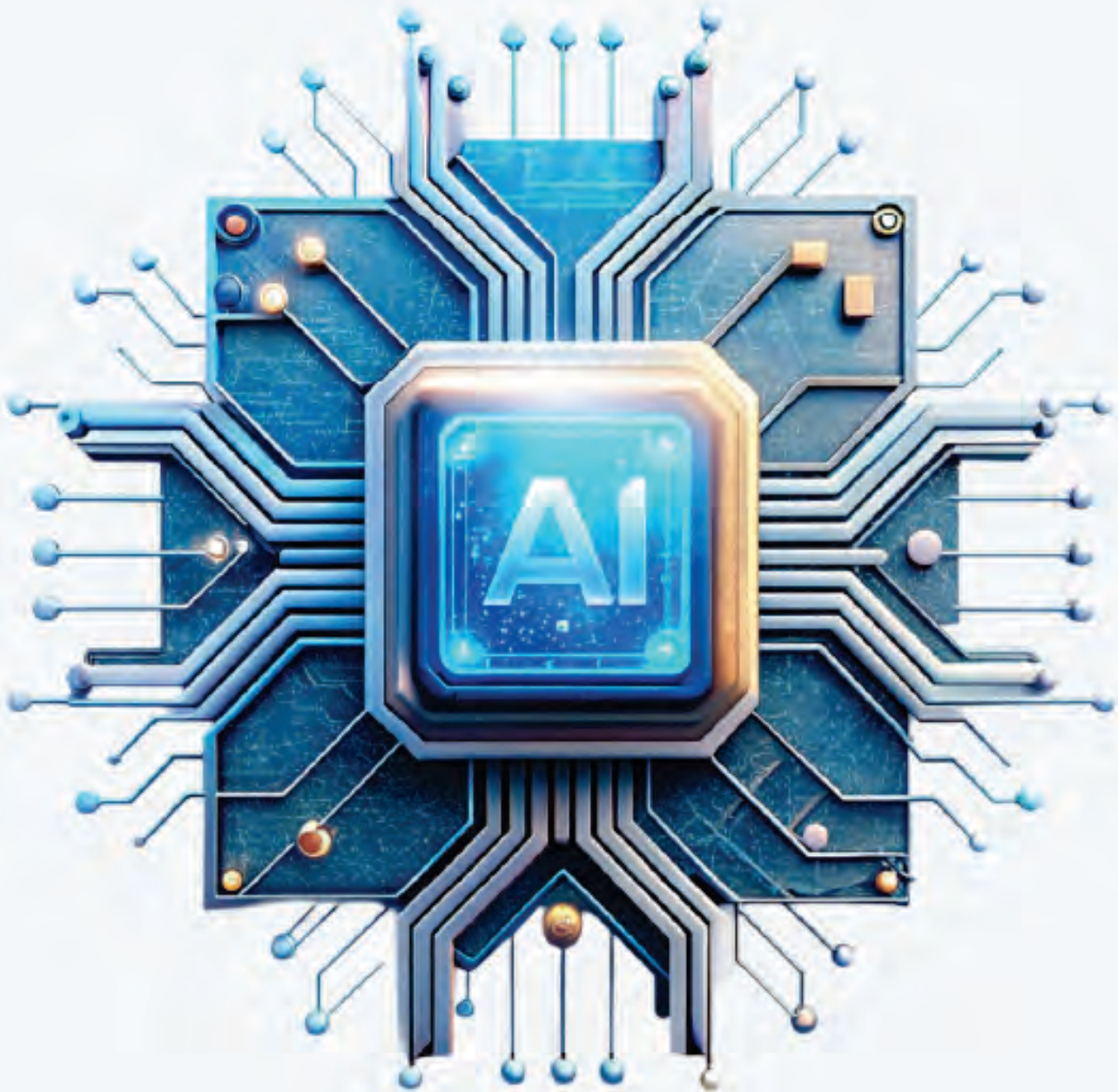




# N-SACC

A Publication of The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce

AUGUST 2025



**ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)  
AND THE FUTURE OF WORK.**

# Ed tor al

The July 2025 Breakfast Forum of the Nigeria - South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) was held on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025, sponsored by South African Airways.

Ohis Ehimiaghe, Regional General Manager, Africa, Middle East and Indian Ocean, South African Airways, was our keynote speaker. Eunice King, Vice President, Digital Transformation & Innovation, Arravo, was our speaker. They spoke on "Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work". Their presentations were well received by participants.

In a compelling segment, Ohis Ehimiaghe brought the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to life through a fictionalized – but strikingly realistic – story that highlighted the transformative impact of AI in the modern workplace. He recounted the experience of two business professionals faced with an urgent international travel requirement – an all too familiar scenario in today's fast paced global economy. With tight timelines, complex visa requirements, and rapidly shifting travel regulations, the situation demanded not only speed but precision.

Enter AI – powered solutions. From generating real time visa documentation and optimizing travel routes, to automatically translating local compliance requirements, AI served as a silent but powerful enabler – handling in minutes what would traditionally have taken days of coordination.

The story underscored a crucial point: AI is no longer a distant concept - it is a present day partner in business continuity, decision making, and efficiency.

Eunice King delivered a powerful and thought provoking contribution on the ongoing disruption across industries and job categories, emphasizing that the future of work is being rewritten in real time.

She acknowledged that job displacement is no longer a distant threat – it is a present reality, as automation and digital technologies continue to reshape tasks across sectors. However, she was equally clear that this disruption also brings opportunity: new roles are emerging, and new skills are in demand.

"Adaptability is the new job security", King asserted, challenging both organizations and individuals to embrace continuous learning.

She warned that a growing mismatch between available skills and technological realities could deepen economic inequality, particularly in Africa, if left unaddressed. Without intentional strategies from governments, educators, and employers, the benefits of AI and automation may remain concentrated, leaving many behind.

To mitigate this risk, King advocated for a strong culture of reskilling and upskilling, especially in digital literacy, problem-solving, and creative thinking. She emphasized that AI should be seen as a tool to enhance – not erase – human potential.

The Nigerian News segment highlights key developments within the Nigerian economic landscape that may be of interest to our members.

The South African News segment features selected news items that may be of interest to our members. We aim to keep you informed of regional developments that may impact business strategy and operations.

We sincerely appreciate your continued support and commitment to our shared goals. Your engagement strengthens our network and drives the impact of our collective efforts.

We value your partnership and wish your organization continued success throughout this year and beyond.

Warm regards,



Iyke Ejimofor

## OFFICERS OF THE CHAMBER

**Dr. Oba Otudeko (CFR)**  
Life Patron

**Dr Ije Jidenma, FNIM, FCIPI, FCIOD**  
Chairman

**Ajibola Olomola**  
Vice Chairman

**Giwa Osagie & Co**  
Legal Adviser

**Zoe Omonkhogbe**  
Treasurer

**Tobechukwu Okigbo**  
Director

**Ohis Ehimiaghe**  
Director

**Foluso Phillips**  
Ex-Officio Director

**Osayaba Giwa-Osagie,**  
Ex Officio Director

**Wole Adeniyi**  
Director

**Iyke Ejimofor**  
Executive Secretary

## EDITORIAL TEAM

**Iyke Ejimofor**  
01 4538571

**Akinyode Olugbenga**  
08050438838

**Elizabeth Joyegbe-Oyeleke**  
08053581484

**Adeola Bakare (Advert)**  
08081683992

## Secretariat Contact Details

Flat 4B, Manuwa Court  
Apartment 5, Manuwa Street  
Off Keffi Street, S.W.Ikoyi  
Tel: 01 4538571, 01 4538572

Email: [iykeejimofor@nsacc.org.ng](mailto:iykeejimofor@nsacc.org.ng)  
[nsacc@nsacc.org.ng](mailto:nsacc@nsacc.org.ng)  
[www.nsacc.org.ng](http://www.nsacc.org.ng)



## NIGERIA NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria we hail thee,  
Our own dear native land,  
Though tribe and tongue may differ,  
In brotherhood, we stand,  
Nigerians all, and proud to serve  
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol  
That truth and justice reign,  
In peace or battle honour'd,  
And this we count as gain,  
To hand on to our children  
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,  
Grant this our one request,  
Help us to build a nation  
Where no man is oppressed,  
And so with peace and plenty  
Nigeria may be blessed.

## 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 matchwenyeho,  
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.

**NIGERIA-SOUTH AFRICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
We 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 AND WEBSITE ADVERTS

Companies interested in advertising in our Newsletter and website 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.

## UPCOMING SOUTH AFRICAN PROGRAMMES

### AFRICA ENERGY WEEK FORUM

African Energy Week (AEW) is the African Energy Chamber's annual event, uniting African energy leaders, global investors and executives from across the public and private sector for four days of intense dialogue on the future of the African energy industry. An interactive conference, exhibition and networking event, AEW was established in 2021 under the premise to make energy poverty history by 2030, hosting panel discussions, investor forums, industry summits and one-on-one meeting opportunities, and driving the discussions that will reshape the trajectory of the continent's energy development.

In 2025, the event returns bigger and better than ever before, serving as the official meeting place for Africa's energy elite. At the forefront of the African energy industry, AEW promotes the role Africa plays in global energy matters, centered around African-led dialogue and decision making. Covering the entire energy sector and value chain, AEW represents the only conference on the continent representative of the entire sector.

