

Case Study: Lagos' Smart City Initiatives

Executive Summary

Lagos stands at a pivotal moment in its smart city development, demonstrating remarkable economic dynamism while grappling with fundamental governance and equity challenges. Recognized as the world's fastest-growing tech city in 2025, Lagos has created five unicorns and attracted over \$6 billion in tech funding between 2019 and 2024. The city's GDP of \$259 billion makes it Africa's second-largest urban economy, and its vibrant innovation ecosystem has achieved genuine global significance.

However, beneath this impressive economic performance lie serious concerns about ownership concentration, vendor dependency, and social inclusion. The smart city infrastructure exhibits heavy reliance on foreign technology providers, particularly Chinese vendors like Huawei, creating high vendor lock-in risk and raising questions about technological sovereignty. Public-private partnerships, while enabling rapid infrastructure development, have produced elite-focused enclaves like Eko Atlantic that serve affluent populations while core government functions remain manual and siloed, particularly at local levels.

Surveillance systems deployment reveals troubling gaps between stated objectives and operational reality. Despite multi-billion naira investments in CCTV networks, rising crime rates have prompted public questioning of system effectiveness, with stakeholders alleging cameras prioritize revenue generation from traffic fines over genuine security improvements. The absence of independent oversight mechanisms and privacy impact assessments indicates weak regulatory frameworks that fail to protect citizen rights adequately.

The city's environmental leadership stands out as a notable strength, with Lagos ranking as Nigeria's top-performing state in climate governance for two consecutive years. Initiatives like the Lagos Carbon Platform, Africa's first domestic environmental market, and deployment of 50,000 solar-powered street lights demonstrate commitment to sustainability. Yet this progress contrasts sharply with persistent infrastructure deficits requiring over \$50 billion additional investment across transport, water, waste, and communications sectors.

Lagos' smart city trajectory ultimately reflects broader tensions between market-driven innovation and inclusive development. While the tech ecosystem thrives and premium developments showcase cutting-edge infrastructure, questions remain about whether these advances genuinely serve the 20 million residents or primarily benefit foreign vendors, wealthy investors, and elite populations. Alignment with African Union principles of data sovereignty, equitable access, and citizen-centered governance remains aspirational rather than operational reality.

1. Ownership

Lagos' smart city infrastructure exhibits a complex ownership landscape mixing public, private, and foreign entities in ways that raise significant concerns about control and accountability. The Lagos

State Government retains ownership of core security infrastructure, including the CCTV surveillance network managed through the Ministry of Science and Technology, while major development projects operate under public-private partnership arrangements that concentrate decision-making power among elite actors.

The most prominent example is Eko Atlantic, a \$6 billion land reclamation project owned and developed by the Chagoury Group, a Nigerian-Lebanese conglomerate. While structured as a partnership with Lagos State Government, the reality is that private investors, including China Communications Construction Group as the major contractor, control this transformative urban development. This model essentially privatizes prime coastal land and creates an exclusive enclave accessible primarily to wealthy residents and multinational corporations, exemplifying patterns of spatial exclusion that undermine equitable urban development principles.

Foreign ownership presence is pervasive and problematic from a technological sovereignty perspective. Huawei Technologies maintains extensive stakes across intelligent transport systems, telecommunications infrastructure including Wi-Fi 6 campus networks, and operates an Innovation Centre positioned as promoting "tech sovereignty" while simultaneously deepening vendor dependency. MTN Nigeria, though a Nigerian company, partners exclusively with Huawei for critical infrastructure like the 400G/800G optical network. Equinix's \$22 million data center investment and various Chinese contractors for infrastructure further illustrate foreign dominance in ownership structures.

Data ownership remains critically unclear, a fundamental governance gap that contradicts African Union Data Policy Framework principles emphasizing national control over data assets. Despite MyLagosApp being developed by MTN with claimed adherence to ISO 27001 standards, no public documentation clarifies whether surveillance data, citizen information, or smart system outputs belong to government, private contractors, or are genuinely controlled by citizens with meaningful data rights.

The absence of community ownership models or cooperative structures represents a missed opportunity for inclusive development. While the Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council funds local startups, ownership of resulting intellectual property and infrastructure remains concentrated among government agencies, private corporations, and foreign vendors rather than being distributed to communities or structured as genuine public digital infrastructure serving collective interests.

2. Finance

Lagos' smart city financing reflects heavy dependence on private capital and foreign investment, creating sustainability concerns and misalignment with priorities of vulnerable populations. The Lagos State Government has allocated significant public funds, including N1 billion to LASRIC and approximately N250 million for tech infrastructure research, but these amounts pale compared to private sector commitments estimated at 51-75% of total smart city funding. The \$6 billion Eko Atlantic project alone, entirely privately financed, represents more capital than most public smart city initiatives combined.

Chinese financing presence is substantial and warrants critical scrutiny given concerns about debt sustainability and geopolitical influence documented in broader Belt and Road Initiative critiques. China Communications Construction Group and China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation provide major infrastructure financing, while Huawei investments span multiple systems. Governor Sanwo-Olu's explicit calls for "deeper cooperation between China and Lagos in areas of green energy, smart city" suggest accelerating Chinese financial engagement without transparent disclosure of loan terms, repayment obligations, or technology transfer conditions that would enable informed public debate about trade-offs.

The revenue generation model prioritizes cost recovery in ways that potentially burden ordinary citizens while serving elite interests. Stakeholder allegations that CCTV cameras focus more on revenue generation through traffic fines than crime prevention reveal how public investments may be structured primarily for financial returns rather than social objectives. Meanwhile, premium developments like Eko Atlantic generate revenue through luxury property sales that increased 59.5% over five years, enriching private developers while affordable housing remains severely inadequate for low-income populations.

Funding transparency receives a "medium" rating in the structured data, indicating significant disclosure gaps that undermine accountability. While total budget figures are announced publicly, such as the N4.23 trillion 2026 budget, project-by-project breakdowns, detailed procurement documentation, and contract terms remain largely opaque. The CCTV system's cost is described only as "multi-billion naira" without specific amounts, preventing citizens and civil society from assessing value for money or identifying potential corruption risks.

International development finance participation remains limited relative to private capital dominance. World Bank support for the Lagos Platform for Development program and US Digital Transformation with Africa initiative (\$350 million) provide some multilateral engagement, but these represent modest portions of total financing. Greater involvement by African Development Bank and other development finance institutions could potentially introduce concessional terms, stronger governance conditions, and priorities aligned with Sustainable Development Goals rather than purely commercial interests that characterize much current financing.

3. Technology

Lagos' technology infrastructure demonstrates impressive deployment scale but suffers from critical vendor lock-in and limited use of open standards that constrain long-term flexibility and innovation. Huawei Technologies dominates across intelligent transport systems deployed in February 2025, telecommunications including Wi-Fi 6 campus networks built in 2022, and the Innovation Centre inaugurated in May 2025. This concentration creates high vendor lock-in risk where proprietary systems prevent interoperability, inflate ongoing maintenance costs, and limit the city's ability to diversify suppliers or adopt superior technologies as they emerge.

The absence of systematic open standards requirements contradicts African Union Digital Transformation Strategy principles emphasizing interoperability and avoiding vendor dependency. While MyLagosApp adheres to ISO 27001 security certification, this represents compliance with a single standard rather than comprehensive embrace of open APIs, open data formats, or

open-source software that would enable broader ecosystem participation. The reliance on proprietary Huawei platforms for core infrastructure means Lagos essentially operates on foreign-controlled technology foundations where upgrade decisions, data access protocols, and system modifications require ongoing engagement with a single foreign vendor.

Local and African technology participation exists but remains subordinated to foreign prime contractors in ways that limit genuine capacity building. MTN Nigeria, as a Nigerian company, serves as primary contractor for MyLagosApp and is building West Africa's largest data center, demonstrating local capacity. LASRIC has funded 60 startups between 2020 and 2023 in agritech, fintech, e-commerce, and climate sectors, supporting indigenous innovation. Lagos hosts five unicorns—Interswitch, Flutterwave, Jumia, OPay, and Moniepoint—proving world-class African tech companies can emerge from the ecosystem.

However, major infrastructure contracts systematically flow to foreign vendors with local firms relegated to subcontractor roles rather than leading system design and integration. The Huawei Innovation Centre, while framed as promoting "local co-creation over mere technology consumption," operates fundamentally as a vendor training facility preparing Nigerian engineers to implement Huawei solutions rather than developing genuinely independent technological capabilities. This perpetuates patterns of dependency where African cities consume foreign technology rather than building capacity to design, manufacture, and control their own digital infrastructure.

Technology transfer provisions exist but require stronger enforcement and clearer deliverables. Huawei's Innovation Centre commitment to "collaborative hubs for ICT talent to engage with cutting-edge technologies" and LASRIC's funding of 70+ university research initiatives indicate awareness of capacity building needs. LUG West Africa's construction of an assembly plant for street lighting and EV charging components represents genuine local manufacturing. Yet without requirements for source code access, documentation of system architectures in accessible formats, and mandatory training programs with measurable skill transfer outcomes, these initiatives may produce limited lasting capabilities once vendor contracts end.

4. Governance

Lagos' governance frameworks for smart city initiatives reveal concerning gaps in accountability, transparency, and multi-stakeholder participation that fall short of African Union Digital Compact principles. The Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council and Ministry of Science and Technology provide formal coordinating structures, while the THEMES Agenda (Traffic, Health, Education, Economy, Entertainment, Security, Governance) offers an overarching policy framework. However, these bodies operate primarily as government-led technocratic institutions without robust mechanisms for independent oversight or meaningful citizen participation in decision-making.

The absence of comprehensive data governance policies represents a fundamental weakness directly contradicting AU Data Policy Framework requirements for clear rules governing data collection, storage, use, and sharing. While MyLagosApp claims ISO 27001 certification and a Cyber Security Advisory Board exists to develop strategy, no publicly documented framework establishes citizens' data rights, limits on government and corporate data access, or mechanisms for individuals to control

their personal information. This regulatory vacuum enables potential abuses where surveillance data, biometric information from the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency system, and traffic monitoring data flow with minimal legal constraints or safeguards.

Procurement transparency merits only a "medium" rating, indicating significant disclosure deficiencies that enable corruption risks and prevent informed public scrutiny. While major partnerships like the Huawei ITS deployment and Dubai Holdings smart city agreement receive public announcements, detailed tender processes, evaluation criteria, and complete contract terms remain largely undisclosed. The Lagos Innovation Bill and Building Code 2025 demonstrate policy development activity, but without systematic publication of procurement documentation and independent audit mechanisms, citizens cannot assess whether contracts represent value for money or involve inappropriate vendor favoritism.

Multi-stakeholder participation remains limited primarily to government, private sector, and academia, with civil society and citizen groups largely excluded from governance structures. LASRIC includes business and technology experts, while university partnerships support research, and international collaborations with Dubai, London, and China provide external engagement. However, community organizations, informal sector representatives, and advocacy groups lack formal roles in smart city governance despite these populations comprising the majority of Lagos residents whose lives smart systems directly affect.

The regulatory framework shows emerging development but lacks comprehensive smart city-specific legislation addressing digital rights, algorithmic accountability, or technology impact assessments. The proposed Lagos Building Code 2025 incorporating smart city sustainability standards and mandatory CCTV requirements for buildings over six floors demonstrates some regulatory ambition. Yet critical gaps persist around surveillance oversight, privacy protections, and mechanisms ensuring technology deployment serves public interest rather than primarily commercial or state security objectives. Stronger alignment with AU Digital Compact principles requiring human rights-centered digital governance, participatory policy development, and accountability mechanisms remains urgently needed.

5. Surveillance

Lagos' surveillance infrastructure raises serious concerns about privacy rights, oversight deficiencies, and mission creep that fundamentally contradict African Union Data Policy Framework principles requiring robust data protection and human rights safeguards. The CCTV network deployment, though planned for 10,000 cameras, currently comprises fewer than 2,000 installed cameras connected to a centralized Command and Control Centre. This moderate scale belies the concerning trajectory where surveillance capacity expands without corresponding strengthening of regulatory frameworks, independent oversight, or privacy protections.

Advanced surveillance technologies deployed include Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras and Traffic Management Solution devices installed at four new Intelligent Transport System sites in February 2025, AI-driven traffic management systems, and drone surveillance for monitoring. Forensic facial recognition capabilities are potentially operational according to security analysis, though government statements neither confirm nor deny this capability. The opacity around facial

recognition—perhaps the most privacy-invasive technology—exemplifies governance failures where citizens cannot determine what surveillance tools monitor them, creating chilling effects on freedom of movement and assembly.

The stated surveillance purpose emphasizes public safety, crime prevention, traffic management, and emergency response. However, stakeholder allegations that cameras prioritize revenue generation through traffic fine collection over genuine security objectives reveal problematic mission drift. This pattern, where public investments justified through safety rhetoric serve primarily fiscal extraction, erodes public trust and suggests surveillance systems may expand based on revenue potential rather than evidence of crime reduction effectiveness. The ongoing rise in "daily car thefts, increasing traffic robberies, resurgence of armed robbery and kidnappings" despite multi-billion naira CCTV investments demonstrates system ineffectiveness for stated security purposes.

Oversight mechanisms are alarmingly weak, receiving a "weak" assessment in the structured data analysis. No independent oversight body monitors surveillance system operations, reviews data access requests, or conducts regular audits assessing whether deployments comply with human rights standards. National context compounds Lagos-specific deficiencies, with Nigeria described as "Africa's largest buyer of surveillance technology, spending hundreds of millions of dollars yearly" where "application of such invasive instruments is unmonitored and devoid of any strict policy provisions." This regulatory vacuum enables potential abuses where surveillance data could be used for political monitoring, harassment of activists, or discriminatory targeting without meaningful accountability.

Critical information gaps persist around data retention periods, access protocols, and privacy impact assessments. No publicly documented policies specify how long surveillance footage is stored, whether indefinite retention occurs, or when data must be deleted. Which entities can access surveillance data remains "unclear" with no documentation of warrant requirements, judicial oversight, or limits preventing unauthorized access. The absence of privacy impact assessments means surveillance deployments proceed without systematic evaluation of privacy risks, proportionality of intrusions, or consideration of less invasive alternatives. Mandatory CCTV requirements for private buildings over six floors, implemented in 2025, further expand surveillance reach without corresponding privacy safeguards, while expert calls for laws granting security agencies access to private CCTV systems threaten to eliminate remaining spaces free from state monitoring.

