



# N-SACC

NOVEMBER 2021

A Publication of The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce

## THE FUTURE OF WORK



**Iyke Ejimofor**


**T**he October Zoom Webinar of the Nigeria - South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) breakfast forum was held on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021, sponsored by Phillips Consulting Limited.

Mr. Joshua Ademuwagun, Head of Advisory, People Transformation, PCL, was our speaker. The Panelists include: Mrs. Omorinsola Sofola, Partner, Strategy & Operations Transformation, PCL; Mr. Remi Dada, CEO of Spacefinish; Mr. Tosin Okojie, Vice President Financial Planning and Analysis of Andela; Mr. Babajide Duroshola, General Manager of M-Kopa. They delivered well received presentations on "The Future of Work."

They agreed that the "Post-Pandemic" world of work will continue to evolve. With no clear answers in sight, organisations will continue to search for best-fit solutions to navigate the uncertainty around us. There is no doubt that this will have an impact on our lives. Critical considerations for preparing for the future of work include rethinking business strategy and processes to allow for agility and digital transformation. With the global economy tilting towards digital platforms, it is not enough for a Nigerian organization to only use digital to optimize operations. They must move to a level where technology is integrated into business models and critical process.

The Nigerian News segment in this edition highlights key developments in the Nigerian economic space that may be of interest to our members.

The South African News segment reports news items that maybe of interest to our members.

We appreciate our members for their continued support and commitment. We value your partnership and wish your organization successful operation this year and beyond.

Thank you for your usual cooperation.

We wish you well and stay safe in these uncertain times.

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# EVENTS



## NIGERIA NATIONAL ANTHEM



Arise, O compatriots  
Nigeria's call obey  
To serve our fatherland  
With love and strength and faith.  
The labour of our heroes past  
Shall never be in vain,  
To serve with heart and might  
One nation bound in freedom,  
peace and unity.

Oh God of creation,  
direct our noble cause  
Guide our leader's right  
Help our youth the truth to know  
In love and honesty to grow  
And living just and true  
Great lofty heights attain  
To build a nation where peace  
And justice shall reign

## SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL ANTHEM



Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika  
Maluphakanyisw' uphondo lwayo,  
Yizwa imithandazo yethu,  
Nkosi sikelela, thina lusapho lwayo.

Morena boloka setjhaba sa heso,  
O fedise dintwa le matshwenyeho,  
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,  
Setjhaba sa, South Afrika -South Afrika.

Uit die blou van onse hemel,  
Uit die diepte van ons see,  
Oor ons ewige gebergtes,  
Waar die kranse antwoord gee,

Sounds the call to come together,  
And united we shall stand,  
Let us live and strive for freedom,  
In South Africa our land.

and are grateful for the support of our Advisory Board, partners and key stakeholders.

For further information send email to : [info@miningindaba.com](mailto:info@miningindaba.com)

## THE NETWORK FORUM AFRICA MEETING

The Network Forum Africa Meeting will be the key gathering point for over 100+ capital market leaders from asset management and servicing, investment banking and custody background - with rich dialogue and networking core to the Meeting.

The Network Forum is a curated global community for the custody, settlement and post-trade industry.

Its key aim is to provide a structured networking environment for this tight-knit industry group, in which key issues are discussed, developments are communicated and best practice shared.

The event is slated for 15-16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at Johannesburg, South Africa

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**W**e thank you for your consistent support and commitment.

Please note that ONLY Paid-up members will be entitled to all privileges. We therefore implore members to pay their outstanding subscriptions.

### CHAMBER'S BREAKFAST MEETINGS

Companies interested in Sponsorship opportunities are to please contact the Secretariat. This is a great opportunity for advertising, as companies can brand the hall according to their preference. Companies are assured of good media coverage.

### CHAMBER'S NEWSLETTER ADVERTS

Companies interested in advertising in our Newsletter are to please contact the Secretariat. This is a great opportunity for projecting your companies to Nigerians and South African Communities. Companies are assured of good coverage.

**PLEASE NOTE: NEW MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES ARE READY FOR COLLECTION. RETURN THE OLD CERTIFICATES.**

### AFRICA ENERGY INDABA

The 14th annual Africa Energy Indaba is the continent's definitive energy conference and exhibition, providing an agenda that influences energy policy for Africa. The prestigious event serves as the ideal platform for achieving Africa's energy vision for a sustainable energy future and keeping abreast of global energy competitors in this dynamic landscape. The event hosts a conference and an exhibition and has proven its success year on year, demonstrating extreme efficaciousness in addressing key issues impacting the African energy sector while devising solutions to best mitigate these pressing concerns. C-suite executives are the primary audience from across the continent and this provides a perfect platform to network, engage and do energy business at the event.

#### Highlights

- Catalysing business & investment opportunities in the Africa Energy sector
- The event hosts a conference and exhibition as well as a host of official side events.
- An official Ministerial Roundtable and CEO Roundtables are hosted.
- Concurrent exhibition provides an excellent opportunity to

showcase your products and services

The event is slated for 1st March to 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar 2022 at CTICC (Cape Town International Convention Centre), [Cape Town, South Africa](#). For further information call Thembisa Bambathi on Tel: +2711463-9184

### AFRICAN MINING INDABA FOR 2022

The 2022 edition of Investing in African Mining Indaba, originally scheduled for 7-10 February 2022 will now take place 9-12 May 2022 at the CTICC, Cape Town, South Africa.