Instead of dwelling on the

challenges hindering development, AEW focuses on integration and collaboration to reverse Africa's resource curse and support energy explorers and producers across the continent. When we support upstream, midstream and downstream projects, we support jobs, we create growth, we promote gender equality, and we drive innovation that brings solutions for our future. Recognizing that the energy transition is shaping the global dialogue, AEW promotes the African position on the future of Africa's energy sector.

By advocating personal responsibility, free markets, individual liberty and an enabling environment for investors, AEW ensures that Africa's oil and natural gas industry and Africans stand to benefit, rather than continuing a reliance on foreign aid and assistance. The event is slated for 3rd October 2025 CTICC Conference Centre, Cape Town. For further information contact [sales@aecweek.com](mailto:sales@aecweek.com)

### MARKETING INDABA 21 & 22 November 2025

CTICC, Cape Town - 9am to 4pm

Stay up to date with the latest marketing trends, ideas and strategies at our Marketing Conference

This popular Marketing Conference will again inspire and assist the marketing and communication industry with its annual edition. This year the two-day LIVE conference will be presented in Cape Town at the CTICC. The conference promises to inform and inspire both the professional marketer as well as those keen to get fresh ideas on marketing

their products and services.

Delegates will get the opportunity to listen to 14+ marketers and industry leaders covering an array of current topics of the marketing discipline at the Marketing Conference - Marketing Indaba. For further information contact: [info@cadec.co.za](mailto:info@cadec.co.za)

### AFRICAN MINING WEEK (AMW) 2025

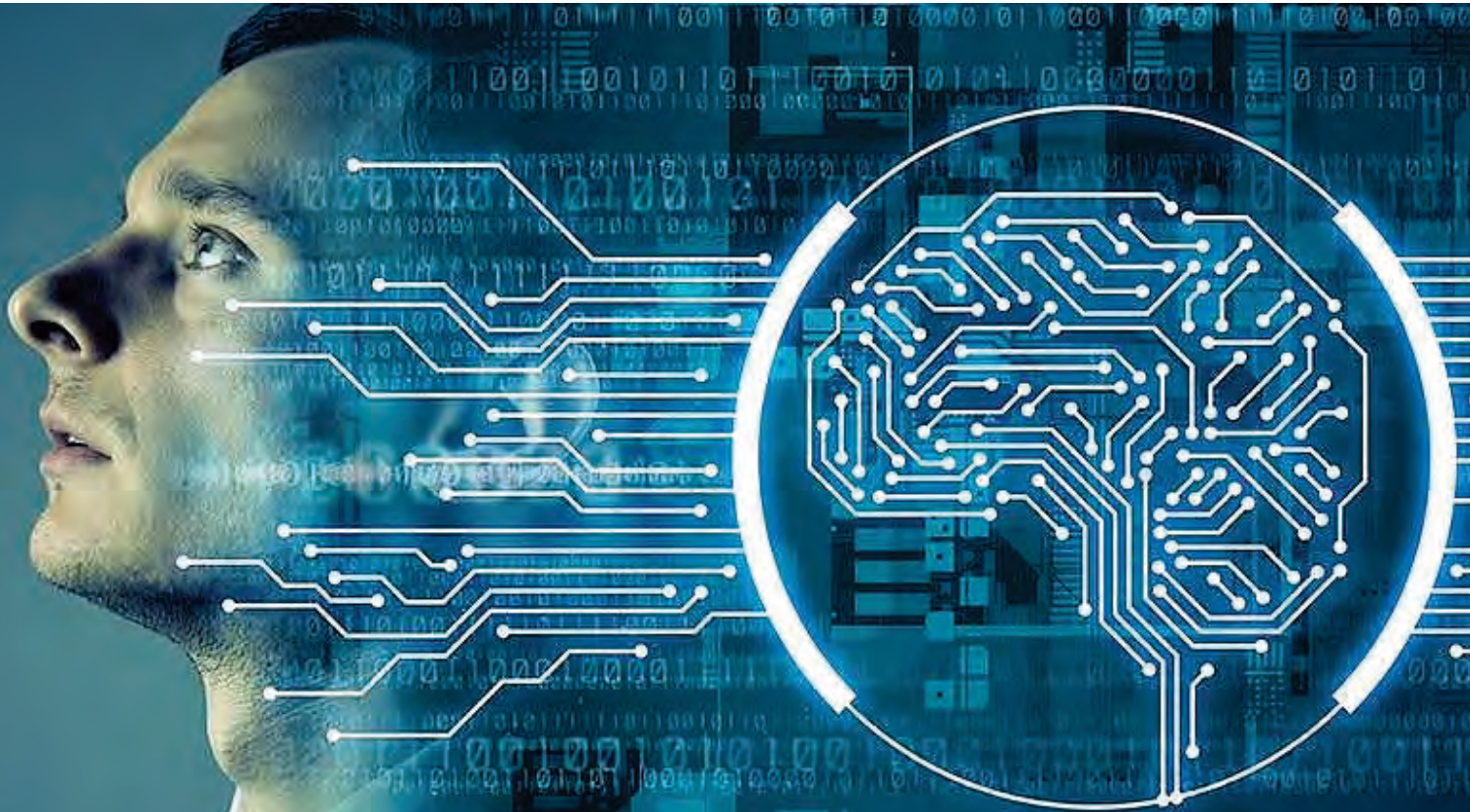
Africa is not just a mining powerhouse—it is the engine of the future. As global industries shift toward advanced manufacturing, clean energy and high-tech innovation, Africa's vast reserves of minerals position the continent at the heart of industrial transformation. The inaugural African Mining Week (AMW) 2025 will be the definitive platform to accelerate investment, technology adoption, and sustainable growth in Africa's mining sector.

From October 1–3, 2025, at the Cape Town International Convention Centre, AMW will bring together stakeholders from across Africa and around the world to drive meaningful conversations, forge partnerships and unlock the continent's mining potential. For further information visit: <https://african-miningweek.com>

### Iyke Ejimofor

Executive Secretary  
Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce  
Flat 4B, Manuwa Court Apartment  
5, Manuwa Street  
Off Keffi Street, S.W. Ikoyi  
Tel: 01-4538571, 01-4538572  
Email: [iykeejimofor@nsacc.org.ng](mailto:iykeejimofor@nsacc.org.ng)  
[nsacc@nsacc.org.ng](mailto:nsacc@nsacc.org.ng)  
[www.nsacc.org.ng](http://www.nsacc.org.ng)





## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND THE FUTURE OF WORK.

**A**s Africa navigates its path through the fourth industrial revolution, the Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) has brought together top business leaders, technologists, and policymakers at its July 2025 Breakfast Meeting in Lagos to address one of the continent's most urgent conversations: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Future of Work.

With the powerful theme anchored around opportunity rather than fear, the event was sponsored by South African Airways.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Ije Jidenma, Chairperson of NSACC, acknowledged the fears surrounding AI while

encouraging attendees to focus on the opportunities it brings for transformation. "The future of work is not something to fear. It is something we can shape together."

She spoke candidly about Africa's unique paradox—on one hand, a youthful, growing population and vibrant tech ecosystem; on the other, staggering unemployment and a widening skills gap.

Dr. Jidenma emphasized that "AI will not replace people, but people who use AI will replace those who don't."

She called on the governments at all levels to provide an enabling policy framework and enabling environments that

balance innovation with data privacy and inclusive growth.

\* Educators and institutions to reimagine curricula and train students for jobs that may not yet exist.

Guest speaker Eunice King, Vice President, Digital Transformation and Innovation at Arravo, delivered an insightful and data-backed presentation that served as both a warning and a blueprint for action.

Her keynote address titled "AI and the Future of Work" broke down the ongoing disruption across sectors and job categories, highlighting:

### **Job Displacement Is Real**

Roles like Retail cashiers (especially in developed markets)





Entry-level customer support agents

Basic proofreaders and editors...are rapidly being automated through AI-driven tools, bots, and platforms.

## But New Roles Are Emerging

In their place, new positions are springing up:

AI Trainers & Data Annotators

Automation Workflow Designers

AI Application Developers & Integrators

## Ethical AI Analysts

"If it can be automated, it probably will be," King emphasized. "But it's not the automation that's dangerous—it's the lack of adaptation."

She warned that a mismatch between available skills and new tech realities could deepen inequality unless African nations take strategic steps.

Using insights from the World Economic Forum's 2024 Trends Report, King presented a powerful graphic outlining the relationship between skill levels and AI replaceability.

High-skill, low-replaceability roles: AI researchers, senior architects, neurosurgeons

Moderate-skill, moderate-risk roles: Financial analysts, software developers, paralegals

**Low-skill, high-risk roles:** Data entry clerks, telemarketers, basic cashiers

The verdict was clear: adaptability is the new job security.

To bridge the gap between current competencies and future demands, King advocated a strong reskilling and upskilling culture, with four core strategies:

1. Identify skill gaps
2. Enroll in courses and workshops.
3. Build mentorship and networking circles.
4. Adopt a lifelong learning mindset.

