



# Nigeria's Playbook on Digital Identity

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# 1.0 Introduction

## NIGERIA'S NATIONAL IDENTITY JOURNEY (1977-2007)



CONCEPTION UNDER MILITARY GOVT



1979: DNCR ESTABLISHED



CARD PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION



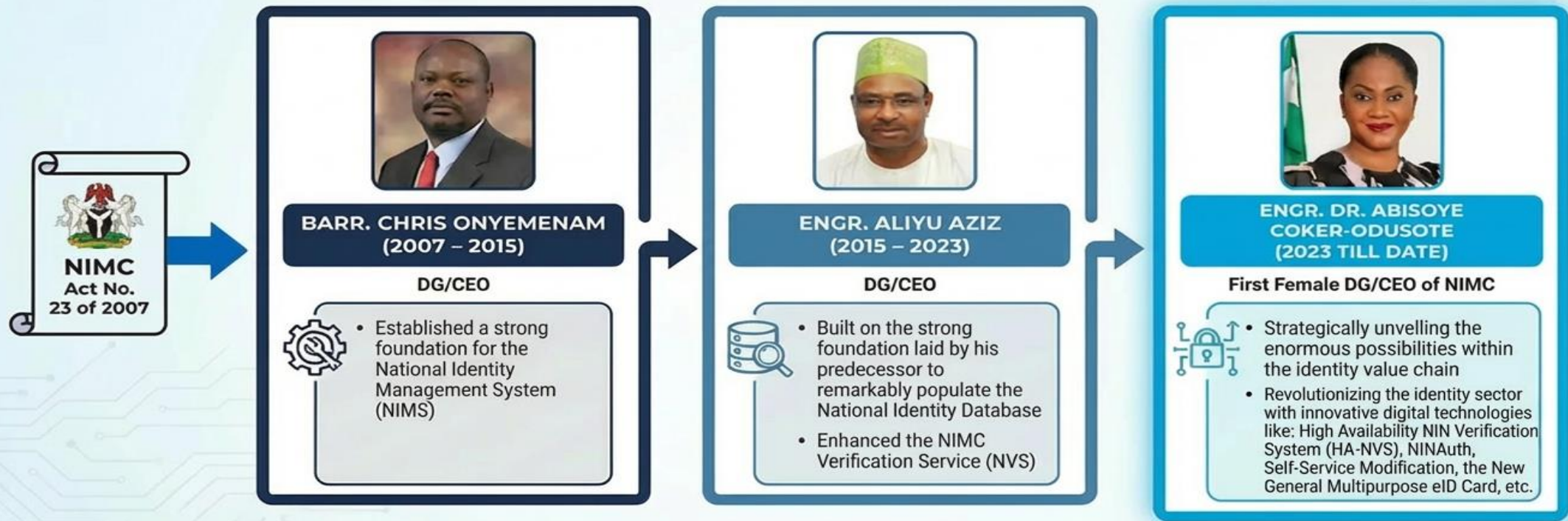
2007: NIMC ESTABLISHED (NIMC ACT NO. 23)



TRANSITION TO MODERN, BIOMETRIC NIMS  
REPLACED DNCR

# 1.1 Introduction...Contd.

## NIMC: A Journey of Identity Management (Act No. 23 of 2007)



**NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION:  
EVOLVING LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION**

# 1.2 Introduction...Contd.



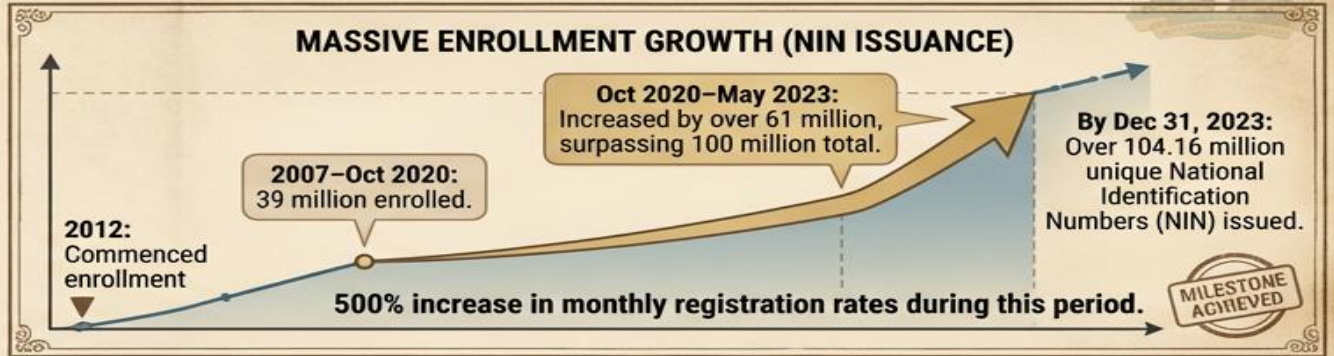
## FOUNDATIONAL BUILDING BLOCKS AND PROGRESSIVE DEVELOPMENT (2007–2023)

### Nigeria's Journey to Digital Identity



#### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL IDENTITY DATABASE (NIDB)

Following NIMC Act No. 23 of 2007: Commission created a central, secure database, moving away from old, disjointed systems.



#### CREATION OF THE DIGITAL IDENTITY ECOSYSTEM

NIMC developed collaborative framework allowing public and private partners (banks, telecom, gov agencies) to participate in enrollment and verification, accelerating coverage.



#### NIN-SIM LINKAGE POLICY

Successfully enforced linkage of NIN to SIM cards, acting as a massive driver for digital identification in telecommunications.



#### INTRODUCTION OF DIGITAL IDENTITY TOOLS

Launched NIN Mobile App: allows citizens to use digital ID, generate virtual NINs, and verify identities without physical documents.



