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Intersection of Politics and Technology: Implication on Governance and Democratic Challenges in Nigeria.

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Abstract

There is growing apathy with declining citizens' –government engagement on policy political conversation. This have negatively impacted the growth of Nigeria's democracy, popular political participation and created disoriented citizens awareness of public policies. The paper is an overview of the intersection of politics and technology, highlighting its implications for democracy and participatory governance. The paper explores the impact of digital technologies on political processes, citizen engagement, and policymaking, raising important questions about the benefits and challenges of these advancements in governance and democratic process. The study adopted desk research design with the use of secondary data sourced from published journals, case studies, web reports, magazines and textbooks. It also adopted political technological theory by Longdon Winner to analyse dynamic intersection between technology and political issues. The paper identified technology as a fast-pace global innovation now used to reconfigure political communication, policy making process. It concludes that new world order, governance and politics cannot be isolated from technology, given the growing waves of civilization. The paper conclusively sets the stage for a nuanced exploration of the complex relationships between politics, technology, democracy, and good governance. It recommends for strong institutional and legal framework to check the possible manipulation of governance process and public perception through technology; encourage active involvement of human elements and psychological priority in policymaking process rather than technological monopolization of democratic process among others.

Keywords: Election, democracy, governance, politics, technology

Introduction

Technology has become a pervasive force shaping civilizations across the globe. From the invention of the wheel to the dawn of artificial intelligence, the evolution of technology has profoundly transformed how societies function, communicate, and innovate. Today, technology permeates every sector, from agriculture and medicine to transportation and education. While there are variants of technologies, mobile technological devices have bridged geographic divides, enabling real-time global

connectivity and wider communication reach. Innovations like cloud computing, blockchain, and AI are reshaping business models and social norms (Brynjolfsson & McAfee, 2014).

In the submission of Oyekanmi (2020) technology has not only influenced corporate world of businesses and entertainment, it now bestride the oval of politics and governance. Individuals, groups and political party structure now leverage on technology to harness feedback on public policy, advance political sentiment and control political mobilization. In this instance, the usage of technology has become central to citizens' engagement, political awareness and popular participation in the electoral process. The value of these indices was captured by Akinboye (2023) as the hallmark of democracy and parameters to measuring quality of governance in the global hemisphere. Given the ubiquitous reality of politics and democracy as a game of number in global landscape and with the need of government to connect with the needs and feedback from the citizens on public policy and reassessing the values of democracy, the adaptation of technology into governance has now become a contemporary development.

The centrality of how technological power made inroad into politics and election influence in the global North became a global debate in 2016 wherein, the 45th American President, Donald Trump made sweeping allegation of electoral fraud in key political swinging states. The President had alleged the manipulation of electoral process through cyber- experts, the move which he claimed has discredited the credibility of American democracy. Although, the study of David *et al.* (2018) had invalidated the Trump claim of electoral malfeasance through technology. However, the controversy generated by such claim and the ensuing possible manipulation of electoral democratic outcome with technology, gives credence to how technology has become a perennial anchor of contemporary global governance model and the institution of democracy with specific relational indices to election.

In the global South and Nigeria in specific, there have been documented efforts to improving popular political participation and strengthen democratic values and credibility of election outcome. The Movement for Credible Elections, civil societies and political opposition figures in the National Assembly have staged protest and wide condemnation against the electoral reforms that would not include a mandatory technological transmission of election result in real time. While some analysts and politically interested persons have argued that technological deployment in the transmission of election results abhors possible manipulation, others expressed optimism of its ability to ensure credible and unhindered political processes (The Guardian, 2024).

This importance led to Ologunebi and Taiwo's (2019) conclusion that technological applications in elections and citizens-government engagement have become key arenas in civic activism, stimulating peoples to express opinions, organise collective action, and

monitor governance performance in real time. Studies specifically on elections Kantel (2023), Macbeth (2022) and Oyekanmi (2020) had argued that technology has capacity to reshape political campaigns and electoral engagement in Nigeria. Although, Inobemhe et al. (2024) argued that while multimedia platforms influenced public perceptions, voter attitudes, and communication strategies during the 2023 general elections, they also exposed its vulnerabilities to misinformation and regulatory gaps. Despite this concern, there have been institutional and policy reforms efforts to remediate some of the limitation. Ibaz (2025) has argued that reforms have been instituted to enhance timely feedback on public policy and also to making government businesses public business-like, including e-governance initiatives by government agencies. As a follow up within the larger democratic context and processes, election technological innovations have been introduced to replace traditional electoral processes. In many instances like Nigeria, devices like Bimodel Voters AS, IRV and other electoral technological interface have been introduce to deepen popular participation in electoral and democratic process with fast paced , open and transparent values. As it was corroborated by Mitcheal (2019) a great number of citizens disconnection from governance conversation and real time seamless participation in political processes have been reduced through government adoption of e-governance in policy formulation, implementation and tracking of feedback.

