



SMART Katsina Broadband Masterplan

Develop by

The Policy and Legal Drafting Unit

**Katsina Directorate of Information and Communications Technology
(KATDICT)**

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GOVERNOR'S MANDATE

In today's rapidly advancing digital age, the Katsina Directorate of Information and Communication Technology (KATDICT) is a key driver of the vision of His Excellency, Dr Dikko Umaru Radda, as outlined in the "Building Your Future" strategic blueprint.

Our mandate is clear: beyond a mere technical upgrade, it represents a strategic investment in our future. The goal is to lay the foundation for better education, healthcare, governance, and entrepreneurship by delivering fast, reliable, and accessible internet across the state, ensuring that every citizen, business, and institution benefits from the power of connectivity. Our aim is to bridge the digital divide and position Katsina State as a leader in Nigeria's digital transformation journey.

The SMART Katsina Broadband Masterplan is a crucial step towards realising this vision. It seeks to expand digital infrastructure, enhance public services, and create a thriving environment for digital skills development, innovation, and economic growth, transforming Katsina State into a technology-driven society with broadband infrastructure at its core.

KATDICT's role in this plan is crucial. The Directorate is tasked with implementing the Katsina State ICT Policy among other policies, expanding fibre optic networks, increasing broadband penetration, encouraging private sector investment in digital infrastructure and economy, and collaborate with key stakeholders, including local tech hubs and international partners, to ensure that these efforts are inclusive, far-reaching, and sustainable.

The SMART Katsina Broadband Masterplan is a testament to our administration's commitment to modernising the state, promoting transparency, and delivering superior services through digital platforms. This masterplan stands as a clear reflection of our resolve to make Katsina State a digital leader in Nigeria, ensuring that every resident has the opportunity to thrive in a connected digital future while fostering long-term economic prosperity for all.

His Excellency,

Mallam Dikko Umaru Radda, PhD

Executive Governor of Katsina State.

REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, KATDICT.

Welcome to the SMART Katsina Broadband Masterplan—a pivotal initiative aimed at transforming our state's digital landscape and empowering our communities for the future. In an era where connectivity drives innovation, education, healthcare, and economic growth, this masterplan is more than just a blueprint; it is our commitment to bridging the digital divide and ensuring that no one in Katsina is left behind in the digital revolution.

Our vision is clear: to position Katsina as a leader in digital connectivity, leveraging broadband infrastructure to foster development, enhance public services, and create new opportunities for all. From urban centers to the most remote villages, we aim to deliver high-speed, affordable internet access that will fuel technological advancement and improve the quality of life for over 10 million residents.

Through collaboration with public and private partners, we are dedicated to building a future where Katsina is a digital powerhouse, unlocking new potentials for growth, innovation, and progress.

Thank you for being part of this transformative journey. Together, we will build a smarter, more connected Katsina.

Naufal Ahmad,

Director General,

Katsina Directorate of Information and Communication Technology (KATDICT).

ACRONYMS

Abbreviation	Full Term
AI	Artificial Intelligence
e-GSKs	Electronic Governance State Kiosk
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IDPs	Internally displaced persons
IoT	Internet of Things
ISPs	Internet Service Providers
Katdict	Katsina Directorate of ICT
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LGAs	Local Government Areas
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
NNBP	National Broadband Plan
NNBP	Nigeria National Broadband Plan
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PPPs	Public Private Partnerships
RoW	Right of Way
UNHCR	Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Katsina State, home to over 10 million people, is on the brink of a digital transformation. While internet users have risen from 4.6 million in 2020 to 6.5 million today, broadband access remains limited, with the state having only 1,405 km of fiber optic network. The current administration is actively addressing this significant gap in the state's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) development.

In August 2023, Governor Dikko Umaru Radda, Ph.D., established the Katsina Directorate of Information and Communication Technology (KATDICT) to manage and lead all ICT activities in the state. The Directorate is tasked with creating a policy framework to drive digital transformation and advance the broader "SMART KATSINA" vision. This vision aims to make Katsina a leading technology-driven business hub in Nigeria and improve public service delivery through digital platforms.

