NATIONAL BLOCKCHAIN POLICY FOR NIGERIA

MAY 2023

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS

CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CCB	Code of Conduct Bureau
CAC	Corporate Affairs Commission
dApps	Decentralised applications
FCTA	Federal Capital Territory Administration
FIRS	Federal Inland Revenue Service
FMC&DE	Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy
FSS2020	Financial System Strategy 2020
ID	Identity
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
MoH	Federal Ministry of Health
5G	Fifth Generation
NAICOM	National Insurance Commission
NBA	Nigerian Bar Association
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NCAIR	National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
NCC	Nigerian Communications Commission
NCS	Nigeria Customs Service
NDIC	Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation
NDEPS	National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy
NDPB	Nigeria Data Protection Bureau
NIBSS	Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System
NIMC	National Identity Management Commission
NITDA	National Information Technology Development Agency
NIRSAL	Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending
NIS	Nigeria Immigration Service
NSE	Nigerian Society of Engineers
NUC	National University Commission
PENCOM	National Pension Commission
PwC	Pricewaterhouse Coopers
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SIBAN	Stakeholders in Blockchain Technology Association of Nigeria

Presidential Mandate

Blockchain Technology (BT) is an emerging technology that offers a unique opportunity for various sectors of the economy to experience greater transparency, increased efficiency and more secure transactions. These and many other benefits of Blockchain Technology have inspired governments around the world to integrate BT into the different sectors of the economy.

Nigeria's digital economy sector has experienced significant growth in the last 4 years. Noteworthy examples of this growth include the unprecedented 18.44% contribution of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and the outstanding performance of the digital economy sector based on the independent assessment of the KPMG and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The sector's generation of an average quarterly revenue of N594 billion for the Federal Government is also highly commendable.

As the leading digital economy in Africa, we have again taken the lead in developing a policy for the adoption of this important technology. We will use BT to boost innovation, improve public services, create job opportunities, reduce corruption and drive economic growth. As the world prepares for a BT-driven injection of $1.76 trillion to the global GDP by 2030, our development and implementation of the National Blockchain Policy for Nigeria will prepare us to be active players and to benefit from this emerging global source of revenue.

The National Blockchain Policy for Nigeria has therefore been developed to serve as a roadmap for Nigeria's adoption and utilisation of BT. The Policy lays out a comprehensive framework for integrating BT into different spheres of our national life in order to fully realise the potential of BT. It also addresses key issues such as governance, interoperability, security, and regulatory compliance. In addition to these, it offers direction and guidance to stakeholders in both the public and private sectors in order to ensure the adoption, innovative and responsible use of BT.

The implementation of the Policy will contribute to strengthening Nigeria's digital economy by expanding financial inclusion and enhancing openness and accountability. It will also enhance public trust in governance and promote citizen engagement by increasing transparency and accountability. Furthermore, it will ensure the growth of indigenous talent in Blockchain Technology solution development, in line with the Federal Government's commitment to develop our nation's human resources.

I hereby direct the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the National Universities Commission (NUC), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), as well as other relevant regulatory bodies, to develop regulatory instruments for the deployment of Blockchain Technology across various sectors of the economy. I further direct all relevant government agencies to immediately commence implementation of the Policy, along with stakeholders to ensure that we create a Blockchain-powered economy that enhances innovation, growth, and prosperity for all.

I applaud the commitment and creativity of Prof. Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami), the Honourable Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, towards ensuring that Nigeria's digital economy continues its upward trajectory. I also commend all stakeholders who participated in the development of the National Blockchain Policy.

Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR

May 2023

Foreword

The Blockchain Policy is in furtherance to the vision of President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, to diversify the Nigerian economy. The growth of the digital economy over the past few years is a good indication that this sector can serve as a catalyst for the rapid development of the economy. Hence, as we continue to explore innovative ways to drive the development of Nigeria, emerging technologies such as Blockchain provide us with immense opportunities to improve efficiency, security, and transparency across various sectors of the economy.

The National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) was developed to realign the Nigerian economy to take advantage of the numerous opportunities that digital technology offers. As part of the implementation of the NDEPS, the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMC&DE), on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, has developed the National Blockchain Policy in line with the 7th Pillar of the NDEPS, which focuses on Digital Society and Emerging Technologies.

In order to lay a solid foundation to achieve the maximum benefit that Blockchain Technology has to offer in Nigeria, the FMC&DE has identified talent development, innovation, and adoption as the key areas to harness the potential of Blockchain Technology in Nigeria. The aim is to provide training and capacity building programs that will equip Nigerians with the necessary innovative skills to leverage Blockchain Technology to grow our digital economy while also promoting adoption in the public and private sectors.

I am confident that the National Blockchain Policy for Nigeria will enable us to maximise the benefits of this technology for the development of Nigeria. I urge all stakeholders to support this initiative as we work towards making Nigeria a leading hub for Blockchain innovation and development.