6. Performance

Lagos' smart city performance presents a paradoxical picture where impressive economic indicators and global recognition coexist with significant implementation failures and effectiveness concerns that undermine stated objectives. The city's designation as the world's fastest-growing tech city in 2025 by Dealroom.co and creation of five unicorns with \$15.3 billion total ecosystem valuation represent genuine achievements demonstrating Lagos has built a world-class innovation environment. The GDP of \$259 billion based on purchasing power parity, making Lagos Africa's second-largest urban economy, provides the economic foundation supporting smart city investments.

Infrastructure deployment shows mixed progress with some successes but notable gaps. The fiber-optic network achieved 99% completion of the first 3,000-kilometer phase, providing critical digital backbone infrastructure. LUG West Africa successfully installed over 50,000 solar-powered street lights, demonstrating large-scale renewable energy infrastructure deployment. MyLagosApp launched successfully in March 2025 with global availability on iOS and Google Play stores, providing citizens a digital platform for accessing government services. These concrete deliverables indicate capacity for executing major infrastructure projects.

However, effectiveness concerns severely undermine several key initiatives. The CCTV surveillance system, despite multi-billion naira investments, faces credibility crisis as stakeholders question its effectiveness given rising crime rates including daily car thefts, increasing traffic robberies, and resurgent armed robbery. Government claims that "security sensors and surveillance devices are performing well" with "low failure rate" and "high success rate" contradict public perceptions and crime statistics, suggesting either actual system deficiencies or communication failures about realistic expectations. Expert criticism that Lagos installed "outdated CCTV systems rather than modern IP-based surveillance solutions" using "HD closed-circuit television technology several decades old" indicates poor procurement decisions wasting public funds on inferior technology.

Implementation status overall is "partially operational" with concerning numbers of stalled or underperforming initiatives. The 2016 Dubai Holdings partnership meant to provide city-wide public WiFi in parks, transport terminals, and government buildings completely failed, never delivering promised services. AI traffic management systems remain in testing phase on major roads with only "promising reductions in wait times" lacking specific metrics demonstrating effectiveness. The CCTV system "efficiency has reportedly declined" over time, indicating maintenance and operational challenges. Critical assessment notes "many core government functions—civil registration, land administration, budgeting, and procurement—remain manual and siloed, particularly at the local level" despite smart city rhetoric.

Cost savings and return on investment documentation are entirely absent, a critical deficiency preventing assessment of whether smart city expenditures represent prudent use of scarce public resources. No systematic measurement of efficiency gains, service quality improvements, or financial savings exists, making it impossible to determine if investments deliver value proportionate to costs. The absence of independent evaluation by third parties compounds this accountability gap, as government self-reporting lacks credibility without external verification. For a city requiring over \$50 billion additional investment to address infrastructure gaps across transport, water, waste, and communications, the inability to demonstrate that current smart city spending produces measurable benefits raises serious questions about priorities and allocative efficiency.

7. Social Benefit

Lagos' smart city initiatives demonstrate genuine potential for social benefit through digital service delivery and innovation support, yet stark inequalities in access and persistent exclusion of vulnerable populations reveal fundamental misalignment with social inclusion principles championed by Research ICT Africa. MyLagosApp, launched in March 2025, provides real-time transportation updates, emergency services access, utility payments, and e-governance services that simplify bureaucratic processes previously requiring time-consuming physical visits to government offices.

The platform's global availability and integration of diverse services from permits to library access represents significant convenience for digitally connected residents.

However, the assessment of "mixed" social inclusion outcomes reflects troubling concentration of smart city benefits among affluent populations while marginalized communities experience limited gains. The Eko Cares program, which spent N2.9 billion supporting 8,690 vulnerable residents with medical, rent, education, and business assistance, demonstrates some social welfare commitment. The Mother, Infant and Child Development program reached 6,280 pregnant women with nutrition support across six health districts. Yet these targeted poverty interventions serve relatively small beneficiary numbers compared to Lagos' 20 million population, functioning more as safety nets addressing acute deprivation rather than comprehensive strategies ensuring smart city infrastructure serves everyone equitably.

Elite-focused developments exemplify exclusionary patterns where smart city benefits accrue primarily to wealthy residents and foreign investors. Eko Atlantic, with its 59.5% property value increase over five years and positioning as West Africa's premier luxury district, explicitly targets high-income populations and multinational corporations. The planned 250,000 residents and 150,000 daily commuters will inhabit a technologically advanced enclave with 24-hour electricity, European-standard water treatment, smart building management, and comprehensive fiber connectivity—infrastructure starkly absent from informal settlements housing millions. This spatial segregation, where premium smart infrastructure concentrates in affluent areas while low-income communities lack basic services, directly contradicts equitable development principles.

The 96% literacy rate cited as supporting digital adoption, while impressive, obscures significant digital divide realities. Literacy measures ability to read and write, not digital literacy, smartphone ownership, data affordability, or ability to navigate complex digital systems. For informal sector workers, elderly populations without smartphone skills, persons with disabilities requiring accessible interfaces, and residents lacking reliable electricity to charge devices, digital-first service delivery may create new barriers rather than expanding access. The Office of Rural Development initiatives supporting farmers and MTN's RuralCow deployment providing mobile coverage to "unconnected" rural areas acknowledge connectivity gaps but don't address fundamental questions about who smart city infrastructure truly serves.

Education and capacity building show promise through LASRIC's funding of 70+ university research initiatives and 60 startups, potentially creating employment pathways and innovation capabilities. The vibrant "people-powered" tech ecosystem with platforms like Gokada, Max.ng, Shuttlers transforming mobility and PiggyVest, Cowrywise, Paystack revolutionizing personal finance demonstrates grassroots innovation serving mass market needs. Yet the Itana AI growth zone's revelation that 70% of participating companies are foreign or diaspora-owned, with only 5% located in Nigeria, suggests smart city infrastructure may primarily facilitate foreign capital extraction rather than indigenous entrepreneurship serving local communities. The promised 2026 budget commitment to ensure "women, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities are fully supported" remains aspirational without concrete mechanisms guaranteeing inclusive implementation.

8. Environmental Benefit

Lagos' environmental performance represents perhaps the strongest dimension of its smart city initiatives, with genuine leadership on climate governance and renewable energy deployment that aligns well with African Union priorities on sustainable development. Lagos' ranking as Nigeria's top-performing state in climate governance for two consecutive years demonstrates sustained commitment beyond rhetorical environmentalism. The Climate Investment Opportunities Diagnostic unveiled in November 2025 provides a concrete policy framework linking environmental goals with actionable investment pathways across clean energy, sustainable transport, and resilient infrastructure.

The establishment of Lagos Carbon, described as Africa's first domestic environmental market, represents innovative climate finance infrastructure with potential to catalyze emissions reductions. Using "bank-grade blockchain infrastructure," the platform aims to channel investment into decarbonization projects across Lagos and enable verified emissions trading. While implementation details remain to be proven, this initiative shows ambition to create African-led climate solutions rather than solely importing Western carbon market mechanisms. The planned biogas facility at Ikosi Isheri Fruit Market, converting fruit waste into clean energy for lighting, cooking, and device charging while producing natural fertilizer, demonstrates circular economy thinking integrating waste management with energy generation.

Renewable energy infrastructure deployment has achieved impressive scale with 50,000+ solar-powered street lights installed across Lagos State by LUG West Africa. This massive deployment provides both public lighting and creates foundations for integrated EV charging infrastructure, with plans for 250 additional charging points in 2026. The integration of seven monocrystalline solar panels per charging unit, generating sufficient power for one electric vehicle covering 200-meter stretches, illustrates thoughtful infrastructure design maximizing renewable energy utilization. Nigeria's 400% increase in electric vehicles between 2020 and 2025, while from a low baseline, indicates growing momentum that could significantly reduce transport emissions if supported by adequate charging infrastructure.

Green building standards show emerging adoption in premium developments, with Eko Atlantic's Alpha1 Towers achieving EDGE certification as the first such building in 2016. The Lagos Building Code 2025 explicitly incorporates sustainability standards addressing building control, environmental safety, and climate resilience. Requirements for "minimum roadside tree cover for developments on major corridors" and converting "sensitive zones to conservation areas" demonstrate planning-level integration of environmental considerations. Schneider Electric's advocacy for smart building solutions to "improve energy efficiency by reducing energy consumption and operational costs" indicates private sector engagement supporting environmental goals.

However, environmental benefits remain geographically concentrated in affluent areas and new developments rather than benefiting the broader population equitably. Eko Atlantic's smart water quality sensors, waste recycling plants turning garbage into reusable materials, and independent 24/7 gas-powered electricity represent sophisticated environmental infrastructure absent from most Lagos neighborhoods. The Great Wall of Lagos protecting Eko Atlantic from ocean surge provides coastal protection for luxury property but doesn't address broader vulnerability of low-lying informal settlements to flooding and climate impacts. Air quality monitoring networks, water quality monitoring beyond premium zones, and comprehensive climate/weather monitoring systems remain

"unknown" or absent in the structured data, indicating environmental monitoring capabilities don't match the scale needed for city-wide pollution tracking and public health protection. For environmental benefits to genuinely serve social inclusion principles, smart environmental infrastructure must extend to working-class neighborhoods and informal settlements where environmental hazards often concentrate and vulnerable populations face greatest climate risks.

9. Economic Benefit

Lagos' economic performance as a tech hub represents the most unambiguous success of its smart city initiatives, with ecosystem development achieving global significance and generating substantial wealth. The designation as world's fastest-growing tech city by Dealroom.co, ahead of major global competitors like Istanbul and Pune, reflects extraordinary entrepreneurial energy and innovation capacity. The creation of five unicorns—Interswitch, Flutterwave, Jumia, OPay, and Moniepoint—demonstrates Lagos can produce companies reaching billion-dollar valuations and serving continental markets. The \$15.3 billion total tech ecosystem valuation, representing 11.6x growth since 2017, indicates sustained value creation outpacing many global tech hubs.

Investment attraction shows remarkable success with \$6 billion in tech funding drawn between 2019 and 2024, providing capital fueling startup growth and innovation. The Grade-A logistics hub inaugurated beside Lekki Deep Sea Port with 29,000 square meters and 45,000+ pallet positions strengthens Lagos' position as West Africa's premier logistics and trade gateway. Corporate headquarters relocations, including billionaire Femi Otedola's planned 44-story FirstBank headquarters in Eko Atlantic (set to become Nigeria's tallest office tower) and Aliko Dangote's plan to move his industrial group headquarters to Eko Atlantic, signal confidence among Nigeria's business elite in Lagos' trajectory. These moves concentrate economic activity and employment, though primarily benefiting educated professionals and corporate sectors rather than broad-based job creation.

The innovation ecosystem's "people-powered" nature represents genuine strength, with platforms like Gokada, Max.ng, and Shuttlers solving real mobility challenges, and PiggyVest, Cowrywise, and Paystack bringing millions into digital financial services. LASRIC's funding of 60 startups between 2020 and 2023 across agritech, e-commerce, fintech, climate, and circular economy sectors demonstrates public support catalyzing entrepreneurship. The 70+ university research initiatives funded create intellectual capital and research capabilities with potential long-term economic benefits. Tech hubs in Yaba's "Silicon Lagoon" and creative clusters in Surulere and Ikorodu provide collaborative spaces for entrepreneurs, mimicking successful innovation district models globally.

However, economic benefits distribution raises equity concerns, with gains concentrated among tech elites, foreign investors, and property owners while informal sector workers and vulnerable populations see limited trickle-down effects. Property value increases—59.5% in Eko Atlantic, 58.14% in Ikoyi, 45.04% in Victoria Island over five years—enrich property owners but exacerbate housing affordability crises displacing low-income residents. The revelation that Itana AI growth zone companies are 70% foreign or diaspora-owned, with only 5% located in Nigeria, suggests smart city infrastructure may facilitate capital extraction where profits flow offshore rather than generating domestic economic multipliers benefiting broad populations.

Job creation documentation remains inadequate for assessing employment benefits. Construction jobs associated with Eko Atlantic and other infrastructure projects provide temporary employment but don't represent sustainable career pathways. The claim that completed Eko Atlantic will host 250,000 residents and 150,000 daily commuters suggests large-scale employment, but job types, wage levels, and accessibility to residents from low-income areas remain unspecified. LASRIC-funded startups create some innovation economy jobs, but numbers are modest relative to Lagos' labor force needs. The absence of systematic measurement of employment generated, wages paid, and labor market outcomes from smart city investments prevents assessment of whether economic benefits justify public expenditures or primarily serve narrow elite interests. For economic development to genuinely advance equitable development principles, benefits must extend beyond unicorn valuations to measurable improvements in employment access, income levels, and economic security for ordinary Lagos residents.

10. Systems

Lagos' smart city systems architecture reflects fragmented deployment lacking the integration and interoperability essential for genuine smart city functionality aligned with African Union Digital Transformation Strategy principles. The structured data assessment describing the platform type as "multiple separate systems" rather than unified infrastructure captures this fundamental limitation. While individual systems like Huawei ITS for traffic, MyLagosApp for citizen services, CCTV command centers, and Eko Atlantic's independent infrastructure operate in their respective domains, the absence of integrated platforms prevents data sharing, coordinated operations, and synergistic benefits that comprehensive smart city architecture should deliver.

Infrastructure systems show uneven development with notable achievements in some areas and critical gaps in others. The fiber-optic network, with 3,000 kilometers completed toward a 6,000-kilometer goal, provides essential digital backbone infrastructure, while partnerships with MainOne and Google Fiber expand high-speed internet access. MTN's construction of "West Africa's largest data centre featuring seven degrees of connectivity" and 70-80 megawatts of additional data center capacity under construction strengthen Lagos' position as a regional digital infrastructure hub. However, 5G deployment remains limited to commercial rollouts by operators without comprehensive city-wide coverage, and the 2016 public WiFi initiative's complete failure left a legacy where connectivity remains primarily through private mobile networks rather than accessible public infrastructure.

Transport systems demonstrate relatively advanced intelligent transport capabilities compared to other African cities. The four new ITS sites with ANPR cameras and traffic management devices deployed by Huawei in February 2025, AI-driven traffic signals tested on major roads including Third Mainland Bridge and Lekki-Epe Expressway, and drone surveillance for traffic monitoring represent sophisticated traffic management infrastructure. The blue and red line metro operation as "Nigeria's most efficient metro rail line" and Teams Plus integrated urban transport with electric and CNG buses provide sustainable mobility options. MyLagosApp integration of real-time transportation and water transport information creates digital connectivity across modes. However, smart parking systems are entirely absent, limiting optimization of scarce parking resources, and integration between different

transport systems remains partial rather than seamlessly coordinated through unified mobility platforms.