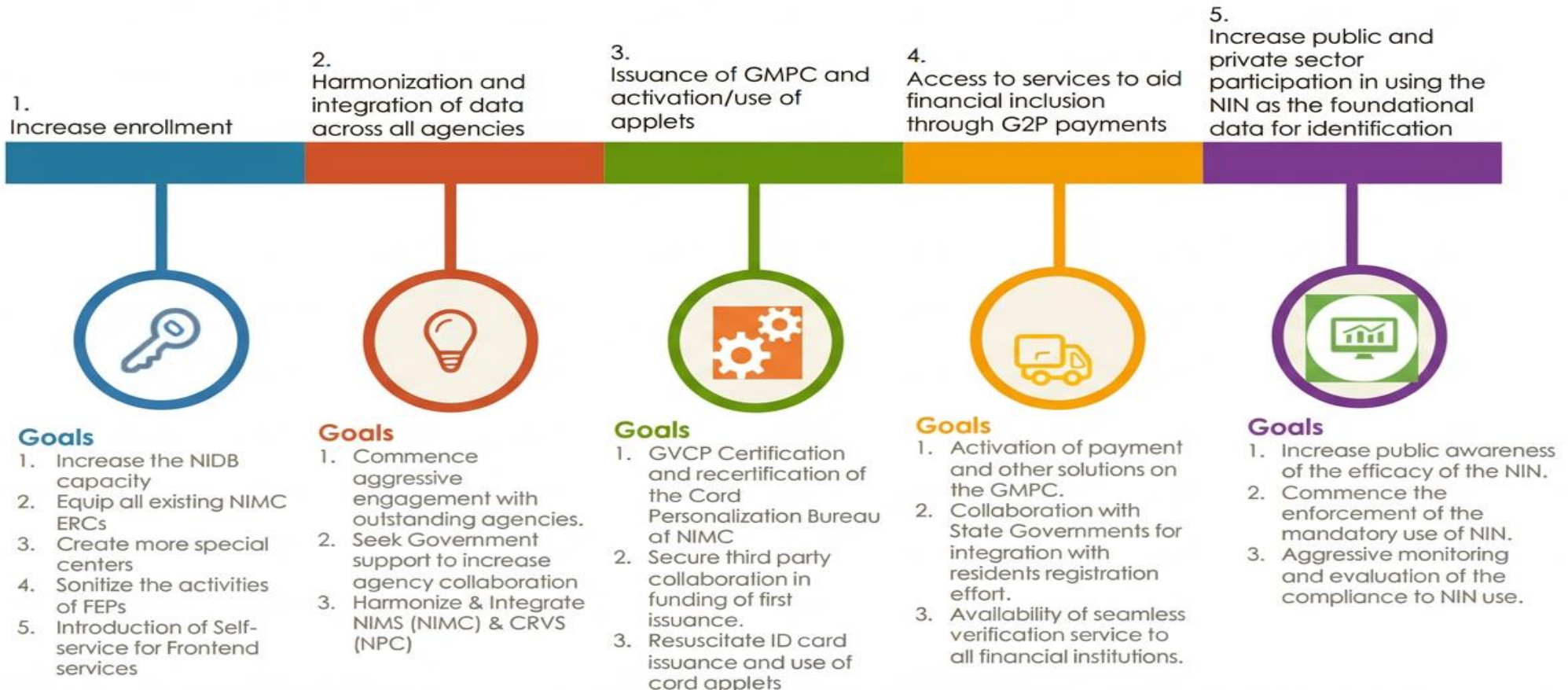
#### IMPROVEMENT IN VERIFICATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Developed Person Identification Verification Services (PIVS), allowing authorized agencies to instantly authenticate identities.



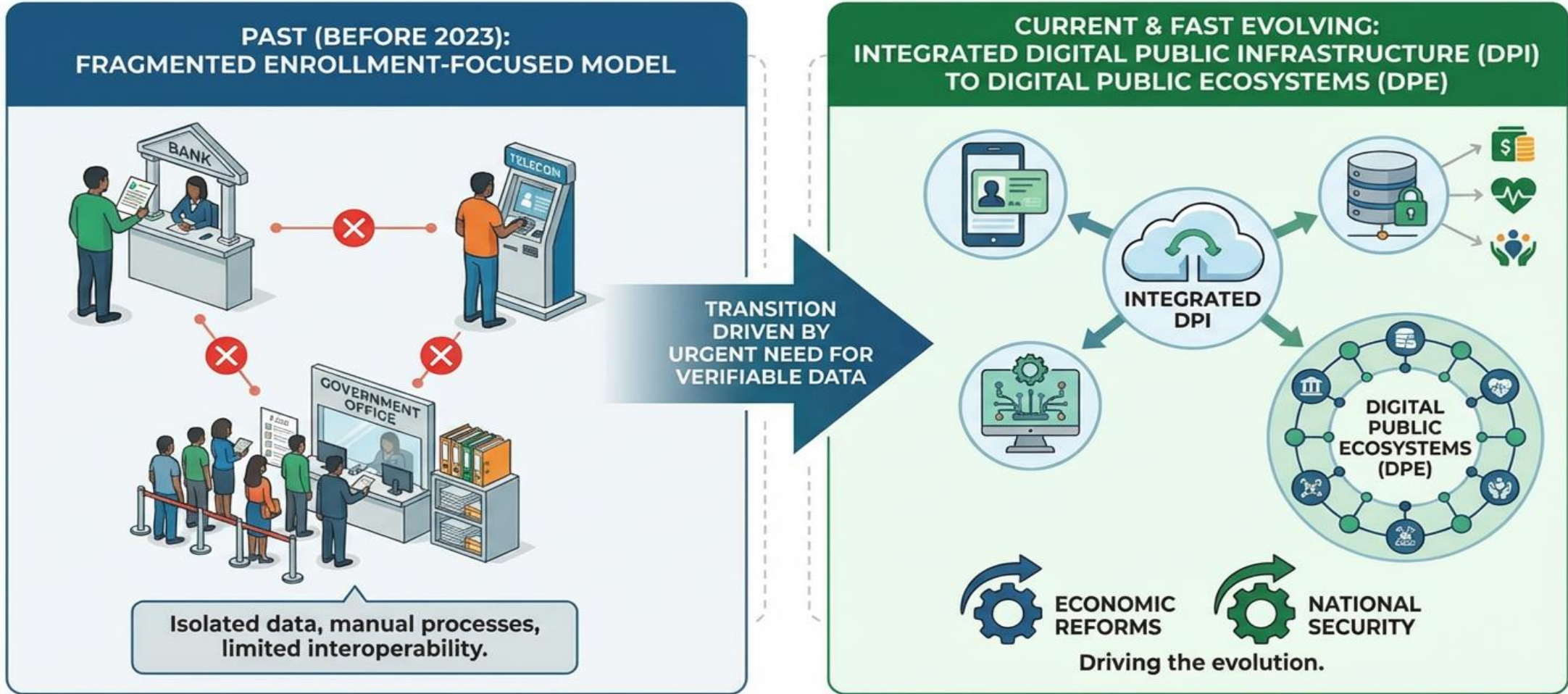
# 1.3 Introduction...Contd.: Key Pillars of Nigeria's Digital Shift

