

WELCOME ADDRESS BY CHIEF OLAYINKA OGUNMEKAN, PRESIDENT, NIGERIAN-SWEDISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT THE LECTURE TITLED "COMMUNICATIONS IN NIGERIA- HOW FAR?" BY THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHAIRMAN/CEO OF NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, DR EUGENE JUWAH ON FRIDAY 8TH APRIL 2011

PROTOCOLS

First of all let me apologize for the inevitable postponement of this Lecture from our earlier scheduled day of last Monday 4TH April. You all know the reason which is the postponement of the NASS Election. It is part of the price to pay for development.

We are here today to listen to the man whom I will call the NIJA COMMUNICATIONS MAN. Some of us might not know how important the Nigerian Communications Commission is but all the Networks we deal with know who they are and what they stand for.

I will not talk on Communication when the Communications Man is here. It is better I leave it to him so that we can all learn and increase our knowledge from what we are going to hear today but I will still have to say a word or two.

The Nigerian Swedish Chamber of Commerce was established to promote Trade and business between Nigeria and Sweden. We know that Nigeria and Sweden has a lot in common when it comes to Telecommunications.

Communication is the act of sending information from a sender to a recipient using one form of medium or the other. The Chamber chose this COMMUNICATION Title because it is an essential tool for effective contact or business activity. The reduction of traffic on the road, the means of expression, recording of transactions etc are some of the many reasons why we think communication should be taken seriously and must be adequately applied in all sectors of the economy.

Distinguished Guests, let me bring this to your notice that Sweden liberalized its telecommunication industry in the 80s. This was three years ahead of USA and five years before the European Common Policy introduced it and this allowed for an open and competitive Telecommunication market.

Nigeria and Sweden are enjoying tremendous growth in the internet market. Out of a Population of about 10million in Sweden about 6.7 million of them are regular internet users. With the way Nigeria is going now, very soon more than 50 percent of Nigerians will be regular internet users. In the past when NITEL was the generalissimo in the communication Sector, who would have ever thought that one could make calls from anywhere not to talk of the Meat or Tomatoe Sellers that are now proud owners of Cell phones. Some people now even prefer to buy recharge cards instead of food!

Ladies and gentlemen, we must commend the Nigerian Communications Commission for coming up with the initiative that all SIM Cards must be registered. At least, we all know that at the end, this will

curb the activities of fraudsters who use GSM to carry out their dubious activities. I hope the NCC will go further to also be able to register handsets with SIM to discourage their stealing.

We all know that Nigeria is a very good potential Market for both Local and Foreign Communication Investors. This is why we have invited the Chief Executive Officer of Nigerian Communications Commission Dr. Eugene Juwah as the right man to tell the World about Communication in Nigeria. I am equally sure that we shall be told what all these Broadband and the latest, The Advanced Digital Appreciation Programme for Tertiary Institutions (ADAPTI) are all about.

Once again , I welcome you all and wish you an enjoyable stay with us this morning.

God bless

Chief Olayinka Ogunmekan

President