridge Institute, Engr. Titi Amu, the Director, Digital Bridge Institute, Kano, Mrs. Vivian, the President, Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN), Engr. Tayo Adeniyi, Prof Amina Kaidal of the University of Maiduguri, Mrs. Ene Obi, Country Director, Action Aid Nigeria, Dr. Kole Shetimma, Africa Director, MacArthur Foundation, Mrs. Ayo Obe, and Prof Jibrin Ibrahim.

Keynote Address on “*The Internet We Want and the Role of the Regulator*” by Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, Executive Vice Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

As the keynote speaker at the summit, Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, the Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) spoke on “***the internet we want and the role of the regulator***”. Prof. U.G Danbatta extensively gave a background of NCC as a regulator, it's role around accessibility, affordability and availability of telecom services to Nigerians. He also shed light on the three cardinal principles to Nigerian Communications Act of 2003 as a guiding document. Citing the relevance of internet, the NCC boss described it as a platform through which social media operates.

Though it can be a base for aiding negative acts such as fueling crises, the social media still remain an integral platform for easy communication, interaction and networking. The social media, Prof. Danbatta hinted is an indispensable tool particularly in terms of information, education, online marketing, etc. Expanding on the relevance and role of social media, the EVC of NCC made the following assertions:

- i. Organisations have used social media largely for corporate communications, consumer engagements and complaints management. The NCC is a leading

- light of public sector organisations in Africa that realised quite early, the uniqueness of social media in information management, stakeholder engagements and complaints resolution. As at 5.35PM on July 5, 2019, NCC followership on Facebook was 143,880; on Twitter, it was 69,800; on LinkedIn, it was 50,604; and on Instagram, 10,200.
- ii. Sometimes, NCC posts up to 10 items daily, comprising narratives of its events and activities in texts, photography, videography and infographics. We also post special contents to inform and educate stakeholders, followers and telecom consumers about the operations, policies, guidelines, regulations, legislations and developments in the telecom ecosystem both nationally and internationally. We do this in order to provide additional opportunity for our stakeholders – which include the distinguished ladies and gentlemen in this hall – to engage us through questions, observations and sometimes heated commentaries.
 - iii. Our flagship online platform – the NCC website – has also been described by many as a repository of information on the industry for all stakeholders to explore. It is, therefore, not surprising that NCC has received several awards for its robust social and online media presence. This underscores the fact that the deployment and effective utilisation of social media is now a central determinant of organisational performance and transformation.

On the role of the regulator, Prof. U.G Danbatta noted that his commission; the NCC does not regulate “Over-The-Top” (OTT) services such as **WhatsApp**. But, recognizing the value derivable from technologies and innovations within the cyber spectrum, upon assuming office as EVC of NCC in 2015, the management of the commission under his leadership initiated the **8-Point Agenda**. According to him, the first item on the Agenda is to facilitate broadband penetration in order to enhance universal access to affordable broadband services.

To achieve the above objective, NCC was according to Prof. Danbatta mandated to increase broadband penetration in Nigeria to 30 percent by 2018. It has achieved and surpassed the target, and it is instituting processes to achieve higher target by 2023. The Commission has put in place regulatory frameworks such as setting up a Broadband Implementation Committee. Infrastructure companies (INFRACOS) have also been licensed to deploy broadband infrastructure across the six geo-political zones and Lagos. Lagos was carved out as the seventh zone because of its commercial importance to the Nigerian telecom ecosystem. The INFRACO initiative has a provision for Access Point in each of the 774 local government areas of the country, with a data speed of 10 Gbps.

Adding in the same vein, the NCC boss noted that the commission has also achieved greater milestones regarding other items on the agenda. These include optimising the benefits of spectrum, improving quality of service; promoting ICT innovation and investment opportunities. Other areas of the agenda are facilitating strategic collaboration and partnership of all stakeholders, just as the one we are having with CITAD and its partners today. We have projected the issue of protecting and empowering telecom consumer as non-negotiable and NCC is irrevocably committed to this, just as we are dedicated to promoting fair competition and inclusive growth, as well as promoting regulatory excellence and operational efficiency.

Other highlights of Prof. U.G. Danbatta's keynote presentation included the following:

- i. Earlier this year, the NCC outreach for consumer education began to focus the theme: MITIGATING EFFECTS OF CYBERCRIMES: THE ROLE OF THE TELECOM CONSUMERS. This is to demonstrate the importance of education in tackling crimes in the Internet.
- ii. As the regulator of telecoms, NCC considered it necessary to avail the consumer with all the information he or she may require to avoid being a victim of cyber criminals. This is a clear representation of the role of the regulator in ensuring Nigerians operate within the environment of an Internet of relevance. The NCC also expects the safety of the Internet environment to improve for Nigerians when the Internet Code of Governance is instituted.
- iii. As I speak, Nigeria has recorded over 174 million subscription to telephony, remember that as at the year 2000 we had less than 500,000 telephone lines. Importantly (because we are gathered here to reflect on the Internet), over 122 million people have access to the Internet in Nigeria.
- iv. Despite our challenges – which are mostly environmental – we are not resting on our oars. Across sectors, NCC has introduced novel and seminal rules of engagement, and renewed commitment to innovation and research. So far, the Commission has given more than 20 academic grants to different universities and educational institutions in the last four years. This is based on our belief that investment in research and development (R&D) is key to developing new technology products and innovations that can bring greater benefits to Nigerians in the current digital era.
- v. As a nation, we have also recorded more ICT hubs which are accommodating young technology-savvy Nigerian youths to become entrepreneurs through innovating and designing of software to manage several activities. The Commission also sponsors these young Nigerian innovators to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) conferences to showcase their designs and applications to global investment community.
- vi. Since 2004 when NCC instituted the Schools Support Programme, the Commission and its constitutive department – the Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) – have facilitated the construction and operation of well-equipped computer laboratories, donations of computers and other ancillary digital equipment to over 1000 educational institutions in Nigeria, among several initiatives aimed at providing digital access to institutions across the country.
- vii. The University Inter-Campus Connectivity (UnICC) project is particularly deserving of mention. “It is a support project to the National Universities Commissions’ Nigerian Research and Education Network (NgREN) project, the primary purpose of which is to deliver broadband infrastructure and access to facilitate research and learning using Optic Fibre Cable (OFC)”. Under this project, fifteen (15) universities have been linked with their medical colleges.

Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta concluded his keynote address saying: although the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) and particularly the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc.) Act (2015) have stipulated what is permissible by law with respect to how we can interact with technology and other humans through the digitised media, let me reiterate as I conclude this remark that hate speeches and fake news have no place in the Internet we want and the Internet of relevance which I advocate. I enjoin CITAD, its partners and all of us here to amplify the voice of the NCC by carrying the message beyond here that the Internet we want has no space for hate speech and fake news because they are both destructive and can undermine the real gains of the digital culture for the society.

In his goodwill message, Africa Director of MacArthur Foundation, Dr. Kole Ahmed Shettima, said the Foundation was happy to be associated with the Summit in which many grantees and sub-grantees of the Foundation showcased their work. He added that MacArthur Foundation has supported CITAD to provide sub grants to 26 organizations and individuals to carry out different media-related interventions to contribute in promoting accountability in the country, they range from using radio, the television, online newspapers, social media, drama and poetry by taxing their creativity and innovation to come up with new ways of fighting corruption and enthroning accountability, without which our democracy would not deliver its promise. He expressed happiness with the lineup of the programmes and the quality of participants. In particular, he commended the Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) for delivering the Keynote address.

Other people who gave goodwill messages were the Vice Chancellor of Bayero University, Kano, Prof. Muhammad Yahuza Bello who was represented by then Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), now late Prof Haruna Wakili who said the university and Mayabayya House were glad to hold the Summit.

Other dignitaries at the summit were Dr. Titi Amu, Chairman Board of Directors of Digital Bridge Institute, Mrs. Viola, Director, Digital Bridge Institute, Engr. C. O. Iromantu, the Pioneer EVC of NCC and Chairman, Board of Trustees of CITAD, Alhaji Usman Alhaji, the Secretary to Kano State Government and Engr Tayo Adeniyi, National President, Information Technology (Industry) Association of Nigeria (ITAN).

Panel Discussions

After the opening ceremony, the summit broke out into smaller sessions to address the myriad of sub-themes outlined for different stakeholders depending on their interests. Each session had a set of at least three speakers to discuss the subject from different perspectives. Each of them also rounded off with a set of recommendations.

One of such sessions was ***“Social Media in Academic Environment”*** moderated by Mustapha Isyaku of ***Aminu Kano Center for Democratic Studies***. Speakers at this panel were Dr. Murtala Muhammad, Engineer Bashir M. Sa'id, Engineer Dr. Shamsu Tukur Auwal and Dr. Haruna Chiroma.

The panel deliberated on how researches are conducted on social media, networking

amongst researchers, academics and students, exchange and consultation of works between people in academic community, feedback generation as well as teaching and learning facilitation. Other areas discussed by the panelists included how social media facilitates two-way communication, group learning and how it made targeting large number of audience with ease through live broadcast or address. The panel has also highlighted how some students misuse the social media by spending too much time on unnecessary chatting and posting that adds little or no value to their studies. Many questions were asked and comments made by the participants at the last segment of the panel, recommendations were made on how social media can be more beneficial in academic environment.

Two other panels ran concurrently with the first breakout session. A panel discussion on ***“Digital Rights and Social Media Terrain in Nigeria”*** was chaired by **Dr. Nura Ibrahim, Head, Department of Information and Media Studies, Faculty of Communications, Bayero University Kano**. The panelists were: Boye Adegoke, ***Paradigm Initiative, Lagos***, Aliyu Dahiru Aliyu, ***Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD), Abuja*** and Gazzali Haruna of ***Centre for Young People Advancement and Community Development***.

Issues around digital rights and use of social media platforms were extensively discussed by the panelists. Instances of violation of digital rights of Nigerians on cyberspace were cited by the panelists, an experience which the discussants believed will certainly impact negatively particularly in the aspect of user protection and freedom of expression. The panelists unanimously agreed that there is need to join hands and ensure the passage of digital rights bill as it will ensure ***greater access, privacy and protection of users' rights online***.

Youth and Social Media was another panel and panel had Dansabo Kademi, ***Kademi Community***, Isah Nasidi, ***Media and Communications Researcher*** and Evelyn Karfe, ***Serving Corps Member*** as discussants. Here, positive and negative usage of social media platforms such as ***Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp***, etc were explored by the panelists and participants at the session. Laudable use of social media by some youth was emphasized, a panelist Isah Nasidi narrated how he mobilized his youth and resources via social media to address educational problem in his community, he added that initiatives like that should matter to the youth not unnecessary ***chatting, useless acts, engaging in hate speech or fake news dissemination***, Isah Nasidi challenged the youth to use social media to get their societies out of problems as well as link them up with lots of potentials that the social media offers.