## NIMC's 5 Point Agenda (2023-2027)



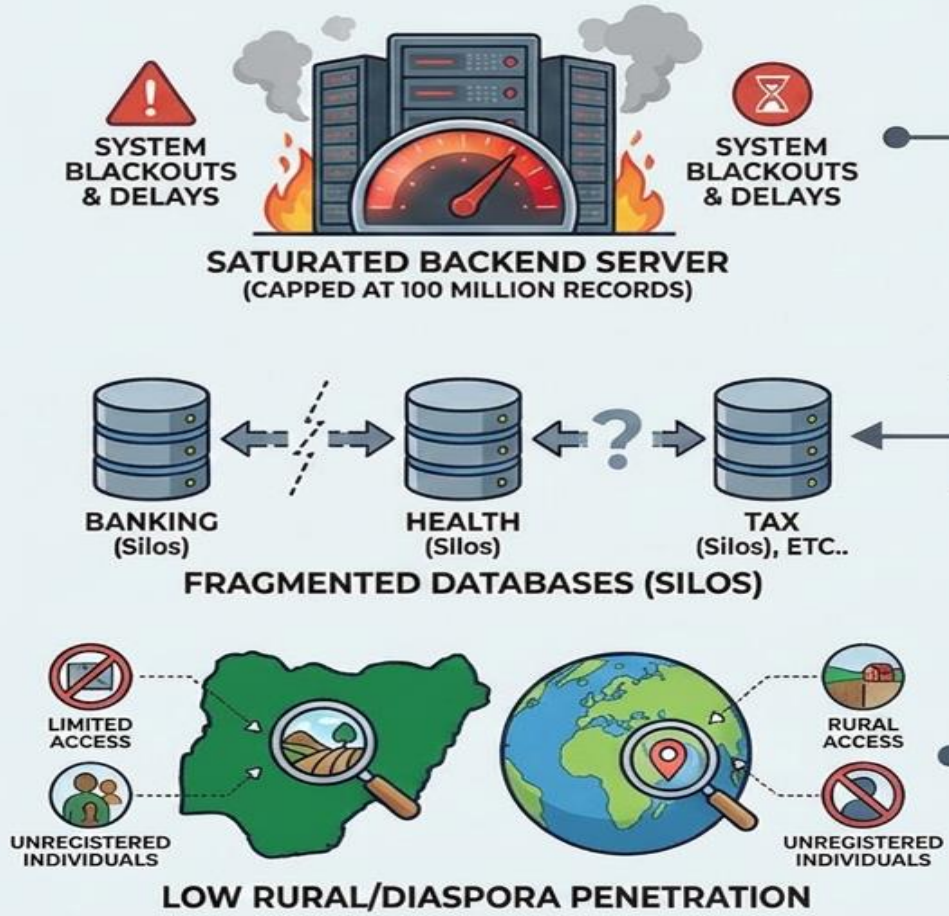
# 1.4 Introduction...Contd. The Strategic Shift (2023)

