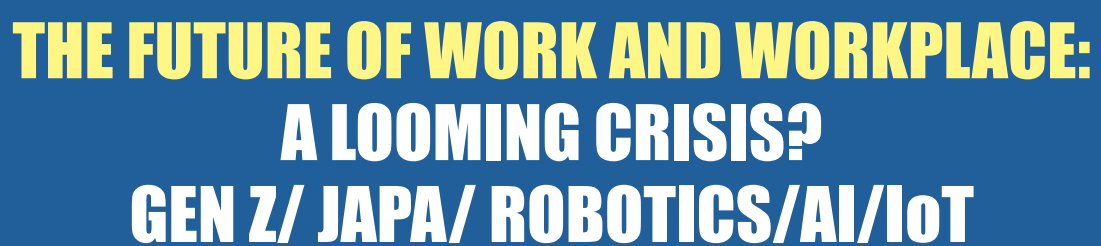




**A Publication of The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce**



# Editorial

The June 2025 Breakfast Forum of the Nigeria - South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) was held on Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2025, sponsored by International Facilities Services.

Dr. Tunde Ayeye, Group CEO of International Facilities Services, was our keynote speaker. The panelists were: Fela Durotoye, Executive Coach & Author, Forbes Coaches Council Member; Adebimpe Ayo-Elias, Director, Human Resources, Airtel Nigeria Limited; Dr. Yele Okeremi, IT Entrepreneur and Associate Professor, CEO, Precise Financial System; Dr. Adeoye Oyewole, Psychiatrist Life Coach, & Professor, Founder of Life Core Academy. They made presentations on "The Future of Work and Workplace: A Looming Crisis? GENZ / JAPA / ROBOTICS / AI / IoT". Their presentations were well received by participants.

Dr. Ayeye painted a vivid picture of the challenges organizations now face. In a sobering analysis, Dr. Ayeye outlined what he termed the **"triple threat"** currently destabilizing organizations and the broader workforce landscape – a microcosm of a global crisis. His insights reveal not just a national problem, but a critical warning for all emerging economies.

The speakers collectively emphasized that the future of work is undergoing a seismic transformation, propelled by four key forces:

i) Technological advancements;

ii) Shifting workforce demographics;

iii) Globalization;

iv) Evolving employee expectations. These drivers are reshaping how, where, and why people work – creating unprecedented opportunities for innovation, flexibility, and growth. However, they also expose a looming crisis that must not be ignored.

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

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## 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)

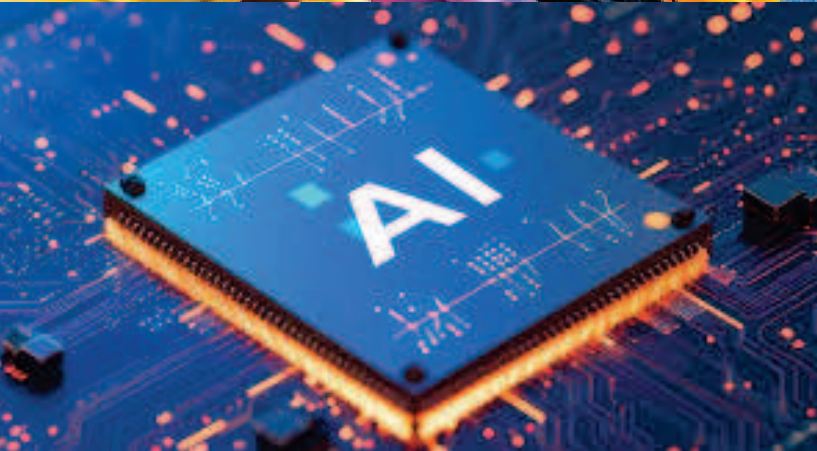
### AFRICAN MINING WEEK (AMW) 2025

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>

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## THE FUTURE OF WORK AND WORKPLACE: A LOOMING CRISIS? GEN Z/ JAPA/ ROBOTICS/AI/IoT

**A**s the nature of work undergoes rapid and disruptive transformation, the Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) hosted its June 2025 Breakfast Meeting in Lagos, bringing together policymakers, human resource experts, and mental health advocates to explore the challenges and possibilities of the future workforce.

With the theme: “The Future of Work and Workplace: A Looming Crisis?”, served as a strategic platform for shaping how

businesses and institutions across Africa respond to global workforce trends — from automation and migration to Gen Z culture and emotional wellbeing.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Ije Jidenma, Chairperson of the NSACC, gave the thrust of the conference with a grounded conversation for urgency and responsibility.

According to her, the topic was not just timely, she noted that “Across Africa and the globe, we are witnessing seismic shifts in

how, where, and why we work. If we don't build humane and adaptive workplaces, the crisis will be cultural, not just economic.”

As a result, she identified four critical pillars of concern which cannot be underplayed. These pillars are: (i) Technological Displacement: with AI and automation evolving faster than education systems can reskill; (ii) Youth Unemployment and Skills Mismatch: with over 500,000 Nigerian graduates entering a market not prepared for them; (iii) Workplace Evolution: hybrid





work is here to stay, but infrastructure remains weak, and (iv) Mental Health and Workforce Wellbeing: burnout and disengagement now silently undermine productivity.

Jidenma challenged African leaders to invest more aggressively in people rather than maximization of profits, stressing that we should design a workspaces that include, resilient and future-ready.

