OML 42: In Major Boost for Nigeria, Neconde Raises Oil Production to 50,000 Barrels Daily

Company's financing arrangement on course *Industry data shows FTSA model working, firm targets 120,000bpd in 48 months*

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

Nigeria's crude oil production has received a major boost, with Neconde, one of the country's foremost indigenous independent producers hitting 50,000 barrels per day on Oil Mining Licence (OML) 42 as of May 2025.

With the company's Financial and Technical Services Agreement (FTSA) solidly in place, industry data obtained by THISDAY showed that Neconde has now steadily increased output in the last 24 months by over 100 per cent.

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NEITI Releases Advisory Report, Thumbs Up NUPRC's Handling of Oil Bid Rounds...Page 6

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Petrol Retailers Urge NNPC to Adhere to 30-Day Refinery Repair Timeline

Blessing Ibunge in Port Harcourt

The Petroleum Products Retail Outlets Owners Association of Nigeria (PETROAN) has urged the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC) to adhere to the scheduled 30-day repair timeline for the Port Harcourt Refining Company (PHRC).

This call followed the announcement by the NNPC via its Chief Corporate Communications Officer, Olufemi Soneye, that the facility will undergo a planned maintenance shutdown.

Soneye, in the statement, disclosed that the scheduled maintenance and sustainability assessment will commence on May 24, 2025.

He stated that the company was "working closely with all relevant stakeholders,

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Anyanwu Postpones PDP NEC After Wike Pulled Out of Agreement with Govs

FCT minister discloses terms of current reconciliation *Accuses Makinde of stoking new fire in party, allegedly instigating others against agreement* *Damagum defends ties with FCT minister, insists party not divided* *N'Central elects new party executives*

Chuks Okocha, Olawale Ajimotokan in Abuja and **Seriki Adinoyi** in Jos

Hours after Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike, pulled out of a peace agreement he had with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governors and declared he was ready for a fight to the finish, National Secretary of PDP, Samuel Anyanwu, announced a postponement of the 99th National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting of the party slated for May 27.

The rearrangement came as acting National Chairman of PDP, Ambassador Umar Damagum, denied allegations of incompetence and collusion with the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC), but defended his relationship with Wike.

In a related development, the North-central zone of PDP held its congress in Jos, the Plateau State capital, and elected new party officials.

A PDP Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting had been slated for today preparatory to the NEC parley, fixed for tomorrow.

But the schedule changed

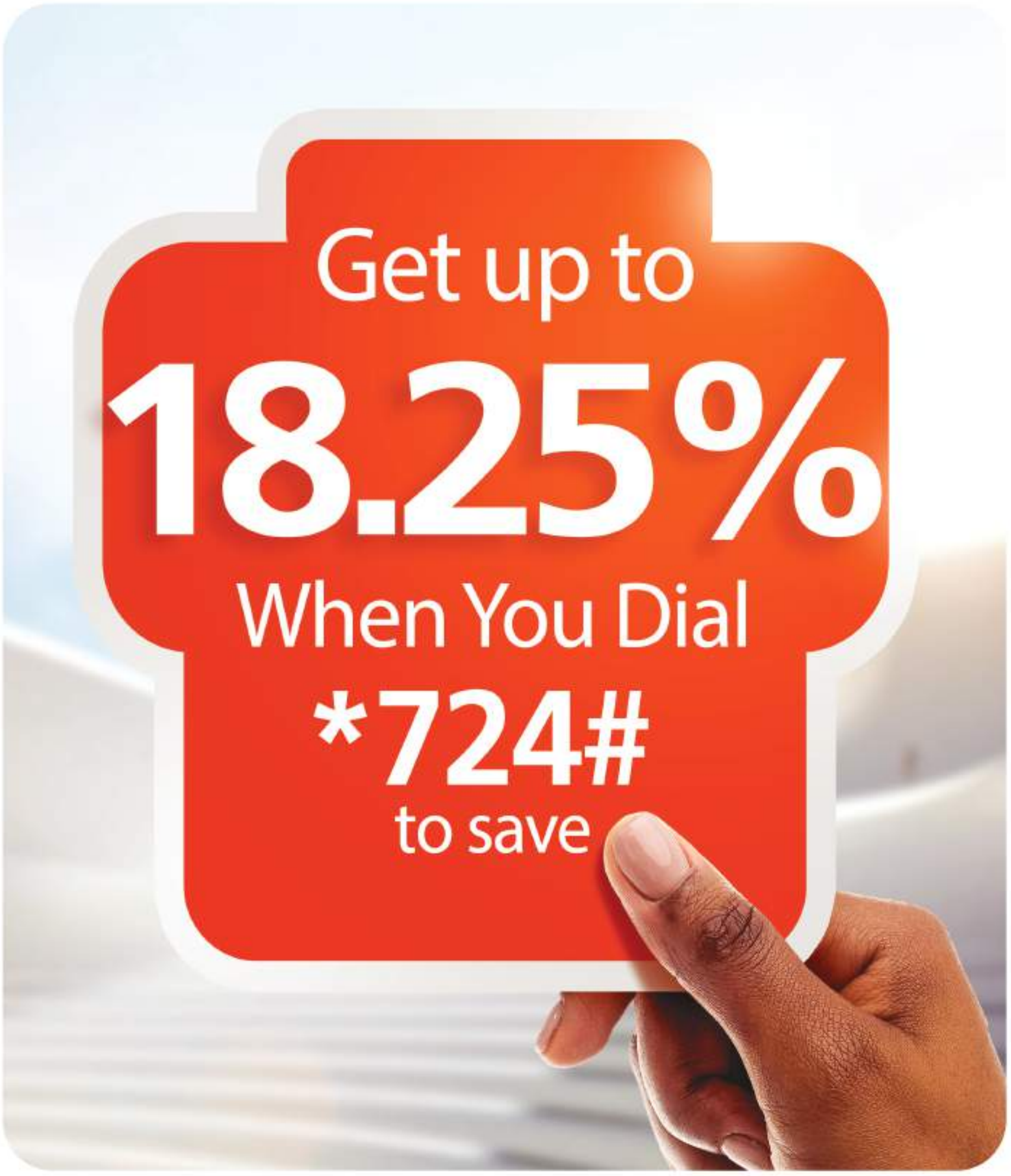
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QUEST FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF AFRICA...

Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu receives the certificate of his appointment as Patron of the Centre for African Social and Economic Transformation (CASET) at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, United Kingdom. With him are (from right): Vice-Chancellor, University of West England, Bristol, Prof. Sir Steve West CBE; and His Majesty's representative in the City and County of Bristol, The Lord-Lieutenant of the City and County of Bristol, Mrs. Peaches Golding OBE, during the official launch of CASET, at UWE in Bristol, United Kingdom, last Thursday





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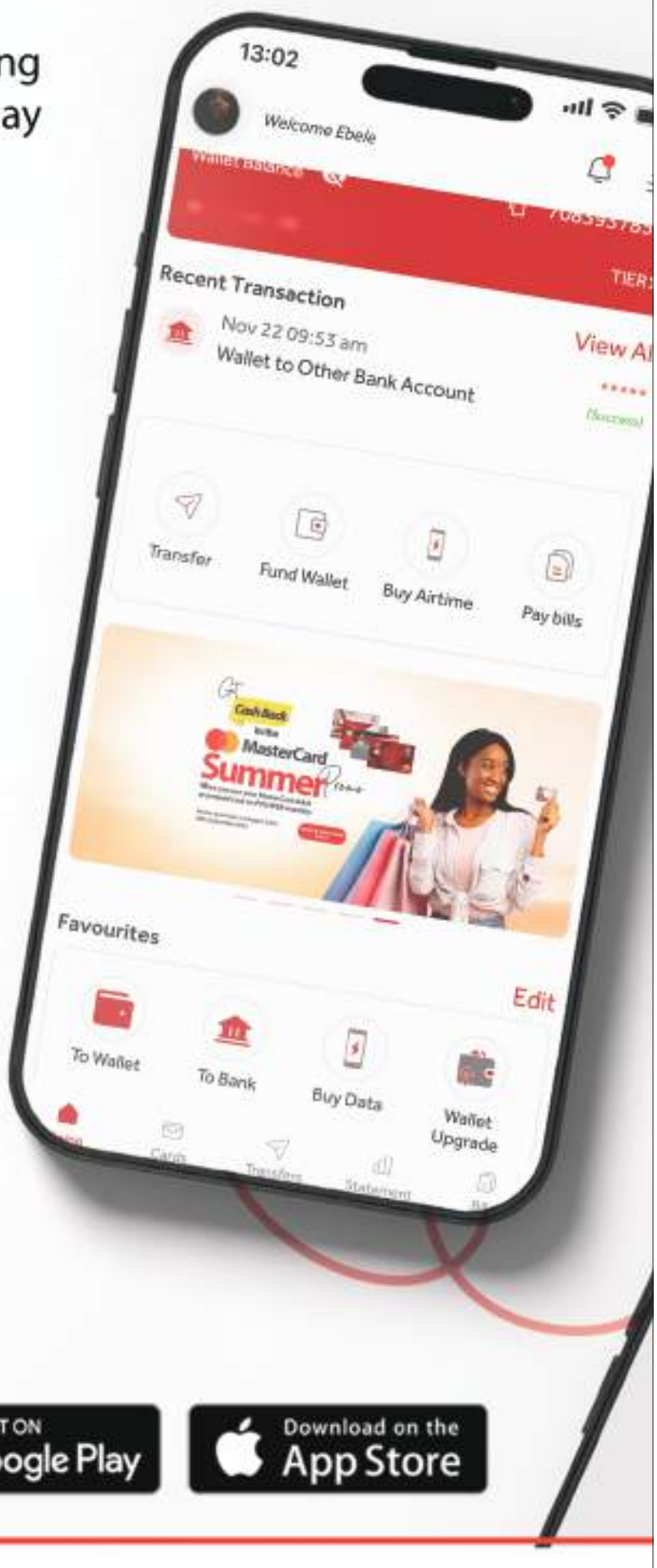
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Tax Bills: National Assembly Not Rubber Stamp, Senator Bamidele Replies Critics

●*Says NASS, FG held 39 meetings to agree on grey areas*

Sunday Aborisade in Abuja

Leader of the Senate, Opeyemi Bamidele, yesterday opposed key opposition parties in the country for labelling the National Assembly a rubber-stamp parliament without any justification or proof.

Bamidele, currently representing Ekiti Central, made the clarification in a statement by his media directorate yesterday, in Abuja.

He said if the National Assembly was a rubber-stamp, it could not have held over 39 meetings with the executive arm to trash out all grey areas in the Tax Reform Bills, 2024 before they were eventually passed.

The statement enumerated the diverse interventions that the National Assembly had taken in the overriding public interest.

According to the statement, the National Assembly had at its inauguration on June 13, 2023, embraced strategic engagement and partnership to address thorny national issues in the pursuit of the country's vital and peripheral interests.

It read: "Despite its non-adversarial approach to the legislative business, the parliament has been under sustained public criticisms with leading opposition parties, especially the Peoples Democracy Party (PDP), Labour Party (LP) and New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) describing it as a rubber-stamp legislative institution."

Amid the public criticisms, Bamidele said he differed with the opposition parties that the National Assembly was still a rubber stamp to the executive, noting that the claim had no justification.

Bamidele first cited the case of the Tax Reform Bills, 2024, which he said, were initiated in November 2024, but finally scaled through legislative scrutiny six months after they were laid before the National Assembly.

He said: "If we are actually a rubber-stamp parliamentary institution as most opposition political parties have claimed, the bills would have been passed within one week or two weeks after they were laid before us.

"In the process of passing the bills, both executive and legislative arms held over 39 engagements to trash grey areas in the Tax Reform Bills, 2024 before both chambers of the National Assembly eventually passed the bills.

"During this period, the engagements involved diverse interests and stakeholders across the federation. The tax reform bills could have been rushed within one or two weeks. But it took us six months to secure input from all critical stakeholders - civil society organisations, professional bodies, religious leaders and leaders of thoughts.

"The process includes all behind-the-scenes efforts, closed door meetings and subtle disagreements that took place between the legislature and the executive before their passage. We also organised public hearings just to accommodate inputs from diverse interests.

"We extended our engagements to all captains of industries to enable us pass the tax reform bills that will stand the test of time; meet the needs of our people and ensure the overriding public interest in the exercise of our constitutional mandates," he said.

"At the end of it, he said the lawmakers found a way of resolving all issues around the tax reform bills in the overriding public interest.

"The people do not know all the efforts and sacrifices we made to ensure the effective delivery of public goods. They were only eager to label us a rubber stamp when the bills came from the executive," he added.

Rather than grandstanding on the floors, Bamidele explained that the National Assembly at different times invited the executive for engagement with a view to thrashing out grey areas in the bills.



Senator Bamidele

ANYANWU POSTPONES PDP NEC AFTER WIKE PULLED OUT OF AGREEMENT WITH GOVS

after Anyanwu announced the postponement of the NEC meeting.

A statement by Anyanwu said the postponement was to allow the Senator Bukola Saraki-led Way Forward Committee to conclude its assignment of resolving internal party conflicts.

Anyanwu emphasised that the committee's work was crucial to ensuring a peaceful and effective NEC meeting.

The statement said a new date for the meeting will be announced in line with the PDP Constitution 2017, as amended, and the Electoral Act, 2022.

The statement warned that any NEC meeting notice or publication issued by deputy national secretary, posing as the acting national secretary, was unauthorised, illegal, and should be disregarded.

Anyanwu expressed regret over any inconvenience the change might cause but reassured stakeholders of his commitment to party unity and progress.

Nevertheless, an official of the party from the publicity directorate asked stakeholders to disregard the statement from Anyanwu.

Earlier in the day, Wike, who went over some of the terms of the peace agreement the party had sealed with him, accused Oyo State Governor 'Seyi Makinde of stoking a new crisis in the party by allegedly instigating other leaders, including Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State, to move against the agreement.

Explaining his current position, Wike, in a statement yesterday, which he personally signed, said, "Since after the 2023 general election, the PDP has been wantonly swinging from one part of a slippery precipice to another, owing fundamentally to dishonesty and lack of trust amongst its key stakeholders.

"To stem this ugly trend, efforts have been made to arrest this pernicious virus of dishonesty and treachery and enthrone fidelity to agreements with a view to stabilising the party and moving it forward.

"To this end, a meeting of the G5 was held in Lagos. In that meeting, I made it clear to the Governor of Oyo State, HE. Seyi Makinde, that he was the architect of our problems, pointing out to him that non-adherence to agreements reached was the bane of the party, and that he was the chief culprit of this anomaly.

"At the end of the meeting, we resolved to bury the hatchet and make progress.

"As a follow-up to the aforementioned meeting, there was an expanded meeting in Abuja involving HE. Seyi Makinde, HE. Umaru Fintri, HE. Bala Mohammed, HE, Bukola Saraki, and I in Saraki's guest house.

"In that meeting, I made it clear that I had no personal problems with HE. Bala Mohammed, except that he hides under the facade of Chairman of PDP Governors' Forum to serially renege on agreements. Tensions rose mightily in the meeting and it took all concerned to calm frayed nerves."

Wike said at the end of the meeting, they came to some resolutions, including, "That Senator Samuel Anyanwu remains the National Secretary of the PDP in tandem with the Supreme Court judgement. All legal matters relating to Rivers State must be withdrawn by the National Legal Adviser.

"The suit on the state of emergency be withdrawn forthwith. Nobody should deviate from the agreements so reached."

According to the minister, "In the light of the foregoing, they pleaded with me to attend the stakeholders' meeting at the Bauchi Government Lodge, regardless of my many engagements.

"I attended the meeting and clearly reiterated my earlier concerns, and to this end and in order to resolve all other lingering and pending issues, a committee was formed, headed by HE. Bukola Saraki.

"It is disheartening to note that even before the Bukola Saraki Reconciliation Committee began its work, the gentleman's agreement we reached at Saraki's Guest House was already being crudely violated.

"To my chagrin, Seyi Makinde had connived with Peter Mbah of Enugu State to orchestrate the summoning of the meeting of so-called South-East leaders to recommend that if Ude-Okoye was not adopted as Secretary, they would pull out of the PDP. I have since granted an interview to the effect that, that resolution of the South-East leaders cannot hold.

"Again, Seyi Makinde organised some people in the National Secretariat to insist that the Deputy National Secretary should act as National Secretary, in violation of the agreement earlier reached. To attempt to give credence to this farce, a letter was written by the Deputy National Secretary, calling for a meeting of the NEC of the party."

Wike added, in the statement, "Furthermore, the letter confirming the candidacy of the governorship candidate of the party in the forthcoming governorship election in Anambra State, duly signed by the National Secretary, Senator Anyanwu, and the acting National Chairman, was portrayed as rejected by the party through a rebuttal letter signed by the National Publicity Secretary, acting on the orders of Seyi Makinde and Peter Mbah.

"All these actions are in complete violation of the agreements reached and would not do the party any good whatsoever.

"On the 24th of May 2025, in Jos, for instance, a well publicised and properly attended zonal elective congress of the PDP was aborted because the letter inviting INEC to the congress was signed by the Deputy National Secretary of the party.

"INEC refused to attend because the proper signatory recognised by law, that is Senator Samuel Anyanwu, was not a signatory to the invitation notice. This is undeniably distasteful, provocative and annoying, to say the least.

"I have painstakingly put out all these facts so that PDP members and the general public would know the truth. I have been in this party since 1998 and have worked tirelessly for the survival of this party with all my strength and it is on record that none of these persons have done anything close to what I have done to sustain this party."

Wike stated, "What is more painful is that I contributed substantially to most of these governors winning their elections, yet I have not made any personal demands on any of them and I would never do so.

"Most importantly, I had thought that we could keep the trust amongst us, but since it is now obvious that they would continue to play games to the detriment of the party, as is the case in the current debacle in the North-central zonal elections, I have now firmly decided to pull out of all agreements hitherto reached.

"I have decided to fight on until justice is attained."

Damagum Defends Ties with Wike, Denies Allegations of Incompetence, Working for APC

Acting National Chairman of PDP, Ambassador Umar Damagum, denied allegations of incompetence and collusion with the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Damagum, who also defended his relationship with Wike, amid mounting criticisms within the party, insisted that PDP was not divided and would soon overcome its challenges.

In an interview with BBC Hausa, Damagun addressed the accusations directly, dismissing claims that he is a puppet of APC. He reaffirmed his loyalty to PDP.

"May God be judge between me and whoever slandered me, and may God judge us, if I am working for the APC," he said, referring to allegations that he met with President Bola Tinubu in England.

Damagum emphasised his long-standing commitment to PDP, stating, "I have a history. Since I joined the PDP in 1999, I have never defected. Those who dislike me will have to find ways to either praise or criticise me to get what they want."

Damagum also responded to criticisms regarding his relationship with Wike. He acknowledged their association but denied any wrongdoing.

He said, "For all those who accuse me of having links with the Minister of FCT, I know him or have had links with him, and many of them have had links with him. My only fault here is that I did not allow them to do what they wanted with him."

The PDP chairman expressed disappointment over the defection of some party members to APC, describing it as a loss. But he denied any mistreatment of those who left.

Damagum stated, "We must be sad. Whenever you lose someone, you don't feel happy, even if it's just one person you're grieving for."

He said none of the defectors could claim they were wronged by the party.

Addressing internal divisions within PDP, Damagum admitted that disagreements were inevitable in any political party but maintained that PDP remained united.

He declared, "PDP is one. It is true that there are internal problems, because a party never lacks problems because its leaders are people, and people are in it, and everyone has their own interests."

Damagum, who also defended his leadership style, stated that he had adhered to principles and refused to yield to individual whims.

He also pointed to the aftermath of the party's election losses as a period of heightened complaints, but reiterated his commitment to leading PDP with integrity.

North Central PDP Elects New Executives

The North-central zone of PDP held its congress in Jos at the weekend, and elected new party officials.

The congress, which started on Saturday produced Mohammed Abdulrahman as National Vice

Continued on page 43

OML 42: IN MAJOR BOOST FOR NIGERIA, NECONDE RAISES OIL PRODUCTION TO 50,000 BARRELS DAILY

The data indicated that the implementation of the FTSA solution raised production from an average of 15,000 bpd in 2023 to 25, 000 bpd in 2024 and to 2025 year-to-date of 50,000 bpd and aspiration to exit this year at over 70,000bpd.

Besides, the company is expected to hit 120,000 bpd in the next 48 months, deploying its massive human resource and technical expertise to grow the asset.

THISDAY learnt that the company has mostly been able to increase this output, with its philosophy of excellence in service delivery, fair market price, focus on cost discipline as well as optimisation and elimination of non-value adding processes.

Furthermore, whilst developing and empowering local capacity development as well as working with local communities, the FTSA is enabling the company to put in place the desired governance in terms of processes and procedures.

The arrangement, it was understood, is also ensuring transparency and accountability, direct access to international oilfield services like Shlumberger (SLB) and Haliburton as well Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), a strategic advantage that will help the company achieve its target crude production in the coming years.

The initial aggressive development and intervention campaign successfully executed in 2024 also enabled a second campaign in 2025, with imminent mobilisation workovers and infill drilling to support the production growth aspiration of over 120,000 bpd.

Set to commence in June 2025, its first rig-based production growth programme since the acquisition of the asset by Neconde in 2011, will enable rapid facility upgrades and life extension. Also, the asset is opening up one of the fields that have not been re-entered and produced since acquisition in 2011, Egwa 2 field, with huge oil and gas reserves.

Although before Shell exited, OML 42 had reached a daily production of circa 250,000, however it was dormant by the time Neconde took it over, after community disturbances that led to facility shutdown around 2005/ 2006.

Specifically, in the last few years, the company, according to available information, has built capacity, especially helped by the FTSA model which was activated in 2022, and could do even more with a little encouragement.

Nigeria currently faces several challenges in raising its oil production, a development that has reduced the volume of crude reaching export terminals and has frequently disrupted operations. Underinvestment in upstream infrastructure is also a significant issue which has led to facility integrity degradation, extending downtime and production deferments due to frequent equipment failures and poor maintenance practices.

While revitalising the existing but non-functional gas compression facility, it was learnt that the drilling programme also involves gas developments to support the local gas supplies, eliminate gas flare and improve stakeholder value extraction, as the asset has huge untapped gas reserves. Many oilfields and facilities suffer from neglect, with limited capital expenditure on exploration and maintenance.

But despite the significant bottlenecks, Nigeria has embarked on an ambitious initiative known as 'Project 1 Million Barrels Per Day', aiming to significantly boost its crude oil production. This project seeks to elevate daily output from a baseline of approximately 1.46 million barrels in October 2024 to a long-term target of 3 million barrels bpd. It is believed that with some support, firms like Neconde could help achieve this target.

With a new NNPC management team led by Mr Bayo Ojulari in place, with a track record of performance in their previous endeavours in the sector, it is believed that to achieve the targets set by President Bola Tinubu, there may be the need to look inwards.

Tinubu had outlined ambitious targets to revitalise Nigeria's oil and gas sector and bolster the nation's economy. The key objectives set for the new NNPC leadership include: Elevating crude oil production, expanding gas output; enhancing refining capacity as well as attracting the right investment to the sector.

PETROL RETAILERS URGE NNPC TO ADHERE TO 30-DAY REFINERY REPAIR TIMELINE

including the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority (NMDPRA), to ensure that the maintenance and assessment activities are carried out efficiently and transparently".

Expressing concerns over the shutdown of the Old Port Harcourt Refinery, PETROAN's National President, Billy Gillis-Harry, said the refinery's shutdown for maintenance is expected, but the association wants the NNPC to adhere to the repair timeline to minimise disruptions to petroleum product supply.

PETROAN expressed the fear that the 30-day schedule might not be realistic due to usual bottlenecks, potentially leading to further delays and exacerbating supply challenges.

The association further expressed worries that delays in the old refinery's 30-day rehabilitation schedule may worsen economic hardship for millions of Nigerians.

It, however, emphasised that the repair process must include the Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) blending unit, as the crude oil cracking process is of no value without it.

The group also demanded "that NNPC completes the repair before existing stocks run dry to prevent market monopoly and ensure a stable supply of petroleum products".

It noted that completing the repair on time will help maintain competition in the market, benefiting consumers and the economy.

PETROAN further recommended that the Minister of Petroleum should set up a task force comprising all petroleum industry stakeholders to monitor the 30-day repairs and to brief Nigerians on the job progress every weekend to ensure transparency and accountability in achieving the repair schedule.

The petrol retailers added that payments to contractors handling the repairs be made promptly to avoid delays and ensure the project stays on track.

Meanwhile, an internal memo circulated in the refinery on the Area 5 plant shutdown, yesterday, warned staff not to interact with external people or give information to the media.

The letter also stated that as government workers, it is against the Labour Law to engage pressmen in interviews, adding that any defaulter will be severely disciplined.

NEWS

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ANTAI'S 60TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION...

L–R: President of the Senate, Senator Godswill Akpabio; Executive Director, Projects of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Sir Victor Antai; and wife of the Senate President, Dr. Unoma Akpabio, at the 60th birthday celebration of Antai, held in Uyo over the weekend

NEITI Releases Advisory Report, Thumbs Up NUPRC's Handling of Oil Bid Rounds

●Points out areas of possible improvement ●Adopts energy transition framework

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja and **Peter Uzoho** in Lagos

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) has announced the release of its advisory report on the conduct of the 2022–2023 mini bid round and the 2024 licensing round.

In a statement in Abuja at the weekend, NEITI commended the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) for notable progress in the conduct of the bids, but pointed to the areas the upstream regulator should improve upon.

It stated that this followed its independent observation and monitoring of the pre-qualification and technical bid processes, in line with its statutory mandate under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021 and the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Standard.

Specifically, it highlighted the NUPRC's efforts including: "Notable improvements in inclusivity, digitalisation, and procedural integrity."

The report, presented to the NEITI National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG) at its statutory meeting in Umuahia, Abia State, described the licensing rounds as "significant milestones in Nigeria's upstream petroleum sector, designed to attract credible investments, unlock hydrocarbon potential, and advance national development objectives."

The report noted that the licensing process was generally professional, transparent, and inclusive, with adherence to published criteria as required by the PIA and EITI provisions.

Special concessions granted to indigenous and emerging firms were acknowledged as a progressive step that enhanced stakeholder participation and public confidence, it added.

However, NEITI's report also identified areas of improvement, including: Strengthening the evaluation methodology and metrics; enhancing transparency in result disclosure; improving public access to bidder information; ensuring full disclosure of beneficial ownership and integrating technical and commercial value assurance in evaluations.

The report offered actionable recommendations to bolster future rounds, emphasising transparent disclosures, standardised scoring, and consistent stakeholder engagement.

"The NSWG commended NUPRC's cooperation with NEITI and encouraged the adoption of the recommendations outlined in the advisory," Executive Secretary of NEITI, Ogbonnaya Orji, said.

"We remain committed to working collaboratively with regulators, civil society, and industry stakeholders to institutionalise transparency, good governance, and sustainable development in Nigeria's extractive industries," he added.

At the same meeting in Umuahia, the NEITI Board also adopted a comprehensive Energy Transition and Climate Accountability Framework, developed in alignment with Nigeria's national energy transition plan, global climate obligations under the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the 2023 EITI Standard.

The framework, it said, redefines NEITI's role in the energy transition, introducing a transparent and accountable mechanism for: Tracking greenhouse gas emissions and climate-related financial risks.

FG: Sugar Sector Key to Nigeria's Attainment of $1trn Economy

Sunday Ehigiator

The Minister of State for Industry, Senator John Owan Enoh, has stressed the sugar sector's strategic importance in driving President Bola Tinubu's vision of a $1 trillion economy.

Speaking at the public hearing recently organised by the House of Representatives Committee on Industry as part of the amendment process of the Establishment Act of the National Sugar Development Council (NSDC), the Minister informed the gathering that President Bola Tinubu spoke glowingly about the sector's potential in a recent meeting of the Federal Executive Council (FEC).

His words: "About two weeks ago, the President spoke about sugar at the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting. That in itself is a reflection of the importance of sugar as a product. Sugar is such a strategic industrial and domestic product that no country can afford to joke with, and Nigeria should not.

"The sugar sector has a huge role to play in the president's commitment to having a 1 trillion-dollar economy. Our attitude towards it must ensure it plays that role adequately in terms of facilitating job creation and development of the rural economy."

Also speaking, the Executive Secretary of NSDC, Mr. Kamar Bakrin, reiterated that a full implementation of the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP) could save Nigeria over $1 billion in foreign exchange annually, while also creating jobs, attracting massive investments, and spurring rural development.

The proposed legislation aims to redefine the council's powers and functions and to align its financial operations with the 1999 Constitution.

Bakrin highlighted the immense potential of Nigeria's sugar industry if the NSMP is properly implemented, noting the plan is designed to stimulate domestic production and reduce reliance on imports.

He explained: "We need about $4.5 billion in investments to fully realise the vision of the NSMP.

"Investor confidence is therefore crucial, and that can only be achieved through transparent and rule-based policies."

He raised concerns over a recent government directive mandating that 50 per cent of the sugar levy be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF), arguing that such a move could derail progress.

"The sugar levy was not meant as a general revenue-generating mechanism but as a dedicated fund to support the sector's growth. Redirecting it threatens to undermine the very purpose for which it was created."

The public hearing attracted major stakeholders, including representatives from the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), BUA Group, Flour Mills of Nigeria, and the Abuja-based consultancy NINA-JOJER.

NAFDAC, represented by Iba Edward, acknowledged the bill's intent but warned against overlaps with the agency's regulatory mandate.

China Expresses Willingness to Strengthen Cultural Exchanges with Nigeria

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

China has been expressed willingness to strengthen its cultural exchanges as well as cooperation in culture, tourism, education, creative economy with Nigeria.

The Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Yu Dunhai, gave the indication at the weekend during the occasion marking the United Nations International Tea Day.

The "Tea for Harmony - Yaji Cultural Salon" brought together officials and friends of China-Nigeria.

The event featured a range of cultural performances, including elegant Yue Opera and pipa music by Chinese artists, as well as Chinese calligraphy and painting exhibitions and experience sessions.

The celebration highlighted the significance of Chinese tea culture in bridging the two nations' civilizations and touched on the recent flourishing of China-Nigeria tea trade, with Hainan Baisha tea making its debut in the Nigerian market in 2024.

The Ambassador said the coming year is the 'China-Africa Year of Cultural Exchange.

His words: "The Embassy will always be committed to strengthening exchanges and cooperation in culture, tourism, education, creative economy and other fields to enhance mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples."

The envoy added that China-Nigeria cultural exchanges show the important historical mission of promoting mutual learning between civilizations and connecting hearts and minds of the two countries.

He added that: "Last year, the two heads of state met in Beijing and jointly agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, opening a new chapter in bilateral relations.

"We are now implementing the three-year (2025-2027) 'Ten Partnership Actions for Modernization to deepen China-Africa Cooperation' with Nigeria and fellow 52 African countries. And cultural exchange is a very important part of this initiative.

"The year 2026 is the 'China-Africa Year of Cultural and People-to-People Exchange', and China-Nigeria cultural exchanges shoulder the important historical mission of promoting mutual learning between civilizations and connecting hearts and minds of the two countries.

"President Xi Jinping emphasized, exchanges and Mutual Learning Make Civilizations Richer and More Colorful."

Abia Targets Quaternary Healthcare, Secures Int. Partnership to Build $1.3bn Medical City

Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo in Umuahia

Abia State has commenced the actualisation of its plan to build a medical city where quaternary healthcare services would be provided thereby eventually ending Nigeria's foreign exchange-guzzling offshore health tourism.

The government announced weekend that it has entered into partnership with MKP International Holdings, a globally reputable engineering procurement construction consortium, to build the Abia State Medical City, Nigeria's first quaternary healthcare complex.

The State Commissioner for Health, Professor Enoch Ogbonnaya Uche broke the news while conducting journalists on a tour of the 200-hectare land at Mbasaa, near Owerrinta in Isiala Ngwa South Local Government Area, acquired and cleared for the project.

He said the partnership entails that MKP would finance, develop, build, operate and transfer" the facility, adding that the development partner would invest $1.3 billion in the project.

According to him, Abia's part of the bargain was to provide land for the project, as well as security and goodwill, which it has done.

"This Medical City is the first quaternary hospital in this country that would take care of all levels of complicated healthcare issues," Uche said, noting that it ranks as "one of the landmark projects" of Governor Alex Otti.

The Health Commissioner stated the proposed world class medical city would not only reverse medical tourism in Nigeria but also position Abia as a medical destination.

He said that the medical city would sit astride seven communities that contributed the expanse of land on about 200 hectares of land from both Isiala Ngwa South and Isiala Ngwa North LGs.

Uche explained that MKP agreed to fund the project "owing to the transparent record and, of course, the relentless visionary strides of (Governor Otti)", who was able to attract the world renowned firm.

"The company already wishes to start construction even before the flag off. So, everything is ready and you can see the, very nice landscape," he enthused.

Professor Uche stated that the idea of Abia Medical City was conceived "because we know that medical tourism is one of the major drivers of capital flight in this country".

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NEWS



CONSULTATION CONTINUES...

The Labour Party presidential candidate in the 2023 election and former Governor of Anambra State, Mr. Peter Obi (L), and former Vice President of Nigeria and the Peoples Democratic Party presidential candidate in the 2023 election, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar, during a close-door dialogue with the National Political Consultative Group (North) in Abuja, yesterday

Adighije: Despite N600bn Debt, 2,000mw Stranded Power, NDPHC Added 625mw to National Grid

Says firm to prioritise eligible customers, bilateral traders

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The Niger Delta Power Holding Company (NDPHC) at the weekend said that despite the N600 billion owed the company by the Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading (NBET) and others, as well as 2,000mw 'stranded power', it has made an additional contribution of 625mw to the national power grid.

Managing Director of the company, Jennifer Adighije, in a statement in Abuja, also bemoaned the dismal uptake of electricity from the market, saying that it was significantly weighing on the company's operations.

In the release signed by the Technical Adviser (Media), Adesanya Adejokun, Adighije explained that gas supply challenges, transmission constraints as well as the debt being owed the company were hindering the company's operations.

She disclosed that the new management has worked to resuscitate five turbine units across Calabar, Omotosho, Sapele and Ihovbor plants that were formerly offline, which now contribute the additional 625mw to the national grid.

"NDPHC currently has mechanically available generation capacity of about 2,000mw that is significantly stranded due to transmission constraints, gas supply and gas transportation limitations in addition to dwindling offtake by the distribution companies (Discos).

"Over the years, the NIPP plants are utilised by the system operator to carry out primary frequency response enabling power grid stability. These ancillary services ought to be monetised in line with the grid code and industry regulations.

"However, NIPP plants are ordered to startup and shut down at the prerogative of the system operator without any form of compensation thus leading to low utilisation of capacity and operational stress on the generating turbine units," she said.

In accordance with the grid code, Adighije said the NDPHC is placed on restrictions for a number of reasons, including inadequate transmission grid availability, which she said is being seriously addressed by the Minister of Power, Chief Bayo Adelabu, as well as low demand from the downstream electricity market.

" It is important to note that power generation is driven by demand, and therefore, if the demand isn't made, the plants will not generate. In certain cases when the demand arises, there is inadequate dispatch corridor or wheeling capacity through the grid network.

"In spite of these limitations, NDPHC continues to spearhead transmission grid expansion plans and distribution network interventions to enable power generation to be delivered to the last mile underserved communities" she stressed.

Since inception of NIPP, NDPHC said it has invested over N500 billion in transmission projects, including transformers, transmission substations, switch gears, switch yards, transmission lines, line bay extensions and several world-class projects currently being operated by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN).

On Alaoji power plant, Adighije noted that a dispute over gas supply metering with the gas supplier led to the shutdown of the station, but that it will become functional again before the end of this year.

She explained that significant steps had been taken to restore the Gas Metering Station (GMS) to provide a lasting solution to gas losses to the plant.

She stated that the company had severally made attempts to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with NBET to no avail, which would have improved NDPHC's merit order in the dispatch priority schedule. This, it said, has impacted the company very negatively financially and further exacerbates the stranded capacity of the company.

"Currently, NDPHC is placed in the least priority bucket for dispatch in spite of its available daily dispatch capacity of about 2,000mw.

"By no small measure, NDPHC remains the largest fleet of generating turbine units in the sector. Conversely, much of that capacity remains stranded due to these impediments that constrain the company from generating optimally," she said.

Adighije said the company was leveraging on the order issued by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), on bilateral agreements to sell its stranded power and will soon conclude some deals with off-takers.

Adighije, explained that the company currently has a generation capacity in excess of demand from the national grid, and is thus prioritising direct supply to bilateral and eligible customers to commercialise its stranded capacity.

She reiterated that the strategy of the new management seeks to unlock that stranded energy by dedicating significant portions of it now to eligible customers and bilateral trading arrangements pursuant to the July 25 order of the NERC.

The order, she said, directed generation companies to trade bilaterally with eligible customers, noting that it should be able to address the NDPHC's stranded capacity.

Netherlands Report: Lagos World's Fastest-growing Tech City in 2025

Ahead of Istanbul, India's Pune

Lagos has been named the fastest-growing tech ecosystem in the world for Y2025 by Netherlands-based research firm Dealroom.co, ahead of Istanbul, Turkey and Pune, India.

The organisation, a foremost data provider on start-ups, growth companies, and tech ecosystems around the globe, broke the news in its Global Tech Ecosystem Index 2025 report, just been released.

According to the report, Lagos is home to five unicorns, comprising Interswitch, Flutterwave, Jumia, OPay, and Moniepoint, which makes the state stand out as an appealing hub for new enterprises.

Ranking Lagos under the 'Rising Stars' category of Tech Cities in the world, Dealroom.co said the state and other cities in the category have given rise to a new generation of tech companies.

"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," the report stated.

Coming behind Lagos on the list, according to the report, are Turkey's Istanbul and India's Pune, which came second and third, respectively.

Also listed are cities such as Belo Horizonte in Brazil, Mumbai in India, Curitiba, also in Brazil, and Saudi Arabia's Riyadh.

Dealroom.co noted that the Rising Star lens showcases the fastest-growing, emerging tech ecosystems by emphasising growth in enterprise value and unicorns, adjusted for local GDP per capita and cost of living.

The list highlights a wide range of ecosystems from emerging markets such as Africa, India, Turkey, and Brazil.

The tech ecosystem has been expanding since Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu mounted the saddle.

The Lagos State Science Research and Innovation Council (LASRIC) has N1 billion from which startups can draw grants.

Information and Strategy Commissioner Gbenga Omotoso hailed the news, quoting Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu as saying: "We are thrilled but not surprised because of the hard work that our youths are doing. We plan to make Lagos a big centre for tech experts. If Microsoft or Google and other giants are looking for good hands, there will be a big pool from which they can draw.

NBS: Ogun State Reports Lowest Increase in Food Prices

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has identified Ogun State with the most modest year-on-year increase in food inflation.

This coincides with the bureau's designation of Benue, Ekiti, and Kebbi as the states facing the highest year-on-year food inflation rates in Nigeria.

According to the NBS's April Consumer Price Index, Ogun State also exhibited a decrease in food inflation on a month-on-month basis.

The report indicates that Benue recorded the steepest year-on-year food inflation rise at 51.76 percent, followed by Ekiti at 34.05 percent, and Kebbi at 33.82 percent.

In contrast, the states with the slowest year-on-year food inflation increases included Ebonyi at 7.19 percent, Adamawa at 9.52 percent, and Ogun at 9.91 percent.

When analyzing month-on-month trends, Benue, Ekiti, and Yobe emerged as the states with the most significant increases in food inflation.

For April, the month-on-month food inflation rates were recorded as 25.59 percent for Benue, 16.73 percent for Ekiti, and 13.92 percent for Yobe.

The surge in food inflation in Benue may be linked to the recent uptick in violence in the state, which has resulted in numerous fatalities and widespread displacement.

Conversely, Ebonyi (-14.43 percent), Kano (-11.37 percent), and Ogun (-7.06 percent) experienced declines in food inflation on a month-on-month basis.

UBA Unveils Advance Top-up Feature for Seamless Airtime, Data Access

Nume Ekeghe

In a bold step to deepen digital financial inclusion and enhance customer experience, United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc has introduced a new feature on its USSD banking platform, *919#, tagged "Advance Top-Up."

The service enables customers to access airtime and data instantly, even when they are out of credit or disconnected from the internet.

Unveiled at the bank's head office in Lagos, recently, the Advance Top-Up feature allows users to conveniently borrow airtime or data directly from their mobile devices eliminating disruptions in connectivity and easing communication barriers.

UBA's Group Head, Retail and Digital Banking, Shamsideen Fashola, who spoke during the official launch, described the feature as a timely addition to the bank's digital offerings and a testament to the its customer-first approach.

"At UBA, we are constantly looking for ways to make banking and everyday services more accessible for our customers. With the launch of Advance Top-Up on our USSD platform, *919#, we are giving our customers the power to stay connected without interruption, regardless of time, location, or airtime balance," Shamsideen said.

UBA's Advance Top-Up which is now live on *919#, joins a wide range of services on the platform, which include airtime and data purchases, money transfers to UBA and other banks, account balance checks, card blocking and freezing, online transaction controls, bill payments, and more.

Fashola emphasised the simplicity and convenience of the solution, adding that "You don't need to download an app or visit a data centre. Just dial *919#, follow the prompt, and you're immediately connected. It's simple, fast, and reliable."

The Bank's Group Head, Marketing and Corporate Communication, Alero Ladipo, added that the feature was developed based on real feedback from customers and their evolving needs.

"Our users asked for a way to stay connected when they have no airtime, and as always, we have come up with a quick solution, right there on their phones, instantly, with no fuss, and no need for internet connectivity. Whether for emergency communications or business continuity, *919# puts instant connectivity in every customer's hands," she explained.

She explained that only recently, the bank unveiled its newly improved Point of Sale (POS) Terminal as well as the UBA MONI App to redefine the digital payment landscape and empower small and Medium Scale Enterprises across Africa.



44TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NAHCO...

L-R: Director, Nigerian Aviation Handling Company Plc, Mrs. Abimbola Adebakin; GMD/CEO, Mr. Olumuyiwa Olumekun; Chairman, Dr. Seinde Oladapo Fadeni; Company Secretary, Mallam Bello Abdullahi and Vice Chairman, Mr. Akinwumi Fanimokun, at the 44th Annual General Meeting of the Company which held virtually on Friday

FG, Birmingham Varsity Launch Transnational Education Alliance

Alausa: Nigeria now prime destination for education investments

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The federal government and the University of Birmingham (UoB) have struck an arrangement that will see the UK institution embark on a partnership that will expand Nigeria's capacity to train and upskill lecturers and deliver world-class undergraduate and postgraduate education.

In a meeting with the Provost of the University, Prof. Stephen Jarvis, and his team at the university's main campus in the UK, Nigeria's Minister of Education, Dr Tunji Alausa, stated that several models for UoB's transnational footprint in Nigeria were explored.

According to him, these included the possibility of: Establishing a branch campus; acquiring an existing university; operating through a franchise model; creating an articulation and 'TWINNING' partnership and leveraging a virtual institution in collaboration with an existing Nigerian university.

Following extensive deliberations, the parties, the minister said, narrowed their focus to two feasible models: an articulation/training approach or integrating within an existing Nigerian university.

As part of the next steps, both sides agreed to begin identifying suitable public and private Nigerian universities for potential partnership, a development that will facilitate the timely implementation of the transnational education initiative.

To this end, the University of Birmingham team is scheduled to visit Nigeria in July 2025, with the Federal Ministry of Education to concurrently establish a dedicated task force to drive the initiative.

Besides, Alausa stated that the task force will include representatives from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), the National Universities Commission (NUC), the Federal Ministry of Education (FME), the British Council, the UK Department for Business and Trade, UoB, as well as members from the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and private universities.

The minister also emphasised the government's intent to utilise TETFUND's Manpower Development Fund to support postgraduate training in STEM fields, research in life and medical sciences, and teacher professional development across both foundational and tertiary levels.

"The proposed UoB transnational education campus will offer undergraduate programmes strategically aligned with NIGERIA EDUCATION SECTOR RENEWAL INITIATIVE (NESRI), with the aim of building a high-skilled workforce.

"Today marks another milestone for the nation. Under President Bola Tinubu's leadership, Nigeria is regaining its stature on the global stage. Countries around the world are now considering Nigeria as a prime destination for investments in education, technology, and infrastructure.

"We are firmly on course to transform Nigeria from a resource-based economy into a knowledge-based and skills-based nation. Hosting a prestigious institution like the University of Birmingham is a significant win for the country," Alausa stated.

Quoting President Bola Tinubu, Alausa noted that: "The youth are the heartbeat of this country," pointing out that the most impactful way to support them is through access to high quality education and providing them with meaningful life skills.

The minister added that this will enable them to contribute to the communities they live in, the country and globally—a presidential mandate Alausa said he remains committed and dedicated to fulfilling.

Furthermore, the terms of reference for the task force will include: Identifying the infrastructure required for UoB to establish a campus in Nigeria; aligning with findings from previous gap analyses; assessing Nigeria's current and future educational needs, and determining how UoB can best contribute to national goals.

"This initiative aims to position Nigeria as the first African country to implement a transnational education model with a UK Russell Group university. Both parties are committed to accelerating progress to enable the admission of the first cohort of students in the upcoming academic year.

"The benefits of this initiative are significant. It will expand Nigeria's capacity to train and upskill lecturers and deliver world-class undergraduate and postgraduate education—crucial for our youthful and growing population," he explained.

IsDB 2025: Dangote Foundation Partners Global Devt Actors to Impact Lives, Drive Progress in Africa Through LLF Forum

Sunday Okobi in Algiers

The Dangote Foundation and other global development actors yesterday forged a successful alliance with Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF) and thought leaders to advance prosperity and sustainable change in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

This took place as the Lives and Livelihoods Fund (LLF) concluded its 'Transforming Lives and Livelihoods Forum: Mobilize for Impact' programme during the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Annual Meetings held in Algiers, the capital city of Algeria.

The pivotal event convened ministers, development experts, and financial leaders, to foster nuanced discussions that illuminated pathways to address poverty, inequality, and climate challenges across Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

At the forum moderated by James Carty, Head of Middle East and East Asia Gates Foundation, and Syed Husain Quadri, Director of Resilience and Climate Action, Islamic Development Bank, the forum's sessions delivered strategic advancements through thoughtful exchange.