## NIGERIA'S IDENTITY SECTOR EVOLUTION



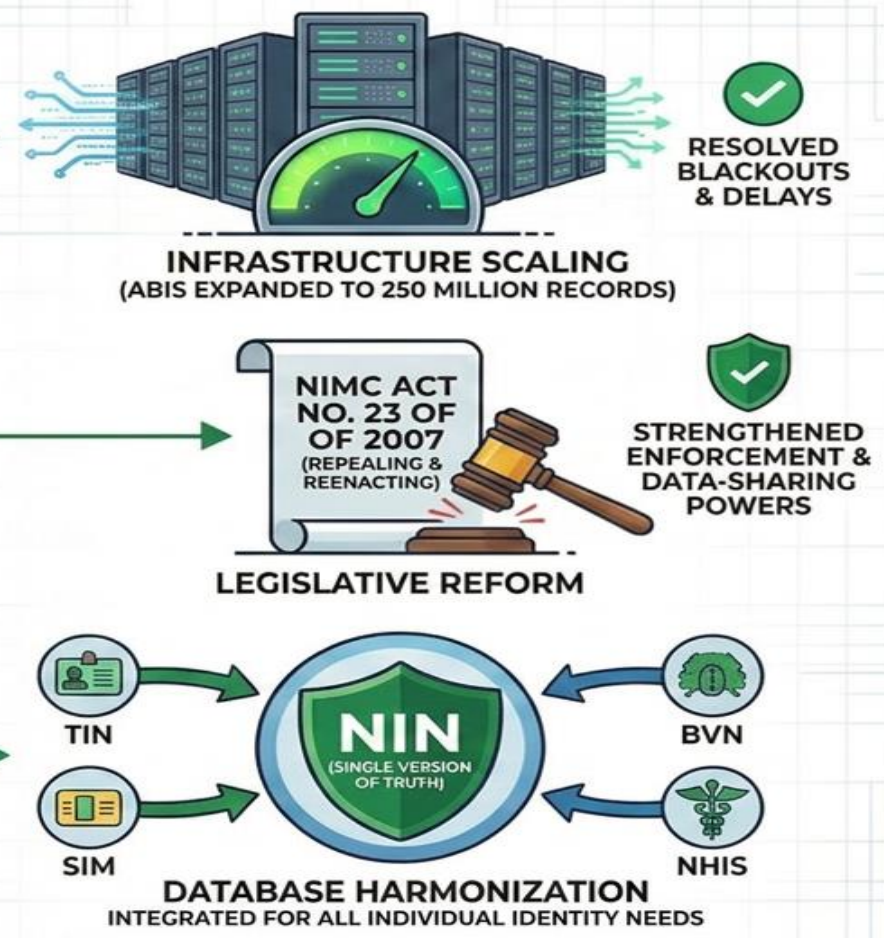
# 1.5 Context and Problems Solved

## BEFORE 2025: SYSTEMIC BOTTLENECKS & CHALLENGES



**2025**  
TRANSITION & REFORM

## IN 2025: INFRASTRUCTURE, LEGISLATIVE & DATABASE REFORM



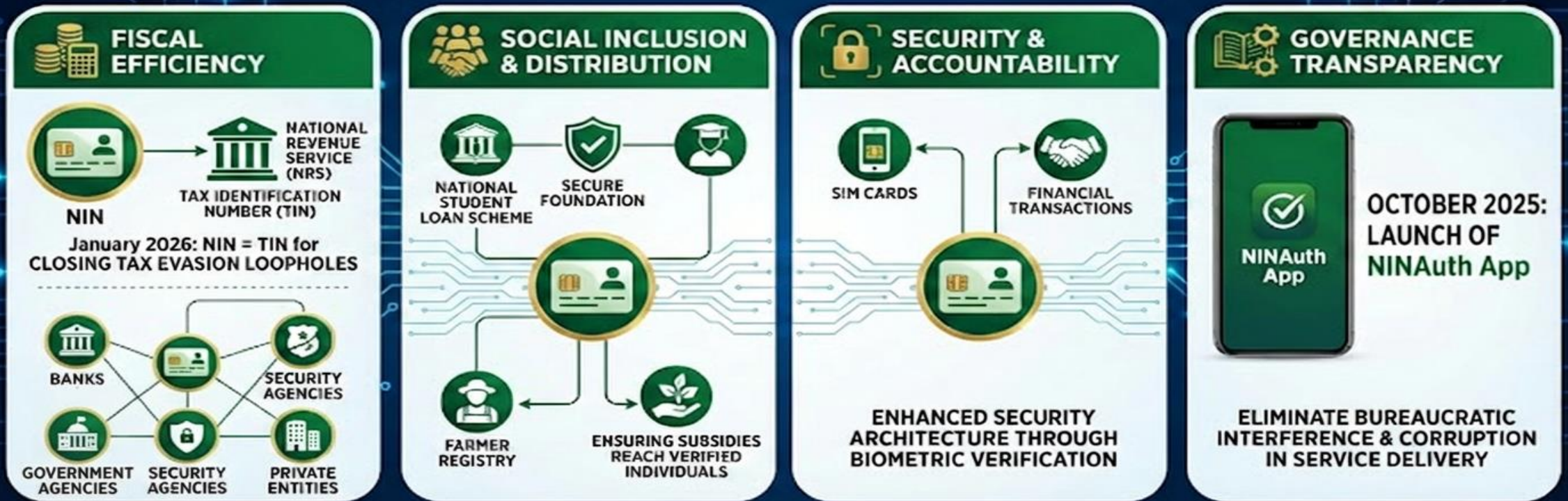
# 1.6 Objectives and Strategic Motivations

## NIN: ENABLING THE RENEWED HOPE AGENDA



**PRESIDENT BOLA AHMED TINUBU** GCFR

DRIVEN BY THE URGENT NEED FOR VERIFIABLE DATA



# 1.7 Timing and Some Key Milestones (2025-2026)

## NIGERIA'S NATIONAL IDENTITY PROGRAM: MEETING WORLD BANK ID4D & SDG TARGETS (2025-2026 TIMELINE)

**JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025: RAPID ENROLLMENT PUSH**



Supported by over 800 new mobile enrollment devices.

**JULY 2025: SUCCESSFUL MIGRATION TO NINAUTH**



✓ REAL-TIME IDENTITY VERIFICATION ✓

**SEPTEMBER 2025: WARD ENROLLMENT INITIATIVE**

REACHING MARGINALIZED RURAL AREAS



**OCTOBER 2025: PRESIDENTIAL LAUNCH OF NINAUTH APP**



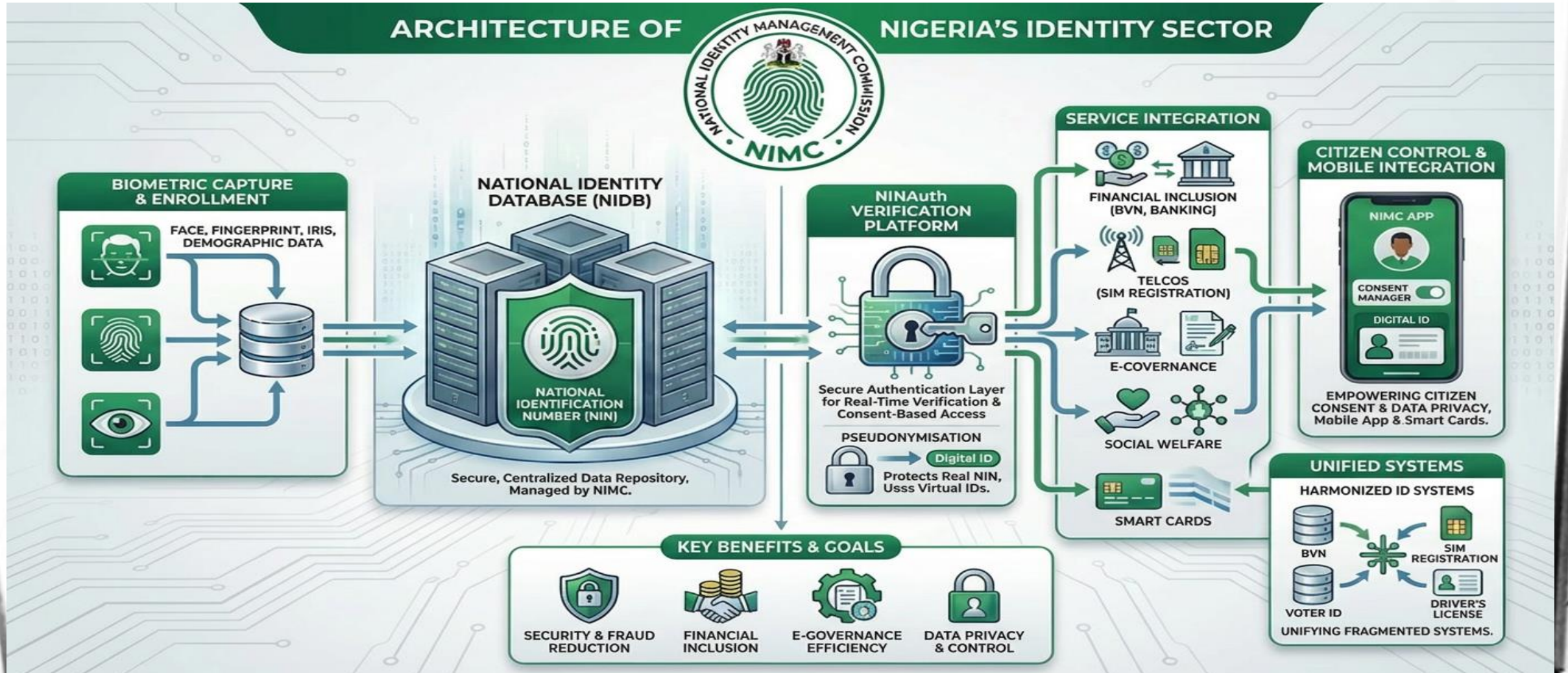
PROCESSING **3.3 MILLION VERIFICATION REQUESTS DAILY** (AS AT JANUARY 2026).