Professor Isa Ali Ibrahim (Pantami) FCIIS, FBCS, FNCS

Minister of Communications and Digital Economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

1.0   Introduction

Blockchain Technology has become a groundbreaking advancement in the digital age with the potential to revolutionise many industries, from finance and healthcare to transportation and supply chain management. Transactions can be made more transparent, trustworthy, and efficient, which will result in considerable cost savings and better user experiences. As a result, governments all over the world are exploring how to leverage Blockchain Technology to boost innovation, improve public services, create job opportunities, and drive economic growth.

Government has a significant role to play in the adoption and regulation of Blockchain Technology in Nigeria. Several Countries have adopted Blockchain Technology, most notably Estonia, Georgia, United Arab Emirates (Dubai), Switzerland, and Singapore. It is important to note that the adoption of Blockchain for digital economy activities is still in its early stages, and there are many challenges and obstacles that must be addressed before it can become widely implemented across different sectors.

The Federal Government of Nigeria promotes the adoption of this technology through the National Blockchain Policy to improve the quality of services delivered by the public and private sectors, catalyse innovation, create jobs, and enhance governance, which will grow the economy. The Policy will serve as a road map for Nigeria's adoption of Blockchain Technology in the future.
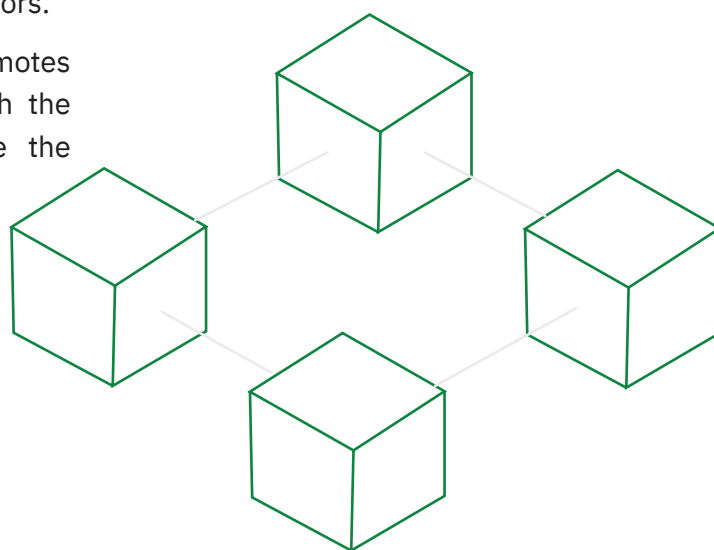
1.1   Components of a Blockchain Architecture

A blockchain architecture is made up of a number of components, including the following:

> **i.   Node:**
>
> A system or user within a blockchain;

> **ii.   Block:**
>
> A data structure that keeps a set of transactions distributed to all nodes in the network;

> **iii.   Miner:**
>
> A node that performs block validation and verification;

> **iv.   Transaction:**
>
> The smallest component of a blockchain system;

> **v.   Chain:**
>
> An ordered sequence of blocks in a blockchain system; and

> **vi.   Consensus:**
>
> A set of rules that govern the operations in a blockchain system.

1.2   Background

Digital technologies such as Blockchain have been widely adopted globally. According to PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Blockchain Technologies could boost the global economy with US$1.76 trillion by 2030. However, to fully reap the potential benefits of Blockchain, nations must adapt it to their unique environments to ensure the attainment of maximal benefits while minimising risks.

To take advantage of the numerous opportunities that digital technology offers, the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) was developed and was subsequently launched by President Muhammadu Buhari on the 28th of November 2019, to realign the Nigerian economy. The NDEPS is anchored on eight pillars, namely:
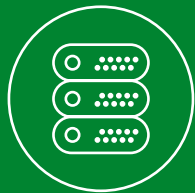
1.   Developmental Regulation;

2.   Digital Literacy & Skills;

3.   Solid Infrastructure;

4.   Service Infrastructure;

5.   Digital Services Development & Promotion;

6.   Soft Infrastructure;

7.   Digital Society & Emerging Technologies; and

8.   Indigenous Content Development & Adoption.

On behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, and as part of the implementation of the NDEPS, the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMC&DE) has developed over twenty (20) national policies and law that are all being implemented, including the following:

1. National Digital Innovation & Entrepreneurship Policy;

2. National Policy on Digital Identity for Internally Displaced Persons;

3. Nigeria Startup Act 2022;

4. National Dig-Once Policy;

5. National Policy for the Promotion of Indigenous Content in the Telecommunications Sector;

6. SIM Card Registration Plan;

7. National Policy on VSAT Installation Core Skills for Nigerians;

8. National Policy on SIM Card Registration;

9. Revised National Digital Identity Policy for SIM Card Registration;

10. National Policy on Fifth Generation (5G) Networks for Nigeria's Digital Economy;

11. National Policy on Virtual Engagements in the Federal Public Institutions;

12. National Policy on Device Management System;

13. National Policy for the Establishment and Management of the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics;

14. National Policy on the Nigerian Government Second-Level Domains;

15. National Child Online Protection Policy and Strategy;

16. The Rule Making Process Regulation of NIPOST;

17. Roadmap for the Implementation of the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy;

18. The Nigeria Data Protection Bill (currently at the National Assembly); and

19. National Policy on Communication Satellite (Draft).

In keeping with this trajectory, the FMC&DE has developed the National Blockchain Policy (hereinafter **referred to as the "Policy"**) in line with Pillar 7 of the NDEPS, which focuses on Digital Society and Emerging Technologies, tying the development of the digital economy to indices of the well-being of ordinary citizens. This builds on the gains of other strategic activities deployed under this Pillar, like the **National Policy for the establishment and management of the National Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics (NCAIR)**. The Centre was established in 2021 and was the first of such centres in Africa. NCAIR has a number of unprecedented achievements and has provided high quality capacity building for innovators in the country. The success of the Centre has inspired other African countries to establish similar centres.