We consulted extensively with our partners, key stakeholders across the mining value chain and government ministers. Collectively we decided, due to ongoing challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic, that a postponement was the most practical solution and provides the highest chance of holding a physical, in-person event in 2022 where the industry can reconnect once again.

We are fully committed to running the event in South Africa



## THE FUTURE OF WORK

The Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce October 2021 Breakfast Webinar took place on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and it was sponsored by Phillips Consulting Limited (PCL).

The Speaker was Joshua Ademuwagun, Head of Advisory, People Transformation, PCL; the Panelists are: Omorinsola Sofola, Partner Strategy and Operations Transformation, PCL; Remi Dada, CEO of Spacefinish; Tosin Okojie, VP Financial Planning and Analysis of Andela; Babajide Duroshola, General Manager of M-Kopa. They all deliberated on the topic "THE FUTURE OF WORK".

The "post-pandemic" world of work will continue to evolve. With no clear answers in sight, organisations will continue to search for best-fit solutions to navigate the uncertainty around us. There is no doubt that this will have an impact on our lives.

With little to no information about Africa, specifically the Nigerian business environment, many thought leaders offer solutions suited to advanced economies. However, differences in everyday realities such as technology adoption, economic strength, demographics, and educational levels affect the pattern of evolution in developing and emerging

markets.

On the 28th of October 2021, pcl., in collaboration with the Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce, organised a webinar that explored the future of work from the Nigerian perspective, with leading executives discussing and sharing practical experiences and proposing viable solutions for our unique market.

Joshua Ademuwagun, Head of Advisory, People Transformation, delivered pcl.'s perspective on the future of work. He emphasised that people can neither stop nor fight the future of work. Joshua further advised that organisations should position themselves to ride the



wave of change by answering the questions about why, by whom, when, and how we will do work in the future.

Critical considerations for preparing for the future of work include rethinking business strategy and processes to allow for agility and digital transformation. With the global economy tilting towards digital platforms, it is not enough for a Nigerian organisation to only use digital to optimise operations. They must move to a level where technology is integrated into business models and critical processes.

According to p.c.l., the realignment of leadership & culture is another key determinant of an organisation's future. It is not uncommon for multiple generations of employees to work in the same organisation, each with unique characteristics and traits. Designing a working culture acceptable to all should be a key priority for Nigerian business leaders.

Joshua emphasised six (6) leadership competencies that p.c.l. believes executives should pay attention to this new era. These competencies are enabling collaboration & teamwork, prioritising employee mental health, societal changes, displaying a strong sense of vision and purpose, leading with empathy, and increased communication & employee engagement.

He stated that successful organisations must treat their most important assets (their employees) not as inventory or a line item of expense, subject to cutbacks and right-sizing, but as a wealth of

corporate potential worthy of care and respect.

During the panel discussion, p.c.l., represented by Omorinsola Sofola, Partner Strategy and Operations Transformation, was joined by strategic business leaders who brought on a broader perspective of the Nigerian business of the future.

Leading the conversation, Omorinsola spoke about the p.c.l. experience and how the firm had evolved to meet the new demands of remote work during the lockdown. She mentioned that engaging employees in designing their future workspace created a sense of ownership and identity. She further cited '[p.c.l. s Strategic Preparedness Report](#)', stating that organisations need to ensure a culture built on diversity and inclusion. This often involves engaging key staff members, not just executives. She discussed how p.c.l. had used its Phillips Accelerated Solution Environment (pASE™) to help clients solve culture and community challenges.

Joining the discussion, Remi Dada, CEO of Spacefinish, noted that nobody knows the answer to the future of work and that we are all experimenting. "The good news is that we are probably making the correct guesses."

He pointed out that the future of work is not just about physical buildings but about human and social behaviours. What people think and feel when they get into an office space or sign into a virtual environment all play a big part in determining the quality of their final output. Thus, organisations need to see it as an opportunity to increase productivity and proactivity in their

employees.

Tosin Okojie, VP Financial Planning and Analysis of Andela, revealed that technology is now the trusted intermediary between employer and employee, creating a network effect that has scaled the gig economy and, in the process, made organisations more agile.

In preparing for the future, he stated that companies should ask themselves what it takes to be part of the future of work and develop new thinking patterns around their business structure and how to get things done.

Babajide Duroshola, General Manager of M-Kopa reminded everyone that the future of work is borderless, even for the Nigerian market. We no longer need to have people confined to working in a specific geographical location. With COVID-19 pushing globalisation and allowing for accessible communication and dissemination of information, employees no longer need to be in the same country or time zone.