In his keynote address, Dr. Tunde Ayeye, Group Managing Director of International Facilities Services (IFS) Group, painted a vivid picture of the challenges organizations now face which he referred to as “triple threat.”

While explaining the “triple-threat” he observed that the “Japa” Movement has led to mass emigration of skilled Nigerian professionals; Also he said that Automation Displacement through which roles are disappearing faster than retraining can keep up, and Generational Workplace Disruption in which traditional values are clashing with digital-native expectations.

He added that the future of work is no longer theoretical but it is already here, warning that “From SMEs to multinationals, everyone is breeding talent, and the competition for human capital is fiercer than ever,” Ayeye emphasized.

Renowned Executive Coach and leadership expert, Fela Durotoye redefined the conversation, urging companies to stop operating like temporary enterprises and start building

institutions designed to outlive their founders. “This is a relay — not a sprint. You don't pass the baton to someone unprepared, and you don't cling to it when it's time to let go,” he said during a live metaphorical demonstration.

From the mental health perspectives, Dr. Adeoye Oyewole, psychiatrist and life coach, give a personal insight and a deeply philosophical exploration of the “Japa” phenomenon.

He explained that “What looks like a job search is often a search for relevance. Young people are leaving not just for greener pastures, but to avoid being left behind.”

He warned that mass migration is increasingly driven by fear, herd mentality, and existential insecurity, rather than economic opportunity alone.

Tagging it “community neurosis”, he called on families, schools, and institutions to act as stabilizing forces that offer clarity, emotional resilience, and guidance in a world where traditional support systems are eroding. He emphasized that when young people lack a strong sense of identity and structured mentorship, they become vulnerable to anxiety-driven decisions masked as ambition.

From the Corporate frontline, Mrs. Adebimpe Ayo-Elias, Director of Human Resources (HR) at Airtel Nigeria, offered a compelling view on how HR is transforming from a compliance-centered function to a strategic

enabler of organizational value.

“We've moved beyond personnel administration. Today, we're managing human capital — unlocking people's potential in a highly digital, fast-changing world,” she reiterated.

Ayo-Elias stressed that adaptability, emotional intelligence, creativity, and resilience are now more critical than paper qualifications.

She warned that many companies are still stuck in outdated metrics, ignoring the skills that matter in hybrid and AI-driven environments.

On his part, a seasoned tech and academia, Dr. Yele Okeremi, CEO of Precise Financial Systems and Associate Professor, addressed the double-edged nature of technology in the future of work.

He explained how companies are investing heavily in automation and digital infrastructure without paying equal attention to digital literacy and change management among staff.

He advocated for intentional workforce re-skilling — not just for tech teams, but across the board — to ensure that every employee can contribute meaningfully in a tech-augmented workspace.

He also cautioned against over-reliance on imported digital solutions, urging Nigerian companies to build local capacity for sustainability, data sovereignty, and relevance.

“Africa must not only consume innovation; we must begin to define it,” he concluded.

## FG APPROVES TAX INCENTIVES FOR MANUFACTURERS USING LOCAL RAW MATERIALS

In a bid to curb the high import of raw materials and other manufacturing inputs into Nigeria, the Federal Government (FG) is set to introduce tax incentives for Nigerian manufacturers that use locally sourced materials.

Disclosing this yesterday at the 2025 Nigeria Manufacturing & Equipment and Nigerian Raw Materials (NME – NIRAM) Expo in Lagos, Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology, Chief Uche Nnaji, said the government has approved the plan to grant Raw Materials Research and Development Council, RMRDC, the authority to implement significant tax incentives designed to reward manufacturers and innovators using locally sourced inputs in their production processes.

“Very soon, manufacturers who research, develop and patronize local raw materials will pay significantly lower taxes than those who do not. This is now an instrumental tool for attracting private-sector investment and stimulating technology-driven manufacturing,” he stated.

Under the proposed incentives the compliant firms in agro processing, pharmaceuticals, polymers, fabric, green tech amongst others, would get tax credits, duty reliefs, investment allowances, and excise waivers.

Meanwhile, Director General of the RMRDC, Prof. Martin Ike-Muonso, has emphasised the need for Nigeria to decisively reposition itself within the dynamics of the

fourth industrial revolution, noting that the over-reliance of Nigerian manufacturers on imported inputs signifies a structural weakness in the economy.

Ike-Muonso stated: “Over 70% of manufacturing inputs used in our economy are imported, according to figures released earlier this year.

“These data points expose a structural weakness: we export our raw materials in their crude form, import in refined quality, and surrender jobs and value offshore before we have even begun. But our country possesses over 120 commercially viable solid minerals, vast agricultural resources, and a demographic dividend in our young population.

“It means therefore, that what we lack is not potential, but strategic coordination, bold implementation, and technology-backed commitment. That is precisely what this Expo intends to trigger.”

In his opening remarks, President of MAN, Francis Meshioye, said by embracing cutting-edge technology solutions, manufacturers are accelerating innovation, resilience, and long-term value for their stakeholders.

Speaking on the aim of the Expo, Meshioye stated: “Our focus is to spark conversations around the deployment of energy-efficiency in production processes; implementation of smart factory protocols, including Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to optimize resource use; adopt waste reduction strategies through

closed-loop systems and advanced recycling methods.

“We are engendering partnerships with green tech innovators to co-develop scalable and sustainable solutions.