While scholars have romanticised deployment of technology in elections to enhance political participation, little efforts have been channelled towards creating technological hub to deepen citizens- government interface on public policy and seamless feedback. There have also been widespread concerns about the domination of political hemispheres by political elites which has led to the decline of democratic values and transparent governance. This has created bureaucratic bottlenecks that affect citizens' demand and closeness to policymakers, leading to deficit in good governance and crisis of development in the contemporary in Nigeria. There has also been perennial concern on the credibility of Nigeria's electoral model, with incessant allegation of human interference leading to post- election judicialisation crisis. While there have been calls to embrace the use of technology to deepen governance performance and democratic ethos, the unscrupulous use of generative artificial intelligence and malfeasance manipulation of information with technology models through propaganda and misinformation have also been documented to create public disaffection and false presentation of reality which have also led to crisis and reversal of democratic gains.

Thus, this research is conducted to assess new ethical alterative to the deployment of technology for election and citizens- government engagement and to also interrogate ways in which technological innovation can positively impact on public–oriented policy, good governance and democratic development in Nigeria. This enquiry is significant with the potential to institute a new ethical policy and conversation paradigms on the intersection of technology and politics, beyond pedestrian discussion, into a new

developmental model for Nigeria's democracy and inclusive policy-making and implementation. The study also opened a broader conversation around technological innovation into Nigeria's election beyond its previous conceptual overlapping and intersection. It helps to connect the larger implication of this ethical infusion into a generic inclusive public policy making, engagement and feedback within a larger spectrum of Nigerians with positive cascading effects on the nose-diving democracy and political participation.

In the area of methodology, the research made use of qualitative desk research design in its data gathering and analyses to unravel causative effects and make policy inferences on the research phenomenon. The study rely on the systematic collection of existing secondary data such as verified published journals, related textbooks, adoption of related case studies, and trusted web materials that have captured areas of election, political participation, institutionalisation of democratic processes and technological innovation in Nigeria. To maintain the quality of these secondary sources, related existing data with was collected, and reviewed carefully to weed out unrelated and unsubstantiated claims. This research design was adopted because it allows for a broader perspective through the use of huge datasets, verifiable historical trends; it also helps to save time through the use of already organized data and it also cost effective without sacrificing the credibility of the process.

Conceptual Review

Politics refers to the art of governance, encompassing the exercise of power and authority within a society (Heywood, 2017). Politics in an institutional setting like the state deals with the allocation of resources backed by laws and legitimate authority. Politics within this context reflect formal and institutionalized activities through regulated and ordered processes. Oyekanmi (2023) asserted that beyond institutional framework and political legality, politics is regarded as natural inclination of human behaviour as each man seeks to fulfil personal needs and protect hidden, popular political and economic interests. This implies that politics is associated with the innate human nature, characterizing human relationship, alliance, cooperation and disagreement on existing but competitive values. This assertion gives credence to the Aristotle's opaque of knowledge on human existence that "man is a political animal and that a man outside the state is either a beast or a god". A clear analysis of this cryptic submission on politics reflects a conclusion that politics is both institutional and informally contested human interests and values.

Technology

Technology, on the other hand, encompasses the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes, particularly in the digital realm (Castells, 2010). The term technology is a collection of innovation, industry and adaptation of human intellectual property to

solve political, social and economic problem. The intersection of politics and technology has given rise to new forms of political engagement, such as e-participation and online activism (Bimber, 2003).

In governance studies, Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) refer to digital tools (internet, mobile platforms, social media, e-services) used to facilitate communication, information flows, and administrative procedures between governments and citizens (Asimakopoulos et al., 2025). ICTs are not merely instrumental tools; they reshape *decision-making spaces*, public administration, and civic engagement patterns at scale (Dawes, 2009; Asimakopoulos et al., 2025).

Technology is a multidimensional model which is not only important in social and economic circle but very essential in politics such as e-governance. This is commonly understood as the application of ICTs in governmental processes to improve efficiency, transparency, and citizen participation. This concept spans *e-administration*, *e-services*, *e-participation*, and *e-democracy* components (ITU, cited in Asimakopoulos et al., 2025; Ojo, 2014).

