

Text of Address the Author at the book Presentation and Launching Ceremony of Telecom in Nigeria, a role in the call_ a book written by Gbenga Adebayo, General Manager VGC Communications, on Monday, 30th October 2006 at the Nigeria Institute of International Affairs, Kofo Abayomi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos

His Excellency, The Executive Governor of Kwara State, **Dr. Bukola Saraki**

His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State, **Otunba Gbenga Dannel**

His Excellency the Deputy Governor of Lagos State, **Otunba Femi Pedro**

His Royal Highness, Kabiyesi Oba Adesesan Afolunsho Oguntayo, The Ajalorun Odua:

The Oba of Ijebu Ife, **K a b i y e s i**

The Honourable Minister of Works, **Chief Cornelius O. Adebayo**

The Honourable Minister of Communications, **Dr. Tayo Anibaba**

The Executive Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Communications Commission, **Dr. Ernest Ndukwe O F - R.**

The Chairman of the Day, my own benefactor, Mr. Yaakov Chai, my Chairman/CEO here represented by my worthy senior and Deputy Managing Director, Azi Ronkin

Chief Executive Officers of Telecoms Companies here present

Chief Executive Officers of Telecom Equipment Manufacturers

Chief Executive Officers of Banks and Financial Institutions

Captains of Industries

My Lords Temporal and Spiritual

Colleagues

Members of the Press

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am most delighted and fulfilled today as history is being made as we celebrate one of the by-products of telecommunications network and infrastructure development in our Nation. I would not have had a basis to write a book on this subject if there is no remarkable improvement in telecommunications in our Country.

However, a lot more still has to be done as we progress rightly on the path of National development. As stake holders in the industry we must continue to provide enhanced and value added services that will make our daily living less strenuous, reduce the effect of National disasters and calamities on our economy.

Whilst one is aware about the effort being made by the regulatory authorities in harmonizing emergency service features across our networks: I am taking the opportunity of this event to call on both the Regulators and service providers to conclude as a matter of urgency, the harmonization of emergency service numbers across our national network. I.e the 197, 197, 199 and 111 toll free services.

The need for unified emergency numbering services can not be overemphasised. Every passing minute of our national life has an element of risk, and nobody knows who is next and what is coming next. Three weeks ago, we had a distress call from our remote exchange located in a high-rise building at the central business district of Marina Lagos that the ten storey high rise building was on fire.

We had six numbers of the Lagos State Fire services, but first number dialled says: the area you are calling does not exist: the second number says the subscriber you are calling is not available, and the third says this number can not be reached at this time, at which time the building was already on fire.

Ladies and Gentlemen, In order to reduce the attendant losses of such disasters, I am calling on all stake holders to ensure that we are able to harmonize the emergency numbering services without any further delays, and such numbers such be uniform, toll free and seamlessly accessible from and by all networks.

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My appreciation goes to all who have contributed to the success of this project.

Special acknowledgement to my Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Yaakov Chai, an entrepreneur extraordinaire, for the timely opportunity and for his unalloyed support towards the success of my enterprise.

I am grateful to Azi Ronkin, my worthy superior, for his support

I remain grateful to the Honourable Minister of Works, who is also the immediate past Minister of Communications, Chief Cornelius Adebayo for all of his support.

I owe, in no small respect, appreciation to the Executive Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria Communications Commission, Dr. Ernest Ndukwe an Officer of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, OFR for his encouragement and support at all times.

I thank Dr. Olu Odejimi, My Vicar and The principal anchor of today's event, for his entire Fatherly role.

My appreciation to my colleagues in the Management of VGC Communications and our entire staff for their support and loyalty.

I thank the Chief Executive Officers and Management of various Private Telephone Operating Companies for their support.

To officials of the various Government Agencies and Parastatals such as the Nigeria Communications Commission; I remain grateful for your unquantifiable support.

I am very grateful to Friends in the Press, Publishers, Editors, Assistant Editors and Reporters for all the good mention.

I painful but sweet memory, I thank My Late Father, Chief Moses Alabi Adebayo, for teaching me about the reward for honesty and hard work and to my Mum, Deborah Ajoke Adebayo for her love, to my Brothers and Sister for the togetherness.

I thank the organising committee of this event for their tireless effort to see to its success, above all to every one of you here today, you have offered the needful support which worked towards my Good.

To my Dear Wife Oluwabunmi: I can not thank you enough for your unparalleled love and unquantifiable support for my enterprise, particularly in those long days and nights when duty took me away from you, and I thank my two Children, Temilolu and Morenike for their understanding during the times of my long absence from home on account of work.

Above all, I thank the Lord Almighty for the way he is working out his purpose for me.

Thank you all and God Bless.