INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ARTS MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
ISSN: 2814-0370, ORCID ID: 0009-0003-3878-0137
VOL. 6, ISSUE 2, 2026
AVAILABLE ONLINE: www.ijamps.com

REVITALIZING NATIONAL ECONOMIC FRAMEWORKS: SYNERGISING INTRAPRENEURIAL DYNAMICS, ENTREPRENEURIALVENTURES,ANDCYBERSECURITY ARCHITECTURES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AJALA, Anthony Ayodele
Department of Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management,Faculty of Management Sciences,Lagos State University, Ojo
Email: anthony.ajala@lasu.edu.ng
Tell.: +234 803 389 1963

SABITU Olalekan owotutu
Department of Business Administration, Ogun state institute of technology igbesa Ogun state, Nigeria.
Email,sabitu.olalekan@ogitech.edu.ng
Tell.+2348029055195
https,//orcid.org./0009-0009-7496-2580

OBANLA, Adebayo Bankole,
Department of Public Administration,Ogun State Institute of Technology, Igbesa, Nigeria.
Email: obanla.adebayo@ogitech.edu.ng
Tell: +2348023338953.
https://orcid.org/
0009-0005-5413-3233.

Titilayo Olufunmibi ADEWALE-OJO
Department of Mass Communication,Ogun State Institute of Technology,Igbesa,Nigeria.
Email: adewaleojo.titilayo@ogitech.edu.ng
Tell: +2348024222899
https://orcid.org/
0009-0007-5678-2936.

AJOSE Akeem Olatunji,
Department of Business Administration, OGITECH,
08056161921/09130730441
ajose.Akeem@ogitech.edu.ng

BALOGUN, John Durojaiye.
Professorial Fellow, Institute of Intrapreneurship and Human Resources Development (IIHP) Phone No. +3248038376749
johnbalogun001@gmail.com

Oluwatobi ATOLAGBE

Technical Project Manager (Software),
Eos Energy Storage,US.
Phone No: 2348150664137
Email: tobistickingdom@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The contemporary global economy is undergoing seismic transformation, driven largely by the twin forces of digital innovation and entrepreneurial enterprise. In Nigeria, as in manydeveloping nations, the quest for sustainable economic revitalization demands a multi-pronged approach that simultaneously harnesses the internal creative energy of organizations through intrapreneurship, unleashes the market-disrupting potential of entrepreneurship, and fortifies the digital ecosystem through robust cybersecurity frameworks. This paper explores the tripartite relationshipamongintrapreneurship,entrepreneurship,andcybersecurityascatalystsfornational economic rejuvenation. Adopting a qualitative research design grounded in documentaryanalysis and thematic interpretation, the study draws on recent literature, policy documents, and empirical observations from Nigeria's emerging digital and enterprise landscape. Findings reveal that while entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship have made measurable contributions toNigeria's GDP and employment generation, the escalating threat of cybercrime , which cost Nigeria approximately $2.4 billion in the first ten months of 2024 alone , poses a systemic risk that could erode hard-won economic gains. The paper argues that without deliberate integration of cybersecurity policy into entrepreneurial development frameworks, sustainable economic growth will remain elusive. Recommendations include institutional reform, curriculum integration, public-private sector collaboration, and the creation of a national intrapreneurship policy architecture. The paper contributes to growing scholarly discourse on the need for a holistic, innovation-centred approach to economic recovery in emerging economies.

Keywords: Intrapreneurship, Entrepreneurship, Cybersecurity, Economic Revitalization, Nigeria, Digital Economy, SMEs, Innovation

1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation and largest economybynominal GDP, stands at a critical economic crossroads. With a GDP estimated at approximately $381 billion in 2025 (African DevelopmentBank,2025),andapopulationexceeding230millionpeople, thecountrypossesses enormous economic potential. Yet this potential remains substantially unrealized, hobbled by structural inefficiencies, overdependence on crude oil revenues, infrastructure deficits, and the creeping menace of cybercrime in its rapidly digitalizing economy. The Nigerian economy expanded by 3.4% in 2024, buoyed largely by reforms introduced from May 2023, with services contributing roughly three-quarters of GDP growth (African Development Bank, 2025). However, poverty estimates for 2024 indicate that approximately 56% of the population stilllives below the poverty line , a sobering reminder that growth statistics do not always translate into improved livelihoods.

