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Preamble

This Code of Ethics and Editorial Principles guides all Techfrontline Africa journalists, contributors, contractors, and editorial personnel, establishing the strict standards of behavior expected of our staff. These principles protect our credibility, independence, and the profound trust our readers, investors, and ecosystem operators place in us.

As an independent digital media and educational platform, Techfrontline Africa owes allegiance to no political party, tech conglomerate, venture capital fund, ethnic community, or specific interest group. Our primary commitment is to the factual integrity, economic development, and technological sovereignty of the Federation of Nigeria and the broader African continent.

Section 1: Core Ethical Principles

1.1 Truth and Accuracy: We are committed to reporting the truth and presenting balanced, meticulous coverage of events. We verify information before publication and correct errors promptly and transparently. We clearly distinguish news from opinion, sponsored features, and analytical commentary.

1.2 Verification of Tech Metrics: Editorial personnel must thoroughly verify all factual statements, data metrics, startup funding amounts, regulatory filings, and executive quotes prior to publication. Direct reliance must be placed on primary documentation, including but not limited to corporate disclosures, filings with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and direct executive correspondence.

1.3 Independence: Our journalism is entirely independent of commercial, venture capital, and political interests. We maintain strict editorial independence from advertisers, corporate sponsors, and ecosystem backers, and we forcefully resist pressure from the subjects of our reporting.

1.4 Fairness and Impartiality: We seek and represent diverse perspectives while presenting balanced coverage of ecosystem developments. We grant subjects of critical reporting a fair opportunity to respond, and we transparently acknowledge when our initial reporting may be incomplete.

1.5 Integrity: We do not plagiarize or fabricate information. We attribute information to sources appropriately, honor our commitments to sources, and uphold justice, compliance, and probity in public and corporate life.

Section 2: Conflicts of Interest

2.1 Financial Conflicts & Equity Holdings: Staff must avoid financial conflicts that could compromise, or appear to compromise, editorial independence. This means no reporting on tech

companies or startups in which you or your immediate family have direct financial or equity interests, and no trading tokens or stocks based on non-public information obtained through reporting. Staff must formally disclose any material financial interests, token allocations, or advisory seats that could be relevant to their ecosystem coverage.

2.2 Tech Ecosystem Gifts and Review Units: We do not accept gifts, perks, or benefits from sources or subjects of coverage valued over ₦10,000 / \$50 in a personal capacity. For technical evaluations, hardware samples, software licenses, or beta keys provided by corporate brands, no individual staff member may retain any unit valued in excess of Fifty Thousand Naira (₦50,000) or its digital equivalent without explicit written authorization from the Editorial Board. Any product reviewed under this exception must prominently feature a standard compliance notice: “Product supplied by [Brand Name] for review purposes.”

2.3 Political Activity: Staff should not hold office in political organizations or participate in political campaigns or demonstrations they may be asked to cover. Staff may vote but must not publicly declare political or partisan affiliations.

2.4 Personal Relationships: Staff must disclose personal relationships that could affect their reporting. Do not cover close friends, family members, romantic partners, or co-founders. Inform editors of potential conflicts before accepting any assignment.

2.5 Outside Work and Consultancies: Staff may engage in outside work that doesn’t conflict with Techfrontline Africa responsibilities, but must seek written approval before accepting paid speaking engagements, advisory board roles, or tech consulting work. Do not speak publicly on behalf of organizations or startups you cover. Teaching and academic work is generally permitted with disclosure.

Section 3: Social Media Conduct

3.1 Professional Standards: The same ethical standards that apply to your professional work apply directly to your social media presence. Avoid posting anything that could compromise your corporate credibility or Techfrontline Africa’s reputation. If you cover tech policy, regulation, or state interventions, you must not express partisan political views. Be thoughtful and analytical about what you share, like, bookmark, or retweet.

3.2 Transparency and Ecosystem Engagement: Clearly identify yourself as a Techfrontline Africa journalist and disclose your role when you’re reporting or seeking information via social platforms (e.g., X, LinkedIn, or Discord). Do not use fake accounts or disguise your identity without senior editorial authorization. Engage respectfully with readers, developers, and sources; correct your own errors promptly, and do not engage in hostile internet arguments or ecosystem disputes that reflect poorly on the platform. Report online harassment, digital doxxing, or corporate threats directly to editors and appropriate legal authorities.

Section 4: Reporting Practices & Source Governance

4.1 Source Relationships: We are honest with sources about how information will be used, and we honor promises of confidentiality. We do not pay sources for news information or ecosystem leaks except in rare, legally vetted, and disclosed circumstances. We do not promise sources editorial approval of stories before publication.

4.2 Anonymous Sources: We use anonymous sources only when absolutely necessary for high-stakes investigative stories. Anonymous sources must possess direct, firsthand knowledge of the corporate information, and at least one editor must know the identity of the anonymous source. We will clearly explain to our readers why anonymity was granted and independently verify all leak details from secondary sources whenever possible.

4.3 Undercover Reporting: We identify ourselves transparently as journalists. Undercover or stealth methods require explicit approval from senior editors and are deployed only when the story is of significant public or market interest, and the target information cannot be obtained by any conventional journalistic means.

4.4 Vulnerable Sources: We take special care when reporting on children, trauma survivors, whistleblowers risking their livelihoods, and other vulnerable people. We ensure vulnerable sources thoroughly understand how their information will be used and consider potential physical, legal, or emotional harm before hitting publish.

Section 5: Technology, Multimedia, and Synthetic Content

5.1 Responsible Deployment of AI: We explicitly disclose when AI tools assist in content creation, data synthesis, or market analysis. All AI-generated data or automated feed briefs must be meticulously reviewed, contextually verified, and signed off by human journalists before going live. We strictly prohibit the use of AI to fabricate quotes, simulate data sources, or manufacture events. Automated reporting tools must meet the exact same accuracy standards as traditional reporting.

5.2 Photojournalism and Multimedia Ethics: We do not alter photographs or video recordings in ways that mislead the public. Basic digital adjustments such as brightness, contrast, color balancing, and cropping are perfectly acceptable, but content-changing manipulation, deepfaking, or selective editing to alter context is strictly prohibited. We clearly label all photo illustrations, infographics, and synthetic composites.

5.3 Plagiarism and Attribution: Plagiarism is an egregious violation of intellectual property and is grounds for immediate termination. We meticulously attribute information to other news organizations, research hubs, and data platforms when appropriate, using precise quotation marks for direct quotes. We mandatory add original reporting, localized context, or legal analysis when covering stories broken by other publications.

Section 6: Accountability and Enforcement

6.1 Enforcement Protocol: Violations of this ethics policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including immediate termination of employment or contract cancellation. Serious ethical breaches will be addressed immediately by management. The Editor-in-Chief and the Management Board hold final authority on all ethics and platform interpretation matters.

6.2 Training and Guidance: All staff, contractors, and incoming interns receive mandatory ethics training upon hire and regular quarterly refreshers. We discuss emerging ethical dilemmas—particularly surrounding algorithmic feeds, funding disclosure shifts, and data collection—in regular editorial meetings. Staff are strictly encouraged to consult editors when facing complex situations. Ethics questions can be directed to the Managing Editor, Compliance Officer, or Editor-in-Chief.