Energy systems reveal stark contrasts between premium developments and broader city infrastructure. Eko Atlantic's smart grid monitoring energy usage in real time and independent 24/7 gas-powered generation represent sophisticated energy management, while the city-wide deployment of 50,000+ solar street lights shows renewable energy scale. Smart meter rollout aims to reduce energy theft and improve transparency. Yet consistent electricity supply remains a fundamental challenge, with experts noting CCTV cameras lack adequate power infrastructure: "We are in a city without adequate electricity, no solar systems to power the cameras, and yet you expect results?" This infrastructure deficit undermines smart system effectiveness when basic utilities remain unreliable.

Environmental monitoring systems show critical gaps despite climate leadership in other areas. Air quality monitoring networks are absent or undocumented despite pollution concerns in a megacity of 20 million. Water quality monitoring exists only in premium developments like Eko Atlantic rather than city-wide infrastructure protecting public health. Smart waste collection using IoT sensors and route optimization is not deployed, with conventional waste management persisting. The absence of these environmental monitoring capabilities means Lagos lacks real-time data on pollution levels, water quality, and environmental hazards essential for evidence-based environmental governance and protecting vulnerable populations from environmental health risks.

E-government systems show promise with MyLagosApp providing comprehensive service access, electronic billing, and online tax filing, supported by LASRRA Card integration as both identity and payment card. However, no open data portal exists, preventing public access to city data that could enable civic innovation and accountability. The absence of digital twin implementation or advanced GIS beyond basic spatial planning represents missed opportunities for sophisticated urban planning using simulation and modeling. The 2026 budget's stated focus on "integration—linking our roads, rail lines, waterways, energy systems, and digital networks into one functional ecosystem" acknowledges current fragmentation but achievement remains aspirational rather than operational reality.

Conclusions

Lagos' smart city trajectory embodies fundamental tensions between market-driven technological modernization and inclusive development serving collective welfare. The city has achieved remarkable success building a globally significant tech ecosystem, attracting substantial investment, and demonstrating environmental leadership through climate governance and renewable energy deployment. These accomplishments are genuine and position Lagos as Africa's premier innovation hub with world-class entrepreneurial capacity. However, beneath impressive economic indicators and infrastructure deployments lie serious concerns about governance deficits, social exclusion, vendor dependency, and surveillance expansion without adequate safeguards.

The ownership and financing structures concentrating control among foreign vendors, private developers, and government agencies operating without robust accountability mechanisms fundamentally contradict African Union principles of technological sovereignty and citizen-centered

development. High vendor lock-in risk to Huawei across core infrastructure, Chinese financing presence without transparent disclosure of terms, and unclear data ownership create dependencies that compromise long-term autonomy. Elite-focused developments like Eko Atlantic, while showcasing cutting-edge infrastructure, exemplify spatial segregation where premium smart city benefits concentrate in affluent enclaves while informal settlements lack basic services. This pattern perpetuates rather than addresses inequality, directly opposing Research ICT Africa's equitable development values.

Surveillance infrastructure expansion with weak oversight, absent privacy protections, and effectiveness questions represents perhaps the most troubling dimension requiring urgent reform. The deployment of CCTV networks, facial recognition capabilities, ANPR systems, and drone monitoring without independent oversight bodies, privacy impact assessments, or clear data governance policies creates conditions enabling rights abuses. The allegation that surveillance prioritizes revenue generation over genuine security objectives, combined with rising crime despite multi-billion naira investments, suggests system failures in both governance and operational effectiveness. Nigeria's position as "Africa's largest buyer of surveillance technology" operating "unmonitored and devoid of any strict policy provisions" demands immediate establishment of robust regulatory frameworks protecting citizen rights.

Performance deficiencies beyond surveillance extend to implementation gaps, stalled initiatives like the 2016 Dubai WiFi partnership, and absence of systematic evaluation measuring whether investments deliver value. The revelation that "many core government functions remain manual and siloed, particularly at the local level" despite smart city rhetoric indicates fundamental disconnects between ambitious visions and operational realities. Without independent evaluation, documented cost savings, or measurable service improvements, smart city expenditures risk becoming technology showcase projects serving vendor interests and political legitimacy rather than genuine public benefit.

Social inclusion challenges require prioritizing equitable access over continued concentration of benefits among elites. While programs like Eko Cares provide important support to vulnerable populations, and the people-powered innovation ecosystem demonstrates grassroots entrepreneurship, the overall assessment of "mixed" social inclusion outcomes reflects inadequate attention to ensuring smart infrastructure serves everyone. Digital divide realities mean digital-first service delivery may exclude populations lacking smartphone access, digital literacy, or reliable electricity. Rural connectivity initiatives and agricultural support programs demonstrate awareness of inclusion needs but require substantially scaled resources to match infrastructure investments in affluent areas.

The path forward demands fundamental governance reforms aligning Lagos' smart city development with African Union frameworks and Research ICT Africa principles. Comprehensive data governance policies establishing citizen data rights, mandatory privacy impact assessments for surveillance deployments, independent oversight bodies with enforcement powers, and procurement reforms requiring open standards and local capacity building represent essential starting points. Multi-stakeholder governance structures must include civil society, community organizations, and citizen representatives rather than remaining dominated by government and corporate actors. Public

infrastructure investments should prioritize basic service delivery to underserved populations over premium developments for elites.

Lagos possesses extraordinary human capital, entrepreneurial energy, and economic dynamism providing foundations for genuinely inclusive smart city development. Realizing this potential requires political will to prioritize equity over elite interests, transparency over opacity, and citizen rights over surveillance expansion. The choice facing Lagos is whether smart city initiatives will perpetuate patterns of exclusion and dependency or catalyze transformation genuinely serving the 20 million residents whose collective prosperity should define success. Current trajectories suggest the former; achieving the latter demands immediate, comprehensive reforms prioritizing people over technology, inclusion over exclusion, and sovereignty over dependency.

Methodology

This entire study was researched and written by Perplexity Max in Labs mode. Perplexity AI is an AI-powered answer engine that combines large language models with real-time internet search capabilities to provide sourced, synthesised responses to complex queries. Unlike traditional search engines that return lists of links, Perplexity interprets natural language questions, conducts comprehensive web searches across multiple authoritative sources, and generates concise summaries with inline citations linking to original sources. This transparency in sourcing enables rapid verification of information while maintaining research rigor. For this study, Perplexity was employed to systematically gather, synthesize, and cross-reference academic and official policy documents along with news from national and trade press sources, significantly accelerating the literature review process while ensuring comprehensive coverage of relevant sources.

Perplexity's strength lies in its research capacity, less so in high quality report writing. Because of difficulties retrieving source data from feeder documents the sources for the evidence in the country case studies are contained in a lengthy annex of research notes and references appended to each case study.

[The full methodology, outlining the design of the project through incremental iterative interactions with Perplexity, can be found here.](#)

Annex – Research notes and references

1. Ownership

Eko Atlantic City - Private Ownership

- **Chagoury Group:** The primary developer and owner of Eko Atlantic City, founded by Nigerian-Lebanese billionaires Gilbert Chagoury and Ronald Chagoury. "Hitech Construction is now building Eko Atlantic City on that land, which is held by South Energyx, a Chagoury Group subsidiary where the younger Ronald serves as vice-chairman."

- Source: <https://www.occrp.org/en/news/sons-of-nigerian-president-and-his-tycoon-friend-owned-a-company-together>
- The Chagoury Group is a Nigerian multinational business conglomerate headquartered in Lagos, founded in 1971. "Ronald is the Vice Chairman of South Energyx Nigeria Limited, the company which is currently building Eko Atlantic City."
- Source: <https://chagourygroup.com/about/executive-team/>
- "The district, developed by the Chagoury Group founded by Nigerian-Lebanese billionaire Gilbert Chagoury and his brother Ronald, recorded a 59.5 percent increase in property sales over the past five years."
- Source: <https://www.billionaires.africa/2025/12/16/gilbert-chagoury-eko-atlantic-lagos-luxury-property-sales/>

Lagos State Government Ownership

- Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC):** Government body established to promote innovation. "LASRRA stands for Lagos State Residents Registration Agency and is a parastatal of Lagos State Ministry of Science and Technology. The Agency was established in 2011."
- Source: <https://www.lagosresidents.gov.ng/faqs/>
- CCTV System:** Managed by Lagos State Government through Ministry of Science and Technology. "Lagos has smart city efforts, including the installation of 10,000 cameras...Managed by Lagos State Government...Used by Lagos State Police Command."
- Source: https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

Public-Private Partnership Governance Structure

- "6 billion development project on 10 million square meters (10 km²) of land reclaimed from Atlantic Ocean, protected by 8.5 km Great Wall of Lagos sea wall. Public-private partnership between Lagos State Government and private investors, with China Communications Construction Group as contractor."
- Source: African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md
- Lagos Resident Registration:** "The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) Card is a smart card that serves as both an identity card and a payment card. It is issued to all registered residents of Lagos State."
- Source: <https://sterling.ng/lasrra/>

Foreign Technology Vendors

- **MTN Nigeria:** Partnership for MyLagosApp digital platform. "MTN Nigeria, in collaboration with the Lagos State Government, on Thursday launched 'MyLagosApp,' a digital platform designed to enhance urban living in Lagos."
- Source: <https://www.nigeriacommunicationsweek.com.ng/mtn-nigeria-lagos-state-unveil-mylagosapp-to-transform-urban-living/>
- **Dubai Holdings LLC:** "Lagos took the first step in becoming a smart city in June 2016; the government signed a memorandum of understanding with Dubai Holdings LLC, owners of Smart City Dubai LLC."
- Source: <https://ghana.inlaks.com/reviewing-lagos-smart-city-ambitions/>
- **China Communications Construction Group (CCCC):** Major infrastructure contractor. "China Communications Construction Company, Ltd. (CCCC) is a Chinese majority state-owned, publicly traded, multinational engineering and construction company."
- Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China_Communications_Construction_Company

Private Sector Smart City Developers

Metrospeed Group - Metro Smart City Project

- Metrospeed Group has entered into strategic partnerships with multiple oil and gas cooperatives for development of Metro Smart City. "It's been a long time since we've been looking to get you on board our iconic project, the Metrospeed Smart City...This project will redefine luxury living in Lagos."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/metrospeed-nlng-co-operative-seal-partnership-on-multibillion-naira-smart-city/>
- Partnership includes China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) for infrastructure and Huawei for technology integration. "We are working with leading international partners, including China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) for infrastructure and Huawei for technology integration."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/metrospeed-nlng-co-operative-seal-partnership-on-multibillion-naira-smart-city/>
- Cooperatives involved include NLNG Cooperative Society, Chevron, ExxonMobil, and Geoplex cooperatives.
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/metrospeed-nlng-co-operative-seal-partnership-on-multibillion-naira-smart-city/>

LUG West Africa - Smart Street Lighting and EV Infrastructure

- LUG West Africa announced plans to install over 250 EV charging points integrated with solar street lights across Lagos. "LUG West Africa has already installed over 50,000 solar-powered street lights across Lagos State, providing what he described as 'a strong foundation for integrating EV charging solutions.'"
- Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>
- "According to him, LUG West Africa is currently constructing an assembly plant in Lagos. 'The plant will be used to assemble street lighting systems and manufacture components for EV charging stations.'"
- Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Itana - AI and Data Growth Zone

- Within Alaro City (bordering Eleko, Lagos), Itana is building "Africa's first full-stack AI and data growth zone, a futuristic enclave of servers, startups, and machine learning models."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>
- "Over 30 AI-focused companies are in the pipeline. 20% of these companies are based in Africa, while only around 5% are located in Nigeria...More than 70% of the companies that have joined Itana's Special Digital Economic Zone, which houses the AI growth zone, are foreign or diaspora-owned."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>

Schneider Electric - Smart Building Solutions

- "Schneider Electric, has urged stakeholders in the building sector to adapt to the transformative shift with the emergence of smart city initiatives to enhance occupant comfort, ensure safety, and improve energy efficiency."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/firm-seeks-adoption-of-smart-city-initiatives-to-tackle-overpopulation/>

Technology Vendor Partnerships

MTN Nigeria - MyLagosApp

- MTN Nigeria developed MyLagosApp in collaboration with Lagos State Government. "The app, developed by MTN's Software Lab, adheres to global security standards and ISO 27001 certification."
- Source: <https://www.nigeriacommunicationsweek.com.ng/mtn-nigeria-lagos-state-unveil-mylagosapp-to-transform-urban-living/>

- "MTN...building West Africa's largest data centre on the mainland, featuring seven degrees of connectivity. It will be the most advanced data centre in the entire region."

•Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

Huawei Technologies

- "Lagos State has partnered with Huawei Technologies to deploy four new Intelligent Transport System (ITS) sites across key locations, aiming to enhance traffic management and road safety."

•Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/lagos-partners-huawei-smart-transport/>

- "Huawei Nigeria has inaugurated a state-of-the-art Innovation Centre in Lagos, aimed at accelerating Nigeria's digital transformation and fostering local tech development."

•Source:

<https://www.telecomschamber.org/industry-news/huawei-nigeria-opens-innovation-centre-in-lagos-to-accelerate-digital-transformation/>

- "The company has previously collaborated with the Lagos State government in 2022, to build a high-speed wireless government campus network using Huawei's AirEngine Wi-Fi 6 technology."

•Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/lagos-partners-huawei-smart-transport/>

Equinix

- "The new data center, named LG3, will be the first to be newly built by Equinix in West Africa and will support global connectivity to West African markets."

•Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/business/business-news/834346-equinix-announces-plans-for-new-22-million-data-center-in-lagos.html>

Government Bodies

Lagos State Government Leadership

- Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu leads smart city initiatives under THEMES agenda (Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy, Entertainment and Tourism, Security and Governance).
- Multiple sources
- Deputy Governor Dr. Obafemi Hamzat represents government at key smart city launches. "What we manage in Lagos is bigger than most countries in Africa. MyLagosApp is crucial for helping us manage the various activities that get thrown at us because we are a hyper city."

- Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC)

- Government innovation funding body supporting startups and research. Led by innovation council supporting tech ecosystem.
- Multiple sources

2. Finance

Lagos State Government Investment

- LASRIC Funding:** "The Lagos State Government has recently approved a grant of N1 billion to support the take-off of the Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-Io>
- "250 million naira was granted to the LASRIC council" at initial inauguration (2019-2020), followed by additional 1 billion naira grant.
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-Io>
- Smart City Project Budget:** "The government has assigned a budget of 250 million nairas (around \$640,000) toward research on tech infrastructure in Lagos under the management of the Lagos State Science, Research and Innovation Council."
- Source: <https://borgenproject.org/the-smart-city-project/>
- CCTV Investment:** "Concerns are mounting over rising crime rates in Lagos State despite the multi-billion-naira investment in High Definition (HD) closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>
- Fibre Optic Infrastructure:** "We are laying 6,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable as part of our smart city initiative, and the first 3,000 kilometres have been completed."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Private Sector Investment

- **Tech Funding:** "Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has disclosed that his administration attracted over \$6 billion in tech funding between 2019 and 2024."
- Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/12/lagos-rakes-in-6bn-tech-funds-in-5yrs/>
- **Eko Atlantic Investment:** "\$6 billion development project" privately financed by Chagoury Group and investors.
- Source: <https://www.ekoatlantic.com/about-eko-atlantic/>

Infrastructure Investment Gap

- "Lagos estimates that it needs over USD 50 billion to address an investment gap across transport, water, solid waste management, and information and communications."
- Source: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062123034024444/pdf/P17503106a495a0c90af5f0c3f872c99b4f.pdf>
- Still requires "over USD 50 billion to address an investment gap across transport, water, solid waste management, and information and communications."
- Source: World Bank documentation referenced in previous sources

Research and Innovation Funding

- "Between 2020 and 2023 about 60 Innovative startups were funded through the council...startups in Agri Tech, e-commerce and Retail, fintech, climate change and circular economy."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>
- "Between 2020 and 2024 we funded over 70 R&D initiatives across four major universities in Lagos so you talk about unilag, lassu the Lagos State University of Science and Technology, Yaba College of tech."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>
- **LASRIC Grant Structure:** "The winner of the LASRIC Cohort 5 will receive subject to the terms and conditions receive grant funding of up to N5,000,000."
- Source: <https://ladder.8b.africa/scholarships/detail/lagos-state-science-research-and-innovation-council-lasric-cohort-v-innovation-call>

Multilateral Partnerships

- **World Bank:** Lagos Platform for Development (LAPD) program supporting integrated urban development.

- Source:
<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062123034024444/pdf/P17503106a495a0c90af5f0c3f872c99b4f.pdf>
- US Digital Transformation Initiative:** "US governments \$350 million Digital Transformation with Africa initiative announced at U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit."
- Source: African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md

Public-Private Collaboration Models

- "Provides framework based on 30 Global South city case studies illustrating five models of collaboration: Non-Commercial Convening, Enabling Innovation, Market-Shaping Policy and Regulation, PPPs, and Business-Focused International Partnerships. Includes African examples from Marrakech (Morocco), Lagos (Nigeria), and Kigali (Rwanda)."
- Source: African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md
- URL:
<https://www.shiftcities.org/public-private-collaboration-accelerate-sustainable-urban-development-guide-global-south-cities>

Government Budget Allocations

2026 Budget - Smart City Focus

- "Lagos Governor Sanwo-Olu Unveils N4.23trn 2026 Budget of Shared Prosperity...In 2026, we will accelerate economic growth by strengthening MSMEs, encouraging circular economy initiatives, empowering startups, and advancing innovation across sectors."
- Source:
<https://www.arise.tv/lagos-governor-sanwo-olu-unveils-n4-23trn-2026-budget-of-shared-prosperity/>
- "We will push major projects to completion, expand drainage systems, and advance smart city solutions for better connectivity, traffic management, sustainable housing, and public service delivery."
- Source:
<https://www.arise.tv/lagos-governor-sanwo-olu-unveils-n4-23trn-2026-budget-of-shared-prosperity/>

Tech Funding Attraction

- "Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has disclosed that his administration attracted over \$6 billion in tech funding between 2019 and 2024."
- Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/12/lagos-rakes-in-6bn-tech-funds-in-5yrs/>

Private Investment

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

- "LUG West Africa...has announced plans to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Lagos State with the installation of over 250 charging points, alongside the establishment of a local assembly plant for street lighting infrastructure in 2026."
- Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Data Center Investment

- "Equinix Announces Plans for New \$22 Million Data Center in Lagos...The new data center, named LG3, will be the first to be newly built by Equinix in West Africa."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/business/business-news/834346-equinix-announces-plans-for-new-22-million-data-center-in-lagos.html>
- "Around 70 to 80 megawatts of data centre infrastructure is under construction in Lagos now."
- Source: <https://www.itweb.co.za/article/taking-content-to-the-edge-slashing-latency-and-widening-coverage-in-africa/rW1xLv5n4rZ7Rk6m>

Metrospeed Smart City Investment

- "Metrospeed Group has entered into a strategic partnership with the NLNG Cooperative Society to advance the development of the Metro Smart City, a multibillion-naira smart real estate project in Lagos."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/metrospeed-nlng-co-operative-seal-partnership-on-multibillion-naira-smart-city/>

AI and Data Zone Investment

- "For just \$2,000, a business can register in Itana and receive a one-year operating license, with annual renewals costing \$1,150."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>

Economic Performance

GDP Growth

- "Just a day earlier, it was revealed that Lagos' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had reached an impressive \$259 billion based on purchasing power parity (PPP), making it the second-largest economy in Africa after Cairo."

- Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Tech Ecosystem Valuation

- "This year, Lagos (#1) is topping the list, having created five unicorns and grown its ecosystem valuation 11.6x since 2017 despite a smaller economy."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

Social Welfare Funding

- "Lagos State government said that N2.9 billion had been spent to support over 8,690 vulnerable residents with medical, rent, education, and businesses in the last one year under the Eko Cares."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>
- "N1.6 billion had been earmarked for ongoing interventions for new beneficiaries."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

Transport Investment

- "The €400 million Omeko Project, with its fleet of high-capacity ferries and upgraded terminals, signalled a deliberate effort to shift commuters to water transport."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/847222-the-politics-tragedies-urbanisation-drives-that-put-lagos-in-spotlight-in-2025/>

3. Technology

CCTV and Surveillance Systems

- 10,000 Camera Deployment:** "Lagos has smart city efforts, including the installation of 10,000 cameras. They are connected to a real time crime center, implying that forensic facial recognition is probably in use."
- Source: https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos
- Phased Implementation:** "The first phase of the smart city project aims to address security, transportation and infrastructure programs like deployment of HD cameras with gantries, integration of the deployed HD cameras with the centralized emergency command and control centre (CCC), provision of road signage structure across Lagos state and provision of street lights all over the state."

- Source:

https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

- Second Phase Expansion:** "The second phase of the project will see the deployment of 10,000 HD cameras, deployment of world class e-Government solution and world class Data center solution for the state, deployment of one key Alarm, provision of metro fibre network to serve as backbone for communication."

- Source:

https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

- Current Status:** "Only a handful of states—Lagos, Edo, Oyo, and Akwa Ibom—have functional Command and Control centres, and coverage is far from statewide."

- Source:

<https://policeaffairs.gov.ng/cctv-drones-and-command-centres-the-missing-links-in-nigerias-security/>

Biometric Systems

- LASSRA Registration:** "LASSRA has also improved technical excellence with the introduction of 4.4.2 fingerprint capturing process and development of an effective online platform to aid enrolment process."

- Source:

https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

- National Context:** "Nigeria is Africa's largest buyer of surveillance technology, spending hundreds of millions of dollars yearly."

- Source: <https://paradigmhq.org/safeguarding-privacy-regulating-ai-surveillance-in-nigeria/>

- Biometric Data Collection:** "It contains demographic and biometric information of all residents of Lagos State."

- Source: <https://www.lagosresidents.gov.ng/faqs/>

Fibre Optic and Digital Infrastructure

- 3,000 km Deployment:** "Tech infrastructure in Lagos will also be improved through the installation of '3,000 kilometers of fiber metro network cables and broadband infrastructure.'"

- Source: <https://borgenproject.org/the-smart-city-project/>

- Progress Status:** "We are laying 6,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable as part of our smart city initiative, and the first 3,000 kilometres have been completed, with 99 per cent of the first phase achieved."

- Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Smart Traffic Management

- AI-Driven Systems:** "Lagos has started deploying AI-driven systems that adjust traffic light timings based on real-time data. These systems are currently being tested on major roads like Third Mainland Bridge, Lekki-Epe Expressway, and Ojota Interchange."

- Source:

<https://www.i4globalservices.com/2025/05/07/how-lagos-traffic-data-is-driving-smart-city-initiatives-in-2025/>

- Data Collection Tools:** "Using tools like GPS trackers, mobile apps (e.g., Google Maps, Gokada, Bolt), traffic cameras, and IoT sensors, the Lagos State Government and Ministry of Transportation now uses traffic heatmaps to guide decisions."

- Source:

<https://www.i4globalservices.com/2025/05/07/how-lagos-traffic-data-is-driving-smart-city-initiatives-in-2025/>

Digital Platforms

- MyLagosApp:** "The app, developed by MTN's Software Lab, adheres to global security standards and ISO 27001 certification." Features include: real-time transportation updates, emergency services access, utility payments, business listings, tourism information, e-governance services.

- Source:

<https://www.nigeriacommunicationsweek.com.ng/mtn-nigeria-lagos-state-unveil-mylagosapp-to-transform-urban-living/>

- "This one-stop app is a central hub for information, services, entertainment, hospitality, e-governance, and virtually everything you might need. It also includes features for arts and culture, restaurant reservations, accommodation bookings, library access, and water transportation within the state."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

Eko Atlantic Smart Infrastructure

- Independent Power:** "Eko Atlantic is fully independent in power, water, and waste management. It offers 24-hour electricity, high security, fiber internet, and eco-friendly infrastructure."

- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QeEikFPtMNk>
- Smart Grid:** "Eko Atlantic uses a smart grid to make energy distribution efficient and reliable. This system monitors energy usage in real time, ensuring power is delivered where it's needed most."
- Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>
- Advanced Telecommunications:** "High-speed internet and a robust communication network are essential for a smart city. Eko Atlantic's advanced telecommunication systems provide seamless connectivity for homes, businesses, and public services."
- Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>
- Water Management:** "Smart sensors monitor water quality, ensuring clean and safe distribution. Waste recycling plants process garbage efficiently, turning it into reusable materials."
- Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>

Technology Criticisms

- Outdated Systems:** "Ibadin criticised the state government for its poor planning and decision to install outdated CCTV systems rather than modern IP-based surveillance solutions. He explained that HD closed-circuit television technology is several decades old and lags behind the innovations of modern surveillance systems."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>
- Infrastructure Deficiencies:** "We are in a city without adequate electricity, no solar systems to power the cameras, and yet you expect results? Impossible! How does it work?"
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Data Centers

- MTN Investment:** "We are also building the largest data centre in West Africa on the mainland, an advanced facility designed to enhance digital services in the region."
- Source: <https://punchng.com/mtn-deepens-lagos-partnership-on-smart-city-goals/>

Digital Platforms and Applications

MyLagosApp Launch (March 2025)

- "On March 13, 2025, industry leaders and key decision-makers...gathered to witness what could be a defining moment in Lagos' journey to becoming one of Africa's smartest cities—the launch of MyLagosApp."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>
- "Now available for download on the MTN website, as well as on the iOS and Google Play Stores in Nigeria and across the globe."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>
- Features include: "real-time transport updates, access to government services, emergency assistance, and a range of other essential features to enhance urban convenience."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Intelligent Transport Systems

Huawei ITS Deployment (February 2025)

- "Lagos State has collaborated with Huawei to implement Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), reinforcing its smart city ambitions...deploy four new Intelligent Transport System (ITS) sites across key locations."
- Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/lagos-partners-huawei-smart-transport/>
- "The new ITS sites aim to streamline traffic flow and reduce congestion using advanced monitoring and AI-powered traffic solutions...deploying Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras and Traffic Management Solution (TMS) devices."
- Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/lagos-partners-huawei-smart-transport/>

AI Traffic Management

- "Lagos has started deploying AI-driven systems that adjust traffic light timings based on real-time data. These systems are currently being tested on major roads like Third Mainland Bridge, Lekki-Epe Expressway, and Ojota Interchange."
- Source: <https://www.i4globalservices.com/2025/05/07/how-lagos-traffic-data-is-driving-smart-city-initiatives-in-2025/>

Drone Traffic Monitoring

- "Lagos Deploys Drones to Monitor, Manage Traffic"

- Source:

<https://www.nigeriacommunicationsweek.com.ng/tecom-and-huawei-to-host-miniftto-solutions-launch-event-in-lagos/>

Data Centers and Cloud Infrastructure

Equinix LG3 Data Center

- "\$22 million data center...will be the first to be newly built by Equinix in West Africa and will support global connectivity to West African markets."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/business/business-news/834346-equinix-announces-plans-for-new-22-million-data-center-in-lagos.html>

MTN Data Center

- "MTN...building West Africa's largest data centre on the mainland, featuring seven degrees of connectivity. It will be the most advanced data centre in the entire region."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

Overall Data Center Growth

- "Around 70 to 80 megawatts of data centre infrastructure is under construction in Lagos now."

- Source:

<https://www.itweb.co.za/article/taking-content-to-the-edge-slashing-latency-and-widening-coverage-in-africa/rW1xLv5n4rZ7Rk6m>

Artificial Intelligence Infrastructure

Itana AI Growth Zone

- "Africa's first full-stack AI and data growth zone...designed to serve the entire AI value chain. From model developers and data center operators to AI-first application companies."

- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>

- "The zone's first pillar is compute. AI development, especially the kind involving large language models (LLMs), requires enormous computational power...Itana has already partnered with high-compute service providers and is actively seeking more players to offer cloud, on-premise, and GPU-as-a-service capabilities."

- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>

- "Itana's zone is supported by a modular data center partner offering facilities that range from Tier 3 to potential Tier 4 upgrades."

- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>

Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure

Solar-Powered EV Charging

- "By integrating seven monocrystalline solar panels, each producing 36 volts, 'the system can generate sufficient power to charge one electric vehicle, covering an estimated 200-metre stretch of roadway.'"
- Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>
- "Each electric vehicle requires about 240 volts to achieve an hour of charging capable of covering approximately 40 miles, roughly the distance between Lagos and Abeokuta."
- Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Telecommunications

Huawei Wi-Fi 6 Campus Network

- "The company has previously collaborated with the Lagos State government in 2022, to build a high-speed wireless government campus network using Huawei's AirEngine Wi-Fi 6 technology, enhancing operational efficiency."
- Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/lagos-partners-huawei-smart-transport/>

Huawei MiniFTTO Solutions

- "Huawei's Mini Fiber To The Office (MiniFTTO) solution—an innovation designed to address the networking challenges of institutions and businesses of all sizes across Nigeria...built on F5G technologies and delivers high-performance all-optical networking."
- Source: <https://www.nigeriacommunicationsweek.com.ng/tecom-and-huawei-to-host-miniftto-solutions-launch-event-in-lagos/>

MTN and Huawei 400G/800G Network

- "MTN and Huawei Pioneer Nigeria's First 400G/800G Hybrid ASON Optical Network, Accelerating the Digital Economy."
- Source: <https://www.mwckigali.com/articles/mtn-and-huawei-pioneer-nigerias-first-400g-800g-hybrid-ason-optical-network-accelerating-the-digital-economy/>

Rural Connectivity

- "MTN Nigeria and Huawei Complete World's First RuralCow Commercial Deployment...a rapid-deployment, all-in-one mobile base station that provides mobile coverage to remote rural areas."

- Source: <https://www.huawei.com/en/news/2025/12/ruralcow>

Smart Building Solutions

IoT Integration

- "From design to full IoT integration, Metro Smart City represents the future of urban living...smart-access homes, digitised services, integrated utilities, and technology-driven community management."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/metrospeed-nlng-co-operative-seal-partnership-on-multibillion-na-ira-smart-city/>

Smart Meters

- "The state government is deploying smart meters to reduce energy theft and promote transparency."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Innovation Centers

Huawei Innovation Centre (May 2025)

- "Huawei Nigeria has inaugurated a state-of-the-art Innovation Centre in Lagos...during Huawei Day Nigeria 2025, a three-day event themed 'Accelerating Industrial Intelligence.'"
- Source: <https://www.telecomschamber.org/industry-news/huawei-nigeria-opens-innovation-centre-in-lagos-to-accelerate-digital-transformation/>
- "Chris Lu, CEO of Huawei Nigeria, described the new centre as a collaborative hub for customers, partners, and ICT talent to engage with cutting-edge technologies and co-create industry-specific solutions."
- Source: <https://www.telecomschamber.org/industry-news/huawei-nigeria-opens-innovation-centre-in-lagos-to-accelerate-digital-transformation/>

4. Governance

Strategic Frameworks

- Lagos State Development Plan (LSDP):** "The LSDP provides a set of 417 initiatives and 77 capital projects to make Lagos Africa's model mega city, of which 72 planned for 2023."

- Source:

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062123034024444/pdf/P17503106a495a0c90af5f0c3f872c99b4f.pdf>

- THEMES Agenda:** Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's administration framework covering Traffic Management and Transportation, Health and Environment, Education and Technology, Making Lagos a 21st Century Economy, Entertainment and Tourism, Security and Governance.

- Source: Multiple sources

- Lagos Climate Action Plan:** "Numerous policies exist to help achieve the priorities under the LSDP (e.g., THEMES agenda, Lagos Resilience Strategy (2020), Lagos Climate Action Plan)."

- Source:

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062123034024444/pdf/P17503106a495a0c90af5f0c3f872c99b4f.pdf>

Smart City Governance Bodies

- Lagos State Science, Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC):** Established to "promote and coordinate scientific research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in Lagos." Originally inaugurated in 2020 as multidisciplinary team of experts in business, finance, technology, funding, and innovation.

- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>

- Cyber Security Advisory Board:** "The cyber security Advisory Board was also a team of experts to help Drive cyber security awareness, cyber security strategy and cyber security legislation in Lagos State because we now need to start to protect our digital ecosystem from nefarious actors from breaches."

- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>

- Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA):** "The need to integrate the residents of Lagos state into e-government initiatives to enable the services provided by government to be fully utilized and also provide an accurate picture for government policy and planning was the brain behind the creation of LASRRA."

- Source: <https://www.lagosresidents.gov.ng>

International Partnerships

- Dubai Smart City Partnership:** "In 2016, the Lagos State Government, under the leadership of Governor Akinwunmi Ambode, forged a groundbreaking partnership with the City of Dubai to position Lagos as Africa's first smart city."

- Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

- "The MOU is between Lagos State Government and Dubai Holdings, LLC, owners of Smart City (Dubai) to develop a sustainable, smart, globally connected knowledge-based communities that drive a knowledge economy. To be located in Ibeju-Lekki."

- Source: <https://ghana.inlaks.com/reviewing-lagos-smart-city-ambitions/>

Dubai Partnership (2016)

- "In 2016, the Lagos State Government, under the leadership of Governor Akinwunmi Ambode, forged a groundbreaking partnership with the City of Dubai to position Lagos as Africa's first smart city."

- Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

London-Lagos Tech Partnership

- "London and Lagos announce tech partnership to promote innovation, economic growth, and inclusive digital development in both cities."

- Source:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/itweb-africa_lagos-london-join-forces-to-drive-tech-innovation-activity-7351200249400508416-jk6e

China Collaboration

- "Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has called for a deeper cooperation between China and Lagos in areas of green energy, smart city."

- Source:

<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/09/lagos-seeks-chinas-collaboration-on-green-energy-smart-city-projects/>

E-Governance Initiatives

- Digital Government Services:** "In a city with over 20 million people, governance must evolve beyond manual paperwork. Lagos has embraced e-governance tools such as LASG EBS-RS (Electronic Billing System) and LIRS online tax filing."

- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

- "Citizens can now apply for permits, pay taxes, or report issues through digital platforms reducing bureaucracy and saving valuable time."

- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Planning Regulations

- **CCTV Mandate:** "Property owners will, as a requirement for Planning Permit, now be mandated to install CCTV cameras in all existing buildings of six floors and above, especially those along major roads in the state."
- Source: <https://nairametrics.com/2025/01/14/lagos-govt-mandates-cctv-installation-on-buildings-of-six-floors-and-above/>

Digital Transformation

- **Enterprise Architecture:** "Part of what we are doing is digitizing Major workloads in Lagos to be able to serve citizens more efficiently and in a proper and timely manner...we are calling that project the Enterprise architecture where we consolidate and digitize a number of workloads."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>

Innovation Legislation

- **Lagos Innovation Bill:** "About 3.5% of the US GDP is spent on research and development...the idea behind the Lagos Innovation bill is to help incentivize this activity in Lagos right...to help technology and Innovation companies start off scale better and then offer value to the economy."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>

Climate Governance

- **Climate Investment Opportunities Diagnostic (CIOD):** "Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday, unveiled the Climate Investment Opportunities Diagnostic (CIOD), a policy document designed to link the state's environmental goals with actionable investment pathways."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>
- **Lagos Carbon Platform:** "The governor announced the establishment of Lagos Carbon, described as Africa's first domestic environmental market. The platform is expected to channel investment into decarbonisation projects across Lagos State using bank-grade blockchain infrastructure."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>

Strategic Policy Frameworks

Lagos Building Code 2025

- "The Lagos State Government has unveiled plans to get a brand-new Building Code next year, 2025, with the aim to achieve the high-performance standards needed to make the State a sustainable Smart City."
- Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/12/smart-city-lagos-to-get-new-building-code/>
- "We (Lagos State Government) are the first to domesticate the National Building Code...the fact that all the cabinet members see the need to have an input because it would be an outcome that would affect lives and different ministries and agencies."
- Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/12/smart-city-lagos-to-get-new-building-code/>
- "The proposed code will regulate building control, planning permission, and address the issues of setback; take care of the safety and sustainability of the environment; and also prevent the collapse of buildings."
- Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/12/smart-city-lagos-to-get-new-building-code/>

Digital Transformation Strategy

2026 Budget Focus on Integration

- "In 2026, our focus will shift from building infrastructure to integrating it—linking our roads, rail lines, waterways, energy systems, and digital networks into one functional ecosystem."
- Source: <https://www.arise.tv/lagos-governor-sanwo-olu-unveils-n4-23trn-2026-budget-of-shared-prosperity/>

E-Governance Expansion

- "Good governance is the backbone of development. We will deepen our fiscal reforms, expand e-governance, advance automation of fiscal systems, and enhance transparency across MDAs."
- Source: <https://www.arise.tv/lagos-governor-sanwo-olu-unveils-n4-23trn-2026-budget-of-shared-prosperity/>

Data Sovereignty and Tech Policy

Local Innovation Focus

- "Minister Tijani praised the initiative as a move towards Nigeria's tech sovereignty, highlighting its potential to promote local co-creation over mere technology consumption."
- Source: <https://www.telecomschamber.org/industry-news/huawei-nigeria-opens-innovation-centre-in-lagos-to-accelerate-digital-transformation/>

- "Deputy Governor Hamzat also commended Huawei's role in enhancing data sovereignty through localized cloud solutions and strengthening the state's ICT infrastructure."
- Source:
<https://www.telecomschamber.org/industry-news/huawei-nigeria-opens-innovation-centre-in-lagos-to-accelerate-digital-transformation/>

Institutional Coordination

Digital Transformation Lessons (2025)

- "In Nigeria, 2025 renewed debate around local government autonomy alongside growing interest in digitisation and AI-enabled public services, but it also exposed a persistent gap between ambition and execution."
- Source:
<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/846788-what-technology-taught-us-about-governance-lessons-from-2025-by-shona-o-oluwatola.html>
- "Many core government functions—civil registration, land administration, budgeting, and procurement—remain manual and siloed, particularly at the local level, while discussions about AI adoption have largely stayed within policy documents rather than practice."
- Source:
<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/opinion/846788-what-technology-taught-us-about-governance-lessons-from-2025-by-shona-o-oluwatola.html>

Smart City Vision Continuity

- "Since then, successive administrations have built on this vision, implementing e-governance services, establishing a dedicated data management agency to oversee critical sectors like health, education, and transportation."
- Source:
<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

5. Surveillance

CCTV Surveillance Infrastructure

- **Scale of Deployment:** "Lagos has smart city efforts, including the installation of 10,000 cameras. They are connected to a real time crime center."
- Source:
https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

- **Facial Recognition:** "It is possible that forensic facial recognition is in use...The security component will deploy thousands of surveillance CCTV cameras through the length and breadth of the State."

• Source:

https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

- **Integration with Command Center:** "Integration of the deployed HD cameras with the centralized emergency command and control centre (CCC)."

• Source:

https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

National Surveillance Context

- **Nigeria's Surveillance Spending:** "According to a press release by the Institute of Development Studies, Nigeria is Africa's largest buyer of surveillance technology, spending hundreds of millions of dollars yearly."

• Source: <https://paradigmhq.org/safeguarding-privacy-regulating-ai-surveillance-in-nigeria/>

- **Lack of Oversight:** "This trend has raised serious concerns because the application of such invasive instruments is unmonitored and devoid of any strict policy provisions."

• Source: <https://paradigmhq.org/safeguarding-privacy-regulating-ai-surveillance-in-nigeria/>

- "According to a press release by the Institute of Development Studies, Nigeria is Africa's largest buyer of surveillance technology, spending hundreds of millions of dollars yearly...This trend has raised serious concerns because the application of such invasive instruments is unmonitored and devoid of any strict policy provisions."

• Source: <https://paradigmhq.org/safeguarding-privacy-regulating-ai-surveillance-in-nigeria/>

Purpose and Function

- **Stated Purpose:** "Mr. Hakeem Fahm, Commissioner, Ministry of Science and Technology for Lagos details the deployment...the first phase of the smart city project aims to address security, transportation and infrastructure programs."

• Source:

https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

- **Crime Monitoring:** "The recent arrest of notorious armed robbery kingpin John Samuel in Epe, Lagos State, underscores the crucial role of surveillance in modern policing. CCTV footage showed Samuel shooting at victims before robbing them."

• Source:

<https://policeaffairs.gov.ng/cctv-drones-and-command-centres-the-missing-links-in-nigerias-security/>

Revenue Generation Function

- **Traffic Enforcement:** "The concerns stem from daily car thefts, increasing traffic robberies...stakeholders to question the effectiveness of the cameras, calling for enabling laws and improved infrastructure...alleging that the cameras are more focused on revenue generation—such as penalising motorists with expired vehicle particulars—than addressing criminal activities."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>
- "This system also allows for improved monitoring, such as sending notifications to vehicle owners with expired documents to renew them and pay fines."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Surveillance Governance Gaps

- **Regulatory Weaknesses:** "The focus of this follow-up report is accountability for the misuse of surveillance technologies in Nigeria...Proliferation is aggravated by weak regulations and importation controls in developing countries like Nigeria."
- Source: <https://spacesforchange.org/the-proliferation-of-dual-use-surveillance-technologies-in-nigeria-a-deployment-risks-accountability/>
- **Privacy Concerns:** "An attempt to prevent various abuses of AI-based surveillance in Nigeria should involve the collective efforts of many parties...firms that provide surveillance technologies in Lagos and Abuja must be ethically sensitive and cautious in their AI structures to prevent the abuse of Nigerians' rights."
- Source: <https://paradigmhq.org/safeguarding-privacy-regulating-ai-surveillance-in-nigeria/>

Public Awareness

- **Low Awareness:** "Only 38% of respondents reported they were aware of smart city security technology including surveillance cameras, emergency alert."
- Source: https://mkscienceset.com/articles_file/818-_article1753859422.pdf

Biometric Surveillance

- **LASRRA System:** "The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) Card is a smart card that serves as both an identity card and a payment card...It contains demographic and biometric information of all residents of Lagos State."