She highlighted examples of AI applications in African sectors:

**Healthcare:** Kangpe AI (Nigeria), AI diagnostics in South Africa

**Agriculture:** Hello Tractor, smart irrigation

**Finance:** Flutterwave (fraud detection), FNB (customer profiling)

**Education:** AI tutors and personalized learning systems

"AI is here to enhance—not erase—human potential," King concluded. "Let's use it to free up our time for creativity, innovation, and impact."

Adding a dramatic and humorous edge, Ohis Ehimiaghe, Regional GM, Africa, Middle East, and India Ocean Islands of South African Airways, illustrated the power of AI through a fictionalized—but all too real—story of two business professionals faced with urgent international travel.

SAA's Country Manager, Mrs. Kemi Leke-Bamtefa emphasised the role of the airline in empowering their partners by organizing such meetings to keep them abreast of trends and conversations that may impact business. "We are committed to supporting and carrying our partners along as the industry continues to evolve and as we also revolutionize our processes and adapt to changes in order to equip them with the foresight,

critical information and necessary skills to sustain their businesses and empower them," she said.

As major receiver of Skytrax awards in Africa, SAA has a rich history of excellence in the aviation industry with 91 years of operation. The airline is well-positioned to continue delivering exceptional service to its customers.

One man, bogged down by manual processes and paperwork, missed a critical deadline.

The other, empowered by AI-driven visa applications, automated document processing, and facial recognition at airports, managed to board an international flight in under 72 hours—with no human interaction.

"From his home to sitting in business class—zero human interaction. That's not fiction. That's reality," he said to a stunned and amused audience.

The lesson? Technology levels the playing field—only for those who embrace it.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Jidenma reiterated that Africa cannot afford to sit on the sidelines of the AI revolution. She proposed key action points for the Chamber and its stakeholders:

Cross-border AI collaborations between Nigeria and South Africa

Industry hackathons hosted by companies like Google and Arravo

Creation of an AI Policy Task Force to guide ethical and responsible AI adoption in Africa

"Let today's discussion inspire not just ideas, but action," she charged.

"Let's commit to building a future where AI serves humanity—and where Africa leads

## FG EYES 10M TONNES LIQUID STEEL PRODUCTION BY 2030—TINUBU

IN a bid to revitalize and position the steel sector and make it a global attraction, President Bola Tinubu, Wednesday, disclosed that the Federal Government, FG, is targeting 10 million tonnes liquid steel production by 2030.

Tinubu stated this in his keynote at the inaugural Two-day National Stakeholders Summit on Steel Development in Abuja yesterday with the theme 'Rebuilding and Consolidating Nigeria's Steel Industry: Collaborative Action for Sustainable Growth and Global Competitiveness'.

The President, who was represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, said that the steel industry is the bedrock of industrialization and socioeconomic development and diversification from oil.

He stated: "The steel industry will not be revitalized by government alone, therefore, the private sector should drive the industry's investment and revitalization through innovations and research by the academia while Nigerians need to patronize the industry.

"Despite our vast natural endowments in iron ore, limestone and coal, Nigeria imports over 90% of the steel it consumes. The Ajaokuta Steel Company, once envisioned as our industrial crown jewel, stands idle, a monument to abandoned ambition. This is not just an economic failure. It is a threat to our sovereignty.

"My administration is changing the narrative. I stand before you today to declare that we will rethink, retool, and revitalize the Nigeria's steel sector.

"Our set target is to achieve production of 10 Million tonnes of liquid Steel by 2030 and generate over 500,000 jobs in the industry for a self-reliant and industrialized Nigeria.

"To ensure a structured development, the administration has outlined comprehensive roadmaps such as a ten-year plan for the overall revival of Nigeria's steel sector as well as a three-year specific plan for the operationalization of the Ajaokuta Steel Plant. These plans encompass infrastructure development, regulatory reforms, and capacity building to foster a conducive environment for the steel industry's growth.

## TECH BRANDS DRIVE FUTURE DIGITAL ECONOMY TO SUPPORT NIGERIA'S \$1TRN 2030 AMBITION

Nigeria has risen to the forefront of Africa's digital economy with a powerful ecosystem that is both homegrown and resilient – fuelled by government initiatives, global tech enterprises, and a thriving startup ecosystem; propelling Nigeria's future with tech opportunities in talent development and digital infrastructure to help achieve the goal of \$1 trillion economy by 2030.

Central to Nigeria – and Africa's – ambitions of digital sovereignty lie in the opportunity to upskill, operate and expand grassroots talent and organisations. Perfectly timed to support these ambitions is the inaugural edition of GITEX NIGERIA which will act as a convergence point for key local and international decision makers, not only in tech but across multiple sectors embracing digital transformation.

Held under the patronage of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR, GITEX NIGERIA premieres across Abuja and Lagos. It is supported by the Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy in collaboration with the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA). The event is endorsed by Lagos State Government, and organised by KAOUN International, the

global organiser of GITEX events.

A high-level Government Leadership & AI Summit in Abuja takes place on the opening day in September to forge a united future for international leaders driving the growth of digital infrastructure, AI, and innovation.

Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, said: "Building and deploying AI infrastructure and solutions for Nigeria and Africa is not only a technological advancement, but also a chance to redefine our place in the global digital economy. Our success in delivering on this will ensure that we evolve from being passive consumers of AI to becoming net producers of talent and solutions that can compete and thrive internationally.."

The GITEX NIGERIA programme then transitions to Lagos, headlining across two locations from 3-4 September. The Eko Hotel Convention Centre hosts the GITEX NIGERIA *Tech Expo & Future Economy Conference*, while the Landmark Centre welcomes the GITEX NIGERIA *Startup Festival*. Combined, it will be West Africa's largest gathering of technology visionaries, industry leaders, and decision-makers overseeing digital transformation of non-tech sectors.

Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu said: "Lagos is and continues to be a city that facilitates progress. As we collectively build our city into the preferred destination for innovation and digital solutions, GITEX NIGERIA's shared ambition will place Lagos at the heart of Africa's digital future."

Director General/CEO, National Information Technology Development Agency, Mr. Kashifu Inuwa Abdullahi, said: "We are committed to cultivating a Nigerian digital ecosystem that becomes a global benchmark for equitable AI advancement; one that is synonymous with inclusive access to AI



technologies, infrastructure, and solutions. GITEX NIGERIA is more than an event, it is the cornerstone for Africa's digital renaissance and a catalyst for developing world-class AI infrastructure which promotes scalability, sovereignty & global competitiveness."

## **DISCRETIONARY DEMAND FOR FX DRIVES Naira VOLATILITY – OYEDELE**

The Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms, Taiwo Oyedele, has identified discretionary demand for foreign exchange as a major driver of the naira's volatility.

Speaking at the Nigerian Economic Summit Group's half-year review of the economy in Lagos recently, Oyedele emphasised that the naira's stability depends on addressing this discretionary demand.

According to Norrenberger's latest report, the naira demonstrated relative stability in the first half of 2025, with the Central Bank of Nigeria's consistent foreign exchange interventions aimed at maintaining market stability.

The naira appreciated marginally by 0.20 per cent at the official market, closing at N1,532/\$, while it recorded a stronger gain of 5.10 per cent in the parallel market, closing at N1,575/\$. Oyedele noted that Nigeria has more dollar inflow than outflow legitimately, but stressed that discretionary demand remains a significant challenge. "If we produce and keep producing without addressing discretionary demand, the naira will not stabilise at a lower rate," he said.

He added, "I believe that the naira is significantly undervalued. Imagine if we get the naira to sub 1,000/\$; just imagine what that means for everything from inflation to cost of living, to standard of living, to poverty."

Oyedele also called for transparency as a criterion for FAAC allocation, suggesting that the conditions for sharing money on a monthly basis should include transparency.

"Why don't we make the conditions of sharing money on a monthly basis include transparency? Why is it only the population of the state?" he asked.

Regarding tax reforms, Oyedele clarified that the reforms are not designed to rake in more money from next year. "In fact, one of the things we did, which was why we wanted to raise VAT, but it wasn't popular. The reform we did to VAT is likely to result in a drop of VAT revenue by up to 60 per cent," he said.

## **FED GOVT SECURES 200 HECTARES FOR LEKKI HOUSING MATERIALS HUB**

The Federal Government has secured 200 hectares of land within the Lekki Free Trade Zone, Lagos, for a building materials hub to reduce housing production costs.

Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Mr Ahmed Dangiwa, disclosed this during a tour of industrial areas within the Lekki and Lagos Free Zones.

The Lagos Free Zone is part of the larger Lekki Free Trade Zone ecosystem, a commercial hub integrated with the Lekki Deep Sea Port.

Dangiwa inspected various housing projects, industries, building materials testing laboratories, the deep sea port, Alaro City, Lagos Coastal City, and other ongoing developments.

He said establishing a building materials hub is part of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda, aimed at cutting construction costs and providing affordable housing.

to him, the hub will promote local content, curb rising costs of materials,

encourage domestic production, and ensure sustainable housing delivery nationwide.

He added that President Tinubu's vision is to establish similar hubs across the six geopolitical zones of the country.

The minister, conducted round the projects by Lekki Worldwide Investments Ltd Managing Director, Mr Adeniyi Akinlusi, commended the firm for its remarkable achievements.

Dangiwa also thanked the company for providing a strategic site for the proposed Federal Government Building Materials Manufacturing Hub within the Lekki Free Trade Zone.

