

Suspension of Twitter in Nigeria: Implications in the Age of Globalisation

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Abstract

This study examined the suspension of Twitter in Nigeria and its broader implications within an increasingly globalised world. It adopted a descriptive research design and relied primarily on secondary data sources. Anchored on structural functionalism, the study investigated key issues surrounding the policy, including its implications for globalisation, the factors that informed public support for the suspension, and its broader challenges and prospects. The study argued that the suspension of Twitter by the Buhari administration had significant consequences in a globalised digital era, particularly regarding freedom of expression, information flow, and citizens' participation in global communication networks. It further contended that the restriction limited Nigerians' access to transnational digital spaces, thereby weakening their integration into global discourse. The study concluded that globalisation had entered a more technologically driven phase of political economy, requiring Nigeria to adopt adaptive governance strategies to remain competitive in the 21st century.

Keywords: Social media, Twitter, globalisation, foreign policy, digital governance.

Introduction

The electronic media and communication sector has become one of the most dynamic forces driving globalisation in contemporary society. This sector spans a wide range of platforms, including social media networks, telecommunication systems, the Internet, as well as traditional channels such as radio, television, and film. Together, these media have significantly influenced the integration of global production systems, markets, and trade. Modern communication technologies, particularly the Internet and mobile phones, have made it easier for individuals across different parts of the world to exchange ideas, information, images, and audio content with greater speed and at a lower cost compared to conventional media such as newspapers (Figliola et al., 2011).

Since the late 1990s, the Internet has had a profound impact on both culture and commerce worldwide. Continuous technological advancements have introduced new communication tools, including blogs, video-sharing platforms, and various social networking sites. Platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, and WeChat have become increasingly popular, serving as major channels for interaction and information exchange among users globally. These innovations have not only transformed communication but have also redefined how individuals and organisations engage with one another in a digital environment.

Beginning in the 1990s, the number of Internet users worldwide experienced exponential growth, increasing from millions to billions. The Internet has since evolved into an essential component of everyday life, playing a critical role for civil society groups, activists, non-governmental organisations, software developers, and governments (Shirky, 2011). This rapid

expansion supports the idea that the world is progressively becoming a “global village,” a concept long predicted by globalisation theorists. Technological advancements have therefore ushered in new forms of communication that transcend geographical boundaries. Among these innovations, social media platforms represent a significant milestone, as they provide interactive spaces where users can create, share, and engage with content in real time. The integration of the Internet with modern telecommunication technologies has further accelerated the development and widespread adoption of these platforms (Edogor et al., 2014).

Despite these benefits, the emergence and widespread use of modern communication technologies have fundamentally transformed the mass media landscape. These changes have affected not only how information is produced and distributed but also how it is received and interpreted by audiences. The Internet-driven technological revolution has facilitated rapid and continuous communication, effectively connecting people across the globe in unprecedented ways. Social media, in particular, has played a pivotal role in enabling instant information sharing between individuals, as well as between the public and traditional media institutions. As a result, patterns of media consumption have shifted significantly, influencing how audiences interact with journalists and how mainstream media organisations operate. The processes of news gathering, reporting, and dissemination have been notably altered by the rise of these digital platforms (Edogor et al., 2014).

In developing countries such as Nigeria, social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, and WhatsApp, are increasingly taking the place of traditional mass media outlets like newspapers, newsletters, and magazines. These digital platforms offer faster and more efficient means of communication, linking the country more directly to global information networks. However, their rapid spread and influence have also raised concerns, particularly regarding the uncontrolled dissemination of information, whether accurate or misleading. Consequently, the regulation of social media has become an important policy consideration for many governments, especially in developing and emerging economies such as China.

In Nigeria, the suspension of Twitter by the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari highlighted the growing tension between digital communication and state regulation. This action underscores the need to critically examine the implications of such policies. Therefore, key questions arise from this development: To what extent has the suspension of Twitter in Nigeria affected the country’s engagement with globalisation? What factors led to the decision to suspend the platform? Additionally, what challenges and potential opportunities are associated with this policy decision?