At the forum, one of the major developmental partners, Dangote Foundation, disclosed that they are in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation also to strengthen their support for primary health care and agricultural programme in Nigeria with expansion to Niger and Chad.

"So, we are now expanding that relationship to the Islamic Development Bank through its window of Live and Livelihoods Funds," the representative of the Managing Director of the Dangote Foundation, Zouera Youssoufou, and Head of Community Engagement and Polio Project of the Foundation, Mr. Ahmed Iya, said.

Youssoufou further disclosed to THISDAY exclusively at the forum that: "We are now participating in the Live and Livelihoods Fund with the same kind of support to improve health outcomes, agriculture, climate change, and resilience. We are doing that in order to support the sub-Saharan Africans, particularly Nigeria and Niger and Chad.

"We are now here to participate in this forum as the first time, so we are not just coming here as an observer now because they wanted Dangote Foundation to be part of the league of foundations that they are working with, not only in Africa but across the globe.

"The Dangote Foundation is here today to experience some of the innovations they have worked with in other countries, and some of the activities that are ongoing in other parts of the world.

"Based on that, we have now agreed that we all have the same common objective because already they have a partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation just like us (Dangote Foundation).

"So, we are now trying to see how we can now further this relationship to reach out to more people, using some of the platforms that they have in order to support the developments in the regions of Africa."

On the significance of the meeting to the Foundation and Nigeria, the Dangote Foundation representative said the benefits of the meetings and forum of the LLF and the IsDB respectively to Nigeria is huge.

According to her, "For example, all the programmes under the Islamic Development Bank is on how to alleviate poverty, provide access to good life, and how to provide infrastructural support for the region. And this is what we all need, and to support any alternative source to good livelihood."

FG Embraces Private-driven National Reading Culture Initiative Among Children

Sunday Aborisade in Abuja

Key stakeholders across Nigeria's education and development sectors have agreed to support a private-driven national initiative designed to revive and strengthen the reading culture among children, particularly those in rural communities.

Tagged, "Read to Lead campaign," the campaign, being championed by the Gbemisola Yusuf Foundation, is rooted in the belief that early exposure to reading is critical not only for literacy development but also for cultivating leadership skills, creativity, and global awareness in young learners.

The initiative according to the promoters, aims to bridge educational gaps by promoting access to books, reading spaces, and literacy programmes, with a focus on empowering children to become informed, confident, and socially responsible citizens.

Speaking on the occasion of its launch in Abuja at the weekend, the Director General of the National Orientation Agency, Lanre Issa-Onilu, said the campaign would instill a strong reading culture from an early age.

Represented by his Special Assistant on Intergovernmental Affairs, Dr. Sherifat Adegbesan, Issa-Onilu pledged the preparedness of his agency to partner with any initiative that would promote education and awareness in the country.

He said: "We want children not just to read, but to enjoy it. This will stimulate creativity and curiosity."

The NOA DG said: "Reading opens minds. A child in a village can explore the world through books, discovering cultures beyond their environment.

"We expect all our children to be able to read from a very young age not just to read, but to enjoy reading. When children read for pleasure, they explore the world and develop creative thinking.

Seplat Energy JV Gives 110,634 Host Communities' Residents Eye Treatment

Adibe Emenyonu in Benin City

The 2025 edition of the NEPL/ Seplat Energy Joint Venture flagship healthcare initiative, "Eye Can See," peaked with a grand ceremony held at the Oba of Benin's Palace, Benin City, Edo State.

Since inception, the "Eye Can See" programme has recorded remarkable milestones, including 110,634 eye treatments, the distribution of 55,382 reading glasses, and the successful completion of 4,752 cataract surgeries.

Now in its 13th year, the three-day programme continues to deliver free eye care services, including consultations, reading glasses, cataract surgeries and health education on conditions such as glaucoma, hypertension, and diabetes to thousands of beneficiaries in the JV's host communities.

In her opening remarks, the Director of External Affairs & Social Performance, Seplat Energy, Chioma Afe, represented by the Senior Manager, Corporate Social Investment and Social Performance, Esther Icha, stated the initiative has been sustained by the continued cooperation of the Joint Venture partners.

She pointed out: "Every part of this programme is free of charge and for those who have come here with other health challenges aside eye problem, including hypertension or diabetes, we have doctors here to attend to them."

The Commissioner for Health, Edo State, Dr. Cyril Adams Oshiomhole, represented by Dr. Edward Aisowieren, Director Medical Services, commended the Seplat JV and acknowledged the concrete impact of the initiative.

He observed that in keeping to its name, the "Eye Can See" initiative is indeed positively transforming lives,

He pointed out that more than half of the ailments that lead to permanent loss of sight are treatable and thanked Seplat Energy and its partners for coming to the rescue.

"I want to thank the organisers of this programme. I can see for myself that all those who were operated on, under this initiative, can see with their eyes, which is a plus for the organisers. I understand that over the years, this has been going on while hundreds of our people have received free eye care from Seplat Energy," he said.

NEWS



LAGOS AGRINNOVATION HANGOUT 6.0…

L–R: Permanent Secretary, Lagos State Ministry of Agriculture and Food Systems, Mr. Emmanuel Audu; Deputy Director, Public Affairs, Mrs. Adenike Sodipo; Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Systems, Ms. Abisola Olusanya; recipient of the Lagos Agrinnovation Media Ambassador Award and multimedia consultant, Mr. Taiwo Olapade; Special Adviser to the Governor on Agriculture and Food Systems, Dr. Oluwarotimi Fashola; and Programme Coordinator, Lagos Agrinnovation Club, Ms. Funmi Omoyele, at the Lagos Agrinnovation Hangout 6.0, held at The Workforce, The Zone, Gbagada, Lagos… recently

UTME: JAMB Releases Results of Resit Exam for 315,763 Candidates

99% of candidates score below 200 points

Kuni Tyessi in Abuja

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has released the results of the recently conducted 2025 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) resit examination for candidates at centres impacted by the unfortunate incident of system glitches.

The released the results of the re-sit examination for candidates at centres where challenges were encountered, showed that over 99% scored below 200 marks, indicating there were no high scorers in the cancelled sessions of the affected six states.

In a statement on Sunday morning, JAMB Public Communication Advisor, Dr. Fabian Benjamin, said it has also revealed numerous alarming practices perpetrated by candidates, certain proprietors of schools/Computer-Based Test (CBT) centres, which have exacerbated examination irregularities.

He said that, of the 336,845 candidates, who were eventually scheduled after isolated good sessions of the affected centres were excluded and their previously unverified candidates were added, 21,082 were absent.

The statement reads in part: "It would be recalled that after the conduct of the resit examination, a meeting of the Board's Chief External Examiners (CEEs) in all states of the federation was held to consider the results. In attendance at the meeting were a few notables.

"After consideration of the report of the resit examination, and extensive deliberations thereon, a sub-committee, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of the National Open University, Prof. Olufemi Peters, who is also the CEE FCT, was constituted to confirm that the results are in order.

"The CEEs reviewed the exercise and directed that an expert in psychometrics, Prof. Boniface Nworgu, be invited to analyse and endorse the results for subsequent release.

"As part of the healing process, the meeting resolved that the withheld results of under-age candidates (except where litigation is involved), who performed below the established standards, be released.

"Such result does not however qualify them for admission, as they had previously signed an undertaking during the registration process acknowledging that only those who meet the prescribed standards would be considered for under-age special admission.

"The meeting commended the Registrar and the Management of JAMB for the competent and sincere handling of the unfortunate accident and urged them to remain steadfast and courageous."

The statement read further: "Consequent to the above, the result being released is as follows: Of the 336,845 who were eventually scheduled after isolated good sessions of the affected centres were excluded and their previously unverified candidates were added, 21,082 were absent.

"Despite the ongoing inquiries, performance analysis remains consistent (between 11% in 2013 and 34% in 2016) with results from the past twelve years as shown in the table below:

"The misleading questions posed by certain individuals regarding candidates who allegedly scored highly in the cancelled sessions who might desire to retain their previous results are totally unfounded as only a handful scored up to 217 in the affected sessions, while 99% scored below 200 marks - indicating that there were no high scorers in the cancelled sessions of the affected six states."

Stakeholders Seek End to Selective Waivers, Smuggling, Market Distortions in Rice Industry

Say imported commodity pose risks to economy, call for transparent, time-bound, equitable trade incentives

James Emejo in Abuja

Stakeholders in the rice industry have raised the alarm over the existential threat facing the country's rice value chain due to policy distortions, selective import waivers, and unchecked smuggling.

They said the rice industry, which had seen over two decades of growth through public-private investments, now faced potential collapse if immediate corrective actions were not taken.

Speaking at a media briefing over the weekend in Abuja, Chairman, Board of Trustees, Competitive African Rice Forum – Nigeria Chapter (CARF-FSD Nigeria), Peter Dama, said over 13 million metric tonnes of domestic milling capacity had been installed nationwide — enough to meet and exceed national demand.

Dama lamented that the existing productive capacity was being grossly underutilised as imported and smuggled rice flooded the market.

The forum represents a broad coalition of rice farmers, processors, millers, marketers, Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs), and development partners.

Dama warned that the 2024 import waiver undermined a decade of progress in local rice revolution.

According to him, in July 2024, the federal government granted a 180-day duty waiver on the importation of key food items, including husked brown rice, which took effect in 2024.

He stated that while intended to temporarily reduce food prices and combat hoarding, the waiver unintentionally triggered a sharp downturn in local rice market activity.

Dama said the ripple effect of the waiver was still crippling production, reducing future planting interest, and destabilising the rice sector's economic foundation.

He said beyond waivers, massive inflow of smuggled rice — often substandard and unregulated — continued to saturate Nigerian markets through porous borders, making legitimate millers and processors uncompetitive.

Dama said the situation undermined health standards and food safety, exposed border communities to the influence of criminal trade networks, and erased market confidence for smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses who played by the rules.

The group further stated that as a result of the issues, paddy demand had collapsed, leaving farmers with unsold harvests, while local mills scaled down or shut down operations due to inability to compete with subsidised imports.

They also lamented mounting rural job losses across rice-producing states, including Kebbi, Kano, Ebonyi, Plateau, Nasarawa, Jigawa, Ekiti, Benue, Akwa Ibom, Adamawa, and a host of other states.

Youth employment and female-led processing clusters were decimated, reversing years of economic inclusion efforts, the group added.

Among other things, CARF-FSD recommended an end to selective import waivers on rice and related food commodities, stressing that all trade incentives should be transparent, time-bound, and equitable.

The forum reaffirmed the status of rice as a protected strategic crop, deserving of policy continuity to protect over five million livelihoods directly dependent on its value chain.

They called for strengthening of the operations of Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) to seal off key smuggling corridors and deploy rapid-response border enforcement, as well as creation of a national rice buffer stock and offtake mechanism to stabilise market prices during harvest cycles.

CARF-FSD Nigeria urged the government to support paddy production through access to irrigation so that the country could have double paddy production cycle through rainfall and irrigation, supply of affordable inputs, mechanisation, and affordable low interest agriculture financing.

The group said, "Nigeria's rice value chain is not the source of food inflation — it is the most scalable, inclusive and solution available. If protected and empowered, the industry can feed the country, reduce import dependence, create jobs, and anchor rural development.

"CARF-FSD Nigeria has been supporting the government and is always ready to support the government in building a rice-secure, which is economically stable, and politically safe for Nigeria."

N6.5bn Opioids Intercepted by NDLEA at Lagos, Rivers Ports

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

Opioids worth over N6.5 billion have been intercepted by operatives of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at the Port Harcourt Ports Complex, Onne, Rivers State and the Apapa Seaport, Lagos, in the course of last week.

According to a statement on Sunday by the spokesman of the anti-narcotics agency, Femi Babafemi, the opioids with quantities no fewer than six million pills of opioids include tamol 225mg, tapentadol 225mg and carisoprodol 225mg as well as 332,000 bottles of codeine-based cough syrup with street value put at exactly N6,524,000,000.00.

Babafemi revealed the seizures at the Apapa and Onne ports followed intelligence and tracking of new trafficking routes to ship illicit substances into Nigeria by drug cartels, which necessitated the watch-listing of the containers for 100 percent examination.

He said intercepted consignments at the Port Harcourt ports are six million pills of opioids and 162,000 bottles of codeine syrup uncovered in two containers last Monday and Tuesday during a joint examination of the shipments by NDLEA officers with men of the Nigeria Customs and other security agencies.

At the Apapa Port in Lagos, a total of 170,000 bottles of codeine syrup were discovered in a watch-listed container by NDLEA operatives during a similar joint examination exercise last Thursday.

He said two British nationals: Mhizha Tatendra and Ayedipe Adejuwon as well as two Nigerians: Shonowo Imole and Ofuoma Ayobami have been arrested by NDLEA operatives for attempting to smuggle into Nigeria 92 bags of Loud, a strong strain of cannabis weighing 51.1 kilogrammes through the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos.

He said Alexander was intercepted with the consignment upon his arrival at the MMIA on a Qatar Airline flight from Doha, based on processed intelligence on Thursday 15th May.

He was allowed to pass through the security control unhindered and closely monitored by NDLEA operatives to the car park, where the owner of the cargo, Adejuwon, who is a Nigerian British, was waiting in an SUV along with his relation Shonowo Imole and the driver of the vehicle, Ofuoma Ayobami, to receive the courier.

Babafemi said the NDLEA operatives tracking them swooped on them as they attempted to drive out of the airport car park, arresting them with the drug exhibits in the vehicle.

He said in his statement, Alexander confessed he was recruited during his vacation weeks ago while he was promised 1,300 British Pounds after a successful delivery of the consignment in Lagos.

The arrowhead of the syndicate, Ayedipe Adejuwon, confessed that he arrived in Nigeria a day earlier from South Africa through Ghana.

The spokesman said a follow-up operation at their apartment in Lekki led to more discoveries.

SPECI.\L \GRO-INDUSTRIAL PROCESSING ZONE PROGRAM
KADUNA STATE-NIGERIA

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

4th April,2025

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Telephone: 08122330000
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This is to notify you that your Bid dated 7th January,2025 with No: KD/SAPZ-I/DBO/OI/I for execution of the Design, Build and Operation of the AIH located in Gaaiz along Kaduna — Abuja Expressway (Daki-Takwas), Chikun Local GovernmentArea and ATC located in DutsenWai/Kuzuntu, under Kubau Local Government Area of Kaduna State. the Accepted Contract Amount NGN Naira)33,869,130,750.00 - Thirty Three Billion Eight Hundred and Sixty Nine Million One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Naira only (Based on the currency proportions and your exchange rate of NGNI , 551.25/USD as stated in your bid, the contract amount would be USD21,833,448) as corrected and modified in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders, is hereby accepted by the program Implementation Unit.

You are requested to furnish (i) the Performance Security within 28 days in accordance with the Conditions of Contract, using, for that purpose of the Performance Security Forms and (ii) the additional information on beneficial ownership in accordance with BDS ITB 47.1, within eight (8) Business days using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form, included in Section X, Contract Forms, of the bidding document.

Authorized Signature:
Name and Title of atory: MAL. ABBAS SANI Unit: SAPZ — ICADUNA. Signatory:
Name of Implementing Unit: —SLY

Email: kdsapz@gmail.com Twitter: @kadsapz

NBHH
NAEL & BIN HARMAL HYDROEXPORT

Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form

RFB No.: KD/SAPZ-1/DBO/01/1
Request for Bid No.: KD/SAPZ-1/DBO/01/1

The Project Coordinator,
Kaduna State Program Implementation Unit (SPIU),
Special Agro – Industrial Processing Zones (SAPZ) Program,
Kaduna State Agricultural Development Agency (KADA) Complex,
Barnawa Kaduna, Kaduna State.

In response to your request in the Letter of Acceptance *dated [4th day of April 2025]* to furnish additional information on beneficial ownership:

(i) We hereby provide the following beneficial ownership information.

Details of beneficial ownership

Identity of Beneficial Owner	Directly or indirectly holding 25% or more of the shares (Yes / No)	Directly or indirectly holding 25 % or more of the Voting Rights (Yes / No)	Directly or indirectly having the right to appoint a majority of the board of the directors or an equivalent governing body of the Bidder (Yes / No)
[include full name (last, middle, first), nationality, country of residence]			
(1) NAME: ***Engr. Saliba Hani Tanios*** *NATIONALITY:* ***Lebanese*** *COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE:* ***United Arab Emirates***	(Yes)	(Yes)	(Yes)
(2) NAME: ***Engr. Saliba Tanios*** *NATIONALITY:* ***United Arab Emirates*** *COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE:* ***United Arab Emirates***	(Yes)	(Yes)	(Yes)

Name of the Bidder: NAEL AND BIN HARMAL HYDOEXPORT NIGERIA LIMITED (NBHH)

Name of the person duly authorized to sign the Bid on behalf of the Bidder: MR. PEDRO CHAMI

Title of the person signing the Bid: GENERAL MANAGER

Signature of the person named above:

Date signed: 7th-day of APRIL 2025

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64TH INDUCTION CEREMONY OF THE CIPM...

L–R: Deputy Registrar, Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM), Mr. Gbenga Odetunde; Registrar/Chief Executive, Ms. Oluwatoyin Naiwo; Chairman, CIPM Membership Committee, Mr. Adedeji Omotayo; National Treasurer, Mrs. Ogochukwu Egbuonu; Fellow of the Institute, Barr. Femi Mokikan; Chairman, Education Committee, Dr. Steve Ojeh; Best Graduating Student (December 2024 Diet), Mrs. Obianujunwa Onyinyechi Ahaneku; President and Chairman of the Governing Council, Mallam Ahmed Ladan Gobir; Vice President, Mrs. Chidinma Obijesi; and Immediate Past President, Mr. Olusegun Mojeed, at the 64th Induction Ceremony of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPM), the nation's apex regulatory body for the Human Resource Management profession, held in Lagos… recently

Nigerian US-based Physician Discovers Remedy for Sickle Cell

Foundation lauds NSITF's intervention

Onyebuchi Ezigbo in Abuja

Nigerian-born medical researcher based in United States of America, Dr. Sota Omoigui, has discovered a home oxygen therapy that is capable of reversing crisis associated with the dreaded sickle cell anemia.

The research breakthrough came just as the Judith Ojonugwa Sickle Cell Foundation has praised the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) effort of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund, (NSITF).

The Foundation, in a letter to the Managing Director of NSITF, Barrister Olúwaseun Faleye, expressed deep appreciation for the donations it received from the Fund.

While explaining his discovery, Omoigui who is the Medical Director, Division of Inflammation and Pain Medicine, Los Angeles Pain Clinic, Rosecrans Ave, Hawthorne, California in the United States said that home oxygen therapy administered within a half hour (30 minutes) of the onset of symptoms will prevent and stop a sickle cell crisis.

He said that earlier research findings showed that the early phase of a sickle cell crisis is reversible.

According to him, the reversible sickle cells can revert to their original flexible discoid shape when reoxygenated, but repeated sickling can damage the cell membrane and make it impossible for the cells to return to their normal shape, becoming irreversible sickle cells.

"However, multiple research articles have demonstrated that reversible sickle cells can be restored to their normal discoid shape if reoygenated before they progress to irreversible sickle cells.

"Oxygen therapy administered when patients are in a sickle cell crisis and admitted in the hospital does not stop a crisis.

"This is because patients are already in an irreversible sickle cell crisis; the cells have undergone cell damage and death and can no longer be resuscitated with oxygen.

Omoigui further said: "When you prevent or stop the crisis, early, you prevent severe pain, emergency care, hospitalization, the need for blood transfusions and multi-organ damage.

"It would significantly reduce the complications, disability and mortality rates linked to this chronic condition.

"It will reduce the cost of medical care as well as the economic costs of disability to the families, the community and the government."

Omoigui explained that the most frequent occurrence of painful crisis is during sleep when there is a decrease in oxygen saturation adding that prevention of most episodes of sickle cell crisis, and organ damage, is rapidly achieved by administration of oxygen at bedtime or prior to sleep.

He said oxygen should be administered prior to sleep when one or more of these other triggers have occurred: daytime exertion, waking up earlier with a shortened duration of sleep, stress, fatigue, exercise, exposure to cold, ingestion of alcohol, airline travel, altitude of the location that exceeds 2000 ft, infection, malaria and joint pain.

"Supplemental oxygen must be available and mandated for airlines to provide for air travel as aircraft are pressurized to 8000 ft and that poses a danger of organ damage and death to passengers with sickle cell disease.

The physician said that home oxygen therapy should be considered as the standard of care and that public health policy should be directed to providing home oxygen therapy to all sickle cell patients.

"Adequate pain management of a crisis in a hospital with pure opioid medication such as morphine or pethidine is essential to quickly abort a crisis and prevent the progress to acute chest syndrome that has a 25 percent mortality"

Fagbemi Calls for Public-Private-Partnerships to Address Nation's Housing Deficit

Kwara Smart City Project to accommodate 540,000 residents

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), at the weekend harped on the need for public-private partnerships involvement in the tackling of the Nigeria's housing deficit.

Fagbemi stated this in Ilorin, the Kwara State capital while delivering his key note address at the 2025 Kwara Real Estate Conference (KWAREC) in Ilorin.

He stressed the governments alone cannot shoulder the burden of providing housing for the people of the nation.

Represented at the event by a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Kehinde Kolawole Eleja, Fagbemi stated: "Globally, housing is a persistent challenge."

"The private sector must continue to collaborate with government to ensure access to decent and affordable housing".

Fagbemi urged the real estate developers to uphold high standards in quality assurance and adhere strictly to regulatory frameworks to avoid structural and legal pitfalls.

In his remarks at the event, the state governor, Alhaji AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, said the ambitious Kwara Smart City project currently underway in Ilorin is designed to accommodate no fewer than 540,000 residents, making it one of the largest planned urban developments in Nigeria.

AbdulRazaq who was represented at the event by the Commissioner for Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Segun Ogunsola, said the futuristic city will integrate residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational zones while prioritizing sustainable development in line with Nigeria's projected population growth.

AbdulRazaq said: "It has been projected that Nigeria will become the third most populous country in the world within the next 25 years after India and China.

"The country's population will be more than that of United States of America. My vision for Kwara is not just reactive, but proactive, ensuring we are ready for this demographic explosion by investing in urban planning that is inclusive, modern, and sustainable".

According to him, the Smart City initiative is part of the administration's broader urban renewal agenda, which includes significant investments in infrastructure such as quality road networks and utility systems across the state.

"Kwara Smart City is not just a plan; it is a bold step toward redefining how we live, work, and thrive.

"A city that integrates social cohesion, economic opportunity, and environmental responsibility, one that reflects the state government's commitment to a sustainable tomorrow," he added.

Over 4,500 Osun Residents Benefit from Fidelity Food Bank Initiative

Yinka Kolawole in Osogbo

No fewer than 4,500 Osun residents have benefited from a two-day feeding programme organized by Fidelity Bank Plc in Abere and Modakeke communities in Ile-Ife, Osun State.

The program which saw to the distribution of essential food items, was executed in collaboration with the Ministry of Cooperatives and Empowerment and the Esther Adeleke Foundation.

Speaking during the distribution event, the Managing Director/ Chief Executive Officer, Fidelity Bank, Dr. Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe, represented by the Regional Bank Head, Southwest II, Mrs. Morenike Olabisi, emphasized the Fidelity Food Bank initiative underscores the bank's commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and community welfare.

She noted that since the initiative was launched in April 2023 by Dr. Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe, it has impacted communities across all six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

According to Mrs. Olabisi, "This is the third distribution exercise in Osun State this year, and our aim is to achieve zero hunger in Nigeria and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 2. Our CSR initiatives are designed not just to provide immediate relief, but to empower people and improve their livelihoods.

"The bank will be donating 500 Point of Sale (POS) machines to the Ministry of Cooperatives and Empowerment for onward distribution to residents in addition to the food bank distribution.

"These POS machines will serve as an income-generating tool for many families and small business owners across the state. Fidelity prides itself as a responsible organisation, and we place a huge premium on the wellbeing of our host communities", she added.

Responding to the gesture, the governor of Osun State, Senator Ademola Adeleke, represented by the Commissioner for Cooperatives and Empowerment, Bayo Ogungbangbe, commended Fidelity Bank for the social intervention programme and its continued support to the people.

"This is not the first time Fidelity Bank is giving back to the state and this shows that the well-being of the people is of top priority to the bank. We are deeply grateful for their sacrifice and we urge other corporate organizations to emulate Fidelity Bank on this laudable initiative", he stated.

UNIOSUN, Nigerian Machine Tools Sign MOU to Boost Engineering Skills Devt

Yinka Kolawole in Osogbo

In a landmark move to bolster practical engineering education and National Technical capacity, Osun State University and Nigeria Machine Tools Limited (NMTL) have formally signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a state-of-the-art Engineering Skills Development Centre (ESDC) in Osogbo.

The agreement, signed during a high-level visit by the management team of NMTL to the university, marks the culmination of months of strategic engagement between both institutions.

It will provide hands-on technical training and entrepreneurship development for mechatronics engineering and other engineering students of the university and other trainees from across the country.

Speaking at the signing ceremony over the weekend, the Vice-Chancellor of Osun State University, Professor Odunayo Clement Adebooye, described the MoU as "a milestone in bridging the gap between academic theory and industrial practice."

He emphasized the importance of industry-academic collaboration in tackling youth unemployment and enhancing national productivity.

The Executive Management of Nigeria Machine Tools, led by its Training and Product Development Manager, Engr. Alexander Igweze, also commended the university's forward-thinking approach, highlighting the significance of aligning academic output with industry demands.

It will be recalled that a delegation from UNIOSUN visited NMTL several months ago to assess the institution's technical infrastructure and explore areas of synergy.

This led to the formation of a joint committee tasked with drafting the MoU. With the formal signing now completed, the agreement takes immediate effect.

According to the terms of the MoU, the ESDC will serve as a technical and entrepreneurship training hub for students, professionals, and the wider public.

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EXIT OF AN ICON

With gratitude to God for a life well spent, the family of Ukeagu in Umuegwu Okpuala Afugiri Umuahia North L.G.A announces the transition into higher glory of their Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister and Aunt

ELDER MRS. CHINYERE MARGARET UKEAGU

MAMA CONNAK



OBSEQUIES

Friday 23rd May 2025
Service of Songs and Night of Tributes
Winners' Chapel, Mgbuoba Branch, Port Harcourt **Time : 5pm**

Friday 30th May 2025
Service of Songs and Night of Tributes
Diamond Hall. A-Class Park and Event Center, Kashim Ibrahim Way, Maitama, Abuja. **Time 5pm**

Wednesday 4th June 2025
Service of Songs and Night of Tributes
Afugiri Primary School,
Afugiri Umuahia North LGA, Abia State
Time 5pm

Saturday 7th June 2025
Body departs FMC Umuahia
Time 7.30 am

Stop over at Umunkaru Village. Time 8am

Depart Umunkaru Village to Umuegwu Okpuala. Time 8.30am

Arrive Umuegwu Okpuala and lie in state at her residence
Time 9am to 10am

Depart Umuegwu Okpuala to Township Stadium Umuahia. Time 10am

Funeral Service
Arrive Township Stadium, Umuahia for Funeral Service
Time 11am

Depart Township Stadium after funeral service to Umuegwu Okpuala. **Time 1pm**

Arrive Family Compound for interment. **Time 1.45pm**

Interment -**Time 1.45pm**

Reception after interment
Williams Memorial secondary school Afugiri Umuahia North LGA, **Abia State. Time 2pm**

MAY HER GENTLE SOUL REST IN PEACE

Signed: DR KEN UKEAGU - Hon National Commissioner, INEC I for the family

PDP CRISIS: MY POSITION - WIKE



1. Since after the 2023 General election, the PDP has been wantonly swinging from one part of a slippery precipice to another, owing fundamentally to dishonesty and lack of trust amongst its key stakeholders. To stem this ugly trend, efforts have been made to arrest this pernicious virus of dishonesty and treachery and enthrone fidelity to agreements with a view to stabilizing the party and moving it forward.

2. To this end, a meeting of the G5 was held in Lagos. In that meeting, I made it clear to the Governor of Oyo State, HE. Seyi Makinde, that he was the architect of our problems, pointing out to him that non-adherence to agreements reached was the bane of the party, and that he was the chief culprit of this anomaly. At the end of the meeting, we resolved to bury the hatchet and make progress.

3. As a follow-up to the aforementioned meeting, there was an expanded meeting in Abuja involving HE. Seyi Makinde, HE. Umaru Fintri, HE. Bala Mohammed, HE, Bukola Saraki, and I in Saraki's guest house. In that meeting, I made it clear that I had no personal problems with HE. Bala Mohammed, except that he hides under the facade of Chairman of PDP Governors Forum to serially renege on agreements. Tensions rose mightily in the meeting and it took all concerned to calm frayed nerves. At the end of the meeting, we came to some resolutions, including:

a. That Senator Samuel Anyanwu remains the National Secretary of the PDP in tandem with the Supreme Court judgement.

b. All legal matters relating to Rivers State must be withdrawn by the National Legal Adviser.

c. The suit on the State of emergency be withdrawn forthwith.

d. Nobody should deviate from the agreements so reached.

In the light of the foregoing, they pleaded with me to attend the stakeholders' meeting at the Bauchi Government Lodge, regardless of my many engagements. I attended the meeting and clearly reiterated my earlier concerns, and to this end and in order to resolve all other lingering and pending issues, a committee was formed, headed by HE. Bukola Saraki.

4. It is disheartening to note that even before the Bukola Saraki Reconciliation Committee began its work, the gentleman's agreement we reached at Saraki's Guest House was already being crudely violated. To my chagrin, Seyi Makinde had connived with Peter Mba of Enugu State to orchestrate the summoning of the meeting of so-called South-East leaders to recommend that if Ude Okoye was not adopted as Secretary, they would pull out of the PDP. I have since granted an interview to the effect that, that resolution of the South-East leaders can not hold.

Again, Seyi Makinde organized some people in the National Secretariat to insist that the Deputy National Secretary should act as National Secretary, in violation of the agreement earlier reached. To attempt to give credence to this farce, a letter was written by the Deputy National Secretary, calling for a meeting of the NEC of the party. Furthermore, the letter confirming the candidacy of the Governorship candidate of the party in the forthcoming Governorship elections in Anambra State, duly signed by the National Secretary, Senator Anyanwu and the acting National Chairman, was portrayed as rejected by the party through a rebuttal letter signed by the National Publicity Secretary, acting on the orders of Seyi Makinde and Peter Mba. All these actions are in complete violation of the agreements reached and would not do the party any good whatsoever. On the 24th of May 2025, in Jos, for instance, a well publicized and properly attended zonal elective congress of the PDP was aborted because the letter inviting INEC to the congress was signed by the Deputy National Secretary of the party. INEC refused to attend because the proper signatory recognized by law, that is Senator Samuel Anyanwu was not a signatory to the invitation notice. This is undeniably distasteful, provocative and annoying, to say the least.

5. I have painstakingly put out all these facts so that PDP members and the general public would know the truth. I have been in this party since 1998 and have worked tirelessly for the survival of this party with all my strength and it is on record that none of these persons have done anything close to what I have done to sustain this party. What is more painful is that I contributed substantially to most of these governors winning their elections, yet I have not made any personal demands on any of them and I would never do so.

Most importantly, I had thought that we could keep the trust amongst us, but since it is now obvious that they would continue to play games to the detriment of the party, as is the case in the current debacle in the North-Central zonal elections, I have now firmly decided to pull out of all agreements hitherto reached. I have decided to fight on until justice is attained.

Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, CON

Minister, Federal Capital Territory

May 25, 2025

POLITICS

Acting Group Politics Editor DEJI ELUMOYE

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08033025611 SMS ONLY

MONDAY DISCOURSE

2027: Coast Becoming Clear for Tinubu to Fly APC's Flag

The unanimous endorsement last Thursday of President Bola Tinubu for re-election by APC governors, National Assembly caucus, party's National Working Committee appears to have cleared the road for him to fly the party's flag during the 2027 poll. **Adedayo Akinwale** reports.



President Bola Tinubu (third left) and some top government officials at the All Progressives Congress' Summit in Abuja...last week

Yes! The All Progressives Congress (APC) summit on Renewed Hope Agenda held at the Banquet hall at the Presidential Villa last week was basically meant to appraise the performance of President Bola Tinubu almost two years after he assumed office.

The summit was also meant to serve as a convergence of ideas, ideals and also a moment of reflection; on where the party stands, what it has achieved, and what lies ahead for the party and the country.

However, as always, politicians have other motives. While some achievements of the Tinubu administration were eventually reeled out by the governors, ministers and the leaders of the National Assembly at the summit, the various challenges facing the country were also acknowledged.

While they expressed optimism that the Tinubu administration has set the country and its economy on a path of greatness, they equally acknowledged the fact that it is not yet Uhuru.

Nevertheless, unlike so many battles Tinubu had to fight in 2023 against some cabals in the administration of former President Muhammadu Buhari who covertly and overtly worked against his ambition, the former National Chairman of the party, Senator Abdulahi Adamu, as well as Buhari 's indifferent to Tinubu's ambition, when he threw his hat in the ring, the party's ticket was handed over to him on a platter of gold even though the election is not here yet.

To the APC apparatchik, they were convinced beyond reasonable doubt that the President had indeed done well and deserved to contest for another term in office, even though the 2027 elections are about two years away. They wasted no time in adopting him as the sole candidate of the party come 2027.

To some, the endorsement and adoption of Tinubu could not have come at a better time, especially at a period that the opposition parties in the country are still in disarray, while the much touted coalition to wrest power from Tinubu is still struggling to find its feet and gasping for breath.

As the opposition parties in the country continue to look for a veritable platform to challenge the ruling party, the APC apparatchik are already preparing for the next election.

Setting the ball rolling at the summit was the Chairman of Progressives Governors Forum (PGF) and the Governor of Imo state, Senator Hope Uzodinma who revealed that APC governors at their recent meeting expressed satisfaction on the midterm performance of the President.

He stated: "As I speak only this afternoon, members of the Progressive Governors Forum met at my lodge and took far reaching decisions to bring to the leadership and members of our great party. Taking advantage of this summit that we are satisfied with, the mid term review and performance evaluation report of the Renewed Hope Agenda.

"We are aware that Nigerian nation is moving in the right direction, economically, socially and politically, and that we are convinced that under President Bola Tinubu, Nigeria will get to her destination faster in prosperity.

"We have made the resolution of these governors that the president be adopted as our flag bearer for the 2027 presidential election, for the second time in office. That the governors produced by All Progressive Congress are hereby charged to take responsibility to manage federal government policies, occupy the political space in their domains and take responsibility for winning all elections in their states."

Without wasting time, Uzodinma moved a motion that Tinubu be adopted as the party's candidate in 2027, and the motion was seconded by the Governor of Kaduna state, Senator Uba Sani.

Toeing the same line, President of the Senate, Godswill Akpabio, said though things were difficult for Tinubu in 2023, he could see everything turning around for him in 2027.

Despite the assurances, he recalled that during the campaign for 2023 elections, large rallies were organised in some regions but when votes were announced, Tinubu could not get 25 per cent from those regions.

To Akpabio, there was no need for eloquent speeches. He said the results that will come in 2027 should reflect the action and the speeches that were made at the summit.

He noted: "Please note that in politics, it's not over until it's over. It's the tree that bears the sweetest fruit that also gets the highest amount of stones. But the reality is that we are not there yet, and we don't want them there. Of course, mischiefmakers are still meeting in the night, so politics is the game of witchcraft. They meet in the night, and things change in the day."

At this point, Akpabio said the members of the legislative arm are in a better position to move a motion to adopt Tinubu as the sole candidate of the party in 2027. While he moved the motion, it was seconded by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Tajudden Abbas.

He said: "I move that the President be returned as the candidate of the APC in 2027 and as the President of Nigeria."

In his submission, Abbas said as they turn their gaze towards 2027, they must acknowledge both the achievements they have made and the challenges that lie ahead.

He said this is the time for every APC stakeholders to intensify grassroots engagement, articulate the achievements of the administration in clear and compelling terms.

Abbas' words: "Now is the time for every APC stakeholder to take our message directly to our communities. An electoral victory in 2027 will not be won on paper alone. It can only be secured by the confidence we inspire among our people.

"We can only inspire confidence by demonstrating how our policies are improving people's lives and how they will continue to enhance the lives of Nigerians. All of us must effectively market the successes of the Tinubu Administration, specifically the recovery of fiscal health, the job creation drive, the expansion of infrastructure, and the security gains.

"Every APC governor, every APC Senator and Member, every Minister and Commissioner, every Special Adviser and Assistant, every Board Member, and indeed every political appointee of this government must also collaborate with the President to translate his initiatives into tangible benefits that resonate with citizens across every ward."

Prior to the summit, the National Chairman of the party, Dr. Abdullahi Ganduje and the members of the National Working Committee (NWC) have refused to rest on their oars as they continue to galvanise support for the re-election bid of the President.

Being an astute politician himself, Ganduje recently appointed some APC governors as coordinators of each region as part of the strategy to be on top of the game as they plan for 2027 elections.

As if that wasn't enough, Ganduje was also at the meeting of North Central APC stakeholders held less than 48 hours to the summit where the governors and party leaders from the region endorsed Tinubu to run for another tenure of four years during the 2027 elections.

To some, the endorsement and adoption of Tinubu could not have come at a better time, especially at a period that the opposition parties in the country are still in disarray, while the much touted coalition to wrest power from Tinubu is still struggling to find its feet and gasping for breath.

NOTE: Interested readers should continue in the online edition on www.thisdaylive.com

MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

SSB TAXATION: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

As part of our mandate to proactively support sound economic policymaking, the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) wishes to draw the urgent attention of government and the general public to the critical need for a balanced, evidence-based, and context-specific approach to Sugar-Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Tax.

We are particularly concerned by the misleading narratives peddled by some internationally funded NGOs regarding SSB consumption in Nigeria. These NGOs are pushing for more punitive taxation on the Non-Alcoholic Drinks (NAD) sector while adducing baseless assumptions, ignoring Nigeria's harsh economic realities and the long-term impact on jobs, investment, and food security. Rather than promoting balanced, evidence-based dialogue, they continue to push alarmist narratives—often grounded in misleading data—designed to instil fear by unfairly demonising sugar sweetened beverages and linking it directly to life-threatening health conditions. This approach not only distorts public understanding but also risks undermining the livelihoods of thousands of Nigerians who depend on the sector.

Below are some of the fact-based and empirical analyses to help shape policy decisions in the overall interest of the nation:

Sugar Sweetened Beverage Taxes Effectiveness: Global and Local Evidences

- There is no conclusive empirical evidence that SSB taxes reduce overweight, obesity, or non-communicable diseases (NCDs), especially in low- and middle-income countries.
- The WHO does not include SSB taxes among its "best buy" or "quick buy" interventions for NCD prevention, as these taxes have not met cost-effectiveness thresholds.
- International experience (Mexico, UK, Ireland, Chile, South Africa, Finland) shows that SSB taxes have not led to sustained reductions in obesity or NCD rates, with consumers often substituting with other sources of sugar.

Sugar Consumption and Public Health Context

The narrative by the internationally-funded NGOs that Nigeria is one of the highest SSB-consuming countries in the world is false, unfounded and not based on empirical evidence.

- Nigeria's per capita sugar consumption is 7.1 kg (2023), well below the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended maximum of 9.1 kg and the global average of 21.4 kg.
- SSBs contribute only 5.1% of total household sugar intake and 2.4% of caloric consumption, with only 1.4% of household expenditure spent on non-alcoholic drinks.
- Most Nigerian households prioritise basic caloric sufficiency, spending over 56.7% of their total expenditure on food staples rather than discretionary items like SSBs.

Why policymakers must rethink the SSB Tax:

- The Non-Alcoholic Drinks (NAD) sector is a significant pillar of Nigeria's manufacturing industry, accounting for 33% of the sector and supporting over 1.5 million jobs across its value chain, including direct, indirect, and induced employment.
- The sector significantly contributes to government revenue, paying ₦123 billion in taxes in 2022 and ₦170 billion in 2023, representing a substantial share of total Company Income Tax (CIT) and Value Added Tax (VAT) collections.
- In the past three years, the NAD companies have invested over USD 10.5 million in corporate social responsibility initiatives, supporting health, education, youth empowerment, and environmental sustainability.
- President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda has promised to deliver the much-needed stability and foster an enabling environment for industrial growth, economic revitalization, and large-scale job creation. The 2024 Accelerated Stabilisation and Advancement Plan (ASAP)—which includes targeted tax reliefs and the suspension of certain levies on key sectors, small businesses, and vulnerable populations—has played a critical role in slowing sectoral contraction, restoring investor confidence, and attracting new local investments. Any policy reversal or deviation from these reforms risks undermining the hard-won emerging gains of the stabilisation plan and stalling the momentum of economic recovery.

The sector is currently overburdened with taxes amidst numerous industry challenges:

- The 2021 Finance Act introduced a ₦10 per litre excise duty on SSBs, effective June 2022.
- The sector already pays 40%–45 % of its gross profit as tax, a level considered at or near the Laffer Curve's optimal threshold, beyond which higher taxes yield diminishing returns.
- Despite operating in a challenging macroeconomic environment—characterised by high inflation, forex scarcity, rising production costs, and reduced consumer purchasing power—the sector has continued to pay taxes even during loss-making years.
- Further tax increases are projected to reduce government revenue, shrink sectoral Gross Value Added (GVA), and result in significant job losses.
- Examining the value chain more closely reveals the extensive repercussions the proposed SSB tax will have. It will not only severely affect manufacturing companies but also disrupt the distribution network, including small retailers and low-income consumers.

Socio-economic Realities and Policy Implications

- Presently, Nigeria faces food insecurity, with over 33 million people projected to require food assistance in 2025 and 133 million classified as multidimensionally poor.
- Policy measures that increase excise taxes on SSBs risk further burdening businesses already facing high operational costs and populations struggling with daily survival.
- Higher SSB taxes could undermine the Nigeria Sugar Master Plan (NSMP) II, which relies on the NAD sector as the primary industrial buyer of local sugar.
- Nigeria also faces a possible emerging trend as investors in the sector inject much-needed investments into neighbouring countries.

Economic and Employment Consequences

- A projected 10–20% SSB tax increase would lead to a 22% decline in employment (from 29,000 to 24,000 by 2030), a ₦68 billion loss in tax revenue (CIT &VAT), and a 1% drop in GDP growth by 2030.
- Discriminatory taxes can create black markets, encourage cross-border shopping, and disproportionately affect the poor.

Our recommendations for a balanced policy framework:

1. **Evidence-Based Policymaking:** It is imperative that stakeholders ensure fiscal policies are empirically driven and specifically designed to address Nigeria's distinct economic and social landscape.
2. **Support for the Sector:** Recognise the sector's role in employment, industrialisation, and food security, and avoid policy measures that could lead to job losses, reduced investment, and lower tax revenues.
3. **Address Broader Health Determinants:** Focus on comprehensive strategies for NCD prevention, including robust public education around nutrition and lifestyle choices, preventive measures such as health insurance, and investment in health infrastructure to enable access to affordable healthcare, rather than isolated fiscal measures.
4. **Deflection of Misleading Foreign Narratives:** The government should be wary of foreign determined narratives that may jeopardise the Nigeria First policy of government and the long-time prosperity of our country.

Conclusion

As always, the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria is committed to supporting government revenue and public health objectives. We therefore opine that a sound fiscal policy must be balanced, evidence-based, and contextually appropriate to avoid unintended economic and social consequences.

Signed
Segun Ajayi-Kadir, mni
Director General, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria

FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANTS ON STRATEGIC PLANNING, GOVERNANCE, AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY

A. INTRODUCTION

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has the statutory functions of developing and managing all necessary Airport facilities and services for safe, secured and efficient carriage of passengers and goods. In compliance with the National Open Competitive Bidding (NOCB) procedures stipulated in the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and its extant guidelines, the Authority hereby seeks the service of qualified/competent Consultants to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for the appointment of consultants for strategic planning, governance, and institutional advisory.

B. OBJECTIVES

The Agency seeks to appoint consultants on strategic planning, governance, and institutional advisory for a tenure of one (1) year from 2025-2026.

C. SCOPE OF WORK

The consultants will be required to perform the necessary strategic planning, governance, and institutional advisory to the Authority which will enable them to meet set goals and performance of the Authority.