During inspection of Alaro City, he praised the management's sustainable building efforts, saying they align with the government's plan to close Nigeria's shelter gap through PPPs.

He said the building materials hub is a key agenda of the current administration's Housing and Urban Development Renewed Hope programme.

According to him, one hub will be built in each zone of the country, with the Lagos hub already sited within the Lekki Free Trade Zone.

The minister said intermodal transport infrastructure, including a seaport, airport, rail and roads, will support the effectiveness of the hubs.

He disclosed that an investor has been secured for the project, which will cut Nigeria's housing deficit by boosting local building materials production.

Dangiwa stressed that this would reduce foreign exchange spent on imports, while creating jobs through local manufacturing of essential construction inputs.

Interacting with businesses, he noted their operations were driving economic growth, with houses and residential areas springing up within the zone.

He explained that infrastructure such as ports and an airport inevitably attracts real estate, as housing is required to support these developments.

“We are pleased, some houses here have already been acquired by off-takers,” he added.

Earlier, Akinlusi provided updates on projects, noting that the free zone was designed to stimulate growth, reduce imports, attract investment, create jobs and boost housing.

Highlighting real estate and industrial aspects, he described the 16,500-hectare Lekki Free Trade Zone as a national asset.

“The whole zone is Nigeria's best-kept investment secret,” he said.

Industry heads within the zone also showcased power plants, manufacturing sites and new projects, explaining their operations to the minister during the tour.

In a related development Dangiwa, said President Bola Tinubu will, in the coming weeks, inaugurate the Renewed Hope City Project in Ibeju Lekki, Lagos.

He described the project as one of the flagship schemes in the South-West under the Renewed Hope Cities initiative, being developed across the six geopolitical zones and the Federal Capital Territory.

According to him, the Ibeju Lekki project is already 80 per cent completed, with over 700 housing units ready for allocation.

“We have come and seen that the project is almost 80 per cent completed, and it is about to be commissioned by Mr. President.

“On that day, he will also lay the foundation for the second phase of the scheme,” Dangiwa said.

The minister explained that the Lagos scheme, when fully completed, would

deliver 2,000 housing units.

He added that the project underscored President Tinubu's commitment to bridging Nigeria's housing deficit.

Executive Director, Loans and Mortgage Services, Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), Dr. Muhammad Abdul, said the houses are designed to be affordable and accessible to workers and cooperative societies.

He explained that beneficiaries were expected to make a 10 per cent initial payment, while the balance would be spread over their years of service.

Abdul noted that the interest rates are kept between six and nine per cent, being among the lowest in the market.

Abdul noted that some units had already been handed over, with prices ranging from N3 million to N50 million, depending on type and design.

“This model ensures that no worker pays beyond one-third of their income for housing, in line with international labour standards,” he said.

The minister reaffirmed that the Renewed Hope Cities initiative would be replicated nationwide to provide decent and affordable housing for Nigerian.

## EXPERTS CALLS FOR BANKABLE PROJECTS TO UNLOCK AFRICA'S \$70BN INFRASTRUCTURE GAP

The PMI Global Summit Series Africa, which held recently in Kigali, Rwanda, has emphasised that poorly prepared projects in Africa, remain the biggest barrier to the continent's transformation.

According to expert views from the summit, Africa's greatest obstacle is not a shortage of capital but a shortage of bankable projects.

The Summit, the largest of its kind on the continent, served as a platform to discuss how Africa can turn its vast

potential into reality through bankable projects, professional project management, and strategic partnerships that deliver long-term impact.

In his address, the former president, African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, said Africa remained at a pivotal moment in history.

According to him, “The world is becoming more African. One in four people on the planet will soon be African. With 65 per cent of the world's uncultivated arable land, abundant critical minerals for the green transition, and 13 of the world's fastest-growing economies, Africa is poised to drive global prosperity.”

To realise this potential, he said Africa must close its infrastructure gap, estimated at \$70 billion annually, and ensure that projects deliver real impact.

Managing Director, PMI sub-Saharan Africa, George Asamani, said: “Africa's future will be shaped not by the number of projects we launch, but by the impact those projects deliver.”

Director, Development Impact and Results Department at the AfDB, Armand Nzeyimana, spotlighted the persistent obstacle about the shortage of well-prepared, bankable projects.

According to him, a bankable project is one that meets three essential tests: technical feasibility, with proven designs and resilient standards; financial viability, with clear revenue models and acceptable risk-return profile for investors.



## **SA YOUTH TRADE ASSOCIATION CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP BY DEPUTY MINISTER WHITFIELD**

Theme: “Empowering and creating a conducive environment for an inclusive and sustainable trade through a meaningful youth participation”

The Government of National Unity is fully committed to rapid, inclusive economic growth and job creation. As the Department of Trade, Industry & Competition our key focus is on stimulating manufacturing growth in order to build an export-oriented economy.

The role of sustainable trade in this regard is critical as it involves promoting economic development, social welfare, and environmental stewardship through international trade. Its goal is to minimise the adverse negative effects of trade, such as pollution, resource depletion, and inequality, while enhancing positive effects, such as income, employment, and education. Sustainable trade is not only about the products, but also the processes and policies that govern them according to the World Economic Forum.

The department endeavours to contribute to sustainable trade through export promotion initiatives that foster inclusive economic growth; support youth entrepreneurship; contribute to retaining and creating jobs whilst addressing the environmental and social challenges.

The department's approach to sustainable trade thus focuses on providing youth entrepreneurs with the tools and platforms necessary to enter international markets. Through supporting youth participation in these platforms that connect them

with international buyers, the Branch aims to promote balanced trade. This ensures that youth-led businesses can compete fairly and sustainably on a global scale, contributing to equitable trade.

A key strategic initiative in support of youth is through market access and trade facilitation of youth-led businesses. The department supports participation in international trade missions and fairs that focus on sustainable products, giving export-ready youth entrepreneurs a platform to showcase their innovative products to a global audience. An example of such an event is Biofach, a trade show in Germany that offers a platform to showcase organic products, discuss industry trends, and promote sustainable agriculture.

In the area of exporter development the department has also introduced specialized training programmes that are specifically designed to meet the needs of young entrepreneurs to scale up their export readiness. These programmes cover critical areas such as market research, market entry strategies, export regulations, and the use of digital tools to enhance trade. We are committed to equipping our youth with the skills and knowledge they need to compete and succeed globally.

The training is complemented by mentorship and coaching from those who have walked this path before to help entrepreneurs navigate cultural and regulatory challenges and maximise opportunities in international markets.

Through the Export Help Desk the branch also facilitates access to information and resources to equip SMMEs with the market intelligence,

trade data, and resources they need to make informed decisions about entering and thriving in global markets.

South Africa has several trade agreements and trade arrangements in place that offer significant opportunities for South African businesses. Initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and our partnerships within BRICS are gateways to new markets. On this note, it is important to reflect on the fact that the median age on the African continent is 19 years. The future of Africa's export-led growth and inter-continental trade, is intrinsically linked to Africa's youth.

In that regard the department, through outreach programmes, supports our youth-owned and SMME businesses to take full advantage of these opportunities. These agreements provide a pathway for our young entrepreneurs to access new markets, increase their competitiveness, and scale their operations on an international level.

In today's world, digital tools and e-commerce are essential for opening up global markets. As such the department is also scaling up support initiatives that encourage digital literacy and the adoption of technology in business operations. This will enable our youth to compete effectively in the global digital economy and take full advantage of the opportunities it offers.

Furthermore, digital platforms are also leveraged to connect seasoned and youth entrepreneurs with international buyers who are interested in eco-friendly and environmentally responsible goods/services.

As a parting comment, many may not be interested in trade policy, but trade policy is increasingly taking an interest in you.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you at this capacity building workshop. The DTIC remains committed to supporting young entrepreneurs towards our objective of building an export-oriented economy.

## THE DTIC AND SAB FOUNDATION PARTNER TO BOOST EXPORT READINESS OF SMALL BUSINESSES

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), in partnership with the SAB Foundation, is implementing a comprehensive Export Readiness Programme to prepare emerging South African businesses for international trade. The programme forms part of a structured pathway to develop globally competitive small businesses, with shared investment from both partners.

The initiative began earlier this year with an export awareness workshop, introducing the SAB Foundation entrepreneurs to the opportunities and requirements of global markets. This was followed by an export readiness assessment, which evaluated participating companies and identified their strengths and areas for improvement in export development.

The programme recently advanced into its third phase with an intensive training and coaching intervention, delivered through the dtic's Global Export Passport Programme (GEPP). The week-long training equipped participants with practical skills in export strategy development, compliance, logistics, and market entry planning.

Over the next four months, the

programme will continue to advance to other phases of the GEPP, with each participating business receiving tailored coaching to develop a dedicated export marketing plan.

As part of the last week's activities, participants also undertook a study tour to in2food, a leading South African agri-business that supplies leading retail brands locally and has established strong markets in the United Kingdom and European Union. in2food manufactures a broad range of products across the fresh, bakery, frozen and grocery categories. The visit provided real-world insights into meeting global standards and scaling operations for export success.

Future phases of the Export Readiness Programme will include market access support, where businesses will be linked to relevant platforms, buyers, and opportunities to showcase their products internationally.