Conceptual Clarification

Social Media

Social media refers to computer-mediated technologies that enable the creation, sharing, and exchange of information, ideas, personal interests, and various forms of expression within virtual communities and networks. These platforms provide interactive environments where users can communicate and collaborate regardless of geographical boundaries. Despite their widespread use, defining social media remains complex due to the diversity of services and functionalities they encompass. Nevertheless, social media, often described as new media, represents a form of electronic communication that fosters interaction based on shared interests and characteristics, largely driven by Web 2.0 technologies.

The concept of Web 2.0 was introduced in 2004 by Dale Dougherty, Vice President of O’Reilly Media Inc., during discussions on the future evolution of the web (O’Reilly, 2005). The

idea was intended to highlight the growing potential of the Internet beyond the earlier Web 1.0 stage, which was largely static and limited in user interaction. Web 2.0 describes a range of websites and applications that allow users not only to access information but also to actively create, modify, and share content online. This shift marked a significant transformation in how individuals engage with digital platforms. In this context, Web 2.0 technologies empower users to create, collaborate, and communicate with others at any time, without requiring specialised technical skills such as web design or programming. This accessibility has made it easier for individuals to publish content and participate in global conversations. Numerous platforms operate on Web 2.0 principles, including social networking and media-sharing sites such as Facebook, WhatsApp, YouTube, Cyworld, Google+, Twitter, MySpace, Tumblr, Instagram, and 2go, among others. These platforms have become essential tools for social interaction, utilising highly accessible and scalable publishing techniques.

Asemah (2011) conceptualises social media as a form of digital interactive media that transforms traditional one-way communication into dynamic, participatory dialogue. Through web-based technologies, social media converts media monologues into interactive exchanges, allowing users to actively engage with content and with one another. Social networking platforms promote the democratisation of information by enabling individuals to move beyond passive consumption to active content creation. As part of new media technologies, they offer one of the fastest and most efficient means of communication, fostering online communities that support direct, real-time interaction among users. Similarly, Sambe (2014) views social media as a product of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), emphasising its role in reshaping communication patterns. According to this perspective, social media facilitates instant feedback, enhances accessibility, and enables the rapid spread of information, often referred to as viral content.

These platforms can be categorised based on their primary functions and user interests. For instance, social networking sites include Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, while media-sharing platforms include Instagram, Snapchat, and YouTube. Other categories include discussion forums such as Reddit, Quora, and Digg; bookmarking and content curation platforms like Pinterest and Flipboard; consumer review networks such as Yelp, Zomato, and TripAdvisor; blogging and publishing platforms including WordPress, Tumblr, and Medium; as well as interest-based, social shopping, sharing economy, and anonymous social media platforms (Edogor, 2014).

Furthermore, Obar & Wildman (2015) provide a concise summary of the defining characteristics of social media. First, social media are interactive, Internet-based applications built on Web 2.0 foundations, as also noted by Kaplan & Haenlein (2010) in Obar & Wildman (2015). Second, user-generated content, including text posts, comments, images, videos, and data from online interactions, forms the core of social media activity. Third, users are required to create personalised profiles on these platforms, which are developed and maintained by social media organisations, as highlighted by Boyd & Ellison (2008) in Obar & Wildman (2015). Finally, social media facilitates the formation and expansion of online social networks by connecting individual profiles with others, thereby enabling interaction among users, groups, and communities.

In summary, social media represents a transformative aspect of modern communication, characterised by interactivity, user participation, and the rapid exchange of information. Their integration into everyday life continues to shape how individuals communicate, access information, and engage with the global digital environment.

Globalization

The concept of globalisation has generated extensive debate among scholars, leading to a wide range of definitions and interpretations over time. Waters (1995:3), for instance, defines globalisation as a social process through which the limitations imposed by geographical boundaries on social and cultural interactions gradually diminish, while individuals become increasingly conscious of this transformation. According to Waters, globalisation can be examined through three key dimensions of social life. The first is the economic dimension, which involves the organisation of production, exchange, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The second is the political dimension, which focuses on the structures and processes through which power is concentrated and exercised, including mechanisms of control such as coercion, surveillance, authority, and diplomacy across populations and territories. The third dimension is culture, which encompasses the systems through which meanings, values, beliefs, preferences, and symbolic expressions are produced, exchanged, and communicated within societies.