The next panel was ***“Social Media and Electioneering Campaign: Learning from Experiences”***. Panelists in this session were: Isma'il Auwal, Alhaji Kabiru Muhammad and Akibu Hamisu. The speakers discussed the role of social media during political campaigns, elections and their personal experiences having been previously involved in election conduct either as observers, advocates of peaceful electioneering or assessing events on social media. Notable among what was discussed was how politicians invest huge amount of money for the services of social media influencers in order to win the minds of voters, how campaign and promotion of political agenda is done with little or no resources and how social media has influenced the political choice of voters.

Two other sessions also held concurrently. The first, Role of Online Newspapers (ONP) in Fighting Corruption featured **Adagbo Onoja**, publisher of an online newspaper, *The Intervention Newspaper* and Abdullahi El-Kurebe, also a journalist and online publisher. The panelists believed that online newspapers as part of the broader internet community can do a lot in the fight against corruption. Though they raised the question: “how can the power of online newspapers be employed in reducing the level of corruption or address it in the country”? One way to do this according to Onoja, is to provide a context within which the anti-corruption fight can be based. Onoja maintained that in our campaigns against the monster of corruption, the crusading forces should always be supported by an organization.

The second panelist, Abdullahi El-Kurebe, described online newspapers as very important tools in fighting corruption especially because of their immediacy in passing information. Online newspapers enable quick reaction by the audience online. This is facilitated by the fact that they are easily accessed anytime and also give voice to the voiceless. While traditional newspaper presents information in forms of texts and images, online newspapers present information in forms of texts, audios and graphics. Despite the challenges faced by the online newspapers in form of attacks on their websites as well as threat on the publishers, these newspapers remain the veritable tool that can be used to fight corruption. Some of the observations raised at the panel were:

- The issue of fair hearing and verification of sources of information do not bother many online newspapers
- Many publishers of online newspapers lack the capacity to use the platforms in the fight against corruption in Nigeria

Some of the recommendations that emanated from the session are as follows:

- Attention should shift from fighting corruption to the prevention of corruption which should be through enlightenment and education
- Citizen journalists and online publishers should be trained on self-defense mechanism in their struggle to fight corruption

Roles of TV and radio programmes on accountability and anti-corruption were highlighted in a session tagged: ***“Engaging Public on Accountability and Anti-Corruption Issues Using TV and Radio Programme”***.

Here, the first speaker on the panel, Ali Sabo, started by reiterating the importance of radio and television in engaging the public on accountability. He narrated his experience on using radio programme to talk about abandoned projects in communities and that led to waking up elected representatives to their responsibilities. “Report a Project”, a project which goes after abandoned projects which CITAD implemented heavily recorded impacts via radio programme. He in particular recalled how talking about an abandoned project in Gwaram Local Government of Jigawa state got the attention of the Governor and his eventual action.

The second speaker, Isah Nasidi reminded the panel of the constitutional duty of the media (including Radio and TV) as spelt out in section 22 of the Constitution Federal Republic of Nigeria. It tasks the media to make government accountable to the people. Democracy being the people's rule has a great deal of relationship with accountability. In our attempt to

ensure public accountability through public engagement, radio (more especially community radio stations) could be very important tools in reaching out to the people, especially at the grass-root level.

Toyosi Akerele-Ogunsiji, the third speaker emphasized that there is a need for the media to engage people through training on how to ask questions about governance. She lamented that the local governments are the most corrupt governments because no one cares to ask them questions on how they spend their subventions. She pointed out that until people are involved actively in governance, corruption will continue to thrive and we will as a nation continue to pretend to be a democracy. Until we learn to speak to the power that be at all levels, we have a long way to go in our anti-corruption campaigns. She cited several cases in which she had encounters with government officials and asked them questions to prove their accountability.

On the whole, the panel observed that:

- Most of the radio stations are privately owned, so in some cases ordinary citizens with concerns might not have the wherewithal to sponsor a programme on issues of anti-corruption and demand for accountability
- Many radio/TV workers could not do their work diligently for fear of losing their jobs.
- Many reporters are agents of the government or being sponsored by agents of the government
- Sometimes the challenge being faced is that even if you have fact to back your claim concerning a case, your life will be at stake for saying it!
- The availability of many radio stations helped in no small measure in guaranteeing freedom of expression

Recommendations:

- Media houses should educate people on how to demand for accountability
- That people who are fighting corruption and promoting accountability should always be armed with facts
- Media should be deliberate in amplifying the human cost of corruption, this will make people begin to appreciate the danger of corruption
- There is need to leverage on the existing structures such as Open Governance Partnership (OGP) and e-Government that promote free flow of information about the government activities

Freedom of Information Act (FOI) and Proactive Online Information Provision was the theme for the session. The moderator, Gimba Kakanda, publisher of News Diary, asked a question thus: how effective is FOI in making information disclosure a reality? The chair described the passage of FOI bill into law as a culmination of a journey and a struggle that was started by many stakeholders long ago. He reminded the panel to bear in mind the question asked earlier while discussing the “Act” and its impacts in Nigeria.

The first speaker on the panel, Oga Kolomba, traced the history of the tradition of keeping government affairs secret to the law enacted by the colonialists titled the 'Official Secret Act 1911'. Under this legislation so much of official information was classified as 'classified

information' which colonial 'subjects' (rather than citizens then) could not have access to. In such a situation people were not treated as owners of government and by extension owners of the information about the government. He attributed the lack of interest in the people to seek information on governance under the FOI act to the 100-Year (1911-2011) experience that informed our mentality of not seeking information. He highlighted the benefits of FOI thus: that the implementation of FOI will enhance citizens' confidence in the government; it will help the government to introduce its well-intentioned and good policies through proactive disclosure of information about them, and finally, it will reduce the incidence of rumour-seeking as an alternative source of information in the absence of genuine information.