D. LOCATIONS

Where we have FAAN office locations (Airports). **FAAN Airports nationwide.**

E. LOTS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

S/N	LOTS	STRATEGIC PLANNING, GOVERNANCE, AND INSTITUTIONAL ADVISORY	OBJECTIVE
1.	LOT 1	Adapting FAAN's Strategic Roadmap for Global Aviation Trends	1.Conduct a comprehensive review of FAAN's existing strategic roadmap and identify gaps in alignment with global aviation trends. 2.Provide actionable recommendations to address identified gaps and propose initiatives for improvement. 3.Develop a robust implementation framework for the adoption of global best practices in aviation operations and management. 4.Build capacity within FAAN to ensure the successful execution of the updated strategic roadmap. 5.Enhance FAAN's readiness to meet future challenges and opportunities in the aviation sector.
2.	LOT 2	Set up of the Project Monitoring Unit (Incident Control Office, Dashboards, Escalation Systems)	1.Set up a dedicated PMU to oversee real-time monitoring of all operational and project activities. 2.Create an Incident Control Office responsible for managing and coordinating responses to critical incidents across FAAN's operations. 3.Implement live dashboards for real-time tracking of operational performance, incidents, and project status, enhancing situational awareness. 4.Develop a streamlined and automated escalation framework to ensure timely action on critical incidents, preventing operational delays. 5.Ensure full operationalization of the PMU and ICO through comprehensive training, equipping FAAN staff with the necessary skills for effective management.
3.	LOT 3	Airport Infrastructure Optimization Study	• Assess Current Infrastructure Utilization • Identify Bottlenecks and Constraints • Evaluate Operational Processes and Procedures. • Recommend Optimization Strategies. • Quantify Potential Capacity Gains. • Develop an Implementation Roadmap.
4.	LOT 4	Development of Airport Revenue Diversification Strategy	• Conduct a Comprehensive Current State. • Identify and Analyze Market Opportunities. • Evaluate Existing Commercial Operations. • Develop Innovative Revenue Diversification Strategies. • Provide Financial Projections and Feasibility Analysis. • Develop an Implementation Roadmap.
5.	LOT 5	Legal, Governance, Compliance, and Aviation Policy Advisor	*Aviation Law: Provide expert advice on aviation law, including international and national regulations, treaties, and agreements. *Contract Review: Review and negotiate contracts related to aviation, including aircraft leases, maintenance agreements, and service contracts. *Dispute Resolution: Assist in resolving disputes related to aviation, including litigation, arbitration, and mediation. *Corporate Governance: Provide advice on corporate governance, including board composition, roles and responsibilities, and decision-making processes. *Aviation Governance: Advise on aviation governance, including regulatory compliance, safety management, and quality assurance. *Policy Development: Assist in developing policies and procedures related to aviation governance. *Regulatory Compliance: Ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, including those related to safety, security, and environmental protection. *Aviation Regulations: Advise on compliance with aviation regulations, including those related to aircraft operations, maintenance, and airworthiness. *Compliance Monitoring: Monitor compliance with regulatory requirements and advise on corrective actions. *Aviation Policy Development: Assist in developing aviation policies, including those related to safety, security, and environmental protection. *Policy Analysis: Analyse aviation policies and advise on their impact on the aviation industry. *Stakeholder Engagement: Engage with stakeholders, including government agencies, industry associations, and airlines, to advise on aviation policy matters.
6.	LOT 6	Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) Advisory	*PPP Policy Framework: Develop a PPP policy framework that outlines the government's objectives, principles, and guidelines for PPPs. *PPP Strategy Development: Develop a PPP strategy that identifies priority sectors and projects for PPP development. *Stakeholder Engagement: Facilitate stakeholder engagement and communication to ensure that all stakeholders are informed and aligned with the PPP strategy. *Project Identification: Identify potential PPP projects that align with the government's priorities and objectives. *Feasibility Studies: Conduct feasibility studies to assess the technical, financial, and economic viability of identified projects. *Project Prioritization: Prioritize projects based on their feasibility, impact, and alignment with government objectives. *Transaction Structuring: Advise on the optimal transaction structure for each project, including the allocation of risks and responsibilities. *Procurement Strategy: Develop a procurement strategy that ensures fair competition, transparency, and value for money. *Bid Process Management: Manage the bid process, including the evaluation of bids and the selection of the preferred bidder. *Contract Negotiation: Negotiate the contract terms and conditions with the preferred bidder. *Contract Management: Provide advice on contract management, including the administration of contracts, dispute resolution, and contract amendments. *Performance Monitoring: Develop a performance monitoring framework to ensure that the PPP project is delivered on time, within budget, and to the required quality standards.
7.	LOT 7	Leases, Tenancy, and Property Advisory	*Lease Review: Review and analyse lease agreements to identify key terms, conditions, and obligations. *Lease Negotiation: Assist in negotiating lease agreements, including rent, term, and other critical terms. *Lease Renewal and Termination: Advise on lease renewal and termination options, including strategies for renegotiation or exit. *Tenancy Review: Review and analyse tenancy arrangements, including tenancy agreements and occupancy terms. *Tenancy Negotiation: Assist in negotiating tenancy agreements, including rent, term, and other critical terms. *Tenancy Dispute Resolution: Provide guidance on resolving tenancy disputes, including mediation and litigation. *Property Acquisition and Disposal: Advise on property acquisition and disposal strategies, including market analysis and due diligence. *Property Management: Provide guidance on property management best practices, including maintenance, repairs, and upgrades. *Property Development: Advise on property development opportunities, including feasibility studies and project management.
8.	LOT 8	Operations and Process Optimization Advisory	*The scope of this engagement includes analysing current operations and processes, identifying areas for improvement, and providing recommendations for optimization. *Conduct a thorough analysis of current operations, including processes, systems, and organizational structure. *Create detailed process maps to identify inefficiencies, bottlenecks, and areas for improvement. *Analyse current performance metrics, including key performance indicators (KPIs), and identify areas for improvement. *Identify Opportunities for Improvement: Identify areas for process improvement, including streamlining processes, reducing waste, and improving efficiency. *Develop and Implement Process Improvements: Develop and implement process improvements, including changes to workflows, systems, and organizational structure. *Monitor and Evaluate Progress: Monitor and evaluate progress, including tracking KPIs and making adjustments as needed.
9.	LOT 9	Reimagining FAAN's Visual Identity and Building a Community-Centric Brand	*Brand Identity Audit: Evaluate FAAN's current brand elements and identify areas for improvement. *Design Development: Create a complete visual identity package, including logos, typography, color schemes, and iconography. *Brand Narrative: Develop messaging that aligns FAAN's visual identity with its mission, vision, and values. *Application Across Platforms: Standardize the new branding across airports, signage, marketing materials, and online platforms. *Stakeholder Workshops: Conduct workshops to engage stakeholders in understanding and adopting the new identity. *Guidelines Documentation: Provide a comprehensive brand manual for consistent application of the new identity.
10.	LOT 10	Reimagining FAAN's Visual Identity and Building a Community-Centric Brand	*Infrastructure Assessment: Hardware, Software, Network. *Security Evaluation :Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing, Access Control. *Performance and Capacity: System Performance, Capacity Performance etc *Data Management: Data Storage and Backup: Evaluating data storage, backup, and disaster recovery processes, Data Security *Compliance and Governance: Regulatory Compliance, IT Governance. *Risk Management: Risk Identification, Risk Mitigation *Recommendations and Roadmap: Improvement Recommendations, Roadmap Development

In addition to the above, applicants are expected to submit the following in line with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, 2007:

a) Evidence of Company's Certificate of Incorporation (or Business registration) with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), including certified true copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association, forms CAC2 & CAC7 (where applicable).
b) Evidence of Company's Income Tax Clearance Certificate (or Personal Income Tax Clearance Certificates of all the Partners in case of Business Name) for the last three years (i.e. 2022, 2023 and 2024), valid till 31st December, 2025.
c) Evidence of current Pension Clearance Certificate, valid till 31st December, 2025 (where applicable).
d) Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Certificate of Compliance, valid till 31st December, 2025.
e) Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Clearance Certificate, valid till 31st December, 2025.
f) Evidence of company's membership with relevant professional body.
g) Evidence of registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) issued by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP), valid till 31st December, 2025.
h) Sworn Affidavit from Court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria (Federal or State), including stamped passport photograph and signature of deponent/declarant, disclosing as follows: -
   - Whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria or Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) is a former or present Director, Shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder.
   - Confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars.
   - That no Director has been convicted in any country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation of falsification of facts relating to any matter.
   - That the company is not in receivership, the subject of any form of insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings or the subject of any form of winding up petition or proceedings.
   - That the company does not have existing loan or financial liability with a bank, other financial institution or third party that is classical as doubtful, non-performance, bad or whose repayment portion has been outstanding for the last four (4) months.
i) Company's Audited Accounts for the last three (3) years (i.e. 2022, 2023 and 2024), with Auditor's seal and Directors' Signature.
j) Evidence of financial capability to execute the project by submission of Reference Letter from a reputable Commercial Bank in Nigeria, indicating willingness to provide credit facility for the execution of project when needed.
k) Evidence of Firm's current Practice Licence issued by Regulatory Body and other related professional body(ies).
l) Company's Profile, with Curriculum Vitae of Key Staff to be deployed for the project, registered Partners, Managers and other key professionals, including copies of their academic and professional certificates.
m) Verifiable documentary evidence of similar works successfully completed/ongoing project in the last five (5) years in the audit of accounting and financial records of companies comparable to FAAN, including Letters of Award, Contract Agreements, Job Completion Certificates, Photographs, etc.
n) All documents for submission must be transmitted with a Covering/Forwarding letter under the Company/Firm's Letter Head paper bearing amongst others, the Registration Number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Contact Address, Telephone Number (preferably GSM No.), E-mail address, names and nationalities of the Directors of the Company at the bottom of the page and duly signed by the authorized officer of the firm.

F. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

- The documents are to be submitted in soft copy (flash drive) and two (2) hard copies (One original and one copy) in A4 paper size and neatly bound. The document should be arranged in the order listed above and clearly separated by dividers.
- The documents must be sealed in an envelope and the Project Name clearly written at the top left corner of the envelope.
- All documents must be submitted to the office of "The General Manager (Procurement)", FAAN Headquarters, Ikeja – Lagos.
- Contacts: Phone No. 08022231051 or 08152353282 (Available within the hours of 8am-4pm, Monday – Friday) Email Address: procurement @faan.gov.ng
- Submission of pre-qualification documents shall close at exactly 11:30 am on Monday 16th June, 2025.

G. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All submissions will be opened immediately after closing at 11:30 am on Monday 16th June, 2025 at the Procurement Department, Maintenance Yard, FAAN Headquarters, Ikeja, Lagos.

H. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Documents are to be submitted on lot-by-lot basis.
- No Company is allowed to submit bid documents for more than two (2) lots.
- For Partnership companies, evidence of Tax payment must be submitted for all the members.
- FAAN reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any claims made on the bid documents submitted by companies.
- Failure to comply with the instruction(s) and provide any required document(s) may automatically result in disqualification.
- Original of all the above-listed eligibility documents may be requested for sighting as at when needed.
- Late submissions will be returned un-opened.
- All submissions must be in English language.
- Bidders can submit through Post (Courier Services), provided the bid is received before deadline.
- Only shortlisted firms will be invited at a later date for collection of Request for Proposals (RFPs).
- At a later stage, prequalified bidders would be requested to submit the updated copies of their statutory documents (i.e. Tax, PENCOM, ITF, NSITF, BPP and any other relevant document) failure which may lead to disqualification.
- This advert shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of FAAN, nor shall it entail the bidder to make any claim(s) whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from FAAN, by virtue of such bidder having responded to this publication.
- FAAN is not bound to shortlist any firm and reserves the right to annul the Procurement process at any time without incurring any liabilities in accordance with Section 28 of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.

Signed

MANAGING DIRECTOR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE
FAAN

FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

FAAN HQ, AIRPORT ROAD, IKEJA LAGOS

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION
FOR PROCUREMENTS UNDER FAAN 2025 IGR BUDGET (WORKS)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has the statutory functions of developing and managing all necessary Airport facilities and services for safe, secured and efficient carriage of passengers and goods. Consequently, the Authority intends to undertake the procurement of the under-listed projects at FAAN Headquarters and other Airports in Nigeria, under its 2025 financial year/Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) Budget. In compliance with the National Open Competitive Bidding (NOCB) procedures stipulated in the Public Procurement Act 2007 and its extant guidelines, the Authority hereby invite competent and reliable companies to submit their technical documents for execution of the projects.

2. SCOPE OF WORK

a. Provision of recycling station to sort and separate collected materials into difference categories (e.g. Paper, Plastic, and Glass)

b. Training on process and preparation of waste materials for recycling

3. AVAILABLE LOTS

Lot No.	Description of Project
B1	**Provision of Waste Recycling Stations for Global Sustainable Environment at Headquarters and Various Airports**

4. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

a) Evidence of Company's Certificate of Incorporation issued by Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), including certified true copy of Memorandum and Articles of Association, forms CAC2 & CAC7 or CAC1.1.

b) Evidence of Company's Income Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) for the last three years (i.e. 2022, 2023 and 2024), valid till 31st December, 2025.
   - Only companies with a minimum of N50,000,000 annual turnover in the last three (3) years (2022, 2023, and 2024) need to apply for Lot B1.

c) Evidence of current Pension Clearance Certificate, valid till 31st December, 2025.

d) Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2025.

e) Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Clearance Certificate, valid till 31st December, 2025.

f) Evidence of registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) 31st December, 2025 or valid certificate issued by the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).

g) Sworn Affidavit from Court of competent jurisdiction in Nigeria (Federal or State), including stamped passport photograph and signature of Deponent/ Declarant, disclosing as follows: -
   - Whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria or Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) is a former or present Director, Shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder.
   - Confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars.
   - That no Director has been convicted in any country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation of falsification of facts relating to any matter;
   - That the company is not in receivership, the subject of any form of insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings or the subject of any form of winding up petition or proceedings;
   - That the company does not have existing loan or financial liability with a bank, other financial institution or third party that is classical as doubtful, non-performance, bad or whose repayment portion has been outstanding for the last four (4) months;

h) Company's Audited Accounts for the last three (3) years (i.e. 2022, 2023 and 2024).

i) Evidence of financial capability to execute the project by submission of Reference Letter from a reputable Commercial Bank in Nigeria, indicating willingness to provide credit facility for the execution of project when needed.

j) Company's Profile, with Curriculum Vitae of Key Staff to be deployed for the project, including copies of their academic and professional certificates.

k) Verifiable documentary evidence of at least three (3) similar works successfully completed/ongoing project in the last five (5) years, including Letters of Award, Contract Agreements, Job Completion Certificates and Photographs of the projects.

l) Bidders shall provide evidence of current license issued by the (NESREA etc.)

m) All documents for submission must be transmitted with a Covering/Forwarding letter under the Company/Firm's Letter Head paper bearing amongst others, the Registration Number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Contact Address, Telephone Number (preferably GSM No.), E-mail address, names and nationalities of the Directors of the Company at the bottom of the page and duly signed by the authorized officer of the firm.

5. SUBMISSION OF PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

- The documents are to be submitted in **soft copy (flash drive: to be submitted separately) and two (2) hard copies (One original and one copy) in A4 paper size and neatly bound.** The document should be arranged in the order listed above and **clearly separated by dividers.**
- The documents must be sealed in an envelope and the Project Name and Lot number clearly written at the top left corner of the envelope.
- All documents must be submitted to the office of **The General Manager (Procurement), FAAN Headquarters, Ikeja – Lagos, from 8.30am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday.**
- **Contacts: Phone No. 08022231051 or 08152353282 (Available within the hours of 8am – 4pm, Monday to Friday), Email Address: procurement@faan.gov.ng.**
- Submission of pre-qualification documents shall close at exactly 11:30a.m. on **Monday 16th June, 2025**

6. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents shall be opened immediately after the deadline for submission at 11:30a.m on **Monday 16th June, 2025** at the **Procurement Department, Maintenance Yard, FAAN Headquarters, Ikeja, Lagos.**

7. IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- FAAN reserves the right to verify the authenticity of any claims made on the bid documents submitted by companies.
- Failure to comply with the instruction(s) and provide any required document(s) may automatically result in disqualification.
- Original of all the above-listed eligibility documents may be requested for sighting as and when needed.
- Late submissions will be returned un-opened.
- All submissions must be in English language.
- Submission should be very clear on the areas of Lot of interest.
- Bidders can submit through Post (Courier Services), provided the bid is received before deadline.
- Only prequalified bidders will be invited at a later stage for collection of financial tender documents.
- At a later stage, prequalified bidders would be requested to submit the updated copies of their statutory documents e.g. Tax, PENCOM, ITF, NSITF, BPP and any other relevant document. Failure to do so may lead to disqualification.
- This advertisement shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of FAAN, nor shall it entail the bidder to make any claim(s) whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from FAAN, by virtue of such bidder having responded to this publication.
- FAAN is not bound to shortlist any bidder and reserves the right to annul the Procurement process at any time without incurring any liabilities in accordance with Section 28 of the Public Procurement Act 2007.

Signed

MANAGING DIRECTOR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE

FAAN

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THE ABDUL SAMAD AND DANGOTE EXAMPLE

They are both worthy examples of corporate Nigeria, contend ***OTEGA OGRA*** *AND* ***TEMITOPE AJAYI***



See page 21

BEFORE NUHU RIBADU RIDES OFF INTO FANTASY-LAND

CHIDI ANSELM ODINKALU *argues the need to do more to secure the people*



See page 21

EDITORIAL

THE STOWAWAY SECURITY CHALLENGE



22



Leadership is not owned by the young or the experienced. Energy and wisdom are not opposites; they are partners in progress, argues ***LINUS OKORIE***

THE POWER OF GENERATIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN LEADERSHIP



There is a quiet tension playing out in boardrooms and brainstorming sessions across the world. It does not always show up as conflict. Sometimes, it is subtle: a missed moment of connection between a senior executive and a younger team lead, or a hesitation to speak up during a cross generational strategy meeting. Beneath these moments lies a powerful and underexplored force: the partnership of age and experience. At the heart of it is the potential to blend energy and wisdom through generational intelligence.

The problem is not that different age groups cannot lead effectively. They can, and do. The challenge is that many organizations overlook how age subtly shapes communication, decision-making, and leadership approaches. When these differences are misunderstood, they create friction. When they are understood, they unlock collaboration, succession planning, and cultural alignment.

This article explores how leaders at different life stages bring distinct strengths to the table, and how the real advantage lies in their partnership. From the boldness of emerging leaders to the foresight of experienced ones, we'll look at how leadership matures, why it diverges with age, and how it thrives when we intentionally combine perspectives.

Leadership style is not static; it develops over time, shaped by personality, experience, and context. But age often plays a role in that evolution. Younger leaders, those in their 20s and 30s, tend to favor collaborative, adaptable, and vision-driven leadership. Their style leans toward transformational or servant leadership; they value inclusivity and show a higher tolerance for risk and experimentation.

This is not just anecdotal. Research from Deloitte and Gallup shows that younger generations in leadership positions place greater emphasis on empathy, inclusivity, and constant feedback. They see leadership less as command and control, and more as guidance and facilitation. They are more likely to ask, "What do you think?" before offering direction.

Older leaders, particularly those in their 50s and beyond, often bring a more structured and strategic approach. It is not because they are rigid; it is because decades of decision-making have taught them the value of efficiency and clarity. Their leadership is often rooted in experience and insight. They have seen patterns repeat. They have survived crises. So, they lean on what works and focus on long term outcomes, sometimes prioritizing consistency over flexibility.

That is not to say either approach is better. They are simply different lenses shaped by life stages and leadership exposure.

Generational differences do not just influence how leaders lead; it affects how they see authority, feedback, and communication. Baby Boomers might see hierarchy as a source of order, while a Millennials might view it as a barrier to collaboration. Gen Z, just entering the workforce, tends to expect constant feedback and rapid growth opportunities, while Gen X leaders might consider silence a sign of trust.

These generational lenses can lead to misunderstanding. For example, an older leader might interpret a younger employee's ambition as impatience. Meanwhile, the younger professional might see a preference for formal meetings and slow approval processes as outdated, rather than deliberate.

In high pressure situations, these biases become even more pronounced. During a crisis, a senior leader might default to a clear chain of command, issuing directives to maintain control. A younger leader might pull the team together for rapid ideation and distributed decision-making. Both approaches have merit; without awareness, they can clash rather than complement.

These reveal that leadership does not operate in a vacuum; it reflects generational influence. Generational intelligence means recognizing these patterns, not judging them. It means equipping leaders to bridge perspectives, translate intent, and lead across age lines.

One of the most visible differences across leadership age ranges is the tradeoff between energy and wisdom. Younger leaders often move faster. They embrace technology with ease, adopt agile workflows, and challenge the status quo. Their leadership can be magnetic, especially in environments that reward disruption and speed.

Older leaders bring something different: deep institutional knowledge, emotional regulation, and an ability to make decisions under pressure that reflect decades of experiential knowledge. They are more likely to pause, assess, and connect dots others might miss. In industries where stability and credibility are paramount, such as healthcare, finance, or public governance, that kind of leadership often excels.

But it is not a battle between the young and the seasoned. It is a partnership opportunity with energy and wisdom. The best organizations do not choose between them. They design leadership culture that combine them, pairing youthful insight with experienced oversight, and ensuring that institutional memory does not block innovation but guides it.

It is tempting to assume that leadership naturally gets better with age. Experience does deepen many essential traits; self-awareness, empathy, and emotional intelligence often grow with time. Leaders in their fifties and sixties tend to be more comfortable with ambiguity, less reactive under stress, and better at managing diverse personalities.

But not everything improves automatically. Curiosity, for example, can atrophy. So can adaptability. In fact, older leaders who resist change or become too reliant on past formulas can find themselves outpaced. Effective leadership in later stages of life requires intentional effort to stay open, stay learning, and stay connected to emerging trends.

Meanwhile, younger leaders may bring raw creativity and moral courage; without reflection and mentoring, those traits can lead to burnout or missteps. The traits that fuel good leadership exist at every age, but they must be cultivated differently as time goes on.

Ultimately, the best leaders are not defined by their birth year. They are defined by their ability to grow. Across industries, there are countless examples of leaders who have shifted their styles as they aged, took on new responsibilities, or responded to changing workforce expectations.

Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft, is one. His leadership over the last 11 years has matured from competitive to collaborative. By relying on the age-diverse team, Microsoft is a leading force in cloud computing and artificial intelligence, significantly increasing the company's market value. Oprah Winfrey is another example. Her leadership influence has spanned decades and causes, shifting from media mogul to philanthropic force. What links both is not age, but adaptability.

Leadership does not have an expiration date; it has seasons. What works at 30 may not work at 50. The pace may change. The focus may shift. But the capacity to lead well, to inspire, align, and transform, can grow richer over time if nurtured with humility and intention.

Age and leadership are connected, but not in the way most people assume. Age can shape perspective, values, and behavior, but it does not limit potential. By understanding how leadership style differences emerge across age ranges, organizations can build stronger teams, bridge generational gaps, and create leadership cultures that are both timeless and timely.

Leadership is not owned by the young or the experienced. It is not a race against age. Energy and wisdom are not opposites; they are partners in progress. Generational intelligence invites us to lead with this understanding: that the best ideas are forged in diversity, that the most resilient teams are built across life stages, and that the future of leadership is not either-or, it is both-and.

Okorie MFR
is a leadership development expert spanning 30 years in the research, teaching and coaching of leadership in Africa and across the world. He is the CEO of the GOTNI Leadership Centre.

They are both worthy examples of corporate Nigeria, contend OTEGA OGRA AND TEMITOPE AJAYI

THE ABDUL SAMAD AND DANGOTE EXAMPLE



There is a particular kind of silence that greets progress in Nigeria—when food prices fall, inflation slows, the country is positively recognised, debts paid, or things begin to work. It is the kind of silence that would rather keep a good story buried than be told. But make no mistake. What we see in the market today is not magic. It is the outcome of vision, backed by execution, from the Tinubu-Shettima administration.

When President Bola Tinubu signed off on a six-month waiver to allow the importation of select food items, it was not an act of political showmanship. Rather, it was a visionary economic strategy at play. That singular decision broke a cartel of hoarders who had turned food insecurity into an immoral enterprise. But strategy alone does not and cannot lower the cost of rice. What does is when industry leaders respond with urgency.

Last week at Aso Villa, the seat of the Presidency in Abuja, Abdul Samad Rabiu did not just show up to thank President Bola

Tinubu. He came prepared and showed up with results. He brought evidence—bag by bag, commodity by commodity—of how Mr. President's policy met action. Rice that once sold for N110,000 for 50kg bag now sells for less than N70,000. Flour is down. Maize is down. And for once, the loudest people in the room are the ones who used to profit from scarcity, not the ones out to end the criminal profiteering.

What happened here was disruption. The BUA team, as well as other major Nigerian manufacturers and industrialists who heeded President Tinubu's call, understood the assignment. They flooded the market, shattered the economics of hoarding, and exposed a truth few want to say: sometimes, the real enemy is not the system. It is the silence and sabotage that follow reform.

But Alhaji Rabiu did not stop at food. He announced a second move upon the advice of fellow billionaire industrialist Aliko Dangote, which was just as consequential. In an economy that is recovering from FX volatility, energy price surges, and imported inflation, cement manufacturers have decided to freeze the price of cement, not for everyone, but for every contractor working under the government's Renewed Hope infrastructure projects. This is not charity at play. This is alignment. Our two big businessmen understand the time, and they are doing their businesses conscious of the need to balance profitability with social responsibility. We have Aliko Dangote and Abdul Samad Rabiu to thank for leading the way and showing how to be worthy examples to Corporate Nigeria. The truth is that the business environment has been quite challenging. While this is so, there is also the problem of arbitrariness in how prices of goods and services have moved in the last two years. Many businessmen and women have taken undue advantage of Nigerians to engage in price gouging, unduly raising the cost of living for average Nigerians.

Cement isn't just a product. It is the bloodline of infrastructure. By holding the price steady for public works under the Renewed Hope Agenda, Dangote Cement, BUA Cement, Lafarge, and new entrant like Mangal Cement didn't just make a corporate gesture. They bought the government fiscal room, time, and momentum. That is what nation-building looks like when it wears a private-sector face.

It gets deeper. Working with Aliko Dangote, Abdul Samad Rabiu in the same spirit of putting country first, other cement manufacturers are partnering with the two prime movers in the cement manufacturing sector to resuscitate the Cement Technology Institute of Nigeria, pledging up to N20 billion annually to train artisans, real human capacity, not PowerPoint plans. We live in Nigeria, where, for the longest time, conversations about growth rarely touch skills. This novel move is, therefore, a bet on people because when people are trained, projects do not just get built but they endure.

President Tinubu alluded to something important during that meeting. He did not just commend BUA, he called the actions of the private sector who have taken a bet on Nigeria throughout this period, "economic patriotism." Whilst many sit on the sidelines waiting for stability before they act, it matters when Nigerians step in to create it.

Nigeria does not just need big men, it also needs bold moves. What Rabiu, Dangote, and their peers are doing from freezing prices and disrupting hoarding to funding technical skills is not corporate PR. It is policy execution, and that is what separates firms that extract value from those that build it.

In this phase of Nigeria's transformation, we will need more of the latter. Our country can make do with more businessmen and women who understand that the private sector is not a spectator sport; that stability is not gifted but engineered. And that to win the confidence of 250 million people, you must show, not tell, that the future of Nigeria is under construction.

And if we tell these positive stories loud enough and well, if we stop whispering good news while bad actors shout, we may just shift the national mood from that of despair and hopelessness to productivity.

We make bold this statement because, when industry starts to move like this, it is more than just a market correction. It is a clear signal that the tide is turning positively.

Our country must be a nation of strong, hopeful, and productive people. While some of the challenges of nation-building still persist, we must never shy away from telling those who take undue advantage of fellow citizens that businesses can still make fair and decent profit and not overburden citizens.

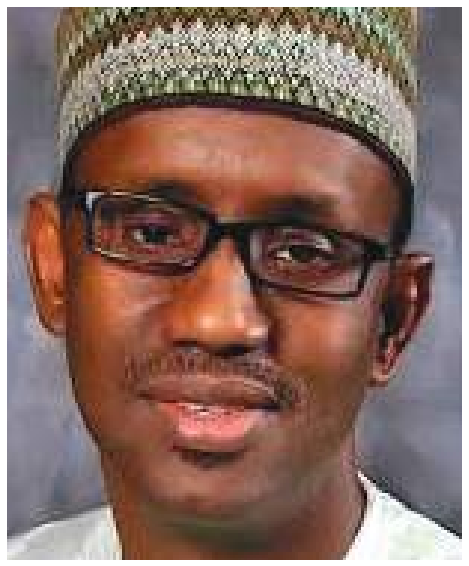
President Tinubu knew from his first day in office that the task of reforming and retooling our economy for optimum performance would not be easy. He also knew what would be his place in history if he refused to take the difficult but necessary decisions that would create medium - and long-term sustainability and prosperity for Nigerians.

Ogra and Ajayi
are senior aides to President Bola Tinubu



CHIDI ANSELM ODINKALU argues the need to do more to secure the people

BEFORE NUHU RIBADU RIDES OFF INTO FANTASY-LAND



Marte, the headquarters of the eponymous Local Government Area (LGA) on the western floodplains of the Lake Chad in Borno State, north-east Nigeria, has been a site of lingering contest between Nigerian troops on the one hand and Islamist insurgents of Boko Haram on the other for over one decade. At 3,154 km2, Marte LGA is just a little under the size of all of Lagos State.

For a while between 2014 and 2015, Boko Haram reportedly bivouacked in Marte on its way to its more permanent operational headquarters in the Sambissa Forest. For much of 2015, control of the town exchanged hands in succession between the Nigerian Army and Boko Haram. Around May 2015, Boko Haram reportedly took back the city from the Nigerian troops who had held it for three months from February of the same year.

For the most part, Nigeria has controlled Marte thereafter with the exception of a brief duration in 2021, when the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) temporarily visited havoc upon a military base in Marte.

All that appears to have changed recently. Around Monday, 12 May 2025, Islamist insurgents reportedly attacked the Forward Operating Base of the 153rd Task Force Battalion in Marte, resulting in considerable carnage. Sources familiar with the early morning attack reported that "over 10 soldiers were killed and hundreds of personnel deserted. The (terrorists) burnt down armored tanks and made away with arms and ammunition." The beleaguered governor of Borno State, Babagana Zulum, has been left appealing to his ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) to ensure that Marte does not fall back into the hands of Boko Haram and its allies.

In the same week that they attacked Marte, the insurgents also attacked the 3rd Battalion base in Rann, in Kala Balge district, killing at least five soldiers and leaving at least four others reportedly injured. The intensity and scope of the attacks by Boko Haram in Borno State in the past six months led the state governor to raise an alarm last April, suggesting that the country was "losing ground" in the fight against Islamist terror.

National Security Adviser (NSA), Nuhu Ribadu, a retired Assistant Inspector-General of the Nigeria Police Force, who has run for and is credibly rumoured to retain ambitions for another tilt at the presidency, ostensibly failed to get the governor's memorandum. Addressing the National Summit, so-called, of the APC, the NSA claimed to have killed 13,543 Boko Haram elements in the first two years of the administration and recovered over 11,000 arms from them. He notably did not mention the haul of arms the insurgents have been busy harvesting from Nigerian military formations. Over the same period, he claimed, "124,408 Boko Haram fighters and their families" also surrendered.

It is unfortunate that the ruling party has chosen to make national security a party political matter. It is even more tragic that the wannabe political opposition have allowed them to get away with it. The result is a vacuum of leadership in the security sector filled and fed with an atrocious body count of Nigerian casualties whose death and suffering barely registers on the priorities of the people supposed to protect the country, its people and communities.

The central problem is a failure of strategy. To understand this, it is necessary to explain that the presidency is many jobs in one. A president is - among other things - party leader, chief marketer of the country, head of government, and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces. Every one of these roles of the president can be delegated except the last. As Commander-In-Chief, the president sets security strategy.

For over 50 years, Nigeria's national security strategy docked onto the neighbourhood of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). There was good reason for that. The country's northern boundaries feed into the southern rim of the Sahel. With Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger to its north as founding members of ECOWAS, the country could count solidly on friendly neighbours as buffers against the historical brutalities of Sahelian violence.

This understanding was at the heart of the transformation of the ECOWAS from an economic integration arrangement envisioned at its foundation in 1975 into a collective security arrangement in 1981. For much of the period since then, this arrangement held together.

However, following the military coup in Niger Republic in July 2023, the country lost its marbles and decided to bite its nose in order to spite its sovereign face. On behalf of ECOWAS, President Tinubu committed the blunder of threatening to invade another member of the ECOWAS collective security arrangement. He alone knows what he was thinking.

The hubris of President Tinubu's handling of the coup crisis in Nigeria is inexplicable. With a landmass of over 1.267 million km2, Niger Republic constituted about 22% of the 5.8 million km2 of the landmass of ECOWAS. The idea of an invasion of the country in order to militarily restore the ousted administration of President Mohamed Bazoum was always worse than bluster; it was plainly unviable.

In invoking war against Niger on behalf of ECOWAS, President Tinubu managed in one stroke to violate the prohibition against the use of force in international law; create the impression that Nigeria's Sahelian neighbours did not matter; and suggest that France was a more important factor to Nigeria's neighbourhood strategy than its immediate neighbours.

That much should have been evident to the people who thought up the idea. But the damage was beyond a resort to fantastic bluster where hard-nosed rationality was needed. The costs have been prohibitive and rising; and the result has been devastating.

In September 2023, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger created their own collective security arrangement and orbited off into the realm of Russia's mercenary diplomacy. Since then, the consequences for Nigeria have been stark. In the period since September 2023 and despite the fantasies of NSA Nuhu Ribadu, Nigeria's internal security situation has disintegrated into mayhem.

In the north-west states of Sokoto and Kebbi, a new terror group, Lakurawa, has taken root. South of Kebbi, in Kwara State, another new terror group, Mahmuda, runs murderously rampant. To the east of Kwara in Nigeria's Middle Belt, vast swathes of territory and communities in Benue, Nasarawa, and Plateau states are being emptied in intense attacks credited to so-called "foreign herdsmen."

*A lawyer and a teacher, **Odinkalu** can be reached at chidi.odinkalu@tufts.edu*

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EDITORIAL

THE STOWAWAY SECURITY CHALLENGE

Authorities must intensify surveillance and security operations to stem the menace

The recent rescue of four Nigerian stowaways on the Atlantic Ocean after being thrown overboard by the crew of a foreign vessel raises several questions. But the incident should not be interpreted as a failure of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, nor as evidence of lax enforcement. Instead, it underscores the evolving tactics and resourcefulness of criminal elements who continually seek ways to bypass even the most stringent security measures. While terminal operators have implemented robust security protocols—securing access through both primary port entrances and secondary routes—many of these individuals circumvent official checkpoints by infiltrating port zones through adjacent coastal communities.



In most instances, stowaways board vessels under the cover of darkness, exploiting poor visibility and less active surveillance periods. They are also most often not locals but criminals who exploit the geographic proximity of communities around port areas for their desperation. A striking example of the scale of this challenge was when 22 stowaways were found aboard a single vessel. That ugly episode put Nigeria under negative international spotlight. Since then, security personnel—both public agencies and private firms—have consistently demonstrated diligence in protecting port facilities, which are designated as high-security areas. But it is also evident that additional resources and attention must be deployed in securing backwaters and other unregulated coastal access points.

There are precedents that highlight these vulnerabilities. An expatriate was kidnapped via the backwaters approximately two years ago while the explosion at Atlas Cove a few years earlier was linked to individuals who had discreetly taken shelter in a coastal community for over a week prior to the attack on the petroleum storage facility. In December 2022, a group of stowaways who allegedly hijacked a United Kingdom-bound ship were arrested after a 10-hour standoff. According to the UK authorities, the stowaways boarded in the port of Lagos through the vessel's rudder trunk, an opening near the ship's hull. The security implication is that those stowaways could easily have planted a bomb on the rudder with devastating consequences.

To mitigate such threats and prevent future incidents, authorities must intensify surveillance and security operations along these under-monitored waterways. This includes enhancing patrol coverage in backwater regions, installing surveillance infrastructure such as cameras and motion sensors in high-risk areas, engaging local communities as partners in reporting suspicious activities and increasing inter-agency collaboration to close security gaps between land and sea borders.

Meanwhile, beyond the issue of security is the causal factors driving such extremely dangerous adventure by many of our young men and women. Left with frustration, and little hope of a better future in the country, many of our young people are being tempted to flee abroad via irregular migration, often facilitated by smugglers and human traffickers, with the attendant consequences. A recent report by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) disclosed that thousands of migrants, dominated by Africans, have perished while undertaking such risky migration to reach Europe by sea.

Such is the new low that the government gleefully flaunts the repatriation of stranded Nigerians from different parts of the world. Evacuations from these countries are frequently hyped and passed on as huge accomplishments. There is hardly any consideration or effort to redress factors responsible for such irregular migrations in the first place.

While there is an urgent need to embark on enlightenment campaigns on the implications of the adventure that nearly claimed the lives of the four stowaways, relevant stakeholders must ensure we do not further imperil the maritime sector already beset by bigger challenges. A comprehensive approach—one that secures not only the immediate port facilities but also their surrounding environments—is critical to staying ahead of those who aim to exploit any vulnerability in the maritime domain.

Additional resources and attention must be deployed in securing backwaters and other unregulated coastal access points

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Letters to the Editor

Letters in response to specific publications in THISDAY should be brief (150-300 words) and straight to the point. Interested readers may send such letters along with their contact details to **opinion@thisdaylive.com.** We also welcome comments and opinions on topical local, national and international issues provided they are well-written and should also not be longer than (750-1000 words). They should be sent to **opinion@thisdaylive.com** along with photograph, email address and phone numbers of the writer.

LETTERS

FCTA: NOT ALL ROSES ARE RED

It is with a heavy heart and a deep sense of civic responsibility that I write to alert Nigerians—particularly those who still value truth, accountability, and justice—about a troubling trend unfolding in our nation's capital under the current leadership of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA).

What is being sold to the public as reform or development under the mantra of "Wike is working" is, in fact, a grand illusion. It is a well-scripted charade, laced with bloated contracts, inflated projects, and a dangerous disregard for the foundational principles upon which Abuja was conceived. Even more disturbing is the apparent complicity and oversight by a Senate Committee chaired by a former Director of Treasury and Budget.

The Master Plan of Abuja was designed with foresight and deliberate planning, especially in preserving green and open spaces for environmental sustainability and future public use. However, these lands are now being allocated and sold in questionable deals to private interests with alleged ties to the Minister of the FCT. Few newspaper courageously reported on some of these abuses, backed with visual and documentary evidence. Yet, beyond the media, there has been an alarming silence from agencies and institutions that ought to act in defense of the environment and public interest.

The current climate in the FCT is unfortunately steeped in sectarian bias, where appointments and promotions are increasingly based on religious and regional affiliations rather than merit and competence. The trend suggests a vendetta-driven governance style—perhaps a reaction to electoral disappointments—where exclusion, not inclusion, is now the order of the day.

This bias is also evident in the appointments of acting or overseeing directors across departments and the curious delay in confirming a substantive Head of Service, despite claims of merit. The tenure extensions for certain civil servants, perceived to be part of the minister's inner circle, further raise questions about fairness, legality, and the fear of independent leadership within the bureaucracy. Almost every major contract awarded under the current FCTA regime reportedly lacks transparency and due process. Inflated figures, hurried approvals, and opaque procurement procedures now characterize public project execution in the nation's capital.This is not just about poor governance—it is about an erosion of trust. It is about a systematic dismantling of institutional checks in the name of fast-track reforms that serve private interests. This has serious implications for the President's "Renewed Hope" agenda, which is premised on discipline, reform, and people-oriented governance.

President Bola Ahmed Tinubu came into office with bold promises of reform and national renewal. But the FCT Minister appears to be working at cross-purposes, undermining that vision through acts that distort the Abuja Master Plan, divide the workforce, and weaken the service delivery mechanism of government.

Rather than being a beacon of the President's developmental agenda, the Federal Capital Territory has become a theatre of primitive accumulation, elite capture, and administrative impunity.It is time to speak truth to power. It is time for Nigerians, civil society groups, the media, and public institutions to rise in defense of due process, merit, and justice in the administration of our Federal Capital Territory.

Abuja belongs to all Nigerians—not to any individual, group, or political beneficiary. The founding fathers envisioned a capital city rooted in fairness, inclusivity, and visionary planning. We must not allow a few to erase that legacy in pursuit of personal gain.

Muhammad Masara,
Abaji, FCT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

ENGAGEMENT OF A CONSULTANT FOR THE PROVISION OF GIS AND REMOTE SENSING IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

COUNTRY: Federal Republic of Nigeria
NAME OF PROJECT: PROVISION OF GIS AND REMOTE SENSING IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE
.Ref No: NPCO/SAPZ/IFAD/CS/CQS/002/03/24

The Federal Government of Nigeria has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of the Special Agro – Processing Zones Program (SAPZ), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consulting services, for which this REOI is issued.

The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with Special Agro – Processing Zones Program.

The consulting services ("the services") include to perform a detailed assessment to identify the specific needs and challenges of farmers and agricultural stakeholders; Map and document available agricultural land and other relevant factors; Use GIS tools to assess suitable areas for climate-smart agricultural practices, such as drought-resistant crops, water-efficient irrigation systems, and soil conservation techniques; Provide actionable recommendations based on GIS data to help farmers adapt to climate risks and adopt appropriate climate-smart practices; Use remote sensing data for ongoing monitoring of vegetation health, crop growth, and environmental factors (soil moisture, temperature, etc.) that impact farm productivity; Develop manuals and training programs to farmers, agricultural extension officers, and other stakeholders on the use and benefits of GIS and RS technologies **More details on this consulting services are contained in the Terms of Reference (TOR) which can be obtained from the address below between 10am – 4pm on working days or obtained from the website: sapz.gov.ng.**

It is expected that this consultancy service shall be for a period of 4 months within which the consultant shall accomplish all the tasks including submission of final report to the Client.

This request for expressions of interest (REOI) follows the General Procurement Notice that appeared on the IFAD website on 17th April, 2023, on UNDB on 17th April, 2023 and on Thisday and Daily Trust of 17th April, 2023.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption its Activities and Operations. The latter sets forth IFAD's provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Interested consultants shall not have any actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest. Consultants with an actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest shall be disqualified unless otherwise explicitly approved by the Fund. Consultants are considered to have a conflict of interest if they a) have a relationship that provides them with undue or undisclosed information about or influence over the selection process and the execution of the contract, or b) have a business or family relationship with a member of the client's board of directors or its personnel, the Fund or its personnel, or any other individual that was, has been or might reasonably be directly or indirectly involved in any part of (i) the preparation of the REOI, (ii) the selection process for this procurement, or (iii) execution of the contract. Consultants have an ongoing obligation to disclose any situation of actual, potential or reasonably perceived conflict of interest during preparation of the EOI, the selection process or the contract execution. Failure to properly disclose any of said situations may lead to appropriate actions, including the disqualification of the consultant, the termination of the contract and any other as appropriate under the IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption in its Projects and Operations.

The National Coordination Office now invites eligible Individual consultants ("consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the services in the form of a curriculum vitae (CV). A consultant will be selected in accordance with the individual consultant selection (ICS) method set out in IFAD' Project Procurement Handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at **www.ifad.org/project-procurement.** Interviews will not be conducted as part of the selection process.

The shortlisting criteria are: The criteria for shortlisting consultants will be based 1. General Qualification 2. General Working Experience 3. Adequacy for the assignment 4. Experience in Similar assignment in Donor Funded project.

Any request for clarification on this REOI should be sent via e-mail to the address below no later than 4.00 pm local time on 28th May, 2025. The client will provide responses to all clarification requests by 4.00 pm local time on 30th May, 2025.

Expressions of interest in the form of curriculum vitae (CV) must be delivered in a written form to the address below later than 12.00 Noon local time on 10th June, 2025. Late Submissions will NOT be accepted.

Signed
Dr. Kabir Yusuf
National Program Coordinator, SAPZ
National Program Co-ordination Office (NPCO)
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security,
No. 3, Aguleri Street, off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Abuja,
admin@sapz.gov.ng; +234 8168088308, +2348035949354

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (REOI)

ENGAGEMENT OF A CONSULTANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD AGRONOMIC PRACTICES (GAP) MANUAL AND TRAINING FOR SAPZ IN OGUN STATE.

(INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT SELECTION)

COUNTRY: Federal Republic of Nigeria
NAME OF PROJECT: DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD AGRONOMIC PRACTICES (GAP) MANUAL AND TRAINING FOR SAPZ IN OGUN STATE.
Ref No: NCO/SAPZ/IFAD/CONS/ICS/052/2025

The Federal Government of Nigeria has received financing from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) towards the cost of the Special Agro – Processing Zones Program (SAPZ), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for the recruitment of consulting services, for which this REOI is issued.

The use of any IFAD financing shall be subject to IFAD's approval, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the financing agreement, as well as IFAD's rules, policies and procedures. IFAD and its officials, agents and employees shall be held harmless from and against all suits, proceedings, claims, demands, losses and liability of any kind or nature brought by any party in connection with Special Agro – Processing Zones Program.

The consulting services ("the services") include to conduct a needs assessment to understand the key nutrition messages that need to be communicated; identify the target audience's preferences and learning styles; Develop accurate and relevant nutrition messages; ensure messages are clear, concise, and culturally appropriate. Messages should be in English and local languages (Hausa and Yoruba); Develop visually appealing illustrations; that easy convey the nutrition messages, facilitate easy comprehension and retention of information; use culturally relevant images, symbols, and color schemes; ensure designs are accessible to people of varying literacy levels; Produce high-quality printed versions of the large pictorial charts in sufficient quantities to meet the needs of the SAPZ Program; provide digital versions of the pictorial charts for online dissemination, conduct pre-testing of posters with a sample of the target audience to ensure effectiveness; make necessary revisions based on feedback; Develop a distribution plan to ensure posters reach the intended audience effectively; coordinate with local partners for dissemination. **More details on this consulting services are contained in the Terms of Reference (TOR) which can be obtained from the address below between 10am – 4pm on working days or obtained from the website: sapz.gov.ng.**

It is expected that this consultancy service shall be for a period of 3months within which the consultant shall accomplish all the tasks including submission of final report to the Client.

This request for expressions of interest (REOI) follows the General Procurement Notice that appeared on the IFAD website on 17th April, 2023, on UNDB on 17th April, 2023 and on Thisday and Daily Trust of 17th April, 2023.

The attention of interested consultants is drawn to IFAD's Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism Policy and the Revised IFAD Policy on Preventing Fraud and Corruption its Activities and Operations. The latter sets forth IFAD's provisions on prohibited practices. IFAD further strives to ensure a safe working environment free of harassment, including sexual harassment, and free of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in its activities and operations as detailed in its IFAD Policy to Preventing and Responding to Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

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Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security,
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admin@sapz.gov.ng; +234 8168088308, +2348035949354

1. The policy is accessible at **https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/41942012.**
2. The is accessible at **www.ifad.org/anticorruption_policy.**
3. The policy is accessible at **https://www.ifad.org/en/document-detail/asset/40738506.**

Mr. President,

THIS ENDORSEMENT

For another good term
is truly deserved

Some Highlights of Your Scorecard

- Ended decades of subsidy which benefitted only a cabal and reinvested the savings on critical infrastructure for our people
- Repaid the $3.4bn Rapid Financial Instrument (Covid-19 Loan) to International Monetary (IMF), thereby reducing Nigeria's external debt burden
- Recorded 3.84% GDP growth in Q4 2024, highest in 3 years
- Unlocked over $8 Billion in New Oil and Gas Investments
- Made the Renewed Hope mantra real for over 900,000 Beneficiaries of the Presidential Loan and Grant Scheme and their families
- Commenced N70,000 Minimum Wage Payment for Nigerian workers
- Floated the naira and crushed years of arbitrage which weakened the naira and put millions of the masses in abject poverty
- Cleared over $910 billion FX debt holding the nation down
- Secured over $50 Billion in fresh FDI Commitment to the country through relentless Investment Marketing Roadshows
- Raised our nation's Net Foreign Exchange Reserves up from $3.99 Billion (2023) to $23.11 Billion (2024)
- Relating our economy and investing billions of naira in critical infrastructure for our people
- Initiated over 440 ongoing road projects, including over 2,700km of super-highways
- Introduced the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND) which has given out N54bn in student loans to over 300,000 Nigerian students in tertiary institutions across the country.