Against this backdrop, two concepts have emerged as powerful instruments of economic transformation globally and are gaining traction in the Nigerian context: **entrepreneurship** , the creation and operation of new business ventures , and **intrapreneurship** , the exercise of entrepreneurial behaviour within existing organizational structures. When properly nurtured and aligned with robust digital security architecture, these forces can meaningfully reposition a nation's economic trajectory.

Entrepreneurship has longbeen recognized as a cornerstone of employment generation and GDP expansion, particularly through Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). In Nigeria, SMEs currently account for 96% of all registered businesses and contribute approximately 48% of national GDP (SMEDAN, 2024; Moniepoint, 2025). Intrapreneurship, though a comparatively newer concept in Nigerian policy discourse, has gained attention as multinational corporations and public institutions alike recognize the immense value of empowering employees to innovate from within (Crecente-Romero et al., 2025; Pauceanu & Porada-Rochoń, 2024).

However, the accelerating digitization of commerce, finance, and governance in Nigeria has opened new and dangerous vulnerabilities. Nigeria ranked third among African nations in ransomware threat detections in 2024, with 3,459 incidents recorded, according to INTERPOL's 2025 Africa Cyberthreat Assessment Report. Cybercrime inflicted losses of approximately $2.4 billion on the Nigerian economy within the first ten months of 2024 alone (CompTIA, 2026). These figures make abundantly clear that economic revitalization cannot be achieved through entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship in isolation; it must be underpinned by a secure and resilient digital infrastructure.

This paper therefore investigates the nexus between intrapreneurship, entrepreneurship, and cybersecurity, arguing that their integrated application constitutes the most credible pathway to sustainable national economic recovery. The specific objectives of the study are to: (i) examine the conceptual and theoretical underpinnings of intrapreneurship, entrepreneurship, and cybersecurity; (ii) analyse their individual and collective contributions to Nigeria's economic development;(iii)identifythe challengesandopportunities inherentintheir intersection;and(iv) proffer policy and institutional recommendations for maximizing their collective economic impact.

2. REVIEW OFTHE LITERATURE

2.1 ConceptualizingEntrepreneurshipandItsEconomicRole

Entrepreneurship, in its most elemental form, refers to the process by which individuals identify market opportunities and mobilize resources to exploit those opportunities through the creationof new enterprises. Rolando et al. (2024) describe innovation and entrepreneurship as "pivotal elements in economic development," defining innovation as the process of identifying novel solutions that can be developed and commercialized in response to evolving market demands. Similarly, Ordeñana (2024) offers a contemporary modelling of entrepreneurship through occupational choice theory, exploring how individuals decide to become entrepreneurs in response to structural economic conditions.

In Nigeria, entrepreneurship has evolved from a survival mechanism into a sophisticated engine of growth. The emergence of indigenous technology firms such as Flutterwave, Paystack , acquired by Stripe , and OPay transformed digital payments and financial services, driven by a large, tech-savvy youth population and favourable regulatory tailwinds (Owoeye, 2025). Nigeria's creative economy, spanning music, film, fashion, and digital content, employed approximately 4.2 million workers and contributed over 154 billion naira to GDP in 2023 from the music and film recording sectors alone (RSIS International, 2025). The Bank of Industry disbursed₦312.5billionto youngentrepreneursasof2023,reachingover 4.2millionbusinesses and supporting the creation of nearly nine million jobs (DevelopmentAid, 2024).

Yet entrepreneurial growth in Nigeria is not without its tensions. Over 50% of SMEs fail in their first year of operation, with over 95% failing within the first five years (Moniepoint, 2025). Access to finance, infrastructural deficits, policy inconsistency, and low market demand remain persistent stumbling blocks. These systemic challenges underscore the importance of complementing individual entrepreneurship with institutional and organizational support mechanisms , which brings intrapreneurship into sharp focus.