The second speaker, Isah Garba, explained that disclosure of information under the "Act" can be categorized into two: there is a reactive disclosure of information by the MDAs which is in response to a request put forward by citizen and there is a proactive disclosure of information in which information is disclosed prior to the request put to the MDAs by citizens. He went through some of the provisions guiding the request for information under the "Act". He highlighted the kind of information that can be requested about the MDAs under the "Act" by the citizens. These may include information about the scope of work of the MDAs, duty, staff and salaries and other remunerations among others.

The panel generally observed as follows:

- Lack/inadequate proactive disclosure of information is harming the activities of the government in the country
- Many government officials treat official information as personal, they see themselves as owners of the government information not as the custodians of the information
- It is easy for a Nigerian national to access information about other country than about their country.

The recommendations offered at the panel are as follows;

- That as citizens, we need to be testing the ground thus people should endeavour to put into practice the provision of the act even for the purpose of setting a precedence for the generation to come
- That individuals/organizations should do as much as possible to go for litigation whenever such a request is not responded to by the MDAs within the stipulated period provided by the Act
- That there should be a massive awareness creation campaign by the organizations working around anti-corruption and promotion of accountability

At the session on ***Mobilizing Faith Against Corruption***, the moderator, Abdullahi Usman Kofar Na'isa from Mambayya House stated that the problem facing us as a nation has always been that of leadership. This problem is attributable to the widespread corruption in our society. He suggested that it is important for the religious institutions to be part of the crusade against the menace of corruption by formulating a framework to deal a blow to the monster.

In his contribution, a panelist Oluwale Adewole expressed concern that it was unfortunate that even people with serious corruption cases do go to churches and mosques. Through the mobilization of faiths, clerics will learn how to ask honest questions on corruption and corrupt persons who attend their congregations. He identified spiritual authorities as some strong bond for Nigerians. As a unifying platform for virtually all Nigerians, religion is a very reliable tool in the fight against corruption. The quantification of the losses incurred by the country as a result of corruption is another important thing that will help in minimizing corruption in Nigeria. This is because if people know the level of damage done to the country, then people will begin to rise against corruption.

The next speaker was Prof. Mustapha H. Isma'il of Department of Arabic, Bayero University, Kano who told the audience that God Almighty has fore knowledge that humankind by their nature will be corrupt. It is because of this tendency that several verses were revealed to condemn corruption. Man, in addition to that, is created with inbuilt power to do good things or bad. In order to control humans' actions God condemned corruption through Qur'anic injunctions and prophetic traditions. According to Prof. Ismail, the word '*Fasada*' is synonymous with all evils and imperfection. The position of Islam with regards to fighting corruption is that it is compulsory. This is because it is '*Munkar*' which prophet commanded all Muslims to avert. The consequence of corruption for the society is dire: dysfunctional institutions, begging, killings, kidnapping, poverty and all kinds of vices and problems we face today.

The panel observed subsequently as follows:

- That all the socio-economic challenges that bedeviled our country can be attributed to corruption
- That fighting corruption is a duty upon all citizens under Islamic law
- That citizens did not really appreciate the fact that the killings, avoidable deaths in our hospitals and low-quality education are all products of corruption

The panel also recommended that:

- There should be an interfaith dialogue platform for the purpose of fighting corruption
- Beyond talking, citizens should be active and confrontational in taking action against corruption through demonstration etc. In essence citizens should organized for the fight against corruption
- Spiritual authorities can be fully mobilized against corruption. This can be done through building the capacity of the religious leaders on how to fight corruption
- The cost of corruption should always be quantified, for the knowledge of the human cost of corruption will rise people against corrupt practices in the country

At the session on ***State Level Effort at Curbing Corruption***, the moderator, Ms. Ene Obi, said that Kano is the only or at least one of the states that have functional anti-corruption agency. The first speaker here, Kabiru Dakata, Executive Director, Centre for Awareness on Justice and Accountability (CAJA) explained that corruption can be petty, grand or systemic.

Corruption, according to him, is an evil that should be fought diligently. At the state level in Kano there are many efforts at curbing corruption through some structures such as the anticorruption agencies, OGP and its subcomponent, the ACTUS. In addition to this, Kano has fearless journalists who so far have played very vital roles in the fight against corruption in the state. Other structures that are very essential in the fight against corruption are the CSOs. He explained how CAJA is working in the education sectors in the state in an attempt to fight all manner of corruption such as '*money for marks*' phenomenon which is becoming rampant nowadays. According to Dakata, despite the difficulties faced in the implementation of such project, many successes have been recorded.

The second panelist, Akibu Hamisu of Kano Budget Partners, emphasized the need for community participation in budget tracking and public project tracking to promote accountability in public budgeting and implementation. He described budget tracking effort as instrumental in the fight against corruption.

The session finally noted:

- That students who are most victims of corrupt practices in our education sectors need to be educated on corruption and to protect themselves against corruption and its manifestations in education sector
- That female students are not only the victims of sexual harassment; but many other women do face such unfortunate experiences in their working place
- Rampant cases of corruption can be attributed to poor salary and bad condition of service.

Recommendations

- Extracurricular activities should be made an avenue through which students at all levels can be mobilized against corruption
- That there is the need to have a National Corruption Perception Index (NCPI) in Nigeria to assess the level of corruption locally in the country
- Religious leaders should be involved in the fight against corruption

The next session was facilitated by the **Information Technology (Industries) Association of Nigeria (ITAN)** where Kano state chapter of the association was inaugurated. The session chaired by Mr. Olutayo Adeniyi, the National President of ITAN. Mr. Adeniyi gave a broad introduction of ITAN. Below is an excerpt of what he said.