Rob Taiwo, MD p.c.l. summed up by advocating progression over perfection. He said that "work is not where you go, but what you do, and the truth is there is no silver bullet. The future is fluid, and often the best strategy is to simply engage. Make your mistakes, forgive yourself quickly, and move forward. The wrong thing to do is bury your head in the sand and hope this all blows over. In Africa, there will be winners and losers. The winners will most likely be those organisations that choose exploration over exploitation and innovation over business as usual."

## FG HOPEFUL MSMEs' CONTRIBUTION TO GDP WILL HIT 70 PER CENT BY 2025

The Federal Government has said its goal is to ensure the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector accounts for 70 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025.

The Director-General, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), Dikko Radda, disclosed this, at a stakeholders' operationalisation of Public-Private Dialogue on the implementation of the new National Policy on MSMEs (2021-2025) in Abuja.

The event was part of the coordination mechanism provided by the Investment Climate Reform (ICR) facility on effective implementation of the policy.

The DG, represented by the Director, Partnership and Coordination in the agency, Friday Okpara, observed that the sector currently contributes 49 per cent to the GDP and has provided over 59 million employment in the country.

He, however, expressed confidence that the target growth was achievable.

"With over 41 million MSMEs, the minimum target to be realised before the expiration of the policy in 2025 is to ensure an enabling environment is created for 41million MSMEs to grow and create a minimum of one extra employment, which currently stands at over 59 million and also push the sub-sector's contributions to the GDP from the current 49 per cent to 70 per cent by the close of 2025.

"The top five sectors according to the same document are Wholesale/Retail 42.3 per cent, Agriculture 20.9 per cent, Other Services 13.9 per cent, Manufacturing 9.0 per cent and Accommodation/Food services 5.7 per cent", he stated.

Radda recalled that one of the core challenges the agency took up towards providing an enabling space was producing the first ever National Policy for MSMEs in 2007.

Noting that the newly revised policy was a product of deep and wide consultations across Nigeria, the DG added that the policy largely seeks to ensure MSMEs in the country are active, innovative and globally competitive.

He applauded the ICR facility for putting in place a proper coordination mechanism that would see every stakeholder as champions of MSME development.

A National Consultant with ICR facility, Dr. Ada Chidi-Igbokwe, stressed the need for a coordinated mechanism to ease the implementation of the policy.

According to her, MSMEs cut across many sectors of the economy, hence, achieving the objectives of the reviewed policy would make MSMEs development more effective and efficient.

Chairman, Business Visa and Training company, Mohammed Garba, urged the government to mandate its agencies to patronise local businesses.

"Most of the time, these MSMEs have no market to sell their products even after spending a lot on certification and documentation. Their products are also being rejected and people don't even pay them when they purchase the products, which is frustrating. Government should make it a policy that every government agency must patronise Nigeria's local businesses", he stated.

## SEEDS TECHNOLOGY'LL REDUCE NIGERIA'S \$10B FOOD IMPORTS, STEM FOOD INSECURITY'

Nigeria's worsening food insecurity, which has pushed the cost of food importation to over \$10 billion and

has escalated foreign exchange scarcity to a record high, may be significantly doused thanks to a new seeds technology.

This was the enthusiasm shared yesterday in Zaria, at the coming of new Germany ultramodern and fully automated seed condition line, an indigenous agricultural company, Value Seeds Limited, as stakeholders, who gathered across Africa said that seeds remained one of the most critical challenges escalating food insecurity and importation in the country

Although agriculture is projected as a priority for the current administration with over N592.9 billion budgeted for the sector in the past five years, the Central Bank of Nigeria had admitted earlier this month that importation of some agricultural products, especially grains were parts of the reasons why the country's foreign exchange challenges were escalating.

This is coming at a time the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS) had noted that between 2020 and 2021, the value of imported agricultural products went up by 140.47 per cent. In the first quarter of the year, it spiked by 18.37 per cent compared to the last quarter of 2020 as Nigeria spent N630.2 billion in the quarter importing food items.

But President of Value Seeds, George Zangir and other local and international stakeholders insisted that Nigeria is on the right track to a lasting solution to food insecurity and drastic reduction in the continuous importation of food items. Amidst border closure and challenges propelled by the COVID-19 pandemic, they disclosed that Nigeria's current problems in the production of wheat, rice, maize and other critical grains would be addressed as the new machine would also catalyze farmers' output thereby bridging existing gap in crop production in the country.

To underscore the grain challenges in the country, the Nigerian poultry industry had said the importation of 5.6 million tonnes of maize would be needed to meet the feed demand in the 2020-21 marketing year. In the rice segment, Nigeria's rice exports are expected to increase slightly for the 2020-21 marketing year to 1.75 million tonnes, while the country needs to import a total of 4.9 million tonnes of wheat in the 2020-21 marketing year.

Despite the CBN Anchor Borrowers scheme and a recent initiative on wheat, recall that Nigeria still spent N258.3 billion on wheat importation in the first three months of this year.

Zangir, at the commissioning, linked the challenges in grain and other agricultural production in the country to the lack of quality seeds and adoption by farmers, adding that the new technology by the company would drastically address the seeds gap.