This Policy lays out a comprehensive framework for Blockchain acceptance and execution. This is essential to fully realise the potential of Blockchain Technology and address a number of concerns, such as governance, interoperability, security, and regulatory compliance. It offers direction and guidance to Government organisations, businesses, and other stakeholders to ensure the adoption, innovation, talent development, and responsible use of Blockchain Technology.

The Policy serves as a catalyst for innovation and economic growth, enabling the development of new business models, products, and services that will lead to job creation. By creating a supportive environment for Blockchain Technology, governments can attract investment, promote research and development, and foster entrepreneurship. Furthermore, the adoption of this Policy can enhance public trust in governance and promote citizen engagement by increasing transparency and accountability.
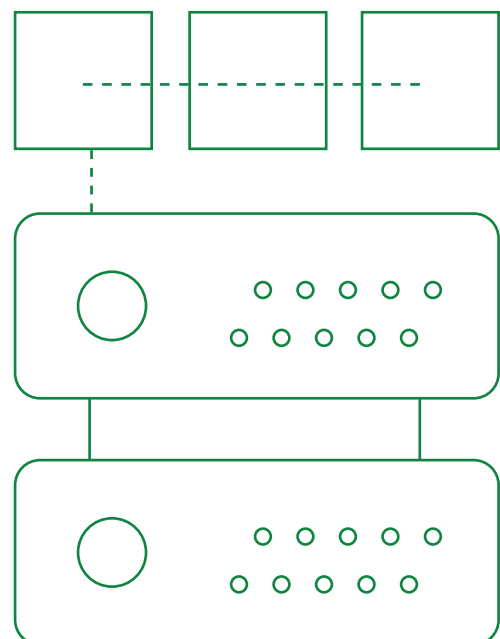
1.3 Benefits of Blockchain Adoption for Nigeria

The implementation of Blockchain Technology can contribute to strengthening Nigeria's digital economy by expanding financial inclusion and enhancing openness and accountability. The inherent characteristics of Blockchain, such as its immutability and decentralisation enable secure and transparent transactions and activities through some of its applications, like smart contracts, which have the potential to bring several benefits to the economy.

Below are some of the benefits of adopting Blockchain in Nigeria.

1.3.1 Improved Transparency and Accountability

Blockchain Technology can help to increase transparency and accountability in various sectors in Nigeria. By using a distributed ledger system, all transactions are recorded and can be accessed by anyone on the network. This can help to reduce corruption, fraud, and other illegal activities.

1.3.2 Increased Efficiency

Blockchain Technology can also help to improve the efficiency of various processes, such as payment processing, supply chain management, and identity verification. By leveraging Blockchain features like smart contracts, transactions can be executed automatically, reducing the need for intermediaries and streamlining the process.

1.3.3 Enhanced Security

Blockchain Technology is highly secure due to its decentralised nature. Transactions are recorded on multiple nodes, making it nearly impossible to tamper with the data. This can help to protect sensitive data and prevent cyber-attacks across multiple sectors of the economy.

## 1.3.4 Financial Inclusion

Blockchain Technology can help to increase financial inclusion in Nigeria by providing access to financial services to those who may not have had access before. By using blockchain-based payment systems, individuals can send and receive money easily and securely.

1.3.5 Job Creation

Blockchain adoption in Nigeria has the potential to create significant job opportunities across a range of sectors. With a young and tech-savvy population, Nigeria is well-positioned to become a blockchain hub in Africa. The adoption of Blockchain Technology creates new job roles, such as blockchain developers, cybersecurity experts, and smart contract engineers.

Furthermore, Blockchain Technology enables the creation of new industries, such as cryptocurrency exchanges and blockchain-based payment systems, which could create jobs across various sectors, including finance, technology, and manufacturing. The implementation of Blockchain Technology in Nigeria shall also improve transparency and reduce corruption, which boosts investor confidence and create additional job opportunities. Overall, the job creation benefits of blockchain adoption in Nigeria have the potential to play a significant role in the country's economic development and growth.