“The Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN) is the platform of organized ICT companies in the country. It is part of the tripod (along with Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria, ISPON and Nigeria Computer Society, NCS) upon which the Computer Professional Registration Council of Nigeria (CPN) rests. While the NCS admits individual members, ITAN admits corporate organizations who are in the area of hardware, training and support goods and other services. ISPON brings together those engaged in software development”.

According Olutayo Adeniyi the objective of ITAN included the following:

1. To promote computer literacy in Nigeria
2. To recommend prices for the sale of computers and allied products in Nigeria
3. To create a forum for the exchange of technological/technical information and ideas among members of the association.
4. To seek ways and means of preventing computer burglary and related perils
5. To develop, maintain and enforce codes of ethics for members of the association.
6. To act as representative of members of the association in all negotiation and consultations with Federal and State Governments and their agencies on computer technology and related matters.
7. To encourage the sale of high-quality computer and allied products through the collection and dissemination of information to manufacturers, distributors, marketers, resellers and users in Nigeria.

Five people were nominated to serve as excos of the ITAN Kano chapter, the members are as follows:

1. Alh. Abdullahi Nashe-Chairman
2. Kamilu Isa Ahmed-Secretary
3. Debora Okarafo-Member
4. Sulaiman Musa Yusuf-Member
5. Mahamud Kabir-Member

One of the plenary sessions was addressed by the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA). In the session, Mrs. Kemi Adepoju explained the role of NIRA in the internet ecosystem in the country and the domain name business chain in the country, consisting of NIRA itself as the custodian of the national resource that the **.ng** is, the registrars, resellers and use as well as how people, especially young people can become entrepreneurs in that sector.

ITAN Session on Safety and Security Online

The panel had as panelists Engr Kamal Umar, Mr Mathias Ifeseh, CEO Sagita System, Abuja and Alhaji Sagir Mohammed, CEO of Intersystem Limited, Kano. The session was chaired by Engr. Tayo Adeniyi, National President, ITAN. He began his remarks words of caution on safety and security online. Mr Adeniyi said the threats of insecurity of the cyber space manifests in various forms. He lamented the sporadic attacks by hackers on accounts and devices of internet users. He added that stealing of vital information is common even in developed nations.

In his presentation, Engr Kamal harped on the common sense usage of the cyber space to mitigate the increasing cases of information theft, hacking of devices, accounts and financial fraud on the cyber space. He warned users to always wipe all information on phone and computer before giving it out to avoid access to personal, official or financial transactions.

Engr Kamal listed the following measures to addressing cyber-attacks:

1. Change all default password on new devices
2. Never assume that any wireless network is safe

3. Frequent change of passwords
4. Use of strong anti-virus
5. Allow all internet documents to download before opening

Mr Mathias posited that social media interaction among young people in the quest to feel among the global village provided for a lot of information online and on devices that information and data can easily be stolen. He warned social media and fintech users to avoid giving out sensitive information to other peoples to reduce the risk of fallen victim. He further stressed that the temptation to use free wi-fi at public places are pruned to cyber attacks that can result in information and financial loss of unquantifiable proportion.

Social Media as Tool for Promoting Social Accountability

This panel discussed how social media can be used as a tool for promoting social accountability.

Panelists at the session were: Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, Director, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), represented by Abubakar Jimoh, Muhammad Sabo Keana, Director, Almajiri Child Rights Initiative, Lafia, and Mbasekei Martin Obono, Team Lead of Tap Initiative, Abuja. The session extensively deliberated on the social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, etc and they have become popular tools for communication, exchange of ideas, expression as well as advocacy and social accountability. The session noted that though population of Nigerians on the platforms is increasing by the day and commendable efforts of holding leaders accountable in various ways is ongoing, there is need for the larger populace to recognize and leverage social media to promote social accountability for societal wellbeing.

Highlights of deliberation at the session included the following:

1. Use of social media in tracking projects implementation
2. Promoting community problems through social media
3. Engaging elected officials via social media
4. Holding robust discussions on matters of societal concerns
5. Sensitizing the public on the role of social media in promoting social accountability

Winning the Battle against Harmful Content

Panelists in this session were: Idayat Hassan, Director, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) represented by Aliyu Dahiru Aliyu, Hamza Ibrahim, Hate Speech Project, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) and Dr. Tunde Akanni of Lagos State University. Discussions at the session were centered around harmful content on social media platforms that are fueling conflict, promoting hate speech and fake news. Talking from their experiences, the panelists differently highlighted and discussed issues relating to how harmful content particularly on Facebook and Twitter have fueled tension in areas such as North Central Nigeria and North East where ethno-religious and extremists violence have been recurring. Pleas were to made Facebook and Twitter on doubling their efforts at addressing the harmful content threatening peace, stability and democratic practice in the Nigeria.

Understanding the Power of the New Broadcast Media had as panelists Ayo Obe,

Abdulhamid Al-Garzali and Ummi Bukar. The Panel was chaired by Prof Jibrin Ibrahim, Senior Fellow at CDD. The power of online radio in offering fresh angles to development communication was highlighted.

In her presentation, Ayo Obe spoke on her 15 minutes radio programme “**Ideas Radio**” in Lagos which is recorded and posted on twitter and YouTube channels for online audience. She stated that public service broadcasting is filling the gap in online content.

Ummi Bukar said PAGED Initiative uses media to engage communities for development with focus on gender. She argued that communities were willing to talk and counter negative narratives about them particularly the excluded communities. Ummi further disclosed that PAGED Initiative is in partnership with CITAD using mobile cinema, to stimulate debate on priority areas of governance within the communities. She reiterated that media advocacy training to underserved communities is one of the multi-dimensional ways of fetching attentions of authorities. She advised youths to channel their energy to the positive use of the social media in advocating for development.

