THE NEED FOR ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IT REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS IN NIGERIA

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March 2019

Introduction

- Technology has proven to be the key driver of institutional reforms globally

- Information and Communication Technology (ICT), has the power to transform public service

- Electronic governance - the infusion of information technology systems, processes and tools for delivery of government responsibilities - has quadrupled revenue generation, improved citizen confidence in government and reduced the gap between government and the governed

Categories of Federal Public Institutions (FPIs)

- Based on NITDA's experience through various interactions with Federal Public Institutions (FPI), three categories of FPI in terms of IT use and implementation are identified:
  1. Highly Proficient;
  2. Averagely Proficient; and
  3. Non-proficient.

Categories

Categories of Federal Public Institutions (FPIs)

Highly Proficient FPIs

- Highly Proficient FPIs have an IT strategy, invest in simple to complex IT tools and systems to achieve their statutory objectives, attract motivated personnel and generally strive to excel in all that they do.

Categories

Categories of Federal Public Institutions (FPIs)

Averagely Proficient FPIs

- Have strong leadership who are striving to raise the productivity of their Agencies; they are in a transitory mode in terms of personnel, knowledge and IT tools.

Categories

Categories of Federal Public Institutions (FPI)

Non-proficient FPIs

- Have neither crafted IT vision nor the motivation to improve their processes. They do not have a consciousness of the value of their mandate to the government's agenda and they are generally lacklustre on issues relating to process improvement, public perception and productivity.
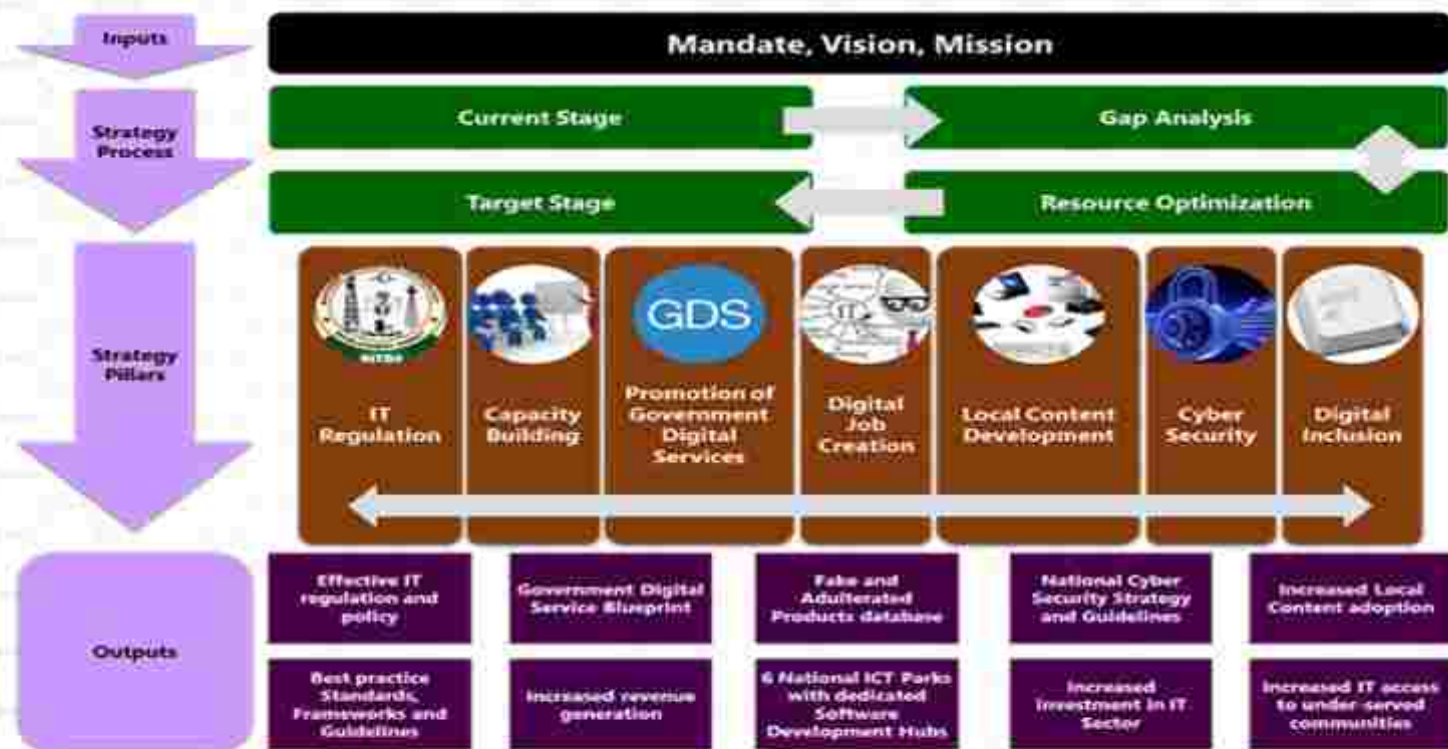
Categories