2.2 Intrapreneurship:TheInnovationEngineWithin Organizations

Intrapreneurship , a portmanteau of "intra-organizational entrepreneurship" , refers to theexercise of entrepreneurial thinking, initiative, and innovation by employees operating within established organizations. The concept, first formally articulated by Gifford Pinchot III in 1985, has undergone considerable theoretical evolution over the past four decades. A comprehensive bibliometricanalysisofintrapreneurshipliterature spanning1983to2025 , drawingon660 peer-reviewed articles indexed in Scopus , reveals that the field is rapidly expanding, with growing recognition of intrapreneurship's role in fostering renewal, creativity, and sustainable growth (Tandfonline, 2026).

In today's volatile business environment, intrapreneurship serves as a powerful conduit for innovation within established organizations, imbuing teams with the entrepreneurial zeal to seek out and implement breakthroughs in products, services, or processes (Hustle Inspires Hustle, 2026). Crecente-Romero et al. (2025), writing in the Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences, argue that both entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship function as engines of societal development , not merely in economic terms but in the creation of a more just and sustainable society. Importantly, they note that intrapreneurship policies can help regions with lower competitiveness overcome challenges such as digitalization gaps and inadequate rural infrastructure, enabling economic recovery and convergence with more developed economies.

Research on Nigerian intrapreneurship specifically has found that intrapreneurship proxies , including innovation, reactiveness, self-renewal, and new business venturing , significantly promote economic growth. A study on employees of the National Board for Technology Incubation (NBTI) found that these dimensions were statistically significant in order of innovation (.000), reactiveness (.002), self-renewal (.002), and new business venturing (.006), confirming that corporate entrepreneurship is a credible driver of economic expansion in Nigeria (ResearchGate, 2022).

At the strategic level, corporate entrepreneurship encompasses multiple dimensions: corporate venturing (launching new businesses internally, externally, or through partnerships), intrapreneurship proper (empowering employees to drive projects from idea to launch), organizational transformation (aligning culture and strategy for continuous innovation), and industry rule-bending (challenging market norms to open new growth pathways) (Swisspreneur, 2025). The multiplicity of these pathways demonstrates that intrapreneurship is not a single intervention but a systemic cultural orientation toward innovation.

2.3 CybersecurityasanEconomicEnablerandNationalSecurityImperative

The third pillar of this analysis , cybersecurity, has transitioned from a technical IT concern into a strategic national economic imperative. As digital infrastructure becomes the primary conduit for commerce, governance, education, and financial services, the protection of that infrastructure against cyber threats becomes inseparable from the protection of national economic assets.

Africa's digital economy has grown at unprecedented speed, but this growth has been accompanied by a commensurate rise in cyber vulnerability. In 2023, the average number of weekly cyberattacks on African businesses grew by 23% compared to prior years , the fastest increase worldwide , with ransomware and business email compromise topping the list of severe threats (INTERPOL, 2024 African Cyberthreat Assessment). Globally, cybercrime statistics asof 2025 indicate approximately 2,200 cyber attacks per day, with an attack occurring every 39 seconds on average, collectively costing the world economy up to 1% of global GDP, equating to nearly $9.6 trillion annually (AD Forensics, 2025).

Nigeria's position within this landscape is particularly precarious. The country ranked third among African nations in ransomware detections in 2024, with 3,459 incidents, according to the INTERPOL 2025 Africa Cyberthreat Assessment Report. Nigerian fintech giant Flutterwave sufferedacyberheistinApril2024thatreportedlydivertedapproximately$7million,while

Access Bank recorded a 72% increase in fraud incidents between 2023 and 2024 (CybCube, 2025). Overall, Nigeria lost an estimated $2.4 billion to cyberattacks in the first ten months of 2024, a figure that reflects both the scale of threat activity and critical gaps in defensive capability (CompTIA, 2026).

Despite this, Nigeria's cybersecurity sector holds considerable growth potential. The country's ICT sector now contributes approximately 20% of national GDP (International Trade Administration, 2024), and the cybersecurity market is projected to exceed $270 million by the end of 2024 (US Trade.gov, 2025). The Nigerian government has responded with increasinglegal force, arresting over 1,000 individuals in the past year on cybercrime-related charges and successfully prosecuting 152 cases (Dark Reading, 2025). However, with only approximately 20,000 qualified cybersecurity engineers across the entire African continent (Dark Reading, 2025), the skills gap remains an acute structural challenge.

