The Postmaster General/CEO  
Nigerian Postal Service,  
NIPOST Headquarters  
Garki, Abuja

Dear Ma,

Concerns Regarding the Current Data Collection Practices in NIPOST

I am writing to bring to your attention some concerns regarding the current data collection practices within our postal system. Specifically, the process of collecting data from individual post offices, compiling it at the district level, sending it to the state level, and then having the state compile and send the data to the headquarters appears to have several inefficiencies and challenges.

1. **Time-Consuming Process**: The current multi-layered approach is inherently time-consuming. Each level of compilation and transmission introduces delays, making it difficult to obtain timely and accurate data. This can impact decision-making and the ability to respond swiftly to emerging issues.
2. **Increased Risk of Errors**: With data being handled and compiled at multiple levels, there is a heightened risk of errors. Manual compilation and transmission can lead to discrepancies, inaccuracies, and potential data loss, which can compromise the integrity of the information.
3. **Resource Intensive**: This process demands significant human resources at each level—post offices, districts, and states. Employees are required to spend considerable time on data entry, compilation, and verification tasks, which could be better utilized in core operational activities.
4. **Lack of Real-Time Data**: The current practice does not support real-time data collection and analysis. In today’s fast-paced environment, having access to real-time data is crucial for effective monitoring, planning, and execution of strategies.
5. **Communication Breakdown**: The multi-tiered approach can lead to communication breakdowns and misunderstandings between different levels of the hierarchy. This can result in inconsistencies in data reporting and delays in addressing issues.
6. **Data Inconsistency:** Some states are not using the provided template for collecting data, instead using different templates, leading to inconsistencies in the data.
7. **Misuse of Nomenclature:** Some states refer to the same return by different names, often causing confusion and delay in compiling the returns.

In light of these issues, I would like to suggest exploring the possibility of implementing a centralized digital data collection system. Such a system could enable direct data entry from post offices into a centralized database accessible by district, state, and headquarters personnel simultaneously. This would streamline the data collection process, reduce errors, save resources, and provide real-time access to critical information.

I am confident that addressing these challenges will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our postal operations. I look forward to your positive response and am willing to provide any further insights or assistance needed to implement these changes.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

Yours sincerely,

Shamsuddeen Sadisu  
Planning and Business Development  
Research and statistics