

# **THE EFFECTS OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY ON NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND SECURITY.**

*Fadare. B Olusola. & Dr. Omotoso Adeleke  
Department of General Studies,  
Osun State College of Technology, Esa-Oke.*

## **Abstract**

*The global economic recession that had consumed Greece is having its biting effects on Nigeria, more especially now that the price of crude oil has fallen drastically to \$27.83 a barrel; and the exchange rate is #400 to a dollar. Nigeria's inability to diversify her economy, unimaginable level of corruption have further compounded this economic problem. This has led to an unprecedented increase in insecurity, hunger, poverty, inability all tiers of governments at all to pay their workers; retrenchment etc. this study, therefore discusses the roles of Information Communication Technology (ICT) and language planning for economic recovery and security. The aim is to examine the contribution of Information Communication Technology and Language Planning in the generation of wealth by all tiers of government. Findings show that effective use of ICT devices have greatly enhanced the social-economic planning through location of mineral resources by Geographical information Systems (GIS); curbing of tax evasion through e-tax system: Provision of security through Surveillance on nation's borders; seaports and airports with the use of ICT equipment and censor cameras are made possible: payment levies, on agricultural products, forestry, raw materials with point of Sales, (POS), ATM, cash transfer; registration of adult citizens based on their different occupations and associations can also facilitate tax collection at source. Similarly, ICT can help government to know the actual number of its employees, pensioners; and even the unemployment; thereby forestalling the payment of huge salaries, to ghost workers and pensioners'. In conclusion, the study encourages all tiers of government to embrace in totality, the concept of e-government and e-administration for a vibrant and reformed civil service enhancement of economic recovery, security, service delivery, accountability etc. findings of this study attested to the fact that previous efforts with the orthodox governance had resulted in monumented corruption, bad leadership, tax evasion, insecurity of lives and property. Accounts of many critical sectors such as NNPC, CBN, were never audited and many ghost workers and pensioners had sphered government funds running to trillions. With the use of Bank Verification Numbers, Treasury Single Account, Automated Payroll System by the federal government, the nation has gained more than 7trillion Naira from the use of TSA & BVN, many looted funds and property have also been intercepted' the study however recommends a total overhauling of the governance at all levels to accommodate the use of ICT in governance for accountability and economic recovery. ICT is channel of on line medium of communication.*

## **Introduction**

Communication can be explained as the exchange of relevant messages, data, information among senders and receivers. Communication helps in policy and decision making; implementation and also enhances mutual coexistence in a multiethnic communities; improves standard of living of people. Communication can sub-divide into the following media: online, written, spoken oral and a non-verbal media depending on the instruments or channels being used. Online medium of communication engages the computer devices that are networked and connected to the Internet through the GSM operators networks goggle; and other search engines. Other applications are through face books, emails, twitter, Online medium may also involve data capturing devices, biometrics, censor camera, digital mappings; written data also generated, can be collected, processed, reviewed, stored and exchange electronically, Information Management is vital to a successful social and economic planning. Effective Information management through the latest Information Communication Technology can greatly enhance the discovery of natural and human resources in a community or nation; their exploration, distribution and utilization. With ICT these resources can also be stored, processed packaged and preserved for the sustainability of the human race, in order to ensure the provision of infrastructures; payment of worker's salaries, and improvement in the educational system. Similarly, leakages in government revenues emanating from manual tax collection, leakages via the collection of undue salaries, stealing of government funds, misappropriation of funds, inflated contract sums, non-completion of projects can as well be averted if ICT accounting and auditing software are employed in governance and the civil services. Many natural resources and tourism potentials that are lying fallow in the forest untapped could have been discovered with the Geographical Information

Systems(GIS). All these relevant information about human and natural resources, agricultural and tourism potentials, can be registered and stored in a Database for prompt decision making. Government can go further to empower these communities with sufficient funds and machinery in order to enhance maximum production and aids industrialization. The government may also be in synergy with private firms to ensure that individuals are empowered in the processing, standard products abroad, preservation and exportation of standard products abroad. This is expected to facilitate an increase in the nation's foreign exchange reserves; increase and subsequently an improvement in the value of Naira. Similarly in the Gross Domestic Products by registering all transporters, artisans, industrialists, traders, banks, timber merchants, Cocoa produce buyers, even the unemployed, in a central data base. These can be stored, retrieved, exchanged. This may and shared by all magic. The data are expected to be more reliable, authentic and accurate and can even appear in clued of fingerprints, photographs names, scene, location, workplace all statistics of citizens; they can even be subjected to upgrading. Stakeholders in the management of the nation's economy, physical planning security, civil service, judiciary and legislative, arms, states and federal government can easily collect taxes and levies directly from sources, through e-payment, e-taxes, devices; intervention funds can also be disbursed to genuine unemployed youths who are ready to embark on arable farming; livestock farming, marketing of agric products vocations and enterprises. With the compulsory introduction of ICT in the administration of tertiary institutions, government can ascertain the actual number of admitted students, registered students; and all fees paid by them on-line, can be monitored by all concerned authorities. On line admission and e-registration of students can also help in the assessment of student's performance; while networking of academic affairs, the HODs office and ICT will surely facilitate the prompt processing of students' examinations records, transcripts etc. Similarly, all the agricultural products; logs of woods, cattle, pigs, poultry etc, being conveyed to and from each state should be registered online and