Katsina's broadband plan is aligned with Nigeria's National Broadband Plan (2020-2025), which targets 25 Mbps speeds in urban areas and 70% broadband penetration by 2025. KATDICT's plan addresses the state's immediate need for high-speed internet, with the aim of improving connectivity across key sectors like education, healthcare, and business. The expansion of broadband infrastructure is expected to boost economic growth, job creation, and overall quality of life for more than 10 million residents.

The goal of this initiative is to expand high-speed internet across the state, fostering economic growth, job creation, and improving education and healthcare for the 10.3 million residents. KATDICT is also prioritizing infrastructure development and collaboration with technology hubs to achieve these objectives.

2. VISION

To position Katsina as a digital powerhouse, where broadband fuels a technology-driven knowledge-based economy, drive economic growth, improve education and healthcare, and foster efficient public services and good governance for all.

3. MISSION

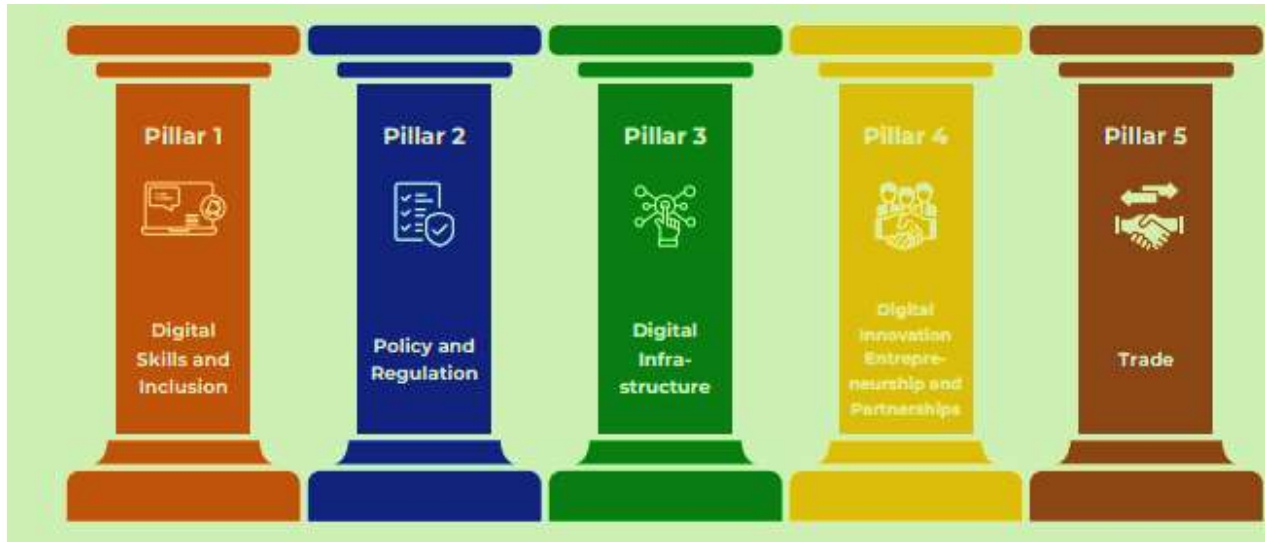
To bridge Katsina's digital gap with widespread and affordable broadband that will empower individuals, businesses, and communities to flourish in the digital era.

4. OBJECTIVES

- Ensure widespread broadband availability across all urban and rural areas of Katsina, guaranteeing uninterrupted access in all public spaces.
- Implement policies and programs to make broadband services affordable and accessible for all residents, regardless of income or location.
- Cultivate a thriving digital ecosystem that promotes innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation through the adoption of advanced digital technologies.
- Provide high-speed internet access and online resources to students and educators, improving learning outcomes and educational opportunities.
- Enhance government services with e-governance initiatives that leverage broadband connectivity to improve service delivery and citizen engagement.
- Utilize broadband infrastructure and telecommunication technologies to provide telemedicine and healthcare services in remote areas.
- Leverage broadband technologies to improve agricultural practices, increase productivity, and connect farmers to critical information and markets.

6. PILLARS

The SMART Katsina Broadband Masterplan is built on five core pillars: Infrastructure Development, Public-Private Partnerships, Digital Literacy, e-Governance, and Smart City Initiatives. Each pillar supports the state's mission to become a digital leader in Nigeria.



