



Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, CCIE

**Director General/CEO – National Information Technology Development Agency
(NITDA)**

Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi (KIA), CCIE, is a distinguished technology architect and transformational leader with 20 years of experience in digital transformation across the public and private sectors. As the DG/CEO of NITDA, Nigeria's leading IT regulatory body, KIA is driving Nigeria towards becoming a digitally empowered nation.

Under KIA's leadership, NITDA is implementing an AI strategy to enhance regulatory effectiveness and drive productivity, cost savings, and efficiency across Nigeria and Africa. Key initiatives include the Digital Literacy for All (DL4ALL) programme, aiming for 95% digital literacy by 2030, and the Nigeria Startup Act, which has boosted Nigeria's tech ecosystem and attracted more investment.

KIA has also led transformative programmes like the Three Million Tech Talents (3MTT) initiative, preparing Nigerian youth for global competitiveness, and established over 648 IT centres nationwide. His commitment to online safety is evident in the development of the Code of Practice (CoP) for Interactive Computer Service Platforms/Internet Intermediaries.

A strong advocate for data protection, KIA's work at NITDA led to the establishment of the Nigeria Data Protection Commission (NDPC) and improved accountability in IT governance through the IT Project Clearance programme, saving the Nigerian government over ₦312 billion. He is also guiding NITDA's Strategic Roadmap and Action Plan (SRAP 2.0), outlining key pillars for Nigeria's digital future.

KIA's leadership has earned him numerous accolades, including the African Achievers Award, the ISACA Global Inspirational Leadership Award, and the Nigeria Excellence Award in Public Service for Digital Innovation.

Before NITDA, KIA served as a Technology Architect at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and held roles at Galaxy Backbone Ltd. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi, and has completed executive education programmes at MIT, Harvard, Cambridge, and Oxford.