2.4 TheoreticalFramework

Thisstudyisanchored in threecomplementarytheoretical frameworks:

i. **Schumpeterian Theory of Creative Destruction** , Joseph Schumpeter's foundational argument that economic growth is driven by the continuous displacement of old industries and practices by new innovations forms the theoretical bedrock for understanding both entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship as agents of economic renewal. In Nigeria's context,digital entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs are the contemporary agents of this creative destruction, dismantling oil-dependent economic structures and rebuilding them around technology, services, and creative enterprise.

ii. **Resource-Based View (RBV) of the Firm** , Penrose's (1959) Resource-Based View, later elaborated by Barney (1991), posits that sustainable competitive advantage derives from the internalresourcesand capabilitiesoffirms. Intrapreneurshiprepresentsthesystematiccultivation of human capital as a rare, inimitable, and non-substitutable organizational resource , precisely the kind of resource that can deliver durable competitive and economic advantages.

iii. **Institutional Theory** , North's (1990) institutional framework holds that the rules of the game , formal laws, regulations, and informal norms , determine the extent to which entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial activity can flourish. Nigeria's current institutional environment, characterized by policy inconsistency, regulatory gaps in cybersecurity, and weak enforcement of intellectual property rights, constitutes a major constraint on the realization of entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial potential.

3. METHODOLOGY

This studyadopts a **qualitative research design**, specifically employing **documentary analysis** and **thematic interpretation** as primary methodological tools. The qualitative approach is deemedmostappropriateforthisinquirybecausetheresearchseekstointerpret,contextualise, and generate understanding of complex social and economic phenomena , namely, the interplay between intrapreneurship, entrepreneurship, and cybersecurity in Nigeria's economic development , rather than to measure or quantify variables in a positivist tradition.

3.1 ResearchDesign

The study is descriptive and analytical in nature. It does not involve the collection of primary data through surveys or fieldwork; instead, it draws systematically on secondary sources including peer-reviewed journal articles, institutional reports, government policy documents, conference proceedings, and reputable online databases. This approach is consistent with establishedqualitativemethodologicaltraditionsinsocialscienceresearch,wheresecondarydata analysis enables scholars to develop theoretical insights and policy-relevant interpretations grounded in existing empirical literature (Creswell & Poth, 2018; Bowen, 2009).

3.2 Sourcesof Data

Dataweresourced from arangeof authoritativedocuments, including:

- Peer-reviewed articles published between 2019 and 2026 in journals indexed in Scopus, Web of Science, and Google Scholar
- ReportsfrominternationalbodiesincludingINTERPOL,theAfricanDevelopmentBank, the World Bank, and the International Trade Administration
- PolicydocumentsfromtheNigeriangovernment,SMEDAN,theCentralBankof Nigeria, and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)
- Reports fromcybersecurity researchfirms including Check Point Software, CompTIA, and CybCube
- Academic conference papers and proceedings relevant to entrepreneurship, intrapreneurship, and digital innovation in Africa

3.3 Data Analysis

Data were analysed using **thematic analysis**, a flexible and widelyemployed qualitative method for identifying, analysing, and reporting patterns within data (Braun & Clarke, 2006, as adapted by subsequent scholars). Themes were identified inductively from the literature and deductively from the study's theoretical frameworks. Three primary thematic clusters emerged: (i) entrepreneurship as a driver of economic growth and employment; (ii) intrapreneurship as an organizational innovation catalyst; and (iii) cybersecurity as an enabler and protector of digital economic activity. These themes were then cross-examined for their intersections and mutual dependencies.

3.4 Scopeand Limitations

The study focuses primarily on the Nigerian context, with comparative references to other Africanandemergingmarketeconomieswhererelevant.Itsprincipallimitationistherelianceon secondary data, which constrains the ability to generate original primary findings. However, the richness,recency,andbreadthofthedocumentarysourcesaccessedmitigatethislimitation

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ARTS MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
ISSN: 2814-0370, ORCID ID: 0009-0003-3878-0137
VOL. 6, ISSUE 2, 2026
AVAILABLE ONLINE: www.ijamps.com

considerably. The study does not claim statistical generalizability but seeks analytical transferability , the extent to which its insights and recommendations can inform policy and practice beyond the immediate context of Nigeria.