According to the Director of Export Development and Support at the dtic, Mr Kwanele Mkhwanazi, the collaboration with the SAB Foundation ensures that small businesses are taken on a structured export journey, complemented with insightful export awareness and thorough diagnostic assessment, training, coaching, and actual market access.

"A key improvement we have made to the Global Export Passport Programme is the introduction of study tours such as the one to in2food. This ensures that entrepreneurs learn practically from well-established exporters what it truly takes to compete globally before venturing into their own export journey," says Mkhwanazi.

"We also call on established

exporters to partner with the dtic in mentoring emerging exporters by sharing their skills, experiences and knowledge, so that we build a stronger and more inclusive export ecosystem for South Africa," he adds.

Speaking on behalf of the SAB Foundation, Ms Itumeleng Dhlamini, Head of Programme, acknowledged the *partnership as one that enables the SAB Foundation to give programme participants more than funding and business support, but tools and pathways to become successful exporters.*

*"By collaborating with the dtic, we are helping small businesses unlock international opportunities that can create jobs and drive inclusive growth,"* says Dhlamini

The Export Readiness Programme reflects a shared commitment between the dtic and the SAB Foundation to strengthen the competitiveness of South Africa's small business sector. By the conclusion of the programme, participating enterprises will be export-ready, equipped with tailored strategies, and positioned to access global markets.

## SA HIGH COMMISSIONER HIGHLIGHTS STRONG ECONOMIC TIES AT OUTWARD SELLING MISSION IN GHANA

The Acting South African High Commissioner to Ghana, Mr Thando Dalamba, has reaffirmed the strong diplomatic and commercial ties between South Africa and Ghana during the official opening of the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition's (the dtic) Outward Selling Mission (OSM) in Accra, Ghana, yesterday.

This second leg of the mission follows engagements held in Lagos, Nigeria,



earlier this week, and forms part of the dtic's support to the South African businesses to access new markets and expand trade relations across the continent.

Addressing business leaders and stakeholders, Dalamba noted that the mission brought together leading South African companies from sectors including mining, infrastructure, agriculture, and agro-processing, who are eager to explore Ghana's trade and investment opportunities.

"We meet here today with a shared goal to deepen our economic cooperation for mutually beneficial partnerships and contribute to the sustainable growth of both our countries," said Dalamba.

Dalamba emphasised that the mission builds on more than three decades of diplomatic relations between South Africa and Ghana, which have evolved into robust commercial partnerships. He pointed out that total trade between the two countries has grown significantly, with South Africa recording surpluses in 2022 and 2023, driven largely by exports of iron ore, steel products, and automotive parts, while also experiencing a sharp rise in imports of gold and petroleum products.

"This underscores the need to boost South African exports to Ghana, with particular focus on local manufacturing and beneficiation," he stated.

According to the Ghana Investment Promotion Centre, there are close to 200 South African companies currently operating in Ghana. Acting High Commissioner Dalamba welcomed this presence but highlighted the need for updated statistics in collaboration with the Centre to capture the full scope of

South African business activity in the country.

He also urged South African firms to align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 17, which calls for partnerships in pursuit of shared prosperity.

"I encourage our companies to partner with their Ghanaian counterparts in establishing local plants and value-addition facilities with the aim of creating jobs, enhancing skills, and making significant contributions to poverty reduction," he said.

Highlighting the role of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Dalamba described it as a new chapter for intra-African trade, noting that South Africa's first shipment under the AfCFTA to Ghana in January 2024 included locally manufactured goods such as automotive components, showcasing the opportunities the agreement creates for both countries.

He further welcomed Ghana's economic initiatives aimed at improving infrastructure, productivity, and job creation, and encouraged reciprocal efforts by Ghanaian businesses to explore opportunities in South Africa across diverse sectors, including manufacturing, energy, technology, and tourism.

Dalamba also referenced the reciprocal visa waiver agreement between South Africa and Ghana, effective from November 2023, which allows passport holders to travel for up to 90 days, describing it as a "major enabler of business exchange."

He concluded by linking the mission to the South Africa–Ghana Bi-National Commission, last held in

Pretoria in March 2024, which prioritised trade and investment among other key areas of cooperation.

## **SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS DELEGATION CONCLUDES OUTWARD SELLING MISSION TO NIGERIA AND GHANA**

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) has concluded its Outward Selling Mission (OSM) to Nigeria and Ghana, held from 25–30 August 2025. The mission formed part of the dtic's ongoing mandate to strengthen South Africa's trade and investment footprint across the continent and to position local companies for opportunities under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Over the course of the week, a delegation of South African companies, supported through the Export Marketing and Investment Assistance (EMIA) scheme, participated in a structured programme that included trade and investment seminars, business-to-business engagements, and site visits in Lagos and Accra.

Reflecting on the mission, the Chief Director of Export Promotion at the dtic, Ms Zanele Sanni, emphasised the value of the engagements.

"The Outward Selling Mission has provided South African businesses with important exposure to the Nigerian and Ghanaian markets. The platforms created during this week have allowed our delegation to introduce their products and services, explore areas of collaboration, and gain insights into the evolving trade and investment landscape in West Africa," said Sanni.

Today, the delegation concluded its

programme in Ghana with a visit to the Dawa Industrial Zone, one of the country's flagship industrialisation projects.

"The visit to Dawa Industrial Zone highlighted the scale of opportunities that exist for industrial cooperation. It underscored Ghana's commitment to manufacturing and value-added production, which could present future partnership prospects for South African companies," added Sanni.

She stressed that while immediate outcomes will take time to materialise, the groundwork laid during the mission was an important step in strengthening South Africa's trade relations in the region.

"As with all outward missions, the tangible results will become clearer in the coming months as participating companies build on the connections they have made. What is important is that we have taken deliberate steps to deepen our economic ties with two of West Africa's most strategic partners, and that momentum will carry forward," concluded Sanni.

The dtic, working in collaboration with the South African High Commissions in Nigeria and Ghana, will continue to provide follow-up support to participating companies to ensure that the engagements from this mission contribute towards sustainable trade and investment growth.

## **SOUTH AFRICA AND ALGERIA TO ESTABLISH TRADE ROUTES TO IMPROVE TRADE**

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Parks Tau met with his counterpart, the Algerian Minister of Foreign Trade and Export

Promotion, Mr Kamal Rezig in Algiers, Algeria over the weekend. The meeting discussed the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Economic Cooperation, and agreed to establish trade routes to improve bilateral trade and market access for both Algerian and South African goods and services.

The MoU was signed in December last year during the Bi-National Commission between Algeria and South Africa. It covers cooperation in trade, industrial development, and infrastructure development.

"The MoU serves as the umbrella instrument from which all other bilateral economic agreements on trade and investment-related matters draw their specific individual mandates. We also proposed the establishment of the Joint Trade and Investment Committee which will act as a platform for the two parties to meet regularly to enable trade and investment facilitation," said Tau.

He added that South Africa's commitment to continental integration and its partnership with Algeria and other African nations laid in building a resilient, inclusive, and innovation-driven economy.

"Minister Rezig and I agreed to explore opportunities on each others' markets to enhance cooperation in oil and gas, automotive, infrastructure development, pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, aviation, agriculture and agro-processing," he said.

Tau also met with the Algerian Acting Prime Minister, Mr Sifi Ghrieb. They discussed the importance of establishing a business council which will be used as a vehicle to fast-track trade between the two countries.

"The business council will also

enhance collaboration and share technical expertise in strategic sectors. We also discussed at length the re-instatement of the South Africa-Algeria air route that will facilitate people-to-people and commercial relations between the two countries," he said.

Minister Parks Tau, at the Proudly SA eCommerce Platform Launch

It is a great honour to speak with you today as we launch two critical e-commerce platforms which will enhance South Africa's economic prosperity.

At the core of our industrialisation agenda lies a straightforward truth: we must build local, buy local, and support local. Localisation is not just a policy choice, it is a national imperative for job creation, industrial development, and economic sovereignty.

Localisation as a Strategic Pillar of Industrialisation  
South Africa's industrial structure continues to face pressures from import dependency and global volatility. In 2023, South Africa recorded a trade deficit in manufactured goods exceeding R150 billion, a clear indication of our over-reliance on imported finished products.

At the same time, our unemployment rate remains stubbornly high — sitting at 32.9% in Q1 2024, with youth unemployment at a staggering 45.5%. These numbers make it clear that we cannot afford to outsource production, jobs, and value creation.

That is why the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) has acknowledged localisation as a key part of any industrial strategy. We are pursuing targeted interventions across sectors including agro-



processing, automotive, clothing and textiles, pharmaceuticals, and renewable energy components.

As part of this drive, the dtic continues to support Proudly South African and the national Buy Local campaign. Since its inception, Proudly SA has registered over 2,000-member companies, representing businesses that meet strict local content and quality standards.

Through campaigns like “Buy Local to Create Jobs”, the movement is working to shift consumer choices and institutional procurement behaviours. Research by Proudly SA indicates that if every household redirected just 10% of their annual spend to local goods, it could create up to 120,000 new jobs.

**Harnessing Digital Innovation for Market Access**  
While advocating for local purchasing, we must ensure that South African-made products are visible, accessible, and easy to procure, both locally and internationally.

After our successful virtual pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, we realised that South Africa lacked a centralised digital marketplace to showcase and connect buyers with locally made goods.

the dtic responded by commissioning the development of a national online store, led by Proudly SA, designed to serve as a trusted one-stop-shop for consumers and businesses to access South African products.