Strategic Roadmap For The Development Of The IT Sector In Nigeria (1 of 2)

1. IT Regulation

2. Digital Capacity Building

3. Government Digital Services Promotion

4. Digital Job Creation

5. Local Content Development and Promotion

6. Cyber Security

7. Digital Inclusion

Strategic Roadmap For The Development Of The IT Sector In Nigeria (2 of 2)

Inputs

Strategy Process

Strategy Pillars

Outputs

Mandate, Vision, Mission

Current Stage | Gap Analysis

Target Stage | Resource Optimization

IT Regulation | **Capacity Building** | **Promotion of Government Digital Services** | **Digital Job Creation** | **Local Content Development** | **Cyber Security** | **Digital Inclusion**

Effective IT regulation and policy

Government Digital Service Blueprint

Fake and Adulterated Products database

National Cyber Security Strategy and Guidelines

Increased Local Content adoption

Best practice Standards, Frameworks and Guidelines

Increased revenue generation

6 National ICT Parks with dedicated Software Development Hubs

Increased Investment in IT Sector

Increased IT access to under-served communities

The NITDA Act 2007

Section 6(a, b) of the NITDA Act provides:

The Agency shall….Create a framework for the planning, research, development, standardization, application, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and regulation of Information Technology practices, activities and systems in Nigeria and all matters related thereto…Provide guidelines to facilitate the establishment and maintenance of appropriate information technology and systems application and development in Nigeria for public and private sectors, urban-rural development, the economy and the government.

Some NITDA's Regulatory Instruments

1. Guidelines for Clearance of Information Technology Projects by MDAs
2. Standard and Guidelines for Government Websites in MDAs
3. Nigerian Data Protection Regulation
4. Nigerian Government Enterprise Architecture (NGEA)
5. Nigerian e-Government Interoperability Framework (Ne-GIF)
6. Framework and Guidelines for the Use of Social Media Platforms in Public Institutions

Guidelines For Clearance Of Information Technology Projects By MDAs(1 of 6)

NITDA has been emphasizing the need for the IT sector to be properly regulated in order for the country to effectively benefit from the full potentials offered by IT.

Challenges faced by IT projects

I.   The conceptualisation and planning of many projects are done poorly and without clear sustainability plans;

II. Many IT projects are being done in silos, thereby leading to duplication, waste and redundancies;

III. FPIs are embarking on projects that 'sounded good' based on contractors' pitch rather than expressed need and priorities of the FPIs; and

IV. IT was increasingly becoming a conduit pipe of siphoning huge public resources.

NITDA's goal is to use the IT Projects Clearance process to correct the challenges identified

- Federal Government Circular (SGF.6/S.19/T/65 (18/04/2006)) mandating all MDAs to submit their IT Projects for clearance by NITDA

- The Federal Government Circular (59736/S.2C.II/125 (31/08/2018)) reiterating the earlier Circular

- Mr President's directive during the 2018 edition of the e-Nigeria International Conference and Exhibition:

  - *"Defaulters of IT Clearance among the public establishments are to be reported to the Government."*

Positive feedback from Some FPIs:

1. The Office for the Auditor General for the Federation now issues audit queries to FPIs who refuse to get NITDA clearance before embarking on their IT projects

2. The Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) is also partnering with us to investigate government agencies that might be breaching the NITDA guidelines and policies

3. The Bureau for Public Procurement (BPP) demands NITDA clearance as a prerequisite for issuance of Certificates of No Objection on IT projects

Guidelines For Clearance of Information Technology Projects By MDAs(6 of 6)

- More importantly, IT Projects with no clearance from NITDA are not considered for approval at FEC meetings.