4. RESULTSANDDISCUSSIONOF FINDINGS

4.1 EntrepreneurshipasaPillarofEconomicRevitalization:EvidencefromNigeria

Thequalitativeevidence gathered in this studystronglyaffirms thecentralityof entrepreneurship to Nigeria's economic revitalization. Nigeria's SME sector , comprising approximately 39.65 million micro, small, and medium enterprises as of 2021 , accounts for 96% of all businesses, 84% of employment, and 48% of national GDP (SMEDAN, 2024). These figures situate entrepreneurial enterprise not merely as a policy objective but as the structural backbone of the Nigerian economy.

What is particularly striking in the recent literature is the diversification of entrepreneurial activity beyond traditional trade and agriculture into high-value sectors. The emergence of fintechasadominantentrepreneurialfrontier ,exemplifiedbyFlutterwave,Paystack,andOPay, reflects a generational shift in the profile of Nigerian entrepreneurship (Owoeye, 2025; RSIS International, 2025). This digitally-oriented entrepreneurship has driven measurable improvements in financial inclusion, raising the rate of financially included adults from 56% in 2020to64%in2023 (DevelopmentAid,2024).Thecreativeeconomyhas similarlyemerged as a significant employer and GDP contributor, with the film and music industries alone contributing over 154 billion naira to GDP in 2023.

However, the thematic analysis also surfaces persistent structural contradictions. Despite the impressiveaggregate statistics,over50% of NigerianSMEs fail in theirfirst year, and morethan 95% collapse within five years (Moniepoint, 2025). The leading causes , access to finance, inadequate infrastructure (especially electricity), low market demand, and weak regulatory support , reveal that the entrepreneurial ecosystem remains hostile to small business survival.TheWorld Bank (2021) notesthat low SME productivitylimits theircapacityto absorbNigeria's rapidly expanding labour force, contributing to structural unemployment and income inequality.

This tension between entrepreneurial potential and structural hostility forms one of the central findings of this study: **Nigeria's entrepreneurial energy is abundant, but the environment in which that energy must operate is insufficiently supportive.** Policy interventions must therefore be as focused on systemic ecosystem reform as they are on individual capacitybuilding.

4.2 IntrapreneurshipandOrganizationalInnovation:ALatentNationalAsset

Perhaps more underexplored than entrepreneurship in Nigerian policy discourse,intrapreneurship represents a latent economic asset whose full potential has yet to be mobilized.

ISSN: 2814-0370, ORCID ID: 0009-0003-3878-0137
VOL. 6, ISSUE 2, 2026
AVAILABLE ONLINE: www.ijamps.com

Thefindingsofthisstudysuggestthatintrapreneurshipoffersadistinctivevaluepropositionfor

Nigeria's economic revitalization: unlike entrepreneurship, which requires the creation of new entities and the assumption of personal financial risk, intrapreneurship leverages existing organizational infrastructure, human capital, and institutional legitimacy to generate innovation. This makes it particularly suited to Nigeria's large public sector and its growing cohort of established private organizations.

The study by the National Board for Technology Incubation (NBTI) referenced in the literature reviewprovidescompellingempiricalsupport fortheeconomiccontributionsofintrapreneurship in Nigeria. Intrapreneurial proxies , innovation, reactiveness, self-renewal, and new business venturing , all yielded statistically significant positive effects on economic growth. This finding aligns with the broader global literature, which positions intrapreneurship as "a powerful mechanism for fostering renewal, creativity, and sustainable growth" within established firms (Tandfonline, 2026).

TheCrecente-Romeroetal.(2025)mappingofglobalintrapreneurialbehaviourcarriesparticular resonanceforNigeria'sdevelopmentchallenge.Theirargumentthatintrapreneurshippoliciescan help lower-competitiveness regions overcome digitalization gaps and improve economic convergence with more developed economies speaks directlyto the situation of Nigeria's non-oil sector. By fostering intrapreneurial cultures within public institutions, financial organizations, and technology firms, Nigeria can create innovation pipelines that do not depend on the volatile fluctuations of oil revenue.