Coming on the leeway provided by the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, Syngenta Foundation, AECF, Central Bank of Nigeria and Sterling Bank, Zangir said the company availed seeds of improved varieties to more than one million farmers as a result of impact partnerships with farmer friendly organisations.

"This machine will start a revolution in the seeds sector, especially wheat, rice, maize soya beans, cowpea, sesame and the likes. This will solve food security challenges, conserve foreign exchange spent on importation of seeds and agricultural produce. This will also create alternative revenue sources for economic diversification as well as job creation.

"In 2015, we were not doing more than 1, 000 tonnes of seeds as a company and as a country we were in the region of 33, 000 tonnes.

Progressive interventions encouraged farmers to use seed and we moved to about 100, 000

tonnes. For use, we moved to 10, 000 tonnes. With this machine, we will move to 50, 000 metric tonnes. That is just for our company.

"We have invited some other companies to partner with us and if we have about four Nigerian companies with this conditioning line, we will move to 1 million metric tonnes in less than five years," Zangir said.

Aiming to take quality seeds and inputs to ten million smallholder farmers by 2035, he said: "2019 report by Access to Seeds Index ranked Value Seeds number one in Western and Central Africa.

## **NIGERIA'S NON-OIL REVENUE GREW ABOVE TARGET BY 15.7%— FINANCE MINISTER**

The [Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning, Zainab Ahmed](#), has said that Nigeria's non-oil revenue grew to N1.15 trillion, representing 15.7 per cent above the target rate in response to the federal government's efforts at diversifying the nation's economy.

Mrs Ahmed made this known virtually at the Institute of Directors (IoD) 2021 Annual Directors Conference which was held physically and virtually in Abuja.

The reports that the two-day event is with the theme: "Creating the Future: Deepening the Corporate Governance Practice through Multi-Sectoral and Multi-Generational Collaborations."

Mrs Ahmed said the development was in line with the Buhari administration's commitment to further diversifying the Nigerian economy away from oil.

She noted that Nigeria was showing resilience in recovery from recession from the ravages of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which brought challenges to global economies.

The minister said the federal

government alongside the private sector had implemented a wide range of monetary measures to stimulate economic recovery, growth and development, job creation and improved standards of living.

She said government was also intensifying efforts to further grow and diversify the country's revenue sources with a variety of fiscal policies. "Nigeria was quickly able to exit recession and is on her way to path of sustainable growth and we are intensifying efforts to grow and diversify our revenue sources to grow revenue from the current 8 per cent.

"Our non-oil revenues have grown to N1.15 trillion, representing 15.7 per cent above set target.

"We are working on the 2021 finance bill and it's nearing completion.

"Also, the recent approval of the medium-term national development plan is an important milestone of Buhari's commitment to delivering sustainable growth and we require strong support and monitoring during implementation," she said.

Mrs Ahmed reiterated the government's commitment to addressing infrastructural gaps via Infrastructural Corporation of Nigeria (InfraCo) to reduce the cost of production for businesses in the country.

"It would increase investments in the Nigerian infrastructure sector to spur growth in key sectors of the Nigerian economy," she said.

Ije Jidenma, President, IoD, expressed the institute's interest in partnering with the government at all levels to entrench strong corporate governance practices into the public service to help achieve its goals of economic development

## **DEPUTY MINISTER DAVID MAHLOBO CALLS FOR ENHANCED COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS AMONG BRICS MEMBERS**

The Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Mr David Mahlobo has called for enhanced collaborative efforts towards water sustainability across the globe.

He was speaking during the Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa (BRICS) Water Ministers' meetings held virtually on Thursday, 18 November 2021.

Deputy Minister Mahlobo attending the maiden BRICS Water Minister's meeting on behalf of Minister Senzo Mchunu, said the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed inequality which still exists in many parts of the world and implored BRICS member states that more work still has to be done to ensure equity in societies.

"Inequality has showed its ugly head and it is women and children who continue to bear the brunt of this. Now, more than ever before, we need to work together so that our citizens do not continue to live in hardships," Deputy Minister Mahlobo said.

He further stated that the effects of Climate Change have had devastating impact on water security in South Africa and commended the strong relations the country has with its neighbouring countries.

"South Africa is one of the water scarce countries in the world and this is exacerbated by drought as a result of climate change. But as a region, we have one of the best examples where we share watercourses instead of rivers being used as a source of conflict. We work in peace unlike in some parts of the world. In Southern Africa, water is used to promote peace and development whereas elsewhere, water has been used as a source of conflict and sometimes as a source of war," he said.

He reiterated government's commitment to uphold its constitutional mandate; to provide clean water for all and dignified

sanitation facilities.

He also emphasised that the current dispensation has come a long way since 1994. In terms of the provision of water services for example, South Africa has increased delivery from 64% in 1994 to 94% in 2021, while also admitting that much still has to be done.

The BRICS Water Minister's Meeting was the first of its kind as proposed in 2019 by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi who motivated that sustainable water management and sanitation are major challenges which required urgent attention.

## **TRADE FAIR OFFERS OPPORTUNITY FOR SA BUSINESS TO HELP INCREASE INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT - DEPUTY MINISTER GINA**

The Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Ms Nomalungelo Gina has urged the South African businesses that will be participating in the second biennial Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) in Durban next week to grab the opportunity to contribute in increasing intra-African trade and investment.