In a broader sense, globalisation refers to the increasing level of interaction and integration among individuals, institutions, and nations across the world. It reflects the expansion of global connections in areas such as international trade, foreign investment, capital flows, and the evolving role of governments in managing national economies (Ojo, 2004). Similarly, Obadan (2004) describes globalisation as a process characterised by growing interconnectedness and interdependence among different regions of the world, including nations, governments, businesses, institutions, communities, families, and individuals. This process encourages the development of a global mindset and promotes the idea of a borderless world, largely facilitated by advancements in information technology. Through these technological innovations, partnerships are strengthened, leading to deeper financial and economic integration on a global scale.

Giddens provides another perspective by emphasising the transformation of social relations across time and space. He argues that globalisation involves the stretching of social, political, and economic relationships across vast distances, thereby linking local events to distant occurrences (in Curran & Gurevitch, 1991:118). Although this interaction between tradition and modernity is central to globalisation, Giddens notes that it may also downplay the importance of spatial differences in the process. Furthermore, Giddens (1993:742) defines globalisation as the expansion of worldwide social and economic relationships, highlighting how everyday life is increasingly shaped by organisations and networks located far beyond local environments. He also underscores the emergence of a global system, suggesting that the world can now be viewed as a single, interconnected social order.

In a related view, McGrew describes globalisation as a process involving the creation and expansion of networks that connect states and societies within the modern world system (Allen, 1992:107). This perspective emphasises the dynamic and ongoing nature of globalisation, driven by continuous interactions and interdependencies. On the other hand, Marx (1977:222–223) presents a more critical interpretation, arguing that globalisation has significantly strengthened the power of the capitalist class by opening up new markets and opportunities for expansion. He traces the origins of this process to historical developments such as the discovery of America and the establishment of trade routes to Asia, which contributed to the emergence of a global market for modern industry.

Robertson offers yet another important dimension to the understanding of globalisation by challenging the perceived separation between global and local forces. According to him, it is misleading to treat the global and the local as entirely distinct or opposing concepts. Instead, globalisation depends heavily on local contexts, as local elements are inherently embedded within

global processes. In this sense, the local is not excluded from globalisation but rather forms an integral part of it (Featherstone et al., 1995:35).

In summary, globalisation is a multifaceted concept that encompasses economic integration, political interaction, and cultural exchange on a global scale. It reflects the increasing interconnectedness of societies and highlights the ways in which local and global dynamics continuously interact to shape the modern world.

Foreign Policy

In broad terms, any action undertaken by a state that extends beyond its territorial boundaries may be considered part of its foreign policy. However, certain actions that originate within a country can still carry international implications. For instance, the suspension of Twitter by the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari may initially appear to be a domestic decision. Nevertheless, given that Twitter is a global platform with millions of users worldwide and considering the wider international reactions and consequences of such a decision, it can also be interpreted as having foreign policy dimensions. This illustrates how domestic actions can evolve into matters of international concern, thereby blurring the distinction between internal and external policy frameworks.

Like many concepts in the social sciences, foreign policy does not have a single, universally accepted definition. Northedge (1968), for example, describes foreign policy as the interaction between a state's internal environment and its external relations. Similarly, Miller (1969) suggests that foreign policy may be viewed as a subset of broader governmental policies that are specifically directed toward external affairs. Adeniran (1983) argues that foreign policy should be understood in terms of the motivations and expected benefits that shape relations between states. According to him, the formulation of foreign policy revolves around two key components: goals and the means employed to achieve them.

Morgenthau provides a classical perspective by linking foreign policy objectives to the concept of national interest. He maintains that the actions and decisions of a state in the international arena must be guided by what best serves its national interest (Morgenthau, 1978). In his view, national interest serves as the primary framework through which foreign policy decisions are interpreted and justified. Without this guiding principle, a nation would lack a clear direction in its external engagements.

Holsti (1983) defines foreign policy as the actions of a state toward its external environment, as well as the conditions under which such actions are formulated. He emphasises that domestic factors play a crucial role in shaping foreign policy decisions. Elements such as the nature of the political system, the quality of political leadership, historical experiences, and even personal considerations can significantly influence how a state behaves on the global stage. This position is supported by Kissinger, who argues that domestic structures are fundamental in determining foreign policy outcomes (Kissinger in Kolawole, 2005). According to Kissinger, factors such as political leadership, historical context, and internal institutional arrangements are decisive in defining and pursuing national objectives (Luard, 1992).

