

# Governance Digital Tracking Tools and Nigeria's Active Citizens

A look at @BuhariMeter, @BudgITng and platforms like  
them

Presented by JJ. Omojuwa @ 4M International Meeting,  
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# What Used To Be...

- Citizens knew very little about how they were governed. Government ran like The Commission, almost absolute secrecy.
- Government information was scarce and government very opaque.
- The advent of Democracy in 1999 did not change things much.
- The Baseline Normal of an average Nigerian public officer is to withhold information from the public.
- We had big governments, big government people and very little information coming out as to how they ran the state.

# What Is Changing?

- New Media have deregulated not just the media as a whole it has shifted some power to its rightful place...the hands of the citizen
- The Baseline Normal of a public officer is still to withhold information from the public but that baseline normal has been kicked away from its inertia by Nigeria's increasingly active citizens.
- Platforms like @BudgITng, @SaharaReporters, @BuhariMeter, @PremiumTimesNG are keeping the government on its toes.
- Citizens now know, more than ever before.

# What Is Changing?

- Activism has been deregulated...super star activists used to hold sway because they were privileged with having access to government information, now activism is fast becoming the baseline normal of the average citizen because more citizens have access to information.
- New Media is helping to amplify the voices of ~~ordinary~~ citizens.

# Where are we now?

- If Knowledge is Power as it is often said to be, that is Knowledge = Power, then by virtue of what they know know, today, we have the most ~~potentially~~ powerful set of citizens since 1960.
- Citizens are changing policy, citizens are putting critical conversations on the table, citizens are policing public officers.

# Some Platforms To Note;

- SaharaReporters.Com: They are feared by the Nigerian ruling elite. They are a powerful online platform operating out of New York and have helped to open up several corruption cases.
- BudgITng: Breaks the budget down into bits that are easily understandable by the electorate. Creates infographics out of the budget and continually pursues avenues for public accountability and transparency.
- Premium Times: Gets its news right and is easily the platform that policy makers often depend on for credible news.

# BuhariMeter;

- As the name sounds, its purpose is to measure the progress or lack of it of the 11 months old President Muhammadu Buhari administration.
- It is yet to achieve following and popularity.
- It is a great idea that has not exactly found the sort of messaging that is unique to it.
- It has been duplicated for a couple of state governors and governments.

# Achievements of Nigeria's Digital Citizens

- Contributed immensely to the negative perception and eventual defeat of immediate past president, Goodluck Jonathan.
- Got the Senate to reverse itself on the Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill it already voted to kill.
- Got two references in the inaugural speech of President Buhari.
- Helped to ensure the release of money for the remediation of once lead poisoned Bagega in the north of Nigeria (#SaveBagega)
- Promoted voter education in the run-up to the 2011 and 2015 elections...

# Where Ultimate Victory Lies

- These platforms and the collective voices of Nigeria's digital citizens are powerful as individual units, but they will have devastating effect if they find a common ground to work together.
- Working under a common umbrella, say "EIE, Enough Is Enough Nigeria" that currently acts as the policy arm of the agitations of the digital citizens.
- Continuous education of one another on the essence and power of policy to make change happen.
- Being able to continue to focus on what really counts rather than get carried away by irrelevant distractions.

# Some Previous Campaigns by the Platforms

**JJ. Omojuwa** @Omojuwa · 25 Jul 2013  
**#SaveBagega** done and dusted! Another one on the essence of social media. **#Belief** | @Tomi\_Ola

**JJ. Omojuwa** @Omojuwa · Mar 15  
 The most devastating blow against the freedom and dignity of Nigerian women was unleashed today by the @bukolasaraki led Senate.

**BudgIT Nigeria** @BudgITng · 18h  
 Anti-Corruption and Open Data Hackathon.  
 23rd April, 2016  
 Register here:  
[docs.google.com/a/yourbudgit.c...](https://docs.google.com/a/yourbudgit.c...)

**JJ. Omojuwa** @Omojuwa · 25 Jul 2013  
 Senator Saraki @bukolasaraki receives Certificate of Appreciation **#SaveBagega** Remediation Project [omojuwa.com/2013/07/senator-saraki-receives-certificate-of-appreciation/](http://omojuwa.com/2013/07/senator-saraki-receives-certificate-of-appreciation/)

**Bukola Saraki** @bukolasaraki  
 Following

@Omojuwa Not so. The bill suffered a set back because some Senators disagreed with some parts, Senator Olujimi will reintroduce the bill.

RETWEETS 232 LIKES 34

11:24 AM - 15 Mar 2016

**BudgIT Nigeria** @BudgITng · 20h  
 How are NNPC performing? Kindly go through our storify and find out **#FixOurOil...**

**NNPC report February 2016 (with images, tweets) - ...**  
 An analysis of the NNPC's February 2016 report **#FixOurOil**  
[storify.com](http://storify.com)

**Bailiff Africa** @BailiffAfrica · 24 Jul 2013  
 From 'Occupy Nigeria' to **#SaveBagega**, @omojuwa has proved also prominent in **#GreenDealNigeria**. **#BailiffIssues**.

**Tracking @MBuhari**  
 @buharimeter FOLLOWS YOU

A platform to track actions of President Buhari, against his promises. A project of @CDDWestAfrica, supported by @OSIWA1 Retweets are not necessarily endorsement

Abuja, Nigeria  
[buharimeter.ng](http://buharimeter.ng)

TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS	LIKES
4,407	101	5,447	121

Tweets Tweets & replies Media

Tracking @MBuhari Retweeted **Nigeria Newsdesk** @NigeriaNewsdesk · 2h  
 IDPs eat 1,800 bags of rice daily in Borno via @todayng

Tracking @MBuhari Retweeted **Nigeria Newsdesk** @NigeriaNewsdesk · 2h

PAPI Retweeted

**Sahara Reporters** @SaharaReporters · 24 Dec 2013  
**BMW Scandal : Defiant Oduah Says She Will Not Quit - PM News, Lagos** | Sahara Reporters [bit.ly/1hCVRKm](http://bit.ly/1hCVRKm)

**Sahara Reporters** @SaharaReporters · 4 Dec 2013  
 As President Jonathan Buries **BMW** Scam Reports, Stella **Oduah** Pushes "Stellar" Propaganda | Sahara Reporters [bit.ly/190WACO](http://bit.ly/190WACO)

**Sahara Reporters** @SaharaReporters · 8 Nov 2013  
 CACOL Attacks House Of Reps Panel Over Reaction To Leaked House Committee Report On Stella **Oduah's BMW** Scam | [bit.ly/1hTChdE](http://bit.ly/1hTChdE)

# MERCI