## AFRICA NEEDS \$200B TO MEET ENERGY, CLIMATE GOALS'

[Nigeria](#) and other African countries face dual challenge of expanding energy access and transitioning to cleaner sources, but more than \$200 billion a year needs to be invested if they are to achieve their energy and climate-related goals by 2030.

The International Energy Agency (IEA's) World Energy Investment 2024 report, which made this known, however, said current levels of investment are well below this figure, with some \$110 billion invested across the continent in 2024 – equivalent to only 1.2 per cent of Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The report, which was accessed by The Nation, over the weekend, stated that the provision of reliable power supplies is a critical issue for Africa's future, pointing out that around 600 million people across the continent currently lack access to electricity, which continues to hinder development in agriculture, industry, education, and healthcare.

The report lamented the continent's low investor penetration, noting that despite its potential, Africa attracts relatively small amounts of energy investment.

Citing the International Renewable



Energy Agency (IRENA), the report said, for instance, that of the \$2.8 trillion invested globally in renewables between 2000 and 2020, only two per cent went to Africa.

Also, from 2000 to 2019, Africa attracted about \$110 billion in public commitments for energy projects, of which \$64 billion went into renewables.

According to the report, funding came from bilateral donors like China and the European Union (EU), multilateral organisations such as the World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB), and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) including KfW and Proparco.

This report, which explored several key energy markets with contrasting outcomes, however, said Nigeria's semi-privatised energy market since 2013, has seen mixed results.

It noted that despite financial struggles among Electricity Distribution Companies (DisCos), Nigeria remains a top performer in terms of attracting funding.

The report said Nigeria's electricity sector reflects its economic position on the continent, where it has the fourth largest economy by GDP, behind South Africa, Egypt and Algeria. (It had been the continent's largest economy as recently as 2022, but a devaluation of the naira pushed it down the rankings).

In generating terms, Nigeria's electricity sector is also the fourth-largest, at 14.5GW as of 2024, according to IRENA, behind the continent's three largest

economies.

The sector, according to the report, has been growing more slowly than in many other large African countries, hampered by corruption and problems stemming from the unbundling and partial privatisation of the sector in 2013.

"From 2020- 24, some 1.3GW of capacity was added to the grid, representing an average annual growth rate of 2.1 per cent."

That is below the continent-wide average of 2.5 per cent and far behind the pace set by Ethiopia of 7.4 per cent, the report stated

Also, the report said Egypt, despite political upheaval since 2011, has expanded its renewable sector with strong support from Gulf-based funding, particularly for large-scale green hydrogen-linked projects.

The report, however, said South Africa is the continent's strongest performer in investment terms, with major surges in solar investment following deregulation in 2023.

Morocco also attracts strong investment but continues to rely significantly on coal, while Kenya is the continent's geothermal leader, with a relatively independent course due to abundant domestic resources.

The report identified a number of inter-related issues holding back investment, such as rising interest rates that have pushed up the cost of debt in recent years, making it more difficult to fund capital-intensive energy projects.

It also said traditional western

funding sources are also reluctant to fund projects involving fossil fuels, adding that most African countries also have low sovereign debt ratings, which makes accessing international investment more expensive.

"As of early 2025, Botswana and Mauritius were the only African countries to have investment grade ratings from any of the main credit rating agencies.

"Botswana is rated BBB+ by S&P and A3 by Moody's, while Mauritius is rated BBB- by S&P and Baa3 by Moody's," it stated

Describing Africa as a continent of unmet demand and uneven access, the report said Africa holds enormous potential for electricity sector growth, both in underserved countries where access remains low, and in more developed markets where demand frequently exceeds supply, leading to load shedding.

Looking ahead, the report stated that as Africa moves toward its 2030 energy and climate goals, stakeholders should focus on replicating successful models from leading markets including the public-private partnership structures (like BOO and BOT) used in South Africa and Egypt, and targeted off grid private sector funding seen in Kenya.

Private investment into electricity generating projects around Africa totaled around \$68.7 billion from 2000-2023, according to the World Bank's Private Participation in Infrastructure (PPI) Projects Database.

The vast majority of that was

channelled through two Public[1]Private Partnership (PPP) structures: Build, Own and Operate (BOO) and Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT). Between them, these two models were used for more than 90 per cent of private investments.

However, BOO contracts have been the more common, with \$45.3 billion of deals over the period, or 66 per cent of the overall market. BOT contracts have been worth \$16.8 billion since 2000, or 25 per cent of the total.

The report further said markets with emerging investment potential such as Zambia, Ghana, and Mozambique are gaining traction, especially in renewable energy and geothermal development, supported by growing public sector backing and auction-led procurement frameworks.

“The role of blended finance, carbon credit trading, and structured green bond programmes will be critical to unlocking private capital at scale.

“As climate-related funding priorities gain momentum globally, Africa's ability to align with these trends — while addressing local risk and regulatory bottlenecks will define the next phase of investment,” the report said.

## **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:

- 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.

FG directs FMBN to partners state governors on affordable housing projects

The Federal Government has directed the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria to collaborate with state governors on developing bankable housing projects to bring homeownership solutions directly to citizens.

The Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Ahmed Dangiwa, gave the directive during the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria Day at the 19th Africa International Housing Show in Abuja.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that the Federal Government had earlier announced the Renewed Hope State-by-State Homeownership and Housing Development Campaign.