With your second term, it can only get better.

Congratulations from the **Governor, Deputy Governor,** and **All of Us in the Lagos State Executive Council**



Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR)
President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

FEATURES

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Harnessing the Critical Role of AirPower in Addressing Africa's Complex Transnational Threats

In a world increasingly defined by asymmetric threats, rapid technological shifts, and cross-border instability, the role of airpower in confronting Africa's evolving security landscape has never been more critical. Recognising this, Africa's foremost air force chiefs, defence ministers, aerospace experts, and global strategic partners recently gathered for the 4th African Air Forces Forum, hosted by the Nigerian Air Force. Under the theme "Strengthening Collaboration in Aerospace Innovations for Regional Security," **Chiemelie Ezeobi** reports that the forum not only showcased aerial capabilities and strategic innovations but also reinforced the message that Africa's security future lies in cooperation, not isolation



The aerial display by the Nigerian Air Force at the Fourth African Air Forces Forum in Lagos



Group picture of Chiefs of Air Staff of different nations; Minister of Defence Nigeria, Dr. Mohammed Badaru Abubakar; Deputy Governor of Lagos, Dr. Obafemi Hamzat; senior naval and police officers, among others at the opening ceremony

When over 100 delegates from 34 countries, including Air Chiefs, senior air force officers, defence attachés, and aviation industry leaders, gathered in Lagos from May 22 to 23, 2025 for the 4th African Air Forces Forum, it was to push for strengthened collaboration in aerospace innovations to enhance regional security against transnational threats. Held under the theme "Strengthening Collaboration in Aerospace Innovations for Regional Security," the high-level forum underscored the urgent need for joint strategies in addressing Africa's evolving security threats and advancing air force modernisation across the continent.



Governor of Imo State, Hope Uzodimma; the Chief of Air Staff, Nigerian Air Force, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar; and the National President of Nigerian Air Force Officers Wives Association, Mrs. Rakiya Abubakar



The chief host, the Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Hasan Abubakar

The Fourth African Air Forces Forum

The African Air Forces Forum was set up to strengthen Africa's defence and security aviation sector by enhancing its full value chain, addressing transnational threats, and identifying the evolving needs of African Air Forces.

Essentially, it focuses on developing strategies to train and retain future Air Force personnel and demonstrates a commitment to growing regional aerospace and defence capabilities.

Serving as a regional platform, the forum has been promoting bilateral partnerships and facilitating discussions on air power's role in internal security, counter-terrorism, and emerging technologies.

This year, the 4th African Air Forces Forum had done more than gather military brass and technology giants—it laid a firm foundation for a continent-wide strategy for airpower development from the stirring speeches to the practical insight.

Comprehensive Representation

From France to Guinea Bissau, Zimbabwe, Mali, Germany, Italy, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Chad, Egypt, Gambia, China, Mauritania, Brazil, Tunisia, United States of America, Morocco, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tanzania, Rwanda, Mozambique, Cameroun, Zambia, Uganda, Benin, Ghana, Togo, Côte d'Ivoire, Pakistan and Rwanda, it was a full room.

Dealing with Transnational Threats

The Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), Air Marshal Hasan Bala Abubakar, declared the forum open with a keynote that underscored the complexity of Africa's current threat environment. "As threats become increasingly transnational in nature," he said, "the urgency for enhanced cooperation, innovation, and strategic foresight among African air forces cannot be overemphasised."

He thanked President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, the Honourable Minister of Defence, the Lagos State Government, the Nigerian Armed Forces, the Ministry of Aviation and Aerospace Development, and key sponsors for supporting the Nigerian Air Force in hosting the continental event.

Air Marshal Abubakar noted that to counter terrorism, violent extremism, transnational crime, and maritime insecurity, African countries must rethink their approaches to aerial capabilities, and deepen inter-force collaboration. "This gathering allows us to exchange ideas, challenge assumptions, and forge lasting partnerships," he concluded.

Call for Adaptation

Nigeria's Minister of Defence, Dr. Mohammed Badaru Abubakar, who was the Special Guest of Honour, highlighted persistent threats such as terrorism and violent extremism, particularly from groups like Boko Haram and ISWAP, just as he identified transnational crimes—drug and arms trafficking, and piracy—as growing security concerns.

"These challenges require not just national but regional and international responses," he said as he emphasised the need for better coordination between navies and air forces to counter maritime crimes. He praised the Nigerian Air Force for prioritising investments in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), and called on other African nations to similarly adapt and strengthen capabilities.

Need for Innovation, Global Partnerships

Representing Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu of Lagos State, Deputy Governor Dr. Obafemi Hamzat, who welcomed delegates to Lagos, stressed that the evolving nature of warfare demands not only sophisticated technologies but also investment in human capital, adding that "we must train our people, modernise our institutions, and expand our vision beyond borders".

Corroborating during her panel on Defence Economics, Dr. Chinyere Almona, FCA, Director General and CEO of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI), emphasised the intersection of innovation, security, and economic growth, while highlighting the opportunities for industrial collaboration between the public and private sectors in building resilient air forces.

As was harped on by Air Vice Marshal S Masera of the Air Force of Zimbabwe and Brigadier General Nicolas Chambaz of the French Air & Space Force, there is need for global partnerships and commitment to continued collaboration in intelligence, training, and equipment sharing.

In his speech, the Chinese Air Force, Senior Colonel Wei Jun gave insights into aerial navigation and joint airspace security operations, offering participants a broader understanding of integrated air defence strategies, while Air Chief Marshal OO Petinrin (rtd) and Air Vice Marshal Olufemi Idowu (rtd) during their panel session urged African air forces to develop forward-looking doctrines, expand their ISR networks, and invest in drone technologies to counter asymmetric threats.

Call for Deeper African Cooperation

On the second day, the keynote address delivered by Governor Hope Uzodinma of Imo State, made a powerful case for stronger continental collaboration in addressing Africa's complex and evolving security threats.

"Airpower remains one of the most versatile tools of modern defence, offering speed, reach, deterrence and intelligence superiority."

He underscored that African nations must move from shared aspirations to concrete, binding frameworks that can support continental security architecture. According to him, instruments such as mutual defence agreements, co-development pacts, pooled logistics platforms, shared research infrastructure, and joint training protocols were no longer optional—"These are not luxuries but necessary instruments of survival in the face of threats prevalent in this 21st century," he stressed.

Tech Dominance and Daring Aerial Display

It wasn't all speeches and talk as tech dominance and aerospace technologies were showcased too by defence companies like Diamond, Airbus, CATIC, ASELSAN, ALIT, Aeronautical Engineering & Technical Services Limited, and even the Embraer with its Super Tucano aircraft that has undoubtedly enhanced the Nigerian Air Force's airpower capabilities in asymmetric warfare.

However, it was perhaps the daring aerial display by NAF pilots that stole the show. Flying in synchronised formation over the Lagos skyline, the jets left spectators in awe with their precision rolls, high-speed passes, and coordinated loops. It was more than a spectacle—but testament of NAF's capability and readiness, which underscored why it was the third largest air force in the continent.

While the forum ended on a high note with a VIP Farewell Dinner Reception at Eko Hotel and Suites, the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Mr. Festus Keyamo SAN, applauded the Nigerian Air Force for the successful hosting of the forum and stressed the strategic importance of aerospace development to national and continental progress, adding that "as we move forward, the skies must no longer be boundaries but bridges for cooperation, development, and collective security".

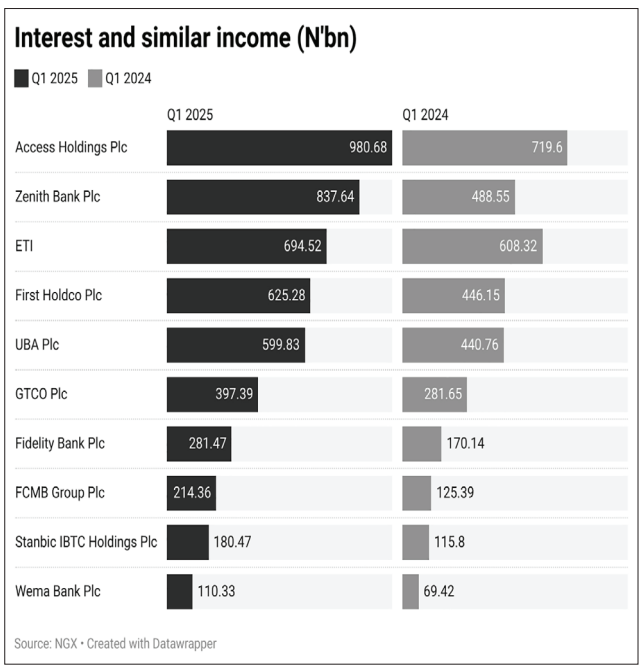
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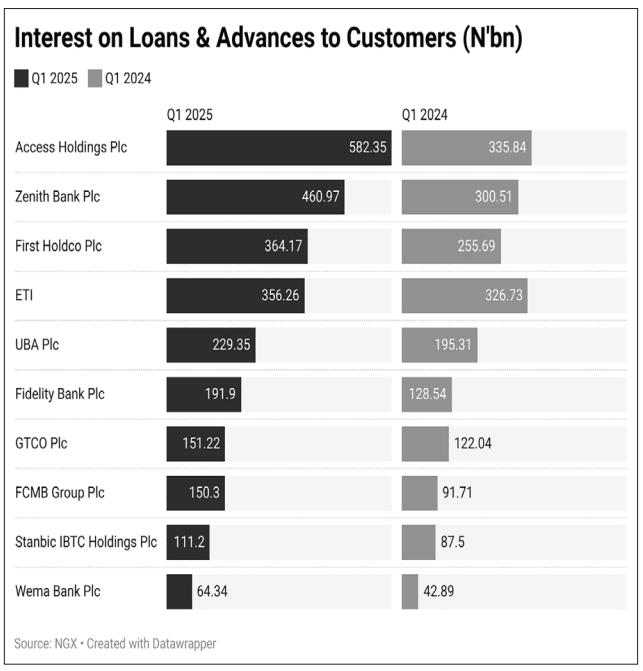
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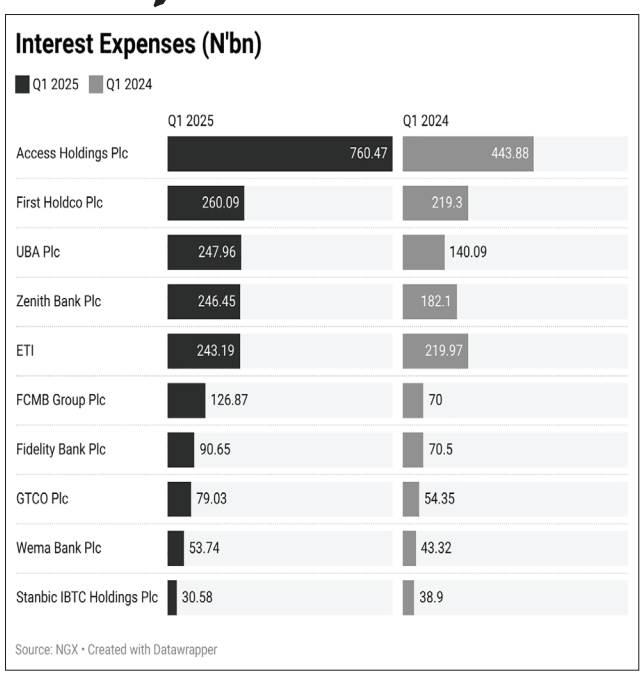
RATES AS AT MAY 23, 2025

MONEY MARKET		REPO		S & P INDEX		S & P INDEX		EXCHANGE RATE
OPR	25.34%	CALL	23.25%	INDEX LEVEL	595.26	1/4 TO DATE	0.24%	N1,562.33/ 1 US DOLLAR*
OVERNIGHT	25.18%	1-MONTH	21.37%	1-DAY	0.10%	YEAR TO DATE	-10.99%	*AS AT FRI., MAY23 , 2025
		3-MONTH	22.41%	MONTH-TO-DATE	0.24%			

27.5% MPR: 10 DMBs Generate N4.9trn from Loans to Customers, Others







Kayode Tokede

As the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) retained Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 27.50 per cent, a total of 10 Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) generated about N4.9 trillion as interest income from loans & advances to customers, banks and yield on investment in securities, in first quarter (Q1) 2025.

This is about 42 per cent increase over N3.47 trillion generated by the 10 banks in Q1 of 2024.

The banks are: Zenith Bank Plc, Access Holdings Plc, Guaranty Trust Holding Company Plc (GTCO), United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA), Ecobank Transnational Incorporated (ETI), and First Holdco Plc. Others are: Fidelity Bank Plc, Wema Bank Plc, Stanbic IBTC Holdings Plc, FCMB Group Plc.

THISDAY probe of the financial results revealed that the banks during the period under review generated N2.66 trillion interest from loans & advances to customers alone, up by 41.09 per cent from N1.89 trillion reported in the corresponding period of 2024.

The CBN had in November 2024, raised the MPR to 27.50 per cent and it remained flat throughout Q1 2025.

While the move was aimed at curbing inflation, critics argue it has hampered economic growth.

According to a report by CBN, maximum lending rate in the banking sector increased to 30.19per cent as of March 2025 from 29.71 per cent December 2024, a barrier to entrepreneurship and private-sector expansion.

Most of these DMBs have continued to benefit from the high yield operating environment as monetary authorities in countries in key African economies have sustained a tight monetary stance to address stubbornly high inflation.

Across Sub-Saharan Africa, inflation has slowed significantly from prior year highs.

Meanwhile, further analysis of the banks' results showed that Access Holdings generated the highest interest income, followed by Zenith Bank and ETI.

Access Holdings in Q1 2025 reported N980.7 billion income, about 36 per cent increase over N719.6 billion reported in Q1 2024.

Interest from loans and advances to customers contributed about 59.4 per cent of the interest income generated by Access Holdings in Q1 2025 from 46.7 per cent in Q1 2024.

Access Holdings generated N582.35 billion interest from loans and advances to customers in Q1 2025, about 73.4 per cent increase over N335.84 billion reported in Q1 2024.

Zenith Bank reported N837.6 billion interest income in Q1 2025, about 71.5 per cent increase over N488.55billion in Q1 2024 while ETI's interest income stood at N694.52 billion in Q1 2025, representing an increase of 14.2 per cent growth when compared to N608.32 billion in Q1 2024.

THISDAY discovered significant the interest expenses the banks' books. It stood at N2.14 trillion in Q1 2025, representing an increase of 44.3 per cent increase over N1.48 trillion declared in Q1 2024.

Access Holdings also lead other DMBs in interest expenses in the period under review, spending an estimated N760.5 billion paying for deposit from financial institutions and customers, interest bearing borrowings and other borrowed funds and debt securities issued.

Access Holdings was followed by First Holdco with N260.09 billion interest expenses in Q1 2025, nearly 19 per cent increase when compared to N219.3billion reported in Q1 2024.

UBA came third with N247.966 billion interest expenses on deposits from banks & customers, borrowings and Lease Liabilities in Q1 2025, a significant increase of 77 per cent from N140.09billion declared in Q1 2024.

Analysts have attributed the increase in interest income and expenses to the reflection of hike in MPR in 2024

The CBN Governor, Dr. Yemi Cardoso, at the end of the MPC meeting this year noted that the committee, however, acknowledged underlying inflationary pressures driven largely by high electricity prices, persistent foreign exchange demand pressure and other legacy structural factors.

According to him, the committee noted new policies introduced by the Federal Government to boost local production, reduce foreign currency demand pressure, and thus, lessen the pass-through to domestic prices.

Commenting, Investment Banker & Stockbroker, Tajudeen Olayinka said the current high interest rate regime in Nigeria is the outcome of a deliberate policy of the central bank to encourage foreign inflows into Nigeria from foreign portfolio investors, in a way to increase accretion to foreign reserves and stabilize exchange rate of the Naira.

He explained, "This is the reason for rising interest rate in the economy, with continued repricing of securities across markets and instruments, including loans and advances by banks. So, high interest rate regime will remain with us for as long as it takes CBN to achieve its exchange rate and inflation objectives."

On their part, analysts at Cordros Research, explained that, "Under the new CPI methodology, the current inflation rate suggests a return to positive real interest rates. However, challenges in interpreting inflation dynamics under the rebased CPI framework are likely to remain a key concern for the MPC.

"In our view, inflation risks are tilted to the upside, particularly as the naira continues to experience gradual depreciation, reinforcing the need to anchor inflation expectations. Moreover, the MPC is expected to weigh the implications of heightened global uncertainty and the persistence of elevated global interest rates, which justify the need to preserve interest rate differentials and limit capital outflows.

"In this context, a rate cut—especially against the backdrop of weaker oil prices and fragile investor sentiment—could undermine foreign investor confidence. Accordingly, we expect the MPC to maintain a cautious stance by holding the MPR at 27.50 per cent and leaving all other policy parameters unchanged."

Nigeria Spends $2.01bn on External Debt Service in Four Months of 2025

Nume Ekeghe

Nigeria spent a total of $2.01 billion on external debt service between January and April 2025, new data from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has shown.

The consistent fulfillment of these obligations reflects the country's commitment to meeting its international financial responsibilities and maintaining investor confidence.

A breakdown of the CBN's international payments data showed that external debt servicing began the year at $540.67 million in January. In February, payments moderated to $276.73 million, before increasing in March to $632.36 million, the highest so far this year. In April, the trend of robust performance was sustained, with $557.79 million paid.

This trajectory, analysts said, highlights Nigeria's efforts to strengthen macroeconomic stability and honour its financial commitments, while also supporting monetary policy goals such as exchange rate stability and improved foreign investor sentiment.

In parallel, remittance inflows from the Nigerian diaspora continued to play an important role in foreign exchange supply, with a total of $328.76 million in direct remittances recorded in the first four months of 2025.

The year began with inflows of $54.44 million in January. February witnessed a sharp jump to $125.59 million, the highest monthly inflow so far in 2025 representing more than a 130 per cent increase over the previous month. However, this momentum slowed in March, as inflows dipped to $110.98 million. April posted a steeper drop to $37.75 million, the lowest figure year-to-date.

It is important to note that these figures reflect direct remittance inflows only typically cash transfers sent through official channels directly to beneficiaries. They do not capture the broader category of cumulative remittances, which includes investment-linked diaspora inflows and other indirect transfers.

While the figures represent direct cash transfers sent through official channels, they reflect the strategic importance of diaspora engagement in Nigeria's economic agenda. The central bank has been working with financial institutions and money transfer operators to enhance remittance channels and offer more secure, efficient, and cost-effective options for Nigerians abroad.

The steady remittance contributions, combined with Nigeria's fulfilment of external debt service obligations, support broader efforts to boost external reserves, strengthen balance of payments, and improve liquidity in the financial system.

MARKET DATA AS AT FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025

BONDS

DESCRIPTION	Price	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time
^16.2884 17-MAR-2027	95.16	19.52	0.01	May 23, 2025 ▲
^19.94 20-MAR-2027	101.12	19.12	0.00	May 23, 2025
^13.98 23-FEB-2028	88.97	19.29	0.00	May 23, 2025
^21.00 20-MAR-2028	104.32	18.91	0.00	May 23, 2025
^14.55 26-APR-2029	86.82	19.49	0.00	May 23, 2025

BILLS

MATURITY	Discount	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time
NTB 5-Jun-25	17.95	18.06	-0.01	May 23, 2025 ▼
NTB 10-Jul-25	17.12	17.51	-0.01	May 23, 2025 ▼
NTB 7-Aug-25	17.80	18.49	0.00	May 23, 2025
NTB 4-Sep-25	18.55	19.59	-0.01	May 23, 2025 ▼
NTB 9-Oct-25	18.10	19.44	-0.01	May 23, 2025 ▼

CPS

MATURITY	Discount	Yield	Change (%)	Updated Time
TGIF CP II 3-JUN-25	27.21	27.44	0.00	May 23, 2025
MCIL CP II 16-JUL-25	22.08	22.82	-0.02	May 23, 2025 ▼
JVIL CP XI 20-JUN-25	26.57	27.12	-0.01	May 23, 2025 ▼
FAST CP VI 11-AUG-25	24.89	26.32	-0.02	May 23, 2025 ▼
MTNN CP XII 30-JUL-25	22.13	23.08	-0.03	May 23, 2025 ▼

CLEARED NAIRA-SETTLED NDFS

CONTRACT TENOR (MONTH)	Contract	Current Rate ($/₦)	Updated Time
13M	NGUS MAY 27 2026	–	May 23, 2025
14M	NGUS JUN 24 2026	–	May 23, 2025
15M	NGUS JUL 29 2026	–	May 23, 2025
16M	NGUS AUG 26 2026	–	May 23, 2025
17M	NGUS SEP 30 2026	–	May 23, 2025

At OTC, NOGOF 2025, Solewant Showcases Innovative Oil and Gas Products, Solutions





Lawal Adeniyi

In a renewed bid to strengthen its leadership position in technological innovation in the global oil and gas industry, Solewant Group has showcased innovative oil and gas products and solutions at the recent Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) held in Houston, Texas, United States of America (USA), and the just-concluded Nigerian Oil and Gas Opportunity Fair (NOGOF) 2025, held in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

OTC represents a consortium of 15 non-profit entities dedicated to supporting the global energy sector. This year's conference was held from May 5 to 8. At OTC 2025, the company's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Solomon Ewanehi, represented by the company's Group Executive Director, Mr. Matthew Aganren, made a presentation at the company's exhibition booth at the Nigerian pavilion on May 6.

Solewant Group made the presentation before the Minister of State for Petroleum (Oil); Minister of State for Petroleum (Gas); members of the National Assembly; Group Chief Executive Officer of the NNPC Limited; Managing Directors of the International Oil Companies (IOCs) and Nigerian independent companies; and members of the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN), and the Oil and Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria (OGTAN).

Speaking during the presentation, Ewanehi noted that the company has excelled in manufacturing and supply of steel pipes, metals, fabrication and specialty coating solutions for 25years.

According to him, the company is entering the next phase of its extensive development through a series of investments and expansions.

Ewanehi enumerated the company's facilities to include: Multi-layer pipe-coating plant; concrete weight coating plant; pipe milling and steel fabrication facility; state-of-the-art laboratory; pipe storage and preservation facility; and pipe bend and fitting coating facility - with plant equipment installation currently ongoing.

He disclosed that the company will unveil the state-of- the-art pipe bend and pipe fitting multi -layer coating factory at its industrial park, Onne, Rivers State in June, 2025.

"Our vision is to be the first-rate world-class steel pipes and coating service provider for the oil, gas and water industry in Africa. Our mission is to provide excellent and reliable steel pipe and coating services, manpower training and research, using well-trained pipe/metals industrial experts and best modern technology to satisfy our clients," Ewanehi explained.

He listed the company's subsidiaries to include: Solewant Nigeria Limited, Pipe and Metals Industries Limited, Field Joint Coating Limited, Solewant Specialty Protective Coatings and Paints Limited, as well as Solewant Energy Institute.

"Our competence includes: Engineering design, Pipe manufacturing and provision of steel pipes, 3-Layer polyethylene pipe coating services, 3LPP to 5LPP pipe coating solution, Concrete weight coating solution, Steel pipe/metals fabrication and specialty coating solutions, Field Joint Coating Solutions, Cathodic Protection Solution and Manpower training services," Ewanehi added.

He noted that the company's multi-layer pipe coating was commissioned since November 2016.

Ewanehi also told the global oil and gas industry stakeholders and top government functionaries that the company's 5LPP Coating system provides five-layered polypropylene system on pipes.

"The Solewant Pipe Milling Plant is helping to cut the growing needs for steel pipes in upcoming projects in Nigeria, with Solewant steel pipe manufacturing technology that produces 12-inch to 56inch line pipes to serve the oil, gas and water industries. In January 2022 and February 2023, Solewant Group received a seal of excellence when we won the Best Oil & Gas Contractor of the Year 2021 and 2022 Awards, respectively, given by News Direct for aiding the oil and gas industry through our steel pipe manufacturing, pipe coating investments, and expansion projects in Nigeria.

"Also, in June, 2024, Solewant Group won the Offshore Africa Oil & Gas Magazine's Best Indigenous African Oil and Gas Contractor of the Year 2023 award in Accra, Ghana," Ewanehi further explained.

He stated that the company's solid reputation was built on consistency, expertise, clients' satisfaction and efficient project delivery.

Speaking on the company's future, Ewanehi stated that "Our business plan and strategy is to continue to invest in People, Plants, Products and innovations required to build and deliver master class projects for our clients."

At NOGOF 2025, Group CEO Unveils 'Solewant Group Roadmap Plus'

Solewant Group also showcased its technological innovations at the just-concluded NOGOF 2025, held at the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) Headquarters in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

At the conference, the Group Chief Executive Officer, Ewanehi announced the unveiling of 'Solewant Group Roadmap Plus' to deepen its advancement in technological innovation and also boost its contributions to Nigeria's industrial development and energy transition.

The unveiling of th 'Solewant Group Roadmap Plus' was part of the company's renewed commitment to its 10-year strategic vision.

Ewanehi, who presented a goodwill message at the opening ceremony of the conference, also restated the company's commitment to Nigerian Content Development through the advancement of indigenous capacity and capability in the oil and gas sector.

While hailing the NCDMB for its continued leadership in promoting local content, Ewanehi also lauded the efforts of the Petroleum Technology Association of Nigeria (PETAN) and the Oil and Gas Trainers Association of Nigeria (OGTAN) in deepening local capacity development.

"Twenty-five years ago, we began with a singular vision—to become a national leader in pipe coating technology, guided by a 10-year roadmap.

"That vision, backed by passion, innovation, and the support of institutions like NCDMB and PETAN, has transformed into something far greater; that is the reason why we are evolving in strategy with the unveiling of 'Solewant Group Roadmap Plus' for the next 10 years," Ewanehi said.

Highlighting the company's 25-year journey, Ewanehi explained that: "Our competence includes: Engineering designs, pipe milling and provision of steel pipes, 3-layer polyethylene pipe coating services, 3LPP to 5LPP pipe-coating solutions, concrete weight coating solution, steel pipe/metals fabrication and specialty coating solutions, field joint coating solutions and cathodic protection.

"Today, Solewant Group stands as a proudly Nigerian conglomerate because of the contributions of NCDMB, PETAN, OGTAN and the continuous patronage of our clients such as NLNG, SPDC, Chevron, Seplat Petroleum, Port Harcourt Refining Company, Exxon Mobil, Addax Petroleum, to mention just few. Since inception, we have successfully provided world-class services to over 100 clients in both onshore and offshore projects to date.

"This is taking us beyond the roadmap project. Now, we are writing new chapters in the story of Nigeria's industrialisation and energy transition with our latest addition being the upcoming commissioning of Solewant Group Automated Bent Coating Plant. This is yet the unveiling of another world-class facility," Ewanehi added.

According to him, "Solewant's growth is a testament to what is possible when local content is not just a policy but a national philosophy—actively implemented, continually monitored, and boldly defended."

Ewanehi, whose company was a Platinum Sponsor of NOGOF 2025, pledged continued support to local content development and called on stakeholders to deepen collaboration, foster innovation, and invest in sustainable growth.

Ewanehi also announced the upcoming commissioning of the Solewant Automated Bend Coating Plant, a new world-class facility that further underscores the Group's dedication to technological excellence and sustainable industrialization.

"This milestone represents a new chapter for our Group, and for Nigeria's oil and gas value chain as a whole," he said. "We are proud to be writing this story together with our clients, partners, and institutions that champion indigenous excellence."

Ewanehi also reaffirmed the company'sT commitment to building a globally competitive, Nigerian-led energy sector.

He added, "We remain committed to building a future where Nigerian companies are not just competing, but leading on the global stage."

Ewanehi described NOGOF 2025, as not just an opportunity fair, but a celebration of progress—"a place where ideas, innovations, partnerships, and investments intersect. It is a platform to not only showcase our capabilities but to reaffirm our shared commitment to a future led by local capacity, global standards, and sustainable development."

He hailed the NCDMB, PETAN, OGTAN, and all partners and the stakeholders for upholding the banner of indigenous participation and excellence in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

• Lawal Adeniyi, Nigerian Content analyst, writes from Warri, Delta State.

"The Solewant Pipe Milling Plant is helping to cut the growing needs for steel pipes in upcoming projects in Nigeria, with Solewant steel pipe manufacturing technology that produces 12-inch to 56inch line pipes to serve the oil, gas and water industries. In January 2022 and February 2023, Solewant Group received a seal of excellence when we won the Best Oil & Gas Contractor of the Year 2021 and 2022 Awards, respectively, given by News Direct for aiding the oil and gas industry through our steel pipe manufacturing, pipe coating investments, and expansion projects in Nigeria."



L–R: Executive Director, Petralon 54, Uduak Equere; Founder and CEO, Petralon Energy, Ahonsi Unuigbe; MD/CEO, 4mation Drilling/OES Energy Services, Valentine Iheasirim and Project Director, 4mation Drilling, Nnamdi Nzute at Petralon 54 second well drilling site, Dawes-Island, Rivers State… recently

B'Odogwu Facilitates N230b Revenue for PTML Customs in Eight Months

Eromosele Abiodun

The Nigerian Customs Service (NCS), Ports and Terminal Multiservices Limited (PTML) Command has said that the new technology introduced by the management of the NCS, B'odogwu, facilitated the N230 billion revenue it generated since its deployment in October 2024.

The Customs Area Controller, PTML Command, Tenny Daniyan, who disclosed this during a courtesy visit by the Shipping Correspondents Association of Nigeria (SCAN), described B'Odogwu as a Nigerian digital technology that has come to change the narrative in customs operations

He said the new technology was not without challenges, adding that over 90 per cent of the challenges have been resolved.

He commended the Comptroller-General of Customs, Adewale Adeniyi for having the confidence to go ahead with the initiative which has today become the pride of Nigeria and Nigerians.

Daniyan said, "B'Odogwu is working and its working for us, we have realised over N230 billion so far on the platform. If its not working with you, it means you are not doing the right thing. We thank God all the issues have been resolved. We are posting and posting very well. Now, we can only say Yes, this is our baby. It's our baby because we don't need a third party to do anything for us. It is fully Nigerian, unlike the Nigeria Integrated Customs Information System (NICIS) when you have issues you will have to translate and then send to a foreign country before the problem can be solved."

He said that the platform would save the Federal Government billions of naira that would have been capital flight on NICIS.

"This means that Customs is not only helping Nigeria to realise money, but also save money," he said.

Speaking earlier, the president of SCAN, Moses Ebosele commended the CAC for his open door policy and thanked him for the cordial relationship between PTML Customs Command and Journalists.

Ebosele also appreciated Daniyan's giant stride especially in the area of revenue generation and capacity building for stakeholders.

NAHCO Eyes Further Diversification to Drive N300bn Turnover Target

Kayode Tokede

Te board of Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO) Plc has assured shareholders that the five- year growth strategy being implemented by the company would drive its turnover above N300 billion within the next five years.

At its annual general meeting (AGM) held at the weekend, the board said the company has continued to strengthen its position as the market leader in aviation ground handling while diversifying into new opportunities.

The assurance came as shareholders approved the payment of N11.58 billion as cash dividends for the 2024 business year, representing a dividend per share of N5.94. The latest dividend represented a 134 per cent increase on N4.95 billion paid for the 2023 business year.

Chairman, Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO) Plc, Dr Seinde Oladapo Fadeni, said the board and management are completely focused on implementing the company's five-year strategic blueprint, which would drive the next phase of the growth of the group.

According to him, the company is undergoing a transformative change that has seen improvement in operating strategy, equipment, staff welfare and management and significant investments in technical know-hows and new opportunities.

He noted that the 2024 performance signposted what the future holds for shareholders of the company, assuring that the group is in position to sustain impressive growths and achieve its target of N300 billion turnover.

"The year was one of tremendous progress, marked by significant achievements and a renewed sense of purpose across all facets of our operations," Fadeni said.

Group Managing Director of NAHCO Plc, Mr Olumuyiwa Olumekun, highlighted some operational achievements in the past year to include the recertification of the company in three major stations of Lagos, Abuja and Kano and the commissioning of a new NAHCO Export Packaging and Processing Centre, Lagos.

IFC Vice President Visits Mohinani Group's Sonnex RpetFacility

IFC Vice President of Corporate Support, Elena Bourganskaia visited the Mohinani Group's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility in Ikorodu, last week as part of her official mission to Nigeria.

The visit highlighted IFC's recognition of the Mohinani Group's critical role in advancing local manufacturing, sustainable job creation, and economic development in Nigeria and across West Africa.

The Mohinani Group, a diversified pan-African conglomerate with operations spanning packaging, consumer products, and industrial chemicals, welcomed the IFC delegationwith a tour of its flagship facility, noted for its innovative production processes and commitment to environmental standards.

Bourganskaia said: "What we've seen today is an example of how private sector leadership, backed by targeted investment, can drive real change. At IFC, we are proud to partner with companies that are not only scaling production but also building inclusive, green economies that work for people and the planet."

During the visit, the IFC Vice President met senior executives of the Mohinani Group, including Chief Executive Officer, manufacturing Rafael Pires, who expressed appreciation for the visit.

Pires reiterated the Group's vision of contributing to Nigeria's self-sufficiency and industrial development through long-term investments, skills development, and sustainable practices.

Pires added: "We are honoured to host the IFC Vice President and showcase our efforts in supporting Nigeria's industrial agenda. Through our cutting-edge recycling PET plant operations in Nigeria and Ghana, we transform post-consumer PET into high-quality flakes and food-grade and non-food-grade pellets."

Petralon Energy Drills to Boost Nigeria's Daily Crude Production with 2,500 Barrels

Peter Uzoho

Petralon 54 Limited, an indigenous exploration and production company assigned as sole operator of the Dawes-Island Field in Rivers State, and a subsidiary of Petralon Energy Limited, is set to boost Nigeria's daily crude production with 2,500 barrels.

The company commenced the drilling of a second well in the Dawes-Island Field this month after the arrival of the OES Teamwork rig on the Dawes Island location from another successful operation.

With its expanded activities, Petralon is consolidating its position as a major player in the Nigerian upstream sector, and an operator with enormous capacity to create value for stakeholders.

"Drilling an oil well is an overwhelming task for any organization because of the logistics, and the investments required, but we are happy that our meticulous planning and efforts are met with good fortunes," Founder & CEO, Petralon Energy Limited, Ahonsi Unuigbe, commented.

"We are emboldened to continue our economic ambassadorial role of creating value for our stakeholders – shareholders, investors, our host communities, indigenous oil servicing companies and regulators. As an entrepreneurial indigenous oil exploration and production company, we are open to new opportunities, and ready to advance the socio-economic good of the Nigerian nation," Unuigbe added.

Alpha Morgan Bank: New Force in Nigeria's Financial Sector

In a move that signals growing alignment between thought leadership and Nigeria's financial sector, founder of Sam Adeyemi GLC, Dr. Sam Adeyemi and Managing Director/CEO of Alpha Morgan Bank, Mr. Ade Buraimo, recently engaged in a conversation centered on the evolving dynamics of the banking industry in Nigeria.

The discussion highlighted the critical role of visionary leadership in shaping the future of financial institutions, especially in a highly competitive market. Leadership, as emphasized by Adeyemi, is more than just a set of skills; it is the capacity to inspire, drive change, and take an organization to the next level.

Adeyemi extended his goodwill to the management and staff of Alpha Morgan Bank, commending the institution for its remarkable feat of launching a new bank in a space crowded with established players.

He specifically noted that Alpha Morgan Bank's tagline, "Satisfying Banking" should serve as the guiding force behind all of its operations. According to Dr. Adeyemi, staying true to this mantra will not only differentiate Alpha Morgan Bank from its competitors but also foster a deeper, lasting connection with its customers.



L-R: Managing Director/CEO, Alpha Morgan Bank, Mr. Ade Buraimo; Principal Consultant, Sam Adeyemi GLC, Dr. Sam Adeyemi and Executive Director Alpha Morgan Bank, Mr. George Imade.

Visionary leadership, Adeyemi continued, is critical in achieving long-term growth and sustainability, particularly in the banking sector. As banks face growing challenges such as regulatory changes, technological advancements, and evolving customer needs, strong leadership will be the key differentiator. Adeyemi highlighted that institutions led by leaders who are forward-thinking and aligned with industry trends are poised to achieve sustainable success.

Alpha Morgan Bank, with its clear vision and strategic leadership under Mr. Ade Buraimo, is positioning itself as a formidable player in the Nigerian banking industry. By prioritizing customer satisfaction and operational excellence, the bank is set to make waves in the commercial banking sector.

With its focus and commitment to customer satisfaction, Alpha Morgan Bank is not just another bank, it is a rising force that investors, clients, and industry stakeholders should keep an eye on.

IHS Nigeria Partners NSCDC to Enhance Security of Telecoms Infrastructure

Emma Okonji

IHS Nigeria, part of the IHS Holding Limited group, one of the largest independent owners, operators, and developers of shared communications infrastructure in the world by tower count, has entered into a strategic partnership with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to enhance the protection of critical telecommunications infrastructure across Nigeria.

IHS Nigeria, which owns and operates over 16,000 towers in Nigeria and has deployed over 15,000km of fiber, and the NSCDC, the security agency assigned with responsibility for the protection of critical national information infrastructure, recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to formalise their collaboration, which seeks to tackle the challenges of theft and sabotage affecting tower sites, fiber optic cables and other telecommunications infrastructure.

During the MoU signing, both parties highlighted their shared commitment to ensuring the security of Nigeria's telecommunications industry.

Speaking about the collaboration, CEO, IHS Nigeria, Mohamad Darwish, said: "At IHS we are key enablers of connectivity, and this partnership with the NSCDC is for us an important step towards enhancing the resilience, reliability and availability of telecommunications connectivity in Nigeria. By working closely with the NSCDC, which enforces the law that designates telecommunication towers as critical national information infrastructure, we aim to create a safer and more secure environment for our operations, including our infrastructure, and more importantly, ensure better quality of service for all users in Nigeria."



L-R: IFC Senior Country Officer, Nigeria, Mohammed Aliyu; General Manager, Polytanks Ghana, Senthil Kumar; Chief Executive Officer, Manufacturing, Mohinani, Rafael Pires; IFC Vice President, Corporate Support, Elena Bourganskaia; General Manager Sonnex rPet, Hakan Turkmen and Regional Hub Lead, Manufacturing and Services, Central and Anglophone West Africa, Donald Nzorubara, during IFC Vice President courtesy visit to the Sonnex rPET Recycling plant in Ikorodu, Lagos… recently

Access Bank Commences NRBVN Registration for Nigerians in Diaspora

Nume Ekeghe

In a move aimed at expanding financial inclusion and improving access to banking services for citizens abroad, Access Bank Plc has commenced the registration of Nigerians in the diaspora under the newly launched Non-Resident Bank Verification Number (NRBVN) platform.

The initiative follows the rollout of the NRBVN platform by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS), which allows non-resident Nigerians to enrol for their Bank Verification Numbers without travelling to Nigeria, a key requirement for accessing financial services in the country.

With physical enrolment now active, Access Bank said it has opened designated registration centres across key international locations including the United Kingdom, the United States, parts of Europe, and the Middle East, enabling Nigerians abroad to complete their BVN registration seamlessly.

Commenting on the development, Managing Director and CEO of Access Bank Plc, Roosevelt Ogbonna stated: "We commend the Central Bank of Nigeria and NIBSS for the successful rollout of the NRBVN platform. This is a bold step toward integrating millions of Nigerians abroad into the country's financial system. At Access Bank, we are proud to be part of this transformative initiative, and we remain dedicated to providing tailored financial solutions that meet the unique needs of our diaspora customers."

The bank noted that the initiative would not only enable account opening for Nigerians in the diaspora but also grant them access to a broader bouquet of banking services, from multi-currency accounts to investment and lifestyle offerings.

Some of the features designed for non-resident Nigerians include digital BVN enrollment through the secure NIBSS NRBVN portal, instant account opening with Access Bank, and access to customized diaspora products such as mortgage plans, solar financing, and lifestyle packages. Diaspora customers can also invest in Nigerian real estate, mutual funds, and fixed deposits, all while enjoying 24/7 access to a dedicated customer support team.

The initiative also supports the Central Bank's broader financial inclusion strategy, aimed at deepening financial identity, formalising remittance inflows, and bridging access gaps for Nigerians regardless of location.

Google Unveils New Era of AI Across Products

Agnes Ekebuike

Google has unveiled a wave of Artificial Intelligence (AI) advancements designed to make AI more intelligent, 'agentic', and personalised.

The breakthroughs, powered by deeply integrated Gemini models, are set to redefine how users interact with Google's products every day.

Across Africa, more and more people are finding themselves interacting with artificial intelligence every day, perhaps without even realizing it. From the personalized recommendations that pop up on their phones to the smart assistants helping them manage their schedules, AI is quietly becoming an indispensable part of modern life. The widespread adoption underscores a global trend, how AI is evolving from a complex theoretical concept into practical, helpful tools that solve real-world problems and enhance our capabilities.

At the annual Google I/O 2025 conference, which is its flagship event, Google featured the latest updates in technology. This year's proceedings highlighted the ongoing advancements in Google's AI capabilities, with its most advanced models, Gemini, being extensively integrated across its product offerings and research initiatives. A central theme observed was the development of Artificial Intelligence intended to be not just powerful but also beneficial, designed to be more intelligent, more capable of taking action on behalf of users (referred to as 'agentic'), and more uniquely tailored to individual needs and preferences (personalised). Building on previous developments, Gemini has now been incorporated into every one of Google's 15 products that collectively serve over half a billion users. The innovations unveiled at I/O 2025, suggest a focus on expanding the scope of AI applications and making artificial intelligence broadly more useful and intuitive for a wider audience.

At the I/O 2025 conference, Google unveiled 13 of the new AI-powered tools, features, and advancements.

Finceptive Closes Oversubscribed N3bn Series 1 Commercial Paper Issuance

Nume Ekeghe

Finceptive Limited, a provider of supply chain financing solutions in Nigeria has announced the successful completion of its N3 billion Series 1 Commercial Paper (CP) issuance.

The firm in a statement noted that the offer, which was open to institutional investors from May 6 to May 12, 2025, was oversubscribed, demonstrating strong market confidence in the company's operational performance, corporate governance, long-term vision, and credit profile.

The 268-day tenor paper issuance marks Finceptive's debut in the Nigerian debt capital market. This reinforces the company's strategic effort to diversify its funding sources and deepen its liquidity. Proceeds from the issuance will be strategically deployed to fuel Finceptive's continued growth, bolstering working capital reserves and enabling the company to capitalise on emerging opportunities in the supply chain finance market.

Group Chief Executive Officer of Finceptive Limited, Ogochukwu Anerobi, said: "We are thrilled by the positive reception of our debut issuance. This milestone is more than just a successful raise; it's a resounding signal that the market believes in what we're building. We're not just financing supply chains; we're redefining how businesses access the capital they need to grow."

He added that Finceptive Limited is a pioneering supply chain finance solutions provider, empowering vendors, and suppliers of Nigeria's leading corporations across key sectors including FMCG, Manufacturing Telecomms, and Financial Services.

Stakeholders Call for Accelerated Infrastructure, Talent Devt

Agnes Ekebuike

Nigeria's digital economy stakeholders, industry captains, policymakers, and tech professionals recently gathered to celebrate the 50 Most Valuable Personalities (MVP) in the digital space while reflecting on Nigeria's digital readiness for 2025. At the gathering, which doubled as a colloquium, with the theme: 'Nigeria: State of Digital Economy for 2025', the stakeholders called for accelerated infrastructure and talent development for Nigeria, while spotlighting both transformative achievements and persistent infrastructural gaps slowing the country's progress.

In his welcome address, Chairman and CEO of Knowhow Media, Mr. Olusegun Oruame, a renowned tech analyst and international journalist, underscored the significance of the digital revolution in reshaping lives across the country. "We are here to recognise those who are quietly making strong statements on digital transformation. This is a moment to celebrate quiet impact," Oruame said, while emphasising that change is occurring nationwide—from Lagos to remote parts of the North.

In his keynote presentation, former President of the Association of Telecoms Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), Ikechukwu Nnamani, who is a leading voice in Nigeria's ICT sector, stressed that while Nigeria has made commendable strides since its 2019 digital economy roadmap, much remains to be done. "We are latecomers to the global digital economy, but we have the potential to accelerate faster than many countries," Nnamani said.

He highlighted critical gaps in digital infrastructure, especially beyond Lagos.

According to him, "It's cheaper to buy broadband capacity between Lagos and London than between Lagos and Abuja, despite the distance because Nigeria has so much broadband capacity at the shores of the country that needs to be transmitted to the hinterlands through the national backbone infrastructure. That's the reality," he lamented. He called for a more equitable deployment of metro fiber networks, long-distance links, and edge data centers across all states to unlock the full potential of Nigeria's digital economy.

On the human capital front, Nnamani dismissed fears that technology displaces jobs. "Digitisation creates jobs, if people are willing to retrain," he stressed, citing the example of a young Nigerian who secured remote employment with a Canadian tech firm after six months of coding training.

FAAN's Director Inducted into NIPR

Chinedu Eze

The Director, Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Mrs. Obiageli Orah, has been formally inducted into the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR).

The induction ceremony took place in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, as part of the Nigerian Public Relations Week.

FAAN said the induction is a testament to Mrs. Orah's outstanding achievements in strategic communication, stakeholder engagement, and consumer advocacy.

As a key figure at FAAN, she has played a pivotal role in fostering public trust, enhancing customer experiences, and promoting transparent communication between the Authority and the Nigerian public.

Mrs. Orah expressed her gratitude for the honour, saying it underscores her commitment to continuous professional development and fuels her resolve to advance effective public communication and meaningful consumer engagement.