INTRODUCTION
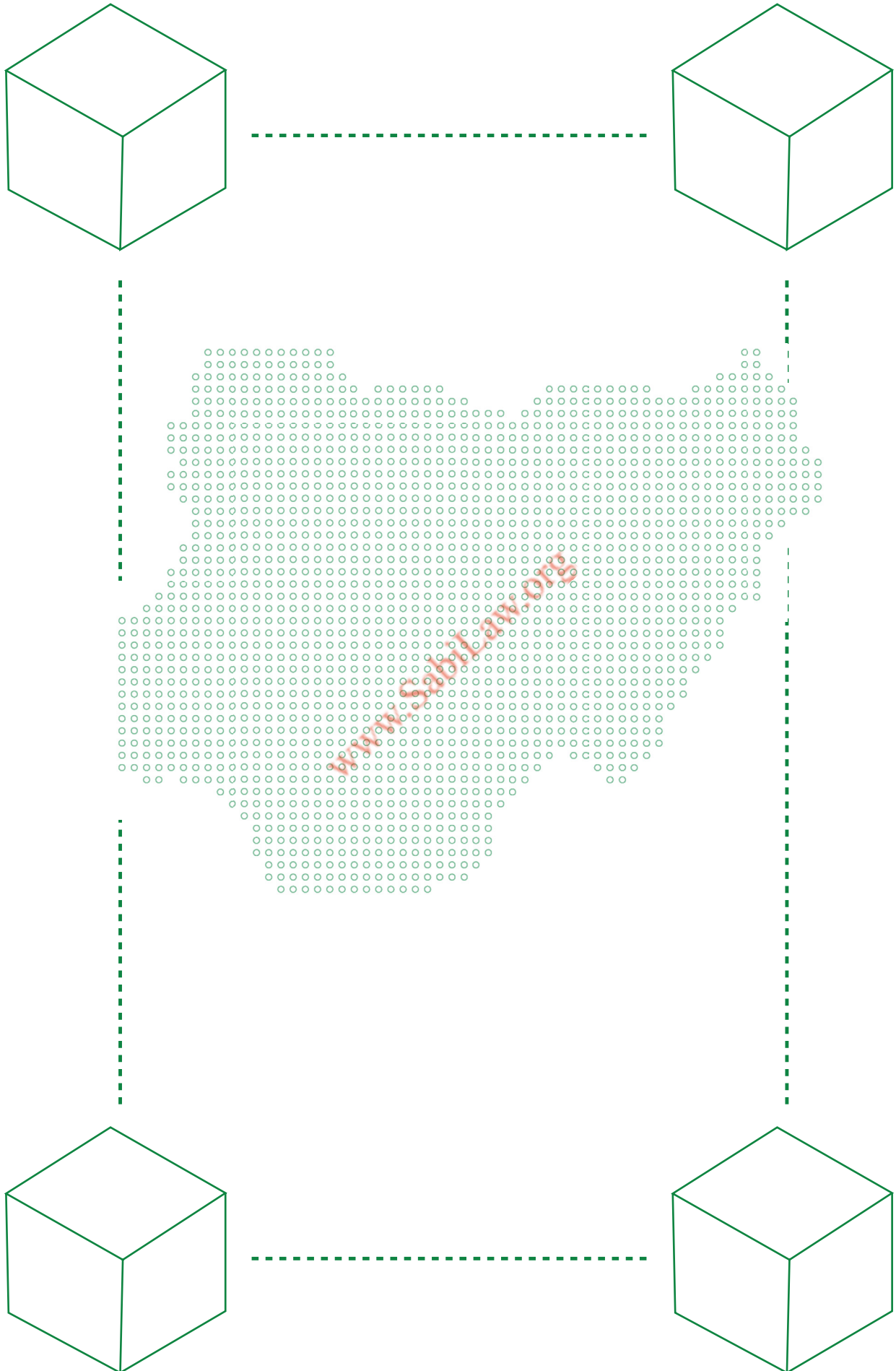
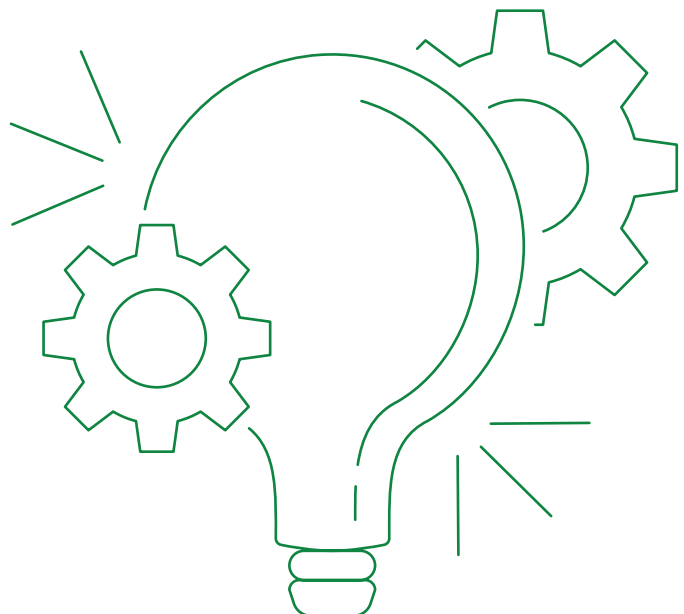CHAPTER 2

Policy Vision and Mission

2.0   Policy Vision and Mission

Vision

To create a Blockchain-powered economy that supports secure transactions, data sharing, and value exchange between people, businesses, and Government, thereby enhancing innovation, trust, growth, and prosperity for all.