**CURRENT TARGET (2026): SCALING TO 180 MILLION ENROLLMENTS**



Maintaining rate of approx. **5 MILLION** new enrollments per month.

# 2.0 Architecture of the Identity Sector



# 2.1 Scope of Operations

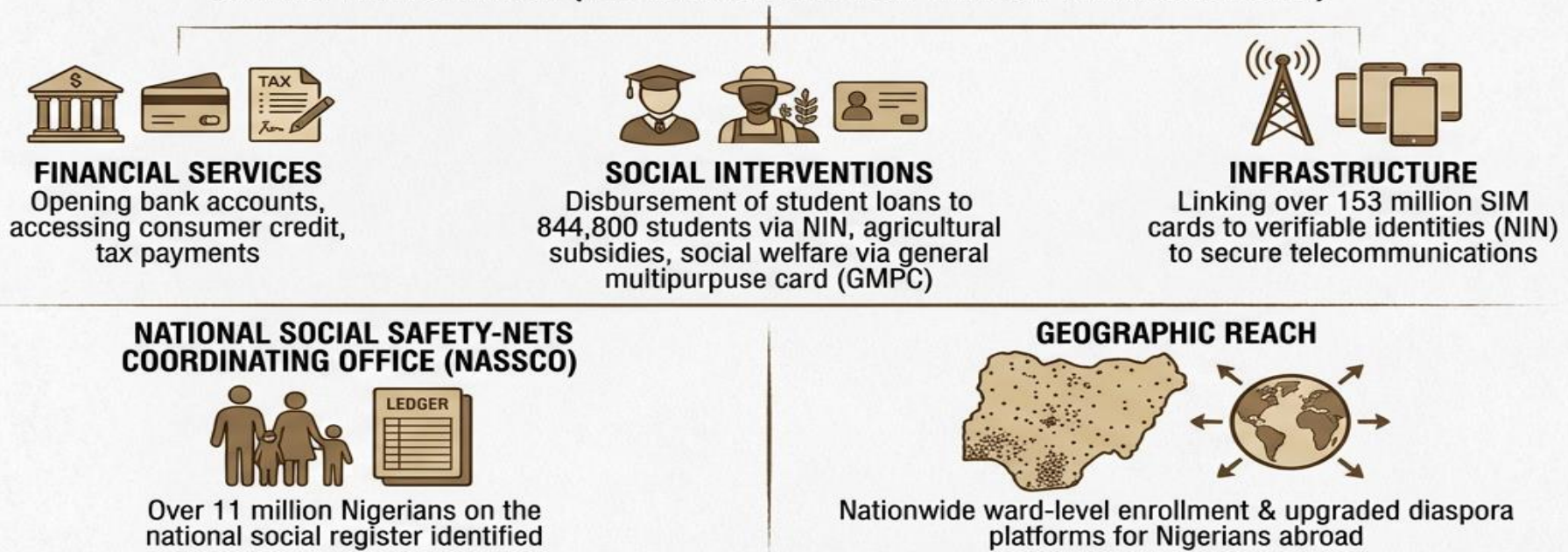
## EXPANDED SCOPE: DIGITAL IDENTITY AS A GOVERNANCE ENABLER

SCOPE HAS EXPANDED FROM CARD ISSUANCE TO COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT

### POPULATION COVERAGE TARGET

**TARGET: REACHING 180 MILLION ENROLLMENTS BY DECEMBER 2026**

### SERVICE INTEGRATION (NIN MANDATORY FOR CRITICAL TRANSACTIONS)



# 3.0 Achievements



In the last year (January 2025 – January 2026), the National Identity Management Commission transformed Nigeria’s identity sector from a static enrollment system into a dynamic **Digital Public Ecosystem (DPE)**.

## NIGERIA DIGITAL IDENTITY ACHIEVEMENTS

### ENROLMENT EXPANSION & MODERNISATION



- **Deployment of New Enrolment Devices:** 800+ mobile devices deployed, bringing services to citizens.



- **Enrollment Milestone:** Reached 127 million NIN records by Dec 2025 (from 110M in late 2024).

### ADJUDICATION & DEBT CLEARANCE



- **Clearance of 2.5M manual adjudication records**, unlocking delayed identities.
- **Operational Debt Clearance:** Cleared legacy debts, making the commission debt-free.

