

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) APPLICATION IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM

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ABSTRACT

The significant growth of knowledge society, building on the pervasive influence of modern information and communication technologies (ICTs), is reshaping the global economy. The applicability of ICT in the social and political systems of the Nigerian economy is the thrust of this paper. Data are obtained primarily from secondary sources. The study identifies specific challenges which affect the applicability of ICT and its implications to national development. It concludes on the thesis that ICTs can offer real opportunities to improve the social and political systems of the Nigerian economy if considerable efforts are made to provide adequate infrastructures, maintain and sensitize the public on the need to embrace and apply the knowledge of ICT in their social life, political cum electoral process.

Keywords: ICT, Social, Political, Electoral Process, Socio Economic Lives, National Development.

INTRODUCTION

One of the identified agents through which the world will constantly experience change is technology. In the business of trying to make information available in the right form to the right user both at the personal and organizational levels, and at the right time, the bid to cope with great flood of information has led to the need for a more sophisticated way of handling information faster and better (Adesanya, 2002).

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are not new. According to Bruce (1995), during the so-called "Arab Spring" in 2011 Twitter proved very prominent in mobilizing people in autocratic regimes, thus furthering processes of democratization in the Arab world. It raised a lot of hopes and fuelled a lot of optimism as to the direct democratic potential of applying ICT in politics. Yun and Opheim (2010) explained that although the origin of the ICT system goes back to the emergence of the telegraph and telephone in the late 19th century, it was not until after the Second World War that important innovations in a number of different and separate industries were made. This shaped the ICT trajectory that we experience these days, and from 1995 a new era started, characterized by the widespread use of the internet (Crede & Mansell, 1998).

Nigeria is faced with enormous problems of information access. These problems, especially that of low level telephone penetration and uneven access, appear to be insurmountable. The penetration rate in Nigeria in the Twentieth Century was less than one line per 1000 population (African Information Society Initiative, 2005). In spite of efforts made by

successive governments in Nigeria to improve on the penetration rate, the country had continued to nose dive as a result of fresh challenges in terms of building ICT related management and communication infrastructure. This has resulted in almost negative benefit, both to the economy and the society as a whole.

It is quite evident that Nigeria at present lacks innovation, capacities and capabilities in information technology (IT) management and hardware maintenance. This notwithstanding, the country has been and will continue to import and use a wide range of durable consumer electronics, computers and telecommunication equipment. It must therefore begin to accumulate the capabilities to repair and maintain these vintages. Indeed, if Africa is not to be left behind in global trade and development, it must be able to master certain basic capabilities in ICT. In addition, the rate of technical obsolescence is likely to be much faster with ICT, compared to the natural technologies (such as steel, textiles and petrochemicals).

Available technology is largely obsolete — electro-mechanical switching system. Presently, some countries are engaged in massive modernization efforts; Nigeria for instance, has at present, about 500,000 lines with about 160,000 lines just added through the on-going digitalization programme. Technology absorption and mastery takes more than importation of technology; learning which demands explicit investment is a prerequisite for building the technical and managerial capabilities (African Information Society Initiative, 2005). Given the foregoing, the diffusion of ICT will have widespread, albeit differentiated impact on all countries, industries and sectors.

The emergence of the knowledge society, building on the pervasive influence of modern information and communication technologies, is bringing about a fundamental reshaping of the global economy. Knowledge has always been a factor of production, and a driver of economic and social development. However, the capacity to manipulate, store and transmit large quantities of information cheaply has increased at a staggering rate over recent years. The digitisation of information and the associated pervasiveness of the Internet are facilitating a new intensity in the application of knowledge to economic activity, to the extent that it has become the predominant factor in the creation of wealth. ICTs are also facilitating a rapid globalisation of economic activity. Innovation, which fuels new job creation and economic growth, is quickly becoming the key factor in global competitiveness.

ICT can be applied practically every area of life; they shape our private lives and our work. Within the social and economic sphere, ICT is also becoming increasingly important on a macroeconomic level. Not only is the ICT industry a steadily growing sector with a high economic significance, ICT-based solutions and technologies also make a valuable and very important contribution to value-creation in other sectors, e.g. trade or manufacturing industries.

The place of ICT in the political system cannot be over stressed. It is significant in ensuring an effective electoral system. However, its acquisition and applications are not without challenges. The objective of this paper is to examine the application of ICT in the Nigerian social and political system.

