

SPEECH BY HUAWEI VICE PRESIDENT MR. XUE MAN AT THE CEREMONY

Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha,
Honorable Minister of Communications, Dr. Adebayo Shittu,
Head of Service, Ms. Winifred Ekanem,
Managing Director of Galaxy Backbone Ltd, Mr. Yusuf Kazaure,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning to you all.

Firstly, I would like to express our deep gratitude to the SGF office, Ministry of Communications, Galaxy Backbone Ltd, and all government agencies involved in this initiative of ICT For Change. We wouldn't be here without your tireless effort and great support.

ICT for Change is a training initiative aimed at empowering civil servants with fundamental ICT knowledge and skills. The training will enable them to keep pace with the rapid advancement of ICT technology and the increasing demand for digital transformation, e-government and smart city capabilities. With our rich experience in ICT, we will design and deliver the programme with our best subject matter experts. Our target is to provide free ICT knowledge training to 1,000 civil servants.

The ICT for Change training is part of our efforts to be more localized and fulfill our social responsibility, not by simple material donation, but by mind enlightenment and talent cultivation.

I would like to quote the statement made by President Muhammadu Buhari, during the Digital Africa conference and exhibition in Abuja on June 8th, 2016.

"Use Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to drive the change agenda in order to take the country to a higher level of development. Government has put in place so many policies that if well harnessed, it would make ICT contribute between 20-30% to the GDP in the next four years."

We totally agree with this point of view. According to the study from Huawei and Oxford Economics, over the past three decades, every one USD invested in digital technologies has led to 20 USD rise in GDP. As a global leading ICT company, we are willing to work together with all stakeholders to bring digital to every person, every home and every organization in Nigeria.

The government sector is one of the industries most influenced by ICT technology. We hope that by working together with the federal government, the ICT for Change initiative will help to equip civil servants with the necessary knowledge to face this great digital transformation.

We sincerely thank the SGF for supporting this program. We look forward to seeing robust engagement in the near future between Huawei experts and Nigeria's civil servants. Not only will this program provide knowledge transfer and training courses for the benefit of Nigeria, but we believe Huawei as an organization will also learn from the experience.

Thank you!