The IATF took place at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 15-21 November 2021 under the theme "Building Bridges for a Successful AfCFTA". More than a thousand companies from across the continent are expected to showcase their products and services at the trade fair.

The seven-day African premier trade and investment exhibition will include a packed programme of conference sessions featuring key leading African and international thought leaders and experts. They will be sharing their insights on a wide range of topics relating to African trade and investments. The fair will also comprise dedicated sessions and training workshops covering exports, standards and marketing.

According to Deputy Minister Gina, the fair provides a perfect opportunity for

the more than 80 South Africa companies supported by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), as well as the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, to interact and connect with companies from the rest of the continent in order to do business that will lead to an increase in the intra-African trade and investment.

"As government we have a mandate and an obligation to grow the South African economy. One of the interventions to achieve this objective is to support our companies to participate in international exhibitions to facilitate market access for South African goods and services. By hosting the IATF this year we have brought more than a thousand companies from different African countries for our businesspeople to establish links, partnerships and joint-ventures with.

These should lead to more intra-African trade and investment in line with the goals of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement that is meant to create a massive and dynamic market for goods produced in the continent, as well as unlimited investment opportunities for the companies in the continent to grab," says Gina.

According to the World Bank, the AfCFTA agreement has created the largest free trade area in the world measured by the number of countries participating. It has also established a market of 1.3 billion people from across 55 countries with a combined Gross Domestic Product of about US\$3.4 trillion. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa the AfCFTA has the potential to boost intra-African trade by more than fifty percent.

"It is business that is going to play a major role in ensuring that the objectives of the AfCFTA such as increasing the intra-African trade, promoting industrialisation, infrastructure development, creating jobs, and improving competitiveness of African industries on the global stage, are achieved. Initiatives like the



IATF are important in bringing businesspeople operating in various sectors of the African economy together to showcase what they offer, and also to exchange ideas and information on trade and investment opportunities that they can explore together for the growth of the economy of the continent," adds Gina.

The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala says the province is excited and ready to host the 2021 Intra-African Trade Fair.

"The trade fair is expected to yield massive economic spin-offs for KwaZulu-Natal and the country as a whole. It will also attract high-level delegations including heads of state from the continent. We estimate that the IATF 2021 will attract 10 000 buyers and sellers, 1100 exhibitors, and will result in US\$40 billion in trade deals. The hosting of this event also augurs well for our Economic Recovery and Reconstruction Plan. The calculated economic impact of hosting the event is expected to include a total direct spend of R235 million, R580 million contribution to the GDP, and an annualised employment contribution of 1 200," adds Premier Zikalala.

## **SIGNIFICANT REFORMS MADE TO IMPROVE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS IN SA -HEAD OF INVEST SA**

The Acting of Head of Invest South Africa, a branch of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), Mr Yunus Hoosen says significant reforms have been made to improve the ease of doing business in South Africa. Hoosen was speaking during the South Africa Investment Technical Session at the Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF) currently taking place in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal. The session was aimed at unpacking South Africa's ease of doing business and investor financial support packages.

South Africa has taken note of the World Bank's study on the ease of doing business and is currently developing a comprehensive Ease of

Doing Business Programme in South Africa.

"At the advent of the 6<sup>th</sup> administration, President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined that South Africa needed to improve ease of doing business and set out the investment improvement programme by which government champions the ease of doing business programme through the Treasury and other government departments and entities," said Hoosen.

"In the past two years South Africa has looked at the World Bank rankings and worked with those indicators. We looked at starting a big business, construction permits, electricity and paying taxes amongst others. We looked at the three levels of government in terms of time, procedures and process and then we started the modernisation programme in government," said Hoosen.

He added that together with the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC), a Bizportal platform was developed in order to offer company registration and related services in a simple seamless digital way, which is completely paperless.

Hoosen said company registration in South Africa previously took 40 days and seven processes. Today the process is fully automated on [Bizportal.gov.za](http://Bizportal.gov.za). Any person or entity can register for R175 only, and can get a company registration certificate, register with South African Revenue Service, Unemployment Insurance Fund, Compensation Fund and also get a Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment certificate.

He added that businesspeople no longer needed to stand in long queues as they can do everything in the comfort of their homes within a day. The second phase of the process is to integrate this with the Department of Home Affairs.

Hoosen also said that the Invest SA's was committed to facilitate, promote and fast-track investments into the

country working with the provincial agencies.

"As a point of contact we assist both domestic and foreign investors throughout the journey of an investment lifecycle, to progress into a project and importantly to advice on policies, regulatory environment, financial support that is available and non-financial assistance, support programmes in terms of the industrial parks and Special Economic Zones," added Hoosen

The Acting Head of Research at Brand South, Ms Shamiso Hlatswayo, highlighted South Africa's strengths as a middle income country and an ideal gateway to the rest of the continent, during her Nation Branding for Competitiveness presentation. Some of the most notable points made during the presentation were South Africa's growing innovation and technological capabilities, while also reiterating its role as a leading infrastructure and manufacturing hub. Through indices such as the World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index and the latest Global Innovation Index, South Africa continues to be well respected as an investment destination of choice.

