

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE  
PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN-IN-COUNCIL OF COMPUTER  
PROFESSIONALS (REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF  
NIGERIA), PROFESSOR CHARLES O. UWADIA, FNCS,  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS' ASSEMBLY HELD  
AT NICON LUXURYHOTEL, ABUJA, ON THURSDAY  
27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019

The Vice-President/Vice-Chairman-in-Council, Mr. Kole Jagun

The President of Nigeria Computer Society, Prof. Ganiu A. Aderounmu

Past Presidents/Chairmen-in-Council,

Members of Council

The Registrar/Secretary to Council, Mr. Allwell C. Achumba

My Professional Colleagues

Gentlemen of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen

It was about a year ago that we gathered for the **2018 IT Professionals' Assembly**. We are therefore grateful to God for sparing our lives to be part of this year's Assembly that has as its theme, "**Digital Infrastructure: Defining the Next Step**".

As the 2017-2019 Council winds up on our term of office, I am happy to note that the number of those who attended the Assembly grew from a very modest attendance figure in 2007 to over 500 participants these past few years. In recent times, the number of registered members also grew astronomically. The growth recorded in the number of participants at the yearly **IT Professionals' Assembly** is certainly a product of your dedication, commitment and consistent support for the profession. I therefore wish to extend to you all, Council's words of gratitude for standing by your profession over the years.

Distinguished colleagues, the impact Information Technology has had on our national life cannot be over-emphasized. As an example, the introduction of e-payment through the **Treasury Single Account (TSA)** system by government has no doubt, drastically reduced delay in payments in addition to blocking leakages that hitherto, had created wastages and lack of accountability, thereby saving the government billions of naira which would have gone down the drain. The gains of e-Governance is another major contribution. While it is true that the present government under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari has leveraged greatly on IT in conducting the business of government, there is still much more that Information Technology can do to enhance good governance in our developing democracy in order to bring about the transformation that government and the people so desire.

Infrastructure, for example, has always been important to a nation's economic growth and success, but the infrastructure needed for today's

economy is rapidly changing with advances in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT). This new infrastructure is critical to delivering the next wave of innovation and economic growth to all nations. This is because the development of any nation is usually measured by the degree and extent of growth in the socio-cultural, socio-economic, and political spheres, which are all today enabled and driven by Information Technology. There is no gainsaying that the present world order is being ruled by the transformatory power of Information and Disruptive Technologies.

Digital infrastructure represents physical facilities and assets required to operate technologies that include Information Technology. Digital Infrastructure is the backbone on which digital services rely for delivery. By extension, Digital Infrastructure is necessary to the economy and quality of life of a modern nation. Examples of digital infrastructure include: Internet backbone, fixed broadband, mobile telecommunications, communication satellite, network infrastructure, Big Data Analytics, data centres, cloud computing, platforms, Systems Applications, IoT, Robotics, Block chain Technology.

It is for this reason that the **2019 IT Professionals' Assembly** would be considering issues revolving around the future of Digital Infrastructure vis-à-vis outdated regulatory policies, lack of public funding for investment, dearth of talented pool of skilled individuals, opportunities for Digital Infrastructure, removal of impediments to the expansion of digital

infrastructure, commitment to actions that promote the long-term growth of the digital economy, among other issues.

In order to discuss this theme thoroughly, the resource persons have been carefully chosen based on their competence in both the public and private sectors. It is also hoped that at the end of this discussion, far reaching recommendations will be made that will further enrich government's drive to transform our country.

I wish to thank our parent Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Education and especially the outgoing Minister, Mallam Adamu Adamu without whose continuous support we would not have executed most of our programmes. We wish to assure you of our resolve to continue to contribute our quota to the development of the Ministry and the realization of its objectives.

Once again, I wish to welcome you to this year's Assembly and wish you all happy deliberations and a pleasant stay in Abuja.

You are all welcome.

**Professor Charles Uwadia, FNCS**  
*President/Chairman-in-Council*