The first phase focused on B2C (business-to-consumer) functionality, and the platform now includes bulk and wholesale purchasing capabilities. To date, over 500 verified South African suppliers have been onboarded, with thousands of products available

across categories.

The next major development is the introduction of export functionality. This will allow South African manufacturers, especially MSMEs, to access opportunities presented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a market with a projected GDP of \$3.4 trillion and access to 1.4 billion consumers.

South Africa's eCommerce market itself is also growing, expected to reach R225 billion by 2025, with increased internet penetration and digital payment infrastructure expanding rapidly. It is critical that local producers benefit from this growth, and do not get left behind.

By supporting local businesses to enter digital marketplaces, we're not just growing the economy, we're digitally enabling industrialisation.

**Inclusive Procurement for Broad-Based Economic Empowerment**  
Beyond transactional platforms, we must also create tools that facilitate inclusive and transformative procurement.

The launch of the Market Access Platform (MAP) represents a breakthrough in this regard. This is a non-transactional B2B platform, designed to help procurement officials in both public and private sectors identify verified local suppliers, including designated groups.

In South Africa, only about 20% of public procurement spending reaches MSMEs, and even less goes to youth, women, or disability-owned businesses. This must change.

MAP directly supports this transformation. It will allow procurement teams to filter suppliers by sector, ownership profile, compliance status, and local content

thresholds, making it easier to meet targets for localisation and transformation.

Through MAP, large buyers can connect with:   
V  
Black-owned businesses  
Women-owned enterprises  
Youth-led startups  
Businesses owned by persons with disabilities and military veterans

This is not just about compliance. It is about building an inclusive industrial base that reflects the full potential of South Africa's human capital.

If every large institution — public or private — made a 10% shift toward these groups, it would unleash billions of rands in procurement value into the hands of those who have historically been excluded.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Conclusion**  
We are at a critical juncture. Our localisation strategy is more than a set of targets, but rather, it is a commitment to rebuild the productive economy, reduce inequality, and empower South African producers.

Through platforms like the national online store and MAP, we are removing friction, creating access, and bridging the gap between policy intent and market reality.

But we cannot do it alone.

We need every South African consumer, buyer, CEO, and policymaker to act. Buy local. Source local. Empower local.



## ZENITH BANK HONOURS PIONEER CUSTOMERS, STAFF ON 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Zenith Bank Plc has honoured pioneer customers and long-serving staff members as it celebrated its 35th anniversary in Lagos.

According to a statement on Saturday, the anniversary celebration brought together key stakeholders, partners, staff and friends of the bank to acknowledge over three decades of excellence, innovation and reliability in the Nigerian banking sector.

Founded in May 1990, Zenith Bank has grown from humble beginnings into one of Africa's leading financial institutions, with a reputation for stability, innovation and outstanding customer service.

At the event, Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Zenith Bank Plc, Dr Adaora Umeoji, underscored the bank's enduring commitment to delivering exceptional service and providing financial solutions that empower individuals and businesses.

"Our success has been built on the trust of our customers and the dedication of our staff. Today, we not only celebrate 35 years of growth and excellence but also the people who made this possible," she said.

Also present at the ceremony was the founder & chairman of Zenith Bank, Mr Jim Ovia, who applauded the bank's sustained impact and strengthened reputation over the years. The event was graced by several eminent personalities, including the Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu; businessman Aliko Dangote; and the Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, alongside other notable dignitaries.

The celebration featured keynote speeches, award presentations and

musical performances, creating a memorable atmosphere for all in attendance.

## UBA, BOI LAUNCH N5BN FACILITY FOR FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS

United Bank for Africa Plc has secured a N5bn loan facility from the Bank of Industry to boost key sectors of the economy and support the growth of sustainable and viable businesses in Nigeria, with a primary focus on micro, small, and medium enterprises owned by women.

The facility, according to a statement from UBA on Sunday, disbursed through the Federal Government's MSME Fund, is designed to stimulate key sectors of the economy while offering affordable financing to support businesses in Green Energy, Education, Healthcare, and Women-Owned Enterprises.

UBA's Group Managing Director/CEO, Oliver Alawuba, emphasised the bank's commitment to fostering economic growth by empowering MSMEs, which he described as the "lifewire of any developing economy."

"At UBA, we recognise the pivotal role MSMEs play in driving economic development, and how they make up a sizable portion of what drives our economic growth," Alawuba said. "By offering loans at a competitive 9% interest rate with a three-year tenor, we are removing the traditional barriers that hinder SME growth in Nigeria and Africa."

The facility provides a maximum loan amount of N5m per obligor, with a three-month moratorium on principal repayments, ensuring businesses have ample time to stabilise before they begin to service the loans.

UBA's Group Head of Retail and Digital Banking, Shamsideen

Fashola, highlighted the strategic importance of the targeted sectors to the nation's continued growth, noting that the initiative will strengthen financial inclusion and set the country on the path of sustainable development.

"We are structuring this facility to align with our broader mission of financial inclusion and economic empowerment," Fashola said. "For us at UBA, we will be targeting Green Energy, Education, Healthcare, and Women-Owned Enterprises, which are critical to Nigeria's sustainable development." The initiative is expected to make a meaningful contribution to the economy and promote sustainable development.

UBA's Group Head, Marketing and Corporate Communications, Alero Ladipo, urged business owners, especially women, to take advantage of the initiative. "What sets this program apart is its accessibility and affordability," Ladipo stated. "I urge eligible businesses to visit any UBA branch or the bank's official website to begin their application process right away."

## MTN NIGERIA COMMENCES 7TH mPULSE SPELLING BEE, WITH OVER 40M IN PRIZES

MTN Nigeria has commenced the seventh edition of the mPulse Spelling Bee Competition, with over ₦40 million in prizes and a renewed focus on regional inclusion through physical competitions across the country.

This year's competition introduces a new structure that expands access by hosting regional finals in three key cities: Ibadan (South-west), Enugu (South-east and South-south), and Abuja (North-central, North-east, and North-west).





The move underscores MTN's commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for young Nigerians aged nine to 15, regardless of location.

The nationwide competition, which began with a practice stage on July 28, is designed to engage thousands of primary and secondary school students in a five-stage contest culminating in a grand finale in Lagos. The top 20 spellers, seven from each of the Ibadan and Enugu zones and six from Abuja, will compete for the national title.

The overall winner will be awarded a ₦5 million educational grant, named the mPulse Face of the Year, and crowned MTN CEO for a Day. Additional prizes include a brand-new laptop and smartphone for the winner, ₦500,000 for the winner's teacher, and ₦10 million worth of ICT infrastructure for the school.

Speaking at the launch, MTN Nigeria's Chief Marketing Officer, Onyinye Ikenna-Emeka, emphasised the competition's broader impact:

"The MTN mPulse Spelling Bee isn't just a competition; it's a platform for young Nigerians to access recognition, leadership opportunities, and academic support."

Now in its seventh year, the mPulse Spelling Bee has become one of Nigeria's most impactful youth literacy initiatives, combining digital learning with healthy competition to empower future leaders.

The competition is hosted on the mPulse website, where students can register and participate.

## **ACCESS BANK REWARDS 56 CUSTOMERS WITH N1.8M IN DIAMONDXTAPROMO**

Fifty six customers have been rewarded with N1.8 million by

Access Bank in Ibadan in its DiamondXtra Season 17 loyalty reward scheme.

The onsite draw for the winners during which 45 customers won N20,000 each; six customers winning N50,000 each, four customers winning N100,000 and a customer winning N200,000, was held at its branch in Dugbe, Ibadan.

The Regional Sales Director, South West of the bank, Mr. Bolaji Aboderin, while speaking at the event, said the reward scheme is a cornerstone of the commitment of the bank to show appreciation and give back to its loyal customers.

While assuring that the bank will continue to empower its customers, foster financial growth and be the catalyst for their dreams, he said the initiative has grown from strength to strength and achieving incredible milestones along the way.

Aboderin stated that the success of the past 16 seasons was made possible by the unwavering support of the customers, disclosing that till date the bank has rewarded 30,893 customers with over N6.61 billion, a true testament to the true value of the scheme.

He added that 12,073 customers will be rewarded with N228.7 million during the 17 season.

Aboderin said, "These rewards will be distributed across various categories, including star prize of three customers winning Salary 4 Life, loyalty rewards, monthly draws, regional draws, onsite draws, free digital marketing training and digital cluster draws."

## **FERDI MOOLMAN IS NEW CEO OF MTN SOUTH AFRICA**

Charles Molapisi is stepping down as CEO of MTN South Africa, and is being replaced in the role by Ferdi

Moolman, who was a key driver behind the telecommunications group's growth in Nigeria, where he was CEO between 2016 and 2021.

At the same time, Yolanda Cuba, currently MTN Group's vice president for Southern and East Africa, will step down from the group executive committee to become deputy CEO and executive director of MTN South Africa.

"Both Ferdi and Yolanda bring extensive group-wide experience and will collaborate to accelerate growth and maximise returns in MTN South Africa," it added.

