



**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY THE COMMISSION CHIEF EXECUTIVE (NUPRC)**

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**AT**

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**ON**

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## **Protocols**

### **Opening**

Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great honour for me to deliver this keynote address to you on this very auspicious occasion of the 2022 Nigeria eGovernment Summit with the theme “Promoting e-Government in an Election Year for Improved Governance”. The timing of this year’s summit is indeed well thought out as the country yet again prepares for a change of leadership through a democratic process in the forthcoming general elections. I would therefore like to use this opportunity to thank the organisers of this year’s event: Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and all other collaborating partners for putting things in place to ensure that the summit is successful.

2. E-governance may be understood as the performance of governance via electronic medium to facilitate an efficient, speedy, and transparent process of disseminating information to the public

and other agencies for performing government administrative activities. It raises the transparency, accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, and inclusiveness levels in the governing process in terms of reliable access to the information within government, between governments, national, state, and local governments, citizens and businesses and empowers business through access and use of information. eGovernment thus involves deploying a suite of technological applications and innovations to make the process of governance easier, as well as to achieve a more seamless process of rendering services to the Nigerian public. The Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) is a creation of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA 2021) and is saddled with the responsibility of regulating the technical, operational, and commercial activities in the upstream petroleum sub-sector. Our activities include and is not limited to the issuance of licences, permits, approvals, supervision & monitoring of upstream operations as well as enforcing compliance. Indeed, for us at the Nigerian Upstream

Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), we have technology and eGovernment to thank for a lot of our achievements because we have quite an interesting history of deploying electronic systems to render services to Nigerians. Without much ado, therefore, I would elaborate on some of the services we have rendered to the public through eGovernment.

3. The Commission issues Oil and Gas Industry Service Permits (also known as OGISP) to service contractors in the industry pursuant to Section 60A of the Petroleum (Drilling and Production) Amendment Regulations 1988. This provision was saved in the Petroleum Industry Act 2021 and the NUPRC now uses the Central Electronic Licencing Approval and Permit System (CELAPS) to process applications from service providers. The CELAPS system provides a one-stop portal for applicants to make payments, submit applications, track the progress of applications, and receive their approved permits. This has significantly reduced the processing times for permits from about 2 months for paper applications to 72 hours for the electronic

applications. In addition, the CELAPS electronic portal synchronises seamlessly with other government agencies' portals and payment platforms such as Remita and FIRS Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) verification system.

4. Another mandate of the NUPRC which we have deployed technology for is in the area of offshore personnel accounting, to track and account for all personnel working offshore. The Commission uses the Offshore Safety Permit (OSP) where personnel travelling offshore are logged in at the embarkation points. Consequently, information of personnel offshore is available real time, thus serving as useful data for emergency preparedness and response. The OSP system is complemented by the establishment of a remote command and control centre for oil and gas operations, with the Search, Rescue and Surveillance (SeRAS) centre stationed at the National Oil and Gas Excellence Centre (NOGEC) in Lagos. The SeRAS center uses communication systems to coordinate incident response services, emergency medical services, assistance with security intervention services and

also with the complicated logistics associated with the entire process.

5. With regards to crude oil production accounting, the Commission deploys electronic systems and technology through the National Production Monitoring System (NPMS). The NPMS system gathers data that enables real time updating of production and export figures, with a live dashboard as well as downloadable datasheets. The importance of this system, and the need for further improving upon it, surely cannot be over-emphasised, especially against the backdrop of the recent clamour for accurate data on crude oil production, losses, and theft.

6. Ladies and Gentlemen, you would recall that while the COVID-19 pandemic and the attendant shutdowns that came with it impacted negatively on our economies, the shutdown period also came with its positive aspects. As a fallout from that period, the Commission has completely adopted the use of online collaboration technologies. Our use of tools like Microsoft Office 365 allows oil and gas

producing companies and service providers to communicate with the Commission electronically. The NUPRC now accepts electronic submissions of documents which are also processed electronically. The increased adoption of this particular eGovernment initiative has led to extensive cost savings across the oil and gas industry in terms of logistics costs associated with travelling and attending meetings and workshops, thereby also reducing our overall carbon footprint.

7. Ladies and gentlemen, I would also like to use this opportunity to talk about one of the core mandates of the Commission as enshrined in Section 7(t) of the PIA 2021 – which is the conduct of bid rounds for award of petroleum prospecting licences. The recently concluded 2020 Marginal Fields Bid Round extensively adopted electronic innovation to manage a wide range of the different aspects of the process. As part of the process, a virtual room was created where interested bidders were able to gain access to relevant technical data and reports warehoused at the National Data Repository (NDR). Applicants were also able to view the progress of

their applications on a milestone basis. This approach will be improved upon for future bid rounds as the Commission is fully committed to the full adoption of eGovernment in rendering services to the oil and gas industry and to the public.

8. The Commission is fully aware of the inherent challenges that eGovernment initiatives face, such as Cybersecurity. As oil and gas industry operations become increasingly technology-driven and interconnected via Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), there is every need to ensure cyber security readiness across the entire upstream oil and gas industry operations to minimise or eliminate vulnerabilities.

9. Ladies and Gentlemen, as Nigeria prepares for the forthcoming transition of government through a democratic process, we are all reminded of the importance of eGovernment adoption across all government agencies. The gains of eGovernment are palpable, it is therefore necessary that all agencies of Government deploy relevant technologies and systems that guarantees



transparency and accountability through and beyond the election year.

10. Consequently, I challenge us all to make deliberate efforts to collaborate in the areas of data collection & analytics, technology transfer and information sharing to build partnerships across all Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government as well as the organised private sector in entrenching world class e-governance of our time and for the future. This summit provides the right platform for us to share our successes as well as our failures in the journey towards full adoption of eGovernment. I am sure the panel sessions will throw more light on all these issues as it promises to be entertaining. On that note, I wish us all a fruitful and engaging summit.

Thank you for listening and may God bless Nigeria.