Mission

We encourage the use, adoption, and integration of Blockchain Technology in the various sectors of Nigeria's digital economy in order to increase economic prosperity, efficiency, innovation, transparency, security, and trust.

CHAPTER 3

Policy Direction
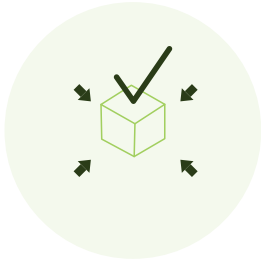
3.0   Policy Direction

The Policy aims to grow domestic talent in Blockchain solutions development, foster innovation, and catalyse the adoption and use of Blockchain Technology.

CHAPTER 4

Focus Area

4.0 Focus Areas

As Nigeria moves into a more technology-driven world, Blockchain has emerged as a transformative force that offers unique benefits to various sectors. This Policy has identified **talent development, innovation, and adoption** as the key areas to harness the potential of Blockchain Technology in Nigeria.

The focus areas are elaborated in subsequent sections.

4.1 Talent Development

The development of talent in the field of Blockchain is critical for the growth and success of the Blockchain industry. This Policy seeks to provide a framework for the development of talent to support the growth of the industry and to ensure that the National Blockchain ecosystem has the necessary human capital to drive innovation and growth. This focus area will facilitate the development of a skilled and knowledgeable workforce in the industry; attract and retain talent; promote innovation and growth; and enhance the competitiveness of the National blockchain ecosystem.

Talent Development Policy Statements

1. The Government will collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop capacity-building programmes to enhance the skills and knowledge of Blockchain professionals. These programmes will be tailored to meet the needs of the industry and will include training, workshops, and certification programmes that incorporate ethical considerations and best practices.

2. The Government will develop talent attraction programmes to attract and retain Blockchain talent. These programmes will provide incentives to encourage Blockchain professionals to develop and sustain the Nigerian Blockchain industry.

3. The Government will develop research and development programmes to promote innovation in the Blockchain industry. These programmes will include funding for research and development projects and collaboration with private sector, academia and other research institutions towards the implementation of the triple helix model.

4. The Government will collaborate with industry stakeholders to ensure that talent development programmes meet the needs of the Blockchain industry.

4.2 Innovation

To facilitate innovation in Blockchain, a multi-pronged approach is needed, involving creating an environment that encourages experimentation, providing resources to support innovation, and addressing regulatory and legal barriers.

Innovation Policy Statements

1. The Government and other stakeholders will provide support for research and development in the Blockchain industry. This will help entrepreneurs and researchers develop innovative Blockchain solutions that can be used in various sectors.

2. The Government will collaborate with industry experts and thought leaders to identify key trends, challenges, and opportunities in the Blockchain industry. This will help the Government policies that are informed by industry experts and are relevant to the current needs of the industry.

3. The Government will create regulatory sandboxes where Blockchain Start-ups can test their innovative ideas without being subject to stringent regulations. This will allow for more experimentation and innovation in the industry.

4. The Government will invest in Blockchain education and awareness programmes to help citizens and businesses understand the benefits and applications of Blockchain Technology. This will create a more educated citizenry that is capable of contributing to the growth of the Blockchain industry in Nigeria.

5. The Government will provide support for Blockchain start-ups in the form of incentives, incubation centres, mentorship programmes etc. This will help start-ups to grow and thrive in the competitive Blockchain industry.

6. The Government will collaborate with international organisations to promote innovation in the Blockchain industry. This will help to create a global ecosystem for Blockchain start-ups, allowing them to access new markets and resources.

7. The Government will encourage the adoption of Blockchain Technology in various sectors such as healthcare, finance, education and logistics. This will create more use cases for Blockchain Technology, which will drive innovation and economic growth in the country.

8. The Government will work with industry stakeholders to identify and address regulatory hurdles that may prevent or stifle innovation.

9. The Government, through regulatory agencies, will work with industry stakeholders to develop standards and best practices that promote innovation while also ensuring consumer protection and market stability.

10. The Government will encourage collaboration between industry stakeholders, such as Blockchain startups, established companies, and academic institutions, to promote innovation and share knowledge.

11. The Government will promote the development of Blockchain solutions that foster financial inclusion.

4.3   Blockchain Adoption

The adoption of Blockchain Technology is poised to support the continuous growth of the digital economy in Nigeria by fostering a more secure, transparent, accountable, efficient service delivery, and trusted ecosystem.

The below-listed areas are approved by the FGN for adoption to achieve the Policy's mission and vision.

4.3.1 Financial Services

Blockchain Technology has the potential to transform financial services by providing secure, transparent, and efficient transactions without the need for intermediaries. Nigeria recognises the potential benefits of Blockchain Technology and its ability to provide decentralised payment services, particularly with the advent of cryptocurrencies, which are digital assets designed to work as a medium of exchange of value within the Blockchain. Cryptocurrency has been a subject of interest in Nigeria in recent years, with a growing community of cryptocurrency enthusiasts and traders in the country.