Statement of the problem

Despite its overwhelming importance, the problem lack of adequate ICTs infrastructure available to users has reduced access and utilization in social and political systems (Ololube,

2006). Socially, employment opportunities for the Nigerian citizens have direct link to their socio-economic lives. More so, it enhances safe and egalitarian society. However, Nigeria in recent time have been threatened with alarming scenario as a result of unemployment which resultant effects ranges from extreme poverty, hunger to insecurity (Akpore, 1999). Consequently, the application of ICT have not be vigorously harnessed to its fullest despite its perceived vocational and wealth creation opportunities. The application of ICT in the political system, especially the electoral process has much to be desired. Hence, the thrust of this research.

Objectives of the study

Generally, the objective of this paper is to examine the application of ICT in the Nigerian social and political system. Specifically, the study will examine,

1. ICT application and its impact on the socio economic wellbeing of Nigerians.
2. ICT application and its impact the electoral system in Nigerian.
3. Challenges of access to ICT and its implications to national development

Extant literature and theoretical framework

ICT is a term with different meaning. Scholars sees it as a term that encompasses several activities involving the acquisition, storage, processing and dissemination of information through the use of appropriate software and hardware designed facilities for that purpose (Anyakoha, 1991; Eseyin, 1997, Akpore, 1999 & Annan, 2002).

According to Hawkrigde (1983), ICTs are a generic term referring to technologies that are used for collecting, storing, editing and passing on (communicating) information in various forms. The above definition separates distinct fields of ICTs and at the same time links them together so as to operate as an entity. The digital divide characterized by highly unequal access to and use of ICT and manifests itself both at the international and domestic levels needs to be addressed by national policy makers (Annan, 2002). The digital divide can be narrowed and poverty reduction addressed through effective and focused utilisation of ICTs in key sectors such as education, industry and agriculture. The adoption of ICT requires a business environment encouraging open competition, trust and security, interoperability and standardization and financial resources for ICT (Nwosu, 2004).

ICT is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, satellite systems and so on, as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning. ICTs are often spoken of in a particular context, such as ICTs in education, health care, or libraries.

In another respect, ICT refers to the devices used to communicate between computers. ICT has greatly impacted and enhanced global socialisation and interactions. In fact information technology has taken over nearly every aspect of our daily lives from commerce (buying and selling) to leisure and even culture. Today, mobile phones, desktop computers, hand held devices, emails and the use of Internet has become a central part of our culture and society. These technologies play a vital role in our day to day operations (Oji-Okoro, 2006).

He pointed out examples of ICT tools used for these purposes to include, emails, instant messaging (IM), Chat rooms and social networking websites, such as Facebook and Twitter,

Skype, iPhones, cellular phones and similar applications. ICT made a major contribution towards the elimination of language barriers - people speaking different languages can connect and socialise or trade in real time via the Internet. This is made possible with the use of language translators.

There is widespread research interest in ICTs. According to Crede & Mansell (1998), ICTs are crucially important for sustainable development in developing countries. Thioune (2003) notes that for the past two decades most developed countries have witnessed significant changes that can be traced to ICTs. These multi-dimensional changes have been observed in almost all aspects of life: economics, education, communication, and travel. In a technology-driven society, getting information quickly is important for both sender and receiver. ICTs have made it possible to quickly find and distribute information. Thoiune (2003) indicates that many initiatives have taken at the international level to support Africa's efforts to develop a communication infrastructure and these efforts are designed to enable African countries, including Nigeria, to find faster ways to achieve durable and sustainable development.

Helmut (1998), cited by Akpore (1999), states that of the technological changes that have influenced our lives in recent years, information technology (IT) has had the greatest impact. This will continue at least until the end of the first half of the century, when other major technological breakthroughs in the area of new materials, biotechnology, or energy, may provide entirely new ways of living.

An information society is one that makes the best possible use of ICTs. Martin (1995) supports this view by describing it as a society in which the quality of life, as well as prospects for social change and economic development, depends increasingly upon information and its exploitation. In such a society, living standards, patterns of work and leisure, the education system, and marketplace are all influenced by advances in information and knowledge. This is evidenced by an increasing array of information-intensive products and services (Martin, 1988).