### NINAuth ECOSYSTEM LAUNCH



- Officially launched **NINAuth App** (Oct 2025), a consent-based platform.
- Processes over **3.3 million daily requests** for banking, SIM, & government services.

### FULL MIGRATION TO NINAuth



- Completed migration of all major **Telcos, Banks, Security Agencies & Private Entities** (July 2025).
- Ensuring **uninterrupted, real-time verification** for SIM swaps & registrations.

### FEP SUPPORT & SERVICE DELIVERY



- **NIMC secured increase in minimum payment** to local FEPs.
- **Mitigated extortion** and enhanced service delivery.

## NIGERIA DIGITAL IDENTITY ACHIEVEMENTS

### HARMONISATION & INTEGRATION

“Built a unified ecosystem where identity drives national services.”



- Achieved full integration with Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) for seamless passport issuance and passport renewals.



- Connected NIN to major national systems—NRS, NPC, UBEC, NASSCO, NHIA, NELFUND, and others.



- Upgraded the NIMS Middleware, automating workflows across government platforms.

### STRATEGIC GOVERNMENT COLLABORATIONS

“Extended digital identity to every ward, every sector, and the most vulnerable.”



- Launched ward-level enrolment using FEP's as NIN ambassadors.



- Powered the Presidential Metering Initiative with identity enabled transparency.



- Enrolled 206,000 refugees/IDPs and 32,000 inmates, ensuring no population is left behind.



- Agency Collaboration: Integrated NIN with over 125 government agencies & Institutions (NIS, NRS, etc.).



- Social Benefit Delivery: Linked NIN to Ministry of Agriculture, NELFUND, and other social welfare programs.

## NIGERIA DIGITAL IDENTITY ACHIEVEMENTS

### DIGITAL ID SYSTEM & GMPC REFORMS

**"Revitalised digital ID credentials with next-generation technology."**



Relaunched GMPC with financial applets for payments & services.



Rolled out NIMC Mobile Wallet ID, expanding secure credentials.



Introduced contactless biometric enrolment for speed & convenience.

### FINANCIAL INCLUSION & G2P ECOSYSTEM

**"Enabled equitable access to national benefits and financial systems."**



Activated NIN for National Palliative Distribution.



Verification backbone for Nigerian Student Loan Scheme (NELFUND).



Introduced High Availability NVS, boosting verification for banks & fintechs.

### SECURITY, DATA PROTECTION & ANTI-CORRUPTION

**"Strengthened trust through uncompromising security and accountability."**



Shut down fraudulent platforms, aided arrest of 30+ cyber-fraud actors.

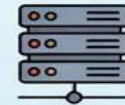


Reinforced data protection, maintained ISO 27001 certification.



Cleared two-year backlog of payments to Front-End Partners, restoring confidence.

### DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE MODERNISATION



**"Upgraded national identity infrastructure to world-class capacity."**

- System Capacity Upgrade: Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) expanded from 100M to 250M records, ending outages.
- 49% Reduction in Enrollment Time: Process & technology upgrades speed up enrollment.
- Self-Service Modification: Online platform allows citizens to update data remotely.
- Improved Security & Authentication: NIMC Middleware upgraded, database secured, caro data breaches.
- Deployed IBM Power 10 servers & upgraded Oracle Database.
- Expanded ABIS storage & performance, improving matching efficiency.
- Launched Pre-Enrolment Portal, Metadata System, & CSMS v2.4.

# 3.3 Achievements...Contd.



## NIMC & DG/CEO: A Journey of Excellence & Recognition (Dec 2024 - Dec 2025)



**SERVICOM Recognition**  
NIMC awarded "Most Innovative Award" and recognized for excellent customer service by SERVICOM Office in the Presidency.



# 3.4 Strategies and Drivers



## How it was Achieved

Through structural reforms, strategic partnerships, and enabling policies



# 3.5 Strategies and Drivers...Contd.



NIMC moved from a centralized, bureaucratic model to a decentralized, partner-led ecosystem

## NIMC: Strategic & Operational Roadmap (2025-2026)

### A. STRATEGIC DECISIONS & SEQUENCING



**Infrastructure-First Approach:** ABIS Upgrade prioritized (Mid-2025) for SIM-NIN influx.



**The 'Consent' Pivot:** NINAuth App – Citizen control over biometric access, boosting trust.

### B. OPERATIONAL METHODS



**Ward-Level Enrollment:** Mobile units targeting rural areas (May 2025).

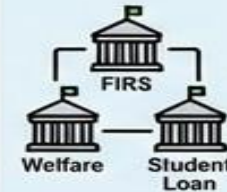


**FEP Revalidation:** Rigorous process to ensure standards & eliminate extortion.



**Self-Service Platforms:** Online portals for data modification & registration.

### C. OPERATIONAL APPROACHES



**Inter-Agency Harmonization:** Integrated with 120+ government agencies.



**Diaspora Integration:** Upgraded platform for Nigerians abroad (Aug 2025).



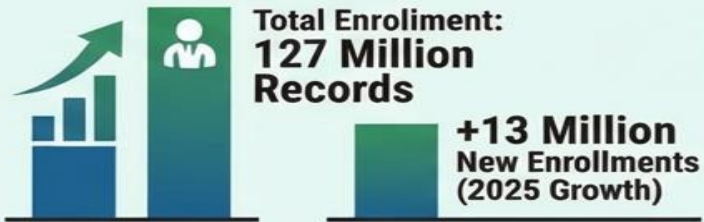
**Institutional Reform:** Trained 2,300+ staff for an agile, digital-first mindset.

# 4.0 Results and Evidence: Data, Impact and Achievements

In 2025, the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) achieved record-breaking expansion and system stabilization.

## NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION - 2025 PERFORMANCE & IMPACT REPORT

### 1. Core Data and Enrollment Growth (As of Dec 2025)



### 2. Infrastructure and Operational Achievements



### 3. Socio-Economic Impact and Evidence



# 5.0 Challenges and Lessons Learned

## Why the Change was Needed (Key Challenges & Drivers)

### Physical Cards are Unsustainable



The original plan to issue physical cards to all citizens was too expensive and logistically unsustainable, leading to backlogs.



