

*#TMTThursday*

# ENFORCEMENT OF CRITICAL NATIONAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTIONS



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The governance of digital infrastructure in Nigeria has evolved from a reactive security stance to a proactive legal protection model through the "Designation and Protection of Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII) Order."

This strategic shift has been pivotal in safeguarding critical digital assets. By 2026, the implementation of this framework, which classifies telecommunications towers, fiber-optic cables, and data centers as vital national assets, has profoundly influenced the risk landscape related to infrastructure vandalism. This comprehensive policy empowers the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) and the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) with expanded authority, enabling them to treat any interference with these systems as acts of economic sabotage.

For the technology, media, and telecommunications (TMT) industry, this designation fosters a more secure environment conducive to the expansion of Nigeria's 90,000 km fiber-optic backbone.

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This initiative sends a clear message to international investors that Nigeria's digital infrastructure is well-protected by extensive legal safeguards, thereby enhancing investor confidence and promoting further investment in the sector.

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