

Twitter Nigeria

Notes I sent to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (new senior hire as head of comms - was terminated after a few months)

Oct 1 —

Are you tracking that the Nigerian President said today that he will lift the ban?

He says Twitter has only agreed to 7 of 10 conditions, though

<https://punchng.com/breaking-buhari-orders-conditional-lifting-of-ban-on-twitter/>

Here's the full text in a local outlet:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/487593-what-buhari-said-about-twitter-ban-nnamdi-kanu-igboho-insecurity-others-full-text.html>

Paragraph 70-74

70. To address these negative trends, the Federal Government of Nigeria suspended the operations of Twitter in Nigeria on June 5, 2021 to allow the Government put measures in place to address these challenges.

71. Following the suspension of Twitter operations, Twitter Inc. reached out to the Federal Government of Nigeria to resolve the impasse. Subsequently, I constituted a Presidential Committee to engage Twitter to explore the possibility of resolving the issue.

72. The Committee, along with its Technical Team, has engaged with Twitter and have addressed a number of key issues. These are:

- a. National Security and Cohesion;
- b. Registration, Physical presence and Representation;
- c. Fair Taxation;
- d. Dispute Resolution; and
- e. Local Content.

73. Following the extensive engagements, the issues are being addressed and I have directed that the suspension be lifted but only if the conditions are met to allow our citizens continue the use of the platform for business and positive engagements.

74. As a country, we are committed to ensuring that digital companies use their platform to enhance the lives of our citizens, respect Nigeria's sovereignty, cultural values and promote online safety.

Few other local outlets, mostly saying the same thing:

<https://www.pulse.ng/news/local/buhari-orders-twitter-ban-lifted-but-with-conditions/w3tmwqe>

<https://techcabal.com/2021/10/01/buhari-gives-conditions-to-lift-twitter-ban/>

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/10/01/buhari-orders-lifting-of-twitter-ban-only-if-conditions-are-met/>

<http://saharareporters.com/2021/10/01/twitter-reacts-buhari%E2%80%99s-conditional-lifting-4-month-ban>

Sept 18 —

I am uncomfortable that Twitter has been silent on this. I fear we are now positioned to play the heel.

Nigeria can make whatever “demands” and (within the Nigerian market) if we do not give them everything they state it looks like we are going back “on our word”. A word we never actually gave but that the world will believe we did.

Similarly If Nigeria decides to continue the ban it looks like Twitter is the one at fault.

In the State department this tactic is pretty much known.

Is it too late to send a letter to Nigeria? Something along the lines of:

“we are reading that you appear to be in negotiations with someone claiming to be Twitter. We have not had these conversations and want to make sure you are protecting yourself as this appears to be a potential imposter. We are still very interested in meeting and working with Nigeria to come to an amicable solution to the current situation. You are an important country and market to us, one we respect very much. We are also aware of the financial loss your people and businesses are suffering from this ban (Kelly -I have figures if you need them - we are actually very well leveraged for negotiations here -Mudge) and we want you to be able to support these businesses and your citizens.”

At that point we subtly slide the open letter to a trusted journalist to give the truth a bit of light that can be cited and referenced in the future... when we need to be able to defend our position.

Or do you have other suggestions / ideas?