Dangiwa, represented by Mr Mark Chieshe, his Special Adviser, Media and Strategy, said the initiative is designed to bridge the gap between federal housing policy and state-level action, while taking homeownership solutions directly to citizens.

The collaboration, the minister



said, is aimed at addressing the nation's housing deficit by leveraging the expertise and resources of both the federal and state governments

He said FMBN remained the government's strongest instrument for delivering affordable mortgage finance in Nigeria.

According to him, its mandate is clear, its recent progress is commendable, but the affordability challenge is far from solved.

"The biggest barrier to homeownership in Nigeria is not only the lack of adequate houses, but the inability of many Nigerians to afford them.

"While the government continues to address the supply gap, the reality is that even where housing units were available, their costs remained far beyond the reach of the majority of citizens," he said.

Dangiwa said the affordability challenge needed to be confronted if Nigeria is to make meaningful progress towards delivering decent and affordable housing for all.

"I am directing FMBN to participate actively in this campaign, alongside other federal housing institutions.

"This is an opportunity for the Bank to showcase its products in every state of the federation.

"Work closely with governors to unlock land and structure bankable housing projects, embed technical support teams to help states design viable

homeownership roadmaps," he added.

Dangiwa also urged FMBN to bring the National Housing Fund products closer to contributors and eliminate the knowledge and access gaps that persist today.

Dangiwa said that the government would continue to support FMBN with policies, reforms and collaboration to ensure it fully realises its potential as the backbone of Nigeria's affordable housing finance system.

Earlier, the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of FMBN, Mr Shehu Osidi, said the bank is the only institution that provides mortgages at a single digit, so it is the place to go for when hoping for home ownership.

Osidi, however, said that the most pressing challenge that continues to limit FMBN's full potential is the issue of recapitalisation.

He explained that FMBN's current paid-up capital of N2.5 billion is wholly inadequate for the size of its mandate.

He said that the figure, unchanged for decades, stands in sharp contrast to what is obtainable in similar institutions globally and even among commercial mortgage lenders in Nigeria.

He said that even Primary Mortgage Banks (PMBs), which operate at a much smaller scale than FMBN, have higher capital bases.

"It is to be noted that CBN's minimum capital requirements for wholesale and retail Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) are

N100 billion and N10 billion, respectively.

"State and national primary mortgage banks, which are expected to rely on FMBN for funding, currently have minimum capital bases of N2.5 billion and N5 billion, respectively.

"Currently, the CBN has directed higher capital levels for banks as a way forward to growing a \$1 trillion national economy," he said.

Osidi said that the situation severely undermined FMBN's ability to mobilise long-term finance from local and international markets/sources, among other factors.

"We cannot afford to run an institution with a national mandate on a local budget," he said.

Osidi, the recapitalisation process would offer an opportunity to fundamentally reimagine the Bank's business model to align with global best practices.

FG eyes additional 810,000bpd crude from deepwater fields

The Federal Government has unveiled plans to unlock an additional 810,000 barrels of crude oil per day from Nigeria's deepwater oil fields through a new cluster and nodal development initiative, The PUNCH reports.

The initiative, championed by the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission, is part of a broader effort to revive the country's offshore oil production, which has suffered a steep decline in recent years.

If fully implemented, the additional output could raise Nigeria's total monthly crude production by approximately 2.51 million barrels per day with condensates.

This would significantly strengthen the country's revenue generation capacity and improve compliance with OPEC+ production quotas.

Speaking at a stakeholders' workshop on deep/shallow water cluster/nodal development in Abuja on Thursday, the Chief Executive of the NUPRC, Gbenga Komolafe, represented by the Executive Commissioner for Economic Regulation and Strategic Planning, Babajide Fashina, said the plan was conceived in response to the industry's dwindling offshore output and the need to harness untapped reserves for sustainable growth.

The event was themed, "Harnessing the potential of deep/shallow water, oil and gas accumulations through clusters/nodal development in Nigeria."

"At the peak of our deepwater oil production in 2016, Nigeria was producing about 800,000 barrels of oil per day. Sadly, that figure has now dropped to below 500,000 barrels per day.

"Our data shows that we have over 5.13 billion barrels of oil and 13.53 trillion cubic feet of gas still sitting untapped in our deepwater acreages. Of this, 3.59 billion barrels fall under 2P reserves, meaning they are proven and probable but yet undeveloped," Komolafe explained.

According to him, a preliminary regulatory deep-dive through the Field Development Plan approvals indicates that current developments-in-view could unlock around 1.55 billion barrels of oil and condensate and another 1.49 trillion cubic feet of associated gas.

"Once these approved FDPs are executed, we could see peak oil production rise by as much as 810,000 barrels of oil per day. The question we must ask is: what's holding us back, and how can we overcome the barriers together?" he queried.

The Commission boss said a new Shallow and Deepwater Cluster Development Committee had been inaugurated within the NUPRC to work closely with international oil companies and indigenous producers to identify and mature these opportunities.

"Our goal is not just more production, but more value. Through this collaborative approach, we want to maximise returns from existing assets, ramp up volumes, and reduce unit technical costs," he noted.

Komolafe lamented that deepwater fields, despite their huge potential, had become underutilised due to challenges such as funding gaps, infrastructure limitations, regulatory bottlenecks and delayed project sanctions.

"Our eight FPSOs, Floating Production Storage and Offloading units, are grossly underutilised today. We can do more if we work together," he said.