- Source: <https://sterling.ng/lasrra/>
- Fingerprint Registration:** "LASSRA has also improved technical excellence with the introduction of 4.4.2 fingerprint capturing process."
- Source: https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

Private Sector Surveillance Requirements

- Mandatory CCTV:** "The new mandatory requirement for property owners to install CCTV cameras in all buildings of six floors and above."
- Source: <https://www.environewsnigeria.com/planning-permit-lagos-demands-mandatory-cctv-camera-in-buildings-over-six-floors/>
- Call for Access:** Expert "called on the state and local governments to enact laws granting security agencies access to private CCTV systems installed in homes and businesses to aid crime investigations."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Regional Surveillance Context from Bibliography

- Critical analysis from bibliography: "Critical expos documenting how smart city projects across Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe serve as hubs for digital surveillance targeting citizens, journalists, and political opponents. The report reveals that technologies like CCTV, facial recognition, and biometric databases—justified as crime prevention—are actually tools for monitoring and controlling populations."
- Source: African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md - Unwanted Witness 2025 report
- URL: <https://observer.ug/technology/new-report-exposes-african-smart-cities-as-hubs-for-digital-surveillance>

CCTV System Effectiveness Debate

Continued Concerns (January 2026)

- "Concerns are mounting over rising crime rates in Lagos State despite the multi-billion-naira investment in High Definition (HD) closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed by the government in strategic locations."

- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>
- "The concerns stem from daily car thefts, increasing traffic robberies, a resurgence of armed robbery, and kidnappings...stakeholders to question the effectiveness of the cameras."
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Government Defense of System

- "Responding to allegations of inefficiency in Lagos State's CCTV surveillance system, the Commissioner for Information, Mr Gbenga Omotoso, defended the project, emphasising its ongoing development and effectiveness."
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>
- "Omotoso dismissed claims of high failure rates, stating: 'The security sensors and surveillance devices are performing well. The rate of failure is very low, and the success rate is high.'"
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Deployment Status

- "We are laying 6,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable as part of our smart city initiative, and the first 3,000 kilometres have been completed, with 99 per cent of the first phase achieved. Less than 2,000 cameras have been installed in strategic locations."
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Technology Criticisms

- "Ibadin criticised the state government for its poor planning and decision to install outdated CCTV systems rather than modern IP-based surveillance solutions. He explained that HD closed-circuit television technology is several decades old and lags behind the innovations of modern surveillance systems."
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Infrastructure Challenges

- "We are in a city without adequate electricity, no solar systems to power the cameras, and yet you expect results? Impossible! How does it work?"
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Revenue Focus Allegations

- "Stakeholders...alleging that the cameras are more focused on revenue generation—such as penalising motorists with expired vehicle particulars—than addressing criminal activities."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

ANPR Integration

- "The initiative will enhance road safety for commuters and pedestrians by deploying Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras and Traffic Management Solution (TMS) devices."
- Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/lagos-partners-huawei-smart-transport/>

Mandatory Private CCTV (2025)

- "Property owners will, as a requirement for Planning Permit, now be mandated to install CCTV cameras in all existing buildings of six floors and above, especially those along major roads in the state."
- Source: <https://nairametrics.com/2025/01/14/lagos-govt-mandates-cctv-installation-on-buildings-of-six-floors-and-above/>

Call for Security Access

- Expert "called on the state and local governments to enact laws granting security agencies access to private CCTV systems installed in homes and businesses to aid crime investigations."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

6. Performance

CCTV System Effectiveness Debates

- **Government Claims:** "Responding to allegations of inefficiency in Lagos State's CCTV surveillance system, the Commissioner for Information, Mr Gbenga Omotoso, defended the project, emphasising its ongoing development and effectiveness...'The system has been instrumental in apprehending criminals.'"
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-ca-meras/>
- **Police Success Claims:** "Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Benjamin Hundeyin, also highlighted the role of CCTV in the Command's success, saying: 'We have recorded several successes through the system.'"
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-ca-meras/>

Effectiveness Concerns

- **Rising Crime Despite Surveillance:** "Concerns are mounting over rising crime rates in Lagos State despite the multi-billion-naira investment in High Definition (HD) closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras installed by the government in strategic locations. The concerns stem from daily car thefts, increasing traffic robberies, a resurgence of armed robbery, and kidnappings."
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-ca-meras/>
- **System Degradation:** "Successive administrations continued to invest in the project, acquiring more cameras to aid the police...However, over time, the system's efficiency has reportedly declined, raising concerns that the project's original purpose is no longer being realised."
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-ca-meras/>
- **Low Failure Rate Claimed:** "Omotoso dismissed claims of high failure rates, stating: 'The security sensors and surveillance devices are performing well. The rate of failure is very low, and the success rate is high.'"
- Source:
<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-ca-meras/>

Infrastructure Limitations

- **Power Supply Issues:** "We are in a city without adequate electricity, no solar systems to power the cameras, and yet you expect results? Impossible!"

- Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Fibre Optic Progress

- **Deployment Status:** "We are laying 6,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable as part of our smart city initiative, and the first 3,000 kilometres have been completed, with 99 per cent of the first phase achieved. Less than 2,000 cameras have been installed in strategic locations."

- Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Innovation Ecosystem Performance

- **Startup Funding:** "Between 2020 and 2023 about 60 Innovative startups were funded through the council...in Agri Tech, e-commerce and Retail, fintech, climate change and circular economy."

- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-Io>

- **Research Output:** "Between 2020 and 2024 we funded over 70 R&D initiatives across four major universities...we got our first patent right...we've gotten patents for original inventions in Lagos right and we have many patent pending initiatives."

- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-Io>

Traffic Management Performance

- **Tested Systems:** "Lagos has started deploying AI-driven systems that adjust traffic light timings based on real-time data. These systems are currently being tested on major roads like Third Mainland Bridge, Lekki-Epe Expressway, and Ojota Interchange, with promising reductions in wait times."

- Source:

<https://www.i4globalservices.com/2025/05/07/how-lagos-traffic-data-is-driving-smart-city-initiatives-in-2025/>

Eko Atlantic Construction Progress

- **Land Reclamation:** "Currently 65% of development area reclaimed over 6.5 million square meters...The Great Wall of Lagos sea revetment...has surpassed 6 kilometres in length and is now protecting over 6 million square metres."

- Source: <https://www.ekoatlantic.com/about-eko-atlantic/>
- Property Market Performance:** "The district...recorded a 59.5 percent increase in property sales over the past five years...placing Eko Atlantic at the top of Lagos' high-end residential market."
- Source: <https://www.billionaires.africa/2025/12/16/gilbert-chagoury-eko-atlantic-lagos-luxury-property-sales/>

Safety Performance Claims

- State Safety Claims:** "The crime rate in Lagos has significantly declined. Lagos is the safest state in the country. When was the last time you heard of a kidnapping here?"
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Global Recognition

World's Fastest-Growing Tech City (May 2025)

- "Lagos has been identified as the world's fastest-growing tech city for 2025 by the Netherlands-based research firm Dealroom.co."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-named-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-for-2025/>
- "This year, Lagos (#1) is topping the list, having created five unicorns and grown its ecosystem valuation 11.6x since 2017 despite having a smaller economy."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

Five Unicorns

- "Lagos is home to five unicorns, which are Interswitch, Flutterwave, Jumia, OPay, and Moniepoint."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

Tech Ecosystem Valuation

- "Lagos, Nigeria, is officially the World's Fastest-Growing Emerging Tech Ecosystem in 2025, boasting an incredible US\$15.3 Billion valuation."
- Source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DKCRjXTsJ3x/>

Economic Performance

Second Largest African Economy

- "Lagos' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had reached an impressive \$259 billion based on purchasing power parity (PPP), making it the second-largest economy in Africa after Cairo."

•Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Smart City Implementation Progress

MyLagosApp Launch Success

- Successfully launched March 13, 2025, with availability on iOS and Google Play Stores globally.

•Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Infrastructure Completion Rates

- "We are laying 6,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable as part of our smart city initiative, and the first 3,000 kilometres have been completed, with 99 per cent of the first phase achieved."

•Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Smart Street Lighting

- "LUG West Africa has already installed over 50,000 solar-powered street lights across Lagos State."

•Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Challenges and Criticisms

Smart City WiFi Failure

- "In 2016, Lagos announced an ambitious plan to become a 'smart city'—a digital hub where residents could access public WiFi in parks, transport terminals, and government buildings. A partnership with Dubai Holdings was meant to lay the foundation for this transformation."

•Source:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/techcabal_in-2016-lagos-announced-an-ambitious-plan-activity-7381750271422525440-JGtM

Implementation Gaps

- "Innovation, of course, is a continuous journey rather than a final destination. So, while today's launch is very important and a fantastic step forward, there's much more that we can do." - Deputy Governor Hamzat on MyLagosApp launch.

- Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

CCTV System Degradation

- "However, over time, the system's efficiency has reportedly declined, raising concerns that the project's original purpose is no longer being realised."

- Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Transport Performance

- "Teams Plus integrated urban transport system demonstrated a policy focus on seamless connectivity, with electric and compressed natural gas buses linking major transport modes."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/847222-the-politics-tragedies-urbanisation-drives-that-put-lagos-in-spotlight-in-2025/>

- "Through the blue line and the red line, Lagos also continues to run Nigeria's most efficient metro rail line, despite its challenges."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/847222-the-politics-tragedies-urbanisation-drives-that-put-lagos-in-spotlight-in-2025/>

EV Adoption Growth

- "Between 2020 and 2025, the country recorded an estimated 400 per cent increase in electric vehicles."

- Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Digital Literacy

- "With Lagos boasting a thriving tech ecosystem, expanding digital infrastructure, and a literacy rate of approximately 96%, introducing a city-wide digital platform is not just timely but long overdue."

- Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

7. Social Benefit

Digital Inclusion

- **MyLagosApp Accessibility:** "The app serves as a vital link between the government and the people, and simplifies access to public services, providing real-time updates, and promoting transparency and accountability in governance."
- Source: <https://businessday.ng/life/article/mtn-partners-lagos-government-on-mylagosapp-launch/>
- **Empowerment Focus:** "It's about empowering Lagosians with the tools to navigate our beloved city efficiently and safely, allowing them to take control of their experience."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

E-Governance Benefits

- **Service Delivery:** "Citizens can now apply for permits, pay taxes, or report issues through digital platforms reducing bureaucracy and saving valuable time. This digital shift is more than convenience; it's empowerment. It gives citizens access, accountability, and a voice in shaping their own city."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Education and Capacity Building

- **University Research Funding:** "Between 2020 and 2024 we funded over 70 R&D initiatives across four major universities in Lagos so you talk about unilag, lassu the Lagos State University of Science and Technology, Yaba College of tech."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>
- **Scholarship Programs:** "The Nigerian government has funded more than 20 innovative startups in areas such as agriculture-tech, environmental tech, educational technology and small-scale manufacturing. The government has also financially supported more than 70 research programs in four educational institutions."
- Source: <https://borgenproject.org/the-smart-city-project/>

Job Creation

- **Eko Atlantic Employment:** "Upon completion, expects 250,000 residents and 150,000 daily commuters...This transformative project not only stimulates job opportunities but also fosters pride and ownership within the Nigerian community."
- Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1izhUL_gdos

Connectivity and Digital Literacy

- **High Literacy Rate:** "With Lagos boasting a thriving tech ecosystem, expanding digital infrastructure, and a literacy rate of approximately 96%, introducing a city-wide digital platform is not just timely but long overdue."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>
- **Internet Infrastructure:** "The Lagos State Government's partnership with MainOne and Google Fiber has brought high-speed internet to more communities, fueling digital inclusion."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Community-Led Innovation

- **People-Powered Development:** "What truly makes Lagos' smart city evolution unique is that it isn't government-driven alone—it's people-powered...Lagos is the beating heart of Nigeria's tech ecosystem—home to innovators and problem-solvers who are turning everyday struggles into digital solutions."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

LASRRA Identity Benefits

- **Service Access:** "It enables residents to access state services such as social welfare, education, financial inclusion, housing, health, and government-backed transportation systems."
- Source: <https://sterling.ng/lasrra/>

Concerns About Exclusion

- From bibliography: "Critical analysis examining involvement of and impact on local communities...Raises questions about whether Konza is appropriate developmental step for Kenya, noting critics argue Kenya might be getting ahead of itself" - similar concerns applicable to Lagos mega-projects.
- Source: African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md

Digital Service Delivery

MyLagosApp Citizen Empowerment

- "The app serves as a vital link between the government and the people, and simplifies access to public services, providing real-time updates, and promoting transparency and accountability in governance."

- Source:

<https://businessday.ng/life/article/mtn-partners-lagos-government-on-mylagosapp-launch/>

- "It's about empowering Lagosians with the tools to navigate our beloved city efficiently and safely so they can take control of their experience."

- Source:

<https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Social Welfare Support

Eko Cares Program

- "N2.9 billion had been spent to support over 8,690 vulnerable residents with medical, rent, education, and businesses in the last one year under the Eko Cares."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>
- "6,000 beneficiaries were empowered through direct cash for small-scale business startups and FMCG partnerships."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

Mother, Infant and Child Development (MICHHD)

- "Under the Mother, Infant and Child Development (MICHHD) programme meant to provide nutrition support for indigent, vulnerable pregnant women, 6,280 beneficiaries were reached across the six health districts in the state."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

Education and Skills Development

University Research Funding

- "Between 2020 and 2024 we funded over 70 R&D initiatives across four major universities in Lagos."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>

Startup Support

- "Between 2020 and 2023 about 60 Innovative startups were funded through the council...in Agri Tech, e-commerce and Retail, fintech, climate change and circular economy."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>

Rural and Inclusive Development

Agricultural Empowerment

- "The Office of Rural Development has recorded significant milestones in rural transformation and agricultural empowerment...demonstration centres across the state's five divisions, including the Isheri Integrated Farm Centre and Ketu-Epe Farm Centre, which serve as hubs for training and equipping grassroots farmers."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

Connectivity for Underserved Areas

- "MTN Nigeria and Huawei Complete World's First RuralCow Commercial Deployment, Accelerating Connectivity for the Unconnected...provides mobile coverage to remote rural areas."
- Source: <https://www.huawei.com/en/news/2025/12/ruralcow>

Innovation for Social Good

- "MyLagosApp embodies MTN's commitment to leveraging technology for social good, aligning with Lagos State's vision of a brilliant city."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

People-Powered Innovation

- "What truly makes Lagos' smart city evolution unique is that it isn't government-driven alone—it's people-powered...Lagos is the beating heart of Nigeria's tech ecosystem—home to innovators and problem-solvers who are turning everyday struggles into digital solutions."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Inclusive Urban Development Focus

- "We will improve urban renewal, waste management, and flood resilience, while ensuring that women, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities are fully supported. Our goal is a Lagos that cares, includes, and uplifts."
- Source: <https://www.arise.tv/lagos-governor-sanwo-olu-unveils-n4-23trn-2026-budget-of-shared-prosperity/>

8. Environmental Benefit

Eko Atlantic Coastal Protection

- **Great Wall of Lagos:** "The 8.5 km long sea wall was built to protect the city from the dangers of ocean surges and flooding. Made from concrete and designed to withstand the strongest waves, it acts as a shield for the reclaimed land."

• Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>

- **Erosion Solution:** "Eko Atlantic was born out of a pressing need to protect Lagos from severe coastal erosion and to solve land shortages caused by a rapidly growing population."

• Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>

- **Ocean Protection:** "In addition to providing a state-of-the-art business district for West Africa, the city aims to restore land lost to coastal erosion over the past century, offer a long-term solution to the erosion problem along Lagos' coastline, shield Victoria Island from ocean surge."

• Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eko_Atlantic

Green Building Standards

- **EDGE Certification:** "The first EDGE-certified green building, Alpha1 Towers, is already part of the city. This building is designed to meet high environmental standards, which will appeal to eco-conscious tourists."

• Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/african-tourism-industry/>

- "In 2016, Alpha 1, a flagship office tower, became the first building granted IFC edge sophisticate in Eko Atlantic."

• Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1ppbEw3bHQ>

Renewable Energy Integration

- **Solar Solutions:** "Startups like Arnergy, Rensource, and Lumos are providing solar solutions that power homes and businesses sustainably...Communities in areas like Yaba, Surulere, and Lekki are experimenting with microgrids and renewable systems."

• Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

- **Eko Atlantic Energy:** "Integrates renewable energy sources including solar power. Represents fusion of innovation and resilience in African urban development."

• Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>

Climate Policy Frameworks

- **Climate Investment Strategy:** "Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, unveiled the Climate Investment Opportunities Diagnostic (CIOD), a policy document designed to link the state's

environmental goals with actionable investment pathways...identifies opportunities across clean energy, sustainable transport, and resilient infrastructure."

- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>
- Lagos Carbon Market:** "The establishment of Lagos Carbon, described as Africa's first domestic environmental market...will enable nations and corporations to finance verified emissions reductions and removals across Lagos and Nigeria."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>
- Biogas Facility:** "The forthcoming biogas facility at the Ikosi Isheri Fruit Market...will convert fruit waste into clean energy for lighting, cooking, and device charging, while producing natural fertiliser for farmers."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>

Water and Waste Management

- Eko Atlantic Systems:** "Water and waste systems in Eko Atlantic are designed with precision. Smart sensors monitor water quality, ensuring clean and safe distribution. Waste recycling plants process garbage efficiently, turning it into reusable materials."
- Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>
- European Standards:** "Independent electricity 24/7 gas-powered station, underground utilities, fiber optic communication, water/wastewater treatment to European standards."
- Source: African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md - Eko Atlantic official documentation

Climate Governance Recognition

- National Leadership:** "Lagos remains the top-performing state in Nigeria's climate governance rankings for the second consecutive year."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>

Environmental Concerns

- From bibliography critical analysis: "Examines how Eko Atlantic demonstrates smart urban planning technology transforming future of cities. Built as response to severe coastal erosion and land shortages." However, critics raise questions about displacement and sustainability of land reclamation.
- Source: African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md

Climate Governance Leadership

Climate Investment Strategy (November 2025)

- "Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Thursday, unveiled the Climate Investment Opportunities Diagnostic (CIOD), a policy document designed to link the state's environmental goals with actionable investment pathways."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>
- "Lagos remains the top-performing state in Nigeria's climate governance rankings for the second consecutive year."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>

Lagos Carbon Platform

- "The governor announced the establishment of Lagos Carbon, described as Africa's first domestic environmental market. The platform is expected to channel investment into decarbonisation projects across Lagos State using bank-grade blockchain infrastructure."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>

Renewable Energy Solutions

Solar Street Lighting

- "LUG West Africa has already installed over 50,000 solar-powered street lights across Lagos State, providing what he described as 'a strong foundation for integrating EV charging solutions.'"
- Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Solar EV Charging Integration

- "By integrating seven monocrystalline solar panels, each producing 36 volts, 'the system can generate sufficient power to charge one electric vehicle, covering an estimated 200-metre stretch of roadway.'"
- Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Waste-to-Energy

Biogas Facility

- "The forthcoming biogas facility at the Ikosi Isheri Fruit Market...will convert fruit waste into clean energy for lighting, cooking, and device charging, while producing natural fertiliser for farmers."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

EV Charging Network Expansion (December 2025)

- "LUG West Africa...has announced plans to expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Lagos State with the installation of over 250 charging points."

• Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

EV Adoption Growth

- "Nigeria has witnessed a significant rise in electric vehicle adoption. Between 2020 and 2025, the country recorded an estimated 400 per cent increase in electric vehicles."

• Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

- "Global projections suggest that by 2030, electric vehicles could account for about 10 per cent of vehicles on Nigerian roads."

• Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Smart City Sustainability

Building Code Environmental Standards

- "It is all about building sustainably, making Lagos a lot more resilient and able to absorb shock in the future."

• Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/12/smart-city-lagos-to-get-new-building-code/>

- "He also backed greener design rules such as minimum roadside tree cover for developments on major corridors."

• Source: <https://smartcityplc.com/2025/>

Green Urban Planning

- "Painful but necessary sustainability and governance corrections, including converting sensitive zones to conservation areas, would yield long-term benefits."

• Source: <https://smartcityplc.com/2025/>

Energy Efficiency

Smart Building Solutions

- "Schneider Electric, has urged stakeholders in the building sector to adapt to the transformative shift with the emergence of smart city initiatives to enhance occupant comfort, ensure safety, and improve energy efficiency by reducing energy consumption and operational costs."

• Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/firm-seeks-adoption-of-smart-city-initiatives-to-tackle-overpopulation/>

Transport Emissions Reduction

- "Teams Plus integrated urban transport system...with electric and compressed natural gas buses linking major transport modes. These measures aim not only to relieve congestion but also to reduce environmental impact."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/847222-the-politics-tragedies-urbanisation-drives-that-put-lagos-in-spotlight-in-2025/>

9. Economic Benefit

Tech Investment Attraction

- **\$6 Billion Tech Funding:** "Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, has disclosed that his administration attracted over \$6 billion in tech funding between 2019 and 2024."
- Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/12/lagos-rakes-in-6bn-tech-funds-in-5yrs/>

Property Value Growth

- **Luxury Real Estate Performance:** "The district...recorded a 59.5 percent increase in property sales over the past five years...Ikoyi followed closely behind Eko Atlantic, posting a 58.14 percent increase in luxury property values...Victoria Island...saw prices rise 45.04 percent."
- Source: <https://www.billionaires.africa/2025/12/16/gilbert-chagoury-eko-atlantic-lagos-luxury-property-sales/>

Corporate Headquarters Attraction

- **Major Relocations:** "Billionaire Femi Otedola broke ground on FirstBank's eco-friendly headquarters in Eko Atlantic. The planned 44-story building is set to become Nigeria's tallest office tower...Aliko Dangote, said he plans to relocate the headquarters of his industrial group to Eko Atlantic."
- Source: <https://www.billionaires.africa/2025/12/16/gilbert-chagoury-eko-atlantic-lagos-luxury-property-sales/>
- **MTN Headquarters:** MTN Nigeria building "West Africa's largest data centre on the mainland."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

Economic Productivity

- **GDP Contribution:** "With a population of 20 million people, Lagos is a city of great potentials. It had a gross domestic product (GDP) of about US\$136 billion in 2017; the city is said to have the seventh largest GDP in Africa."
- Source: <https://ghana.inlaks.com/reviewing-lagos-smart-city-ambitions/>
- **Productivity Focus:** "Economies worldwide are driven by productivity, and every technological innovation plays a crucial role in boosting this productivity, ultimately improving societal well-being and financial prosperity."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

Startup Ecosystem Growth

- **Silicon Lagoon:** "Lagos is the beating heart of Nigeria's tech ecosystem—home to innovators and problem-solvers...Platforms like Gokada, Max.ng, and Shuttlers are transforming mobility...PiggyVest, Cowrywise, and Paystack have revolutionized personal finance, bringing millions into the digital economy."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>
- **Tech Hubs:** "Tech hubs in Yaba's 'Silicon Lagoon' to new creative clusters in Surulere and Ikorodu, data is driving collaboration and innovation."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Job Creation

- **Construction Employment:** "This transformative project not only stimulates job opportunities but also fosters pride and ownership within the Nigerian community."
- Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1izhUL_gdos
- **Innovation Jobs:** LASRIC funded "60 Innovative startups" creating jobs across multiple sectors.
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>

Tech Hubs and Startups

- "Thousands of our youths are busy at tech hubs, using technology to resolve everyday challenges. We will keep encouraging them." - Governor Sanwo-Olu.
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-named-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-for-2025/>

AI Growth Zone Employment

- "By creating a full-stack AI ecosystem on the continent, Itana isn't just enabling local startups; it's laying the groundwork for Africa's AI sovereignty. The ripple effects could be profound: job creation, increased foreign direct investment (FDI), exportable innovation."

•Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>

Infrastructure Projects

- Metro Smart City "expected to create significant employment through construction, operations, and ancillary services."

•Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/metrospeed-nlng-co-operative-seal-partnership-on-multibillion-naira-smart-city/>

Investment Climate

- Investor Confidence:** "Designed to accommodate about 250,000 residents and up to 150,000 daily commuters, Eko Atlantic is positioning itself as a new center for commerce and finance as Lagos' population climbs toward 25 million."

•Source:

<https://www.billionaires.africa/2025/12/16/gilbert-chagoury-eko-atlantic-lagos-luxury-property-sales/>

Tourism and Hospitality

- Tourism Potential:** "Eko Atlantic is one of the most exciting projects in Nigeria and plays a key role in shaping the future of the African tourism Industry...designed to be a financial and tourism hub that can attract international visitors and investors."

•Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/african-tourism-industry/>

Infrastructure Investment Needs

- Funding Gap:** "Lagos estimates that it needs over USD 50 billion to address an investment gap across transport, water, solid waste management, and information and communications."

•Source:

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099062123034024444/pdf/P17503106a495a0c90af5f0c3f872c99b4f.pdf>

Tech Ecosystem Growth

World's Fastest-Growing Tech City

- "Lagos has been identified as the world's fastest-growing tech city for 2025 by the Netherlands-based research firm Dealroom.co...leading ahead of Istanbul, Turkey, and Pune, India."

• Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-named-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-for-2025/>

Unicorn Creation

- "Lagos (#1) is topping the list, having created five unicorns and grown its ecosystem valuation 11.6x since 2017 despite having a smaller economy."

• Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

- Five unicorns: Interswitch, Flutterwave, Jumia, OPay, and Moniepoint.

• Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/lagos-ranked-worlds-fastest-growing-tech-city-in-2025/>

Ecosystem Valuation

- "Lagos, Nigeria, is officially the World's Fastest-Growing Emerging Tech Ecosystem in 2025, boasting an incredible US\$15.3 Billion valuation."

• Source: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DKCRjXTsJ3x/>

GDP Performance

Economic Output

- "Lagos' Gross Domestic Product (GDP) had reached an impressive \$259 billion based on purchasing power parity (PPP), making it the second-largest economy in Africa after Cairo."

• Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Productivity Impact

- "Economies worldwide are driven by productivity, and every technological innovation plays a crucial role in boosting this productivity, ultimately improving societal well-being and financial prosperity." - MTN CEO Karl Toriola.

• Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

Investment Attraction

Tech Funding

- "\$6 billion in tech funding between 2019 and 2024" attracted to Lagos.

• Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/12/lagos-rakes-in-6bn-tech-funds-in-5yrs/>

Data Center Investment

- "Around 70 to 80 megawatts of data centre infrastructure is under construction in Lagos now."
- Source: <https://www.itweb.co.za/article/taking-content-to-the-edge-slashing-latency-and-widening-coverage-in-africa/rW1xLv5n4rZ7Rk6m>

Real Estate Growth

Eko Atlantic Property Performance

- "The district...recorded a 59.5 percent increase in property sales over the past five years...placing Eko Atlantic at the top of Lagos' high-end residential market."
- Source: <https://www.billionaires.africa/2025/12/16/gilbert-chagoury-eko-atlantic-lagos-luxury-property-sales/>

Corporate Headquarters

- "Billionaire Femi Otedola broke ground on FirstBank's eco-friendly headquarters in Eko Atlantic. The planned 44-story building is set to become Nigeria's tallest office tower...Aliko Dangote, said he plans to relocate the headquarters of his industrial group to Eko Atlantic."
- Source: <https://www.billionaires.africa/2025/12/16/gilbert-chagoury-eko-atlantic-lagos-luxury-property-sales/>

Business Ecosystem

Startup Events

- "Techpoint Build...hosting over 4,000 attendees at Landmark Event Centre in Lagos. The event featured the inaugural Pitch Storm competition, where startups competed for equity-free funding."
- Source: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2025/01/10/how-techpoint-changed-africas-tech-reporting-landscape-in-10-years/>
- "The Lagos Startup Expo will take place on June 18-19, 2025, at the Landmark Events Centre. This edition promises exclusive networking opportunities with top investors and industry leaders."
- Source: <https://www.hadu.app/entities/techpoint-africa>

Logistics and Trade

Grade-A Logistics Hub

- "Sanwo-Olu inaugurates Grade-A logistics hub...The 29,000-square-metre park, located beside the Lekki Deep Sea Port, opens with more than 45,000 pallet positions, advanced storage."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/ssouth-west/841528-sanwo-olu-inaugurates-grade-a-logistics-hub-says-lagos-attracting-record-investments/>

MSME Support

Economic Growth Strategy

- "In 2026, we will accelerate economic growth by strengthening MSMEs, encouraging circular economy initiatives, empowering startups, and advancing innovation across sectors."
- Source: <https://www.arise.tv/lagos-governor-sanwo-olu-unveils-n4-23trn-2026-budget-of-shared-prosperity/>

Regional Innovation Hub

- "Lagos is the beating heart of Nigeria's tech ecosystem—home to innovators and problem-solvers...Platforms like Gokada, Max.ng, and Shuttlers are transforming mobility...PiggyVest, Cowrywise, and Paystack have revolutionized personal finance."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Global Competitiveness

- "Our aim is to fast-track the transformation of Lagos into an engine of opportunity and a global hub for innovation, trade, and enterprise."
- Source: <https://www.arise.tv/lagos-governor-sanwo-olu-unveils-n4-23trn-2026-budget-of-shared-prosperity/>

10. Systems

Digital Infrastructure

- **Fibre Optic Network:** "3,000 kilometers of fiber metro network cables and broadband infrastructure" installed with 6,000 km total planned.
- Source: <https://borgenproject.org/the-smart-city-project/>

- **Data Centers:** "MTN...building West Africa's largest data centre on the mainland, featuring seven degrees of connectivity. It will be the most advanced data centre in the entire region."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

Surveillance Systems

- **CCTV Network:** "10,000 HD cameras" deployment across Lagos State with centralized command and control center integration.
- Source: https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos
- **Facial Recognition:** Potential forensic facial recognition capabilities integrated with real-time crime center.
- Source: https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

CCTV Network

- "Less than 2,000 cameras have been installed in strategic locations" with target of 10,000 HD cameras.
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Command and Control Centre

- Centralized emergency command and control centre integrating CCTV feeds.
- Multiple sources

Mandatory Building CCTV

- "Property owners...mandated to install CCTV cameras in all existing buildings of six floors and above."
- Source: <https://nairametrics.com/2025/01/14/lagos-govt-mandates-cctv-installation-on-buildings-of-six-floors-and-above/>

Transport Management

- **Intelligent Traffic Systems:** "Smart traffic lights equipped with sensors and cameras have reduced congestion and improved traffic flow."
- Source: <https://genyzsolutions.com/the-role-iot-plays-in-enabling-smart-cities-in-nigeria/>

- **AI Traffic Management:** "AI-driven systems that adjust traffic light timings based on real-time data...currently being tested on major roads like Third Mainland Bridge, Lekki-Epe Expressway, and Ojota Interchange."