Molapisi will have additional responsibilities and focus on speeding up AI use case adoption

Molapisi was appointed as MTN South Africa CEO in 2022, replacing Godfrey Motsa. Molapisi has a "strong background in network and IT and will remain on the group exco, taking up his previous role as group chief technology and information officer".

"He will have additional responsibilities and focus on speeding up AI use case adoption and infusion across the business. We see a significant value-creation opportunity over the medium-term in the leveraging of AI across the business in domains such as network, customer operations and workforce productivity."

Moolman, who has continued to serve as a member of the board of MTN Nigeria, will resign from that board to focus on the South African business.

At the same time, MTN said that ahead of the upcoming retirement of MTN South Africa chairman Mike Harper next year, the company has been "implementing measures to ensure a smooth and structured transition to the entity's board leadership".



“In this context, we are pleased to announce that Sindisiwe (Sindi) Mabaso-Koyana will succeed Mike as the new chairperson of MTN South Africa in the first quarter of 2026,” it said. Harper has been the company's chairman since 2016.

MTN has announced a number of other management changes:

Tsholofelo Molefe, the group chief financial officer, will have her responsibilities expanded to incorporate the mergers and acquisitions (M&A) portfolio. Kholekile Ndamase, currently chief M&A and business development officer, will step down from the group exco and have a new reporting line to Tsholofelo.

Ismail Jaroudi, currently vice president of Middle East and North Africa, will step down from group exco and assume the role of VP of special projects in the office of group president and CEO Ralph Mupita, focused on portfolio optimisation initiatives. He will also continue his role as CEO of MTN Dubai.

Ebenezer Asante, currently senior vice president of markets, will focus on accelerating the growth and the contributions of the operations in Ghana, Uganda, Rwanda, Zambia, South Sudan, Sudan, Liberia, and the joint ventures in Eswatini and Botswana. He will take on this revised role as vice president of Ghana, Southern and East Africa (SEA), taking over portfolio responsibilities from Cuba.

In addition to his responsibilities as CEO of MTN Nigeria, Karl Toriola will take on additional responsibilities as vice president of Francophone Africa, with a focus on growing the market shares of operations in these

markets.

Mazen Mroué, currently group chief technology and information officer and CEO of Digital Infrastructure, is stepping down from the GCTIO role and will prioritise the expansion of MTN's fibre and data centre businesses across Africa. As additional focus areas, he will work strategically with tower company partners, as well as lead network sharing opportunities across our operations to drive efficiencies. Mroué will lead the group's partnerships with non-terrestrial networks such as low-Earth orbit satellite operators.

Selorm Adadevoh, group chief commercial officer, will take on expanded responsibilities to include strategy and transformation.

Chika Ekeji, chief strategy and transformation officer, will step down from the group exco to focus on accelerating the growth of some of the emerging businesses aligned to the platform strategy

Paul Norman, group chief HR officer, will retire at the end of 2026, with his successor expected to be appointed by mid-2026.

Charles Molapisi

“These leadership changes will support accelerated execution of our strategy and value creation over the medium term,” MTN said.

“These leadership changes illustrate the depth of talent and experience we have across the group,” said Mupita. “The changes will support the accelerated execution of our strategy beyond 2025 as well as greater value creation for stakeholders over the medium term.”

## STANBIC IBTC BANK REWARDS SAVINGS PROMOWINNERS

Stanbic IBTC Bank has reaffirmed its dedication to fostering a sustainable savings culture in Nigeria through the successful hosting of the fourth monthly draw in its Reward4Saving Promo – Season 4.

The event took place in Lagos and witnessed the emergence of 70 lucky winners, from the Bank's seven business zones; each winning N100,000 for maintaining a minimum savings balance of N10,000 in their Stanbic IBTC Savings Account or @ease Wallet.

The balances were maintained for a minimum of 30 consecutive days.

The draw was conducted with keen oversight from regulatory representatives to ensure transparency and fairness. Notable attendees included representatives of the Federal Competition & Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC); Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON); and Lagos State Lotteries and Gaming Authority (LSLGA).

Since the commencement of the Reward4Saving Promo – Season 4, 288 customers have shared in N37 million, with the total prize expected to reach N130 million by conclusion of the initiative in April 2026.

With N93 million remaining in the prize pool, excitement continues to climb among customers of Stanbic IBTC Bank nationwide.

Speaking during the draw, Head of Sales and Distribution, Lagos Mainland, Oluwakemi Zollner, stated, “Stanbic IBTC Bank is committed to rewarding loyal customers while enhancing the savings culture within society.

The promo is open to both existing and new customers. By saving just N10,000 in your Stanbic IBTC Savings





Account or @ease Wallet for 30 consecutive days, you qualify for the draw. More savings equal higher chances of winning.”

One of the recent winners, Ebinum Abosede, an entrepreneur, shared her emotional journey upon receiving her prize. “When I initially received the call, I was doubtful and thought it could be a scam. Even my daughter warned me against going. But now that I am here and have received my alert, I could not be happier. I just moved into a new house and was searching for funds to paint my apartment. Thank you to Stanbic IBTC Bank; I can finally give my new home a fresh coat of paint.”

The Reward4Saving Promo continues to create a buzz across Nigeria, inspiring individuals to practice financial discipline while being rewarded for their dedication. Through this initiative, Stanbic IBTC Bank celebrates the achievements of savers and strengthens its role in promoting financial inclusion and empowering local communities.

## **ACCESS HOLDINGS APPOINTS INNOCENT IKE GROUP CEO, COMMENDS AGBEDE'S LEADERSHIP**

Access Holdings Plc has announced the appointment of Mr. Innocent Ike as its substantive Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, effective August 29, 2025, following regulatory approval.

Mr. Ike succeeds Ms. Bolaji Agbede, who has led the organisation as Acting Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer for the past 18 months. Agbede will return to her role as Executive Director, Business Support, and played a crucial role in ensuring a smooth transition following the passing of the former Group CEO, Herbert Wigwe.

In a statement signed by the

Company Secretary, Sunday Ekwochi, the board noted that Agbede's tenure was marked by notable achievements, including the successful execution of the Company's N351 billion rights issue, seamless hosting of two Annual General Meetings, and maintaining workforce stability. The statement added that her leadership strengthened Access Holdings' competitive position in the industry and provided the solid foundation for the next phase of growth. It states: Access Holdings today announces the appointment of Mr. Innocent Ike as the substantive Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Company, effective August 29, 2025, following the receipt of regulatory approval.

“Mr. Ike will succeed Ms. Bolaji Agbede, who has served as the Company's Acting Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer for the past 18 months and has played a vital role in driving the Company's performance. Due to regulatory stipulations on the required years of experience for a Financial Holding Company's Managing Director, Ms. Agbede will revert to her substantive role as the Company's Executive Director, Business Support.

“During Ms. Agbede's tenure, Access Holdco achieved significant milestones, including ensuring workforce stability and seamless transition following the demise of the former Group Chief Executive Officer; successful execution of the Company's N351 Billion Rights Issue and seamless hosting of two Annual General Meetings of the Company.”

Her leadership and strategic vision have not only maintained the Company's momentum but also strengthened its competitive position in the industry.

Commenting on the development, the Company's Chairman, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, said: “We are thrilled to welcome Mr. Innocent Ike as we move forward. At the same time, we want to express our deepest gratitude to Ms. Bolaji Agbede. Her outstanding contributions over the past 18 months have been invaluable, and we appreciate her dedication in navigating the Company through challenges and opportunities. While regulatory requirements necessitate this change, we are grateful for the strong foundation that has been laid.”

Ike brings over three decades of experience in financial services. A graduate of the University of Lagos and a Fellow of both the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), he has held leadership positions across corporate, commercial, and public sector banking. He notably served as Managing Director/CEO of Polaris Bank from 2020 to 2022, where he launched the award-winning digital platform VULTe.

Speaking on his appointment, Mr. Ike said: “I am honoured to take on the role of Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer and excited to work alongside the talented team at Access Holdings. I look forward to building on the strong legacy established by Herbert Wigwe and Bolaji Agbede, and driving our vision forward, ensuring we continue to deliver exceptional value to our shareholders and stakeholders.”



# NSACC Board Courtesy visit to MTN Nigeria

Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce Pays Courtesy Visit to MTN Nigeria on Wednesday, 30th July 2025\*

The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC), led by its Chairman, Dr. Ije Jidenma paid a courtesy visit to MTN Nigeria in recognition of the company's long-standing support and partnership with the Chamber and its critical role in advancing economic ties between Nigeria and South Africa.

Speaking during the visit, Dr. Jidenma conveyed warm compliments on behalf of the Board and membership of the Chamber, including greetings from the Emeritus Chairman, Mr. Foluso Philips, and Immediate Past Chairman, Mr. Osayaba Giwa-Osagie. She described the engagement as part of a deliberate effort to reconnect with strategic partners in service and development.

> "We have seen MTN grow,

develop, and transform, not only in Nigeria but across the continent," Dr. Jidenma said. "We commend your recent \$120 million investment in the MTN Data Centre, a bold step in strengthening the country's digital infrastructure. Your work in financial inclusion through mobile money has also positioned you as a true continental leader."

MTN Nigeria was celebrated for its unwavering commitment to the Chamber, particularly its



thought leadership, consistent advocacy, and active participation on the NSACC Board. The presence of Mr. Tobe Okigbo, Chief Corporate Services & Sustainability Officer, and Mrs. Chineze Gbenga-Oluwatoye, General Manager, Corporate Communications, was acknowledged as vital to the Chamber's ongoing success.