Chainalysis 2022 Global Crypto Adoption Index reports that Nigerians have, at 32%, the highest per capita cryptocurrency adoption rate of any country in the world. Also, many young Nigerians have embraced cryptocurrencies as a means of accessing financial services and participating in the global digital economy. The Nigerian Government recognises cryptocurrency as one of the components that will catalyse the adoption of Blockchain Technology. Hence, the Nigerian Government, through this Policy, provides a framework for the use of cryptocurrencies, among others, which can help to mitigate risks such as money laundering and fraud. This can help to build trust in cryptocurrency and make it more accessible to businesses and individuals in Nigeria.

Policy Statements on Adoption for Financial Services

1. The Government will establish a regulatory framework that enables the integration of Blockchain Technology into the financial system while ensuring the protection of consumers and the stability of the financial system.

2. The Government will establish a regulatory framework that enables the safe responsible and optimal use of cryptocurrencies in Nigeria in a way that ensures consumer protection, market stability and financial inclusion.

3. The Government will support the development of Blockchain Technology through the provision of funding and incentives to innovators and start-ups in the fintech sector.

4. Financial institutions will be encouraged to adopt Blockchain Technology for their operations where appropriate, and the Government will work with relevant stakeholders to create awareness of the benefits of Blockchain Technology.

5. The Government will collaborate with international bodies to establish international standards and best practices for blockchain adoption in financial services in order to promote global interoperability and reduce regulatory fragmentation.

6. The Government will work with industry stakeholders to develop standards for the listing and trading of cryptocurrencies on regulated exchanges in Nigeria.

4.3.2 Government and Corporate Digital Services

Blockchain Technology has the potential to transform the way the Nigerian Government and businesses operate and deliver services. It offers increased transparency, accountability, and efficiency, which can lead to improved trust between citizens and organisations. Further, it can also be used in various functions, such as:

i. **Identity Management:** In today's digital world, there is a growing need for secure and reliable methods of identity verification to prevent fraud and identity theft. By implementing a blockchain-based identity management system that incorporates device management and tracking, personal IDs, professional credentials, and certificates, it would be possible to create a more secure and reliable system for online identity verification and authentication. This can be applied in different areas and sectors of the economy including voter registration, identification and tracking of devices and goods, healthcare management and financial services.

ii. **Land Registration and Record System**: In a traditional land registration and record system, the process of transferring ownership can be complicated and time-consuming, often involving multiple intermediaries such as lawyers and government agencies. There may also be concerns about fraud or errors in the documentation. A blockchain-based land registry would consist of a distributed ledger that records all land transactions and ownership changes. Each transaction would be verified by multiple nodes in the network, ensuring that no single party can manipulate the data. This would create an immutable record of ownership that would be difficult to alter without the consensus of the entire network. This will create a more transparent and secure system for recording and verifying property ownership, with little to no human error.

iii. **Supply Chain Management:** The adoption of Blockchain Technology in supply chain management has the potential to significantly enhance transparency and traceability. The use of Blockchain can provide a decentralised and transparent ledger that enables all stakeholders to access and verify data in real-time, helping to reduce fraud and increase accountability. This will drastically grow the supply chain sector, which will in turn boost the other sectors reliant of supply chain efficiency such as ecommerce, government procurement, etc.

Policy Statements on Adoption for Government and Corporate Digital Services

1. The Government will promote the use of Blockchain Technology to improve the efficiency, transparency, and security of services rendered to citizens.

2. The Government will develop a National Strategy for Blockchain adoption, which will set out a clear roadmap for implementing Blockchain in Government services.

3. The Government will promote the adoption of Blockchain in key areas, such as identity management, land registration, supply chain management, intellectual property, and voting systems.

4. The Government will collaborate with industry and academia to identify new use cases for Blockchain and promote the adoption of Blockchain in rendering Government services.

5. The Government will collaborate with other countries and international organisations to develop global standards and best practices for Blockchain adoption in Government.

6. The Government will collaborate with the private sector to encourage and promote the adoption of Blockchain Technology in supply chain management to aid in tracing and tracking products and services and other logistic activities.

7. The Government will promote the use of Blockchain Technology for the management of insurance claims. This will help to streamline the claims process, reduce administrative costs, and ensure that patients receive timely and accurate reimbursements.

8. The Government will encourage and promote the use of Blockchain Technology for the management of personal health data. This will allow patients to control and share their health data with healthcare providers, researchers, and other stakeholders in a secure and transparent manner.

9. The Government will invest in capacity building to ensure that healthcare professionals are trained to use and implement Blockchain Technology. This will help to create a workforce that is capable of leveraging the benefits of Blockchain Technology in healthcare.

CHAPTER 5

Expected Outcomes of the Policy

5.0 Expected Outcomes of the Policy
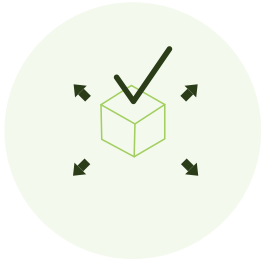
Below are the outcomes expected from the successful implementation of the Policy.