• Source:

<https://www.i4globalservices.com/2025/05/07/how-lagos-traffic-data-is-driving-smart-city-initiatives-in-2025/>

- **Rail Systems:** "Lagos Blue Rail Line is equipped with automated systems designed to make movement faster and more efficient."

• Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Energy Management

- **Smart Meters:** "The state government is deploying smart meters to reduce energy theft and promote transparency."

• Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

- **Eko Atlantic Independent Power:** "Independent 24/7 power station powered by gas, underground power distribution and substations."

• Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1ppbEw3bHQ>

- **Renewable Microgrids:** "Communities in areas like Yaba, Surulere, and Lekki are experimenting with microgrids and renewable systems."

• Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Solar Street Lighting

- "LUG West Africa has already installed over 50,000 solar-powered street lights across Lagos State."

• Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

EV Charging Infrastructure

- "Plans to install over 250 EV charging points, alongside the establishment of a local assembly plant for street lighting infrastructure in 2026."

• Source: <https://punchng.com/firm-plans-250-ev-charging-points-across-lagos/>

Smart Meters

- "The state government is deploying smart meters to reduce energy theft and promote transparency."

• Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Water Management

- **Eko Atlantic Water Systems:** "Water and wastewater treatment plants built to European standard, clean portable water, sewer systems."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1ppbEw3bHQ>
- **Smart Water Monitoring:** "Smart sensors monitor water quality, ensuring clean and safe distribution."
- Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>

Waste Management

- **Intelligent Systems:** "Waste recycling plants process garbage efficiently, turning it into reusable materials. For example, organic waste is converted into compost for green spaces."
- Source: <https://gilbertchagoury.com/blog/philanthropy/smart-urban-planning-technology/>
- **Biogas Conversion:** "The forthcoming biogas facility at the Ikosi Isheri Fruit Market...will convert fruit waste into clean energy."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>

Biogas Facility

- "The forthcoming biogas facility at the Ikosi Isheri Fruit Market...will convert fruit waste into clean energy."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/sanwo-olu-launches-climate-policy-to-attract-investments/>

Integrated Waste Systems

- "Expanding waste collection, recycling, and water treatment infrastructure."
- Source: <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/847222-the-politics-tragedies-urbanisation-drives-that-put-lagos-in-spotlight-in-2025/>

Public Lighting

- "Provision of street lights all over the state" as part of smart city project first phase.
- Source: https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

E-Government

- **MyLagosApp Platform:** Comprehensive digital platform integrating: real-time traffic updates, emergency services access (hospitals, fire departments), utility payments, business listings, tourism information, accommodation bookings, library access, water transportation, arts and

culture features, restaurant reservations, e-governance services, tax payments, permit applications.

- Source: Multiple sources including
<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>
- Electronic Billing System:** "LASG EBS-RS (Electronic Billing System) and LIRS online tax filing, making processes more efficient and transparent."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Digital Identity

- LASRRA Card System:** "The Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA) Card is a smart card that serves as both an identity card and a payment card...It contains demographic and biometric information of all residents of Lagos State."
- Source: <https://sterling.ng/lasrra/>
- Biometric Registration:** "4.4.2 fingerprint capturing process and development of an effective online platform to aid enrolment process. A real time online registration has been developed."
- Source:
https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

Emergency Management

- Command and Control Centre:** "Integration of the deployed HD cameras with the centralized emergency command and control centre (CCC)."
- Source:
https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos
- Unified Communications:** "Unified Communications with Smart phones for First Respondent Agencies such as police, fire service, Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS), Vehicle Inspection Office (VIO) and eLTE solutions."
- Source:
https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos
- One Key Alarm:** Deployment of emergency "one key Alarm" system planned in second phase.
- Source:
https://www.securityvision.io/wiki/index.php/Smart_city_technology_deployed_in_Lagos

MyLagosApp Emergency Services

- Integrated emergency services access including "access to government services, emergency assistance...emergency services access (hospitals, fire departments)."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Urban Planning

- **Eko Atlantic Master Plan:** "10 million square meters of reclaimed ocean land, shielded by an 8.5 km sea wall...embodies self-sufficiency and sustainability with cutting-edge urban planning, power generation, pristine water supply, advanced telecommunications, expansive roadways, and tree-lined streets."
- Source: <https://www.ekoatlantic.com/about-eko-atlantic/>
- **Data-Driven Planning:** "The Ministry of Transportation now uses traffic heatmaps to guide decisions on road expansion, new BRT lanes, and alternative route construction."
- Source: <https://www.i4globalservices.com/2025/05/07/how-lagos-traffic-data-is-driving-smart-city-initiatives-in-2025/>

Critical Infrastructure from Bibliography

From African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md analysis: Lagos included in comparative framework examining "how smart cities risk fostering and consolidating digital authoritarianism in Africa...critical analysis of smart city technology deployment in Africa, including funding sources, ownership structures, surveillance dimensions, and real value assessment." Lagos specifically mentioned as one of five African cities analyzed (Nairobi, Johannesburg, Lagos, Kigali, Casablanca) where "smart city interventions have potential to transform African urban planning, management, and governance, they risk deepening existing inequalities and amplifying spatial exclusion through privatization and marketization of urban space if deployed ineffectively."

- Source: African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md
- URL: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13563475.2022.2137112>

Compilation Notes:

- This bibliography was compiled from the African-Smart-Cities-Biblio.md file and extensive web research conducted January 3, 2026.
- Information organized according to the 10 research categories defined in smart_city_research_categories.csv.

- Emphasis on comprehensive documentation of ownership structures, funding sources, technology vendors, governance frameworks, surveillance systems, and actual deployed systems in Lagos.
- Critical analysis perspectives included from academic sources documenting concerns about surveillance, digital colonialism, inequality, and effectiveness of smart city deployments.
- All quantitative data (funding amounts, deployment numbers, dates) sourced directly from official documents, news reports, and research publications.
- Sources include government documentation, news reports, academic research, official project websites, and civil society reports.
- Date compiled: January 3, 2026

Digital Platforms

MyLagosApp (Launched March 2025)

- Comprehensive smart city application integrating: real-time transportation updates, emergency services access, utility payments, business listings, event listings, tourism information, accommodation bookings, library access, water transportation, arts and culture features, restaurant reservations, e-governance services.
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/03/26/what-london-and-new-york-have-lagos-now-has-a-smart-city-app-mylagosapp/>

Transport Management Systems

Huawei Intelligent Transport Systems (February 2025)

- "Four new Intelligent Transport System (ITS) sites across key locations...Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras and Traffic Management Solution (TMS) devices."
- Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/lagos-partners-huawei-smart-transport/>

AI Traffic Management

- "AI-driven systems that adjust traffic light timings based on real-time data...currently being tested on major roads like Third Mainland Bridge, Lekki-Epe Expressway, and Ojota Interchange."
- Source: <https://www.i4globalservices.com/2025/05/07/how-lagos-traffic-data-is-driving-smart-city-initiatives-in-2025/>

Drone Traffic Monitoring

- "Lagos Deploys Drones to Monitor, Manage Traffic"

- Source:

<https://www.nigeriacommunicationsweek.com.ng/tecom-and-huawei-to-host-miniftto-solutions-launch-event-in-lagos/>

Integrated Transport System

- "Teams Plus integrated urban transport system...with electric and compressed natural gas buses linking major transport modes."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/847222-the-politics-tragedies-urbanisation-drives-that-put-lagos-in-spotlight-in-2025/>

Rail Systems

- "Through the blue line and the red line, Lagos also continues to run Nigeria's most efficient metro rail line, despite its challenges."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/847222-the-politics-tragedies-urbanisation-drives-that-put-lagos-in-spotlight-in-2025/>

Water Transport

- "The €400 million Omeko Project, with its fleet of high-capacity ferries and upgraded terminals."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/847222-the-politics-tragedies-urbanisation-drives-that-put-lagos-in-spotlight-in-2025/>

Data Centers and Digital Infrastructure

MTN Data Center (Under Construction)

- "Building West Africa's largest data centre on the mainland, featuring seven degrees of connectivity. It will be the most advanced data centre in the entire region."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/781060-mtn-partners-lagos-govt-unveils-my-lagos-app.html>

Equinix LG3 Data Center

- "\$22 million data center...will be the first to be newly built by Equinix in West Africa."

- Source:

<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/business/business-news/834346-equinix-announces-plans-for-new-22-million-data-center-in-lagos.html>

Overall Data Center Build-Out

- "Around 70 to 80 megawatts of data centre infrastructure is under construction in Lagos now."

- Source:

<https://www.itweb.co.za/article/taking-content-to-the-edge-slashing-latency-and-widening-coverage-in-africa/rW1xLv5n4rZ7Rk6m>

Telecommunications Infrastructure

Fibre Optic Network

- "We are laying 6,000 kilometres of fibre-optic cable as part of our smart city initiative, and the first 3,000 kilometres have been completed, with 99 per cent of the first phase achieved."

- Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/concerns-as-lagos-grapples-with-high-crime-rates-despite-cctv-cameras/>

Huawei Wi-Fi 6 Campus Network

- "High-speed wireless government campus network using Huawei's AirEngine Wi-Fi 6 technology."

- Source: <https://techpoint.africa/news/lagos-partners-huawei-smart-transport/>

400G/800G Optical Network

- "MTN and Huawei Pioneer Nigeria's First 400G/800G Hybrid ASON Optical Network, Accelerating the Digital Economy."

- Source:

<https://www.mwckigali.com/articles/mtn-and-huawei-pioneer-nigerias-first-400g-800g-hybrid-ason-optical-network-accelerating-the-digital-economy/>

MiniFTTO Solutions

- "Huawei's Mini Fiber To The Office (MiniFTTO) solution...built on F5G technologies and delivers high-performance all-optical networking."

- Source:

<https://www.nigeriacommunicationsweek.com.ng/tecom-and-huawei-to-host-miniftto-solutions-launch-event-in-lagos/>

Rural Coverage

- "MTN Nigeria and Huawei Complete World's First RuralCow Commercial Deployment...rapid-deployment, all-in-one mobile base station that provides mobile coverage to remote rural areas."

- Source: <https://www.huawei.com/en/news/2025/12/ruralcow>

E-Government Systems

Digital Service Platforms

- "LASG EBS-RS (Electronic Billing System) and LIRS online tax filing."
- Source: <https://www.discoverlagos.ng/post/lagos-and-the-rise-of-smart-city-innovations>

Enterprise Architecture Project

- "Digitizing Major workloads in Lagos to be able to serve citizens more efficiently and in a proper and timely manner...consolidate and digitize a number of workloads."
- Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVpHn2rL-lo>

AI and Innovation Infrastructure

Itana AI Growth Zone

- "Africa's first full-stack AI and data growth zone...designed to serve the entire AI value chain. From model developers and data center operators to AI-first application companies."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>
- "Itana's zone is supported by a modular data center partner offering facilities that range from Tier 3 to potential Tier 4 upgrades."
- Source: <https://techcabal.com/2025/07/22/lagos-ai-data-growth-zone/>

Huawei Innovation Centre

- "State-of-the-art Innovation Centre in Lagos...collaborative hub for customers, partners, and ICT talent to engage with cutting-edge technologies and co-create industry-specific solutions."
- Source: <https://www.telecomschamber.org/industry-news/huawei-nigeria-opens-innovation-centre-in-lagos-to-accelerate-digital-transformation/>

Smart Buildings

Metro Smart City Development

- "Smart-access homes, digitised services, integrated utilities, and technology-driven community management...full IoT integration."
- Source: <https://guardian.ng/news/metrospeed-nlmg-co-operative-seal-partnership-on-multibillion-naira-smart-city/>
- "Land reclamation expected to be completed by the end of 2026, infrastructure works underway, and the first homes scheduled for delivery in 2027."

- Source:

<https://guardian.ng/news/metrospeed-nlmg-co-operative-seal-partnership-on-multibillion-naira-smart-city/>

Urban Planning Systems

Building Code Management

- "Brand-new Building Code...to regulate building control, planning permission, and address the issues of setback; take care of the safety and sustainability of the environment."

- Source: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2024/12/smart-city-lagos-to-get-new-building-code/>

Integrated Planning

- "In 2026, our focus will shift from building infrastructure to integrating it—linking our roads, rail lines, waterways, energy systems, and digital networks into one functional ecosystem."

- Source:

<https://www.arise.tv/lagos-governor-sanwo-olu-unveils-n4-23trn-2026-budget-of-shared-prosperity/>

Compilation Notes:

- News compiled from Nigerian national press (Guardian Nigeria, Premium Times, Vanguard, Punch), African tech media (TechCabal, Techpoint Africa, ITWeb Africa), international smart city publications, and official announcements.
- Focus on recent developments from 2025-2026.
- Emphasis on actual deployments, partnerships, funding, and performance metrics.
- Includes both achievements and critical assessments of smart city implementation.
- Sources include daily newspapers, tech journalism, government announcements, and industry reports.
- Date compiled: January 3, 2026