A critical barrier identified in this analysis is the absence of a formal **NationalIntrapreneurship Policy Framework** in Nigeria. While the federal government has made significant strides in entrepreneurship support through agencies such as SMEDAN, the Smalland Medium Enterprise Development Agency, and the Bank of Industry, no equivalent institutional architecture exists to stimulate and reward intrapreneurial behaviour within the public service and established private sector. This gap is not merelyadministrative; it isa missed economic opportunity of considerable magnitude.

4.3 CybersecurityasEconomicProtection:TheDigitalEconomyatRisk

The third thematic cluster , and arguably the most urgent in terms of current economic damage , concerns cybersecurity. The evidence assembled in this study paints a sobering picture of a digital economy under siege. Nigeria's loss of $2.4 billion to cyberattacks in the first ten months of 2024 alone (CompTIA, 2026) represents not simply a financial statistic but a structural drain ontheeconomy'smostdynamicgrowthsectors:fintech,e-commerce,digitalservices,andonline banking.

The INTERPOL 2025 Africa Cyberthreat Assessment Report identifies online scams, business email compromise (BEC), ransomware, and sextortion as the four most severe cyberthreats facing African nations, with Nigeria consistently appearing among the most targeted. The Flutterwave cyber heist of April 2024 , in which approximately $7 million was reportedly diverted , is particularly emblematic because it targeted not a legacy institution but one of Nigeria's most celebrated digital success stories, demonstrating that even the most innovative enterprises are not immune to cyber predation (Technology Times, 2025; INTERPOL, 2025).

What makes this finding economically significant is its intersection with entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship. The entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs who are most actively driving Nigeria's economic transformation , those in fintech, creative digital services, e-commerce, and digital banking , are disproportionately exposed to cyber risk. A cybersecurity failure in these sectors does not merely affect the targeted firm; it erodes consumer trust, deters investment, disrupts digital payment systems, and imposes systemic costs on the broader economy. Africa's GDP is projected to reach $4 trillion by 2027, yet cybercrime constitutes what Cisco's vice president of global public policy describes as "the most significant impact from cyber threats compared toany other continent" (Dark Reading, 2024).

The structural dimension of Nigeria's cybersecurity vulnerability is its acute skills deficit. With only approximately 20,000 qualified cybersecurity engineers across the entirety of Africa (Dark Reading, 2025), the continent , and Nigeria in particular , faces a profound mismatch betweenthe speed of digital adoption and the pace of security capability development. This skills gap is simultaneously an economic problem and an opportunity: addressing it through training, certification, and institutional investment would generate a new class of security professionals while directly protecting the digital assets upon which economic growth depends.

4.4 TheTripartiteNexus:Integration asthe KeytoEconomicRejuvenation

The most significant finding of this study is the emergence of a clear **tripartite nexus** between intrapreneurship, entrepreneurship, and cybersecurity, and the argument that it is the integration of all three , not any one in isolation , that holds the key to sustainable economic rejuvenation.

Entrepreneurship without cybersecurity creates economic value that is vulnerable to digital predation. The experience of Flutterwave in 2024 makes this starkly clear: years of innovative enterpriseandsignificanteconomicvaluecreation canbeunderminedinhoursbyasophisticated cyberattack. Equally, cybersecurity without entrepreneurship produces defensive capability with insufficient economic output to justify or sustain it. And intrapreneurship without cybersecurity leaves organizational innovation pipelines exposed to industrial espionage and data theft.

The integration of the three pillars creates a self-reinforcing ecosystem: entrepreneurship generates economic output and market expansion; intrapreneurship drives organizational efficiency, product innovation, and institutional renewal; and cybersecurity protects the digital infrastructure through which both operate. When all three function in alignment, they producetheconditionsforwhat Schumpeter (1942) called creative destructionatits most productive ,the continuous regeneration of economic value through innovation, protected by institutional and digital resilience.

5. CONCLUSION

This paper has examined the tripartite relationship between intrapreneurship, entrepreneurship, and cybersecurity as co-constitutive pillars of national economic revitalization, with specific referencetoNigeria'semergingdigitaleconomy.TheanalysisaffirmsthatNigeriapossesses significant entrepreneurial vitality , evidenced by the scale and dynamism of its SME sector, the global reach of its fintech firms, and the explosive growth of its creative economy. It further establishes that intrapreneurship, though underutilized in formal policy frameworks, represents a formidable and largely untapped driver of organizational innovation and economic renewal. At the same time, the study documents with disturbing clarity the scale of cybersecurity risk confronting Nigeria's digital economy, a risk that if unaddressed has the capacity to systematically erode entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial gains.