The Lead Administrator of the South African Bureau of Standards, Ms Jodi Scholtz says when standardised conformity assessment processes are implemented, this can facilitate the movement of products and services across borders, quality standard provides the end-users a product or service with the assurance that global or national specifications and regulations have been complied with.

"the dtic has called upon the Quality Infrastructure institutions (QIs) to chart a course that would help modernise manufacturing, helping to drive economic growth and the development objectives of national government, against the backdrop of international standards and quality requirements to help facilitate greater trade," said Scholtz.



## FIRSTBANK REITERATES COMMITMENT TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP

First Bank of Nigeria Limited has reiterated its commitment to Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship through the celebration of its ongoing 2021 Youth Week.

The Youth Week, themed, "The Future is Now, Let's Takeover" started on which concluded recently.

The week-long event comprises a variety of activities, including: Youth themed Future Forward activities, First@arts Creative Artistry Empowerment Workshop, Grooming and Wellness Workshops, Digital Engagements, Virtual Mini Concert, and many more. Each activity is associated with various gift items, including gift vouchers and cash prizes.

Speaking on the Youth week celebration, Chief Executive Officer of FirstBank, Dr. Adesola Adeduntan in a statement said: "we remain committed to recognizing the enormous opportunities that can empower the Nigerian youth. Over the years, we have seen our youth benefit from actively engaging in our programmes where they develop effective leadership skills and gain a stronger connection to their community. Young people are our future and we are always ready to support and help harness their skills as with these, we put them at an advantage in securing their future as they contribute to national development.

"At FirstBank, with about 57% of the entire workforce being millennials and 'Gen Zs', the Youth segment has been and will continue to be the prime focus. Therefore, the Youth Week presents a unique platform to strengthen the Banks commitment to the younger population, who have become the powerhouse driving all facets of digitization and innovation in our world today".

During the celebration of the FirstBank Youth Week 2021, youths will get rewarded for their talents by following this process – Do a recording

showcasing your singing prowess in a video (1 minute or less), Upload your video on Instagram, be sure to follow firstbanknigeria on IG, then Tag 5 friends to follow the bank with the hashtags #YouthVoices #FirstBank #YouthWeek. The top 5 videos with the highest likes will be posted on FirstBank page and the top 3 videos with the highest likes would win the competition. In addition, Millennials and Gen Zs will upload videos detailing their FirstBank experience on Yammer. The videos with the most votes will win the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively.

The Bank will also provide an avenue for the youth to be empowered in Artistry Workshop Sessions & Arts Classes. A call for interested candidates in the art of fashion design and illustrations will be done. Entries will be received from candidates who are told to submit their illustration creatives and 10 Youths will be empowered to learn the business of illustrations at Claire Idera Studio.

## DANGOTE GROUP CALLS FOR PORTS' REFORMS TO ENHANCE AFCFTA

The Commercial Operations Officer, Dangote Group, Mr. Rabi Umar, called for the reform at ports in Africa as well as the ease of regulations and bureaucracy that prevented free flow of trade across the continent in order to realise benefits of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.

He said this in an interview on The Morning Show, a breakfast programme of THISDAY's sister broadcast arm, Arise News Channel, on the sidelines of the ongoing Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF).

He stated that there was a renewed interest in Dangote group and Nigeria from other African countries. Speaking on the benefits of the AfCFTA and how it would impact Dangote Group, "The trade barriers highlights a lot of issues around infrastructure, around diplomacy, around ports. For example, if you take the port situation, you may get your goods to the port and it takes such a long time. If I give

the example of Nigeria to get them out of the country or into the country.

"I was on a panel someone from South Africa said it's cheaper to move goods from Durban to China than from Durban to Cape Town. So, the challenges are not just related to a particular region, they're all across. "Bringing down these barriers will mean that goods and services can move much more freely and that will definitely give us a competitive advantage on the continent from one country to another."

On the ongoing IATF meetings as it relates to Nigeria and Dangote Group, he said there was renewed interest in Nigeria.

"I think what has been impressive is the level of interest. From across the continent, many countries come in to find out what we do, trying to either sell us a solution, or try to buy something from us. I mean, we've had all from all over I mean.

"We have presence in 10 countries, like I said, including South Africa. So we had people come in, who are in South Africa to ask to do business with us. We have had people who want to know about our fertilizer business, for example, and all sorts and of course, the famous refinery, people are interested in finding out more and how they can collaborate and do business with us. So, it's been a worthwhile trip so far", he said.

On what should be done to boost Intra-African trade, he said fixing infrastructure, tariff reduction, ease of payments and settlements should be priority.

"It's a very difficult process. It is not just about the road transport or the quality of the roads you have. We don't have a rail system and of course, you know, road transportation is very expensive. The second part is the tariffs, the systems and the process, the bureaucracy.