7. DEMAND DRIVERS

Katsina State has identified ten key demand drivers for broadband adoption, including e-governance, digital healthcare, e-learning, online business platforms, digital agriculture, and smart city initiatives. Each driver is backed by a strategic plan to foster growth, digital literacy, and socio-economic development.

8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Faster and more transparent access to government services.
- Equal access to the internet for both urban and rural communities.
- Schools and universities gain access to digital learning tools.
- Improved healthcare access through online consultations and services.
- Small businesses reach new markets and adopt online tools for growth.
- Real-time monitoring and faster emergency responses.
- Farmers benefit from real-time information, improving productivity.

- More people gain digital skills needed for jobs and daily life.
- Digital tools reduce waste and support better resource management.

9. MEASURABLE TARGETS

The masterplan is aligned with the Building Your Future Strategic Blueprint, which outlines carefully selected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure broadband progress and targets. These KPIs include broadband penetration, the number of connected public institutions, digital literacy rates, and job creation in the tech sector, among others. They will be used for periodic monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the following targets are met:

9.1 National Broadband Plan Implementation:

- ✓ Ensure the successful execution of the National Broadband Plan (NNBP) 2020-2025, aiming to reach 90% of currently underserved areas by 2025.

9.2 Broadband Penetration:

- ✓ Achieve 90% population coverage by 2025 with affordable data plans, ensuring that costs do not exceed N390 per 1GB.

9.3 Digital Technology Adoption:

Katsina state government is dedicated to providing equitable digital access to all citizens and aims to achieve the following short targets by 2027:

- ✓ Increase the digital technology adoption rate to 95% by 2027, empowering residents to actively participate in the digital economy.
- ✓ Launch of SMART KATSINA ONEGOV Platform with 50 percent functional E-services by January 2025. This will help to cut down duplication of government services and waste by 85 percent by 2025.
- ✓ Establish 34 SMART KATSINA Innovation Pods and Hubs, one each in 34 LGAs of the state by 2026.

- ✓ Approximately 3,500 schools, 2,200 healthcare facilities, 34 Local Government Secretariats, and 118 markets across the state are targeted for broadband connectivity.

10. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

10.1 Infrastructure Development

- Develop a comprehensive broadband infrastructure, focusing on deploying high-capacity fiber-optic cables, especially in urban areas. Where fibre-optic deployment is not feasible, Katsina will rely on NIGCOMSAT to provide satellite internet in hard-to-reach areas. Additionally, the state will collaborate with Galaxy Backbone for reliable internet connectivity and data services, utilizing its Tier-4 data center in Kano. The plan should ensure that the infrastructure is scalable to support future technologies like 5G, making it robust and future-proof.
- Strengthen partnerships with licensed telecom operators, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and infrastructure companies to tap into their expertise and existing network assets. Encourage co-location and sharing of existing infrastructure to minimize duplication and accelerate network deployment.
- Prioritise broadband expansion in underserved and unserved rural communities. This will involve targeting areas where market-driven investments are minimal due to low population density or geographic barriers, ensuring the entire state benefits from digital inclusion.
- Ensure the network is built with redundancy and fault tolerance in mind, making it resilient to environmental factors and potential service disruptions. Incorporate backup solutions such as satellite connectivity where fiber-optic deployment is not feasible.
- Encourage the deployment of energy-efficient, sustainable technologies such as solar-powered towers and environmentally friendly equipment to minimize the ecological footprint of broadband expansion projects.

10.2 Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

The Katsina State Government is committed to establishing a favourable environment for private-sector collaboration through strategic Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Our approach focuses on fostering investment in broadband infrastructure and digital services through innovative frameworks, incentives, and a streamlined regulatory environment.