In his submission, the third panelist, Abdulhamid Al-Ghazali, narrated how he uses Yerwa Express online medium to counter negative stories of insurgency as alternative platform to tell the stories of Borno. He lamented the lack of concern by people in the North East on accountability, transparency and good governance. He narrated that an engaging programme is run live on social platforms with politicians to press for accountability, transparency and good governance.

Some issues raised during the session are captured as follows:

1. The effect of new and broadcast media on countering fake news
2. Right to privacy
3. Emergence of new media has broken media monopoly, governmental ownership

The New Visuals:

Video Clips on Social Media: this panel Deji Badmus, Editor-in-Chief of TV360 (www.tv360nigeria.com) an independent TV and documentary producer, Jack Vincent Fidelis, Independent Journalist based in Maiduguri and Olumide Olaniyan, journalist, writer and poet as panelists. This session demonstrated the impact of these independent producers in their campaigns for improved accountability in the country.

The Social Influencers Session

The session started with opening remarks by Dr. Y.Z. Yau, Executive Director, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD), he welcomed all members of the meeting to the Second Social Influencers Cluster Meeting of the project on “**Anti-corruption and Accountability**” supported by MacArthur Foundation. He went further to explain the purpose of the meeting noting that it was meant to discuss the different activities carried out by the sub-grantees since the inception of the project through sharing experiences, challenges, progresses, achievements etc. the meeting according Dr. Ya'u was also meant to generate recommendations on how to tackle identified challenges in order to ensure that overall project objectives are achieved.

The second to the last plenary was on **Facebook's Content Policies and Community Standards** and Adaora Ikenze, Facebook's Head of Public Policy, West & Central Africa spoke on the topic explaining in details via Skype what Facebook's content policies and community standards are. She said Facebook is working in many countries with several partners flagging suspected harmful contents online and it has thousands of monitors who work 24 hours to remove content that violate the community standards of the organization. The Community standards were established to provide the framework to guide what is allowed on the platform. She also said that in addition to this, Facebook was in the process of establishing an independent Oversight Board which will deliberate and agree on difficult content and that the decision of the Board would be final. She noted that content is not only dynamic but also culture, age, language nuanced and therefore difficult to understand outside the environment in which it is used.

The last Plenary Lecture was with Prof. Jibrin Ibrahim on Democratic Struggles and the Social Media. The Chair of the session was Chief O. C. Iromantu, the pioneer, EVC, NCC. Prof Jibrin discussed the contradictory narratives of the social media. While it has allowed citizens to share information, to connect and mobilize, it has also provided the channel to spread toxic information that leads to fragmentation, hate speech, induce violence and fake news that make people lose their bearing as it is increasingly becoming difficult to differentiate between what is true and what is false. The session was a fitting one as it generated live discussions. Prof. Jibrin argued that most of the people who are fueling harmful content and divisive narrative in the cyber space are academics who have no patience or skills to interrogate what they see and therefore accept them as given truths.



Dignitaries recite the National Anthem at the opening ceremony of the summit



Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, Executive Vice Chairman, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) giving a keynote address at the summit



From right: Secretary to Kano state government, Alhaji Usman Alhaji, Engr. Y.Z. Ya'u, Executive Director, CITAD (standing behind), Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, Executive Vice Chairman, NCC, Prof. Haruan Wakili, DVC Admin, Bayero University Kano.



Dr. Kole Ahmed Shettima, Africa Director, MacArthur Foundation.



A side view of social influencers and participants at the summit



Participants at the social influencers summit



CITAD's Executive Director, Engr. Y.Z. Ya'u (second from left), to his is Ayo Obe, a social influencer and other participants in a group photograph during the summit



Bilkisu Ado Zango, North West Zonal Coordinator, National Association of Persons with Physical Disabilities and a panelist makes a point at the summit



A participant making a comment at a panel discussion

Social Media Analytics for the Kano Social Influencers Summit held between 30th-31st July, 2019

1. Twitter

• Total tweets	- 296
• Total Impression	- 1, 508,120
• Total engagements	- 48,840
• Media engagement	- 14,800
• Retweets	- 11,840
• Likes	- 8,880
• Details expand	- 5,920
• Profile click	- 1,440
• Hashtag click	- 1, 440

2. Facebook

• Total Facebook post	- 57
• Total Reach for Facebook post	- 240,627
• Total video on Facebook	- 21
• Total reach for video	- 88,431
• Total share on Facebook	- 2,850

3. Some comments of the participants

1. #KanoSIS19 for me the summit gave us lots of networking windows with both local and international actors - among the numerous high level advocates I met was Ene Obi, Country Director, ActionAid International. The most noticeable attribute of her is #simplicity & #Humanitarian Heart. See you again soon Madam!
2. Maximising the visibility of research entails the promotion and dissemination of research in ways that have the highest exposure by having it available on a range of ASNS, and using social media toolsKano Social Influencers Summit
3. Meeting Social Media Influencers, networking and getting connected #KanoSIS19 to promote the work.#KanoSIS19
4. I met these two great women, @Adeola Fayehun and Mrs Toyosirise today, they are indeed great Influencers, they really gave me inspiration that change my life, only those that joined their panel will understand. More good energy vibe.#KanoSIS19
5. Got to Kano just in time for the Kano Social Influencers Summit, with Dr. @aminugamawa doing justice to the challenges of online advocacy. #KanoSIS19.
6. Pleasure for me was not only being in the highly engaging #KanoSIS19, but the privilege of being on a panel with @ideasradiong's @naijama and @PagedInitiative's @Ummibukar, moderated by one of the greatest media personalities in Africa, DeepeningDemocracy's @JibrinIbrahim17.
7. Kano Social Influencers Summit, my zeal and interest of productive use of