Democracy

This is a system of governance where power is vested in the people, either directly or through elected representatives (Dahl, 2006). The Council of Europe (2021) posits democracy as government *by the people*, involving accountability, competitive elections, civil liberties, and political participation. Good governance entails transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, accountability, and inclusivity. This concept and its practice is significantly impacted by technological advancements. Social media, for instance, has transformed the way politicians communicate with citizens, enabling more direct and personalized interactions (Gulati, 2010). However, Allcott and Gentile (2017) averred that the increased connectivity and intersection between politics, democracy and technology also raises concerns about the spread of misinformation and the manipulation of public opinion.

Given the global popularity of peopled-cantered governance, transparency, and inclusive popular participation in public affairs as elements of democracy, its intersection with technology is altering how citizens access information, participate in politics, and hold authorities accountable (Council of Europe, 2021; Asimakopoulos et al., 2025). The digital transformation of governance thus represents both opportunities and challenges in democratic systems: while digital tools can *lower barriers to participation* and *increase government responsiveness*, they can also *reconfigure power dynamics*, raise ethical concerns (e.g., privacy, misinformation), and deepen inequalities (Asimakopoulos et al., 2025)

Governance

Governance refers to the process of decision-making and the exercise of power within a society (Heywood, 2017, p. 12). It encompasses the institutions, systems, and practices that shape the relationships between governments, citizens, and other stakeholders (Weiss, 2000, p. 789). Good governance is characterized by several key principles, including transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and inclusiveness (Grindle, 2017, p. 34). Transparency is essential for good governance, as it enables citizens to access information about government activities and decision-making processes (Bertot et al., 2010, p. 263). Accountability is also critical, as it ensures that governments are responsible for their actions and are held to account by citizens and other stakeholders (Schedler, 1999, p. 15). Responsiveness refers to the ability of governments to respond to the needs and concerns of citizens (Rothstein, 2011, p. 123). Inclusiveness is also vital, as it ensures that all citizens have an equal opportunity to participate in the decision-making process (Young, 2000, p. 123). In the context of digital governance, technology can play a significant role in enhancing transparency, accountability, and responsiveness (Kitchin, 2014, p. 56). For example, online portals can provide citizens with access to information about government activities and decision-making processes (Bertot et al., 2010, p. 265). Social media can also be used to enhance responsiveness, by enabling governments to engage with citizens and respond to their concerns (Gulati, 2010, p. 123). However, digital governance also raises concerns about the potential for unequal access to information and decision-making processes (Warschauer, 2003, p. 45). Additionally, the increasing reliance on technology can also raise concerns about surveillance, data protection, and the potential for authoritarianism (Lyon, 2015, p. 123). In conclusion, governance is a complex and multifaceted concept that encompasses the institutions, systems, and practices that shape the relationships between governments, citizens, and other stakeholders. Good governance is characterized by principles such as transparency, accountability, responsiveness, and inclusiveness. Digital governance can play a significant role in enhancing these principles, but also raises concerns about unequal access and the potential for authoritarianism.

Theoretical Framework

The paper adopts political theory of technology propounded by Langdon Winner (1986). The Winner's popularised theoretical essay argued that technical artifacts which are innovated technologies are not neutral tools. They represent specific instrument of power dynamics deploy to influence social order and influence political structures. The Langdon's theory, noted that human psychological disposition to politics and power is materialistic, emotional evocative, subjective and self- seeking. Thus, he enunciated technology as a derivative material and scientific devices which helps men to reconfigure socio-political order and influence power dynamics into a predetermined outcome. To show how technology enforces political control and elitist power and hegemony, the theory in its further explanation on the "politics of artifacts" maintained that technologies

are intentional design created to enforce specific social order or exclusion. Winner made reference to this, citing Robert Moses intentional design of low parkway overpasses in New York to block public buses frequently used by low- income and minority groups who rely on public buses from reaching Jones Beach.

The theory also argued against the neutrality of technological tools which is not associated with moral deployment or influence on political choice. Winner notes that technological systems produce long term shifts in human behaviour, forcing human reaction to adjust to technological influence. Giving these metrics, the theory appropriately suit this study as it deals with how artifacts in the mode of technology impact on people's political behaviours, power relations and citizens reaction to public policy. The theory also well capture the evolving power dynamics in the struggle of powerful elites to enforce specific socio-political order through a controlled technology such as media and other maneuverer- information technologies. Perhaps, this was why Jadel and Rafeal (2022) rhetorised, that when the values of technology is brought to bear in public policy and political processes, clarity, objectivity and assurance of result will be more interrogated. The theory of technological politics substantiates potential fundamental changes in human perspective on politics and how political issues and events are amplified, delivered and preserved negatively or positively.