AON Commends Keyamo on Appointment as Chairman, BAG Council of Ministers

Chinedu Eze

The Airline Operators of Nigeria (AON) has commended the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, Festus Keyamo, on his recent appointment as Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Banjul Accord Group (BAG) – a coalition of seven West African countries committed to the advancement of civil aviation in the sub-region.

The operators said this remarkable appointment is a testament to the Minister's exceptional leadership, bold reforms, and tireless dedication to repositioning Nigeria's aviation sector as a beacon of excellence across Africa.

It further affirms Nigeria's growing influence in shaping the future of aviation on the continent and globally.

Alhaji Abdulmunaf Yunusa President and Dr. Allen Onyema, Vice President, AON, noted that since assuming office, Mr. Keyamo has championed far-reaching reforms that have revitalized the aviation industry, from championing a revised regulatory framework for leased aircraft insurance, to ensuring Nigeria's proactive engagement with the global Aviation Working Group.

His efforts, the association said, have significantly improved investor confidence, aircraft financing options, and ease of doing business for indigenous operators.

"Under his stewardship, Nigerian airlines have achieved new milestones, including the historic Lagos-to-London flight by Air Peace and Nigeria's strategic participation at the prestigious Aviation Finance Conference in Dublin, both historic feats that have placed the nation firmly on the global aviation map.

"Minister Keyamo's commitment to safety, efficiency, and sustainable growth is evident in his continuous push for infrastructure investment and his successful advocacy for the Cape Town Convention's full implementation moves that have enhanced Nigeria's international aviation standing.

"As we celebrate this milestone, the AON also extends its profound gratitude to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, for his visionary leadership and for consistently demonstrating an exceptional ability to put round pegs in round holes," it said.

FOCUS

Assessing FMBN's Affordable Housing Delivery Under Tinubu

Nigeria has long grappled with a persistent and widening housing deficit estimated at between 20 million to 28 million units. This chronic shortage has for decades remained a damning national challenge, defying the efforts of successive administrations. **Emmanuel Addeh** writes that the sector, with the much needed nudge from the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), appears to be getting priority attention under the Bola Tinubu administration.

Millions of Nigerians have lived in substandard, overcrowded and insecure housing conditions, unable to access decent and affordable homes. Experts attribute this to a combination of factors, including weak mortgage systems, limited access to credit, ineffective housing policies and an urbanization rate that continues to outpace housing supply.

When Tinubu assumed office in May 2023, he inherited this daunting legacy, and went about tackling the challenge head-on, recognising that access to decent housing is not just a matter of shelter but a cornerstone of national development. Besides, it promotes social stability, improves health outcomes, reduces poverty and drives inclusive economic growth.

Therefore, one of the administration's earliest decisions was appointing Ahmed Dangiwa, a technocrat with deep sectoral experience, as the Minister of Housing and Urban Development. This signaled the president's determination to bring competence and innovation to bear on the housing sector.

Thus, the federal government followed this by launching the Renewed Hope Cities and Estates Programme, laying the foundation for a 3,112-unit in Karsana, Abuja. At the event, the president made a clear and powerful declaration: "Every Nigerian deserves access to decent and affordable housing."

Thereafter, within the first year of this administration, he appointed a new executive management team, led by Shehu Osidi as Managing Director/Chief Executive, to drive institutional reforms and unlock the bank's full potential.

As a further reflection of his commitment to housing sector progress and the critical role of FMBN, one year later, Tinubu complemented this with the appointment of a new Board of Directors chaired by Dr. Nasiru Gawuna, adding strategic oversight to the bank's operations.

Within the two years of the current administration, the FMBN under Osidi's leadership says it has rolled out a blend of innovative and impactful initiatives, lifting thousands of Nigerians out of despair and into decent homes, improving living conditions and energising the broader real estate economy.

From record disbursements to digital solutions, FMBN notes that its achievements reflect a renewed commitment to bridging Nigeria's housing deficit and empowering citizens in line with the current administration's agenda in the sector.

Expanded Mortgage Access

One of the bank's standout achievements during this two-year period has been the unprecedented scale of mortgage disbursements under the National Housing Fund (NHF) Scheme. Between May 2023 and early 2025, the bank disbursed over N11.75 billion in NHF mortgage loans to 1,285 beneficiaries. These funds provided access to affordable, long-tenure loans at single-digit interest rates, reducing the financial barriers that historically hindered many Nigerians from owning homes.

"Also recognising that upfront rent costs often pose barriers for many families, FMBN has scaled up its Rent-to-Own programme. With N15.06 billion disbursed in the past two years, 1,140 Nigerians now live in homes they are gradually paying for through rent, with the assurance of eventual ownership. This flexible model is delivering both shelter and long-term security.

"Beyond facilitating new ownership, FMBN has supported existing homeowners through its Home Renovation Loan initiative. Over 27,900 Nigerians have accessed N15.35 billion to carry out essential home upgrades. This has improved living standards and preserved property values while stimulating the growth of local construction and building materials sectors," the bank disclosed.



To further reduce the housing deficit, FMBN has financed the construction of 2,542 new housing units valued at N30.91 billion. These projects are spread across Nigeria's geopolitical zones and tailored to low- and middle-income earners, supporting inclusive urban growth while also generating thousands of jobs in allied industries.

Support for Cities and Estates Projects

A major contribution to the government's housing agenda is FMBN's support for the Renewed Hope Cities and Estates Programme. The Bank committed a N100 billion Off-Taker Guarantee to private developers handling the project, providing the assurance needed to access loans and begin construction.

"Additionally, FMBN is directly financing federal housing projects in Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, and Karsana, Abuja, with N27 billion and N19.9 billion respectively. These cities are envisioned as modern, sustainable communities with critical infrastructure, green spaces and integrated transportation, which are hallmarks of the Tinubu administration's urban vision," a note from the bank stated.

Digital Transformation

In a country where public institutions are often hampered by slow service delivery and manual processes, the bank has charted a different path. The full deployment of the FMBN Core Banking Application (CBA), which has been in the works for years, marked a landmark achievement.

With this system, contributors can register, remit NHF payments, apply for loans, check balances and request refunds online, eliminating bottlenecks and long queues. Service turnaround times have been reduced by over 40 percent as a result of this initiative.

This digital shift is especially empowering for Nigeria's tech-savvy youths, small business owners and remote workers who demand convenience and speed. The CBA aligns with Tinubu's broader digital public sector vision and positions FMBN as a modern institution capable of scale and inclusion. It has eliminated the challenge of financial alienation which previously besieged underserved populations.

It added: "As a result of these improvements, FMBN was ranked among the top 10 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in customer service and among the top three in its sector in the 2024 SERVICOM scorecard.

"The bank also received "The Best Housing Finance Solution Award 2024" from the Africa Housing Awards and earned a 72.5 per cent compliance score from the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC)."

New Products for Diaspora

Recognising the vital role of the diaspora community in national development, FMBN introduced some products to bridge the gap between non-resident Nigerians and the local housing market.

This initiative not only supports the individual aspirations of Nigerians abroad but also contributes to national economic growth by channeling diaspora remittances into real estate and infrastructure development.

To this end, FMBN has broadened its product portfolio to reflect Nigeria's diverse workforce. New offerings include a Rent Assistance Loan and a Home Improvement Loan, both designed for the informal sector. These products target self-employed individuals and daily earners who typically lack traditional documentation but represent a large portion of the population.

The bank is also introducing a Non-Interest NHF Mortgage Loan, providing an option for Nigerians who prefer alternative financial models. These initiatives reflect FMBN's responsiveness to evolving customer needs.

"Another landmark initiative is the soon-to-be-launched Diaspora Mortgage Product, developed in collaboration with the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM). This will allow Nigerians abroad to contribute to the NHF Scheme and access mortgage financing for homes in Nigeria. It will also strengthen diaspora ties and offer a safe, structured real estate investment avenue.

"With remittances from Nigerians abroad exceeding $20 billion annually, this product is expected to unlock new inflows into the housing sector and position FMBN as a strategic player in diaspora engagement," it stated.

Strong Financials

It has also demonstrated financial discipline and growth. Under its current leadership, as of December 31, 2024, the Bank recorded its first-ever financial surplus of N11.58 billion in the over 30 years of its existence (unaudited). This reflects enhanced efficiency, prudent risk management and strong financial stewardship.

As a mark of a commitment to sustain and improve these efforts, FMBN has already recorded a financial surplus of N6.5 billion this year, less than six months into the year. This financial turnaround is not just a technical accomplishment. It represents a broader institutional transformation that enhances FMBN's capacity to drive systemic change in the housing ecosystem. This is a significant boost to the Tinubu administration.

National Mortgage Registry

To modernise the mortgage sector and ensure greater transparency, FMBN is spearheading the establishment of a National Mortgage Registry (NMR). Aligned with the president's priorities and the ministerial goals set by Dangiwa, the NMR is currently in the development and testing phase.

Once launched, the centralised, digital database will record mortgage transactions in real-time, enabling financial institutions, government agencies and homebuyers to verify property titles, track loan status and prevent fraud.

It will streamline processes, reduce risks and expand access to mortgage finance, especially for informal sector participants who were historically excluded from the system.

Strategic Initiatives

To deepen its impact, FMBN said it is pursuing a N500 billion recapitalisation to expand its capacity for affordable housing delivery. The initiative involves a federal government equity injection and the raising of debt from domestic and international sources.

Simultaneously, the bank is working to amend the FMBN and NHF Acts to modernise its legal framework. These reforms are aimed at strengthening institutional effectiveness, enhancing access to finance and ensuring long-term sustainability of the housing sector.

"In just two years, FMBN has translated President Tinubu's bold vision into lived realities for thousands of Nigerian families. Whether it is a market trader in Kano receiving a rent assistance loan, a civil servant in Akwa Ibom renovating her home, or a young couple in the diaspora securing a mortgage for their first property back home, the impact of FMBN's transformation is real, wide-reaching and deeply human.

"Through innovation, inclusivity, and sound leadership, FMBN is not only building homes. It is renewing and building hope and a sustainable future for millions of Nigerians," the bank noted.

Looking ahead, FMBN's strategic roadmap includes the development of innovative products tailored to meet the diverse needs of Nigerians, including those in the diaspora and the informal sector. The bank's commitment to these initiatives underscores its pivotal role in realizing the "Renewed Hope" agenda, aiming to make homeownership a reality for all Nigerians.

These strides made by FMBN under President Tinubu's administration, the bank says, signify a promising trajectory towards addressing Nigeria's housing challenges. Through continued innovation, strategic partnerships, and a steadfast commitment to its mission, the bank maintains that it is poised to play a central role in shaping the nation's housing landscape in the years to come.

BUSINESS/MONEYGUIDE

Tinubu's Reforms Pivotal to Macro-economic Stability, Say Shareholders

Kayode Tokede

Ahead of the second year anniversary of the Bola Tinubu administration this week, shareholders' rights activists have commended the president for his courage and vision to implement audacious reforms that have helped to stabilise the economy and restore investors' confidence on the long-term prospects of the Nigerian economy.

The shareholders, under the aegis of Association for the Advancement of Rights of Nigerian Shareholders (AARNS), said reforms undertaken by the Tinubu government have directly and indirectly made the investment environment better.

In a statement, President, of AARNS, Dr Faruk Umar, said Tinubu has demonstrated commendable awareness about the challenges bedeviling the Nigerian economy and the ways to resolve them.

According to him, while the reforms necessarily came with some negative consequences on the citizens and companies such as the increase in prices of goods and services and foreign exchange (forex) losses by companies, the reforms have helped to reset the economy's fundamentals and position the country for sustainable growth.

He that the stability in the forex market, the almost attainment of a single-window forex market, return of foreign investors and significant increase in foreign participation at the Nigerian stock market and generally positive corporate performance were indications of the success of the economic reforms.

He pointed out that the sustained positive performance of the Nigerian stock market since the advent of this government underscored investors' confidence, noting that the stock market is regarded as a measure of economic direction.

Umar, who sits on the boards of many companies, said the banking recapitalisation has not only helped to strengthen banks, which have some of the largest shareholders' base, but it has also deepened the stock market.



L-R: Independent Non-Executive Director Erejuwa Gbadebo; Group Managing Director/CEO, Alaba Fagun; Chairman, Abi Ayida; Company Secretary/Legal Adviser, Omolara Bello and Non-Executive Director, Kunle Olowokande during 65th Annual General Meeting of Berger Paints Nigeria PLC in Lagos... recently

Berger Paints Pays N347.8m Dividend, Assures of Growth Prospects

Shareholders of Berger Paints Nigeria (BPN) Plc have unanimously approved the proposed 100 kobo final dividend for the 2024 financial year, bringing the total dividend payout to N1.20 per Ordinary Share of 50 kobo each. This translates to a total distribution of N347.8 million, reflecting the company's strong performance despite challenging market conditions.

The company had previously distributed an interim dividend of 20 kobo per share, demonstrating remarkable resilience with impressive financial results for the year ended December 31, 2024.

BPN recorded a revenue of N10.8 billion, representing a substantial 36% increase over the N7.9 billion achieved in the previous year. Operating Profit showed even stronger growth, surging by 49% from N751 million to N1.12 billion, while Profit After Tax (PAT) reached N610.8 million – marking a notable 37% year-on-year increase despite the tough business environment. appreciation for the management's strategic direction. Comrade Lawrence Oguntoye, while moving the motion to approve the final dividend, highlighted the significance of the company's dividend policy amid economic uncertainties.

"At this tough economic trajectory, Berger Paints is able to pay an interim and final dividend. I want to appreciate the Board and Management for this exemplary performance," Oguntoye stated.

This sentiment was echoed by another shareholder, Olugbosun Banji, who also commended the company's performance.

The Company's Chairman, Mr. Abi Ayida, reassured shareholders that BPN had developed robust strategies to ensure business continuity regardless of external challenges. He expressed confidence in the company's future growth prospects.

"These outstanding results underscore the effectiveness of our strategic initiatives and the unwavering commitment of our management team and employees. I am very bullish on the growth prospects of BPN. We have devoted more resources to research and development to drive innovation. Our company remains fully committed to sustain our upward trajectory," Ayida emphasised.

Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Alaba Fagun, reinforced this positive outlook by outlining the company's forward-looking approach to market development and operational excellence.

Smart: NEM Insurance to Setup Viable Life Assurance Company

Kayode Tokede

Group Chairman, NEM Insurance Plc, Mr. Tope Smart has revealed plans of the insurance company to set up a viable life assurance company amid its expansion strategy in future prospects.

He revealed this at the company's 55th Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in Lagos.

The NEM Insurance's 2024 performance saw its Profit before Tax (PBT) at N33.7 billion and N18.9 billion in 2024 and 2023 respectively, an increase of 78per cent, while the Parent company's PBT was N33.5billion for 2024 and N19.2billion for 2023, an increase of 74per cent..

The Board recommended a dividend of 100 kobo per N1 ordinary shares amounting to N5,016,477,767, which was approved at the AGM by shareholders.

Despite challenges in 2024, Smart said NEM insurance has continued to maintain its leadership position in the industry.

He noted that the 55th AGM is important in the history of the great company as a result of its landmark achievement during the year under review as enumerated with N100 billion gross premium income during the year under review thereby making history as the first non-life insurance company in Nigeria to attain this spectacular milestone. This is quite commendable.

"In the same vein, our proposed dividend equates to the nominal value of our shares," he said.

Yikodeen's Footwear Revolution Gets Multi-Million Naira Boost from Aruwa Capital

Yikodeen, a leading manufacturer of safety footwear, has secured a multi-million-dollar investment from Aruwa Capital Management to significantly expand its production capacity. This strategic partnership represents a major leap forward in Yikodeen's mission to build world-class production capabilities and scale its footprint across the region.

The investment from Aruwa Capital's sophomore fund, Aruwa Capital Fund II, will fund Yikodeen's factory recommissioning and capacity expansion. The firm was the sole investor in this round, underscoring its confidence in Yikodeen's manufacturing excellence and growth potential. This capital injection will significantly accelerate the company's growth trajectory, which has already seen impressive 10x revenue growth with gross profit margins exceeding 50%, all while maintaining zero debt.

"This partnership with Aruwa Capital represents more than just financial investment; it's a vote of confidence in the company's manufacturing excellence," said Shamsideen Atunde, Founder and CEO of Yikodeen. "With this support, we're positioned to transform our production capabilities, increase our output tenfold, expand our product lines beyond safety footwear, and generate significant economic value through job creation and import substitution."

Adesuwa Okunbo Rhodes, Founder and Managing Partner of Aruwa Capital Management, emphasized the significance of the strategic investment: "Yikodeen exemplifies the type of business capable of driving meaningful economic transformation in Nigeria. Their manufacturing excellence, impressive certifications from standards organizations, and remarkable growth trajectory make them an ideal investment partner. We're excited to work with Yikodeen to redefine Africa's footwear landscape while supporting Nigeria's shift from import dependency to manufacturing self-sufficiency."

MARKET INDICATORS

MONEY AND CREDIT STATISTICS (MILLION NAIRA)

Month	NOVEMBER
Money Supply (M3)	**108,966,480.44**
-- CBN Bills Held by Money Holding Sectors	19,796.18
Money Supply (M2)	108,946,684.26
	72,672,756.90
-- Narrow Money (M1)	36,273,927.36
---- Currency Outside Banks	**4,652,527.74**
---- Demand Deposits	**31,621,399.62**
Net Foreign Assets (NFA)	**17,347,112.78**
Net Domestic Assets(NDA)	**91,619,367.66**
-- Net Domestic Credit (NDC)	**115,576,757.67**
---- Credit to Government (Net)	**39,616,629.91**
---- Memo: Credit to Govt. (Net) less FMA	**0.00**
---- Memo: Fed. and Mirror Accounts (FMA)	**0.00**
---- Credit to Private Sector (CPS)	**75,960,127.77**
--Other Assets Net	**12,147,461.96**
Reserve Money (Base Money)	**30,871,571.25**
--Currency in Circulation	**4,878,125.22**
--Banks Reserves	**25,993,446.02**
--Special Intervention Reserves	**278,860.37**

• Source - CBN

Money Market Indicators (in Percentage)

Month	November
Inter-Bank Call Rate	28.88
Minimum Rediscount Rate (MRR)	
Monetary Policy Rate (MPR)	27.50
Treasury Bill Rate	18.00
Savings Deposit Rate	6.56
1 Month Deposit Rate	8.48
3 Months Deposit Rate	9.53
6 Months Deposit Rate	12.13
12 Months Deposit Rate	14.22
Prime Lending rate	18.39
Maximum Lending Rate	31.06

NSE MARKET INDEX

NSE	% Change
CAP	0.75%(52%YoY)
Index	0.9% (29%Y/D)

• Monetary Policy Rate - 27.50%

OPEC DAILY BASKET PRICE AS AT 6TH JANUARY , 2025

The price of OPEC basket of twelve crudes stood at $76.18 a barrel on Monday, compared with $75.89 the previous Friday, according to OPEC Secretariat calculations.
The OPEC Reference Basket of Crudes (ORB) is made up of the following: Saharan Blend (Algeria), Djeno (Congo), Zafiro (Equatorial Guinea), Rabi Light (Gabon), Iran Heavy (Islamic Republic of Iran), Basrah Medium (Iraq), Kuwait Export (Kuwait), Es Sider (Libya), Bonny Light (Nigeria), Arab Light (Saudi Arabia), Murban (UAE) and Merey (Venezuela).

MARKET NEWS

Oseni: Wema Bank Eyes N267bn Capital to Exceed CBN's Requirement

Kayode Tokede

MD/CEO, Wema Bank Plc, Mr. Moruf Oseni has disclosed that the lender is expected to reach a capital base of N267billion and exceed the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) requirement and remain a thriving force to be reckoned with in the banking sector.

Wema bank recently completed a N150 billion Rights Issue window and plans to raise another N50billion.

Speaking to shareholders during the bank's virtual 2024 Annual General Meeting (AGM), Oseni said, "The N150 billion Rights Issue window ended yesterday May 21st, 2025. However, we have raised a motion to raise another N50 billion through private placement, and with your permission, we will proceed with that, come June 2025.

"At the end of it all, what we expect is that Wema Bank will have qualifying capital slightly north of N267 billion, which allows us to sustain the resilient and robust franchise that we have built together, to keep Wema Bank thriving as a force to be reckoned with in the industry. Wema Bank stands strong at 80 and in the decades to come, I can assure you that the growth we are experiencing today, is just a tip of the iceberg."

Alluding to the Bank's plan for sustaining the gargantuan growth recorded in 2024, he said, "We will continue to deliver best-in-class financial solutions, invest in second-to-none technology, reinforce our internal framework for maximum efficiency and remain fully committed to innovation and service excellence, as we continue to provide optimum returns for every stakeholder of Wema Bank."

Anchoring the Wema Bank 2024 AGM, the Chairman of Wema Bank, Dr. Oluwayemisi Olorunshola expressed the Bank's gratitude and appreciation to its shareholders, customers, employees, regulators, partners and other stakeholders, for their continued support and contributions to the Bank's outstanding performance for the year in view, reiterating the Bank's commitment to sustain the upward surge in its performance in the decades to come.

Wema Bank 2024 AGM saw the Bank's shareholders authorise a number of decisions including the re-election of board members, remuneration of Audit and Board members, and payment of dividends of N1 per share.

PRICES FOR SECURITIES TRADED ASOF MAY/22/25

MAIN BOARD	DEALS	MARKET PRICE	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE TRADED (N)
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
S/N BANKING	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
1 UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	1,179,800.04	34.50	1.01 ⇧	828	36,397,047
2 ZENITH BANK PLC	1,973,405.33	48.05	0.10 ⇧	760	12,656,649
BANKING				1,588	49,053,696
S/N OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
3 ACCESS HOLDINGS PLC	1,215,046.72	22.60	-0.87 ⇩	1,003	18,352,208
4 FIRST HOLDCO PLC	1,038,570.47	24.80	-0.80 ⇩	297	4,861,490
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				1,300	23,213,698
FINANCIAL SERVICES				2,888	72,267,394
ICT					
S/N TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
5 MTN NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS PLC	5,773,779.03	275.00	-	647	3,584,479
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES				647	3,584,479
ICT				647	3,584,479
INDUSTRIAL GOODS					
S/N BUILDING MATERIALS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
6 DANGOTE CEMENT PLC	7,424,368.07	440.00	-	426	315,514
7 LAFARGE AFRICA PLC.	1,284,596.69	79.75	-	171	1,478,371
BUILDING MATERIALS				597	1,793,885
INDUSTRIAL GOODS				597	1,793,885
OIL AND GAS					
S/N EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
8 SEPLAT ENERGY PLC	3,288,757.81	5,588.90	-	155	2,193
EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION				155	2,193
OIL AND GAS				155	2,193
AGRICULTURE					
S/N CROP PRODUCTION	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
9 ELLAH LAKES PLC.	12,307.57	3.19	-0.31 ⇩	165	13,384,788
10 FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	8,775.00	2.25	-3.85 ⇩	228	10,639,575
11 OKOMU OIL PALM PLC.	562,805.90	590.00	-	249	45,661
12 PRESCO PLC	880,000.00	880.00	-	183	210,047
CROP PRODUCTION				823	24,280,369
S/N LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL SPECIALTIES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
13 LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC.	24,360.00	8.12	-4.47 ⇩	128	3,676,267
LIVESTOCK/ANIMAL SPECIALTIES				128	3,676,267
AGRICULTURE				951	27,956,636
CONGLOMERATES					
S/N DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
14 CUSTODIAN INVESTMENT PLC	116,284.54	19.60	0.77 ⇧	121	35,644,438
15 JOHN HOLT PLC.	2,938.09	7.55	9.42 ⇧	27	284,040
16 S C O A NIG. PLC.	2,904.72	4.47	-	7	9,784
17 TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATION PLC	457,289.89	45.00	-0.22 ⇩	222	2,551,748
18 U A C N. PLC.	86,562.34	33.00	-	27	119,078
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIES				404	38,589,088
CONGLOMERATES				404	38,589,088
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE					
S/N INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
19 AVA INFRASTRUCTURE FUND	4,075.00	1,000,000.00	-	0	0
20 CHAPEL HILL DENHAM NIG. INFRAS DEBT FUND	117,901.01	111.70	-	76	1,006,328
21 JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC.	219,200.00	137.00	-	42	16,509
INFRASTRUCTURE/HEAVY CONSTRUCTION				118	1,022,837
S/N REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
22 HALDANE MCCALL PLC	13,206.06	4.23	-	26	389,859
23 UPDC PLC	56,236.71	3.03	0.66 ⇧	81	3,282,614
REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT				107	3,672,473
CONSTRUCTION/REAL ESTATE				225	4,695,310
CONSUMER GOODS					
S/N AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
24 DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	954.53	0.20	-	0	0
AUTOMOBILES/AUTO PARTS				0	0
S/N BEVERAGES--BREWERS/DISTILLERS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
25 CHAMPION BREW. PLC.	71,583.97	8.00	6.67 ⇧	319	9,207,035
CONSUMER GOODS					
S/N BEVERAGES--BREWERS/DISTILLERS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
26 GOLDEN GUINEA BREW. PLC.	7,275.14	7.10	-	0	0
27 GUINNESS NIG PLC	188,372.92	86.00	-	83	127,544
28 INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC.	1,649,257.60	9.80	2.08 ⇧	128	3,295,691
29 NIGERIAN BREW. PLC.	1,843,490.10	59.50	4.39 ⇧	404	8,776,996
BEVERAGES--BREWERS/DISTILLERS				934	21,407,286
S/N FOOD PRODUCTS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
30 BUA FOODS PLC	7,524,000.00	418.00	-	142	20,132
31 DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	503,488.10	41.45	-	396	1,598,241
32 HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	143,536.56	18.10	-1.63 ⇩	455	7,037,467
33 MULTI-TREX INTEGRATED FOODS PLC	2,243.06	0.36	-	0	0
34 N NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC.	23,495.67	131.85	-	214	1,568,974
35 NASCON ALLIED INDUSTRIES PLC	145,931.07	54.00	-1.28 ⇩	139	1,764,428
36 UNION DICON SALT PLC.	2,036.37	7.45	-	7	36,251
FOOD PRODUCTS				1,353	12,025,493
S/N FOOD PRODUCTS--DIVERSIFIED	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
37 CADBURY NIGERIA PLC.	87,106.87	38.20	-	114	1,016,443
38 NESTLE NIGERIA PLC.	1,160,528.02	1,464.10	10.00 ⇧	150	322,095
FOOD PRODUCTS--DIVERSIFIED				264	1,338,538
S/N HOUSEHOLD DURABLES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
39 NIGERIAN ENAMELWARE PLC.	1,923.61	25.30	-	0	0
40 VITAFOAM NIG PLC.	73,549.63	58.80	7.10 ⇧	146	1,608,073
HOUSEHOLD DURABLES				146	1,608,073
S/N PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
41 P Z CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC.	117,129.07	29.50	-	68	476,226
S/N PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
42 UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC.	270,015.25	47.00	9.30 ⇧	90	1,153,947
PERSONAL/HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS				158	1,630,173
CONSUMER GOODS				2,855	38,809,543
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
S/N BANKING	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
43 ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORPORATED	541,311.76	29.50	1.72 ⇧	77	322,535
44 FIDELITY BANK PLC	954,032.02	19.00	-5.00 ⇩	1,277	60,180,904
45 GUARANTY TRUST HOLDING COMPANY PLC	2,365,692.68	69.30	1.17 ⇧	637	9,540,655
46 JAIZ BANK PLC	144,915.58	3.25	-1.52 ⇩	160	2,459,940
47 STERLING FINANCIAL HOLDINGS COMPANY PLC	274,106.22	6.03	-0.66 ⇩	320	8,794,423
48 UNITY BANK PLC	17,650.90	1.51	-	0	0
49 WEMA BANK PLC.	279,863.82	13.05	-3.33 ⇩	309	12,352,240
BANKING				2,780	93,650,697
S/N INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
50 AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	4,117.00	0.20	-	0	0
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
S/N INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
51 AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	60,398.71	1.85	3.13 ⇧	235	11,087,604
52 AXAMANSARD INSURANCE PLC	81,000.00	9.00	5.26 ⇧	100	2,015,406
53 CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK HOLDINGS PLC	32,520.00	3.00	1.67 ⇧	29	895,812
54 CORNERSTONE INSURANCE PLC	59,949.10	3.30	-4.35 ⇩	32	1,080,840
55 CORONATION INSURANCE PLC	46,543.86	1.94	-3.48 ⇩	136	5,616,206
56 GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	5,162.82	0.65	-	26	1,269,442
57 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSURANCE PLC	2,234.31	1.74	2.35 ⇧	31	853,095
58 LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	31,034.04	2.80	9.80 ⇧	58	2,992,130
59 LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	20,944.00	1.36	8.80 ⇧	49	1,771,871
60 MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	20,462.85	1.02	8.51 ⇧	89	6,930,739
61 NEM INSURANCE PLC	73,240.58	14.60	-	52	143,979
62 PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	13,252.56	1.00	1.01 ⇧	44	2,238,751
63 REGENCY ASSURANCE PLC	7,202.25	0.60	9.09 ⇧	52	8,211,332
64 SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	14,228.14	1.00	5.26 ⇧	47	6,185,808
65 STACO INSURANCE PLC	4,483.72	0.48	-	0	0
66 STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC.	2,582.21	0.20	-	0	0
67 SUNU ASSURANCES NIGERIA PLC.	26,531.03	4.91	-8.05 ⇩	71	813,378
68 UNIVERSAL INSURANCE PLC	6,640.00	0.54	1.89 ⇧	51	1,814,615
69 VERITAS KAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	14,837.33	1.07	1.90 ⇧	142	18,424,429
INSURANCE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES				1,244	72,345,437
S/N MICRO-FINANCE BANKS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
70 NPF MICROFINANCE BANK PLC	14,602.54	2.47	-4.26 ⇩	93	4,052,927
MICRO-FINANCE BANKS				93	4,052,927

MAIN BOARD	DEALS	MARKET PRICE	QUANTITY TRADED	VALUE TRADED (N)
FINANCIAL SERVICES				
S/N MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
71 ABBEY MORTGAGE BANK PLC	84,276.92	8.30	-5.57 ⇩	97	1,391,288
72 ASO SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	7,370.87	0.50	-	0	0
73 INFINITY TRUST MORTGAGE BANK PLC	28,359.10	6.80	-	1	225
MORTGAGE CARRIERS, BROKERS AND SERVICES				98	1,391,513
S/N OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
74 AFRICA PRUDENTIAL PLC	71,600.00	17.90	4.37 ⇧	179	2,065,059
75 DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	1,560.00	1.04	9.47 ⇧	57	3,272,635
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
S/N OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
76 DEAP CAPITAL MANAGEMENT & TRUST PLC	1,380.00	0.92	-	12	235,959
77 FCMB GROUP PLC.	376,251.50	9.50	5.56 ⇧	296	49,586,537
78 NIGERIAN EXCHANGE GROUP	59,021.68	30.05	-	36	787,315
79 ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC.	7,274.70	0.88	10.00 ⇧	23	653,153
80 STANBIC IBTC HOLDINGS PLC	803,333.82	62.00	0.81 ⇧	90	1,961,414
81 UNITED CAPITAL PLC	298,800.00	16.60	-9.29 ⇩	405	9,891,258
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				1,122	66,171,997
FINANCIAL SERVICES				3,407	176,904,971
HEALTHCARE					
S/N HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
82 EKOCORP PLC.	2,891.89	5.80	-	0	0
HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS				0	0
S/N MEDICAL SUPPLIES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
83 MORISON INDUSTRIES PLC.	3,214.78	3.25	-	0	0
MEDICAL SUPPLIES				0	0
S/N PHARMACEUTICALS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
84 FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	43,375.43	18.90	-	61	101,848
85 MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	13,801.88	8.00	-	25	128,117
86 NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMACEUTICALS PLC	12,819.31	3.00	-	35	237,500
87 PHARMA-DEKO PLC.	396.78	1.83	-	0	0
PHARMACEUTICALS				121	467,465
HEALTHCARE				121	467,465
ICT					
S/N COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
88 OMATEK VENTURES PLC	1,941.58	0.66	-2.94 ⇩	26	587,472
COMPUTERS AND PERIPHERALS				26	587,472
S/N IT SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
89 CWG PLC	21,208.54	8.40	-6.67 ⇩	55	685,814
90 NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	788.40	7.30	-	1	2,000
IT SERVICES				56	687,814
S/N PROCESSING SYSTEMS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
91 CHAMS HOLDING COMPANY PLC	9,392.12	2.00	-4.31 ⇩	171	11,694,103
92 E-TRANZACT INTERNATIONAL PLC	44,160.00	4.80	-	10	14,527
PROCESSING SYSTEMS				181	11,708,630
S/N TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
93 AIRTEL AFRICA PLC	8,105,956.98	2,156.90	-	8	20,919
TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES				8	20,919
ICT				271	13,004,835
INDUSTRIAL GOODS					
S/N BUILDING MATERIALS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
94 BERGER PAINTS PLC	5,463.17	18.85	-	25	12,725
95 BUA CEMENT PLC	2,834,446.43	83.70	-	206	350,028
96 CAP PLC	38,293.13	47.00	-	9	32,846
97 MEYER PLC.	4,913.95	9.25	-	6	31,875
98 PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1,230.00	10.00	-	0	0
BUILDING MATERIALS				246	427,474
S/N ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
99 AUSTIN LAZ & COMPANY PLC	2,256.91	2.09	-	6	99,430
INDUSTRIAL GOODS					
S/N ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
100 CUTIX PLC.	16,204.16	2.30	-4.96 ⇩	139	6,663,511
ELECTRONIC AND ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS				145	6,762,941
S/N PACKAGING/CONTAINERS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
INDUSTRIAL GOODS					
S/N PACKAGING/CONTAINERS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
101 BETA GLASS PLC.	59,906.65	99.85	-	33	164,910
102 GREIF NIGERIA PLC	232.39	5.45	-	0	0
103 TRIPPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC.	2,177.60	2.20	-	3	44,262
PACKAGING/CONTAINERS				36	209,172
S/N AGRO-ALLIED & CHEMICALS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
104 NOTORE CHEMICAL IND PLC	251,885.34	62.50	-	0	0
AGRO-ALLIED & CHEMICALS				0	0
INDUSTRIAL GOODS				427	7,399,587
NATURAL RESOURCES					
S/N CHEMICALS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
105 INDUSTRIAL & MEDICAL GASES NIGERIA PLC	18,980.76	38.00	-	5	5,006
CHEMICALS				5	5,006
S/N METALS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
106 ALUMINIUM EXTRUSION IND. PLC.	1,572.69	7.15	-	0	0
METALS				0	0
S/N MINING SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
107 MULTIVERSE MINING AND EXPLORATION PLC	3,686.58	6.65	-	17	62,736
MINING SERVICES				17	62,736
S/N PAPER/FOREST PRODUCTS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
108 THOMAS WYATT NIG. PLC.	732.60	1.85	-	0	0
PAPER/FOREST PRODUCTS				0	0
NATURAL RESOURCES				22	67,742
OIL AND GAS					
S/N ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
109 JAPAUL GOLD & VENTURES PLC	28,525.40	2.00	-1.48 ⇩	123	7,100,981
ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES				123	7,100,981
S/N INTEGRATED OIL AND GAS SERVICES	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
110 ARADEL HOLDINGS PLC	2,185,456.71	503.00	-	271	503,449
111 OANDO PLC	615,354.92	49.50	10.00 ⇧	445	6,344,464
INTEGRATED OIL AND GAS SERVICES				716	6,847,913
S/N PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
112 CONOIL PLC	229,836.94	331.20	-	23	4,143
113 ETERNA PLC.	56,078.22	43.00	-2.27 ⇩	76	18,165,336
114 MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC.	54,004.34	157.50	-	35	52,687
115 TOTALENERGIES MARKETING NIGERIA PLC	239,362.90	705.00	-	73	94,044
PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DISTRIBUTORS				207	18,316,210
OIL AND GAS				1,046	32,265,104
SERVICES					
S/N ADVERTISING	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
116 AFROMEDIA PLC	1,065.37	0.24	-	0	0
ADVERTISING				0	0
S/N AUTOMOBILE/AUTO PART RETAILERS	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
117 R T BRISCOE PLC.	2,458.59	2.09	-	25	296,292
AUTOMOBILE/AUTO PART RETAILERS				25	296,292
S/N COURIER/FREIGHT/DELIVERY	**MARKET CAP(Nm)**	**PRICE**	**%CHANGE**	**TRADES**	**VOLUME**
118 RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	5,297.05	5.55	-	12	13,615
119 TRANS-NATIONWIDE EXPRESS PLC.	996.30	2.00	-	2	5,893

MARKET NEWS

FUND MANAGERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

A Mutual fund (Unit Trust) is an investment vehicle managed by a SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) registered Fund Manager. Investors with similar objectives buy units of the Fund so that the Fund Manager can buy securities that willl generate their desired return.

An ETF (Exchange Traded Fund) is a type of fund which owns the assets (shares of stock, bonds, oil futures, gold bars, foreign currency, etc.) and divides ownership of those assets into shares. Investors can buy these 'shares' on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

A REIT (Real Estate Investment Trust) is an investment vehicle that allows both small and large investors to part-own real estate ventures (eg. Offices, Houses, Hospitals) in proportion to their investments. The assets are divided into shares that are traded on the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

GUIDE TO DATA:
Date: All fund prices are quoted in Naira as at 22 May-2025, unless otherwise stated.

Offer price: The price at which units of a trust or ETF are bought by investors.
Bid Price: The price at which Investors redeem (sell) units of a trust or ETF.

Yield/Total Return: Denotes the total return an investor would have earned on his investment. Money Market Funds report Yield while others report Year- to-date Total Return.
NAV: Is value per share of the real estate assets held by a REIT on a specific date.

DAILY PRICE LIST FOR MUTUAL FUNDS, REITS and ETFS

MUTUAL FUNDS / UNIT TRUSTS

AFRINVEST ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD			aaml@afrinvest.com
Web: www.afrinvest.com; Tel: +234 818 885 6757			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Afrinvest Equity Fund	447.64	451.68	12.61%
Afrinvest Plutus Fund	361.08	361.08	13.65%
Nigeria International Debt Fund	100.00	100.00	18.13%
Afrinvest Dollar Fund	113.05	113.05	2.67%
AIICO CAPITAL LTD			ammf@aiicocapital.com
Web: www.aiicocapital.com, Tel: +234-1-2792974			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
AIICO Money Market Fund	100.00	100.00	20.45%
AIICO Balanced Fund	6.38	6.48	11.72%
AIICO Eurobond Fund	100.00	100.00	7.84%
Web:www.anchoriaam.com, Tel: 08166830267; 08036814510; 08028419180			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Anchoria Money Market	100.00	100.00	18.89%
Anchoria Equity Fund	290.77	294.24	12.53%
Anchoria Fixed Income Fund	1.44	1.44	10.36%
ARM INVESTMENT MANAGERS LTD			enquiries@arminvestmentcenter.com
Web: www.arm.com.ng; Tel: 0700 CALLARM (0700 225 5276)			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
ARM Aggressive Growth Fund	37.50	38.63	5.76%
ARM Discovery Balanced Fund	836.19	861.40	5.20%
ARM Ethical Fund	74.63	76.88	8.84%
ARM Eurobond Fund	1.17	1.17	13.90%
ARM Fixed Income Fund	1.25	1.25	25.40%
ARM Money Market Fund	1.12	1.12	22.80%
ARM Shariah Fixed Income Fund	1.07	1.07	15.15%
ARM Short Term Bond Fund	1.02	1.02	4.81%
ARM Short Term Eurobond Fund	1.00	1.00	22.04%
AVA GLOBAL ASSET MANAGERS LIMITED			info@avacapitalgroup.com
Web: www.avacapitalgroup.com; Tel 08069294653			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
AVA GAM Fixed Income Dollar Fund	106.22	106.22	2.71%
AVA GAM Fixed Income (Naira) Fund	1,109.40	1109.4	3.73%
AVA GAM Money Market Fund	1.00	1	0.00%
AXA MANSARD INVESTMENTS LIMITED			investmentcare@axamansard.com
Web: www.axamansard.com; Tel: +2341-4488482			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
AXA Mansard Equity Income Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00%
AXA Mansard Money Market Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00%
CAPITAL EXPRESS ASSET AND TRUST LIMITED			info@capitalexpressassetandtrust.com
Web: www.capitalexpressassetandtrust.com; Tel: +234 803 307 5048			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
CEAT Fixed Income Fund	2.59	2.59	13.84%
Capital Express Balanced Fund(Formerly: Union Trustees Mixed Fund)	5.06	5.19	26.25%
CARDINALSTONE ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED			mutualfunds@cardinalstone.com
Web: www.cardinalstoneassetmanagement.com; Tel: +234 (1) 710 0433 4			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
CardinalStone Fixed Income Alpha Fund	1.11	1.11	14.63%
CardinalStone Equity Fund	1.07	1.07	8.54%
CardinalStone Dollar Fund	1.33	1.35	7.60%
CardinalStone Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	24.38%
CardinalStone Balanced Fund	1.03	1.04	3.49%
CHAPELHILL DENHAM MANAGEMENT LTD			investmentmanagement@chapelhilldenham.com
Web: www.chapelhilldenham.com, Tel: +234 461 0691			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Chapel Hill Denham Money Market Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nigeria Bond Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nigeria Dollar Income Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paramount Equity Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
CORDROS ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED			assetmgtteam@cordros.com
Web: www.cordros.com, Tel: 019036947			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Cordros Money Market Fund	100.00	100.00	0.00%
Cordros Fixed Income Fund	110.48	110.48	13.33%
Cordros Halal Fixed Income Fund	117.01	117.01	10.39%
Cordros Dollar Fund ($)	114.11	114.11	7.46%
Cordros Milestone Fund	195.84	197.23	8.09%
CORONATION ASSETS MANAGEMENT			investment@coronationam.com
Web:www.coronationam.com, Tel: 012366215			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Coronation Money Market Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coronation Balanced Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Coronation Fixed Income Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
EDC FUNDS MANAGEMENT LIMITED			mutualfundng@ecobank.com
Web: www.ecobank.com Tel: 012265281			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
EDC Nigeria Money Market Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
EDC Nigeria Balanced Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
EDC Nigeria Halal Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
EMERGING AFRICA ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED			assetmanagement@emergingafricafroup.com
Web:www.emergingafricagroup.com/emerging-africa-asset-management-limited/, Tel: 08039492594			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Emerging Africa Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	20.60%
Emerging Africa Bond Fund	1.20	1.20	12.00%
Emerging Africa Balanced Diversity Fund	1.48	1.49	15.81%
Emerging Africa Eurobond Fund	114.24	114.24	7.18%
Emerging Africa Halal Fund	1.09	1.09	11.71%
FBNQUEST ASSETS MANAGEMENT LIMITED			invest@fbnquest.com
Web: www.fbnquest.com/asset-management; Tel: +234-81 0082 0082			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
FBN Money Market Fund	100	100	20.99%
FBN Bond Fund	1714.93	1714.93	11.22%
FBN Dollar Fund	130.08	130.08	7.48%
FBN Halal Fund	152.39	152.39	14.34%
FBN Specialized Dollar Fund	122.52	122.52	8.17%
FBN Balanced Fund	0	0	11.02%
FCMB ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED			fcmbamhelpdesk@fcmb.com
Web: www.fcmbassetmanagement.com; Tel: +234 1 462 2596			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Legacy Money Market Fund (LMMF)	1.00	1.00	0.00%
Legacy Equity Fund (LEF)	3.78	3.78	10.97%
Legacy USD Bond Fund (LUBF)	4.02	4.10	7.62%
FCMB-TLG Private Debt Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00%
FSDH ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD			coralfunds@fsdhgroup.com
Web: www.fsdhaml.com; Tel: 01-270 4884-5; 01-280 9740-1			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Coral income fund	4,586.54	4,586.54	11.86%
Coral money market fund	100.00	100.00	20.81%
FSDH HALAL FUND	1,250.15	1,250.15	13.67%
FSDH dollar fund	1.29	1.29	6.42%
Coral Balanced Fund	8,986.25	9,063.62	45.24%
INVESTMENT ONE FUNDS MANAGEMENT LTD			enquiries@investment-one.com
Web: www.investment-one.com; Tel: +234 812 992 1045,+234 1 448 8888			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
ABACUS: Guaranty Trust Money Market Fund (GTMMF)	0.00	0.00	0.00
VEIF: Guaranty Trust Equity Income Fund (GTEIF)	0.00	0.00	0.00
VBF: Guaranty Trust Balanced Fund (GTBF)	0.00	0.00	0.00
VDF: Guaranty Trust Dollar Fund (GTDF)	0.00	0.00	0.00
VGIF: Guaranty Trust Fixed Income Fund (GTFIF)	0.00	0.00	0.00
HILLCREST CAPITAL MANAGEMENT			dabbey@hillcrestcapmgt.com
Web: https://hillcrestcapmgt.com/; Tel: +2348075144540, 0214540094			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Hillcrest Balanced Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
LOTUS CAPITAL LTD			fincon@lotuscapitallimited.com
Web: www.lotuscapitallimited.com; Tel: +234 1-291 4626 / +234 1-291 4624			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
LOTUS HALAL FIXED INCOME FUND	1,257.24	1,257.24	14.01%
LOTUS HALAL INVESTMENT FUND	2.42	2.46	16.81%
LOTUS HALAL EQUITY EXCHANGE TRADED FUND	34.06	37.65	28.54%
LOTUS WAQF ENDOWMENT FUND	1,105.71	1,105.71	3.16%
MERISTEM WEALTH MANAGEMENT LTD			info@meristemwealth.com
Web: www.meristemwealth.com/funds/; Tel: +2348028496012			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Meristem Equity Market Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meristem Value ETF	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meristem Growth ETF	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meristem Fixed Income Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meristem Dollar Income Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meristem Money Market Mutual Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
MANGO ASSET MANAGEMENT			jetadafe@mangoam.com
Web:https://mangoam.com/; Tel: +234 7030839517			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Mango Naira Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	21.20%
NORRENBERGER INVESTMENT AND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LIMITED			enquiries@norrenberger.com
Web: www.norrenberger.com, Tel: +234 (0) 908 781 2026			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Norrenberger Money Market Fund (NMMF)	100.00	100.00	21.54%
Norrenberger Islamic Fund (NIF)	105.24	105.24	14.10%
NORRENBERGER DOLLAR FUND (NDF)-----($)	104.58	104.58	9.65%
NORRENBERGER TURBO FUND (NTF)-----(N)	103.47	103.47	14.46%
PAC ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD			info@pacassetmanagement.com
Web: www.pacassetmanagement.com/mutualfunds; Tel: +234 1 271 8632			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
PACAM Balanced Fund	10.00	10.00	16.05
PACAM Fixed Income Fund	12.66	13.10	3.64%
PACAM Money Market Fund	2.95	3.02	13.12%
PACAM Equity Fund	1.48	1.55	6.66%
PACAM EuroBond Fund	139.04	143.83	1.41%
SCM CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED			info@scmcapitalng.com
Web: www.scmcapitalng.com; Tel: +234 1-280 2226,+234 1- 280 2227			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
The Frontier Fund	224.39	236.36	35.83%
SFS CAPITAL NIGERIA LTD			investments@sfsnigeria.com
Web: www.sfsnigeria.com, Tel: +234 (01) 2801400			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
SFS Fixed Income Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
SFS REIT	0.00	0.00	0.00
UH REIT/SFS	0.00	0.00	0.00
STANBIC IBTC ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD			assetmanagement@stanbicibtc.com
Web: www.stanbicibtcassetmanagement.com; Tel: +234 1 280 1266; 0700 MUTUALFUNDS			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	Yield / T-Rtn
Stanbic IBTC Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	19.51%
Stanbic IBTC Bond Fund	259.03	259.03	0.16%
Stanbic IBTC Shariah Fixed Income Fund	135.27	135.79	1.04%
Stanbic IBTC Enhanced Short-Term Fixed Income Fund	139.68	143.18	1.62%
Stanbic IBTC Absolute Fund	5,168.20	5,170.86	0.02%
UPDC REIT	11.59	11.59	2.05%
Stanbic IBTC Balanced Fund	7,254.09	7,319.27	13.71%
Stanbic IBTC ETF 30 Fund	260.00	260.00	-36.59%
Stanbic IBTC Ethical Fund	3.35	3.40	-98.32%
Stanbic IBTC Guaranteed Investment Fund	366.35	366.96	3.56%
Stanbic IBTC Imaan Fund	602.06	609.62	20.82%
Stanbic IBTC Nigerian Equity Fund	29,200.28	29,628.86	15.27%
SIAML Pension ETF 40	265.00	265.00	-67.28%
Stanbic IBTC Aggressive Fund	9,565.42	9,691.12	19.45%
Stanbic IBTC Conservative Fund	7,620.12	7,653.72	12.13%
STL ASSET MANAGEMENT LIMITED			jemenike@stlassetmgt.com
Web: WWW.STLASSETMGT.COM; Tel: 8136115170			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	Yield / T-Rtn
STL MONEY MARKET FUND	100.00	100.00	21.33%
STL BALANCED FUND	1,184.54	1,200.57	19.26%
STL DOLLAR FUND	102.60	102.60	2.60%
UNITED CAPITAL ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD			unitedcapitalplcgroup.com
Web: www.unitedcapitalplcgroup.com; Tel: +234 01-6317876			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
United Capital Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	19.64%
United Capital Sukuk Fund	1.27	1.27	10.08%
United Capital Fixed Income Fund	2.02	2.02	7.99%
United Capital Nigerian Eurobond Fund	127.68	127.68	6.46%
United Capital Global Fixed Income Fund	1.20	1.20	7.79%
United Capital Stable Income Fund	117.27	117.27	20.27%
United Capital Equity Fund	1.68	1.69	12.31%
United Capital Balanced Fund	2.17	2.19	9.86%
United Capital Wealth for Women Fund	1.67	1.68	10.15%
VETIVA FUND MANAGERS LTD			funds@vetiva.com
Web: www.vetiva.com; Tel: +234 1 453 0697			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Vetiva Banking Exchange Traded Fund	11.34	11.44	37.48%
Vetiva Consumer Goods Exchange Traded Fund	23.09	23.19	49.87%
Vetiva Griffin 30 Exchange Traded Fund	39.74	39..94	#VALUE!
Vetiva Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	20.74%
Vetiva Industrial Goods Exchange Traded Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vetiva S&P Nigeria Sovereign Bond Exchange Traded Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
QUANTUM ZENITH ASSET MANAGEMENT & INVESTMENTS LTD			service@quantumzenithasset.com.ng
Web: www.quantumzenith.com.ng; Tel: +234 1-2784219			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Zenith Balanced Strategy Fund	25.35	25.67	19.25%
Zenith Income Fund	28.80	28.80	3.23%
Zenith Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	20.19%
ZEDCREST INVESTMENT MANAGER LIMITED			investmentoperations@zedcrest.com
Web: www.zedcrestwealth.com; Tel: +2348075881240			
Fund Name	**Bid Price**	**Offer Price**	**Yield / T-Rtn**
Zedcrest Money Market Fund	1.00	1.00	23.02%
Zedcrest Fixed Inocme Fund	1.20	1.20	29.47%
Zedcrest Dollar Fund	$ 1.26	$ 1.26	3.57%

REITS

Fund Name	NAV Per Share	Yield / T-Rtn
SFS REIT	0.00	0.00%
UPDC REIT	7,653.72	12.13%

The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise. Past performance is a guide and not an indication of future returns. Fund prices published in this edition are also available on each fund manager's website and FMAN's website at *www.fman.com.ng.* Fund prices are supplied by the operator of the relevant fund and are published for information purposes only.