- Social Media was reinvigorated. Thanks to @ICTAdvocates #KanoSIS19
8. Thanks for encouraging us on the appropriate usage of social media as a tool for Advocacy. @aminugamawa has been a very useful resource person we have around us. #KanoSIS19
 9. Thank you @ICTAdvocates for organizing such fruitful summit #KanoSIS19 worthy to reckon with.
 10. This administration's insistence on regulating social media is not far from its continuous efforts to shrink civic spaces & stifle voice of dissent #ICTAdvocates #KanoSIS19

Conclusion

It was no doubt that the Summit was a success having secured a huge attendance from people from all parts of the country. Demonstrably the summit also achieved its objective by serving as a symposium of ideas, innovations and developing solutions. To answer its name, the summit provided a platform for social influencers and others to showcase the various innovative works they were doing and how that inspire and help other improve or start their works. These works were subjected to intense discussion by the participants, offering critiques, pointing out areas of further work and innovation, drawing important insights, allowing for modification and replication as well as drawing lessons for next steps. Numerous participants have been inspired to think of new ideas, innovative initiatives and projects that they could undertake. In line with the second objective of the summit, participants were exposed to various tools for advocacy, their efficacy and under what conditions they work successfully.

Of special focus, relating to the theme of the summit were the various innovative projects showcased around the deployment of social media to hold governments accountable, promoting accountability and transparency as well as contributing in curbing corruption. Several initiatives such as those deploying radio, television and video clips against corruption were shared. There were also many creative experiments with poetry and drama in mobilizing citizens against corruption.

The summit was also provided platform for networking consistent with one of the objectives of which was to be “a rendezvous of partners in different areas for networking and collaboration”. This was particularly most useful for young activists who were coming into contact with more seasoned and older activists. In the process, generational mentoring evolved with those older activists by not only sharing their works and ideas with the young ones but also agreeing to mentor them continuously.

Consistent with the framing of the concept note of the Summit, it showed positive ways in which social media was being deployed for the transformation of society, against the background of negative narratives that tend to think that the social media was a negative influence in society, providing pathways for the spread of hate speech and fake news and ways for recruiting and initiating young people into violent gangs of terrorism and insurgency.

The summit examined both the constraints around the deployment of social media for social transformation as well as key lessons on how this can occur. One shortcoming of the Summit was the limited participation of government. Apart from the opening day when government representatives made presentations, they were visibly absent during many panels of the Summit. The technical community itself had limited presence. With the notable presence of Facebook and the high-level participation of the Information Technology (Industry) Association of Nigeria (ITAN) and the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA), there was not much participation by the technical community as well as the private sector in general. These are areas that subsequent editions of the summit will have to address.

The summit raised awareness about the positive value of the social media as well as provided learning opportunities on how to positively deploy it.

Appendix 2: Communique of the Summit

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A TWO-DAY SOCIAL
INFLUENCERS' SUMMIT ORGANISED BY THE CENTRE FOR
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT (CITAD)
HELD AT MAMBAYA HOUSE, KANO STATE
ON 30TH AND 31ST JULY, 2019.**

The Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) organised a two-day Summit for Social Influencers in Kano state. The Summit aimed at creating symposium of ideas, innovation, development solutions; served as a forum for where modern advocacy tools and strategies were showcased for CSOs.

The Summit was graced by the Executive Vice Chairman of National Communication Commission (NCC), Prof. Umar G. Danbatta, who was the Keynote Speaker. It was attended by over 400 participants from various works of life comprising various media, civil society and donor partners.

With 28 parallel sessions, there was extensive discussions around various thematic issues like: gender-based violence; social media as tool for promoting social accountability; drama, poetry and music in the social media; role of online newspapers in fighting corruption; understanding the power of the New Broadcast Media; winning the battle against harmful content; African Declaration of Internet Rights and Freedoms.

Others include: engaging public on accountability and anti-corruption issues using TV and radio programmes; safety and security online; online advocacy tools; social media in academic environment; learning from some campaigns; new visuals: video clips on social media; digital rights and social media terrain in Nigeria; publishing in the digital age; FOI and proactive online information provision; social influencers meeting; online SME tools for job creation; mobilising faiths against corruption; social media and youth; social media and marketing; state level efforts at curbing corruption; and digital inclusion of marginalised groups.

After exhaustive deliberations on the thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

Observations:

1. Inadequate accessibility by the citizens with Nigeria having 60% out of the 22% subscribers across Sub-Saharan Africa to social media and its abuse by ill-informed users impedes effort at deploying social media in governance.
2. Delayed real-time regulatory effort by National Broadcasting Commission of social media contents paves way for continued abuses and misused of social media in piloting social change.
3. While social accountability requires citizens' involvement in governance process, social media is a veritable tool to facilitate social mobilisation and constructive

participation for greater accountability in critical areas of governance.