Rosenau (1967) approaches foreign policy from a behavioural perspective, focusing on how states act within the international system. He notes that foreign policy analysis has traditionally been historical, often aimed at explaining a country's external actions at a specific point in time or identifying patterns in its behaviour over a longer period. Rosenau also highlights the significant influence of domestic structures on a state's external conduct, demonstrating how internal dynamics shape international relations.

In a similar vein, Garner (1995) emphasises that foreign policy involves the intentions, statements, and actions of actors, typically states, directed toward the external environment, as well as the responses these actions generate. He underscores that foreign policy operates across both domestic and international spheres, requiring continuous interaction between internal considerations and external engagements.

Foreign policy can therefore be examined from multiple perspectives. It involves analysing various actors, including states, non-state actors, and sub-state entities, as well as different levels of analysis such as individual, national, and systemic levels. It also encompasses both internal and external contexts, alongside factors such as strategies, policies, discourse, and actions. Akinyemi (2006) identifies three fundamental elements of foreign policy. First, it includes the general orientation of a country's interactions with other states. Second, it involves the specific objectives a country seeks to achieve in its external relations. Third, it comprises the strategies and instruments used to accomplish these objectives. Kissinger (1970) reinforces the connection between domestic and foreign policy by asserting that foreign policy begins where domestic policy ends, while still being influenced by internal structures. He maintains that domestic conditions ultimately shape the formulation of national goals and determine how they are pursued in the international arena.

In summary, foreign policy is a complex and multifaceted concept that reflects the interplay between domestic conditions and international dynamics. It encompasses the goals, strategies, and actions through which a state engages with the global community, guided primarily by the pursuit of national interest.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopts the Structural-Functional Approach as its theoretical foundation. Structural functionalism was popularised by Herbert Spencer, with notable contributions from scholars such as August Comte and Emile Durkheim. The approach views society, as well as the international system, as a complex and interconnected structure in which various components work together to ensure stability, cohesion, and continuity. It emphasises that each part of the system performs specific functions that contribute to the survival and effectiveness of the whole.

Within this framework, attention is given to social structures and their corresponding functions in maintaining societal order. These structures include norms, customs, traditions, and institutions, all of which shape human behaviour and interactions. Structural functionalism, therefore, analyses society by examining how these elements interact and support one another to sustain equilibrium.

Applying this perspective to the present study, Nigeria can be understood as a structural actor within the broader global system shaped by globalisation. As part of this interconnected network, any policy decision or action taken within the country has the potential to produce ripple effects beyond its borders. In this sense, the international system represents the larger structure, while individual states and institutions function as interdependent units within it.

The relevance of the Structural-Functional Approach to this study can be explained in several ways. First, the theory provides a framework for examining the implications of the suspension of Twitter by the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari, particularly in relation to democratic values such as freedom of expression. From this perspective, such a policy can be analysed in terms of its impact on institutional processes and the broader political system, both domestically and internationally. The approach is particularly useful in assessing how this action may influence Nigeria's democratic image and its standing within the global community.

Second, the theory acknowledges the presence of multiple actors within the international system, each representing different and sometimes conflicting interests. This makes it suitable for analysing the relationship between Nigeria as a sovereign state and Twitter as a non-state actor and multinational corporation. The interaction between these entities reflects a form of structural tension within the global system, where state authority and corporate influence may clash. Structural functionalism helps to explain how such conflicts arise and how they may affect the overall stability of the system.

In summary, the Structural-Functional Approach provides a useful lens for understanding the interconnected nature of global systems and the roles played by different actors within them. It highlights how actions taken by one component, such as a state policy, can influence the functioning and stability of the broader international environment.

Methodology

This study adopts a descriptive and qualitative research design. The descriptive approach is employed to examine and explain the key features and underlying issues surrounding the suspension of Twitter in Nigeria. It allows for a clear understanding of the nature, context, and implications of the policy.

The qualitative method is used to generate in-depth insights into the subject matter, particularly in identifying the decision-making concerns, challenges, and opportunities associated with the policy, as well as its impact on Nigeria's global image. This approach is suitable for exploring complex social and political phenomena that cannot be adequately captured through quantitative measures.