Talent Development

Increase in Skilled Blockchain workforce: With the implementation of training programmes, education in schools, and research funding, there should be an increase in the number of professionals with the necessary skills to work in the Nigerian Blockchain ecosystem.

Higher Quality of Blockchain Talent: With a focus on education and research, the Blockchain talent pool would have a higher quality of knowledge and skills, which would help to advance the state of the technology.

Creation of new jobs: As the Blockchain ecosystem grows, there will be a need for individuals with specialised skills in areas such as Blockchain solutions development.

Increased competitiveness: With a skilled and knowledgeable workforce, the country shall be more competitive in the global Blockchain market, attracting more investment and talent.

Improved collaboration: By promoting public-private partnerships and establishing regional research centres, there shall be more collaboration between different stakeholders in the Blockchain ecosystem, leading to more innovative projects and better outcomes.

Growth of the Blockchain ecosystem: By investing in talent development, the Policy would help to grow the Blockchain ecosystem, with more start-ups, innovative projects, and new applications of the technology.

Innovation

i. **Increased Research and Development:** The Policy shall provide funding for Blockchain research and development, which would lead to the creation of new applications, products, and services in the digital economy. This Policy will benefit from the provisions in the Nigeria Startup Act 2022.

ii. **Encouragement of Experimentation:** The Policy promotes experimentation with new Blockchain Technologies, such as smart contracts, decentralised applications (dApps), and interoperability solutions. This experimentation would lead to more innovative and practical use cases for Blockchain.

iii. **Establishment of Blockchain Sandboxes:** The Government will establish Blockchain sandboxes, which are environments where companies can experiment with Blockchain Technologies without the risk of regulatory violations. This would encourage the development of innovative Blockchain solutions.

iv. **Promotion of Public-Private Partnerships:** By promoting public-private partnerships, the Policy shall encourage collaboration between different stakeholders, including start-ups, established companies, and Government agencies. This collaboration

shall lead to more innovative and practical Blockchain solutions.

v. Creation of Supportive Legal and Regulatory Frameworks: The Policy facilitates the creation of supportive legal and regulatory frameworks that encourage innovation in the Blockchain industry. This would provide clarity and certainty for companies developing Blockchain solutions and attract more investment to the sector.

vi. Encouragement of Entrepreneurs: The Policy leads to the provision of incentives for entrepreneurship in the Blockchain ecosystem, such as tax breaks, grants, and incubator programs. This would encourage the development of new start-ups and help to foster a culture of innovation, in line with the Nigeria Startup Act 2022.

vii. Promotion of Blockchain Education and Awareness: The Policy promotes education and awareness of Blockchain Technology, including its potential use cases and benefits. This shall help to build a knowledgeable and engaged community around Blockchain, which would lead to more innovation in the industry.

Adoption

i. Increased Blockchain Adoption in the Public Sector: The Policy shall encourage Government agencies to adopt Blockchain Technology in their operations, such as record-keeping, voting systems, and supply chain management. This would increase the efficiency, transparency, and security of the Government.

ii. Increased Adoption and Integration of Blockchain Technology in Financial Services: This Policy enables improved efficiency, transparency, and security in financial transactions. Additionally,

the regulatory framework shall ensure that consumers are protected and that the stability of the financial system is maintained.

iii. Encouragement of Blockchain Adoption in the Private Sector: The Policy promotes the adoption of Blockchain Technology by private companies, especially in industries such as finance, healthcare, education and logistics. This would lead to more efficient and secure business processes and create new market opportunities.

iv. Establishment of Blockchain Standards: The Policy will lead to the establishment of standards for Blockchain Technology, including interoperability, security, and data privacy. This would provide clarity and consistency for companies developing Blockchain solutions and would help to increase trust in the technology.

v. Promotion of Blockchain-friendly Regulations: The Policy facilitates the creation of regulations that support the adoption of Blockchain Technology, such as legal recognition of smart contracts and the use of Blockchain-based identity solutions. This shall reduce regulatory barriers to adoption and increase confidence in the technology.

vi. Creation of a National Blockchain Infrastructure: The Policy promotes the creation of a national Blockchain infrastructure, including networks and platforms that facilitate Blockchain transactions. This would encourage the development of new Blockchain-based services and applications.

vii. Promotion of Blockchain Education and Awareness: The Policy promotes

education and awareness of Blockchain Technology, including its potential use cases and benefits. This shall increase the understanding and acceptance of Blockchain, leading to more adoption in the public and private sectors.

viii. **Encouragement of International Blockchain Collaboration:** The Policy encourages international collaboration on Blockchain standards and regulations, as well as on the development of cross-border Blockchain solutions. This shall increase the interoperability and adoption of Blockchain Technology worldwide.