NDDC HEADQUARTERS, PLOT C5/C6, EASTERN BY-PASS, PORT HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE

PRE-QUALIFICATION/INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT) FOR GOODS AND WORKS AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR THE COMMISSION'S 2024 PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

May 26th, 2025

1.0. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in line with its statutory mandate and the Niger Delta Regional Development Master Plan (NDRDMP) wishes to procure various Goods, Works and Services in its nine (9) mandate states of the Region. The full lists of the intended procurements are as listed below.

1.2 Consequently, the Commission wishes to engage the services of experienced and qualified contractors and consultants to undertake the procurement of the below listed Goods, Works and Services

2.0. SCOPE OF THE SERVICES

The procurements are categorized as shown below and their specific scope is as shown in their respective lists below;

Category 1A: Pre-Qualification for Goods

S/N	PROJECT TYPE	LOCATION	LGA	STATE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1.	Education	Regional	Regional	Regional	Provision of Educational Materials and Books in Primary & Secondary Schools across the Nine (9) NDDC States (Lots 1- 6)
2.	Education	Regional	Regional	Regional	Provision of Science Laboratory Equipment in selected Tertiary Institution in the Niger Delta Region (Lots 1-2)
3.	ICT	Regional	Regional	Regional	Purchase and renewal of Microsoft Azure cloud
4.	Governance	Regional	Regional	Regional	infrastructure for AI deployment and Data analysis
5.	Governance	Regional	Regional	Regional	Furnishing and Equipping of Unity Colleges across the Nine (9) States of the Niger Delta Region (Lots 1-8)
6.	Agriculture	Various	Various	ABIA	Training Program, Supply and Installation of CNG/LPG Conversion for Technicians and Provision of Startup Kits and Material in each of the Nine (9) States of the Niger Delta Region (Lots 1-20) Provision of Hadgito Hand Held Tiller for Farmers in Abia State
S/N	**PROJECT TYPE**	**LOCATION**	**LGA**	**STATE**	**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**
7.	Education	Umuabo/Miri / Azulo/Odike	Ukwa East/West	ABIA	Provision of school furniture in Ukwa East and Ukwa West Primary Schools
8.	Education	Various	Various	ABIA	Provision and Supply of Educational Materials in Primary and Secondary Schools in Selected Communities across Abia State (Lots 1-16)
9.	Education	Various	Various	ABIA	Procurement and distribution of mowing machines to selected government owned Public schools in the three senatorial zones in Abia state (Lot 1 - 3)
10.	Health	Umuahia	Umuahia	ABIA	Supply of Hospital Equipment to Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Umuahia, Abia State (Lots 1-2)
11.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Obuzor	Ukwa East	ABIA	Supply of ICT Ed/ Mat/Sch Upgrade at Umulechi Primary School
12.	Governance/Social Services	Various	Various	ABIA	Provision Of School Pupils Tables/Desk And Benches For Primary Schools In the 13 Wards In (BFC) Bende LGA, Abia State.(Lots 1- 21)
13.	Governance/Social Services	Various	Various	ABIA	Supply Of Educational Materials To Primary And Secondary Schools In the 13 Wards In (BFC) Bende LGA, Abia State (Lots 1-4)
14.	Education	Various	Various	AKWA IBOM	Provision of school pupils tables/desk and benches for primary schools in Akwa Ibom State(Lots 1-7)
15.	Education	Various	Varoius	AKWA IBOM	Supply of Educational Materials to Primary and Secondary Schools in Akwa Ibom State (Lots 1-4)
16.	Agric/Fisheries	Brass, Ekeremor, Nembe & Southern Ijaw LGA's.	Various	BAYELSA	Provision of Fishing Gears and Dryers. Lot (1- 4)
17.	Agric/Fisheries	Ogbogoro	Yenagoa	BAYELSA	Design, Construction and equipment of Garri Processing Plant.
18.	Agric/Fisheries	Various	Various	BAYELSA	Provision of HABGITO Tillers Hand Held Tiller Machine (13 HNT 1000C) and Implements to Farmers and Training of Farmers in Bayelsa State (Lots 1-12)
19.	Education	Otuabagi	Ogbia	BAYELSA	Furnishing and provision of Labouratory Equipments and Desk for CSS Otuabagi.
20.	SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISE	Various	Various	BAYELSA	Procurment of 5 Tons Palm oil processing Machines for 20 Oil Palm Farmers across the State.
21.	Education	Various	Calabar Municipality/ Odukpani	CROSS RIVER	Supply of exercise books to public schools in Calabar/ Odukpani Federal Constituency, Cross River
22.	Health	Calabar	Calabar	CROSS RIVER	Procurement of Laparoscopic / Endoscopic Equipment and other Medical Equipment to General Hospital Calabar
23.	Health	Aragamfam	Ikom	CROSS RIVER	Provision of Hospital/Public Health Equipment with Generator in SFU-Nde Medical Centre, Aragamfam Community in Ikom LGA, Cross River Central Senatorial District
24.	Health	Various	Various	CROSS RIVER	Provision of classroom lockers, chairs, textbooks, exercise books for Primary and Secondary Schools in Cross River Central Senatorial District, Cross River State. (Lots 1-3)
25.	Health	Various	Various	CROSS RIVER	Provision of Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangio Pancreatography (ERCP) Machine for University of Calabar Teaching Hospital (Lots 1-4)
26.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Various	Odukpani	CROSS RIVER	Supply of Tractors to Farmers in Odukpani LGA, Cross River State (Lots 1-2)
27.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Various	Ogoja	CROSS RIVER	Supply of tractors to farmers in Ogoja LGA
28.	Education	Oleh Campus	Isoko North	DELTA	Supply of furniture, laboratory equipment and computers to Delta State University, Oleh Campus
29.	Education	Various	Delta Central	DELTA	Supply of Text Books, Exercise Books and Instructional materials to Junior and Senior Secondary Schools in Delta Central Senatorial District, Delta State (Lots 1-2)
30.	Education	Utagba-Ogbe	Kwale	DELTA	Supply of chairs and computers to Utagba-Ogbe Grammar School and Utagba-Ogbe Girls Grammar School
31.	Health	Etsako East	Estako/East West	EDO	Procurement and supply of essential pharmaceuticals, insulin, antihypetazin antibiotics and anti-malaria drugs across estako federal constituency , Edo State
32.	Health	Various	Various	EDO	Supply Of Hospital Equipments And Drugs To Selected Health Centres Across Owan Federal Constituency, Edo State
33.	Education		Obowo	IMO	Supply of Furnitures in selected schools in Obowo LGA
34.	Education		Ehime Mbano	IMO	Supply of Furnitures in selected schools in Ehime Mbano LGA
35.	Education		Ihitte Uboma	IMO	Supply of Furnitures in selected schools in Ihitte Uboma LGA
36.	Health	Obowo	Obowo	IMO	Supply of Ambulance, Dialysis Machines and Installation of Water Treatment Plant at Mercy Hospital. Umulogho, Obowo
37.	Health	Obowo	Obowo	IMO	Supply of Ambulance, Dialysis Machines and Installation of Water Treatment Plant at Our Saviour's Hospital, Amainyi
38.	Health	Amuzi	Obowo	IMO	Provision of High Tech Medical Equipment at Comprehensive Medical Centre, Amuzi
39.	Health	Umualumaku	Ehime Mbano	IMO	Provision of High Tech Medical Equipment at Comprehensive Medical Centre, Umualumaku
40.	Health	Amainyi	Ihitte Uboma	IMO	Provision of High Tech Medical Equipment at Comprehensive Medical Centre, Amainyi, Ihitte Uboma
41.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Ikare	Various	IMO	Procurement of Ambulance, Hospital equipment and renovation of general hospital in Ikare, Akoko North East/Northwest Federal Constituency, Ondo State (Lots 1-3)
42.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Akoko	Akoko NorthEast/North west	IMO	Capacity Building and supply of empowerment materials for women and youth in Akoko Northeast and Northwest Federal Constituency (Lots 1-3)
43.	Governance & Social Services	Eziama Obaire	Nkwerre	IMO	Provision of 300 Double bunk beds, Provision of 600 Mattresses and provision of 1000 litres of water reservoir
44.	Governance & Social Services	Various	Owerri West	IMO	Provision of HABGITO Tillers Hand Held Tiller Machine (13 HNT 1000C) and Implements to Farmers and Training of Farmers in Owerri West LGA, Imo State (Lots 1-10)
45.	Education	Ile-Oluji-Okeigbo	Ile-Oluji-Okeigbo	ONDO	Supply of Instructional Materials for Students Ile-Oluji-Okeigbo LGA, Ondo State
46.	Education	Ile Oluji	Ondo South	ONDO	Provision of classroom lockers, chairs, textbooks, exercise books for Primary and Secondary Schools in Ondo South Senatorial District, Ondo State. (Lots 1-4)
47.	Education	Various	Various	ONDO	Supply of Educational Materials to selected Secondary Schools in Akoko North East/West Federal Constituency
48.	Education	Ilaje	Ilaje/ Eseodo	ONDO	Provision of Desktop Computers for Secondary Schools in Ilaje/ Eseodo LGA
49.	Health	Federal Medical Centre, Owo	Owo	ONDO	Procurement of Image Intensifier (C-Arm) in Federal Medical Centre, Owo Ondo State
50.	Health	Igbokoda	Ilaje	ONDO	Supply Of Medical Equipments To General Hospital Igbokoda
51.	Health	Ondo North	Ondo North	ONDO	Acquisition of Ambulance for Six Hospitals in Ondo North Senatorial District, Ondo State

S/N	PROJECT TYPE	LOCATION	LGA	STATE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
52.	Health	Various	Ondo	ONDO	Supply and distribution of Deworming medication to General Hospitals in various LGAs in Ondo State (Lots 1-8)
53.	Health	Various	Various	ONDO	Supply of Medical Equipment to selected health centers in Akoko North East/West Federal Constituency
54.	Education	Rivers South East Senatorial District		RIVERS	Provision of Science and Laboratory Equipments for Schools in Rivers South East Senatorial District
55.	Education	Various	Rivers South	RIVERS	Supply and Distribution of Laptops for 35 Secondary Schools and other Institutions in Rivers South Senatorial Districts, Rivers State. (Lots 1-3)
56.	Education	Various	Various	RIVERS	Supply and distribution of laptops for 35 schools and other institutions in Rivers south East Senatorial district Rivers state 750 million. (Lot 1-3)
57.	Health	Various	Rivers State	RIVERS	Supply of Essential Medical Equipment to Hospitals in Rivers State (Lots 1- 4)
58.	Health	Egbema/Bonny	Bonny	RIVERS	Supply of Medical Equipment to Degema General Hospital and Finima Health Centre in Degema/Bonny LGA
59.	Health	Various	Various	RIVERS	Supply and distribution of Deworming medication to General Hospitals in various LGAs in Rivers State (Lots 1-8)
60.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Rivers South East	Rivers South East	RIVERS	Buying of Laptops for selected students in Rivers South East Senatorial District, Rivers State (Lots 1-2)
61.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Various	Various	RIVERS	Provision Of Desktop Computers For Supply To Secondary School In Rivers State

Category 1B: ITT for Goods

S/N	Project Type	Location	LGA	STATE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1.	Education	Regional	Regional	Regional	Supply and Distribution of Teaching and learning aid in the Coastal Communities of the Niger Delta Region (Lot 1-20)
2.	Social Services	Regional	Regional	Regional	Support for re-furnishing of 9 correctional centres and rehabilitaion of 2000 in-mates per correctional center in the Niger Delta Region (Lots 1-9)
3.	Social Services	Regional	Regional	Regional	Provision of Palliative Programmes for the Indigents in the Niger Delta Region for 1,000,000 beneficiaries (Lots 1-13)
4.	Health	Federal Medical Centre, Owo	Owo	ONDO	Procurement of Genarating Sets in Federal Medical Centre, Owo Ondo State
5.	Health	Federal Medical Centre, Owo	Owo	ONDO	Supply and Installation of Dental Chairs in Federal Medical Centre, Owo Ondo State
6.	Health	Federal Medical Centre, Owo	Owo	ONDO	Supply and Installation of Dialysis Machines in Federal Medical Centre, Owo Ondo State

Category 2A: Pre-Qualification for Works

S/N	Project Type	Location	LGA	State	Project Description
1.	Education	Umuaka	Ukwa West	ABIA	Rehabilitation of Classroom Buildings and Fencing of Umuaka Primary School, Ukwa West LGA, Abia State.
2.	Education	Umuopara	Umuahia South	ABIA	Rehabilitation of dilapidated classroom blocks and fencing ot Umuopara Secondary School
3.	Education	Ikwuoric	Ukwa East	ABIA	Rehabilitation of Ikwuoric Comprehensive Secondary School, Ohanku Road, Ukwa East
4.	Education	Umuaka	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction and Equipment of modern Computer Base Test (CBT) Center in Unuaka Asa
5.	Energy/Power Supply	of Nvosi-Osusu- Amorji	Isiala-Ngwa South	ABIA	Electrification of Nvosi-Osusu-Amorji Autonomous Communities. (Lots1-2)
6.	Roads/Bridges	Owaza	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Owaza-Uzuaku-Imo River Road, Abia State
7.	Roads/Bridges	Umudobia	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Umudobia-Umuachakwu-Omuma Road, Abia State
8.	Roads/Bridges	Amuda	Isikwuato	ABIA	Construction Umuada – Amuda Road
9.	Roads/Bridges	Ngwaiyiekwe	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Umuaka – Ngwaiyiekwe Road, Ukwa West
10.	Roads/Bridges	Nkwonwelechi – 7Up Road	Obingwa	ABIA	Construction of Nkwonwelechi – 7Up Road
11.	Roads/Bridges	Umudobia/Obibor	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Ahiaeke Umudobia – Obibor – Umuajoha – Obuzor Road
12.	Roads/Bridges	Ohuhu Clan	Umuahia North	ABIA	Construction of Ohuhu Ring Road
13.	Roads/Bridges	Umuoric - Asa	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Umuacheke - Chigide Ring Road, Phase II and Rehabilitation of Phase I
14.	Roads/Bridges	Isiala Ntcke	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Uduoma Obaji Road, in Isiala Ntcke-Ozar
15.	Roads/Bridges	Umuosu Obiohuru/ Afugiri	Umuahia North	ABIA	Construction of Uzo -Otti and Adjoining Internal Road, Umuosu Obiohuru, Afugiri
16.	Roads/Bridges	Ogwe/Ozatta	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Ogwe - Ozatta - Ozaumuebukwu Road
17.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Obehie	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Traditional Rulers of Oil Producing Communities of Nigeria (TROPCON) Secrtetriat Complex in Ukwa West LGA.

S/N	Project Type	Location	LGA	State	Project Description
18.	Agriculture	Afia Nsit		AKWA IBOM	Establishment of Altra - modern Oil Palm Processing Equipment/Facility at Afia Nsit Atai Nsit Ubium under private participation / patnership program.
19.	Agriculture	EKET	EKET	AKWA IBOM	Establishment of Agro Processing Centre with complete Equipment in Eket
20.	Education	Ididep	Ibiono	AKWA IBOM	Construction of classroom block at Federal College of Education Ididep
21.	Education	Ididep Ibiono		AKWA IBOM	Construction of classroom blocks at Federal College of Education Ididep Ibiono
22.	Fducation	Ikot Abia	Mkpat Enin	AKWA IBOM	Renovation and provision of modern medical facilities at Cottage Hospital Ikot Abia (Lots 1 -4
23.	Roads/Bridges	Itu- Mbonuzo	Ini	AKWA IBOM	Construction of roads within Ini LGA (Lots 1-2) (Obot Ndom)
24.	Roads/Bridges	Akpambang	Uyo	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Akpambang Road, Mbierebe, Uyo L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
25.	Roads/Bridges	Asanting	Ibiono Ibom	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Mission Road, Asanting, Ibiono L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
26.	Roads/Bridges	Afaha Akpan Ekpo	Etinan	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Qua IBOE CHURCH ROAD, Afaha Akpan Ekpo, Etinan L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
27.	Roads/Bridges	Ikot Akpan Nto	Uyo	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Ikot Akpan Nto, Ikot Idang to Ikot Inyamg Edung Road, Off Oron Road (Small Junction Ikot Akapn) Uyo L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
28.	Roads/Bridges	Afaha Ikot Akpa Edu	Ibesikpo Asutan	AKWA IBOM	Construction of internal roads in Afaha Ikot Edu Ibesikpo, Ibesikpo Asutan L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
29.	Roads/Bridges	Use Ikot Obio	Uyo	AKWA IBOM	Construction of St. Francis Road, Off Old Stadium Road, Use Ikot Obio, Uyo
30.	Roads/Bridges	Utu Ikot Ukpong	Essien Udim	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Ikot Ata Enin-Ikot Eda Road in Utu Ikot Ukpong Village, Essien Udim L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
31.	Roads/Bridges	Nkwot	Ikono	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Ekpene Ediene/Ikot Okporo Junction to Nkwot Ikot Obio Ata Road
32.	Roads/Bridges	Nung Ukim	Ini	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Nung Ukim - Usung Ukwot - Ndot Ikpe Access Road in Ini L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State
33.	Roads/Bridges	Ini	Itumbon uso	AKWA IBOM	Construction of internal link road, ananamong, Itumbonuso in Ini LGA, Akwa ibom state
34.	Roads/Bridges	Ikot Ekpene	Spring road	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Spring Road ,Off Abak Road Ikot Ekpene.
35.	Roads/Bridges	Etc	Ikot Abasi	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Idim Ibanga Road and bridge in Ete, Ikot Abasi L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.

S/N	Project Type	Location	LGA	State	Project Description
36.	Roads/Bridges	Eniong-Usung	Udung Uko	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Eniong-Usung Road in Udung Ukom L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
37.	Roads/Bridges	Ikot Abia	Mkpat Enin	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Ikot Inyang Bridge in Ikot Abia Community, Mkpat Enin L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State.
38.	Roads/Bridges	Ikot Obio Ata	Ikono	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Internal Roads in Ikot Obio Ata community
39.	Roads/Bridges	Ikot Nnung	Ikono	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Ikot Nuen-Itak Ikot Akap- Ikot Nnung
40.	Roads/Bridges	Ididep	Ibiono	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Ikot Odiong-Ikot Edo Road
41.	Roads/Bridges	Ikot Abia	Mkpat Enin	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Internal roads in Ikot Abia, Mkpat Enin L.G.A, Akwa Ibom State(Lot 1-3).
42.	Roads/Bridges	Ifa IKOT Akpan-Mbia	Uyo	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Union Street at Ifa IKOT Akpan-Mbia
43.	Road/Bridges	Ikot Uko	Essien Udim	AKWA IBOM	Ikot Uko Afaha Ikot Ebak/Ikot Obio Okon Road, Essien Udim LGA
44.	Road/Bridges	Ataidung	Eket	AKWA IBOM	Ataidung Inyang Usockong UBE Road, Ikot Usckong, Eket LGA
45.	Roads/Bridges	Mbioto Ekpene Ituen	Etinan	AKWA IBOM	Construction of Ada-ita street, Mbioto Ekpene ituen
46.	Roads/Bridges	Nko		AKWA IBOM	Construction of internal roads at Catholic youth development centre, Nko, Akwa Ibom State
47.	Education	Ayama Ijaw	Southern Ijaw	BAYELSA	Construction of Model Secondary School Building in Ayama Ijaw, Southern Ijaw LGA.
48.	Education	Igeibiri & Eniwari	Southern Ijaw	BAYELSA	Renovation of CPS Igeibiri and CPS Eniwari. (Lot 1 &2.)
49.	Energy/ Power Supply	NDU, Amassoma	Southern Ijaw	BAYELSA	Design and installation of Solar Eletrification (Solar Farm) at The ICT Centre and Library. Pilot Project.
50.	Energy/ Power Supply	Imiringi Road	Yenagoa	BAYELSA	Construction of Melily Hotels Street Road, Off Imiringi Road.
51.	Roads/Bridges	Toru-Orua	Bayelsa West	BAYELSA	Construction of Concrete Roads and Drainages in Toru Orua Community, Bayelsa West Senatorial District, Bayelsa State (Lots 1-2)
52.	Roads/Bridges	Okorotumu Community	Kolokuma / Opukuma.	BAYELSA	Construction of Palace Road and Environs at Okorotumu Community.
53.	Roads/Bridges	Peretorugben	Ekeremor	BAYELSA	Construction of Internal Road at Fiefie Quarters
54.	Roads/Bridges	Okaka	Yenagoa	BAYELSA	Construction of 1km Access Road in Mabinton Estate, Okaka, Yenagoa.
55.	Roads/Bridges	Otakeme	Ogbia	BAYELSA	Construction of Otodumodu Road, Otakeme, Ogbia.

S/N	Project Type	Location	LGA	State	Project Description
56.	Roads/Bridges	Ebele	Ogbia	BAYELSA	Construction of Chief Dr. Samuel Ogbuku Street
57.	Roads/Bridges	Ebele	Ogbia	BAYELSA	Construction of kolokuma/opokuma street
58.	Roads/Bridges	Ebele	Ogbia	BAYELSA	Construction of Sagbama/ekeremor street
59.	Roads/Bridges	Ebele	Ogbia	BAYELSA	Construction of Nember/Brass Street
60.	Roads/Bridges	Ebele	Ogbia	BAYELSA	Construction of Odoni/agbere street
61.	Roads/Bridges	boulu orua	Sagbama	BAYELSA	Construction of Jebba Street
62.	Roads/Bridges	Agudama-Epie	Yenegoa	BAYELSA	Construcion of Josephus Street
63.	Roads/Bridges	Sagbama	Sagbama	BAYELSA	Construction of Bolou/Orua Agoro road
64.	Roads/Bridges	Otueke	Ogbia	BAYELSA	Construction of internal roads network (phase 1)federal university otueke, ogbia
65.	Roads/Bridges	Ibe Okosibo	Brass	BAYELSA	Construction of concrete pavement with two side drainage at Ibe Okosibo Gboriefiegha street at Abadi-Paga-Eteli, Twon Brass, Brass LGA, Bayelsa State.
66.	Roads/Bridges	Opete	Udu	BAYELSA	Opete Internal Road, Opete Udu LGA, Delta state
67.	Roads/Bridges	Oloibiri community	ogbia	BAYELSA	Oloibiri Community additional 1km Road, ogbia lga, bayelsa
68.	Roads/Bridges	ovieya street	yenagoa	BAYELSA	Ovieya st. off Akaba okodi express road. 1km Yenagoa Lga, Bayelsa
69.	Road/Bridges	Katchuan-Kakubok- Irruan	Boki	CROSS RIVER	Construction of Katchuan-Kakubok-Irruan road
70.	Road/Bridges	Ikot Effanga	Cal. Municipality	CROSS RIVER	Erosion control work at Technical College Layout, Ikot Effanga Mkpa
71.	Roads/Bridges	Obanliku/Bo ki	Obanliku	CROSS RIVER	Construction of Bassang/Bumaji Road linking the Obanliku/Boki Communities along the Cameroon Nigeria border, Cross River State (Lots 1-3)
72.	Canalisation/ Reclamation	Warri	Warri South	DELTA	Dredging of Warri River at the Pessu/Maciver Market Axis and others
73.	Canalisation/ Reclamation	Toru-Tubegbe	Burutu	DELTA	Canalisation of Toru-Tubegbe, Bulou-Tubegbe and Tamo-Tubegbe communities Creek
74.	Jetty/Shore Protection	Azama	Warri South West	DELTA	Construction of Azama 180 meters Walkway Concrete Landing Jetty, Gbaramatu Kingdom
75.	Jetty/Shore Protection	Gbaramatu	Warri South West	DELTA	Construction of 80m Walkway Concrete Jetty for Inikorogha Community, Gbaramatu Kingdom
S/N	**Project Type**	**Location**	**LGA**	**State**	**Project Description**
76.	Jetty/Shore Protection	Gbarigolor/Kamenta	Ughelli South	DELTA	Reclamation/Shore Protection work Using Geotextile Materials, Reno Matrass and Gabion Materials at Gbarigolor and Kameta under bridge (Phase 1)
77.	Roads/Bridges	Idumuje-Unor	Aniocha North	DELTA	Construction of Aturna-Okwunye-Ime ogbe road
78.	Roads/Bridges	Agbarha Warri	Warri South	DELTA	Construction of Rigid Pavement at Mowoe Road, Otovwodo, Agbarha, Warri
79.	Roads/Bridges	Ekpan	Uvwie	DELTA	Construction of Maka Community road and Flood control, Off Refinery road, Ekpan
80.	Roads/Bridges	Agbor	Ika South	DELTA	Construction of Ebu - Ogba/Alibioba roads by Uromi junction, Agbor
81.	Roads/Bridges	Egiegi	Udu	DELTA	Construction of Egiegi community access road
82.	Roads/Bridges	Ellu	Isoko North	DELTA	Construction of Etor Layout Roads Ellu
83.	Roads/Bridges	Emu- Ukpo	Ndokwa West	DELTA	Construction of 1.5km Road with drainage in Etua-Ukpo, Utagbu-Uno, Ndokwa West LGA
84.	Roads/Bridges	Emu-Obodeti	Ndokwa West	DELTA	Construction Of Emu-Obodeti Radial Roads, Emu Obedeti
85.	Roads/Bridges	Okere Urhobo	Warri South	DELTA	Construction of Ogoje Street and Environs, Okere Urhobo Kingdom, Warri
86.	Roads/Bridges	Eketc	Udu	DELTA	Construction of River Road Layout Internal Road and Drainages, Linking Abbot-Fole Drive, Eketewaterside.
87.	Roads/Bridges	Effurun	Uvwie	DELTA	Construction of James Amafada Street Ugbowan Layout, and Udezi Stephen LA Street, Ogodor Layout off NPA Express Road
88.	Roads/Bridges	Okpaka	Udu	DELTA	Okpaka - Orhuvworun road (NDDC PH Staff Cooperative Resource Centre) with drainages, off DSC Expressway
89.	Roads/Bridges	Varioious	Various	DELTA	Construction & Rehabilitation of Roads Ika Federal Constituency
90.	Roads/Bridges		Ika South	DELTA	Reconstruction of Mordern market Ekuku-Agbor,Ika South LGA,Delta State
91.	Roads/Bridges	Stomach care	Oshimili North	DELTA	Construction of 1km Stomach care street, off Doctors street, Midwifery road, Okpanam, Oshimilli North LGA
92.	Governance & Social Services	Ogunu	Warri South	DELTA	Renovation of Recreation for Officers and Men, Vehicles and 100 KV Generator Set for mobile Police at Ogunu
93.	Governance & Social Services	Ogharaefe	Ethiope West	DELTA	Construction of 100 Capacity ogharaefe maint town hall (OGUEDION) with furniture and power at ogbara main town.")
94.	Governance & Social	Off PTI	Effurun,	DELTA	Community Resource Center with Library
95.	Education	Ogbona	Etsako Central	EDO	Construction of Eight (8) Classroom Block and

S/N	Project Type	Location	LGA	State	Project Description
					Fencing of Ogbona Secondary School Etsako Central, Edo State (Lots 1-2)
96.	Education	AKIOSU	Akoko-Edo	EDO	Renovation and furnishing of OSU Mixed Grammar School, Uneme AKIOSU in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area of Edo State (Lots 1-2)
97.	Education	AKIOSU	Akoko-Edo	EDO	Reconstruction and rehabilitation of Grammar School Road Uneme AKIOSU in Akoko-Edo in Edo State (Lots 1-2)
98.	Education	Various	Akoko-Edo	EDO	Renovation if selected secondary schools in in Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency, Edo State. (Lots 1-2)
99.	Roads/Bridges	Evbuomoma	Ikpoba-Okha	EDO	Construction and Asphalting of 2km Drainage and Asphalting of Evbuomoma Road
100.	Roads/Bridges	Irhirhi-Aibangbee	Oredo	EDO	Construction of Idehen, Chris Umogbai, Salon, Ighodaro Aigbangbee, Abu Hassan Road.
101.	Roads/Bridges	Obozogbe	Orhionmwon	EDO	Construction of Obozogbe Sakponba village road
102.	Roads/Bridges	Erhahon	Ikpoba-Okha	EDO	Construction of Erhahon Street, off Upper Mission, Benin City
103.	Roads/Bridges	Polytechnic	Auchi Etsako	EDO	Erosion control at Auchi Polytechnic
104.	Roads/Bridges	Old Central Mosque Road	Auchi Etsako	EDO	Construction of old central mosques through Marcus and Bury ground to Tokula street, Aibotse with drains
105.	Roads/Bridges	Auchi	Auchi Etsako	EDO	Construction of Igbafe lane, NEPA junction to Mr Biggs with drains
106.	Roads/Bridges	Ojirami	Akoko Edo	EDO	Construction of Ojirami - Erhulu - Ogute road
107.	Roads/Bridges	Ukpeko	Etsako Central	EDO	Construction of Ukpeko - Udaba - Anegbettee Road
108.	Energy/Power Supply	Umuokanne	Ohaji/Egbema	IMO	2 x 60MVA, 132/33 to Serve Ohaji/Egbema and Oguta L.G.A
109.	Roads/Bridges	Amakohia Pocket Layout	Owerri North	IMO	Construction of Shephire School Road, Amakohia Pocket Layout, Owerri North, Imo State
110.	Roads/Bridges	Eke Eziachi	Orlu	IMO	Construction of Eke Eziachi to Eze Ndoh to Eziama Road, Orlu LGA, Imo State
111.	Roads/Bridges	Umuadara - Umulogho	Obowo	IMO	Construction of Umuadara - Umulogho Internal Road in Obowo, Imo State
112.	Roads/Bridges	Otamiri Layout Extension Naze	Owerri North	IMO	Construction of Newton - Kelly Avenue and its environs with drains in Owerri North LGA, Imo State
113.	Roads/Bridges	Eke Atta	Ikeduru	IMO	Construction of Eke Atta - Amawo - Ikeduru link Road to Ihitte Ogwa in Ikeduru LGA, Imo State
114.	Roads/Bridges	Nkwere	Nkwerre	IMO	Construction of Nkwere Internal Road in Nkwere LGA, Imo State
S/N	**Project Type**	**Location**	**LGA**	**State**	**Project Description**
115.	Roads/Bridges	Ohaji	Ohaji/Egbema	IMO	Construction of Seplat - Amnesty Junction - Assa - Awara - Ochia and Ikwerede Road and Drains in Ohaji/Egbema LGA, Imo State
116.	Roads/Bridges	Izombe - Awa	Oguta	IMO	Construction of Izombe - Awa Road and Drains Oguta LGA, Imo State
117.	Roads/Bridges	Umualoma	Oguta	IMO	Construction of Umualoma - Primary School Akabor, Oguta Imo State
118.	Roads/Bridges	Owerri	Owerri	IMO	Construction of 2.5km Amakohia New Layout Roads (Nwosu Estate) with both Sides Drainages in Owerri, Owerri North LGA, Imo State (Lots 1-6)
119.	Roads/Bridges	Assa and Obile	Ohaji/Egbema	IMO	Construction of Assa and Obile Road in Ohaji/Egbema Imo State
120.	Roads/Bridges	Abacheke	Ohaji/Egbema	IMO	Construction of Ugbujiagu - Osse - Okishikpa Road in Ohaji/Egbema LGA, Imo State
121.	Roads/Bridges	Izombe	Oguta	IMO	Construction of Eziama Internal Road Izombe in Oguta LGA, Imo State
122.	Roads/Bridges	Various Communities	Oru East	IMO	Oru Internal Roads
123.	Roads/Bridges	Umunnam	Obowo	IMO	COnstruction of Umunnam-Umuoke Internal Road
124.	Roads/Bridges	Akatta	Oru East	IMO	Construction of St. Patricks Ihite Akatta to Akatta Town Hall Road
125.	Roads/Bridges	Arondizuogu	Ideato North	IMO	Construction of All Saints Anglican Church Road to Eke Ndizogu and to Iheme Grammer School Road
126.	Roads/Bridges	Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education	Owerri Municipal	IMO	Construction of Internal Road Network at Lands across Nworie River
127.	Roads/Bridges	Area G, New Owerri	Owerri Municipal	IMO	Construction of Nixon Onyirimba Avenue, Area G, New Owerri
128.	Roads/Bridges	Umuagwu	Ohaji/Egbema	IMO	Construction of Nkaraha Junction - Umuagwu
129.	Roads/Bridges	Umuagwu	Ohaji/Egbema	IMO	Construction of Umuoso-Umuagwu Road
130.	Roads/Bridges	Nguru	Aboh Mbaise	IMO	Construction of Afor Oboama through Holy Ghost Catholic Church to Umuokoroie Connecting Umudiala Road
131.	Jetty/Shore Protection	Ehinmore	Ilaje	Ondo	Construction of 400M Concrete Jetty and Concrete Walkway
132.	Road/Bridges	Akure-Owo Road	Akure	Ondo	Construction of 3km Internal roads from blocks DE to DT, Phase 2 of residential layout behind federal housing along Akure-Owo express road, Akure
133.	Roads/Bridges	Agadagba-Obon-Arogbo	Ese-Odo	Ondo	Construction of Agadagba-Obon-Arogbo with Bridge in Ese-Odo LGA (Lots 1-4)
134.	Water Supply	Orioke Iwamimo	Ilaje	Ondo	Construction of Solar Powered Water Project 20000 Gallons capacity

S/N	Project Type	Location	LGA	State	Project Description
135.	Roads/Bridges	Borikiri	Port Harcourt	Rivers	Constructio of El-Shaddai Road, Word of Faith Road and Environs at UPE Borikiri Sandfill Area, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.
136.	Roads/Bridges	Isiokpo	Ikwerre	Rivers	Agwara – Obele link Road with Solar Street Lights
137.	Roads/Bridges	Isiokpo	Ikwerre	Rivers	GSS Isiokpo – Ali Ikugajor – Adanta-Mgbogidi-Omagwa Rd. with 2no. x 10m RC cell box culvert
138.	Roads/Bridges	Isiokpo	Ikwerre	Rivers	CSS Isiokpo –Ali Ikugajor-Adanta Rd.
139.	Roads/Bridges	Isiokpo	Ikwerre	Rivers	Oriogbojo Nglo Riverside – Adanta Road with Solar Street Lights
140.	Roads/Bridges	Egbeda	Ikwerre	Rivers	Omuelu –Ngbuoturu Internal Roads Lot 1
141.	Roads/Bridges	Egbeda	Ikwerre	Rivers	Omuelu –Ngbuoturu Internal Roads Lot 2
142.	Roads/Bridges	Eliozu/Eliogbol o	Obio/Akpor	Rivers	Construction of Road Network with Drainages at Eliozu/Eliogbolo Community New Layout Village, Off G.U. Ake Road, By Police Post Road, Obio/Akpor L.G.A Rivers State.
143.	Roads/Bridges	RUMUOKWUT A	Obio/Akpor	Rivers	Construction of Road 9, 1st Avenue/ Road 13, 3rd Avenue, Lane 2, New Road, and ROAD 11 3RD AVENUE off Location Junction, Ada George Road.
144.	Roads/Bridges	Rumuokwuta	Obio/Akpor	Rivers	Construction Of Okania New Layout Main Road
145.	Roads/Bridges	Mbodo, Aluu	Ikwerre	Rivers	Construction of Access Road to NDDC staff Cooperative Housing Estate
146.	Roads/Bridges	Mbodo, Aluu	Ikwerre	Rivers	Construction of Internal Roads at NDDC staff Cooperative Housing Estate
147.	Roads/Bridges	Okrika Mainand	Okrika	Rivers	Construction of Main Access and Internal roads at Okrika Grammer School, Okrika, Rivers State
148.	Roads/Bridges	Agalanga	Bonny	Rivers	Construction of Save a Child road, Agalanga, Bonny LGA, Port Harcourt
149.	Roads/Bridges	Toruaka/ Owukiri/ Daso/	Ogu/Bolo	Rivers	Construction of Toruaka/ Owukiri/ Daso/ Chukuama Road and Bridges, Ogu/Bolo LGA, Rivers State (Lots 1-8)
150.	Roads/Bridges	Ahoda	Abua	Rivers	Construction of Ahoda – Abua-Degema road
151.	Roads/Bridges	Opobo/Nkoro		Rivers	Construction of Olom Nkoro – Mkpetetekirii road, Opobo/Nkoro
152.	Roads/Bridges	Nkoro	Ottoni Ama	Rivers	1- Construction of Ottoni Ama Internal Road, Nkoro community in Opobo/Nkoro LGA
153.	Roads/Bridges	Eneka		Rivers	Construction of Mini Shegba road, Encka
154.	Roads/Bridges	Ogba-Egbema	Ndoni	Rivers	Obigbor - Obagi Link road in Ogba-Egbema Ndoni
155.	Roads/Bridges	Tai		Rivers	Construction of old Bunu/kuroma road adjoining New road, Tai LGA
156.	Roads/Bridges	Tai		Rivers	1- Construction of Koroma – Tai internal roads, Tai LGA
S/N	**Project Type**	**Location**	**LGA**	**State**	**Project Description**
157.	Roads/Bridges	Odaga	Abua/ Odual	Rivers	4 km road Odaga Community, Abua/odual Lga, Rivers state;

Category 2B: ITT for Works

S/N	Project Type	Location	LGA	State	Project Description
1.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Umuaka	Ukwa West	ABIA	Construction of Skill Acquisition Center in Umuaka Asa, Ukwa West LGA
2.	Road/Bridges	Ikot Abia	Obot Akara	AKWA IBOM	Ikot Abia Clan Council Hall, Obot Akara LGA
3.	Energy/ Power Supply	NDDC Office, Kpansia, Yenagoa.	Yenagoa	BAYELSA	Installation of Solar Powered Inverter System for NDDC Bayelsa State Office
4.	Health	Obogoro	Yenagoa	BAYELSA	Perimeter Fencing and Sand filling of Primary Health Center, Obogoro
5.	Roads/Bridges	Kpansia	Yenagoa	BAYELSA	Reconstruction of Asuefa Hospital Road and its Environs
6.	Education		Biase	CROSS RIVER	Construction And Equipping Of 1No 6 Classroom Blockat Biakpan Government Science Technical College
7.	Education	okwighele	Okpe	DELTA	Renovation of Classrooms Blocks at Government Primary School, Okwighele
8.	Energy/ Power Supply	Ethiope	Ethiope West	DELTA	Renovation of Classrooms and Construction of ModernToilets complete with Solar-Powered water system in Primary and Secondary Schools in Ethiope West LGA
9.	Energy/ Power Supply	Effurun-Otor	Ughelli South	DELTA	Construction of Agbohor Road, New Layout, Effurun-Otor (Phase 1), Ughelli South LGA
10.	Governance & Social	Edjeba	Warri South	DELTA	Construction of National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) Corpers lodge Building Edjeba
11.	Governance & Social Services	Okere - Urhobo	Warri South	DELTA	Rehabilitation and Furnishing of Olodi Civic Centre, Okere Urhobo Kingdom, Warri South LGA, Delta State
12.	Education	Abudu		EDO	Construction of Comprehensive Secondary School, Abudu
13.	Education	Uneme-Osu	Akoko Edo	EDO	Construction of 6 Classroom Block at Uneme-Osu, Akogram School, Akoko Edo
14.	Health	Obozogbe-Niro	Orhionmwon	EDO	Rehabilitation, Furnishing and Interlocking of the Comprehensive Health Care Centre
15.	Health	Ugbeturu-Ora	Owan West	EDO	Comprehensive Health Care Centre at Ugbeturu Ora
16.	Education	Ezeagbogu Ezinihitte	Ezinihitte Mbaise	IMO	Construction Class Room Blocks at Community Primary School Ezeagbogu in Ezinihitte Mbaise LGA, Imo State
17.	Education	Umucheke	Onuimo	IMO	Renovation of Community Secondary School, Umucheke Onuimo, LGA, Imo State
18.	Education	umu ozuma, umuduru amrita	Oru east	IMO	6 classroom block at the primary school, umu ozuma, umuduru amrita oru East Lga imo state.
19.	Road/Bridges	Ese-Odo	Ese-Odo	Ondo	Constrution Amapere- Igaligagbo road in Ese-Odo
20.	SMEs	Ajowa	Akoka North West	Ondo	Construction of SMEs acquistion centrre at Ajowa Akoka North West
21.	Health	Bile		RIVERS	1- Construction of Cottage Hospital, Bile
22.	Health	Rumuodogo		RIVERS	Construction of Rumuodogo II Health center
23.	Health	Ovogo		RIVERS	Construction of Ovogo Health Center
24.	Health	odaga	Abua/ Odual	RIVERS	Construction of primary health centre

Category 3: EOI for Services

S/N	PROJECT TYPE	LOCATION	LGA	STATE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
1.	Agric/Fisheries			REGIONAL	Training on Integrated Farming for Youths/Women with start off grants
2.	Agric/Fisheries			REGIONAL	Training and capacity building on Agricultural commodities processing, packaging and marketing in the Niger delta
3.	Agric/Fisheries			REGIONAL	Establishment of Agro processing villages in the 9 states of the Niger Delta
4.	Agric/Fisheries			REGIONAL	Catfish Farming Empowerment Program across the Niger Delta States (Lots 1-12)
5.	Agric/Fisheries			REGIONAL	Partnership development support fund for poultry, hatchery and feed mills establishments in the Niger Delta
6.	Community & Rural Development			REGIONAL	Community entry and Town hall meetings for Strategic Partnerships with Stakeholders in the Rural Communities Of the Niger Delta Region
7.	Ecological			REGIONAL	Training of Staff / stakeholders on soil remediation, shoreline protection, etc; aquatic/mangrove Ecosystem restoration schemes in the Niger delta region
8.	Ecological			REGIONAL	Niger Delta Consultative environment Forum (NDECF) summit, Community Science & data gathering, training for environment managers
9.	Ecological			REGIONAL	Habitat Conversation - Tree planting and conservation of the ecology across the Nine(9)NDDC States
10.	Education			REGIONAL	To carry out gap analysis in the Education sector across the Niger Delta region (Nine Education Consultants) old debt
11.	Education			REGIONAL	NDDC Local Post Graduate, Scholarship in Medical Science, Engineering, ICT, Agricltural Sciences, Social Sciences, Environmetal Sceiences,
S/N	**PROJECT TYPE**	**LOCATION**	**LGA**	**STATE**	**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**
					Humanities, Law and Hosptality (600 beneficiares)
12.	ICT			REGIONAL	Training and Certification of Niger Delta Graduates on Computer Repairs and Provision of Laptops across the Nine States in the Niger Delta Region (Lots 1-12)
13.	ICT			REGIONAL	Geographic Information System (GIS) of the Niger Delta Region and Geotagging of the Critical Infrastructure across the Niger Delta Region (Lots 1-20)
14.	ICT			REGIONAL	PROVISION OF MOBILE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE IN DELTA CENTRAL LGA, DELTA STATE (Lots 1- 20)
15.	ICT			REGIONAL	Service Desk management solution for the Commission
16.	ICT			REGIONAL	Procurement of IT in-house consultants
17.	ICT			REGIONAL	Development and deployment of biometric Authenticated Staff payroll system
18.	Industrial and Enterprise Development			REGIONAL	Niger Delta Entrepreneurial skills training and three Regional business hubs for 900 women and youths (lots 1-21
19.	Industrial and Enterprise Development			REGIONAL	Training on Building & Construction Skills – Tiling, POP, Screeding, Stamping, Interlocking
20.	Industrial and Enterprise Development			REGIONAL	Training,Employment &Mentoring (TEM) Programme across the 9 NDDC States
21.	Industrial and Enterprise Development			REGIONAL	Automobile scanning/double shooting training programme for Niger Delta youths
22.	Strategic Planning, Research Statistics & Mgt. Infor. System			REGIONAL	Accessment of relationships of Higher Institutions and Surrounding Communities in Slum Region
23.	Strategic Planning, Research Statistics & Mgt. Infor. System			REGIONAL	Development of Tourism Sites in the Niger Delta Region
24.	Strategic Planning, Research Statistics & Mgt. Infor. System			REGIONAL	Establishment of Growth Poles in the Niger Delta Region- Pilot in Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa and Delta
25.	Youths Sports and Women Empowerment			REGIONAL	Sensitization/workshop for youths on waste to wealth management for income generation
26.	Youths Sports and Women Empowerment			REGIONAL	capacity building and enterpreneurship training for youths

S/N	PROJECT TYPE	LOCATION	LGA	STATE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
27.	Youths Sports and Women Empowerment			REGIONAL	sensitization against drug abuse in the region/support to youth and sports related programmes in the region/financial assistance to the indegent youth enterpreneurs
28.	Youths Sports and Women Empowerment			REGIONAL	skill training/establishment for physically challenged youths
29.	Social Services			REGIONAL	Support for sensitization and awareness campaign program against human trafficking and other related matters (Lots1- 18) in the Niger Delta Region
30.	Social Services			REGIONAL	Outreach to the senior citizens, the homeless and child welfar services in the Niger Delta Region
31.	Social Services			REGIONAL	Provision of Eco-Friendly and Sustainable Waste Management Facilities with Solar-Powered Water Supply in Key Markets, Abattoirs, and Waterfront Areas of the Rural Communities in the Niger Delta Region
32.	Agriculture	Various	Various	ABIA	Training of Youths and Women on Aquaculture at NDDC Aquaculture Training Culture in Abia State (Lot 1 - 3)
33.	Agriculture	Various	Various	ABIA	Establishment of Agro Processing Centre with complete Equipment in Ukwa West and Umuahia South
34.	Education	Various	Various	ABIA	Procurement and distribution of mowing machines to selected government owned Public schools in the three senatorial zones in Abia state. (Lot 1 - 3)
35.	Agriculture	EKET	EKET	AKWA IBOM	Establishment of Agro Processing Centre with complete Equipment in Eket
36.	Governance social services & Sports	Various	Bayelsa West	BAYELSA	Training and Micro Finance Grants for SMEs Development for Women and Youths in Bayelsa West Senatorial District, Bayelsa State (Lots 1-2)
37.	Governance social services & Sports	Ndu, Amassoma	Southern Ijaw	BAYELSA	Rehabilitation, Furnishing And Equipping Of Ict Centre At Niger Delta University, Amassoma, Bayelsa State
38.	Agriculture/ Fisheries	Various	Various	CROSS RIVER	Provision and Installation of Efficient Feed Mill Solutions for Poultry and Aquaculture Clusters in Cross River State (Lots 1-2)
39.	Agriculture/ Fisheries	Various	Various	CROSS RIVER	Procurement of Modern Farming Tools to enhance Tuber Yield and Productivity across various Communities in Cross River State (Lots 1- 2)
40.	Agriculture/ Fisheries	Various	Various	CROSS RIVER	Construction of Garri/Cassava Processing Mill in selected Communities in Cross River State

S/N	PROJECT TYPE	LOCATION	LGA	STATE	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
41.	Health	Etsako East	Estako/East West	EDO	Procurement and supply of essential pharmaceuticals, insulin, antihypetazin antibiotics and anti-malaria drugs across estako federal constituency , Edo State
42.	Health	Orlu	Orlu	IMO	Provision of Medical Outreach to Anike Community, Orlu LGA Imo State
43.	Governance, Social Services & Sports	Various	Ese-Odo	ONDO	Training of Women and Youths in Fingerlings Production and Hatchéry Management in Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency
44.	Governance & Social Services	Various	Various	RIVERS	Training and Empowerment of 150 Youths in Rivers State. Training on Painting, Screeding, POP and Tiling skills.