payment of levies done via e-payment through POS, cash transfer, ATM and never through manual payment. erring transporters and dealers should be given extra charges. Then a task force to be randomly posted to each zone should be on patrol in order to ascertain the authenticity of the computer print-out receipts being held by the payees. The internal revenues divisions and the transport units (VIO) of the federal and state government should also be digitalized. These internal control measures will surely block leakages of government, funds thereby reducing poverty, infrastructural decay; and enhance prompt payment of workers salaries and pensioners entitlements. The preparation of annual budget by both the legislative and executive can greatly be accelerated by ICT in which all the citizens can also contribute meaningfully through their access to government portals. This is also expected to create a sense of belonging in the electorates and the willingness to contribute their quota to governance by paying their taxes and levies, promptly; and they can willingly criminals to the security agents; participating in elections, keeping watch on government property, and complying with government directives on health and sanitation etc. Forensic auditing is also one of the tasks of ICT; it can be used to ensure accountability in finances, improvement in capacity building and ensuring confidence in governance by the masses. It could be observed that poor Information Management of insurgency in Nigeria has been the bane of escalating insecurity problems. With the application of ICT softwares for the management of insurgency; ICT Surveillance and intelligence gathering all the stakeholders in the management of crime, robbery and insurgency can synergize and can tap from a strong and reliable database that contains the geographical and demographic information of the affected states, citizens population, tribes, languages, land and seas, boundaries etc. This information can be shared and used to forestall the escalation of insurgency from one region to another. The Military, Immigration, Customs, Directorate of Security Service, Civil Defense local community security outfits can work-hand-in hand to nip the intentions of insurgents and other Criminals before they perpetuate

their nefarious acts. Other stakeholders such as the Fire Service, Red Cross, Refuges Commission, IDP managers, health officials, donor agencies can also benefit from this data base, in the Management of Internally Displaced Persons who are put in the refuges Camps.

**The Scope** of the study is the roles of ICT for national economic recovery and security especially in 2016. This area was chosen in view of the dwindling economic conditions emanating from unprecedented fall in the international price of crude oil to \$27.83 a barrel; This situation has led to the drastic devaluation of naira to #338; to a dollars, massive retrenchment of workers and non-payment of workers' salaries, and emoluments etc. Similarly, series of security threats such as terrorist attacks, kidnapping, bank robbery, vandalization of pipelines; oil bunkering; secessionist movements etc have exerted more expenses on governments. This study then becomes appropriate in its recommendations for a wholistic use of ICT in form e-government, e-tax system, forensic investigation of financial and other crimes the employment of internet based information gathering and sharing through installations of as well CCTV cameras can as well be used to monitor; streets, GIS in location of tourist places, mineral deposits; and gas pipelines, electricity equipment, streets in all these will reduce incidents of vandalization, they can also help in sensitization of the citizens on health, industrialization, agric mechanization etc.

**Aim:** The specific aim of this paper is to examine the various ways in which the Information Communication Technology can be employed to fast track, Nigeria's economic recovery and reduce the incidents of social insecurity.

**Research Method:** The research methodology employed in this study is based on a descriptive approach with an observation and write ups on the important roles that effective data collection, storage and usage has been play in order to generate more funds for the nation; reduce the incidents of fund leakages and increase capacities building. References were made to the Integrated payroll systems of the federal government which the Hon. Minister of Finance claimed had exposed

ghost workers; the integrated tax systems, the Treasury Single Account TSA, the Bank Verification numbers have all assisted the nation to intercept 7trillion naira to government coffers. The EFCC to discovered huge amount of local and foreign cash in public places, shock-away, apart from the ones recovered from some notable politicians within and outside Nigeria. These are in addition to the numerous properties confiscated by EFCC and the judiciary for allegedly being acquired through fraudulent means. Records also confirmed that the six kidnapped students from Lagos state in May 2017 were traced tracked to Ondo state with the help of ICT intelligence gathering devices before they were released.

**Data Collection:** Evidences were taken from the speeches of Mr. Ambode, Lagos state governor who confirmed that out of 12million Lagos citizens only 1m of them pay taxes; other states also complain that of tax evasion; records also show that this accounted for the dwindling Internally Generated Revenue as well as failure of 27 states to pay workers salaries out of 36 states. The federal government also proposed an awareness programme on tax payment. All these confirm the fact that e-taxation, e-budgeting and others should be more encouraged in the country at large.