He added that deep offshore reserves currently account for 18 per cent of Nigeria's total oil and condensate reserves, with major discoveries such as Bonga, Agbami, Egina, and Erha fields leading the way.

"Today, we have cumulatively produced over 4.4 billion barrels from our deepwater operations, thanks to companies like Shell, ExxonMobil, TotalEnergies, Agip and Chevron. But we must now move beyond the past and look toward unlocking future barrels," Komolafe said.

## **KEYSTONE BANK PARTNERS LAGOS GOVT ON RENEWED HOPE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME**

In a significant push for national development and inclusive economic growth, Keystone Bank Nigeria Limited has partnered with Claudiana Ibijoke Sanwo-Olu, First Lady of Lagos State, on the Renewed Hope Initiative – Agricultural Support Programme (RHI-ASP).

The RHI-ASP under the leadership of Oluremi Tinubu, First Lady of Nigeria, aims to boost local food production through capacity building, provision of agricultural inputs, and financial support to women and youth. It is a key component of the broader Renewed Hope Agenda focused on food security, economic self-reliance, and inclusive national development.

In a statement on Wednesday, Keystone Bank confirmed its role as a strategic partner in the



initiative, leveraging its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) framework to support the program's objectives.

“The partnership reflects our enduring commitment to empowerment, inclusion, innovation, and nation-building core values that have defined Keystone Bank's development driven approach,” the bank stated.

Commenting on the partnership, Hassan Imam, managing director & CEO of Keystone Bank, said: “This timely and strategic collaboration aligns with our mission as a socially responsible institution. We commend the First Ladies of the Federation and Lagos State for championing this initiative and creating a platform where public-private synergy can truly serve the people.”

Also speaking, Helen Maiyegun, directorate head, Lagos and West, noted: “We are honoured to support the Renewed Hope Agricultural Support Programme. This initiative resonates with our CSR strategy and our belief in empowering women and youth to lead Nigeria's agricultural transformation.”

Keystone Bank's involvement will cover areas including financial inclusion, agricultural development, and empowerment training, reinforcing its role as a progressive institution committed to the intersection of finance, social impact, and national development.

## **AFDB SUPPORTS AI TRAINING TO DRIVE AGENDA 2063 GOAL**

The African Development Bank has announced support for a new artificial intelligence training initiative to boost the implementation of Africa's continental development blueprint, Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

In a statement on Tuesday, AfDB indicated that through its Joint Secretariat Support Office, it provided technical and financial backing for the fifth annual training workshop for African Union member states on harnessing AI for effective monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on the Second Ten-Year Plan (2024–2033) of Agenda 2063.

Agenda 2063 is Africa's blueprint and master plan for transforming Africa into a global powerhouse of the future.

It is the continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity pursued under Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance.

The five-day workshop, held in Lusaka, Zambia, was jointly organised by the African Union Commission and the African Capacity Building Foundation.

The event brought together representatives from African Union member states to

strengthen their technical capacity in using AI tools and digital innovations to monitor, track, and report on the implementation of Agenda 2063. The training is part of broader efforts to enhance institutional and human capacity across the continent.

Participants engaged in practical sessions on emerging AI platforms, including Ailyse, ChatGPT, Google AI Studio, Google Gemini, and Perplexity, exploring how these tools can improve data analysis, enhance decision-making, and promote evidence-based policy development in line with Agenda 2063 priorities.

Speaking at the workshop, Lead Programme Co-ordinator at the African Development Bank Group, Abibu Tamu, reaffirmed the Bank's dedication to working closely with the African Union Commission and strategic partners to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2063, particularly its Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan.

“These tools are not only revolutionising how data is collected, analysed, and reported, but they are also enabling more targeted policy interventions and efficient resource allocation,” said Tamu.

The workshop also served as a platform for peer learning and knowledge exchange, with participating countries sharing innovative approaches and best practices in national development planning and results-based reporting.

## 27FOUR AND THE DTIC UNITE TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE TRANSFORMATION FUND

In a bold demonstration of public-private collaboration, leading investment manager 27four and the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (**the dtic**) have reaffirmed their shared commitment to unlocking South Africa's full economic potential through the Transformation Fund.

This announcement follows a high-level engagement hosted by 27four, attended by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, the Chief Executive Officer of the National Empowerment Fund (NEF), and **the dtic**'s Deputy-Director General for Transformation and Competition. The gathering brought together leaders in government and the finance sector, particularly managers of retirement funds, to chart practical pathways for advancing inclusive growth, driving industrialisation, and accelerating Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE).

The Transformation Fund, a collaborative initiative between **the dtic**, the NEF, and key industry partners, serves as a catalytic vehicle to finance black-owned and black-managed enterprises, with a focus on priority sectors that can deliver sustained job creation, industrialisation and competitiveness. Through targeted funding and strategic partnerships, the Fund aims to dismantle historical barriers to

entry, enable greater participation in value chains, and position black-owned businesses at the forefront of South Africa's economic growth story.

Speaking at the event, 27four reaffirmed its commitment to support the Fund, highlighting the alignment between its investment philosophy and South Africa's transformation imperatives.

"We believe transformation is not a tick-box exercise—it is the foundation for a stronger, more resilient economy. The Transformation Fund is a powerful mechanism to ensure capital flows to where it is needed most: into the hands of talented entrepreneurs and industrialists who can create jobs, build industries, and expand opportunity. We are proud to partner with **the dtic** and the NEF in making this vision a reality," said Faitma Vawda, Managing Director of 27four.