Dr. Jidenma noted that NSACC is currently realigning its strategic focus along four key pillars:

Membership Growth and Engagement

Brand Visibility and Influence

Trade and Investment Opportunities

Advocacy and Stakeholder Engagement

She emphasized that MTN's values align strongly with the Chamber's mission to be a veritable platform for trade, industry, and investment between the two nations.

In line with its strategic evolution, the Chamber announced plans to launch new membership categories—a Premium Category for major corporates and a dedicated SME Category—to better tailor initiatives that address the

diverse needs of its members.

The visit also coincided with a significant milestone: the 25th Anniversary of the Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Jidenma took the opportunity to formally inform MTN of the upcoming celebrations and to seek their support and active participation in commemorating the Chamber's legacy and shaping its future.

> "As one of our most valued

members and a leading symbol of South Africa-Nigeria partnership, we look forward to working with MTN to make this celebration not only memorable but transformational," she stated.

The visit reaffirmed the strong partnership between NSACC and MTN Nigeria and set the tone for deeper collaboration toward advancing regional integration and economic growth across Africa.





# NSACC Board Courtesy visit to MTN Nigeria





# NSACC Board Courtesy visit to MTN Nigeria





# JULY 2025 BREAKFAST MEETING SPONSORED BY SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS



Ademola Yakubu, Deputy Manager, OR&C Consultants; Oloade Abdulsalam, Supervisory Audit Senior, OR&C Consultants and Adeyeye Janet, Asst Manager, OR&C Consultants



DSC8716: Inioluwa Agbere, Supervisory Audit Senior, OR&C Consultants; Osaretin Agbolahor, IT Manager, Creseada International Limited and Bimbo Alabi, Head, Learning Academy, Keystone Bank.



Cross section of participants



Cross section of participants



Richard Daniels, Exco, NSACC; Kemi Leke Bantefa, Country Manager, South African Airways; Eunice King, VP Digital Transformation & Innovation, Arravo; Dr. Ije Jidenma, Chairman, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Ohis Ehimiaghe, Director, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Chineze Gbenga-Oluwatoye, GM, Corporate Affairs, MTN and lyke Ejimofor, Executive Secretary, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce.



Eunice King, VP Digital Transformation & Innovation, Arravo receiving Appreciation Plaque from Dr. Ije Jidenma, Chairman, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce and Ohis Ehimiaghe, Director, Nigeria



# JULY 2025 BREAKFAST MEETING SPONSORED BY SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS



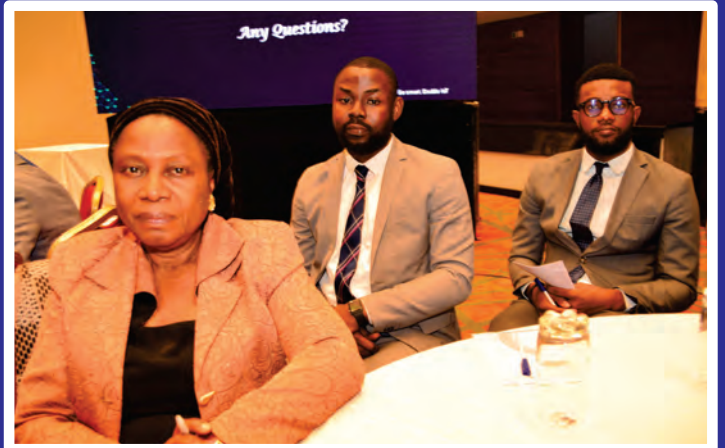
Eunice King, VP Digital Transformation & Innovation, Arravo receiving Appreciation Plaque from Kemi Leke Bamtefa, Country Manager, South African Airways; and Ohis Ehimighe, Director, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce



Kateji Daniel, Sales Manager, BIS Travel & Tours Ltd; Daniel Nsan, MD/CEO, Eden Vacation and Richard Eyo, Group CEO, Revvie Technologies.



Cross section of participants



Lola Oluokun, MD/CEO, Beulah Land Travel& Tours; Tolu Adetimehin, Associate, Dentons-Acas and Kenechukwu Ogbogbo, Associate, Dentons-Acas



Cross section of participants



Cross section of participants





# We Mitigate **RISK**

SECURITY | MARITIME | LOGISTICS



[www.ppslmg.com](http://www.ppslmg.com)

Call: +234 807 5892 694, +234 810 672 4521

[info@protectionplusservices.net](mailto:info@protectionplusservices.net)



[www.Flysaa.com](http://www.Flysaa.com)

# Make São PAULO

Your Next Shopping Destination

Fly from LAGOS today!



SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER



## For Booking & Reservations

63 Adekunle Fajuyi way

Ikeja GRA , Lagos

01 2700712-4

[Reservationslagos@flysaa.com](mailto:Reservationslagos@flysaa.com)



## THE NIGERIA-SOUTH AFRICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Opportunity to Network in our vibrant Business Fora
- Over 240 Strong Chamber Members - (inc Blue-Chip Nigeria and South African Companies)
- Relationship with the Consulate on matters relating to Investment, Trade Mission and Visa.
- Promoting bilateral trade and interest between Nigeria and South Africa
- Access to information from South Africa-Nigeria Chamber of Commerce
- Assistance with Company set-up in Nigeria and in South Africa
- Access to South African Trade Delegations to foster business related opportunities.
- Access to Business Conferences in South Africa.
- Access to Trade Missions to South Africa.
- Advocacy: Members are represented and their voice heard through the Chamber Committees that address business related issues at various inter-governmental levels.

***Please contact the Chamber Secretariat for further enquiries***

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

**01-4538571; 01-4538572; 08033205614**

**Email: [iykeejimofor@nsacc.org.ng](mailto:iykeejimofor@nsacc.org.ng)**



# Are you ready to elevate your creative vision?

At AFKAR, we go beyond printing and publishing  
— we cultivate vibrant creative markets that empower you to thrive!

## OUR OFFERINGS:

### **Creative Development Programs, Workshops, and Training:**

Join our innovative training designed to nurture your skills in writing, creative design, printing technology, and marketing.

**Resources & Support:** Access essential tools and materials that will help you bring your projects to life.

### **Networking Opportunities:**

Connect with fellow creatives, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders. Collaborate, share ideas, and grow within our supportive community.

### **Benefits:**

**Expert Guidance:** Learn from experienced mentors passionate about sharing their expertise.

**Inclusive Environment:** We welcome all skill levels —from newcomers to seasoned practitioners —into our nurturing community focused on growth and creativity

**Make Your Mark:** Publish your work and showcase your talent to a broader audience.

### **Join the Movement!**

Build a career as a graphic artist, prepress, press, post-press professional, or entrepreneur.

The Afkar Printing and Publishing Empowerment Initiative is here to help you succeed. Together, let's harness the power of print and creativity!

**Contact Us Today!**

[www.afkarprintsng.com](http://www.afkarprintsng.com)

**08093077605**



**APPEI: Empowering Dreams, One Page at a Time!**



[SERVICES](#)[ABOUT US](#)[INSIGHTS](#)[EVENTS](#)[RESOURCES](#)[GALLERY](#)[CONTACT US](#)

WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER

# OVER 240 MEMBERS

ACROSS VARIOUS INDUSTRIES

BECOME A MEMBER

SCROLL

Dear Esteemed Members,

The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce's new website was launched at the September breakfast webinar on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2021.

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.

**Advertise on the NSACC website and enjoy great benefits:**

- Increasing brand & products awareness.
- Standing out from the competition.
- Attracting current & potential customers.
- Educating your business customers.
- Increasing Sales Volume & ROI (Return on Investment).
- Improving your brand positioning "image"

Visit the chamber website through this link: [www.nsacc.org.ng](http://www.nsacc.org.ng)  
Thank you for partnering with us.

Iyke Ejimofor  
Executive Secretary

AdverTise  

---

HERE!



[www.nsacc.org.ng](http://www.nsacc.org.ng)



# 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!**

**NOTE: COVID -19 COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED.**



# 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.

**NOTE: COVID -19 COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED.**



# YOUR ONE-STOP LOGISTICS COMPANY

At **SIFAX Group**, we are strategically positioned to cater for your logistics, hospitality and financial services need.

We are your go-to company at the seaport and airport for services like freighting (air and sea), clearing & forwarding, warehousing, haulage, passenger handling and baggage handling, among others. We also offer hospitality and financial services for discerning clients.

With a network of companies offering complementary services, SIFAX Group delivers best value at all times.



Maritime



Logistics



Oil & Gas



Aviation



Financial  
Services



Hospitality



54, Warehouse Road, Apapa, Lagos, Nigeria.

+234 -1-7120041, +234 8105376814, +234 8105364016, +234 909797403

E-mail: [info@sifaxgroup.com](mailto:info@sifaxgroup.com), [www.sifaxgroup.com](http://www.sifaxgroup.com)



@sifaxgroup



@officialsifaxgroup



# Your end-to-end financial solutions partner



Take advantage of a wide range of financial solutions from **Stanbic IBTC**, tailored to realising your dreams.

Q | [www.stanbicibtc.com](http://www.stanbicibtc.com)