- The Katsina State Government has forged, and remains fully open to, further strategic partnerships with both local and international private-sector entities, including telecom companies, Internet Service Providers (ISPs), and technology firms. These partnerships aim to bring essential technical expertise, financial resources, and operational support to ensure the successful deployment of broadband infrastructure across the state.
- Incentive Packages: Katsina State offers attractive incentives to reduce the cost of investment. These include tax holidays for up to certain years (as agreed upon by both the investor and the Katsina state government) for broadband infrastructure investments, particularly in underserved and rural areas.
- To safeguard telecom infrastructure, the state will designate all broadband and telecom networks as Critical Infrastructure. This ensures protection under national and state laws, with strict penalties for vandalism or damage.
- Simplified Regulatory Environment and the Dig Once Policy: The government has streamlined regulatory processes to ensure rapid deployment of broadband infrastructure. Central to this is the implementation of the Dig Once Policy, designed to minimise costs and infrastructure duplication:
 - ✓ One-Time Excavation: The Dig Once Policy mandates that roadworks and other civil engineering projects coordinate with broadband infrastructure deployment, allowing fibre-optic cables to be laid in a single excavation. This eliminates the need for repeated road digging, thereby reducing both the costs and time associated with broadband installation.

- ✓ Access to Duct Networks: In its commitments to making Katsina an attractive investment destination for telecom and infrastructure companies, the government will allow investors to have access to pre-installed ducts alongside government infrastructure such as roads and bridges, ensuring that fibre-optic cables can be easily installed without the need for new trenching. This will reduce costs for investors and accelerates project timelines.
- ✓ Infrastructure Protection: The policy ensures that any government construction projects will protect existing broadband infrastructure. In addition, the government will map out infrastructure routes and install visible signage to prevent accidental damage, offering further security to investors. In cases where damage is caused by any party or individual, penalties will be imposed.
- Subsidised Right of Way and Use of Government Assets: The Right of Way (RoW) costs for broadband infrastructure projects have been significantly reduced or eliminated, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Investors will also be granted access to government-owned assets such as roads, public buildings, and utility poles for fibre-optic installation and wireless equipment deployment. This will lower capital expenditure and expedite project completion.
- Flexible Public-Private Partnership Contracts: The state offers transparent and flexible PPP contracts with fair risk-sharing arrangements to attract investors. These contracts provide for revenue-sharing models, ensuring both short-term profitability and long-term investment returns for private partners. Investors can benefit from sustained revenue streams through the delivery of broadband services, with a guarantee of government support for continuous infrastructure maintenance and expansion.
- Revenue-Sharing Models: To make the investment more appealing, the government has introduced attractive revenue-sharing schemes, where private entities and the state both share in the long-term profits generated by broadband infrastructure.

- **Affordable Broadband Packages:** The state has collaborated with ISPs, and remains open to further collaborations, to develop affordable broadband service packages. These packages are designed to meet the needs of all socio-economic classes. Investors will benefit from a broad consumer base, as the state actively promotes digital adoption across all levels of society.
- **Innovation and Research Hubs:** The government is collaborating with private-sector partners to establish Innovation and Research Hubs within the state. These hubs will act as incubators for digital startups and small businesses, promoting a thriving local tech economy. The state will provide support for these hubs by offering grants, access to talent, and networking opportunities, making Katsina a hotspot for tech-driven innovation and investment.
- **Government Guarantees and Protections:** Katsina State is committed to ensuring that investments are protected from potential political or regulatory risks. A dedicated arbitration mechanism will be established to resolve any disputes quickly and impartially, ensuring a stable, secure, and friendly business environment.

Katsina State Government will continue to maintain a proactive stance on protecting and facilitating investments, pursuing a business-friendly approach through policies such as the Dig Once Policy, favourable tax incentives, flexible PPP frameworks, and revenue-sharing models, with aim of positioning the state as an ideal destination for broadband infrastructure investments.

11. IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

The SMART Katsina Broadband Master Plan will be rolled out in a phased approach, ensuring a systematic deployment of infrastructure, along with a gradual increase in access and digital literacy across the state.