The theory resonates that technology is a political phenomenon in the new world order and that technology embodies politics in the liberalized world. The study therefore inferred that technology impact can be flexible as a negative and positive socio-political and economic constructs. Relying on this, the positive influence of technology on power, politics and political structure will be more enhanced through ethical adoption, adaptation and democratic deployment for the good of all, while it is also a reality that if technological design is left alone to the ruling class, the masses choices can be hampered. The theory helps in the control of political behaviour, shape power dynamics and shift public perception on accountability.

The theory has been criticized for excessively simplifying politics and governance dynamics by man-made devices, away from humanistic feelings. Since politics revolves around human interaction, technology cannot adequately be used to predict and influence human political priorities and prejudices. However, the theory is an epistemic framework to explain how technology can be deployed to enhance political communication, active engagement of men in politics and enhance the efficiency of democratic institutions.

The Interplay between Politics and Technology

The relationship between politics and technology is increasingly complex and dynamic. As digital innovations reshape communication, governance, and public engagement, political systems are both empowered and challenged by technological advancements.

This discussion explores how technology influences political processes, public discourse, and power structures, while also examining the reciprocal impact of political decisions on technological development.

Technology has revolutionized political campaigning and voter engagement. Digital platforms such as social media, live-streaming services, and data analytics have become essential tools for political actors. Politicians now use platforms like Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube to communicate directly with constituents, bypassing traditional media filters (Acquia, 2022).

Acquia (2022) stressed that this direct engagement of politics with technology fosters transparency; they argued that it also opens the door to misinformation and manipulation. While this increases efficiency, it raises ethical concerns about privacy and fairness. Moreover, live-streaming and real-time interaction has transformed political discourse, making it more immediate and accessible, yet also more susceptible to populist rhetoric and viral misinformation.

In response to addressing these concerns, governments play a critical role in shaping the technological landscape through regulation, funding, and policy-making. Political decisions influence which technologies are developed, how they are deployed, and who benefits from them. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many governments introduced digital health tools such as contact tracing apps and digital passports. While these innovations aimed to curb the virus, they also raised concerns about surveillance and data misuse (Feldstein, 2021).

Akinbode (2018) expressed dissent opinion wherein he analysed that the negative part of technology includes situation of authoritarian regimes have leveraged technology to monitor dissent, censor communication, and manipulate public opinion. In contrast, democratic governments face the challenge of balancing innovation with civil liberties. The fragmentation of the global internet where countries adopt divergent norms and rules reflects this tension between techno-democracies and techno-autocracies. Technology has reshaped the public sphere, enabling citizens to participate in political discourse more actively. Mobile devices and internet access have empowered individuals to organize, protest, and advocate for change (Wale, 2023). Social media platforms serve as modern agoras, where political ideas are exchanged and movements are born. However, the same platforms can also polarize societies and amplify extremist views. The digital public sphere, as conceptualized by Habermas, is meant to be open and inclusive. Yet, the influence of algorithms, corporate interests, and state surveillance threatens its integrity. Political actors must therefore navigate a landscape where technology can both democratize and distort public engagement.

The relationship between politics and technology is a double-edged sword. While technology enhances political participation and governance, it also introduces risks related to misinformation, surveillance, and inequality. Political systems must evolve to harness the benefits of technology while safeguarding democratic values and human rigging.

The Roles of Technological Innovation towards Enhancement of Democracy and Good

Governance

Technological innovation has emerged as a transformative force in the enhancement of democracy and good governance across the globe. This was the submission of Marylyeen and Fondel (2019) that in the digital age, the integration of advanced technologies into political and administrative systems has redefined how citizens interact with their governments, participate in democratic processes, and hold public institutions accountable. From electronic voting systems to civic tech platforms, innovations have not only improved transparency and efficiency but also fostered inclusivity and responsiveness in governance structures (Shayamunda & Bhanye, 2025).

One of the most significant contributions of technological innovation to democracy is the facilitation of civic engagement. Digital platforms such as social media, mobile applications, and online forums have empowered citizens to voice their opinions, mobilize support for causes, and participate in policy-making processes. Civic tech tools, particularly in countries like Nigeria, have bridged the gap between government and citizens, enabling real-time feedback and fostering a culture of participatory governance (Civic Hive, 2024). These platforms have also played a crucial role in increasing voter awareness and turnout, especially among youth and marginalized communities.

