

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: AN OVERVIEW.

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### ABSTRACT.

Telecommunications is an important facility for economic growth. Today modern digital telecommunications network are so necessary to economic prosperity of any nation as telecommunication network can improve the productivity and efficiency of other sectors of the economy. This paper presents a story of the transitions in the telecommunications industry over the years, which climaxed in the privatization of the sector bringing to mind that only a well-managed privatization will succeed. A challenge to plow into rural areas by the industry was thrown as this will result in a balanced development in the society.

### INTRODUCTION

From 1886 when the first telecommunication services were put in place to ease British colonial administration and get contact with head quarters in London, and 1984, when the public carrier, NITEL emerged from the merger of the Nigerian External Telecommunications (NET) and the telecom arm of the Post and Telecommunication (P&T), the development of Telecommunications in

Nigeria was slow and the tele-density low. From 1984 to 1992 when NITEL was commercialized not much either was done. Deregulation and liberalization of the telecommunication sector began as far back as 1992 when the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) was set up to speed up the development of the sector. The initial efforts of the commission, between 1992 and 1999 in terms of improving the country's tele-density profile were not quite successful [1].

However the coming of the present democratic government brought with it certain milestone policy decisions and actions such that it could be truly seen that a revolution has begun in a bid to meet and surpass global minimum standards and provide needed phone services to Nigerian

people in an affordable and accessible manner. The power conferred on the NCC by the 2003 telecommunications Act when truly put in force will yield much.

### *A Global View Of The Telecommunications Industry.*

The function of the telecommunication sector of any nation is to provide an efficient information transmission service from one point to another, by means of apparatus arranged in networks (Local and Long distance), which are composed of three main equipment types:

- Switching equipment, installed at the network nodes that link the terminals together and allow them communicate with each other; in modern terms this means "exchanges".
- Transmission equipment (medium) that conveys the signal.
- Terminal equipment connected at the extremities of the network (Telephones, telex machines, etc).

Telecommunications industry is at the forefront of current economic, social and political affairs of any nation, bringing about improved productivity and efficiency of other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, tourism, health and education. The digitization of networks has destroyed the boundaries, which