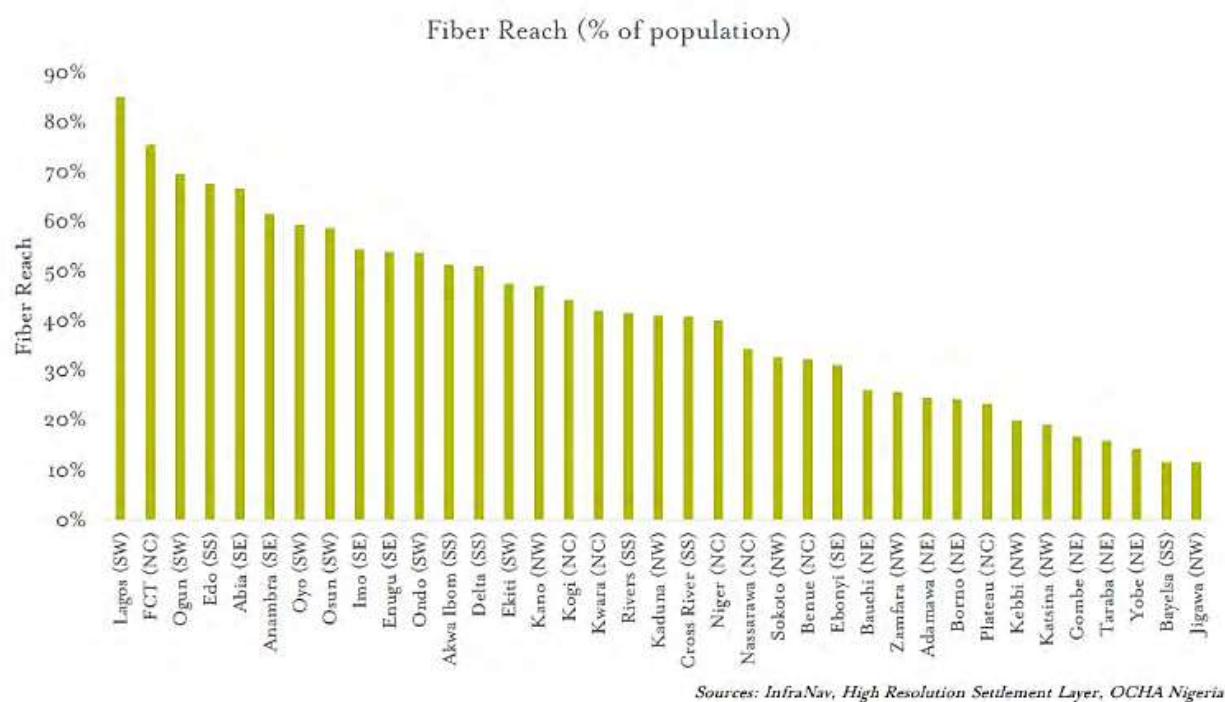
Phase I: Policy and Regulatory Framework

- Formulate clear regulations that guide broadband deployment and usage.
- Establish a multi-stakeholder Katsina State Broadband Coordination Unit under KATDICT with representatives from the Ministry of Land, Justice, Commerce, and other relevant MDAs, to serve as **One-Stop** Shop for investors to handle all regulatory, legal, and administrative matters. This body will coordinate with relevant state departments, making it easier for investors to start their projects without delays, ensure swift and transparent procedures for obtaining licenses and permits, and enforce the **Dig Once Policy**, which will:
 - ✓ Ensure non-duplication of fibre networks on the same routes by various operators.
 - ✓ Enforce the use of ducts to minimise disruption.
 - ✓ Ensure government construction projects do not damage existing infrastructure.
 - ✓ Map infrastructure and place signs to improve awareness and facilitate better planning.
 - ✓ Carry out frequent independent audits and reporting, with penalties for any damage caused by any party or individual.
- Ensure all government facilities or MDAs along fibre network routes are connected.

Timeline: Continuous (from Q1 2024).

Phase II: Fibre Reach

Katsina will benchmark its progress by referencing the Broadband Alliance's ranking system (fig 1 below), aiming to move up in Nigeria's internet penetration rankings. Currently, Katsina lags behind in the bottom ten, but the implementation of this masterplan is expected to close the gap.



% of Population within 5Km of Fibre Reach in each Nigerian State,

Source: Nigerian National Broadband Plan 2020 – 2025, p.21.

This goal will be realised through the following phases:

A. Government House and Core Government Agencies

- Ensure uninterrupted high-speed internet access for the Government House and core government offices.
- Deploy a reliable fibre-optic network connecting key government institutions, including the Secretariat, Judiciary, Assembly, and KATDICT headquarters.