Annan (2002) noted that the information society is a way for human capacity to be expanded, built up, nourished, and liberated by giving people access to tools and technologies, with the education and training to use them effectively. There is a unique opportunity to connect and assist those living in the poorest and most isolated regions of the world (Bruce, 1995).

Forms of ICTs

In the view of Oketunji (2000), at the heart of technology lie two main or branches of technology: computing and telecommunication. The technologies covered are the computer system, Internet/electronic mail (e-mail), mobile phone, and fax machine.

Computers: Computers were originally used by scientists for calculating numbers, and have gradually become useful in offices and industries. In recent times, simplified models that can be used by almost everybody have become common in schools and homes for accomplishing many varied tasks and applications (Madu 2000).

Internet: The Internet is a global collection of many types of computers and computer networks that are linked together. It is increasingly becoming the solution to information problems, information exchange and marketing (Adesanya, 2002).

E-mail: Electronic mail (e-mail) is the exchange of text messages and computer files transmitted via communications networks such as the Internet (Nwosu, 2004). Fapohunda (1999) sees the e-mail system as the equivalent of postal mailing services, with the biggest difference being the time and cost involved. And not only written data, but all sorts of information in the form of video, audio, or photographs, can be sent via e-mail. Oketunji (2000) describes e-mail as an increasing popular method of communication, especially in the workplace.

Mobile Phones: Bittner (1989) defines mobile phones as a telephone system that can move or be moved easily and quickly from place to place. Mobile phones were once the tool of rich and busy executives who could afford both the luxury. Mobile phones are now the ICT that is reshaping and revolutionizing the communications globally. Its impact on the economic activities of nations, businesses, and small entrepreneurs is phenomenal. According to Marcelle (2000), the availability of this new technology has been reshaping the material basis of the society as well as bringing about a profound restructuring of economic, political, and cultural relations among states. Nigeria is not an exception (Oji-Okoro, 2006).

Fax machine: Telefacsimile systems permit the transaction of images (photos, printed images, maps, drawings) and their reproduction on paper at a remote receiver. Facsimile (fax) is not a new service; however, advances in digital imaging technology and microelectronics have caused a sharp drop in prices with a significant increase in capacities (O'Brien, 1996). "Long distance copying" might be an appropriate nickname for this telecommunication process. Any document, whether it is handwritten, contains pictures, diagrams, graphs, charts or typed text can be transmitted at a great speed for relatively low cost. The fax system is widely available; most organizations have at least one fax machine. ICTs are increasingly playing an important role in organizations and in society's ability to produce, access, adapt and apply information (Morale-Gomez and Melesse, 1998).

The establishment of the Ministry of Communication and Technology by President Jonathan in 2011 was also regarded as a positive development toward ICT development in Nigeria. The Ministry according (Johnson, 2012) is to develop appropriate policy that will facilitate the build-up of a reliable and cost effective infrastructure information Technologies (ICT)'s structure in Nigeria through wide spread ownership of ICT devices, digital content production and provide efficient service delivery to the citizen in the country. This has significant impact on various sectors of the economy, especially the social and political systems.

ICT and the social system

ICT has great impact in our daily life. With ICT, we read national dailies using the online newspaper. Again, we connect families, relatives, or colleagues while abroad by using electronic mail, messenger, call conference, or video conference. ICTs have been the basis for human existence from time immemorial and this has driven man to continuously seek ways to improve the processing of information and communicating such information to one another irrespective of distance and on a real-time basis (Ndukwe, 2002). Surviving in the information age depends on access to national and global information networks. ICTs are the bedrock for the survival and development of any nation in a rapidly changing global environment, and it challenges us to devise initiatives to address a host of issues such as reliable infrastructure, skilled human resources, open government, and other essential issues of capacity building (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2001).

According to Anyakoha (1991), information technology is "the use of man-made tools for the collection, generation, communication, recording, re-management and exploitation of information. It includes those applications and commodities, by which information is transferred, recorded, edited, stored, manipulated or disseminated". Hawkrigde (1983) describes information technology as a revolution which has penetrated almost all fields of human activity, thus transforming economic and social life. UNDP (2001) asserts that even if sustainable economic growth facilitates the creation and diffusion of useful innovations, technology is not only the result of growth but can be used to support growth and development. ICTs are credited with the ability to transform, and deep and significant changes are expected from their widespread use in Africa. From this stand point Africans can take maximum advantage of the new technologies even if major challenges remain. These challenges include adapting ICTs to local conditions and uses in developing countries, and allowing each country understand those innovations and adjust them to their own development needs.

