

The Future of Addressing in Nigeria: Building a Standardized, Geocoded, and Institutionally Coordinated Digital System

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Key words: Digital cadastre; Geoinformation/GI; Legislation; Spatial planning; Standards; Geocoding; Institutional Pathways; Digital Addressing Infrastructure

SUMMARY

Nigeria's urban and economic development is increasingly constrained by the absence of a coherent, standardized, and geocoded address system. This study examines the institutional, technical, and spatial dimensions of building a national digital address infrastructure, with a focus on Lagos and Kano. Drawing on documentary analysis, expert interviews, and comparative case studies, the research explores the adoption of international addressing standards, the implementation of geocoding technologies, and the governance frameworks needed for sustainable address database development. Findings reveal fragmented institutional mandates, inconsistent data standards, and limited geospatial integration, which undermine national interoperability and service delivery. The paper proposes strategic reforms to align technical innovations with legal, administrative, and spatial planning systems to build a resilient and inclusive addressing framework for Nigeria.

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