- The Agency has, within the last two years, saved the Federal Government over ₦16 billion on IT projects.

Standard And Guidelines For Government Websites In MDAs(1 of 4)

- NITDA has also issued the guidelines on government websites.

- There is an Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT) which has embarked on monitoring, ranking and enforcing compliance with the dictates of the Standard and Guidelines for Government Websites in FPIs and other prescriptions of the BPSR.

Standard And Guidelines For Government Websites In MDAs(2 of 4)

Objectives of the Framework and Guidelines:

1. To ensure that Government Institutions meet the broader communication objectives of the Government of Nigeria;

2. To ensure that Government Institutions' websites are updated, maintained with accurate content for public consumption on a regular and timely basis;

3. To ensure that Government websites are usable and easily accessible by the citizens;

Standard And Guidelines For Government Websites In MDAs(3 of 4)

4. To ensure consistency in design and domain nomenclature for all Government Institutions' websites;

5. To guide IT personnel in designing, developing, managing and securing the websites within their respective Government Institutions; and

6. To enable users of government websites access credible information in a manner consistent with global best practice.

Standard And Guidelines For Government Websites In MDAs(4 of 4)

- FPIs are encouraged to acquaint themselves with and adopt this Standard and Guidelines as failure to do so would defeat the government's goal of improving public service delivery.

- Executive Order 001 (2017) mandates the use of websites for the dissemination of information.

- FPIs are required to be on the *.gov.ng* domain for enhanced security and promotion of national identity.

Nigeria Data Protection Regulation(1 of 3)

- Due to the increased commercialization of personally identifiable information and its being prone to abuse, there has been a global increase in data protection laws.

- One of the most far-reaching laws is the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (EU-GDPR).

NITDA has issued the NDPR with the aim of:

1. safeguarding the rights of natural persons to data privacy;

2. fostering safe conduct for transactions involving the exchange of Personal Data;

3. preventing manipulation of Personal Data; and

4. ensuring that Nigerian businesses remain competitive in international trade through the safe-guards afforded by a just and equitable legal regulatory framework on data protection and which is in tune with best practices.

- Most FPIs control huge amount of personal data

- It is important that all affected FPIs:
    - Study the Regulation;
    - Appoint Resident Data Protection Officers; and
    - Appoint Data Protection Compliance Organisation (DPCO)

- These will ensure proper compliance to the Regulation

The NGEA is a conceptual Blueprint and Framework for efficiently aligning the structure and operation (Nigerian Government's Processes, Information, People and other enterprise driving factors) of government organizations with Information Technology for the purpose of achieving Government Digital Transformation Agenda.
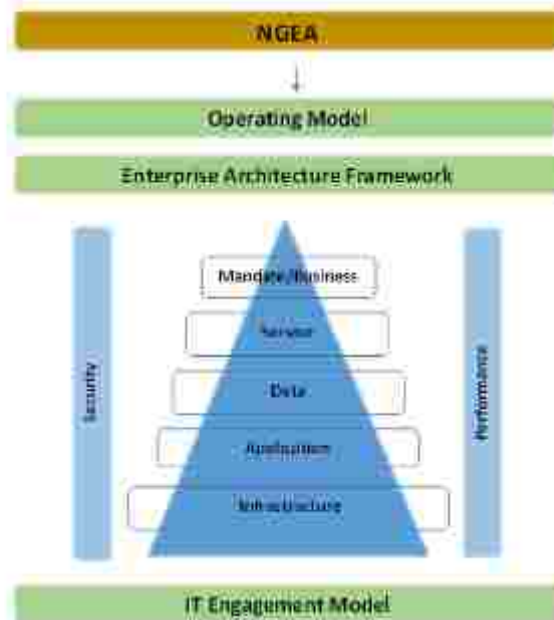
Nigerian Government Enterprise Architecture (NGEA)