It is now a fact as evidenced by developments from other countries that ICT as a sector can contribute immensely to national development, especially by improving national GDP of a nation and that ICT, acting as an enabler, can result in improved market competitiveness of a nation's products and services. ICTs can impact positively on governance and other sectors of the economy. In turn ICT can effectively assist international economic integration, improve living standards, narrow the digital divide, and improve biodiversity utilisation and management.

The social benefit of ICT is completely invaluable and cannot easily be listed. Notwithstanding, a good number of the social benefits can still be discussed. And these benefits include social interactions. Keeping in touch with friends and relations is one of the major social benefits of ICT. ICT has also reduced inequalities of opportunity between rural areas and the Urban Centres with the introduction of Internet Services, which delivers educational programmes to remote locations.

The economic benefit of telecommunications is enormous, both as a growing industry in its own right and in terms of its influence on economic development. Telecommunications is making the world a smaller place and creating new information highways of high speed electronic data exchange. The economic implication of ICT are far-reaching; mobile telephones, satellite television and automatic teller machines are just a few examples of the way in which ICT is changing how people communicate, become informed or do business.

ICT and the political system

In Nigeria, the emergence of ICT has transformed the political system of the country. In realizing this noble objectives, the civilian regime of Chief Obasanjo mandated the then Ministry of Science and Technology to develop an appropriate programmes that can facilitate the buildup of a reliable and cost effective infrastructure that will encourage the efficient utilization of internet services in Nigeria through wide spread of ICT devices in order to leverage ICT to drive the effective and efficient public service delivery to the citizen in Nigeria.

More than that, the use of ICTs has positive impact on electoral management, especially in making some processes quicker and more efficient. However, this is without attendant challenges. According to a study from the European Commission, UNDP and International

IDEA, ICT solutions also carry numerous risks. Strategic, operational and procurement planning is therefore central to the successful introduction and use of ICTs in elections.

ICTs can potentially contribute to the democratic process by supporting three different types of activities (Tsagarousianou 1999):

- i. Obtaining information: ICTs could help provide information about government and the democratic process through, for example, websites developed by government institutions, political parties, campaigning groups and on-line news services. The use of digital communications technology also supports 24-hour news-gathering and dissemination about current political events.
- ii. Engaging in deliberation: It is not just voter turnout that is declining, but also attendance at public meetings, political party membership and participation in political fundraising activities (Bryan, Tsagarousianou & Tambini 1998; Hale, Musso & Weare 1999). However, using ICTs to enhance the communication links between citizens and their representatives requires that government and representatives must show commitment to listening and learning and responding promptly, otherwise the perceived or real gap between the government and the government will only increase. This requires increased resources, skills and facilities (Cabinet Office 2002).
- iii. Participating in decision making: The most obvious way in which citizens participate in political decision-making is when they cast their vote for their government representative. ICTs could make the voting process more convenient by enabling electronic voting, either from a voting station of the voter's choosing or over the Internet from anywhere (LGA 2002). This would also speed up vote counting. However, there are significant concerns to address about the demand for e-voting, secrecy of the voting act, security of the votes and counting systems, voter access to the technology and voter ICT ability before e-voting could be implemented on a large scale (BBC 2003; Electoral Commission 2003; LGA 2002; Phillips & von Spakovsky 2001).

Citizen participation could be extended to decision-making via electronic referenda. Again, however, there are important issues concerning secrecy, security and access. Although some countries (e.g. Switzerland) make regular use of referenda, it must also be acknowledged that such direct participation in decision-making is not always seen as desirable. In Germany, for example, the experiences and failure of the Weimar Republic, which had strong elements of such direct democracy, means that direct involvement by citizens in decision-making is seen as providing opportunities for populists or demagogues, and hence a threat to the democratic process (Hagen 2000; Schmidtke 1998) (See also Bannister & Walsh, 2002). ICTs therefore have the potential to enhance or re-invigorate political participation and the democratic process (Emler et al. 1999; Hahn 1999).