This Policy may be reviewed by the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Communications & Digital Economy in collaboration with relevant stakeholders as required based on the implementation progress.
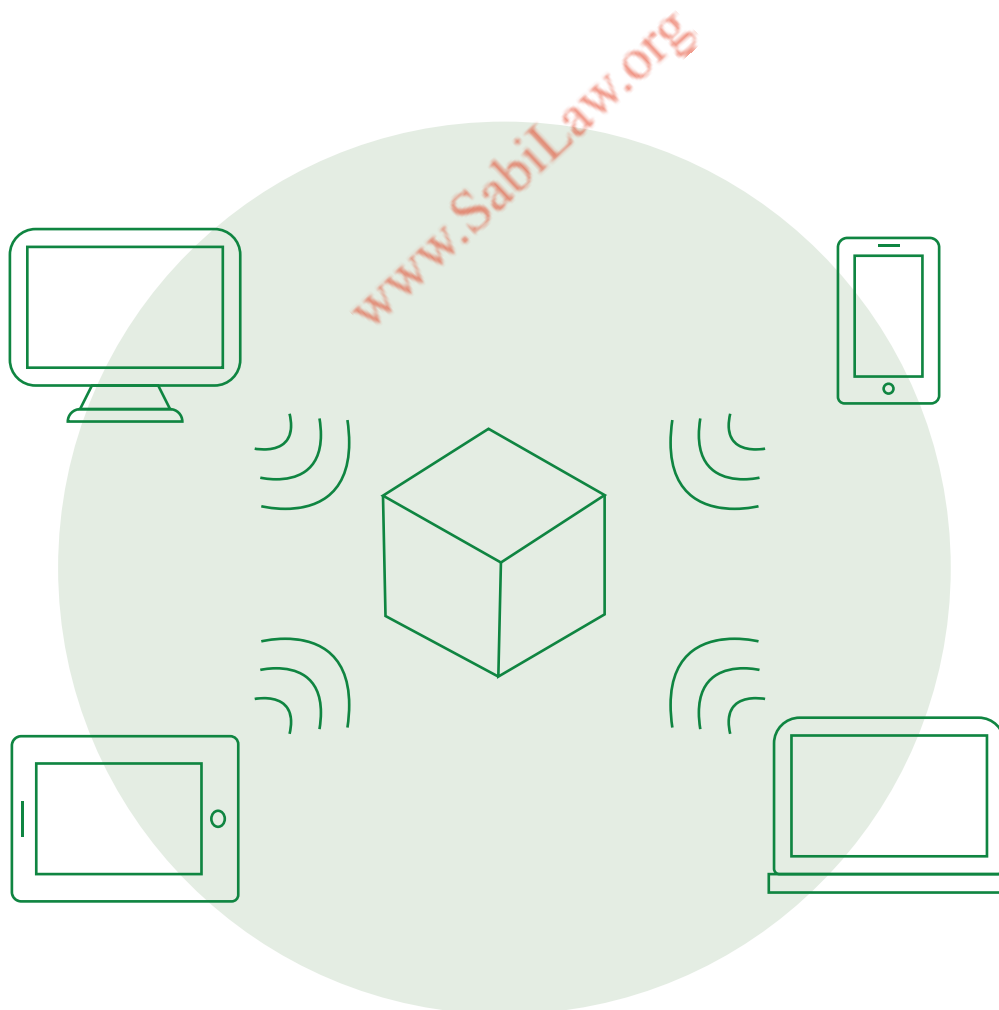
CHAPTER 6

Implementation Structure

6.0 Implementation Structure

The successful implementation of the Policy requires robust collaboration between the private and public sectors. The Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy (FMC&DE), in collaboration with other relevant Federal Ministries, will develop a strategy to drive the implementation of the Policy. The strategy will outline all relevant stakeholders along with their various roles and responsibilities towards the implementation of this Policy.

A National Blockchain Implementation and Steering Committee will be constituted to implement the Policy. The following institutions will serve on the committee:

1. Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy

2. Federal Ministry of Health

3. Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget, and National Planning

4. Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment

5. Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investement

6. Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF)

7. National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)

8. Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)

9. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)

10. Nigerian Governors' Forum (NGF)

11. Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA)

12. Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)

13. Nigeria Data Protection Bureau (NDPB)

14. Nigeria Insurance Commission (NAICOM)

15. Fintech Association of Nigeria

16. National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

17. National Identity Management Commission (NIMC)

18. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

19. Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)

20. Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)

21. Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)

22. National Universities Commission (NUC)

23. Stakeholders in Blockchain Technology Association of Nigeria

24. Flutterwave Payments Limited

25. Federal University of Technology, Minna

26. Federal University of Technology, Akure

27. Domineum Blockchain Solutions Ltd

28. Baze University Blockchain Experience Centre

29. Paystack Payments Limited

CHAPTER 7

Conclusion

7.0   Conclusion

The National Blockchain Policy provides a framework for the development, innovation, and adoption of Blockchain Technology in Nigeria. This Policy will enable the nation to harness the full potential of Blockchain Technology and position it as a leader in the global Blockchain ecosystem. By investing in talent development, promoting innovation, and encouraging adoption, the Policy will help to create new market opportunities, job creation, increase economic growth, and improve public services.

Furthermore, by establishing supportive legal and regulatory frameworks and promoting international collaboration, the National Blockchain Policy will help to ensure that the benefits of Blockchain Technology are realised in a secure and responsible manner. The Policy will be a critical tool in realising the full potential of Blockchain Technology in Nigeria and for shaping the future of the global Blockchain industry.

National Blockchain Policy for Nigeria