"So for us to get to where we need to get to, I think the key condition is to remove these barriers to trade, the biggest one being infrastructure, you need the infrastructure to move goods across the second part of it,



you need to cut out the red tape, from a diplomatic perspective, from a customs perspective, from even a payment settlement perspective, which is one of the things the Afreximbank has done with the settlement system among the African countries meaning that you are kind of dollarising the economies of these countries", he said.

### STIMULATE NIGERIANS' APPETITE FOR INSURANCE, SBG TELLS OPERATORS

The Managing Director of SBG Insurance Brokers Limited (formerly NAL Insurance Brokers Limited), Mr Sammy Dalmeida, has urged operators in the nation's insurance sector to stimulate Nigerians' appetite for insurance.

Dameilda made the call during a press briefing to announce the 20th-anniversary celebration of the firm, according to a statement on Wednesday.

He said, "The growth of the market for insurance in Nigeria has been relatively limited. Our insurance penetration ratio of 0.5 per cent (computed as gross premium income as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product) ranks amongst the lowest in Africa.

"However, the low insurance penetration rate shows that there are abounding opportunities for the growth of the market."

"But to achieve a positive transformation of Nigeria's insurance market, operators would need to stimulate the appetite of Nigerians for insurance with the introduction of innovative products and digital disruption of traditional processes and practices."

Dalmeida added that the recent collapse of a 21-storey building in Lagos had highlighted the need for businesses to arrange appropriate insurances for projects, assets, human resources and lives, employer's liability and general third-party liability risk exposures.

### S A A T O B E G I N LAGOS/JOHANNESBURG FLIGHT

After one year of inactivity, South African Airways (SAA) has concluded plans to resume the lucrative Johannesburg-Lagos route.

The carrier plans to re-start the service on December 12, this year.

The development has brought relief to the airline's loyal customers who have been connecting flights out of Lagos to Johannesburg and other destinations in Southern Africa.

The carrier's addition of the Johannesburg-Lagos route is another important continental route to its network with thrice a week flight to Lagos in Nigeria.

SAA has been flying to Nigeria for the past 23 years and the resumption of the service is a welcome addition to its growing continental offering.

The interim Chief Executive Officer of South African Airways, Thomas Kgolo in a statement said : " This specific destination takes SAA into one of the biggest travel markets in Africa and we're delighted that we are again able to resume operations, providing a link between Africa's two biggest economies."

Kgokolo said the service is part of SAA's gradual growth strategy, having resumed full operations in September.

According to him, "Our intention is to continue to develop our route network driven by passenger demand and revenue potential. We are constantly evaluating opportunities, both locally, regionally, and internationally."

He further stated that not only does the new Johannesburg Lagos route function as a key economic link between the two countries but would also service the burgeoning tourism market in both countries.

He disclosed the airline would continue in partnership with South African Tourism to promote the country in Nigeria in the expectation that it would lead to more visitors now that international pandemic travel

restrictions are being revised.

South African Airways had on September 23rd, 2021 resumed operations after a year of inactivity and almost 18 months without a commercial flight.

The carrier initially offered flights from Johannesburg to Cape Town, Accra, Kinshasa, Harare, Lusaka, and Maputo.

SAA has not flown any commercial flights since March 2020 and ceased all cargo and repatriation flights in September last year.

Kgokolo said : " After months of diligent work, we are delighted that SAA is resuming service and we look forward to welcoming on board our loyal passengers and flying the South African flag. We continue to be a safe carrier and adhere to COVID-19 protocols."

Tickets went on sale on August 26th and have sold well, according to the airline. According to Kgokolo, early figures indicate flights may be up to 75 per cent full. Opening up other routes may prove to be a complication due to ongoing travel restrictions.

Kgokolo added, "There is a profound feeling of enthusiasm within Team SAA as we prepare for takeoff, with one common purpose -to rebuild and sustain a profitable airline that once again takes a leadership role among local, continental, and international airlines."

The airline hasn't operated any commercial flights since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. From that period until September 2020, the airline maintained cargo and repatriation flights but was forced to cease all operations due to financial problems.

After spending a period of 17 months in administration, SAA finally exited 'business rescue' in April 2021, before the South African government agreed to sell its majority stake to Takatso Consortium in June.



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We encourage you to explore the new Chamber's website:

- Information about the Chamber
- Insights
- Services
- Information on investment opportunities in Nigeria and South Africa.
- Information on Tourist Attractions in Nigeria and South Africa.
- Information on Promotion of Bilateral Trade Investment between Nigeria and South Africa
- Membership's application and registration, etc.

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Thank you for partnering with us.

Iyke Ejimofofor  
Executive Secretary

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- Access to Trade Missions to South Africa.
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*Please contact The Chamber Secretariat for further enquiries.*

**Mr. Iyke Ejimofor**  
**Executive Secretary**

**Tel: 01-2718635; 01-2718636; 08033205614**

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# What is your pASE™ for your 2022 business and corporate strategy?

