Nigeria Smart City Initiatives (NSCI): the Geospatial Perspectives

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Key words: Capacity building; Digital cadastre; Education; e-Governance; Geoinformation/GI; GNSS/GPS; Land management; Laser scanning; Positioning; Remote sensing; Spatial planning; Urban renewal

SUMMARY

The Nigeria Smart City Initiative acronym NSCI was launched in Abuja, Nigeria on 8 th August, 2017. The summit was to initiate sound actionable strategies for transforming Nigerian major urban centers from traditional dysfunctional cities to modern, efficient, responsive ones capable of satisfying the needs of present and future generation of Nigerians. NSCI would rely heavily on application of ICT and other smart technologies in the operations and management of those cities.

A city can be termed smart when it is able to effectively link sensors and software to generate and manage information that improves efficiency in decision making and in arriving at smart solutions to every day issues. However, smart city is not predicated solely on ICT but also on robust geospatial technologies, human and socio-cultural environment among other interactive platforms. Every object is location based and in that wise location is a primary attribute of city and the citizens and also the heart of ICT and Internet of Things (IoT). Geospatial technologies that are capable of continuously providing accurate, concise, timely and relevant location information are among the primary tools on which smart solutions and smart management of cities are based. This brings to fore the involvement of Surveyors who are the professional producers and managers of geospatial information.

The presentation outlines place of surveyors in the Nigeria government desire for transforming our major urban centres into functional, responsive, interactive and resilient municipalities. This is planned to be achieved through city upgrade and renewal, massive PPP investment on infrastructure, citizen capacity development and strategic action plans for migrating from traditional analogue ways of doing things to applications of ICT and Internet of Things in decision making processes and the management of cities. The overall objective of NSCI is to improve the living standard of Nigerian citizens and enhance the city environment at sustainable

levels.

It is pertinent that this presentation also evaluates the capacity and preparedness of Nigerian surveyors to provide the needed qualitative geospatial information capable of driving the NSCI and smart municipalities. The paper shall apprise the opportunities and challenges of some technical, institutional, infrastructural and legal frameworks under which Nigerian surveyors operate. Appropriate recommendations shall be made on bridging the gaps to empower the surveyors to meet up with the challenges and take their rightful place as the engine rooms of NSCI.