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Parks Tau, emphasised that partnerships of this nature are essential for the country's growth trajectory:

"Government cannot achieve transformation alone. It is through collaboration with forward-thinking investment managers like 27four that we can deepen industrial capacity, unlock innovation, and ensure economic growth is shared by all South Africans. The Transformation Fund is a vehicle for tangible change, and today's engagement signals our mutual commitment to driving it forward."

The NEF's CEO Mr Mzi Dayimane further underscored the urgency of mobilising capital for transformation: "South Africa's economic renewal depends on our ability to back black industrialists and entrepreneurs with the funding, networks, and market access they need to thrive. With 27four's expertise and the dtic's policy leadership, we are better positioned than ever to accelerate inclusive economic growth."

The event concluded with a strong consensus: partnership is the lever that will translate policy into progress. Both **the dtic** and 27four reiterated their determination to deepen collaboration in implementing the Transformation Fund, with a focus on measurable impact, scalable projects, and sustained economic transformation.

## 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.



## **ETRANZACT LAUNCHES REPORT TO BOOST SMES' AI ADOPTION STATUS, GROWTH**

A fintech company, eTranzact International Plc, in partnership with the Enterprise Development Centre at Pan-Atlantic University, has launched a report to improve Small and Medium Enterprises, SMEs, status in the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to grow their businesses locally and internationally.

Speaking on the report titled, “AI Readiness of Nigerian SMEs”, during the launch, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of eTranzact, Mr. Niyi Toluwalope, said eTranzact views AI not as a distant prospect but as an immediate opportunity for Nigerian businesses.

He stated: “This research bridges the knowledge gap by helping SMEs understand their current AI adoption status and what they need to compete both locally and globally.

“The study also reinforces eTranzact's expanding role as an enabler of digital growth and innovation beyond just payments.”

Explaining further, he said the report offers SMEs a fact-based assessment of their AI readiness, guiding informed investment and capacity-building decisions.

He added that the findings serve as a strategic blueprint to enhance competitiveness, job creation, and innovation-driven economic growth for Nigeria.

Toluwalope highlighted that policymakers, financiers, and educators will be better equipped with data in the report to design support programs tailored to SME needs.

The comprehensive study,

conducted over several months across key regions including Enugu, Kano, Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt, highlights the current state of Artificial Intelligence adoption readiness among Nigeria's over 39 million Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

While there is evident enthusiasm for AI among SME entrepreneurs, the study also identifies critical gaps in awareness, access, and tailored solutions necessary to harness AI's full potential.

The managing director emphasized that the report offers more than just data, it provides a strategic roadmap to foster an inclusive and intelligent digital economy in Nigeria.

Director of Programs & Partnerships at the Enterprise Development Centre (EDC), Pan-Atlantic University, Dr. Olawale Anifowose, stated, “The study adopted a mixed-method research approach, involving the use of both quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis methods. The quantitative approach was implemented through a sample survey of SMEs with 5,290 responses across the 36 states of the federation, including the Federal Capital Territory.”

## **FIDELITY BANK EMPOWERS SMES WITH BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have been encouraged to adopt digital tools to enhance their operations and drive sustainable growth. This call was made during the Fidelity SME Empowerment Program 2025, held at the bank's SME Hub in Gbagada, Lagos.

The event, which drew a large turnout of entrepreneurs and stakeholders, marked the official launch of Fidelity Bank's initiative to equip 100 growth-ready SMEs with ERPrev-enabled POS systems and business support tools—at no cost to the beneficiaries.

Dr. Nneka Onyeali-Ikpe, Managing Director/CEO of Fidelity Bank Plc, represented by Mr. Stanley Amuchie, Executive Director/Chief Operations and Information Officer, emphasized the bank's commitment to SME development.

“At Fidelity Bank, we believe SMEs are not just the backbone of our economy—they are the architects of innovation, resilience, and inclusive growth. Through the Fidelity SME Empowerment Program (FSEP), we are providing 100 entrepreneurs with the tools, training, and support they need to thrive in today's digital economy.”

Through the initiative, benefiting businesses will receive: a fully-installed POS desktop system, ERPrev business software, receipt printer and barcode scanner, inventory data input support, financial and bookkeeping training, branding and onboarding support, six months of post-installation monitoring; and a free Fidelity POS with instant settlement. The three-day program features high-impact trainings, masterclasses, and networking opportunities designed to spark innovation, build partnerships, and unlock new markets.

In addition, Mrs. Adaonah Kene-Uyawune, CEO of Manmark, a business management a strategic partner to Fidelity Bank said, “This digital transformation initiative is a game changer. It replaces manual bookkeeping with a unified system that simplifies accounting, inventory, HR, and profitability





tracking. These tools are not handouts and they are instruments for long-term business success.”

According to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, SMEs make up 96% of all businesses in the country, employ over 80% of the workforce, and contribute nearly 50% to the national GDP. Despite their critical role in the economy, many still rely on manual processes that hinder efficiency and limit access to finance.

Fidelity Bank's intervention is therefore both timely and strategic, providing SMEs with the digital tools and support they need to streamline operations, improve transparency, and unlock new growth opportunities.

