

## **COMBATING CORRUPTION AND INSECURITY, THE ROLE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY (ICMT) FOR GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA – Presented By Babatunde ORENIYI**

Information and Communication Management Technologies is modern system that presents us tools that enable us perform a lot of facts and figures analysis and communication functions. The ICMT stands for Information and Communication Management Technology. ICT however is defined as a “Diverse set of Technological tools and resources used to communicate, and to create, disseminate, store and manage information” (Blurton C., 1999).

At the early emergence of ICT, it is simply computing and telecommunications. Many of us will remember what computer was in the 70s up until the late 90s, and Nitel is a name majority won't forget in a hurry. What our fathers and even some of us know has computer and telecom defer from what the so called digital age children of today knows. This is a change, like any other, with its dark and bright sides.

Information communication technology is the new communication and computing technology used for creating, storing, selecting, changing, developing, receiving and displaying many kind of information.

ICT is a technological tools and resources used to communicate, create, organize, disseminate, store, retrieve and manage information. Effective use of ICT tools for combating insecurity in Nigeria is a research paper using the technology to execute some major issues of insecurity in the country, ICT is a very wide umbrella that includes any communication device which encompasses radio, phones, computer, satellite, networking, location and any other internet application such as video conferencing and so on (Chika, 2008).

All over the world citizens are using technology to their own advantage. Like money, or better still name, that take the nature of the bearer, technology also takes the character of the user. This reminds me of the kitchen knife story. The kitchen knife was arrested for murder. While being interrogated by the case officer, “why did you choose this path, a designer master piece as you? If nothing you could I have been like your colleague who has become a close companion of the President’s chef”. “The question, police officer should rather be, why did the president’s chef who collected money for two kitchen knives bought only one, leaving me behind for the area-boy to pick”. “My brother and I only followed the hand that picked up”. This goes to tell us that if we do not maximise technology for the betterment of our lives, be assured the that enemies of our lives are exploring if for their selfish ends. Hence, the urgent call on all to explore *Information And Communication Management Technology In Combating Corruption And Insecurity In Nigeria Governance*. A great tool for professionals and all to shine a light on fraud and bribery, and to blow the whistle on corrupt practices. This internet and several hosted social media platforms have made the world a global village with the whole world as your next door neighbor.

“Transparency International defines corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain. The range of corruption is vast, from government officials demanding relatively petty payments and police taking bribes, right up to politicians taking huge kickbacks on oil and arms deals”.

Corruption and insecurity are global citizens who don't like exposure or being tracked, hence they lay low wherever Information And Communication Management Technology find prominence and is being promoted. As difficult as bringing those with power to account can be, sometimes dangerous, and long-drawn-out affair, Information And Communication Management Technology is a tool to the rescue if creatively and committedly deployed.

All over the world however citizens are fighting back, using new technology to shine a light on fraud and bribery, and to blow the whistle on corrupt practices.

## **Corruption**

From the classrooms of our schools to the streets with law enforcement, from the nation's watch-dogs to the custodians of justice, from our offices and markets to the holy places and clergies, corruption seems to have succeeded in wooing many, making resistance a death call and few who dare her pleasantly discovered the peace only a clear conscience offers.

The use of radio and press alongside social media channels Facebook, YouTube, podcasts and SMS, campaigners are medium that may be used to noise the public discontent which will force the government to back down and created or empower anticorruption agencies for efficient and effective delivery of their duties. While ICMT can play a supporting role in all many areas, what is critical is the strength and resilience of the anti-corruption organisation's human skills in leadership, coalition-building and public advocacy.

While admitting that ICMT engagement won't result in no quick technical fix for systemic, institutionalised corruption. It is no doubt a daunting task changing entrenched expectations and behaviour, yet determined citizens' intent on change have never had an increasing number of tools and examples of practice to draw upon, as it is today. It is important for us to harness a combination of off-line and online methods in overall anti-corruption strategies.

I foresee a Nigeria where our effort in hacking corruption would result in existing impotent anti-corruption laws being changed, corrupt individuals, irrespective of class, status and affiliations, being jailed, and most importantly, the ordinary people having access to social amenities as quality medical facilities, quality education, infrastructures etc.

Our ICMT professionals and bodies can collaborate with international organisations like Transparency International etc.

## Security

Today Information and communication management technology has become part of our day to day activities across the world. Multimedia services such as video, text, images and audio files. Like corruption, insecurity is a global menace that can only be tackled effectively and brought to the barest minimum given to what degree the government and people deploy technological tools at their disposal.

When it comes to insecurity, technology is one of the platforms that cannot be ignored, as it puts a lot of tools and instruments at our disposal in tackling, improving vigilance of all of us. As the saying goes, “security is every ones concern and business?” ICMT is a great tool in managing, detection and identification of citizenry biometrics, interactions, communication, movement, education and so on. Peculiarity of our nation, a country that has a lot of issues i.e. Ill-gotten wealth flaunt in the face of the impoverished, illiteracy, corruption, unemployment, injustice and so on makes it susceptible to insecurity. Any, and indeed many African countries with any of the above is at risk of increase in the level of violence or crimes e.g. robbery, kidnapping, rape, and even terrorism. The MASSOB, Boko Haram, Kidnappings otherwise known as “*Evansism*”, cybercrimes, ritual killings etc. are witnesses.

The following ICMT tools can be used to enhanced security such as

- *Close Circuit Television (CCTV) if systematically and strategically deployed nationwide*
- *Online Vehicle Registration and traffic information management*
- *Sim Registration – capturing of all subscriber biometric details*
- *BVN – Bank Verification Number*
- *GPS Driver’s License - A GPS tracking unit is a device that uses the Global Positioning System to determine the precise location of a vehicle, person, or other asset to which it is attached and to record the position of the asset at regular intervals.*
- *Vehicle Trackers*
- *Explosive Device Detectors*

There are several tools that can assit us all in making our environment secure and corruption free, and the least of that is right there in your hand – your phone. And, I dare say, if at this age you are not using an internet enabled phone, not necessarily a smart phone, and do not have a mean of hooking up to world wide web, the global neighborhood, then you are probably non-existent, you belong in the analog era, your age has long ended, you are a ghost amongst humans. Transform! Be ICMTed!