### Centralized Digital Database is Paramount



The old 2-D barcode technology could not maintain a functional, queryable database.



The new system required a centralized Automated Biometric Information System (ABIS).

### Grassroot Penetration



Lack of rural coverage and trust.

### Mandatory Linkage Drives Adoption

Voluntary registration failed to gain momentum.

Linking NIN to essential services (SIMs, bank accounts, passports) accelerated enrollment.



### Local Trust is Crucial

Required bringing enrollment closer to citizens.



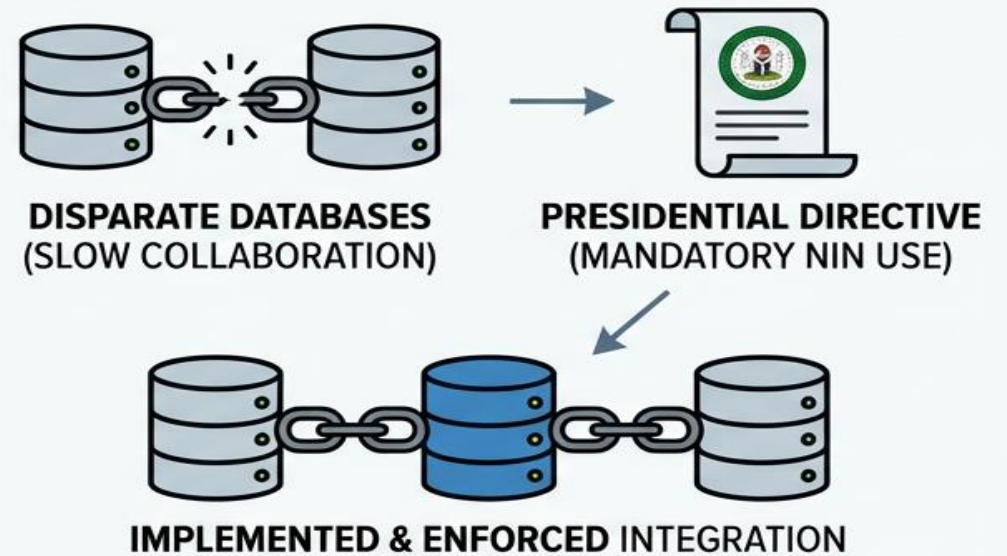
# 5.1 Challenges and Lessons Learned...Contd.

## PUBLIC TRUST & SECURITY CONCERNS



**LESSON:** Technical security is insufficient without aggressive, transparent public awareness and enforcement against third-party “data harvesters”.

## DATA HARMONIZATION HURDLES

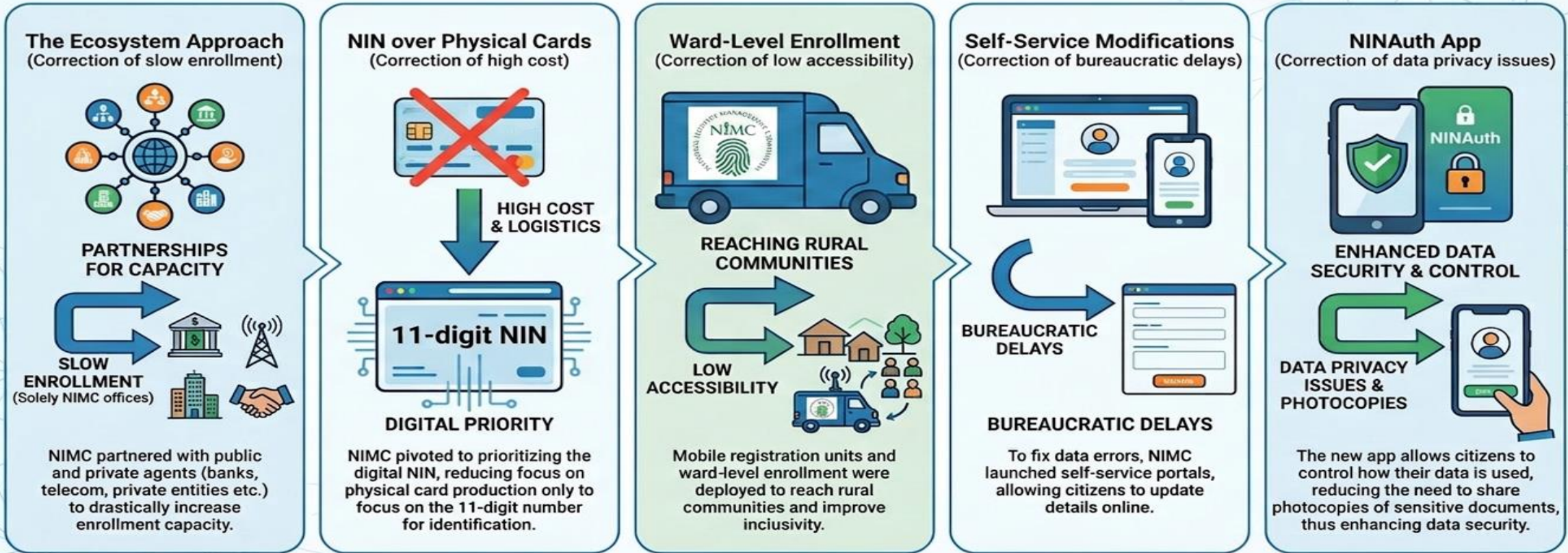


**LESSON:** Legal mandates are more effective than voluntary cooperation.

# 5.2 Corrections and Solutions.



## Corrections and Solutions Implemented



## 5.3 Challenges and Lessons Learned...Contd.



### What NIMC Would Do Differently (Future Outlook)



**Shifting from Enrollment to Usage:** Having secured 127 million records, the focus is moving from ‘getting people on the list’ to ‘making the list useful’ for daily economic transactions.



**Strengthening Regulatory Teeth:** Prioritizing the repeal and reenactment of the NIMC Act to give the commission greater administrative enforcement power against extortion and data breaches.



**Advanced Technology Adoption:** Future strategies include exploring AI and blockchain to automate verification and enhance the security of the National Identity Database.