**Data Analysis:** All evidences of economic recession, unemployment, corruption, infrastructural decay, uncompleted projects, and devaluation of nation currency tax evasion are all pointers to the non-employment of the concept of e-government which is an offshoot of on-line medium of communication in Nigeria. Nigeria should use judiciously this medium to harness all her potentials for social, economic, and technological advancement.

**Findings:** From all available records in the Nigeria's news blogs, and direct observations, Nigeria's government at all levels and arms have neglected the use of effective on-line communication through Information Communication Technology in governance. The resultant effects include chronic economic recession, devaluation of naira, low level of export; monumental frauds and

corruption; budget padding, social insecurity, poor physical and economic planning, maladministration, ethnic suspicion etc.

**Conclusion** : It is evident that problem of unemployment persists because the stakeholders in governance could not get the actual number or dossiers of unemployed, no data base for all workers in the civil service, no pensioners, no accurate population census with biometric; no data base for tourism and infrastructural sites, while governance is done for decades through trial-and-error platforms.

**Recommendations** The paper encourages all tiers of government to embrace ICT in all sectors-population; crime prevention, forensic investigation of crimes, e-budgeting, e-planning; as well as in the process of mobilization and sensitization of the citizens on mechanized farming; vocations acquisition, environmental management; governance, health matters. All the biometric registrations of citizens by GSM operators commercial banks, civil service, voters cards, should be harmonized and kept in a central database; and BVN used for forensic crime control, and investigation, intelligence and gathered surveillance for the instance, federal government made can be use of Bank Verification Number (BVN) to detect many ghost workers and many looters, more efforts should be made in this area and TSA as well as in budget control; crime prevention, tax collection, maintenance of peace and security etc.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Writing on Computer Auditing, Ayeni et al perceive information as very important to modern managers as they form the basis for planning, decision making, and controlling. 'They also see data processing as the mechanism used by an enterprise to collect all items of relevant idea to process them into information and to output the information for use in planning etc. information processing systems may both be conventional system and electronic Data Processing (EDP).

EDP systems have five elements: the input, processor, output, storage and control element. These elements perform the basic functions of data origination, data preparation, data processing, informatioi output, data and information systems control (Ayeni et al 2012:73). EDP systems are versatile in internal audit control, organization/general control, administrative control as well as systems development control. In administrative control, cognizance is taken of segregation of duties, control over computer operators, and file controls. Modern computer files are maintained in magnetic backing storage devices (in magnetic tapes and disks. Folayan D.O and Adcniyi A.G. see Information Technology as the processing and distribution of data using computer hardware, software, telecommunications, and digital electronics. (Encarta Encyclopedia (2004). According to Folayan and Adeniyi, Database is a stored collection of related data needed by organization and individuals to meet their information processing and retrieval requirements. Database Management System (DEMS) and Database Administrator (DBA) DEMS to complex set of software programmes that control the organization, storage and retrieval of data in a database. It also controls the security and integrity of the database. DBA refers to a personnel or department responsible for the security and classification of the share data in a data base. The authors also discussed the concept of e-business which involves the use of internet in the conduct of business, on line marketing and sales of goods. on line



advertising etc. according to them e-government is a situation “where government parastatals, agencies, and ministries are connected online and are accessible through the internet”. :3. This laudable project of the federal government has enabled stakeholders, irrespective of locations, to apply for Nigerian passports, seek government contracts, register their companies with corporate Affairs Commission; salaries and pensions, can also be paid through the integrated payroll and personnel information system. Government information can also be accessed through the internet on her portal or web- [www.enigeria.com.ng](http://www.enigeria.com.ng), Interestingly, Nigerian e-government comprises of e-taxation, e-procurement, e-learning, e-Authentication, e-Agriculture, e-Health, e-Customs etc. All these have made government more compact, effective and efficient. :3. They have also enhanced increased productivity service delivery, capacity building and wealth generation. The Nigeria web site- [www.enigeria.com.ng](http://www.enigeria.com.ng) as launched in July 2005; can be accessed in 13 international languages and has 153 Nigerian languages in translation. It is linked to about 40 ministries and 200 sites as well as all Federal government Radio and Television stations Information management system of the country has been also been enhanced by the passage of freedom of-information bill in 2012. Wireless networks are Wide Area Networks (WAN) which allow users to access information quickly through handheld or desktop wireless devices such as mobile phones, pagers, radios, Smartphone and desktop. Via the wireless Application Protocol (WAP).

Internet is an international computer network made up of numerous networks. It makes use of Transfer Control Protocol (TCP) TCP/IP Software is a set of standard instructions used to transfer data between computers.