Ken-Uyawune encouraged the beneficiaries to make the most of this opportunity. “This digital tool is more than a convenience, it's a strategic asset that will enhance your accountability, improve your operations, and position you to access credit more easily. Let us all embrace digitalization as a pathway to sustainable growth and economic empowerment”.

Ranked among the best banks in Nigeria, Fidelity Bank Plc is a full-fledged Commercial Deposit Money Bank serving over 9.1 million customers through digital banking channels, its 255 business offices in Nigeria and United Kingdom subsidiary, FidBank UK Limited.

## ACCESS BANK'S EUROMONEY WINS SIGNAL NEW ERA OF REGIONAL BANKING LEADERSHIP

Access Bank continues to assert its influence across Africa, with its subsidiaries in Ghana and Gambia named “Best Bank 2025” by *Euromoney*. These prestigious awards affirm the Group's long-

term strategy, growing footprint, and unwavering commitment to transformative and inclusive banking across the continent.

The dual victories represent strategic milestones in Access Bank Group's ambition to become Africa's most respected financial institution. Operating in 24 markets, the Group is redefining pan-African banking by fusing deep local insights with global best practices.

In Ghana, the award recognises the bank's resilience, innovation, and commitment to digital transformation. From empowering SMEs to advancing sustainability, Access Bank Ghana continues to deliver purposeful value. “We are proud to lead a new era of banking in Ghana, one that prioritises inclusion, innovation, and sustainable development,” said Olumide Olatunji, Managing Director, Access Bank Ghana.

For Access Bank Gambia, the award, its second consecutive win, underscores its deepening impact in financial inclusion and ESG-led banking. Through branchless models and strong community engagement, it is expanding access and delivering meaningful outcomes. “We remain committed to going beyond banking by delivering value that builds sustainable communities,” noted Stephen Abban, Managing Director, Access Bank Gambia.

These recognitions spotlight Access Bank's deliberate continental growth strategy, one that views Africa not as a monolith, but as a diverse and opportunity-rich region.

Group Managing Director Roosevelt Ogbonna recently articulated the rationale behind the Bank's expansion efforts. “If you take Africa as a continent and split it into five

zones, Nigeria and West Africa rank fourth out of five from a retail perspective,” he said. “In today's terms, Central Africa may offer a richer banking pool than West Africa.”

This insight underpins the Bank's push into Southern, Eastern, and Northern Africa, regions with attractive return-on-equity potential and favourable macroeconomic conditions. “Money can be made in these regions,” Ogbonna noted, “and Access Bank is positioning itself to tap into those opportunities while delivering value to customers and shareholders alike.”

These Euromoney awards serve as a validation that this strategy is not bold and working. The achievements in Ghana and Gambia are evidence of tangible progress.

As Access Bank continues its pan-African growth, the recognitions in Ghana and Gambia offer a glimpse into the future, a future where the Bank is not only expanding geographically, but also transforming lives, elevating standards, and building trust in every market it enters.

With a strong focus on inclusion, sustainability, digital innovation, and regional integration, Access Bank is doing more than winning awards, it is helping reshape the narrative of African banking. As its footprint expands, so too does its impact, making excellence not just an aspiration, but a lived reality.

## LEADWAY ENTERS INTO BANCASSURANCE PARTNERSHIP WITH ECOBANK

Leadway Assurance has said that it has formally entered into a strategic bancassurance partnership with



Ecobank Nigeria Limited.

The alliance, it stated, is aimed at delivering integrated insurance offerings to both internal and external stakeholders within Ecobank, spanning employees, customers, and small business owners.

The company said the partnership which was launched on August 1, 2025, marked a significant step in advancing financial inclusion by embedding insurance access directly within everyday banking touchpoints.

It said the partnership cuts across life and health protection to motor and home insurance solutions, adding that Ecobank customers and stakeholders would now enjoy seamless access to Leadway's trusted suite of products, expertly tailored to meet their evolving needs.

Leadway said beyond convenience, the initiative was designed to deepen insurance awareness and foster uptake through interactive product education across key engagement platforms, including physical Ecobank branches, staff engagements, Ecobank's mobile platforms, and direct customer channels.

Speaking on the partnership, Director of Sales, Retail and Partnerships at Leadway Assurance, Kikelomo Fischer, said, the collaboration was about making insurance simple, accessible, and part of everyday life.

She said by working with Ecobank and leveraging their wide network, Leadway was bringing financial protection closer to people—right where they are, and when they need it most.

“This isn't just about operations—it's a purposeful move to bridge the insurance gap in

Nigeria. By combining our customer-focused solutions with Ecobank's reach, we're making it easier for more Nigerians to access the protection they deserve,” she said.

Also speaking, Head of Distribution Channels and Sales, Consumer & Commercial Banking at Ecobank, Adeola Ogunyemi said, “At Ecobank, we are delighted to partner with Leadway Assurance, one of the country's foremost insurance service providers.

This strategic collaboration aligns with our vision to create a one-stop hub offering robust financial services. Through this initiative, our customers will enjoy the convenience of accessing tailored insurance solutions alongside their banking needs,” he said.

## **R.T. BRISCOE DRIVERS' FORUM DELIVERS IMPACT, REINFORCES BRAND LEADERSHIP, SAYS DMD**

R.T. Briscoe (Nigeria) Plc has once again re-emphasised the crucial need for corporate fleet owners, ministries, departments and agencies to take proper care of their investments in the face of rising cost of vehicles and spare parts hitting the rooftops.