4. Poor financial capacity across online journalism paves way for their excessive vulnerability to political influence, corruption and content sabotage.
5. Knowledge sharing and networking constitutes an important process for background checking and content validation on contentious issues for use on social media.
6. Social media remains paramount in promoting youth mobilisation, participation and inclusion in change process as it affects democracy and governance.
7. While social media constitutes a contemporary way for information gathering and dissemination, reported unacknowledged information or reports by social media journalists is a serious concern for unchecked plagiarism.
8. Continued attacks on online newspaper journalists and their platforms through unjustified physical abuse and cyber-attack backpedals social accountability effort and process.
9. While the relevance of the traditional media in the fight against corruption and promotion of good governance at grassroots level cannot be over emphasised, over commercialisation of the platforms, especially by the private-ownership delays effort at promoting accountability in governance.
10. Poor compliance by the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies to the provisions of Freedom of Information (FOI) Act in accessibility to public documents constitute serious challenge hampering social influencers' efforts in demanding accountability and social justice.
11. Poorly generated domain name and inadequate public awareness on domain registration process for online news platforms are major concerns impeding adequate public accessibility to vital social media or business contents.
12. Continued monumental financial loss to e-payment system discourages accessibility of e-commerce by several business entities including Small and Medium Enterprises in business operation and promotion.
13. With increasing cases of gender-based violence across the country, there are reported breaches of privacy, verbal attacks and derogative comments mostly targeted at women on social media platforms.
14. High proliferation of gratifying contents across online platforms creates regular deviation and divert public attention from constructive discussions and debates on governance.
15. Apprehension on the security of cyber space among users of the social media paves way to continued cyber-attack and illegal information tapping and cloning of users' accounts.
16. Inadequate professional users of the social media platforms with minimal user awareness on content selection and use give chances for proliferation and dissemination of harmful contents to public domains.
17. Poor individual orientation, especially the youth on social accountability, immorality, selfish conducts towards the use of social media are enablers for proliferation of harmful messages for public consumption.

18. Delayed in mainstreaming digital process in various realms of the society including education, elections, commerce, and administrative process and payment system widens accessibility gaps and amplify barriers for digital inclusion.

Recommendations:

1. Proactive effort by relevant stakeholders to ensure affordability, accessibility and availability of internet to wide variety of citizens for encouraged social participation and inclusive governance.
2. Instituting appropriate stringent regulatory measures by the National Broadcasting Commission for efficient social media content monitoring and supervision to mitigate and address reported misuse and abuses.
3. Verifiable data gathering, supporting legal provisions or policy commitment to enhance evidence-based content generation and reporting on social media to avert information crisis and litigation.
4. Adequate research and knowledge gathering on subject matter to understand socio-cultural barriers in content generation and use on social media.
5. Independent fact checking to verify and validate the source and authenticity of a news content to mitigate reported compromise and inaccuracy across social media news platforms.
6. Leveraging holistic platforms and emerging tools for networking in advocating for change to enable wide coverage and extensive outreach across e-commerce, e-education and e-government.
7. Adequate background knowledge on credibility of e-business entities to validate e-payment process, avert monumental financial loss attributed to e-commerce, and restore public trust.
8. Multi-dimensional approach to secure communication devices from cyber-attack and restore information confidentiality across social media platforms.
9. Capacity building and political education for the online newspaper journalists for constructive content generation and dissemination to promote social justice and support accountability process.
10. Proactive effort to inculcate proper orientation and democratic values in children socialisation process in the family, peer groups, schools, religious institutions for the development of appropriate moral and ethical standards to enhance social accountability.
11. Leveraging existing accountability structures and mechanisms like Open Government Partnership (OGP) in the fight against corruption to create formidable force demanding accountability in political commitments and governance.
12. Enhanced advocacy and sensitisation for full implementation of FOI Act at all levels to enable accessibility to public documents, while amplifying citizens' awareness and public sensitisation on the importance of the Act in accountability and citizens' participation in governance process.

13. Leveraging expertise opinion and guidance in the development and registration of a news platform or business domain to promote adequate public accessibility to contents.
14. Introduction of all-inclusive legislation to safeguard the users' rights, regulate and penalise abuses and wrong use of social media in influencing public opinion, debate and commentary.
15. Exploring relevant provisions of Cyber Crime Act in the protection of the rights of victims of gender-based violence against verbal attacks and derogative comments on the social media; with adequate psychological support for the victims to restore public confidence and address discomfort.
16. Appropriate deployment of audience appealing messaging like concise video clips and info-graphic designs in social change process through behavioural change communication in online content generation and dissemination to promote public transparency and accountability in governance.

ABOUT CITAD

Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD)

(www.citad.org) is a capacity building civil society organization whose activities cover research, advocacy, training and publicity in all the areas of ICTs. Its vision is; a knowledge-based democratic society free of hunger, while its mission is; using ICTs to empower citizens for a just and knowledge-based society that is anchored on sustainable and balanced development.



Main Office:

3rd Floor, NSITF Building,
No.1A, Social Insurance Road, Behind Trade Fair Complex,
Off Zaria Road, Kano.
P. O. Box 10210, Kano, Nigeria.
GSM: +234-8068078282, +234-8030978777,
+234-8065429784
E-mail: info@citad.org
Website: www.citad.org



Abuja Office:

No 8. Accra Street, Wuse Zone 5.
GSM: +234-8068078282, +234-8053579012



Bauchi Office:

NUJ Secretariat, Opposite Reinsurance House,
Ahmadu Bello Way, Bauchi State.



Jigawa Office:

Flat B, Aduwa House, Behind Old Market,
Aminu Kano Way, Dutse, Jigawa State.
GSM: +23480-68078282.



Azare Office:

Central Office Building, Emir's Drive, Opposite Emir's Palace,
Azare, Bauchi State.
GSM: +23480-64867312.



Jama'are Office:

Jama'are LGA Secretariat, Hanafari Road,
Jama'are Local Government Area, Bauchi State.
GSM: +2347055527766



Itas Office:

Itas Local Government Secretariat, Bauchi State.
GSM: +2347055527766



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