According to Mrs. Modupe Adelaja cited by Afolayan et al :4; the use of computers has gone beyond word documentation and processing to a higher level of use which includes intranet, internet, extranet, e-commerce, e-business, e-governance, e-taxation; e-agriculture: e-custom control, and in fact any country or region that is slow at embracing the new knowledge in it will be pushed to the

back waters of technological advancement: 4, In Nigeria. the internet is being used to create awareness for farmers on opportunity for government funding. modern farming techniques and equipment: as well as international prices of agricultural products and modern methods of preserving, packaging and processing of products for export are also imparted on farmers so that their products can meet international standard. Similarly. availability of financial and logistics assistance from governments and private partners for technological development, vocational and entrepreneurial development and for small and medium Enterprises (SME) is also being introduced and made available on-line for intending beneficiaries. E.g Sensitization programs from such as Bank of Industry. NACMA etc.

### **Challenges of Information Technology for Economic Recovery:**

The manipulation of ICT facilities to commit fraud such as hacking of information, password creating, social engineering, wire tapping, physical theft unauthorized changing of data. viruses: epileptic power supply, unstable network of GSM operators and internet network, high cost at devices, insincerity on the part of government agencies and Bank officials: inaccurate statistic on ratios population; in accurate or non-availability of national geographical maps etc. This is coupled with the insincerity on the part of major stakeholder to allow it to work effectively among the three arms-legislative, executive and judiciary. Records may be intentionally distorted by some notable persons if they can be used against them: or the parliament may even find it difficult to pass a bill on whistleblowing, financial crime special court, etc.

### **Measures Against ICT Frauds**

- Installation of firewall system:
- Unidentifiable passwords e.g a combination of alpha, numeric, upper and lowercase as well as special characters;
- Periodic upgrading of systems and
- Backup of information in a reliable device.

- Encryption technique.
- Use of intrusion detection systems (IDS)
- Use of dial backs
- Use of digital signature verification techniques.
- Use of biometric sensors.
- Reform in the legislation on on-line crimes/frauds.
- Integrate personnel and payroll information Procurement legislation

The use of these applications can help the nation to revamp her ailing economy: reduce the incident of tax evasions, looting of government treasuries: improve her export and Gross Domestic Product/investigate, block leakages in the civil service and in the procurement process it can also help in the budget preparation, monitoring and execution of projects.

The paper recommends that all the tiers of government and the three arms should embrace the idea of e-governance in all sectors. Statistics of civil servants and pensioners should be gathered in a data base for necessary upgrading with the use of biometric, national census should be conducted and harnessed with all other existing biometric information such as voters cards etc, effective communication will surely facilitate synergy among all law enforcement agencies to certain incidents of terrorism.

In July. 2017, the federal minister of Finance had called for tax awareness campaign hand penalty for tax evaders, out of 160m Nigerians. only 10rn pay taxes: the 27 state government are owing salaries of workers pensioners and other personal emolument between 8 months and one year because they had relied solely on federal allocations from crude oil funds, which used to sell for \$137 for barrel and the nation was producing 2.5m daily. Revelations and evidence, abound that NNPC the major stakeholders never had its account audited state government never battered to increase their internally Generated Revenue by means of e-tax system. several incidents of ghost workers, pensioners etc. abound; monumental corruption abound at home and abroad. Recently when the federal government

made us of Treasury Single Account. the BVN registration and integrated pay role system, these lead exposed several shortcomings of the (mamal) system of government such as corruption lack of accountability; unprecedented tax evasion, high unemployment & poverty level in accurate population statistics, economic recession; social crises & in security etc.

One of the immediate solutions to all these is effective communication especially in the on-line medium and the use of Information Communication Technology. Ibis will assist government to have a genuine data based on biometric on the citizens, geographical area workforce the unemployed, the mineral resources creations statistics of an available infrastructures road networks and their conditions, tax payers, arid taxable products it will also assist in the process of budget preparation, implementation and monitoring physical and economic planning for development forensic investigation of crimes, and crime prevention as well as enhancing quiet dispensation of justice.

**Recommendations:**

- Biometric reg of all citizens, age resident,
- Survey/mapping of the country, stales, transport system on air, sea and land
- Bank registration BVN etc; useful for deduction of tax from lodgene1
- Cashless economy for accountability lust
- CCTV cameral on major streets, hotels, higher institutions. Banks financial institutions, parks, to be recorded in many locations with backups for monitored forensic crime in vestigial
- Completion of works on digitalization of process
- Translation government bulletins, constitution, sensitization & awareness in Nigeria major language i.e standardization of national languages.
- Nigeria communication commission should overhand the internet facilities, Network & sanction map operators
- See to the high cost of data Smartphone's, laptops etc.

- Government should harmonize all information on citizen by GSM operators, international passport, Banks, civil service, INEC, Nigeria population commission, National Identity Card Commission, Tertiary institution with a view to getting a central data base for the citizens.

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