Moreover, technological innovation has enhanced electoral integrity through the adoption of electronic voting systems and blockchain-based verification mechanisms. These technologies reduce the risk of fraud, ensure accurate vote counting, and promote transparency in electoral processes. For instance, blockchain technology offers a decentralized and tamper-proof system for recording votes, thereby increasing public trust in democratic institutions (Lee, 2025). Additionally, digital voter registration systems have streamlined the electoral process, making it more accessible and efficient.

In the realm of good governance, technology has revolutionized public service delivery and administrative efficiency. E-governance platforms enable governments to provide services online, reducing bureaucratic delays and improving accessibility. These systems also facilitate data-driven decision-making by allowing policymakers to analyze trends and allocate resources effectively. According to the OECD (2025), technology governance frameworks are essential for harnessing the benefits of innovation while

mitigating associated risks. Such frameworks ensure that technological advancements align with democratic values and human rights.

Transparency and accountability have also been significantly bolstered by technological innovation. Open data initiatives and digital audit tools allow citizens and watchdog organizations to monitor government activities and expenditures. For example, mobile applications and websites have been developed to report corruption, track public projects, and access government budgets (Transparency International, 2013). These tools not only deter malfeasance but also promote ethical conduct among public officials. Furthermore, artificial intelligence and data analytics are being used to detect anomalies and inefficiencies in governance systems, thereby enhancing oversight and accountability (Afadzinu et al., 2024).

Despite these advancements, challenges persist in the implementation of technology-driven governance. The digital divide remains a critical issue, particularly in developing countries where access to internet and digital literacy is limited. This gap can exacerbate existing inequalities and hinder inclusive participation. Moreover, concerns around data privacy, cyber security, and misinformation pose threats to democratic integrity. As highlighted by the Community of Democracies (2024), it is imperative for governments to establish robust regulatory frameworks that safeguard digital rights and promote ethical use of technology.

In conclusion, technological innovation holds immense potential in strengthening democracy and promoting good governance. By enhancing civic engagement, electoral integrity, public service delivery, and transparency, technology serves as a catalyst for democratic resilience and institutional effectiveness. However, to fully realize these benefits, governments must address existing challenges and ensure that technological advancements are inclusive, secure, and aligned with democratic principles. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, the synergy between innovation and governance will be pivotal in shaping the future of democratic societies.

Politics, Democracy and Good Governance: The Threat of Technology in the New World

Order

In the contemporary global landscape, technology has become both a catalyst and a disruptor in the realms of politics, democracy, and governance. While digital innovations have enhanced civic participation and administrative efficiency, they have also introduced complex threats that challenge democratic norms and political stability. The emergence of a new world order—characterized by geopolitical shifts, digital sovereignty, and transnational tech influence—has intensified concerns about the misuse of

technology in political processes and governance structures (Community of Democracies, 2024).

One of the most pressing threats posed by technology is the manipulation of information through digital platforms. Social media algorithms, designed to maximize engagement, often prioritize sensational content over factual reporting, thereby fuelling misinformation and polarizing public discourse. This phenomenon undermines informed decision-making, a cornerstone of democratic governance. The 2016 U.S. presidential election, for instance, revealed how foreign actors exploited social media to spread disinformation and influence voter behaviour (Funds for NGOs, 2024). Such tactics erode trust in institutions and weaken the legitimacy of electoral outcomes.

Moreover, the rise of surveillance technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) has raised ethical concerns about privacy and civil liberties. Authoritarian regimes have increasingly deployed digital tools to monitor dissent, suppress opposition, and control narratives. The global proliferation of AI-enabled surveillance systems often under the guise of public safety has created a digital perception that threatens democratic freedoms (National Endowment for Democracy, 2024). In countries experiencing democratic backsliding, these technologies are used to entrench power and silence critics, thereby undermining the principles of accountability and transparency.

The influence of private tech corporations in shaping political agendas further complicates the governance landscape. Companies like Google, Meta, and Amazon wield immense economic and informational power, often surpassing that of nation-states. Their control over digital infrastructure and data flows enables them to act as geopolitical actors, influencing policy decisions and international relations (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024). This shift challenges traditional notions of sovereignty and raises questions about the accountability of non-state entities in democratic processes.