3.0. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This solicitation for Tender shall be based on meeting the following minimum eligibility criteria:

a. Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including Form CAC1.1 or CAC2 and CAC7. Business Name with Form BN1 is also acceptable for Consultancy Services;
b. Evidence of Company's Income Tax Clearance Certificate (or Personal Income Tax Clearance Certificates of all the Partners in case of Business Name and Individual Consultants/Resource Persons) for the last three (3) years valid till 31st December, 2025;
c. Evidence of Pension Clearance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2025;
d. Evidence of Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2025;
e. Evidence of Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Clearance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2025;
f. Evidence of Registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) expiring on 31st December, 2025 or valid Certificate issued by BPP.
g. Sworn Affidavit:
- disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Niger Delta Development Commission or the Bureau of Public Procurement is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars;
- that no Director has been convicted in any Country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation or falsification of facts relating to any matter;
- that the Company is not in receivership, the subject of any form of insolvency or bankruptcy proceedings or the subject of any form of winding up petition or proceedings;
- that the company does not have existing loan or financial liability with a bank, other financial institution or third party that is classified as doubtful, non-performance, bad or whose repayment portion has been outstanding for the last four (4) months;
h. Company's Audited Accounts for the last three (3) years -2022, 2023& 2024;
i. Reference Letter from a reputable Commercial Bank in Nigeria, indicating willingness to provide credit facility for the execution of the project when needed;
j. Company's Profile with the Curriculum Vitae of Key Staff to be deployed for the project, including copies of their Academic/Professional Certificates such as COREN, QSRBN, ARCON, CORBON etc.;
k. Verifiable documentary evidence of at least three (3) similar jobs (in size, nature & complexity) executed in the last five (5) years including Letters of Awards, Valuation Certificates, Job Completion Certificates and Photographs of the projects;
l. Electricity Jobs: Evidence of current Licence issued by Nigerian Electricity Management Services Agency (NEMSA);
m. ICT Consultancy Services: Evidence of Firm's current Registration/Accreditation with Computer Professional Registration Council of Nigeria, National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and with the (1Govt Cloud Enterprise Content Management System (ECMS)
n. For Supply of Equipment: Letter of Authorisation as representative of the Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs);
o. Works: List of Plants/Equipment with proof of Ownership/Lease Agreement;
p. For Joint Venture/Partnership, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be provided indicating among others the Lead Partner (CAC, Tax Clearance Certificate, Pension Clearance Certificate, ITF Compliance Certificate, NSITF Clearance Certificate, IRR & Sworn Affidavit are compulsory for each JV partner);
Note: All documents for submission must be transmitted with a Covering/Forwarding letter under the Company/Firm's Letter Head Paper bearing amongst others, the Registration Number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Contact Address, Telephone Number (preferably GSM No.), and e-mail address. The Letterhead Paper must bear the Names and Nationalities of the Directors of the Company at the bottom of the page, duly signed by the authorised officer of the firm

4.0 COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

For Category 1B and 2B, interested companies are to collect the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) from the office stated below: The Director, Procurement Unit, 3rd Floor, Headquarters Ancillary Building, Niger Delta Development Commission, Plot C5/C6, Eastern By-Pass, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Interested companies are to collect the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) from the office of the Director of Procurement, Niger Delta Development Commission, on evidence of payment of non-refundable tender fee of N10,000.00 per Lot, paid into the Niger Delta Development Commission Remita's account in any reputable Commercial Bank in Nigeria.

5.0. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

5.1. For Category 1B and 2B

Prospective bidders are to submit their Bid for the desired Lot in two (2) hard copies each of the Technical and Financial Bids with softcopy of Financial Bid in MS Excel format, packaged separately in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "Technical Bid" or "Financial Bid". Thereafter, put the two (2) sealed envelopes together in a bigger sealed envelope addressed to: The Director, Procurement Unit, 3rd Floor, Headquarters Ancillary Building, Niger Delta Development Commission, Plot C5/C6, Eastern By-Pass, Port Harcourt, Rivers State and clearly marked with the category, serial number, project description and Lot number. Furthermore, the reverse of each sealed envelope should bear the name and address of the Bidder and dropped in the designated Tamper Proof Tender Boxes located at the Ancillary Building 3rd Floor, Headquarters of Niger Delta Development Commission, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, not later than 12:00 noon, Monday, June 23rd, 2025.

5.2. For Category 1A, 2A and 3

Prospective bidders are to submit Pre-qualification and Expression of Interest Bid for their desired Lot in a sealed envelope and clearly marked with the project name, category and Lot number and addressed to: The Director, Procurement Unit, 3rd Floor, Headquarters Ancillary Building, Niger Delta Development Commission, Plot C5/C6, Eastern By-Pass, Port Harcourt, Rivers State not later than 12:00 Noon, Monday, June 23rd, 2025.

6.0. BID OPENING EXERCISE

6.1 For Category 1B and 2B

Only the Technical Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for the submission at 12:00 noon, Monday, June 23rd, 2025 at the NDDC HORLIKINS EVENT CENTRE, PLOT C5/C6, EASTERN BYPASS, PORT HARCOURT, beside Head Office Building, Niger Delta Development Commission, Port Harcourt, Rivers State; while the financial bids will be kept un-opened.

6.2 For Category 1A, 2A and 3

The Pre-qualification and EOI Bids will be opened immediately after the deadline for the submission at 12:00 noon, Monday, June 9th, 2025 at the NDDC HORLIKINS EVENT CENTRE, PLOT C5/C6, EASTERN BYPASS beside Head Office Building, Niger Delta Development Commission, Port Harcourt, Rivers State; and the shortlisted successful Bidders will be notified.

Please ensure that you sign the Bid Submission Register in the office of the Director, Procurement Unit 3rd Floor, Headquarters Ancillary Building, Niger Delta Development Commission, Plot C5/C6, Eastern By-Pass, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, as the Niger Delta Development Commission will not be held liable for misplaced or wrongly submitted bids.

For further enquiries, please contact the Director, Procurement Unit on 0818-857-8594 (Call and WhatsApp) or e-mail, procurement@nddc.gov.ng

7.0. GENERAL INFORMATION

i. Bids must be in English Language and signed by an official authorised by the bidder;
ii. Bids submitted after the deadline for submission would be rejected.
iii. Bidders should not bid for more than three (3) Lot (Note: This maximum ceiling is important in order not to over stretch bidder's capacity and cause delay in project delivery);
iv. Soft copies of bid documents can be provided and Bids can be submitted vide Courier (Post);
vi. Only pre-qualified bidders at technical evaluation will be invited at a later date for financial bids opening, while financial bids of unsuccessful bidders will be returned un-opened;
vii. All costs will be borne by the bidders;
viii. The Niger Delta Development Commission is not bound to pre-qualify or accept any bidder and reserves the right to annul the Procurement process at any time without incurring any liabilities in accordance with Section 28 of the Public Procurement Act, 2007.

SIGNED
Director, Procurement
For: Managing Director/CEO
NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DIGITAL ASSET MARKETS

with Nicky Okoye
(digitalassets@anabelgroup.com)



Next One Hundred Trillion Dollars Value Chains

Nicky Okoye discusses the strategic impact of digital asset markets in the growth and dynamics of the global markets and dives deep into the monumental forces that are driving the growth of the next hundred trillion dollars in global GDP. In this series of essays, policy makers, legislators, enterprise executives and investors can gain strategic positioning variables as they unfold in real time.



L-R: Executive Commissioner Operations SEC Nigeria: Bola Ajomale, Global Investment Advisor: Dr Nicky Okoye, Lagos State Hon Commissioner for Finance: Yomi Oluyomi

A study of the African capital markets, will tell you very quickly that valuations of our equities and the total capitalization of these markets are not a true reflection of the capacity of most African Nations. A closer look at each of the fifteen African capital markets currently operating on the continent will show you that the total market capitalisation of African equities are recorded at a fraction of the National GDP. In particular, Nigeria's total equities market capitalisation is hovering between $39 billion to $43 billon, depending on the exchange rate and prices of equities on the day of calculation. Whereas Nigeria's GDP according to the World Bank and the data files of OECD, was recorded at $363 billion as at early 2024. If we adjust Nigeria's GDP to reflect our actual citizen purchasing power, using PPP (Purchasing Power Parity), it will still show a much more interesting picture as it relates to the capital markets total market cap being a fraction of total GDP.

So how do we fix this?

In my opinion, Nigeria and Africa have missed the bus somewhere along the line, but it's not too late to fix it. We need to get on the next bus, as we can see the next bus, (being the digital asset markets), is coming down the road and we have a unique opportunity to lead in this space. The digital asset markets will drive the strategic economic indicators that will determine where the next generation of the World's wealth is going to come from. This is particularly true for Africa. Looking at geographical locations across the World, we can determine where future wealth is going to be created, what strategic advances technology will give, and we can expect to plan how these technological advances will expand the competitive advantages of Nation States as well as enterprises that own and operate these technologies. We have to watch the trends, and ask the most pertinent question, which is, can we predict the industries and the geopolitical zones of the World, that will win in the race to ensure their people benefit from the monumental growth in economic value which is represented by the Next One Hundred Trillion Dollars in global GDP.

I believe we can.

In this respect, I would like us to take long hard look at national balance sheets all over again. How do we calculate the net-worth of a Nation State? And why is net-worth of a Nation state so important? When defining the wealth of a Nation, we currently depend almost entirely on nominal GDP, which is bases on a spending and consumption matrix, which does not provide the true measure of national wealth. In addition, nominal GDP does not even take into account the purchasing power of the local populations of the nation in question. A much more accurate basis of GDP calculations should be based on PPP (purchasing power parity). Everyone in the World of economics knows this. So why are respectable global institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF, the United Nations still using nominal GDP as a measure of national wealth?

When the Western World economists calculate the World's wealthiest individuals, as we see in the Forbes 400, or on Bloomberg, from time to time. They always use the basis of the individual's net-worth (total assets minus total liabilities), to determine wealth, they do not use the spending habits or the individual's expenses. If you used the spending of an individual to calculate their wealth value then many of the World's billionaires will look very poor on paper. As people like Warren Buffett do not spend their wealth on themselves at all. However when calculating national wealth positions, there is a resort to nominal GDP as the yard stick. The GDP per capita is also provided as a division of the total nominal GDP by the total population. In my opinion this is a very misleading representation of the facts. We will address this in my future write-ups.

In my opinion, the true measure of the wealth of any Nation, must include that Nation's net-worth which is based on the Nation's total assets, and it should not necessarily be completely based on the National population's spending (GDP). In this respect, a total understanding and a comprehensive value of all the assets belonging to any Nation State, should form part of the Nation's net-worth, and subsequently be used to determine the total wealth of that Nation. This is currently not the case. I will address this in the future series.

Understanding the Next One Hundred Trillion Dollars

As I mentioned in DAM-N1HTD series A01, the global economy is projected to hit $200 trillion by 2050. We know that this projection is based on the trade and purchasing of goods and services between mostly industrialised Nation States, leaving Africa out almost completely. We also know that this global GDP projection of $200 billion, is on a fast track growth trajectory for which an additional one hundred trillion dollars in GDP value is being created as I write this paper, witnessed already between 2023 and 2025, in which an additional $10 trillion was added to global GDP.

I have studied the trends and one area that stands out as the most fundamental driver in the growth of this next one hundred trillion dollars in global GDP, happens to be technology, and the access to technology, the innovation of technology and the operators of the most modern sophisticated technologies. How technological innovation is affecting industry, productivity, costs and prices, is turning out to be the most fundamental competitive advantage of Nation States. The true game changer will be for African Nations, especially for Nigeria, to figure out how future technologies will affect our African markets, our African industry and our ability to innovate and compete in the global economy.

There are five core areas I have studied which we tend to overlook with regard to repositioning Nigeria and subsequently Africa for the next one hundred trillion dollars in global GDP:

a. The growth patterns of the World's population: The future population growth will define future consumers and future workers. The population growth figures for OECD countries is falling, with Japan, USA, EU averaging growth rates of less than 1.5%, whereas Africa's growth rates are currently off the charts. A productive African population will redefine global GDP as we know it. A large productive population of Africans can be the most affluent geographical area of the World in less than 50 years.

b. Digital Asset Markets: The transformation of asset classes into digital assets across the World will redefine how Africa's wealth is calculated. In this respect, Africa's stockpile of otherwise dead assets will be brought to life, and put to work unlocking monumental capital as we have never witnessed before.

c. The case for China: The innovation and technological advancements coming out of China is unprecedented. In addition, the investment in infrastructure coming from China's belt and roads initiative is equally driving impact in some of the World's most remote societies.

d. Access to Technology: it is one thing to drive the innovation in technology as China is doing, but it is quite another thing to share that innovation with other Nations of the World. The winners and losers within the global economic marketplace over the next twenty five years, will be largely determined by access to 21st century technological innovations.

e. The case for Africa: As far as population growth is concerned Africa is off the charts in this space. However, population growth is not the only area that will define the next one hundred trillion dollars in economic value. A big part of the N1HTD will grow from the valuation and growing demand for assets as a hedge against inflation, fiat currencies and economic recession. The adoption of digital asset markets, digital currencies and digital asset classes will redefine the balance sheets of African Nations. In this respect, as I make the case for Africa, as it positions to form a strategic and impactful part of the next one hundred trillion dollars projected to be created in economic value over the next twenty five years, I am excited that this will be a very exciting undertaking.

I will expand on these areas in my upcoming digital asset markets and next one hundred trillion dollars series.

•*Nicky Okoye*
Global Investment Advisor



UBA AFRICA DAY CELEBRATION...

L–R: Deputy Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Chukwuma Nweke; Group Managing Director/CEO, Mr. Oliver Alawuba; Executive Director, Finance and Risk Management, Mr. Ugo Nwaghodoh; Deputy Managing Director, Mr. Muyiwa Akinyemi, flanked by Africa Day Best Dress Winners at the Africa Day 2025 celebration organised by Africa's global bank, held last Friday in Lagos

Alake: Tinubu's Mining Reforms Yield Six-fold Increase in Revenue, $800m Foreign Investment

Says solid minerals sector generated over N34bn revenue in 2024 as against N6bn in 2023

Deji Elumoye in Abuja

Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Mr. Dele Alake, has disclosed that Nigeria's solid minerals sector, driven by the President Bola Tinubu administration's new policy of local value addition and a tightened licensing regime, attracted over $800 million in processing projects last year.

He also stated the sector also generated over ₦8 billion in revenue in 2024, up from just ₦6 billion the previous year, despite receiving only 18% of its ₦29 billion budgeted allocation.

"When we resumed, the entire sector generated N6 billion annually. By the end of 2024, we hit N38 billion. And this was with just 18% of our N29 billion budgetary allocation released. It shows how effective our policy framework has been," Alake explained.

According to a statement issued on Sunday by presidential spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga, the minister revealed this during a feature interview for an upcoming State House documentary marking President Tinubu's second anniversary.

Alake said the sector has witnessed an increase in investor interest buoyed by the administration's mining sector reforms.

He listed the $600 million lithium processing plant near the Kaduna-Niger border, to be inaugurated this quarter, the $200 million lithium refinery on the outskirts of Abuja, nearing completion, and two additional processing plants in Nasarawa, slated for inauguration before Q3 2025.

He said: "These investments follow the administration's insistence that no miner gets a license without a clear local processing plant. The days of exporting raw minerals from pit to port are over."

According to the Minister, in the first quarter of 2025 alone, two regulatory agencies - the Mining Cadastral Office (MCO) and the Mines Inspectorate - have already recorded N6.9 billion and N7 billion in revenue, respectively.

Alake projected this year to be a record-breaking one for the sector, adding that the current budget allocated N1 trillion for mineral exploration, targeted at generating internationally certified geological data.

His words: "Exploration is key. When we came in, Nigeria had spent just $2 million on exploration, compared to $40 million in Sierra Leone, $148 million in Côte d'Ivoire, and over $300 million in South Africa. No serious investor will touch your sector without credible data.

Obi: Making Positive Impact Doesn't Require Long Stay in Governance

Harps on judicious use of public funds

Emmanuel Ugwu-Nwogo in Umuahia

The Presidential flag-bearer of the Labour Party in the 2023 general election, Mr. Peter Obi, has taken a swipe at political office holders that crave long terms in office.

He chided leaders with such mentality, asserting that it was not how long they stayed on the seat of governance that determines their level of performance, saying a leader can easily make positive impact within a short time frame.

Obi who was alluding to sit-tight syndrome and the do-or-die fight for a second-term in office by politicians bared his mind weekend at a special anniversary sabbath service held at the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Aguiyi Ironsi layout Umuahia.

The event was part of the activities lined up for the second anniversary celebration of Governor Alex Otti's administration themed - 'Two Years of Transformation: Sustaining the Momentum'.

"People have always said that they need eight years, they need 10 years, they need 20 years. But I've always said that one day can make a difference," he said.

To buttress his point, the former Anambra State Governor cited the achievements already recorded in Abia by Otti, saying that the Labour Party governor has proved that one doesn't need donkey's years to make positive impact in governance.

"We have come to celebrate two years with a difference. Everybody is seeing it in Abia. You don't need to tune to the radio. You don't need people to tell you there's a difference. And that's what we're celebrating today," Obi declared.

However, Obi regretted the absurdity of Nigeria's political clime, noting that leaders with genuine intention to make positive changes that would improve the lives of the people don't usually find things easy.

According to him, "it is difficult to govern Nigeria, especially when you want to do it right", adding that he remained committed in quest to birth a new political order in Nigeria that places service above self-glory.

The opposition leader reminded his fellow political actors that "we are just trustees" of public resources, saying what is happening in Abia shows that public funds can be used judiciously.

"Like it's happening in Abia, we want it to happen everywhere in Nigeria," Obi said, praising Governor Otti profusely for his impressive achievements within the first half of his term.

He enjoined Abia people to continue to remember their governor and members of his team him in prayers, and also "do the same thing for Nigeria.

Obi stated the prayer point should be "that God should touch all of us who are leaders; touch our hearts to use public money for public good (because) it is not our money".

Speaking at the event, Governor Alex Otti attributed all the modest achievements recorded by his administration within 2 years to God who has been inspiring and strengthening him.

Governor Otti, in his address, acknowledged divine intervention in his governorship ambition, noting that without the grace of God and his enablement, all his vision for Abia would have remained a dream.

Apparently alluding to his past failed efforts to become Abia's chief executive before 2023, Otti quoted the Holy Bible where it is written that "neither he who planted is anything, nor he who watered, but God who gave the increase".

He said: "We all have worked hard, but then you could work hard and nothing would come out of it, if God doesn't give you the increase and doesn't back you up. So, because we recognize that everything we have done is of the Lord... so we return all the thanks to him".

Alleged Tax Evasion: Osun State Government Commences Shutting Down of MTN Operations

Yinka Kolawole in Osogbo

The Ministry of Environment and Sanitation, charged with supervision of the telecommunications infrastructure under the Osun State Environmental Protection Law 2022, has commenced the shutdown of MTN operations in Osun State with two of the main offices in Oshogbo sealed.

The ministry said the decision follows the company's failure to pay N945million taxes and "ongoing efforts to mislead government representatives".

It said over the coming weeks, MTN users may be experiencing significant service disruptions within Osun State.

Speaking on the development over the weekend, Rotimi George-Taylor, on behalf of Global Transactions Nigeria Limited, the sole consultant on telecommunications infrastructure in Osun State, "expressed concerns over MTN's lack of accountability".

George-Taylor said: "I reached out for a peaceful resolution, and the Chief Technical Officer of MTN proposed a meeting within seven days.

However, this commitment was never honoured.

"When asked to produce receipts for the payment of right of way, MTN was unable to do so.

"Furthermore, several staff members of MTN are currently evading arrest following accusations against them at the Osun State Police Command".

The Ministry urges MTN to ensure that it makes all necessary payments for the telecommunications infrastructure it operates within Osun State.

The Ministry of Environment and Sanitation reiterates that MTN must comply with all regulations and pay the necessary taxes to operate in Osun State in line with section 135 of the NCC Act.

"Until they are held accountable, they don't want to fulfill their financial obligations," George-Taylor added.

"The shutdown will serve as a reminder of the importance of regulatory compliance and accountability in the telecommunications sector.

"The Ministry remains committed to ensuring that all operators adhere to the laws governing their operations, thereby fostering a fair and equitable business environment in Osun State", George -Taylor said.

The ministry attached a court order to carry out the shutdown of the MTN activities and that it has notified the State Command of the Nigeria Police and other sister security agencies in Osun State.

Gombe Govt Signs Contract for Multi-billion Naira Ultramodern Abattoir

Hands over project site to contractor

Segun Awofadeji in Gombe

The Gombe State Government has signed contract for the construction of the Gombe Ultramodern Abattoir, an innovative facility set to revolutionize the entire livestock value chain in the state.

Speaking during the official signing ceremony Weekend, the State Project Coordinator of the Gombe Livestock Productivity and Resilience Support (L-PRES) Project, Professor Usman Bello Abubakar, noted the establishment of the ultramodern abattoir stems from the vision of Governor Muhammadu Inuwa Yahaya, to reposition the livestock sector, which remains a major contributor to the state's GDP.

Professor Abubakar described the initiative as a bold step that will put an end to the long-standing traditional practice of transporting livestock under unsafe, unhygienic, and economically inefficient conditions, which have often resulted in financial losses and public health concerns.

"With this abattoir in place, Gombe will become a net exporter of meat and meat products, not only to other parts of the country, but internationally," he stated.

The contract is to be executed within nine months and covers the construction of the core physical infrastructure of the abattoir.

According to Professor Abubakar, the facility will be an automated, state-of-the-art complex comprising sections for slaughtering, processing, and hygienic packaging of meat in accordance with national and international standards.

He further disclosed that even before construction has begun, 3 internationally recognized investors have already expressed strong interest in partnering the abattoir, an indication of the project's potential to attract significant investments and catalyze economic growth in the state.

In his remarks following the contract signing, the Managing Director/CEO of Lubell Nigeria Limited, Arc. Yunusa Yakubu, expressed appreciation to the Gombe State Government and the L-PRES Project for the opportunity to contribute to the state's development.

"As an indigene of Gombe State, I am proud to give back to my state. For me, this is more than a contract; it is a civic responsibility and a personal commitment to the growth of Gombe State," he said.

Architect Yakubu pledged that the project would be executed strictly in line with the terms and conditions of the contract and delivered within the stipulated timeframe of nine months.



CONFERMENT CEREMONY...

L–R: Mrs. Mary Maudline Nwifuru; Barr. (Mrs.) Chioma Uzodimma; and Mrs. Bamidele Abiodun at the conferment of Nneoma Nwere Ugwu by the Catholic Women Organisation of the Catholic Diocese of Orlu, Imo State on Uzodimma, at the weekend

Northern CAN Decries Rampant Killings, Widespread Wreckage in Benue State

Alia condemns bloodshed in Gwer, shooting of catholic priest

John Shiklam in Kaduna and **George Okoh** in Makurdi

The Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in the 19 Northern States and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), has decried the tragic loss of innocent lives and widespread destruction of property in Benue State by criminal herdsmen.

In a statement yesterday in Kaduna, Chairman of Northern CAN, Yakubu Pam, condemned the persistent killings and urged both the federal and the state governments to take decisive action to end the killings.

"The scale and frequency of these attacks have made it nearly impossible for farmers to access their lands, while ordinary citizens live under a constant cloud of fear," he said.

Pam said that it was imperative that all available resources be deployed to address the dire security challenge, urging the governor to empower local vigilante groups, similar to the Amotekun Corps in the South-West, the Civilian Joint Task Force (JTF) in Borno, and community vigilantes in Zamfara State.

"These community-based security structures have proven effective in confronting insecurity at the grassroots level. Furthermore, we appeal to the governor to urgently seek support from the federal government and all relevant security agencies to end the killings," he added.

The statement said that without prompt and coordinated action, the lives of the citizens that the governor was elected to protect remained in grave danger.

Pam noted, "As the farming season approaches, there is growing concern over whether farmers will be able to cultivate their land. The implications for food security and economic stability in Benue State and beyond could be severe.

"We also call on the people of Benue State to remain united and work closely with security agencies to bring an end to these senseless killings. Community vigilance, cooperation, and collective resolve are essential in overcoming this crisis."

Meanwhile, Governor Hyacinth Alia of Benue State has condemned the shooting of a Catholic Priest, Solomon Atongu, by suspected herdsmen on the Makurdi-Naka road.

The governor also flayed the attacks on Tse-Orbiam and Ahume Communities in Gwer-West LGA, where scores were feared killed.

A statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Tersoo Kula, said the heinous acts, carried out just meters away from a military checkpoint was a stark reminder of the pervasive violence and lawlessness that have plagued the dilapidated Makurdi-Naka road in recent times.

The governor praised God for the life of Atongu, who although was said to be in critical condition earlier, is now stable.

He stood in solidarity with the Catholic community, particularly the Bishop and the faithful of the Makurdi Diocese, as they continue to pray for the quick recovery of the priest.

"These barbaric criminals masquerading as herders whose actions reveal a blatant disregard for human life and the sanctity of our communities; their cowardice in attacking innocent individuals, especially, our innocent natives, will not be tolerated," Alia added.

The governor reaffirmed his commitment to the safety and security of the people of Benue State, explaining that he stood resolute with the traditional institution, which has recently mandated the immediate evacuation of criminal herders and their accomplice terrorists from Benue lands.

Atiku, Obi, Amaechi, Aregbesola, Attend National Political Consultative Group Meet

Ex-Anambra gov says nation's problem can be solved from north

Jigawa delegates disrupt gathering

Chuks Okocha in Abuja

Former Vice President Atiku Abubukar, former Anambra State Governor Peter Obi, former Rivers State Governor Chibuike Amaechi, and former Governor of Osun State, Rauf Aregbesola, yesterday, attended a meeting of the National Political Consultative Group on the state of the nation.

At the meeting, which took place at Continental Hotel, Abuja, the presidential candidate of Labour Party (LP) in the 2023 general election, Obi, who had hitherto rooted for a southern president, said Nigeria's problems could be solved from the north.

Announcing the meeting, Atiku, through his X account, said, "H.E. Peter Obi and I just arrived at the Abuja Continental Hotel for the National Political Consultative Group (North) event."

A statement later by Atiku Media Office said Amaechi and Aregbesola also attended the meeting with the former vice president.

"They were among other political leaders who attended a close door dialogue with the National Political Consultative Group (North) forum at the Abuja Continental Hotel in Abuja on Sunday," the one-paragraph statement said.

Addressing a cross-section of northern leaders, Obi said northern Nigeria was the future and huge asset of the country.

He told the northerners that the issue of crimes and insecurity in the north was a consequence of poverty, adding that the region must invest in education because it is the easiest way to tackle poverty.

Obi maintained that the north had voted for religion and tribe in the past and this was the time to vote for something else – a time to consider competence and capacity.

Recalling the strength of the north in the past, Obi said as a banker, Kano was the place they came for cash, but today, all the industries in Kano were gone.

Obi also underscored the importance of trust among Nigerians in the attempt to tackle the myriad of problems troubling the country.

Making reference to some successful agrarian nations, like Bangladesh and Netherlands, Obi, who spoke amid cheers from the gathering, said northern Nigeria had more potential than all these other countries, but it lacked good governance, good policies, and implementation.

Earlier, the immediate past Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Abubakar Malami, in a keynote speech at the occasion, bemoaned the security situation in the north and said there was a need to create a platform to rescue the region

However, the meeting descended into chaos as delegates from Jigawa State disrupted the proceedings over representation.

Tension rose when former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir Lawal, announced a delegate to speak for the state.

In protest, several Jigawa delegates stormed the stage, blocking the individual from speaking and insisting they would not be represented by those named.

Okolie: Why I'm Leaving LP for APC

Omon-Julius Onabu in Asaba

House of Representatives member for Aniocha-Oshimili area of Delta State, Hon Chief Ngozi Okolie, weekend, announced his decision to resign his membership of the Labour Party (LP), saying the internal crisis rocking the LP has robbed the party of meaningful progress.

He explained that his resignation from the party, which shot him into national political prominence in 2023 as a member of the National Assembly, was neither spontaneous nor selfish but rather arrived at after due consultation with different segments of his constituency and outside it, including traditional rulers, community leaders and party members and political associates.

He admitted that the decision to abandon the LP did not go down well with some of the people in his constituency he had consulted, most of the people however threw their weight behind him.

Okolie told newsmen in Asaba that his decision to quit the LP was motivated primarily by his burning desire to serve his people and constituency better by attracting more infrastructure development to the area during the two years he has left of his four-year tenure in the National Assembly.

Okolie, who revealed that the state's political leader and governor, Sheriff Oborevwori, who has also dumped the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the APC with practically all members of the party in the state, was also in the know about his decision to resign from the LP.

The one-time member of the Delta State Executive Council under the government of Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan further denied that his personal ambition towards the 2027 general election might have pushed him out of the LP.

He said he was making move to join the APC, because the political platform could provide ample opportunity for him to achieve his desire to attract more development to his constituency by opening more doors for him to work more directly with the powers that be in Nigeria currently.

Arthur Eze: Tinubu is God's Gift to Nigeria

Lauds his leadership style, reform-driven governance, commitment to national unity

Deji Elumoye in Abuja

Chief Executive Officer of Atlas Oranto Petroleum, Arthur Eze, has described President Bola Tinubu as "God's gift to Nigeria" and praised his leadership style, reform-driven governance, and commitment to national unity.

In an upcoming State House documentary marking Tinubu's second anniversary in office, Eze, according to a release by presidential spokesperson, Bayo Onanuga, said Tinubu exemplified the bold, God-ordained leadership Nigeria needed at this pivotal moment in history.

Eze said, "God doesn't make mistakes. That man, Tinubu, was created for a purpose. God gave him the power to change lives. Tinubu has no enemies. He is a unifier. He speaks with humility and honesty; that's why we admire him."

Reflecting on his experience during the Nigerian civil war and his deep roots in the South-east, Eze stated that Tinubu had demonstrated an unprecedented commitment to inclusivity and development in the region.

He declared, "What Tinubu has done for the Southeast, nobody else has. He gave us the Minister of Works, the Minister of Science and Technology, and the South-east Development Commission. This is an opportunity for the Igbo to unite with the rest of Nigeria."

On the Renewed Hope Agenda, the 76-year-old business leader expressed confidence that Tinubu had fulfilled his promises.

He stated that the president assumed office at a time of economic fragility and political uncertainty, but he had shown the wisdom and resolve required to steer the country towards progress.

"God has given him the wisdom to change Nigeria for the good of the present and future generations," Eze said.

The oil magnate urged Nigerians to support the president for stability, growth, and future prosperity.

He said regarding Tinubu, "He's not a man of division — whether Christian or Muslim, he respects all. All he asks is that we pray to God and work together.

"May God guide Nigeria and President Tinubu. He gave him this power and will help him complete the job."



FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MADAM ALICE ADIJAT OGUNTOYINBO...

L–R: Mr. Victor Adebusoye and wife, Mrs. Modupe Adebusoye; Mr. Sylvester Idowu and wife, Mrs. Bolanle Idowu; Mr. Foluso Origbemisoye and wife, Mrs. Funmilayo Origbemisoye; Mr. Adekunle Oguntoyinbo; and Mr. Abel Oguntoyinbo, during the burial of Madam Alice Adijat Oguntoyinbo, held at Oba Akoko, Ondo State, over the weekend

Sudan Conflict: 47 Nigerian Medical Students Decry Failure to Get MDCN Registration

Say 'Our Future is at Stake'

Wale Igbintade with Agency Report

Forty seven Nigerian medical students evacuated from war-torn Sudan in May 2023 now face an uncertain future as they struggle to meet critical registration requirements for the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN) exams.

The students who fled Sudan without exit visas during the conflict, are now racing against time to sit for the June 2025 MDCN assessment, a mandatory step for medical graduates trained abroad to practice in Nigeria.

According to a report by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), the affected students were in their final year at Sudan International University (SIU) when the federal government intervened to evacuate them.

With the approval of the National Universities Commission (NUC), they completed their academic programme at Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH) in Sokoto.

One of the students told NAN: "We successfully completed our studies, graduated in 2024, and received certificates from SIU. However, when we approached MDCN for registration, we were told we must provide a first entry visa and a last exit visa documents. None of us has because our passports remained in Sudan during the emergency evacuation."

The student added: "We respectfully request permission to sit for the June 2025 exams. Our entire future is at stake."

President of the Nigerian Students Association at SIU, Najid Hassan, confirmed that the students resumed at UDUTH in December 2023 under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between SIU and UDUTH. After one year of clinical rotations, lectures, and assessments at UDUTH, they graduated in October 2024.

However, their efforts to register with MDCN have been frustrated.

Hassan explained: "We thought the process would be smooth given the exceptional circumstances, but we are now caught in a bureaucratic trap over missing visas."

MDCN, established under the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, requires foreign-trained medical graduates to present portions of their international passports showing visa and arrival/departure stamps as part of the registration process.

In a 2024 publication, MDCN Registrar Dr. Fatima Kyari reaffirmed this requirement but acknowledged the plight of students affected by conflicts in Sudan and Ukraine, offering remediation pathways.

These include returning to their foreign universities, transferring to accredited Nigerian universities with NUC approval, or integrating into Nigerian universities through NUC guidelines.

Kyari clarified that while the MoU between SIU and UDUTH was an academic collaboration, it did not qualify the students for MDCN registration under the standard process. Only students who transferred properly and graduated from MDCN-approved Nigerian universities have been fully registered.

The Federal Ministry of Education, through the Director of University Education, Hajiya Rakiya Ilyasu, advised the affected students to write formally to the Minister of Education, copying the Director of Education Support Services, to seek resolution.

IPI Flays Expulsion of Channels TV Journalists from A'Ibom Govt House

Okon Bassey in Uyo and **Wale Igbintade** in Lagos

The International Press Institute (IPI) has condemned the expulsion of a Channels Television's correspondent, Chris Moffat, and cameraman, Kufre Ikpe, from the Akwa Ibom State Government House, following orders from the state government.

IPI described the action as a blatant attack on press freedom and a violation of the 1999 Constitution.

The expulsion reportedly followed the airing of a leaked video by Channels Television, in which Governor Umo Eno confirmed his imminent defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the All Progressives Congress (APC).

In a statement jointly signed by IPI Legal Adviser and Advocacy Committee Chair, Tobi Soniyi, and the Committee's Secretary, Ochiaka Ugwu, the institute demanded the immediate recall of the expelled journalists and called on Eno to respect constitutional guarantees of press freedom.

The statement partly read: "The state government's reckless action is alarming. These journalists are experienced professionals with a deep knowledge of government affairs. No journalist should face such humiliating treatment for simply doing their job. We will continue to support impartial reportage, no matter the situation."

IPI further stated that the expulsion violates Chapter 22 of the 1999 Constitution, which mandates the press to hold the government accountable.

Expressing disappointment in Eno's conduct, IPI said: "It is especially distressing that Governor Umo Eno, previously considered media-friendly, could act in such an anti-democratic manner. Independent journalism, press freedom, and unbiased reporting are the lifeblood of democracy."

IPI warned that failure to reverse the expulsion would only worsen the embarrassment caused by the incident.

Sources within the Akwa Ibom Government House confirmed that the journalists' expulsion was directly linked to the viral video aired by Channels Television over the weekend.

In the video, the governor, addressing members of his cabinet, stated: "It's no longer news that I am moving. If you don't know, I don't know what else you know. I am told some of you are saying you won't come. You are free, absolutely free not to join me, but you won't remain in my cabinet.

"Be prepared to resign the day I announce I'm moving. You are an appointee, and your loyalty is to me. You can't be in my cabinet and play anti-party. It's not a threat; it's a fact. I won't beg you to come; I shouldn't have to."

While Channels Television correspondent, Moffat could not be reached for comment, a Government House source, speaking anonymously, confirmed the incident.

House Greets OrderPaper on Brand Evolution, Pledges Legislative Accountability

Emmanuel Addeh in Abuja

The House of Representatives yesterday congratulated OrderPaper Nigeria, one of Africa's foremost independent parliamentary monitoring organisations, on its recent brand evolution and strengthened commitment to advancing legislative accountability, civic engagement, and good governance.

For nearly a decade, it said OrderPaper, under the leadership of its Founder, Oke Epia, has played a pivotal role in spotlighting the National Assembly, particularly the House of Representatives, through data-driven insights, policy analysis, and comprehensive coverage of legislative activities.

In a statement by the spokesman, House of Representatives, Akin Rotimi (Jr), the House stated that it recognises OrderPaper as a valued partner in fostering transparency, enhancing public participation, and bridging the gap between parliament, policy, and the people.

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Abbas Tajudeen, remarked: "We welcome and applaud the brand evolution of OrderPaper Nigeria as a forward-thinking institution contributing to the growth of our democracy. The 10th House values principled civic engagement and affirms its commitment to transparency, inclusion, and excellence in lawmaking.

"We believe in building strong democratic institutions, and partners like OrderPaper play a vital role in strengthening the social contract between the people and their parliament."

The House of Representatives also welcomed the unveiling of a new identity for OrderPaper's media arm (www.parliamentreports.com), a dedicated platform providing legislative intelligence, policy analysis, data-driven insights, and extensive coverage of Nigeria's national and state assemblies.

"As the organisation embarks on this new chapter with a refreshed identity, the House commends its innovative initiatives, including Scorecard Nigeria and the Most Valuable Parliamentarian (MVP) Hall of Fame, which continue to set new standards for legislative accountability in Nigeria.

"The 10th Assembly, House of Representatives, particularly through the Committee on Media and Public Affairs, remains steadfast in its commitment to legislative excellence and welcomes partnerships with media and civil society organisations that promote responsible governance, informed policymaking, and active citizen engagement," the statement added.

Alia Debunks News of His Defection to ADC

George Okoh in Makurdi

Benue State Governor, Hyacinth Alia, has debunked reports that he was planning to defect from the All Progressives Congress (APC) to the African Democratic Congress (ADC).

In a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Sir Tersoo Kula, the governor described the report as "fake news" and a product of "yellow journalism," adding that he had no intention of leaving the party under which he was elected.

His words: "We read online wherein they alleged that Governor Hyacinth Alia is plotting to leave the APC amidst the brewing crisis in the Benue APC. For the unsuspecting public, the story is not true and is typical of the yellow journalism practices by some online newspapers.

"At a time opposition governors are joining the APC due to the policies and performance of the party under President Tinubu, it is laughable for anyone to suggest the governor is contemplating defection from the party he is sponsoring in Benue."

The statement also denied any crisis within the APC in Benue State, asserting that the party under the leadership of Benjamin Omale, maintained a cordial and effective working relationship with the governor.

"The APC leadership in the state is in no crisis. The party has been performing its functions effectively at both state and national levels, as witnessed during the recent APC Summit in Abuja," the statement added.

Some online media report had claimed that the governor was on the verge of joining the ADC, following a rift with his political godfather, Senator George Akume.

ANYANWU POSTPONES PDP NEC AFTER WIKE PULLED OUT OF AGREEMENT WITH GOVS

Chairman (North-central) to lead the zone into future political contests.

The election was widely acknowledged as peaceful and transparent.

Most of the new executives emerged unopposed in the exercise conducted in full compliance with the provisions of the Electoral Act, with voting and counting duly observed in all positions.

Other newly elected officials included Orogu Francis (Zonal Secretary) and Ndagana Alhasan (Zonal Youth Leader).

Held at Langfield Leisure Park, Jos, the congress attracted key stakeholders of the party from across the North-central region, including former senate presidents, past and serving governors, national and state assembly members, former ministers, and other party bigwigs.

In his acceptance speech, Abdulrahman expressed gratitude for the confidence reposed in him and pledged to reposition the party for greater electoral success in the North-central zone.

He described the zone as a stronghold of the party and called on members to rally behind the new leadership to return the party to winning ways.