Akpore (1999) stated that, provided that technologies are legally supported, operationally appropriate, accurate, cost-effective, timely implemented, transparent and sustainable, they can build credibility by improving the speed and efficiency of the electoral process. The main issues regarding voter registration costs have to do with the type of registration system, institutional responsibility for voter registration and degree of resilience in cost assessment. Costs associated with purchasing and distribution, system defects, poor design or testing may leave development agencies captive to increasing costs in order to save what they have already invested in. There is a need to "skill up" staff to implement sustainable systems, and this may not be easy given the short timetables that are often involved.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Communication Theory of Keri Deutsch (1990)

The theory was advanced by Keri Deutsch (1990) to explain that the political system is a “network of communication channels” which has processes and mechanism for acquiring, collecting, transmitting, selecting and storing information. They are essentially self-regulating or self-controlling systems (Annan, 2002). This imply that the relevant information has to be directed towards or a way from particular communication channels. The theory assumes that governance is a decision making system. The decisions taken by the government are based on certain information flows.

Akpore (1999) maintained that the effectiveness of the information of the receiver depends on this that at least some parts of the receiving system must be in highly unstable equilibrium so that even a small amount of energy carrying the signal must be sufficient to start off a much larger process of change. However, the growth of ICT in contemporary society has enhances the ability of individuals, corporate bodies and government and its agencies in effective sending and receiving messages across the globe, if promotes sustainable relationship between the government and the citizen in the state through cost less and efficient public service delivery to the general public (Adesanya, 2002).

Challenges of ICT application in social and political system and implications for national development

Despite its increasing importance, most Nigerian faces the problem of access and applicability of ICT facilities. A study conducted by Yun and Opheim (2010) in Delta State, South South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, he that among other things, power blackouts, the high cost of connectivity, and lack of ICTs skills ranked highest, while interconnectivity ranked second, and poor infrastructure, urban-rural digital divide, lack of basic education, obsolete equipment, and high cost of equipment were also mentioned. See the table below,

Table 1: Problems militating against the use of ICT facilities

Problems of ICT facilities	Frequency	Percentage
Frequent power blackout	102	85.83%
High cost of connectivity	102	85.83%
Lack of ICTs skills	102	85.83%
Poor telecommunication infrastructure	98	81.67%
Obsolete equipment	74	61.67%
High cost of equipment	55	45.83%
Lack of basic education	75	62.50%
Urban-rural digital divide	96	80%
Interconnectivity problem	100	83.33%

Source: Yun and Opheim (2010)

In the North, there are a number of grave constraints to the use of technology in the northern Nigeria as in developing countries. These factors have been recapitulated in a paper by Beth Krevitt Eres (1981, cited in Nura, 2008). Table 2, shows various challenges face by the North and other part of developing economies of the world, especially Africa.

S/n	General Factors	Conditions in Developing Countries
1.	Economic	Labour intensive society. Low availability of capital. Inability to absorb recurring costs. Expense of international activities. Lack of internal competition. Problems with foreign exchange regulations.
2.	Manpower	Shortage of available trained manpower. Low prestige of information professionals. Difficult in recruiting specialists. Lack of continuing education.
3.	Physio-Ecological	Limited resources. Geographic isolation.
4.	Cultural/Demographic	Many unskilled workers. Language barriers. Inaccurate expectations of technology. Information-seeking behaviour of scientists and technicians, especially its low priority.
5.	Political	Unstable governments. Desire for often excessively tight security and secrecy. Constantly changing priorities. Centralization of decision makers. Lack of scientific impact at highest levels of government.
6.	Existing Infrastructure	Inadequate and unreliable telephone, postal and electricity supply services. Tight, stringent customs systems. Inability to join telecommunications networks. Lack of library and information standards. Insufficient hard-copy collections. Absence of sufficient information flow.

Source, (Beth, 1981 in Nura, 2008)

Amongst the other characteristics hindering ICT use in Northern Nigeria, linguistics is time and again of considerable importance (Eres, 1981). Most of the information and training in the modern day technology is in the industrialized world's language, the English, as in the databases and program as well.

There is also the problem of equitable distribution of ICT facilities across the country. According to the NBS survey, Kogi State has the highest percentage of total PC access in the country with 17.4 per cent, though, majority of the computers are not individually owned. The FCT and Lagos have total access rates of 15.9 per cent and 15.8 per cent respectively; but only five per cent of the computers are individually owned. The survey indicated that all other states had lower than 10 per cent total access rates to computers (Nura, 2008).