In addition, the digital divide exacerbates inequalities in political participation and access to governance. Marginalized communities often lack the resources and digital literacy needed to engage meaningfully in online platforms. This exclusion not only limits their voice in policy-making but also reinforces systemic disparities. As technology becomes central to governance, ensuring equitable access and representation becomes imperative to uphold democratic ideals (Community of Democracies, 2024).

To mitigate these threats, governments and civil society must collaborate to establish robust regulatory frameworks that safeguard democratic values. Transparency in algorithmic design, ethical AI deployment, and data protection laws are essential to prevent abuse and ensure accountability. International cooperation is also crucial in addressing cross-border challenges such as cyber-attacks and digital propaganda. As the new world order continues to evolve, the resilience of democracy will depend on the

ability of institutions to adapt and uphold the principles of good governance in the digital age.

Conclusion and Recommendation

The advent and usage of technology have redefined human potential and societal frameworks. As technology continues evolving, the focus must balance innovation with inclusivity, sustainability, and ethics.

The intersection of politics and technology has become an increasingly significant area of study in recent years, as the rapid evolution of digital technologies has transformed the way governments operate, citizens engage with politics, and policymakers make decisions. This intersection has far-reaching implications for democracy and governance, raising important questions about the impact of technology on political processes and the very fabric of society.

The advent of social media, for instance, has revolutionized the way politicians communicate with their constituents, and the way citizens' access and engage with political information. Social media platforms have also created new avenues for citizen participation, mobilization, and activism, allowing individuals to connect with others who share similar interests and passions, forming online communities that can mobilize around specific causes and issues. Moreover technology has also enabled the creation of new forms of digital governance, such as online consultations, e-petitions, which have the potential to increase civic engagement and provide more direct and inclusive forms of citizen participation in the democratic process. However, it is crucial to examine the implications of these technological advancements on the health of democracy, considering both the benefits and challenges they pose to democratic governance. On one hand, technology has transformed the way citizens interact with their elected officials and access government services, enabling a more transparent and accountable system of governance, where citizens can track the progress of policies and hold their leaders accountable for their actions.

This shift towards digital governance has also raised concerns about the potential for unequal access to these new forms of participation, which will continue to exacerbate existing social and economic inequalities, and undermining the democratic principles of equality and fairness. Furthermore the intersection of politics and technology has significant implications for the future of democracy, as the increasing reliance on digital technologies has created new avenues for manipulation and disinformation, which can be used to sway public opinion and influence the outcome of elections, thereby threatening the integrity of the democratic process. The proliferation of social media has created new challenges for democratic institutions, as they struggle to regulate the spread of false information and maintain the integrity of democratic discourse in the face of increasingly

sophisticated disinformation campaigns. This has significant implications for the future of democratic governance, as the erosion of trust in democratic institutions and the manipulation of public opinion can lead to the undermining of democratic norms and values, ultimately threatening the stability of democratic regimes. Moreover, the increasing reliance on technology for political communication has also raised concerns about the surveillance state and the potential for authoritarianism.

The study concludes that introduction of technology will not automatically improve political participation and deepen public involvement in public policy making process if its ethical usage is not reviewed and institutionalised. It further strengthen that many of the technological devices are amenable to human manipulation, which can amplify the very problems they were created to solve.

Recommendation

However, the study recommends for strong legal and institutional framework to guide the deployment of technology in the field of politics such as election, campaign and public policy performance assessment. Many members of the public can be deceived into wrong performance index of government when technology is arbitrarily used as the cursor of political propaganda and media brigade.

Democratic processes can be more deepened with active citizens' engagement if technology is transparently harnessed to shrink the widening gap between elected representatives and the people at the local level.

Government, civil societies and global agencies must collaborate to institutionalize ethical framework on the growing waves of artificial intelligence in civic- government engagement and electoral processes. This will ensure that modernization and technological waves does not become the albatross of democratic renaissance. Ethical standards on the use of technology should be made available and the violation of these standards should be fairly punished.

In the global South, Nigeria's democratic trajectory in specific, caution must be exercised in the fast-pace deployment of technology in her election processes, given the ethnicized and fragile nature of her political behaviour and the need to strengthen semi- direct public participation in the electoral process. A sizable voting population of the Nigerian youths has embraced web-activism and invincible opinionated politics, resulting to low voters' turn out and creating more politically disoriented and disinterested majority.

Government across all levels must establish policy-framework and implementation tracks portal to enhance e-governance and ease local contacts to allow citizens have access to government programs and ensure open interface. When people are aware of government

progresses and challenges, it will help to drive political consciousness, informed citizenry and active civic engagement.

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