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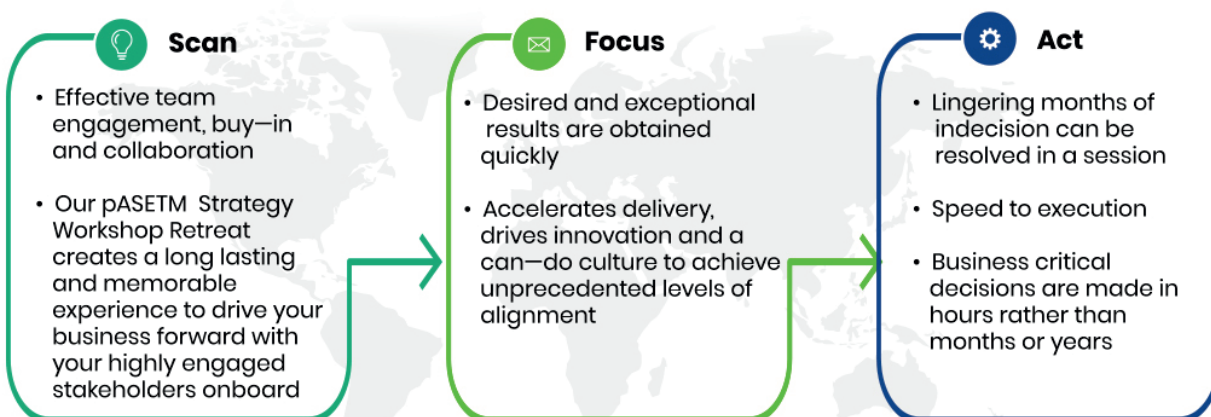
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# TRAVEL CHECKLIST FOR SOUTH AFRICA

1. A valid Passport (validity of at least 30days after the intended stay).
2. **Valid Visa:** -Diplomatic Passport are exempted.  
-Ordinary Passport requires visa.
3. **Vaccination Certificate** (Yellow Fever Card) duly and fully completed by a health practitioner.

A fully completed valid card should bear the following information: Full names of the applicant, Passport number, Date of birth, Gender/Sex, Signature of the applicant, Date on which vaccine was taken, Health practitioner's signature and the name of the centre where the vaccine was taken/administered, Manufacturer and Batch number of the vaccine, and official stamp of the vaccinating centre.

Children who are 10years and below require their Clinic/Health Immunization Cards, with evidence of yellow fever vaccine taken at 9/12months.

Valid Yellow Fever Card could be applied in good time at Murtala Mohammed International Airport:

## **PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY OFFICE.**

**ALSO NOTE:** The validity of your card is 10years.

4. Minor(s)/Child(ren) accompanied by both Parents should have unabridged Birth Certificate.
5. Minor(s)/Child(ren) accompanied by one Parent should have:
  - i) Unabridged Birth Certificate(s) for Minor(s)/Child(ren).
  - ii) Letter of consent from the other Parent and passport data page.
  - iii) Marriage certificate.
6. Minor(s)/child(ren) accompanied by Guardian should have:
  - i) Unabridged Birth Certificate(s) for Minor(s)/Child(ren).
  - ii) Parental Consent Affidavit (PCA).
  - iii) Copies of the identity documents or passports of the Parents.
  - iv) Contact details of the person in whose care the Minor(s)/Child(ren) will be in South Africa.

**ENSURE YOUR DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETE PRIOR TO TRAVELLING!**



# VISA

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

### VISITOR'S VISA

1. Application Form fully completed in black ink only
2. Two identical passport size (45mmx45mm) photographs on white background showing the complete face.
3. A valid passport (validity of at least 30 days after the intended stay)
4. Certified copy of passport data page as well as copies of existing visa and previously issued visas, if any.
5. Self introduction letter with physical address and phone number.
6. Introduction/Recommendation letter from an Employer, where applicable, signed with contact details, (full names of the Employer's, approved signatories, physical address and phone numbers).
7. Verifiable hotel reservation/bookings which must be done directly with the hotels and not through third parties, (e.g. booking .com; hotel .com, HRS, etc).
8. Certified copy of international vaccination card (yellow fever card) duly and fully completed by a health practitioner.
9. Proof of sufficient financial status (three months recent bank statement) or financial support letter from employer with three months bank statement) in a case where the Employer is sponsoring the trip. In the event the applicant is travelling on a private capacity, the bank statement submitted should reflect the salary deposited into the applicant's bank statement. Sponsored trips should always have a letter with full details of the sponsor and contact details; as well as a copy of identity card/passport data page. Certain Corporate Entities are exempted from this requirement.
10. Applicant travelling on an official business should, in addition to the above requirements, attach a letter of invitation/confirmation of training/conference, etc. from a South African Company with full details of the Company's Authorized representative; physical address and phone numbers (landline number compulsory). All verifiable bookings (accommodation as well as flight) are required and should be submitted together with the application.
11. Unabridged Birth Certificate for Minors/Children travelling with parents. Where applicable, a consent letter/s with copy/ies of parent/s identification card/passport data page should be attached to the application.
12. Marriage Certificate where applicable and if the intended stay will be for more than 90 days.
13. Verifiable Flight Booking.
14. Visitors to South Africa must have at least two blank pages on their passport.
15. Applications for all types of Visas should be submitted to VFS for Processing.

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