The study relies primarily on secondary sources of data. These include documentary evidence such as official government publications, reports, previously conducted interviews, academic books, journal articles, conference papers, and relevant online materials. These sources provide a comprehensive basis for understanding the issue from multiple perspectives. Data collected for the study is analysed qualitatively using the narrative analysis technique. This method enables the researcher to interpret and present information in a structured and coherent manner, focusing on patterns, themes, and relationships relevant to the research objectives.

History of Twitter

According to Wikipedia, Twitter is an American microblogging and social networking platform that allows users to publish and interact through short messages known as tweets. The platform was founded in March 2006 by Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, and Evan Williams, and it was officially launched in July of the same year.

Over time, Twitter experienced rapid growth and became one of the most widely used social media platforms globally. By 2012, the platform had attracted over 100 million active users who collectively generated approximately 340 million tweets per day. In addition, Twitter processed an average of 1.6 billion search queries daily (Twitter, 2012).

In the Nigerian context, Twitter has emerged as a highly influential platform for communication and information dissemination. It has been widely used across different sectors, including politics, business, entertainment, and social advocacy, serving as a key medium for public engagement and real-time information sharing.

Analysis and Results

Advancements in technology and communication have significantly transformed human interaction, making it possible for individuals to access real-time information from distant parts of the world. This development is largely driven by globalisation, which has reduced the barriers of time and space in communication. Unlike earlier periods when state-controlled media and censorship limited the flow of information, contemporary society is characterised by the rapid and unrestricted circulation of information through digital and social media platforms. As a result, government actions and policies are no longer confined within national borders but often generate international attention and reactions.

On 5 June 2021, the Nigerian government announced an indefinite suspension of Twitter operations in the country following the platform's removal of tweets posted by President Muhammadu Buhari. The deleted tweets contained warnings directed at southeastern Nigeria, particularly the Igbo population, referencing possible consequences reminiscent of the 1967 Civil War (BBC News, 2021). This action attracted widespread criticism, with many commentators describing the President's remarks as inappropriate and inflammatory.

The Nigerian government, however, justified its decision by arguing that the removal of the President's tweets contributed to the suspension. It further maintained that the ban was influenced by broader concerns, including the spread of misinformation and fake news on the platform, which it claimed had led to real-world violence in the country (BBC News, 2021).

From a global perspective, the suspension of Twitter raised important questions about Nigeria's preparedness to fully participate in a world increasingly shaped by digital globalisation and the free flow of information. The policy generated two opposing interpretations. On one hand, supporters of the suspension viewed Twitter's action as disrespectful and politically biased, arguing that it undermined national sovereignty and failed to appropriately moderate content from extremist or secessionist voices. On the other hand, critics argued that the suspension represented an attempt by the government to restrict citizens' freedom of expression, thereby contradicting democratic principles and constitutional rights.

These divergent perspectives suggested that while Twitter's decision may have been viewed as controversial, the Nigerian government's response also raised concerns about restrictions on information flow in a globalised digital environment. In effect, the suspension appeared to have contradicted key principles of globalisation, particularly the free movement of information across borders, thereby limiting Nigerians' participation in global digital discourse.

Scholars have long debated the influence of globalisation. Held et al. (1999, 2002) identify three main perspectives in this debate: globalists, traditionalists, and transformationalists. Globalists argue that globalisation is a dominant force that significantly limits the authority of nation-states and cannot be effectively controlled through traditional political mechanisms. Traditionalists, however, contend that globalisation is often overstated, emphasising that economic and social activities remain largely regional and that the nation continues to retain significant relevance and authority. They therefore view globalisation as somewhat exaggerated.

Transformationalists adopt a middle position, acknowledging that globalisation has a noticeable impact but questioning the extent of its influence. They argue that while global processes shape communication and consumption patterns, they do not eliminate the role of states or local structures. From this perspective, media globalisation tends to reinforce consumption patterns more than productive economic development. In some critical views, globalisation is even interpreted as a form of modern economic domination or "recolonisation" (Igwe, 2013).

In the broader literature, globalisation has also been associated with processes of democratisation. Scholars such as Eichengreen (2006), Huntington (1993), and Diamond (1992) describe the last few decades as a period marked by significant democratic expansion across different regions. Eichengreen (2006:3) notes that the number of democratic states quadrupled between 1975 and 2002. Grugel (2003:262–263) identifies three major interpretations of globalisation and democracy: globalisation as a force of democratic weakening, globalisation as a pathway toward global democratic governance, and globalisation as a transformation of citizenship itself.