Plateau State Governor, Caleb Mutfwang, while congratulating the newly elected executives, charged them to immediately set to work and unite the party across the zone.

Mutfwang stated, "Today's congress was peaceful and successful. It clearly shows that the PDP in the North-central is alive and vibrant. We have shown that we are peace-loving, united, and committed to the ideals of the party.

"To those who stepped down in the spirit of party unity, your sacrifices will not be forgotten. I urge the newly elected executive to hit the ground running, reconcile differences, and build a strong, united front ahead of the 2027 elections.

"Be assured of our continuous support in nurturing the party to meet the aspirations of Nigerians."

NEWS



NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR WOMEN TOWN PLANNERS…
L-R:Outgoing Chairperson, Association of Women Town Planners Association of Nigeria, Lagos State Chapter, Ajose Victoria Taiwo ; current Vice Chairperson, Agamah Franca, and new Chairperson, Yemisi Alaka, at the investiture of Alaka in Lagos…recently

Catholic Priest Shot, Others Abducted by Suspected Herdsmen in Benue

George Okoh in Makurdi

Suspected herdsmen at the weekend shot a Catholic priest, Rev Fr. Solomom Atongo, on the volatile Makudi-Naka road in Benue State.

A statement issued by Rev. Joseph Beba, the chairman, Diocesan Priests, revealed that Rev. Atongo was shot on Makurdi-Naka road on his way from Naka, headquarters of Gwer West Local Government Area.

The victim is the priest in charge of St Johns Quasi Parish, Jimba.

Atongo was said to be in critical condition as he was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment.

The Makurdi-Naka road has become the epicentre of herdsmen violence in the past two years.

The road has been abandoned due to the activities of hoodlums who kidnap and kill people on the road.

Fr. Atongo was in the company of two people when the hoodlums struck.

After shooting the priest and was left for dead, the herders kidnapped the other persons to an unknown destination.

Meanwhile the Catholic Bishop of Makurdi, Reverend Father Wilfred Anagbe, has called on Catholics in the state to pray for the quick freedom of Fr. Atongo who is in a critical condition in the hospital.

He asked Christians to unite in prayers for the priest.

It will be recalled that the bishop and priest of the diocese have allegedly been under threat since the bishop made a presentation to the United State Congress in the US over the killings of innocent Christians in Nigeria and in particularly Benue State.

Ekiti Communities Endorse Oyebanji for Second Term

Gbenga Sodeinde in Ado Ekiti

Ahead of the 2026 governorship election in Ekiti State, the Ekiti West constituency two comprising Okemesi and Ido-Ile communities has unanimously endorsed Governor Biodun Oyebanji for second term in office.

The governor's endorsement was made known in a communique released after the meeting of leaders of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the state Constituency held at Ido-Ile.

According to the communique, a former Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Wale Fapohunda, SAN moved the motion for the adoption of the resolutions while the Chief Press Secretary/Special Adviser, Mr. Yinka Olabode, seconded the motion.

The communique was signed by Member, representing Ekiti West Constituency 2 in the Ekiti State House of Assembly, Hon. Johnson Oyekola Bode-Adeoye ; Chairman, Ekiti West Constituency 2, Chief Ilesanmi Ajibade; Secretary, Ekiti West Constituency 2, Mr. Sunday Adegbaye and the Chairman, Communique Drafting Committee, Dr. Tai Oguntayo

The leaders explained that the administration of Governor Oyebanji in two and half years has positively impacted on lives of the people across the 16 Local Government Areas of the state especially in the constituency.

Specifically, the leaders acknowledged the governor's developmental projects in the two communities including road infrastructures, human capital development, health and agriculture.

Rotary District 9111 Organises Conference

Rotary International District 9111 is set to hold its pioneer District Conference (DISCON) between May 29 and June 1, 2025, at Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library (OOPL) in Kuto, Abeokuta.

The District Governor Rotary District 9111, Dr. Wole Kukoyi, in a statement, disclosed that the district conference is tagged: "Irresistible district conference 2025" and will involve inspiring sessions, insightful discussions, and provides networking opportunities with leaders from Nigeria and abroad.

Kukoyi added that: "The DISCON will start with royal visits to HRM Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo (111), the Alake and Paramount Ruler of Egbaland and a past President of Rotary Club of Ikeja-South; and HRM Oba Dr. Adedapo Tejuoso (Karunwi 111) the Osile of Oke-Ona Egba and past District Governor Rotary District 9110.

The Chairman DISCON Committee past assistant Governor, Busola Satuyi, added that a novelty football match between Rotary District 9111 and Lion District 404 – A3 will take place at Afro Grammar School Stadium, Ita-eko, Abeokuta, to be followed by all-white Welcome Party at Kesington Hall, Abeokuta Sports Club, Oke-Ilewo, Abeokuta.

The Governor of Ogun State, Mr. Dapo Abiodun, will declare open the DISCON on May 30, 2025, while the state Deputy Governor, Noimot Salako- Oyedele, will deliver the keynote address, and the Managing Director of Financial Institutions Training Centre (FITC), Dr. Chizor Malize, will deliver the presentation on the topic: 'Guidance of Integrity, Strengthening Complaint in NGOs to Combat Fraud and Money Laundering'.

Man Arrested At Minna Hajj Camp for Trafficking in Hard Currency

Laleye Dipo in Minna

A 27-year-old man, Nda Baba Mohammed, has been arrested at the Minna, Niger State Hajj camp for allegedly trafficking in hard currency.

Mohammed was arrested with 40,000 CFA Franc which the police now described as "fake".

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Superintendent of Police Wasiu Abiodun, said preliminary investigations had revealed that the hard currency was stolen from the residence of one Mohammed of Kwara State where the suspects had gone to help with farm work.

"The suspect is in custody and further investigation is being conducted to ascertain the origin of the said currencies, after which he will be charged to court for prosecution," Abiodun said.

The police, according to Abiodun, had also arrested a suspect for being in possession of locally fabricated pistol loaded with one ammunition of 7.62mm.

In addition, the suspect who wore four layers of shirts to conceal the pistol and was in a tricycle with two others, was arrested at the Imrat junction in Bosso near Minna en route Maikunkele during a stop and search operation.

Apart from the locally fabricated pistol the suspect had on him during his arrest, one charm jacket, other charms, one knife, and one hundred and forty-one thousand naira were found on him.

Activist Berates Aregbesola for Betraying President Tinubu

Yinka Kolawole in Osogbo

A human right activist, Comrade Olushola Matthew, yesterday said that the immediate past Minister of Interior Engr. Rauf Aregbesola rise in Nigerian politics was not self-made but with the maximum support from President Bola Ahmed Tinubu.

Comrade Matthew in an open letter to Aregbesola, titled, A Tale of Betrayer and Broken Loyalty, dated May 24, 2025 and made available to THISDAY in Osogbo, stressed that "the story of your political relevance cannot be told without one name Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu , the man you now undermine with calculated silence and tacit approval of those who publicly mock him."

According to him, "You were not just another Commissioner in Lagos. Tinubu made you the most powerful Commissioner in his administration as the Lagos State Government —handing you a super portfolio that gave you influence far beyond your title. You were his political lieutenant, his trusted hand, his go-to strategist when the politics of Lagos demanded clarity, courage, and creativity."

"The same man who exported you from Lagos to Osun, even after you left Lagos, he didn't cut you off. On the contrary, Tinubu placed you at the heart of the Osun political struggle. He fought tooth and nail, risking his entire political capital to see you installed as governor —twice."

Oborevwori Flags Off Insecticidal Sleeping Nets Distribution in Delta

Omon-Julius Onabu in Asaba

Governor Sheriff Oborevwori has stressed the need for all citizens to key into efforts by both government and private organisations towards the elimination of the malaria scourge, which has continued to pose a serious health challenge and avoidable fatalities in Nigeria.

The governor stated in Asaba during the launch of the Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITN) Replacement Mass Distribution Campaign in Delta State, aimed at reducing the prevalence of malaria across the state, through reduction of the bite of mosquito, the vector of the malaria parasite.

The Deputy Chief of Staff, Government House, Sir Christopher Osakwe, delivered the governor's address on behalf of the Deputy Governor, Sir Monday Onyeme, who represented Governor Oborevwori at the event attended many anti-malaria campaign partners.

The insecticidal nets distribution campaign is a major step in ongoing efforts to successfully cripple malaria and its spread, thereby adding value to public healthcare programme in the state, the governor observed.

According to him, his administration has also demonstrated its commitment to the improved public health in the M.O.R.E Agenda, a development blueprint that places premium on consolidation, continuity, and improved healthcare delivery.

AISA Embraces Indigenous Solution to Promote Language, Cultural Diversity

James Emejo in Abuja

The American International School of Abuja (AISA) has partnered with Izesan!, a groundbreaking Nigerian e-learning platform to promote mother tongue languages and cultural appreciation among students while bridging global education with local identity.

The platform is a pioneering e-learning solution dedicated to teaching African indigenous languages through engaging, technology-driven methods.

With courses in 14 languages, the technology combines games, stories, and animated lessons to make learning feel natural and immersive for students.

Designed for individuals, schools, and businesses, Izesan!, is committed to preserving linguistic heritage while empowering learners with practical communication skills.

Speaking on the partnership, Head of School at AISA, Mr. Greg Hughes, in a statement, expressed his enthusiasm for the solution.

He said: "I'm excited not only to support a Nigerian company in the education sector but also to increase exposure for both expatriate and Nigerian students to the wonders this country has to offer."

"It's an honour and a privilege to work in such a beautiful country. Beyond providing outstanding education, we are always looking for ways to celebrate our host nation and embrace all things Nigerian.

"At AISA, we believe that language is a bridge to identity and community," said Mr. Hughes.

Dyna.Ai, PalmPay Partner to Accelerate AI Adoption in Finance Sector

Dyna.Ai and PalmPay yesterday announced a strategic partnership that aims to transform Nigeria's financial industry through the power of AI. The partnership was announced during a private launch event hosted by Dyna. Ai at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Lagos.

The announcement ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, including Mr. Tokoni Peter Igoin, Special Assistant to the President on ICT Development and Digital Innovation, and Dr. JameelahAyedun, Vice President, Fintech Association of Nigeria, among others.

The Chairman and Co-Founder of Dyna.Ai, Tomas Skoumal, said: "We are excited to join hands with major local players like PalmPay in a transformative time like this. "Transforming the Nigerian finance industry is never a one-party job. It requires collective effort from ecosystem players and support from the local government – all working towards a shared vision to effectively bridge the gap between market demands and the pace of digitalization. Dyna. Ai is proud to join forces with PalmPay in Nigeria, delivering state-of-the-art AI solutions to boost their initiatives aimed at meeting the country's evolving digital needs."

NEWS XTRA

SAN: End 'Trial Within Trial', Systemic Injustice

Wale Igbintade

A Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), Dr. Charles Mekwunye, has made a compelling case for the Nigerian judiciary to discard the outdated practice of 'trial within trial' when deciding the admissibility of confessional statements.

He argued that the law has moved on and the courts must follow.

Speaking at the public presentation of the book 'Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, CJN, GCON: Through the Cases', co-authored with Ayo Olanrewaju, Mekwunye warned that the continued use of the common law procedure undermines statutory reforms and perpetuates injustice, especially for the poor and unrepresented.

"The law of confession in Nigeria has changed," he declared, adding that: "Sections 15 and 17 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015 now require that confessions must be recorded electronically or made in the presence of a lawyer. Anything short of that is inadmissible."

Mekwunye criticised lower courts for ignoring both legislation and binding appellate decisions, including the Supreme Court's judgment in Charles v. People of Lagos State (2023) and the Court of Appeal's ruling in Zhiya v. People of Lagos State (2016).

"Trial within trial has become a weapon of delay and injustice. It's time we put it to rest," he said.

He described the continued use of trial within trial as a systemic failure that disproportionately harms the vulnerable.

"We are throwing helpless Nigerians into prison based on confessions beaten out of them.

'73.2% of Kwara Pensioners Yet to Register for KWSRRA'

Hammed Shittu in Ilorin

Kwara State Government at the weekend said at least 73.2 percent of state pensioners have not registered with the Kwara State Resident Registration Agency (KWSRRA) in spite of the government's nearly one year advocacy for them to enroll.

Also, the government said that it has approved the upward review of monthly pension by N10,000 across board for all pensioners in the state.

The state Commissioner for Finance, Dr. Hauwa Nuru, stated this in Ilorin in a statement that: "We have been on this campaign for nearly one year. Kwara State started almost a year ago.

"The government has given enough windows for all workers and pensioners to enroll.

"Now, we are left with no other option than to pay only those whose details we can verify in line with our commitment to further clean the payroll and free up resources."

Nuru added that the government has discovered some disturbing evidence of payroll fraud perpetrated by a cartel, saying this has been reported to the police for further investigation and prosecution of the suspects.

This cartel, according to her, "is deploying every trick to frustrate the KWSRRA process and the verification of authentic workers and pensioners. We are getting them."

Meanwhile, the government has approved the upward review of monthly pension by N10, 000 across board for all pensioners in the state.

Landers Properties, Adozillion Homes Partners on Echelon Apartment in Ibeju-Lekki

Michael Olugbode in Abuja

The federal government's housing policy has received a boost as Landers Properties and Adozillion Homes have announced a joint partnership to deliver Echelon Apartment, a new residential development in Awoyaya, Ibeju-Lekki corridor of Lagos State.

The initiative is aimed at addressing Nigeria's housing deficit and drive inclusive urban development in the Ibeju-Lekki economic corridor.

Speaking at a stakeholders' engagement meeting at the weekend, the Managing Director/CEO of Landers Properties, David Osekhuemen, said the project is a direct response to the federal government's call for private sector participation in solving Nigeria's national housing challenges.

He said: "We are creating quality housing stock in proximity to the Lekki Deep Seaport and Free Trade Zone. With this project, we are not only providing homes, we are supporting the broader economic transformation envisioned for this corridor."

He noted that the Echelon Apartment development along the Lekki-Epe expressway offers flexible payment options with initial deposits starting at N10 million spread over 12 months.

According to Osekhuemen, the partnership with Adozillion Homes goes beyond profit but a direct contribution to Nigeria's housing policy goals, stating that: "Our partnership with Adozillion Homes allows us to provide high-quality, dignified housing in a region that is important to the future of Lagos."

He explained that Adozillion Homes has delivered more than 100 housing units in the past three years, with a track record of delivering projects on time and within budget.

Grange School Pupils Donate to Special Need Children in Lagos

Segun James

Pupils of the Grange School in GRA, Ikeja, Lagos, have as part of their 'No Poverty Social Responsibility' donated materials worth hundreds of thousands of naira to two schools for special needs children in Lagos.

The schools located in Yaba, Lagos, are two of the few schools charge with training children living with disabilities and cerebral palsy in the state.

The Grange pupils, led by their teachers, Funlayo Opadoyin and Aniefiok Akpan, donated deep freezer, noodles, bags of rice, clothes and drinks among others.

Opadoyin said the donation is part of the children's initiative to donate to the less privilege in society, especially those with special needs and care.

Receiving the donation, Mrs. Toyin Jayesinmi disclosed that the Magnificent School for Children with Special Need is home to children and adult from two years to 42 years old.

Jayesinmi said most of the inmates at the school are persons who cannot take care of themselves because they will require lifelong special care.

Also, the Director of Out-of-School Children Empowerment Foundation (OSCEF), which is charged with catering for children with cerebral palsy, Mr. Akeem Kilani, disclosed that besides children with special needs, over 18 million children are out of school nationwide, adding that it is donation such as those from the Grange School that is helping such children across the nation.

Kilani urged well-meaning individuals and organisations to emulate the gesture of the children, saying what they have donated will go a long way to sustain the children.

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NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS, CREDITORS & SHAREHOLDERS OF DEFUNCT PEARL MFB (IN-LIQUIDATION)

The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), the Official Liquidator of the underlisted defunct bank (in-liquidation), is in the process of paying liquidation dividends to the defunct bank's Depositors, Creditors and Shareholders;

S/N	BANK	STAKEHOLDER	REMARK
1.	PEARL MICROFINANCE BANK (IN-LIQUIDATION)	DEPOSITORS, CREDITORS & SHAREHOLDERS	1ST LIQUIDATION DIVIDEND

We therefore advise that all eligible stakeholders of the defunct bank to either meet NDIC officials in any of the underlisted NDIC Offices or visit NDIC Website on www.ndic.gov.ng for the verification of their claims from **Monday, 26th May, 2025 to Friday, 4th July, 2025.**

S/N	OFFICE	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.
1	Lagos Office	23 A, MARINA, LAGOS. P.M.B. 12881, LAGOS	09037273810 09038197064
			08109313326 08104220807 09064657140
2	Enugu Zonal Office	No. 10, Our Lord's Street, Independence Layout, Enugu	08065996819
3	Benin	28A/28B, Benoni Hospital Road, Off Airport Road, GRA, Benin City, Edo State	08023124220
4	Kano	Plot 458, Muhammad Muhammad Avenue,, Off Maiduguri Road, Hotoro, GRA, Kano	08133151192
5	Ilorin	No. 23B, Ahmadu Bello Way, GRA, Ilorin.	08023073975
6	Bauchi	Plot No. 3, Bank Road, P.M.B. 0207, Bauchi	09127343434
7	Sokoto	No. 2, Gusau Road, Opp. NNPC Mega Station, Sokoto.	08033142546 09077367736 08033468446
8	Yola	No. 6, Numan Road, P.M.B. 2227, Jimeta, Yola, Adamawa State.	08067910599 08067923383 09-4601515 09-4601516
9	Port Harcourt	No. 104, Woji Road, Off Olu Obasanjo Road, GRA, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.	08054663230
10	Head Office Abuja	Head, Bank Examination Unit (BEU), NDIC, Abuja, 32 Anthony Enahoro Street Utako, Abuja	09-4601260 09-4601261
11	Owerri	No. 56, Area A, World bank Area, New Owerri Landmark, Behind Immaculate Hotel, opp. Fidelity Bank. Owerri, Imo State.	09135137677
12	Abeokuta	No. 1, Oshele Road, Ibara GRA, Abeokuta, Ogun State.	08033137255

Director, Claims Resolution Department
Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation
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BACKPAGE CONTINUATION

TRY MAHAMA'S CODE IN NIGERIA

you expect again? He must recoup his losses and he must grease the palms of godfathers, especially since the next election is already on the horizon.

The second Ghanaian code stipulates that every public officer must "Place the national interest above personal interests." National interest, for where? How does "constituency projects" of legislators, the biggest hole in the Nigerian Federal treasury amounting to over six trillion naira in the current budget, square with this code? All the bills that MPs are sponsoring to establish new universities and polytechnics in their constituencies, without an overall national plan as we once had in our National Development Plans, is that national interest or an election survival interest?

The Ghanaian code also states that all public officers must "Avoid misuse of office or state resources." This is a tricky one. What is, in Nigeria here, the dividing line between use and misuse of state resources? Let us begin from official vehicles. Forty years ago in Nigeria, it was considered abuse of office if a public officer keeps an official vehicle in his house after working hours. If I remember right, the first hole punched in that ethical standard was a declaration by Secretaries to State Governments when they met at the Yankari Game Reserve in 1981. They declared that "a governor has no private life." In other words, a governor [and, soon, his commissioners as well] could use government vehicles and other resources for anything at all. It soon led to awkward situations where a governor spent huge public funds for a burial. When newsmen asked him if it was not abuse of office, he said, "The food that was provided at the funeral ceremony, who ate it? Was it not the people of this state?"

Mahama's code also prescribes that a public officer must "Declare and manage any potential conflicts of interest." He is not serious. You mean, if a minister or a governor wants to award a contract to a friend, kinsman or girlfriend, he should come to the President's office and say so? Up until the 1970s here in Nigeria, contracts were awarded by Tenders Boards through competitive bidding. That system has completely collapsed now. A powerful public officer will promise to award a contract to you, which he couldn't do in the 1960s and 1970s because you had to scale through the rigorous tenders' system. Anyway, remember the Nigerian minister who was accused at a press conference of awarding contracts to his friends? He said, "Those who are saying that I award contracts only to my friends, I pray to God to make them ministers so that they will award contracts to their enemies." Finish!

Even saying a public officer should come and declare his personal interest in a contract, to who? If you go to Presidency bigwigs and say you came to confess personal interest in an upcoming contract award, will they not hijack it for themselves? All the agencies that have the power of oversight, the parliamentary committees, the anti-corruption agencies and the Federal Character Commission, don't many of their officials demand a cut in the action? If not, why is it that agency heads get away with too many infractions?

The next item in President Mahama's code states that public officers must "Eschew opulence and be accountable for the use of public funds." Very good. Those huge bullet-proof jeeps recently acquired by the Presidency, are they for presidential security or do they qualify as opulence? You may argue that the Oga Kpatakpata must be protected from mobs, bandits and deranged gunmen, but is that to say that other citizens should be free for target practice by gunmen, terrorists and bandits? What about the N160 million apiece vehicles for MPs and some even bigger ones for ministers? Are they also Assistant Commanders-in-Chief so that, like the president, the country will suffer a national trauma if something happens to any of them? What about the use of official planes by family members of public officers, including a president's daughter who travelled in a presidential jet to go and take photographs at a hastily arranged durbar as part of her school project work?

Even the food that top officials now eat out of the public treasury, is a recent invention. Alhaji Idris Koko, who was Principal Private Secretary to Sir Kashim Ibrahim, Governor of Northern Nigeria in the First Republic, said he had a small provision to entertain guests when the governor was on tour because, by protocol, the Governor is the host wherever he went in the region. Otherwise, he said, there was no provision for food in the Government House budget; "the Governor fed himself and his family from his salary." It reminds me of what Chief Augustus Adebayo wrote in his biography I Am Directed, about the reception his home community held for him in 1972 when he was appointed Secretary to the Military Government [SMG] of Western State. The excited Master of Ceremony told the village community that this new position their son got, was so powerful that he "did not even have to touch his salary." Mr. Adebayo, a civil servant of the old school, stood up, grabbed the mike and said what the MC said was not true!

The next item in Mr. Mahama's code is that public servants must "Demonstrate humility in service, measured language and respect for citizens." Humility? When a public officer charges through the town in a long motorcade, showcasing the latest German-made jeeps and limousine, wearing the most flamboyant dress and riding in expensive private jets, which humility again, even when his subjects ride in overcrowded molues, too many of them move around on foot [footwagon, as today's youngsters call it] and organize lavish state parties to celebrate every Tom, Dick and Harry occasion? Measured language? Was it not here in Nigeria that someone said telephones are not for the poor, that citizens are not yet eating in dustbins, and that villages should be cleared from the flight path so that people inside descending aircraft should not be treated to eyesores? Which respect for citizens, when any sick, elderly or physically challenged citizen who is unable to get out of the way fast enough could be crushed by a speeding motorcade or at least whipped by mobile policemen who brandish whips through the pilot car's window?

Mahama's code has specific prohibitions include holding stakes in companies that deal with Government or relevant ministries, using insider knowledge for personal benefit, and awarding contracts to connected entities. Ok, we are supposed to have a Code of Conduct Bureau to which public officers must declare their assets upon assumption and vacating of office. But since this is done secretly, how do we ever know which public officer has a stake in a company that wins government contracts? Mahama's code also prohibits appointees from accepting gifts or favours, particularly from individuals or companies with interests in governmental decisions. Tell that to the birds. Even the US President recently accepted the gift of a luxury Boeing 747 plane from the Emir of Qatar. Twenty-five years ago when US President Bill Clinton visited Kwali in the FCT here, the Chief gifted him a white stallion. Clinton pretended to gratefully accept it but the day after he left, the US Embassy in Abuja returned the horse, saying American officials do not accept gifts above a certain value. Now that American Presidents accept jumbo jets, who is Mahama to tell our public officials not to accept gold watches, latest iPhones, Hajj seats, cars and even houses from contractors and consultants?

Mahama's code said "Gifts received during official engagements exceeding GH¢20,000.00 must be declared and surrendered upon leaving office unless otherwise permitted by the President. Purchasing and distributing hampers using government funds is generally prohibited, with limited exceptions for modest staff recognition." In Nigeria here, we sometimes overdo things. The Obasanjo Presidency stopped ministries and government agencies from printing calendars and diaries or even placing congratulatory ads in newspapers. That measure severely affected local printers and newspapers. The Prime Minister of Israel is right now on trial for accepting gifts, reason why he does not want to end the war in Gaza.

To show that he is serious, President Mahama seized two vehicles that a car company gave to his Chief of Staff, Julius Debrah, and said they should be added to the Government vehicle pool. He is not serious. If we seize all such cars here, which field in Nigeria will be able to hold them?

GATEKEEPERS OR SPECTATORS? N'ASSEMBLY'S TWO-YEAR PERFORMANCE GAP

the 2025 Finance Bill—an instrument that will decide whether families stay afloat or sink—featured more cabinet ministers than civil society witnesses. The optics are unmistakable: the legislature has abandoned its role and now promoting the agenda of the executive . The National Assembly held just two stand-alone debates on monetary or fiscal strategy and rubber-stamped the record-sized 2025 budget in 31 sitting hours—barely one-third the time the 8th Assembly devoted to the smaller 2016 estimates.

Where the economy goes, social misery follows. Nigerians now speak of poverty, food prices, banditry, kidnappings and unemployment as if they were the weather—inescapable, ever-present, uncaring. One might expect a flurry of poverty-reduction bills, police reform blueprints, or social welfare overhauls. Instead, the Order Paper remains eerily devoid of landmark initiatives. The lone poverty-relief measure that did clear both chambers has been trapped in the harmonisation mill for half a year, gathering dust while food queues at all gatherings lengthen.

Public sentiment is matching the numbers. Citizens have noticed. A media sentiment scan across 18 dailies found a 72-per cent negative slant toward the Assembly this year. The latest Afrobarometer country brief finds that only 19 % of Nigerians trust National Assembly "somewhat" or "a lot," a figure lower than the police and barely above political parties. In an era when Instagram comedians draw bigger live audiences than oversight hearings, that statistic feels less like survey data and more like lived reality.

When the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre(PLAC) set out to gauge public faith in National Assembly, its findings were bleak: confidence in the National Assembly hovered near rock bottom. Wanting to test whether that verdict was an outlier or a mirror, I sifted through months of news coverage and then spoke, quietly and without a script, to two hundred Nigerians spread across markets, campuses and motor parks. Their verdict echoed PLAC's numbers—distrust has hardened into something close to resignation. The Speaker of the HOR, writing in the Guardian, conceded that Parliament must "earn back the people's faith." It takes no political genius to decode that sentence: the legislature's legitimacy is in free fall, and even its highest officers can feel the rush of air.

Why the distance? Many civil society voices point to the Electoral Reform Bill, which should sit at the heart of any democracy worth the name. Instead, it idles on committee desks, adjourned and re-adjourned while more photogenic bills leapfrog it on the order paper. Electoral rules shape everything else—how leaders are chosen, how accountable they feel, and how national resources are shared. Treat that foundation lightly, and the cracks spread into every social and economic wall we're trying to shore up. Until lawmakers urgently confront that truth, the trust deficit they bemoan will only widen.

Another reason for that collapse is the anaemic quality of debate. Plenary sittings open without forming a quorum. Though you have 100 per cent attendance on the register, the Senate hardly witnesses more than 40 persons on the floor. The House of Representatives (HOR) is worse; not more than 50 members are out of 360 on a good day. Bills often sprint through first and second readings in minutes. Committee rooms—those sweatshops of legislative business —registered a mere 14 investigative hearings in two years, compared with 61 during the equivalent stretch of the 8th Assembly, confirming that the watchdog's bark now registers as a whimper. Civil society groups invited to testify say draft bills sometimes arrive the night before or not at all. Oversight this thin cannot scarify an errant minister, let alone a recalcitrant bureaucracy.

Institutional reform, loudly trumpeted on inauguration day, has suffered the same fate. The presiding officers promised digital voting boards, live attendance logs, televised committee sittings and a root-and-branch rewrite of the standing orders. Two years later, the boards are dark, the logs are unpublished, the cameras are absent, and the rulebook is "with consultants." Promises postponed are promises broken. Misuse of voice voting for a serious national issue, such as declaring a state of emergency in Rivers state, screams of a National Assembly ready to sell its soul for the "porridge" of the Executive.

And then there is money—the ₦6.9 trillion worth of projects smuggled into the 2025 budget, spanning a staggering 11,122 individual schemes. There is no need assessments, community consultations, or GPS-tagged disclosure of location —just pork-barrel politics on a scale large enough to feed an ark. This total legislative add-on is above the combined capital votes of health and education. Just imagine that!

Civil society trackers can find locations for barely a quarter of the projects, procurement portals list even fewer contractors. The optics feed a perception of "Legis-looting" so potent that 21 citizens have already sued the presiding officers for budget opacity, while anti-graft agencies circle but have yet to pounce.

Patterns emerge: a recycling culture that dilutes policy innovation; deference to the Executive that hollows out checks and balances; token oversight that lets scandals slip through the net; opaque spending that deepens the conviction that everyone under the dome is on the take. Each pathology feeds the next like cogs in a depressing machine.

What to do? Borrow, yes—but not mindlessly—from the United States. The National Institute for Legislative Studies could design a Nigerian Legislative Effectiveness Index in concert with civil society and the media, weighting originality, cross-party sponsorship, committee diligence and real-world impact. Every bill should face a "rigour filter" before the second reading: a clear problem statement, a fiscal note, and evidence of stakeholder consultation.

Constituency projects could be forced into the sunlight by a public, geo-tagged dashboard that lets citizens upload smartphone photos of progress—or the lack thereof. Committees deserve independent counsel, research budgets and minority-party chairs for at least 30 per cent of probes, reversing the rubber-stamp culture. And National Assembly must anchor quarterly, nationally televised debates on the economy, timed to the budget cycle, forcing lawmakers either to defend fiscal choices or fold under the klieg lights.

None of this is utopian. All of it is achievable. The 10th National Assembly is not the laziest in purely numerical terms—thousands of bills tell that story—but by any honest qualitative yardstick, it is the least consequential in a decade. Nigeria's cascading crises require a legislature that legislates, scrutinises and inspires confidence. The good news is that redemption is still possible; the bad news is that the window is shrinking by the week. Citizens have started counting the seconds aloud. Whether lawmakers can still convert this chorus of disillusion into a spur for reform will decide not only the legacy of the 10th Assembly but also, in part, the trajectory of Nigeria's fragile democracy.

Two years remain. That is enough time to pivot from legislative theatre to legislative therapy: subject every new bill to rigorous stakeholder input , schedule quarterly macro-economy debates that cannot be waived; and adopt a Nigerian-tailored Legislative Effectiveness Index data. These and not outrage should drive the end-term review. Until such reforms take root, the 10th National Assembly's legacy risks being summed up in one brutal statistic—nineteen per cent.

MONDAYSPORTS

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Awoniyi, Aina's Forest Miss out of Champions League as Chelsea Pick Fourth Ticket

PREMIER LEAGUE

Duro Ikhazuagbe

Nigerian duo of Taiwo Awoniyi and Ola Aina along with their Nottingham Forest teammates missed out of next season's UEFA Champions League following

Levi Colwill's lone-goal winner which clinched Chelsea's place in Europe's topmost club competition.

The Blues secured the ticket with a fourth place finish on the last day of the 2024/2025 English Premier season while Forest placed seventh.

While Ola Aina was in action for the better part of the game before he was substituted, Awoniyi was not listed for the final day clash. He's yet to return to action following the surgery he went through for that fatal collision with goalpost.

Despite missing out of the Champions League, Nottingham Forest who sat in the top four for large parts of the season, it was a good season for them.

They will now play in the Europa Conference League, three years after returning to the top flight after a 23-year absence.

Chelsea's Levi Colwill's second-half strike meant Enzo Maresca's side finished fourth in the Premier League and ended Forest's own hopes of returning to Europe's top table.

Chelsea can prepare for the Champions League - a goal which was expected and demanded - with Maresca confirming their transfer targets depended on which competition they are in next season.

The victory also gave Chelsea the perfect platform for Wednesday's Conference League final against



Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk lifts the Premier League trophy as the Reds formally crowned champions of the English topflight...yesterday. It is the club's 20th league win

Premier League

Bo'mouth	2-0 Leicester
Fulham	0-2 Man City
Ipswich	1-3 West Ham
Liverpool	1-1 Cry'Palace
Man Utd	2-0 Aston Villa
Newcastle	0-1 Everton
N'Forest	0-1 Chelsea
Southampton	1-2 Arsenal
Tottenham	1-4 Brighton
Wolves	1-1 Brentford

NPFL

Bayelsa	3-0 Remo Stars
El Kanemi	1-0 Sunshine
Enyimba	0-1 Plateau
Heartland	2-1 Akwa Utd
Ikorodu	3-2 Abia Warriors
Katsina	1-0 Kwara Utd
Lobi Stars	2-1 B'Insurance
Tornadoes	3-2 K'Pillars
Rivers Utd	2-1 Nasarawa
Shooting	5-1 Rangers

GATEWAY GAMES: Teams Battle for 46 Gold Medals in Table Tennis

Participants in the table tennis event of the 22nd National Sports Festival, tagged Gateway Games 2024, will be vying for a total of 46 gold medals up for grabs.

The table tennis competition features athletes across three categories: able-bodied, para-athletes, and deaf athletes. Seven gold medals are available in the able-bodied category, while deaf athletes will contest for five gold medals. Para-athletes will compete for a whopping 34 gold medals across various events, including singles, doubles, mixed doubles, and team events.

In the able-bodied category, athletes will compete in singles (for men and women), doubles (for men and women), mixed doubles, and team events (for men and women). Deaf athletes will contest in singles (men and women), doubles (men and women), and mixed doubles.

Para-athletes will participate in four team events—men's classes 1–5 and 6–10, and women's classes 1–5 and 6–10. There will also be 18 singles events for men and women, eight doubles events, and four mixed doubles events.

Delta State dominates the seeding lists for both able-bodied and para-athlete categories. Fatimo Bello of Delta State is the top seed in the women's singles, while Bayelsa's Olajide Omotayo leads the men's singles. Lagos and Oyo States top the seedings in the deaf singles events.

According to the tournament referee, Ranti Lajide, this year's tournament promises to be thrilling, especially with the inclusion of Invited Junior Athletes (IJA) by the National Sports Commission (NSC).

...Salah's Late Equaliser Caps Blissful Season for Liverpool

Liverpool enjoyed a day of celebration as the curtain was brought down on their title-winning campaign with Mohamed Salah's late equaliser ensuring they signed off with a 1-1 draw against Crystal Palace at Anfield.

Salah's goal six minutes from time cemented his Golden Boot win and also equalled the Premier League goal involvement record as it took his tally to 29 goals and 18 assists.

Arne Slot's side had secured the Premier League title with a 5-1 win against Tottenham on 27 April,meaning they have been able to relax for the final few games of the campaign.

With their opponents having won the the FA Cupjust over a week ago, and with nothing at stake in their domestic campaign, it made for a day of unified celebration at Anfield.

The Eagles players lined up to give the Premier League champions a guard of honour before kick-off and, in a classy touch, the Liverpool players then did likewise to honour Palace's trophy win.

Bendel Insurance Make Top Five Finish as Curtain Fails on 2024/2025 NPFL Season

As the Nigeria Premier Football League (NPFL)2024/25 season came to an end yesterday, Bendel Insurance Football Club of Benin finished among the top five teams in the elite division.

Although the Benin Arsenal succumbed to a 2-1 defeat at the 'Cathedral' in Enugu in the last fixture against already relegated Lobi Stars, the loss was of no consequence on the who Edo team who fought from the relegation zone in the first round to become contenders in the Continental battle.

In the Match-day 38 and last match of the season, Uche Collins raised the hope of Insurance finishing on a winning note with an early penalty goal (Penalty) scored in the 5th minute of action, only for Lobi Stars to come from behind to score twice (Kumaga 28, Kunduahima 53') for a 2-1 result in favour of the hosts.

Bendel Insurance finished fifth on the table after winning 15 games, drew 11 and 12 losses to record 56 points, four points behind third placed Abia Warriors who will be playing in the CAF Confederation and three points close to fourth place finishers Ikorodu City.

Remo Stars won the NPFL with three games to spare. The Ikenne team finished with 71 points while second placed Rivers United ended their campaign with 64 points .

Elsewhere, the management of Akwa United FC has apologised to everyone associated with the club for the disappointing performance of the team in the just ended Nigerian topflight.

In a letter to their fans and state government officials, the club said: "following the conclusion of the 2024-25 Nigeria Premier Football League season, the Management on behalf of the technical crew, staff and players of Akwa United Football Club, wish to express our disappointment and apologise to everyone associated with our club over our inability to retain our league status for a top flight football next season.

"We fought hard as a club throughout the season to get into our rhythm but our results especially at home were rather not good enough as we dropped 18 points at home while picking just five on the road."

"We are particularly disappointed that after 14 seasons in the Premier League - a period in which we won two FA Cups in 2015 and 2017 and the league title in 2021, the 2024-25 season has come to an end with us being relegated from the NPFL."

The Akwa United management insisted that it was "hugely disappointing and embarrassing to the government and the wonderful people of our state as well as our fans, supporters, partners and sponsors. Now is the time to demonstrate love, strength and unity more than ever going forward," it concluded

Ajibade, Echegini, Babajide in Camp for Cameroon Friendly

Versatile defender, Michelle Alozie, has admitted her excitement at the upcoming Super Falcons' friendly matches against bitter foes Indomitable Lionesses of Cameroon, which will kick-start the final preparations for the 13th Women Africa Cup of Nations (WAFCON) taking place in Morocco between July 5th and July 26th.

"I am excited for the upcoming training camp and to be back with the Super Falcons; it's my first time in Ogun State! Everyone is looking forward to the Women AFCON and that is our main focus. The way we are treated has changed in the past few years, for the better, especially with our continued success over the years.

"I am happy to see the steady change as women's sports across the world continue to achieve and fight for more equality," said the Houston Dash of USA defensive linchpin.

Alozie, who was part of the last Women AFCON finals also staged in Morocco three years ago, was also impressive as the Super Falcons wowed the global audience in reaching the Round of 16 at the 2023 FIFA World Cup finals, exiting without losing a match in regulation time.

Alozie, Captain Rasheedat Ajibade, Spain-based forward Omorinsola Babajide and PSG of France midfielder Jennifer Echegini will be among the early birds as the team's camp opens in Ijebu-Ode today, ahead of the first clash with the Lionesses on Saturday, 31st May.

Midfielder Toni Payne, Deborah Abiodun and Ifeoma Onumonu are also slated to arrive in the country on Monday, just as defenders Osinachi Ohale, Oluwatosin Demehin, Rofiat Imuran, Shukurat Oladipo, Sikiratu Isah and Blessing Ilivieda, goalkeepers Linda Jiwuaku and Morufa Ademola, and midfielders Amarachi Odoma and Josephine Mathias, and forwards Francisca Ordega and Olamide Bolaji.

Former junior international Miracle Usani and forward Emem Essien will equally arrive in camp on Monday.

Okpekpe Race Organisers Hail Philip Shaibu's Appointment as DG, NIS

Organisers of the historic Okpekpe International 10km Road Race have hailed the appointment of former Deputy Governor of Edo State, Philip Shaibu, as the Director General of the National Institute for Sports (NIS).

The appointment, made by President Bola Tinubu, was aimed at repositioning the Institute to fulfil its mandate as a research and training institute dedicated to developing sports professionals, improving athletic performance, and advancing sports science.

"The appointment of Comrade Philip Shaibu has come at a time President Tinubu is re-organizing the sports sector and there is no better reform than focusing on an institution meant to play such a crucial role in developing athletic talent, advancing sports science, and promoting physical fitness," said the Okpekpe Race Director, Zack Amodu.

Amodu is confident Comrade Shaibu will bring about the positive changes that will transform the sporting landscape in Nigeria and turn the NIS into that great centre for research and innovation by conducting studies in sports medicine, biomechanics, nutrition, and psychology to enhance performance and prevent injuries.

"He will also ensure there is proper education and certification by offering courses for coaches, referees, and sports management professionals to ensure high standards in the industry,' added Amodu who reveals Shaibu has been prepared for this role before and after he became the deputy governor of Edo state.

"Comrade Shaibu was among the pioneer members of the Edo State team that worked with Pamodzi Sports Marketing to ensure the Okpekpe international 10km road race became the first road running event to have its race course measured by a World Athletics certified course measurer as well as the first in Nigeria nay West Africa to be recognized as a world-class event and granted a label race in west Africa in 2015.

'As deputy governor, he was directly in charge of the Edo State government's team that worked with the organisers to ensure the event moved from a bronze label race in 2015 to silver in 2018 and gold in 2022.

"We are all living witnesses to his time also as the deputy governor when he ensured the great Bendel Insurance became a household name again and delivered what is still talked about as one of the best National Sports Festival ever organized in Nigeria."



Comrade Phillip Shaibu...new DG of the National Institute for Sports

Price: N400

BACK PAGE LEAD PHOTOGRAPH



NEMA'S DG GETS AWARD...

L-R: Commissioner, Federal Character Commission, Mrs. Ginika Tor-William; Director General, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mrs. Zubaida Umar; Minister of state for Labour and Employment, Mrs. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha; and Former Minister of state for the Federal Capital Territory, Mrs. Ramatu Tijjani-Aliyu, during the presentation of the award of African Iconic Woman in Public Service of the Year to the Director General NEMA in Abuja, last Friday

MAHMUD**JEGA**

VIEW FROM THE GALLERY



Try Mahama's Code in Nigeria

Since the 1960s, many things about Ghana variously caused wonder, admiration, anger, envy, bewilderment and anguish among us Nigerians. They include the kolanut rich Gonja forest; Achimota School; the huge African stature of Kwame Nkrumah; Ashante Goldfields company; the rich cultural heritage around the Asantehene of Ashanti; the triangular Ghanaian coast that makes for savannah vegetation in southern Ghana; Akosombo Dam; Lake Volta; the meteoric impact Lake Bosumtwi; Ghana's unitary system of government which Nigeria's wobbly federation aims to achieve by stealth; Prime Minister Kofi Busia's deporting half a million Nigerians in 1971; the small increase in Ghana's administrative regions compared to the phenomenal increase in Nigerian states; Ghana's Black Stars defeating our Green Eagles at the Nigeria-Ghana Games even though we won more medals overall; powerful Ghanaian sprinter Ohene Karikari and his female



Ghana President, Mahama

counterpart Alice Anum, who outshined our athletes at the 1973 All Africa Games in Lagos; famous football teams Asante Kosoko and Accra Hearts of Oak; Lt Jerry Rawlings' executing three former Ghanaian heads of state in one fell swoop in 1979; and, only two weeks ago, recycled Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama's unveiling a Code of Conduct for his ministers and other aides which is already causing jitters in Nigeria.

The Ghanaian Presidency said President Mahama has launched a "comprehensive Code of Conduct and Ethics for all political appointees" that marks "a significant step toward enhanced transparency, accountability, and ethical governance." It was, they said, a key promise he made during last year's general election as part of his "120-day Social Contract with the Ghanaian people." This new Code of Conduct applies to all executive branch officials including President, Vice President, Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Presidential Staffers. It "represents a bold declaration of the standards we must uphold as servants of the public," Mahama said. "It is a living and enforceable framework that outlines what is expected of every individual appointed under this administration. This is a government of shared responsibility, and there will be no sacred cows." It is intended, he also said, to promote a new political culture grounded in transparency, humility, and ethical leadership.

Ok, apart from long grammar in the preamble, what does it say in practice and how will it work if we adopt some or all of those principles here in Nigeria? All political appointees, it said, must "serve the public with integrity and impartiality." What? The beginning of serving with integrity is to be elected or appointed to the office honestly. A person whose election was owed to vote buying, godfatherism, thuggery and social media misinformation, or whose appointment was owed to bribery, nepotism or blackmail, which serving with integrity and honesty do

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DAKUKU**PETERSIDE**

BENEATH THE SURFACE



Gatekeepers or Spectators? N'Assembly's Two-Year Performance Gap

Last week's column took state governors to task, and the response was electric: inboxes flooded, phone lines buzzed, and hashtags trended. Nigerians are starved for public office scorecards that rely on more than rumour and partisan noise. In that spirit, and with the second anniversary of the 10th National Assembly staring us in the face, the spotlight now swings toward the legislature. In Washington, where we borrowed our presidential model, lawmakers live under the unforgiving glare of the Legislative Effectiveness Score: fifteen indicators that weigh everything from the originality of bills to the art of steering them through committees. Add the Healthy Congress Index(HCI),which checks the institution's pulse—how often it debates and how transparent the votes are—and you have an ecosystem where inertia is quickly shamed. Abuja, by contrast, offers no such dashboard. All we



Senate President, Akpabio

possess are lofty promises voiced from the rostrum on Inauguration Day and the quiet, often-seething expectations of 220 million citizens. Those promises form the spine of this mid-term review; those expectations supply its moral urgency.

First, the numbers. In its opening year, the Senate introduced 464 bills and passed 19; in the second year, up to this May, 341 bills produced a meagre seven enactments. The House looked busier—1,727 bills filed by December 2024, 114 of them passed—but peel away the seven executive-sponsored measures and the apparent productivity deflates. Committee clerks admit that roughly one-third of all texts are recycled from earlier parliaments, some lifted almost verbatim from the 8th and 9th Assemblies. It is legislative déjà vu: copy, paste, rename, re-announce. Quantity, yes. Originality and rigour, no. This Assembly would languish in the bottom quartile by the American yardstick that prizes innovation and shepherding skill.

The quality deficit shows up in what lawmakers choose to rush. The National Anthem Bill of 2024—re-introducing the 1960 song "Nigeria, We Hail Thee"—sailed through first, second and third readings in a single sitting, then became law within eight days. Critics wondered why a symbolic lyric change earned lightning attention while food-price bills languished. A similar haste-then-rethink story dogs the Students' Loan Act: passed in 2023, repealed and reenacted in 2024 after design flaws emerged. Speed seems reserved for headline bills and presidential priorities; everything else becomes legislative traffic.

If legislative output has been underwhelming, economic stewardship has been positively somnolent. The economy has seesawed from subsidy removal through currency free-fall to inflation that makes a mockery of monthly pay slips, yet Parliament has rarely mounted an independent critique of budgets, revenue forecasts or tax proposals. Hearings on

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