The paper's central conclusion is unambiguous: **Nigeria's path to sustainable economic rejuvenation lies not in any single intervention but in the deliberate, policy-driven integration of entrepreneurship promotion, intrapreneurship cultivation, andcybersecurity fortification.** These three forces must be understood not as discrete policy domains but as interdependent pillars of a unified economic development strategy. The nation that neglects any one of the three does so at considerable economic peril.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the basis of the findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are advanced:

1. **Develop a National Intrapreneurship Policy Framework:** The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment, should formulate and adopt a dedicated National Intrapreneurship Policy that defines incentives, institutional structures, and performance metrics for intrapreneurial activity across the public and private sectors.

2. **Strengthen the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Beyond Financing:** Government and development partners should move beyond credit disbursement as the primary instrument of entrepreneurship support, investing equally in infrastructure, reliable electricity, market access facilitation, regulatory simplification, and business development services that address the root causes of SME failure.

3. **Integrate Cybersecurity into Entrepreneurship Support Programmes:** All federal and stateentrepreneurshipsupportprogrammes ,includingthosemanagedbySMEDAN,theBankof Industry, and the National Youth Investment Fund , should incorporate mandatory cybersecurity awareness and capacity building components as a condition of participation and funding.

4. **Establish a National Cybersecurity Talent Development Initiative:** Given the continent-wide deficit of qualified cybersecurity professionals, Nigeria should invest urgently in a structured talent development pipeline through public universities, polytechnics, and vocational training institutions, targeting the production of at least 50,000 qualified

cybersecurity professionals within the next decade.

5. **Enact a Comprehensive Cybersecurity and Data Protection Legal Framework:** Nigeria should accelerate the harmonisation and enforcement of its cybercrime legislation, data protection regulations, and financial crime laws, and should give renewed consideration to ratifying the African Union Malabo Convention on cybersecurity and personal data protection.

6. **Foster Public-Private Partnership in Digital Security:** The government should create formal structures for sustained information sharing and joint response mechanisms between the Nigerian Communications Commission, the EFCC, financial institutions, and private cybersecurity firms to address the growing sophistication of cyber threats.

7. **Embed Entrepreneurship, Intrapreneurship and Cybersecurity in Educational Curricula:** From secondary to tertiary level, Nigeria's educational institutions should integrate entrepreneurship, digital innovation, and cybersecurity literacy into their curricula, ensuring that graduates are equipped not merely with technical skills but with the entrepreneurial mindset and digital safety consciousness required to operate in a 21st-century economy.

8. **Promote Gender-Inclusive Entrepreneurial and Cybersecurity Participation:** Policy frameworks should deliberately address gender gaps in both entrepreneurial access and cybersecurity workforce representation, recognizing that inclusive economic participation accelerates aggregate economic growth.

REFERENCES

African Development Bank Group. (2025). *Nigeria economic outlook 2025*. African Development Bank. https://www.afdb.org/en/countries-west-africa-nigeria/nigeria-economic-outlook

Aparicio, S., Turro, A., & Noguera, M. (2020). Entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship in social, sustainable, and economic development: Opportunities and challenges for future research. *Sustainability, 12*(21), 8958. https://doi.org/10.3390/su12218958

Barney, J. (1991). Firm resources and sustained competitive advantage. *Journal of Management, 17*(1), 99–120.

Bowen, G. A. (2009). Document analysis as a qualitative research method. *Qualitative Research Journal, 9*(2), 27–40.

Braun, V., & Clarke, V. (2006). Using thematic analysis in psychology. *Qualitative Research in Psychology, 3*(2), 77–101.

Check Point Software Technologies. (2024). *2024 African perspectives on cybersecurity*. Check

Point Research.