The following challenges are currently being experienced:

1. Inefficient and un-scalable IT environment;
2. Poor interoperability of IT systems and inability to effectively share IT resources;
3. Poor government-wide information sharing and exchange for effective service delivery;
4. Maintenance of unnecessary multiple and unstandardized communication channels, customer interfaces and applications;
5. Replication of IT resources due to inadequate knowledge of available IT resources and capabilities across the government;
6. High cost of IT investments and poor sustainability of IT projects; and
7. Inability to efficiently and effectively achieve statutory mandates.

Nigerian Government Enterprise Architecture (NGEA) (3 of 3)

- The main objective of the NGEA is to address all these challenges and provide a clear roadmap for a whole-of-government (WoG) and government digital transformation (GDT) in Nigeria

- FPIs are therefore invited to partner with NITDA to ensure that they produce and align their organizational Enterprise Architecture based on the framework issued by NITDA in order to solve most of the problems identified
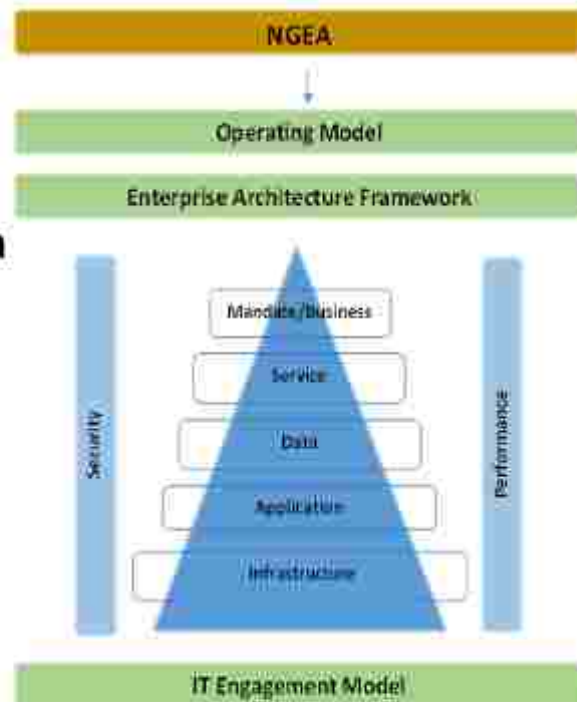
Nigerian e-Government Interoperability Framework (Ne-GIF) (1 of 2)

- The Ne-GIF is one of the critical steps taken by NITDA to achieve the GDT.

- The framework specifies concepts, principles, policies, recommendations, standards and practices for FPIs to work together towards the joint delivery of cross-portfolio services.

- The goal of the Ne-GIF is to ensure that services that require two or more FPIs' business processes are delivered seamlessly and at an affordable cost, using ICT.

Nigerian e-Government Interoperability Framework (Ne-GIF) (2 of 2)

The purpose Ne-GIF is to, among others:

1. Set the baseline framework for e-Government/IT systems interoperability across MDAs;

2. Provide a set of standard specifications and best practices for deploying e-Government/IT systems by MDAs in order to ensure seamless information exchange; and

3. To encourage deployment of e-Government/IT systems that promote cross-portfolio service provision by MDAs and interactions between government, businesses and citizens.

- The social media offers a unique opportunity for FPIs to engage effectively with their stakeholders especially citizens in real time.

- Effective use of Social Media Platforms by FPIs could help enhance the country's political, economic and social development

Amongst its uses are:

1. Providing guidance on the use of social media platforms within the FPIs communications environment in order to improve government transparency, participation and interaction with the public.

2. Providing structure for encouraging and enabling FPIs build capacity for responsible and sustainable adoption of social media platforms in the public service.

Conclusion

- MDAs are encouraged to familiarise themselves with NITDA's Regulatory Instruments, especially those highlighted

- NITDA is always available to advise and support MDAs in the use of IT for effective service delivery

- The efforts of BPSR in organising such events highly commendable

Thank You