It also revealed that Kano, Kebbi, Zamfara, Borno and Sokoto had the least access to computers, at one per cent each. Analysts said the high cost of computers and the grossly under-developed technological base in the country (especially north) were major reasons for

low PC penetration in Nigeria. “For states with the least access, Sokoto emerges with only 0.3 per cent access to the Internet. Kebbi, Zamfara, Kano, Bauchi, and Kaduna also turn out to have low Internet access rates, each with less than one per cent,” the report added (Nura, 2008).

Table 3: Distribution of Access and Ownership of PCs by States (%)

STATE	Owned	Access Only	Total Access	STATE	Owned	Access Only	Total Access
Kogi	0.9	16.4	17.4	Yobe	1.4	2.0	3.3
FCT Abuja	4.0	11.9	15.9	Enugu	1.4	1.6	3.1
Lagos	4.9	10.9	15.8	Ondo	1.2	1.8	3.0
Osun	3.2	6.8	10.0	Abia	1.1	1.8	2.9
Rivers	1.1	7.9	9.0	Benue	0.5	2.0	2.6
Anambra	0.8	7.8	8.6	Imo	0.2	2.2	2.5
Edo	0.4	6.4	6.9	Taraba	0.1	2.0	2.1
Ogun	0.7	5.7	6.4	Bayelsa	0.8	1.3	2.0
Cross River	0.8	5.5	6.3	Kaduna	0.2	1.7	1.9
Oyo	1.2	4.8	6.0	Ebonyi	0.4	1.1	1.5
Delta	1.8	3.5	5.2	Katsina	0.2	1.0	1.3
Akwa Ibom	0.5	4.2	4.7	Bauchi	0.2	0.8	1.1
Niger	0.2	4.5	4.7	Sokoto	0.1	0.7	0.8
Jigawa	0.4	4.2	4.6	Borno	0.1	0.5	0.7
Kwara	1.0	3.6	4.6	Zamfara	0.1	0.5	0.6
Plateau	0.7	3.8	4.5	Kebbi	0.2	0.3	0.5
Nasarawa	1.8	2.4	4.1	Kano	0.2	0.2	0.4
Adamawa	0.6	3.1	3.7	URBAN	3.0	9.6	12.6
Gombe	0.5	3.2	3.7	RURAL	0.3	2.1	2.4
Ekiti	0.5	3.1	3.6	National	0.9	3.6	4.5

Source: National Bureau of Statistics: 2011 Socio Economic Survey Access to ICT

Given these limitations to the use of the ICT, how can information in the North make effective use of the modern technology of everything-database? Political differences between two regions, for example, could mean that an information centre could find itself barred from using the databases on a computer system in another region. In some cases, much information available on present systems in the South is not really relevant to conditions in the “developing” North. The Northern information centre must first establish information priorities and/or at lesser degree spot the main objectives. Only then it can adopt and adapt to the appropriate ICT.

CONCLUSION

ICTs can offer real opportunities to improve the social and political systems of the Nigerian economy. It is also important to deepen our level of reflection on social dynamics and on the constraints encountered when introducing and using ICTs for development. A healthy information society is concerned with getting reliable and timely information to its members. Making people aware of the benefits derivable from the use of ICTs will help to make the society a healthy one.

Policy Recommendations

Given the challenges of access and applicability of ICT in the social and political systems of the country identified above, the study recommends as follows,

1. Provision of ICTs Infrastructures in the public service to enhance effective service delivery. With the global importance of ICT in service delivery, the Nigerian

- government must endeavour to provide adequate ICT infrastructures in all units of public service.
2. Carrying out ICT training programmes for public servants and unemployed. This is necessarily to complement access with utilization. ICT literacy has the capacity to bring about employment generation in the country.
 3. Provision of funding for the maintenance of ICTs infrastructures. After provision, the next emphasis should be maintenance. Often than not, equipments become obsolete because of poor maintenance. A technical unit must be established in public sectors for regular checks and maintenance of ICT equipments.
 4. Full digitization of the political and electoral process. Although this has its attendance consequences, it remains the best option for effective democratic process. Staff of electoral commissions must therefore be trained and retrained for effective use of modern technology for the conduct of elections in the country.
 5. Public enlightenment on the use of electoral ICT facilities. Through the mass media and other public forum, citizens must be enlightened on the use of emerging technologies for effective participation in the political process.

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