Timeline: Q1 2024 – Q1 2025.

Infrastructure: Fibre-optic cables, secure network hardware.

Key Focus:

- Provide a robust and secure network infrastructure that supports high-speed, seamless internet connectivity for key decision-making centres in the state.

B. Extended Government Premises

- The government will connect all 34 Local Government Secretariats with fibre-optic cables, and provide solar-powered electric supply to ensure reliable connectivity for local governance and digital capacity building for local people.
- Expand the fibre-optic network to key government buildings, district offices, and administrative facilities in extended areas of the state.
- Promote broadband use for e-government services, increasing efficiency, reducing leakages, and promoting transparency.

Timeline: Q1 2025 – Q1 2026.

Infrastructure: Fibre-optic cables, routers, and network management systems.

Key Focus:

- Extend connectivity to all administrative centres, ensuring that all levels of government are digitally connected for improved efficiency and service delivery.

C. Public Access, Digital Literacy Campaign, and Capacity Building Programmes

- Provide free public Wi-Fi access at strategic public locations such as hospitals, religious centres, markets, schools, entertainment venues, motor parks, and restaurants.
- Install Wi-Fi beacons, masts, and wireless distributors on existing infrastructure such as electric poles and street lamps.
- Launch mass digital literacy programmes to educate residents on the practical applications of broadband in education, healthcare, and economic activities.
- Allow people to leverage the facility at the Local Government secretariat for practice, and further self-learning.
- Provide specialised capacity building programmes for youth, women, children, and civil servants.
- Introduce ICT postgraduate degree programmes at Umaru Musa Yaradua University (e.g., Data Science, AI, Programming, Blockchain, and Digital Currency), as well as digital

education in the basic education system, in line with Nigeria's 60% digital literacy target by 2025.

Timeline: Continuous (from Q3 2024)

Infrastructure: Beacons, masts, Wi-Fi access points, wireless distributors.

Key Focus:

- Promote universal internet access and bridge the digital literacy gap by educating the public on the benefits of broadband, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- Encourage digital adoption by raising awareness of how broadband can improve lives through services such as telemedicine, e-learning, and online business platforms.

Phase III: Rural and Remote Area Connectivity

- Deploy satellite broadband and wireless technologies to provide high-speed internet access in rural and hard-to-reach areas of Katsina. Where fibre-optic deployment is not feasible, Katsina will rely on NIGCOMSAT to provide satellite internet in hard-to-reach areas. Additionally, the state will collaborate with Galaxy Backbone for reliable internet connectivity and data services, utilizing its Tier-4 data center in Kano.
- Partner with telecom operators to ensure coverage in sparsely populated and geographically challenging regions, focusing on areas where fibre-optic deployment is not feasible.

Timeline: Q2 2026 – Q1 2027.

Infrastructure: Satellite broadband systems, wireless towers, solar-powered stations.

Key Focus:

- Ensure equitable access to high-speed broadband for all citizens, regardless of their location, by targeting areas that typically lack economic feasibility for private sector investment in broadband infrastructure.

Phase IV: Local Government–State Government Projects

A. Digital Empowerment

- **Katsina e-Government Service Kiosk (e-GSK) Initiative:** In collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Katsina state government through KATDICT and KTDMB will provide mobile access to essential government services across all 34 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Katsina State. This initiative primarily focuses on serving internally displaced persons (IDPs), ensuring that the most vulnerable populations are not left behind in government planning and development efforts. The state will establish e-Government Service Kiosks across rural and urban areas. These kiosks will offer essential government services such as tax payments, voter registration, healthcare information, and job applications, bridging the digital divide and improving access to government services.

The e-GSKs will enable accurate tracking of population demographics, providing critical data for resource allocation and development planning. In addition to supporting IDPs, the e-GSK initiative will help bridge the service gap in rural and hard-to-reach areas, promoting inclusivity and social equity across Katsina State.

Key Features and Benefits of e-GSKs:

- ✓ **Mobile Access to Essential Services:** Each kiosk will serve as a vital touchpoint for IDPs and rural populations, providing access to crucial government services such as identity registration, healthcare, education, and social welfare programs.
- ✓ **Supporting Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs):** The kiosks will ensure that vulnerable communities have access to the support they need, enabling the state to track population movements and demographics more accurately for effective resource planning.