Diamond (1992) further analyses the global spread of democracy in the late 20th century, particularly in developing regions. He examines both the quantitative expansion of democratic systems and the conceptual frameworks used to define and measure democracy. He also identifies key factors that contributed to this global democratic wave and discusses the conditions necessary for its sustainability.

Against this theoretical backdrop, the suspension of Twitter in Nigeria was widely criticised by both domestic and international actors. Organisations such as Amnesty International, along with diplomatic missions from the United Kingdom, Canada, and Sweden, described the action as undemocratic (CNN, 2021). At the domestic level, organisations, including the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) and the Nigerian Bar Association, indicated intentions to challenge the ban in court. Twitter itself described the decision as “deeply concerning.”

Public figures also expressed concern. The Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, suggested that the federal government could have managed the situation more effectively, noting that many young Nigerians depend on digital platforms for economic activities and communication (Vanguard, 2021). Similarly, human rights lawyer, Inibehe Effiong argued that the suspension violated citizens’ constitutional rights to freedom of expression and significantly disrupted access to information, thereby causing emotional and social distress (Punch, 2021).

These reactions reinforced the argument that the suspension of Twitter undermined elements of global integration by restricting access to digital communication networks. While some argued that stronger regulation may be necessary to address misinformation and national security concerns, others maintained that such restrictions could weaken democratic governance and limit global participation.

Furthermore, media globalisation is often seen as a mechanism for promoting accountability by exposing governmental actions to international scrutiny. It also enables foreign media platforms to critique domestic policies while allowing local audiences to access alternative viewpoints. In this sense, global media can function as a bridge between governments and the international community, shaping global public opinion and fostering transparency.

From an economic perspective, the suspension of Twitter also had significant implications. Nigeria, already facing challenges such as youth unemployment and low income levels, experienced economic disruptions following the ban. Reports from Nairametrics estimated that the country lost over ₦6 billion within 48 hours of the suspension. This highlighted the economic importance of digital platforms, particularly for young entrepreneurs and digital workers who rely on social media for income generation.

The Governor of Oyo State, Seyi Makinde, further emphasised that Twitter had evolved beyond a communication platform to become a vital source of livelihood for many Nigerians, regardless of political or religious affiliation. Similar cases in other countries demonstrated the economic consequences of digital restrictions. For example, Pakistan’s temporary shutdown of

mobile telecommunications in 2015 affected critical services, including hospitals and businesses, thereby disrupting economic activities (West, 2016).

In summary, the suspension of Twitter in Nigeria illustrated the complex intersection between globalisation, governance, digital communication, and economic stability. While it was justified on regulatory and security grounds, its broader implications reveal tensions between state authority and the principles of global information flow.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Conclusion

From the foregoing analysis, it is evident that the suspension of Twitter by the Buhari-led administration was widely interpreted in a largely negative light within the context of globalisation. The policy has been associated with the restriction of freedom of expression, disruption of global information flows, and weakening of Nigeria's participation in the global digital communication space.

Given that social media platforms constitute a major instrument of globalisation in the contemporary era, the suspension of Twitter represented a significant constraint on the free flow of information, ideas, and global interactions. This development has been widely viewed by scholars, civil society actors, and international observers as a form of digital restriction with implications for democratic governance and Nigeria's international image.

The study further established that globalisation had evolved into a defining feature of the modern global political economy. Consequently, Nigeria must strategically position itself to adapt to its demands, particularly in the areas of digital governance, communication policy, and international engagement.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Nigerian government should adopt policy approaches that protect freedom of expression while addressing legitimate concerns around misinformation and digital regulation.
2. Rather than outright suspension of global platforms, regulatory engagement and institutional dialogue with social media companies should be prioritised.
3. The government should strengthen digital literacy programs to reduce the spread of misinformation without restricting access to communication platforms.
4. Policies affecting digital platforms should be aligned with international best practices in democratic governance and human rights protection.
5. Nigeria should strengthen its participation in global digital governance frameworks to ensure balanced regulation of social media platforms.
6. There is a need to balance national security concerns with the economic and social benefits derived from digital globalisation.

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