**Proactive Public Relations:** Moving from reactive troubleshooting to proactive communication regarding system downtimes and security protocols to maintain citizen trust.

# 6.0 Key Actors



In 2025, the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) leveraged a multi-sectoral coalition of institutional actors to transition the National Identification Number (NIN) into a foundational element of Nigeria’s Digital Public Ecosystem (DPE).

## NIGERIA’S DIGITAL IDENTITY ECOSYSTEM: GOVERNANCE, PARTNERSHIPS & ENABLERS

### 1. Core Governance & Steering Actors



- **Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF):** Chairman, ID4D Project Steering Committee; High-level oversight & inter-ministerial coordination.



- **Ministry of Interior:** Primary supervisory ministry for NIMC; 2026 Performance Contract signed Sept 2025 for national security & civil registration goals.

### 2. Strategic Implementation Partners



- **Nigeria ID4D Steering Committee:** Ministers of Finance, Budget, Health, Education, Justice, Identity integration for NELFUND & social safety nets.



- **National Population Commission (NPC):** Collaborates on Digital Birth Registration for foundational identity, aiming for 95% enrollment by late 2025.



- **Nigeria Police Force (NPF) & Cybercrime Center:** Partners to secure PKI and protect national database from ‘data harvesting’ & cyber threats (2025).

### 3. Private Sector & Technical Enablers



- **Telecommunications Operators (Telcos):** Migrated to NINAAuth platform July 2025; Real-time verification for mobile users & telecom sector security.



- **Licensed Private Vendors:** Front-end partners (FEPs) for decentralized, accessible enrollment options beyond fixed NIMC centers.

### 4. International Funding & Advisory Partners



- **World Bank, European Investment Bank (EIB), and AFD:** Financial backing & international best-practice standards for IDAD Ecosystem Project.



- **ID4Africa:** Platform for knowledge-sharing, peer learning, & showcasing Nigeria’s progress in digital identity sector on a continental stage.

## ACTIONABLE GUIDANCE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES

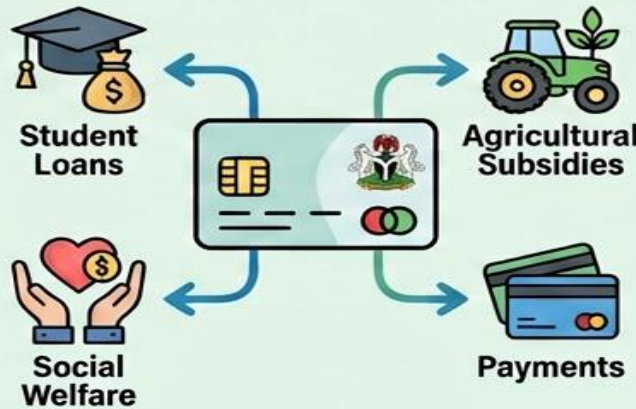
### 1. Prioritize a "Privacy-by-Design" Architecture



- **Consent-Based Verification:** Implement a mobile authentication layer (similar to the NINAuth App) requiring explicit user approval for every verification request.
- Provides citizens with a transparent audit trail of who accessed their data and why.



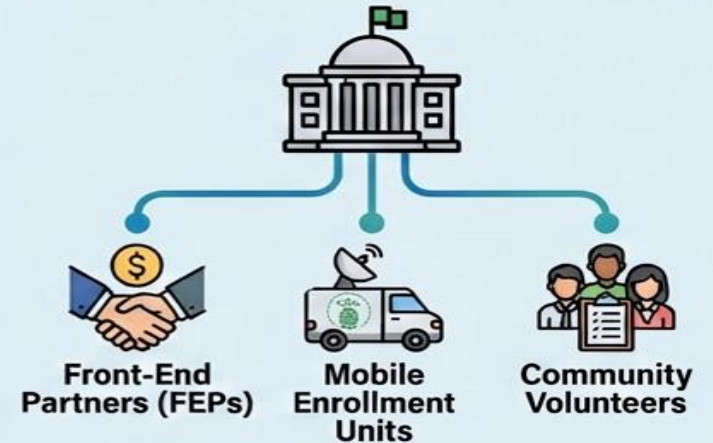
### 2. Shift from 'Issuance' to 'Ecosystem Utility'



- **National Development Linkage:** Position identity as the backbone of governance, linking directly to high-impact services to drive adoption.
- **General Multipurpose Functionalism:** Design identity credentials as payment tools (e.g., GMPC integrates with domestic schemes like AfriGo) for financial inclusion.



### 3. Implement a Decentralized Enrollment Model



- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPP):** Utilize private-sector agents to scale enrollment beyond fixed government centers.
- **Targeted Outreach:** Use mobile units and community-based volunteers (e.g., Ward Enrollment Initiative) to reach rural, marginalized, or vulnerable populations.



## ACTIONABLE GUIDANCE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES

### 4. Focus on Institutional & Legislative Foundations

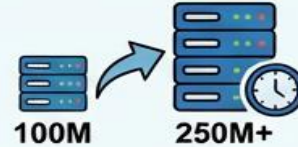


- Regulatory Strengthening:** Ensure national identity body has strong **administrative enforcement** powers via clear legislation (e.g., NIMC Act repeal) to sanction data violations and unauthorized “data harvesting”.



- Inter-Agency Harmonization:** Mandate alignment of all biometric databases into a single “foundational” layer to eliminate duplication and reduce cost of governance.

### 5. Continuous Infrastructure Scaling



- Proactive Capacity Management:** Regularly upgrade backend systems (e.g., expand ABIS to 250M records) before reaching enrollment limits to avoid outages and maintain public trust.



- Self-Service Empowerment:** Deploy digital portals for data modification and record updates to reduce bureaucratic bottlenecks and physical congestion at enrollment centers.

# 8.0 Questions and Answers



Q & A  
SESSION

A large graphic with a blue and orange gradient background. The text 'Q & A' is in large, metallic, 3D-style letters. Below it, the word 'SESSION' is in large, white, 3D-style letters. To the right of 'Q & A' is a microphone icon. The background features abstract geometric shapes and light effects.



**THANK YOU**

**NIGERIA  
ID4Africa**