CompTIA. (2026). *Nigeria and Kenya: Cybersecurity, skills gaps, and the workforce opportunity*. CompTIA. https://www.comptia.org/en-us/blog/nigeria-and-kenya-cybersecurity-skills-gaps-and-the-workforce-opportunity/

Crecente-Romero, F., Tarque-Fade, I., & Giménez-Baldazo, M. (2025). Entrepreneurship and intrapreneurship: Mapping global behavior. *Canadian Journal of Administrative Sciences /Revue Canadienne des Sciences de l'Administration*. https://doi.org/10.1002/cjas.1778

Creswell,J.W.,&Poth,C.N.(2018). *Qualitativeinquiryandresearchdesign:Choosingamong five approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.

CybCube. (2025). *Africa's rising cyber risk: A call for awareness, preparedness, and insurance adoption*. CybCube Insights. https://insights.cybcube.com/en/africas-rising-cyber-risk

Dark Reading. (2024). *Africa's economies feel the pain of cybersecurity deficit*. Dark Reading. https://www.darkreading.com/cyber-risk/africa-s-economies-feel-pain-of-cybersecurity-deficit

Dark Reading. (2025). *Nigeria touts cyber success as African cybercrime rises*. Dark Reading. https://www.darkreading.com/cyber-risk/nigeria-touts-cyber-success-african-cybercrime-rises

DevelopmentAid. (2024). *Nigeria encourages entrepreneurship to reduce ever-increasing poverty*. DevelopmentAid. https://www.developmentaid.org/news-stream/post/188175/nigeria-encourages-entrepreneurship

Hustle Inspires Hustle. (2026). *What is intrapreneurship and why it matters in 2026*. https://www.hustleinspireshustle.com/blog/intrapreneurship

InternationalTradeAdministration.(2025).*Nigeriadigitaleconomy:Countrycommercialguide*. USDepartmentofCommerce.https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/nigeria-digital-economy

INTERPOL. (2025). *Africa cyberthreat assessment report 2025: 4th edition*. INTERPOL. https://www.interpol.int/content/download/23094/file/INTERPOL_Africa_Cyberthreat_Assessment_Report_2025.pdf

Moniepoint. (2025). *Small business statistics in Nigeria for 2026*. Moniepoint Blog. https://moniepoint.com/blog/nigeria-small-business-statistics

North, D. C. (1990). *Institutions, institutional change and economic performance*. Cambridge University Press.

Ordeñana, X. (2024). Modelling entrepreneurship through occupational choice theory: A contemporary approach. *World Journal of Entrepreneurial Development Studies, 9*(4), 77–89.

Owoeye,T.(2025).DigitalentrepreneursandtheSMEspaceinNigeria. *InternationalJournalof*

Research and Innovation in Social Science. https://rsisinternational.org/journals/ijriss

Pauceanu, A., & Porada-Rochoń, M. (Eds.). (2024). *Innovating from within: Intrapreneurship and innovation within the organization*. Taylor & Francis.

Penrose,E. T.(1959). *Thetheoryofthegrowth of thefirm*. Basil Blackwell.

Pinchot, G. (1985). *Intrapreneuring: Why you don't have to leave the corporation to become an entrepreneur*. Harper & Row.

Rodríguez-Peña, A. (2025). Corporate entrepreneurship and the sustainable development goals: Exploring the connection. *Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, 14*(1), 33.

Rolando, A., Martínez, E., & Suárez, L. (2024). Innovation and entrepreneurship as pillars of economic development: A review of the literature and implications for society. *SEC Annual Review, 1*(2025), 15. https://armgpublishing.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/SEC_1_2025_15.pdf

Schumpeter,J.A.(1942). *Capitalism,socialismanddemocracy*.Harper &Brothers.

SMEDAN/NBS. (2024). *National survey of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)*. Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria.

Swisspreneur. (2025). *The essential guide to corporate entrepreneurship in 2025*. https://www.swisspreneur.org/blog/corporate-entrepreneurship

Tandfonline. (2026). Forty-one years of research on intrapreneurship: Important discoveries and prospective paths. *Cogent Business & Management*. https://doi.org/10.1080/23311975.2025.2604400

Technology Times Nigeria. (2025). *Nigeria among worst hit in 2024 as Africa's ransomware crisis deepens*. https://technologytimes.ng/ransomware-nigeria-among-worst-hit-in-2024/

World Bank. (2025). *Nigeria development update: Building momentum for inclusive growth*. World Bank Group. https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/publication/nigeria-development-update-ndu