Speaking at the just concluded driver's forum organised by the automotive dealership inside the conglomerate's Training Room corporate headquarters in Lagos, Dr Femi Eguakhide, the group deputy managing director of R.T. Briscoe Nigeria Plc stated that, the one day drivers' refresher engagement was organized to engage and enlighten participants further on modern driving habits and the essentials of taking proper care of vehicles under their custody.

According to him, “We are doing

this as a value added service to our fleet customers to continue to refresh the drivers on modern driving habits and vehicle care which supports asset integrity and preservation for all our customers.”

Essentially, the drivers forum was specifically designed to create awareness on the importance of routine maintenance, benefits of genuine spare parts, engine oil, modern vehicle features and its use, vehicle safety features, vehicle system control and other basic attention to details.

According to the deputy managing director, the event was strategically timed to re-enforce the conglomerate's brand presence in Nigeria's increasingly competitive automotive industry.

The Drivers' Forum was attended by business unit heads as well as drivers under the company's pay roll and external drivers, including representatives from other fleet-owning organisations.

The event provided very strong value proposition to R.T. Briscoe (Nigeria) Plc as a publicly quoted company by reinforcing its commitment to safety, operational excellence, and stakeholder engagement within the transport and logistics ecosystem.

Dr. Eguakhide said that, the gathering delivered measurable value to R.T. Briscoe, citing outcomes such as increased brand visibility, enhanced stakeholder engagement, and stronger public perception of the company's commitment to service excellence, innovation, and customer engagement.

The initiative also aligns with its strategic objective to remain a market leader in the Nigerian automotive and mobility sectors.



# JUNE 2025 BREAKFAST MEETING SPONSORED BY INTERNATIONAL FACILITIES SERVICES (IFS) GROUP



Richard Daniel, Executive Member, Nigeria south Africa chamber of Commerce; Ohis Ehimiaghe, Director, Nigeria south Africa chamber of Commerce; Adebimpe Ayo-Elias – Director, Human Resources , Airtel Nigeria Limited; Fela Durotoye, Executive Coach, & Author, Forbes Coaches Council Member; Dr Adeoye Oyewole, Psychiatrist, Life Coach, & Professor, Founder, Life Care Academy; Dr. Yele Okeremi, IT Entrepreneur & Associate Professor, CEO, Precise Financial Systems; Dr. Tunde Ayeye, Group Managing Director, International Facilities Services (IFS) Group; Dr. Ije Jidenma, Chairman, Nigeria south Africa chamber of Commerce; Chineze Gbenga-Oluwatoye, General Manager, Corporate Affairs, MTN Nigeria and Iyke Ejimofor, Executive Secretary, Nigeria south Africa chamber of Commerce

Chinyelu Ogunfere, Group Head, Industrial&Emerging Markets, Keystone Bank Limited; Tamuno Atekebo, Partner, Streamsowers& Kohn; Temitope Oluwadare, Managing Director, Detailed Restorers Limited.



Dr. Tunde Ayeye, Group Managing Director, International Facilities Services (IFS) Group receiving appreciation plaque from Dr. Ije Jidenma, Chairman, Nigeria south Africa chamber of Commerce



Cross section of participants.



Mbah Ijeoma, Client Service Executive, C&I Leasing Plc; Chinelo Akinbiyi, HR, C&I Leasing Plc and Ogghenemamo Onoviode, ET, FBN



# JUNE 2025 BREAKFAST MEETING SPONSORED BY INTERNATIONAL FACILITIES SERVICES (IFS) GROUP



Cross section of participants.



Sammy Dalmeida, CEO, SBG Insurance Brokers; Ademola Okulaja, CEO, Centurion Systems WA and Yunis, A, Manager, SIAO



Oluwatosin Faseyi, HR Personel, Lotus Bank Limited; Olusaolabo Elizabeth, Human Resources, Lotus Bank Limited and Anyanwu Ogechi, Relationship Manager, EcoBank



Cross section of participants.



Yinka Ogundairo, ED, ACCL; Okeneye Emmanuel, Corporate Communications, C&I Leasing Plc and Ezeh Mmesoma, HR Consultant, Progneto Africa



Nike Ayeye, Management Consultant Executive, International Facilities Services (IFS) Group; Dale Ogunbayo, Board Member, International Facilities Services (IFS) Group and Abraham Laleye, CEO,





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## HARD SERVICES

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Power/ Generator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water Treatment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lift/Elevator <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sewage Treatment/ Septic Tank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plumbing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cooling/HVAC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Masonry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tiling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Painting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carpentry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Masonry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tiling	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fire Safety & Security <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alarms <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PPE

## SOFT SERVICES

JANITORIAL & PEST CONTROL	WASTE MGT	LANDSCAPING	SECURITY
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial Cleaning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janitorial Cleaning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Façade & Exterior <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Common Areas <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fumigation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decontamination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refuse Storage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Evacuation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Segregation and Sorting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recyclables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Horticulture <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lawns & Greens Grounds & Walkways <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Outdoor Sweepers etc )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Manned Guards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electronic Surveillance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (Electric Bicycle etc)

## FM ADMIN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Helpdesk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PPMs/Assets Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLA Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Relations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Governance – Committees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resource Planning
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***Please contact the Chamber Secretariat for further enquiries***

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

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

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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.

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Thank you for partnering with us.

Iyke Ejimofor  
Executive Secretary

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[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.**



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