- ✓ Promoting Inclusivity: The e-GSKs will reduce barriers to government services for underserved populations, promoting social inclusion and ensuring that no one is left behind in the state's development agenda.
 - ✓ Economic Growth and Employment: The deployment of e-GSKs will create both direct and indirect employment opportunities, including kiosk operators, maintenance personnel, and digital service providers. This will contribute to local economic growth while simultaneously building capacity in digital services.
 - ✓ Digital Integration for Long-term Sustainability: The e-GSK initiative will contribute to strengthening the state's digital infrastructure, setting the foundation for long-term sustainability and improved governance. This will help expand digital access, promote transparency and efficiency in government operations.
 - ✓ Empowering Communities: The e-GSKs will act as a catalyst for empowering communities by providing access to critical services and information, enhancing livelihoods, and fostering resilience among vulnerable populations.
- A Launch of KATSINA 1 million Device ownership scheme financing will be launched to provide Katsina citizens access to E-government services by 2025.

B. JAMB Training and Examination Centres

- Establish standard JAMB centres across all LGAs.
- The government will partner with all relevant stakeholders and provide incentives for young professionals to leverage pre-existing JAMB CBT Centers and Pre-existing Innovation Hubs in providing adequate access to computer devices.

Timeline: Q1 2025 – Q4 2025.

Phase V: Smart City Initiatives and Internet of Things (IoT) Integration

- Begin the integration of smart city solutions, including IoT-based systems for traffic management, public safety (e.g., surveillance cameras), and smart utilities such as energy and water management.
- Leverage broadband infrastructure to support real-time monitoring, data-driven decision-making, and efficient management of public resources.

Timeline: Q1 2027.

Infrastructure: IoT devices, sensors, smart grids, control centres.

Key Focus:

- Transform Katsina into a digitally enabled state by incorporating smart city technologies to improve the quality of life, enhance public services, and support economic development.

12. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

The Katsina Broadband Masterplan is making significant headway in its execution, moving closer to realising its objectives. Below is a summary of the most recent developments:

12.1 Government Connectivity:

- Efforts to provide uninterrupted high-speed internet access for the Government House and core government agencies are progressing well, with 50% of the infrastructure now completed.
- The installation of reliable, high-speed broadband for critical decision-making centers is on track to be completed by the scheduled deadline.

12.2 Fiber Optic Expansion

- The key phase of connecting vital government buildings—including the Secretariat, Judiciary, and Assembly—with fiber optic cables is underway.
- To date, 24 kilometers of fiber have been laid across the state, significantly enhancing the communication infrastructure within the government sector. This expansion will improve the efficiency and responsiveness of government operations.

12.3 Next Steps

- Complete the remaining phases of fiber optic deployment to ensure all targeted government institutions are fully connected.
- Continue to expand fiber optic coverage to local government secretariats as part of the extended government premises plan.
- These early successes reflect the strong momentum of the masterplan, and we remain on course to meet our broader objectives of statewide broadband connectivity.

13. CALL TO ACTION

The Katsina Broadband Masterplan is set to transform Katsina into a digital leader, but we cannot achieve this vision alone. Your support is crucial to making this initiative a success. Whether you are an individual, a business, or an organisation, there are numerous opportunities for you to contribute to this groundbreaking transformation. Together, we can build a connected, prosperous future for Katsina.

14. CONCLUSION

The Katsina Broadband Masterplan is designed to revolutionise the state, positioning it as a frontrunner in digital connectivity and innovation. By prioritising infrastructure development, fostering public-private partnerships, and engaging with the community, this plan aims to bridge the digital divide and create a more inclusive, connected society.

Key objectives include stimulating economic growth through job creation and increased business productivity, improving access to essential services such as education and healthcare through advanced digital technologies, and ensuring that no community is left behind in this digital transformation.

The implementation roadmap, supported by measurable targets and a comprehensive approach, provides a clear and achievable path towards these goals. This ambitious vision requires collective action. Every individual, business, and organisation have a vital role to play in making Katsina a digitally connected state. Let's work together to bring this vision to life.