



N-SACC

FEBRUARY 2026

A Publication of The Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce



**FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE:
PRACTICAL SECURITY SOLUTIONS FOR
BUSINESS CONTINUITY**

Editorial

The January 2026 Breakfast Forum of the Nigeria–South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) was successfully held on Thursday, 29 January 2026, with Protection Plus Services Limited serving as the event sponsor.

The forum featured Mr. Hamza Babangida, Executive Security Services, Protection Plus Services Limited, as the speaker. The distinguished panelist was Mr. Ibe Nnah, Chief Executive Officer of Stang Security Services Limited. The discussion focused on the theme: “From Risk to Resilience: Practical Security Solutions for Business Continuity.” The presentation was highly impactful and well received by participants.

The speaker emphasized the growing recognition of security as a strategic enabler rather than merely a cost center, particularly in volatile yet high-growth economies such as Nigeria and South Africa. He noted that today’s business risks are complex, interconnected, and systemic, spanning physical security, cyber threats, operational disruptions, reputational exposure, regulatory compliance, and governance challenges.

He further identified several key drivers reshaping the risk landscape, including rising urban crime, infrastructure vulnerabilities, workforce safety and duty-of-care obligations, supply chain volatility, increasing ESG pressures, and heightened stakeholder expectations. The speaker stressed that modern risk management is continuous and business-critical, requiring intelligence-led and technology-enabled security frameworks that are fully integrated into corporate governance structures.

Mr. Ibe Nnah, Chief Executive Officer of Stang Security Services Limited, highlighted the importance of confidentiality in security consulting. He also emphasized the growing role of technology, including real-time surveillance and access control systems, in preventing large-scale operational and financial losses.

The forum concluded with a consensus that effective security strategies can significantly reduce operational downtime, improve workforce productivity, strengthen investor confidence, and support cross-border trade between Nigeria and South Africa.

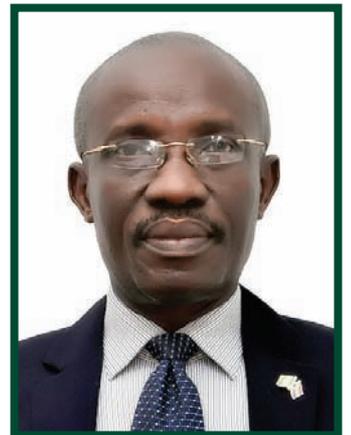
The Nigerian News segment highlights key developments within Nigeria’s economic landscape that may be of interest to our members.

The South African News segment features selected updates relevant to our members, aimed at keeping you informed of regional developments that may influence business strategy and operations.

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

We value your partnership and wish your organization continued success throughout the 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 matshwenyeho,
O se boloke, O se boloke setjhaba sa heso,
Setjhaba sa, South Afrika -South Afrika.

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

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

NIGERIA-SOUTH AFRICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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Please note that ONLY Paid-up members will be entitled to all privileges. We therefore implore members to pay their outstanding subscriptions.

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5TH WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR SPORT MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE

The Sport Management Department in the School of Management Sciences at the North-West University and the Cape Peninsula University of Technology's Sport Management Department are leading the way in enhancing and expanding Sport Management within the South African landscape. Both institutions are committed to developing research-informed teaching and learning in Sport Management with a strong focus on technology integration within the transformed higher educational landscape.

The NWU and CPUT actively engage with industry and academic partners to advance sport management education, scholarship and practice and believe that hosting the WASM 2026 will provide a forum for sports management research experts and industry leaders to exchange ideas, provide solutions and create networks for enhanced future collaborations. South Africa is a sport-crazy nation, with numerous sporting codes widely supported at local, national and international levels. The sports activities within the Western Cape Province are supported by good infrastructure and governance and the beautiful Cape Town area provides the ideal setting for an unforgettable conference experience.

Hosting the 5th WASM conference will provide numerous stimuli for teaching and research in Sports Business Management within the African context. The influx of international experts within the field will contribute to expanding the South African knowledge and research field, impacting lecturers, students, sports organisations, local and provincial sporting organisations, sports events and educational institutions that engage with this prestigious international event.

The South African WASM legacy will enhance innovative and interdisciplinary solutions to challenges in contemporary sport management. Likewise, postgraduate students and leadership within the national sports management fraternity will enjoy long-lasting international collaborations aiding the sustainability of sport management research and practice.

We are looking forward to meeting you at the 5th World Association for Sport Management Conference in Cape Town.

Date: 3-6 March 2026

Venue: Newlands Cricket Grounds, Cape Town

GLOBAL BANKING & MARKETSAFRICA 2026

We convene complex and comprehensive groups of deal practitioners in streamlined meetings that accelerate transactions.

Attendance at Global Banking & Markets events is considered imperative as more than 10,000+ deal practitioners return each year, in ever-growing numbers. Global deal making is becoming more challenging: shareholder and customer expectations can misalign; regulation is increasingly fragmented; and geopolitical circumstances continue to fluctuate dramatically. Our events and meeting services reduce the cost, inefficiency and risk of complex multi-party transactions. Since our first events in the Gulf in 2010, we have developed a deep knowledge in markets with rising economic influence including Central Asia, CEE, Africa, Latin America, Saudi Arabia, The Middle East and Türkiye.

We are the no. 1 business meetings facilitator for Africa's capital markets. This is Africa's largest and most..

16 Mar, 2026 - 17 Mar, 2026

Cape Town International Convention Centre

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 2026

CTICC Conference Centre, Cape Town. For further information contact sales@aecweek.com

Payments & Fintech MARKETING INDABA 9-12 February 2026; 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@cadek.co.za

AFRICAN MINING WEEK (AMW) 2026

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, 2026, 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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FROM RISK TO RESILIENCE: PRACTICAL SECURITY SOLUTIONS FOR BUSINESS CONTINUITY

Stakeholders in Nigeria–South Africa trade and investment have called for a shift from reactive risk management to proactive security-led resilience as a foundation for business continuity and sustainable growth across emerging markets.

This position was emphasised at the January edition of the Nigeria–South Africa Monthly Breakfast Meeting, organised by the Nigeria–South Africa Chamber of Commerce (NSACC) and held on January 29, 2026, at Eko Hotel and Suites, Lagos.

Themed “From Risk to Resilience: Practical Security Solutions for Business Continuity,” the session was delivered by Hamza Babangida, CPP, Executive Security Services, Protection Plus Services Limited.

The presentation underscored the

growing recognition of security as a strategic enabler rather than a cost centre, particularly in volatile but high-growth economies such as Nigeria and South Africa.

Babangida noted that today's business risks are complex, interconnected, and systemic, spanning physical security, cyber threats, operational disruptions, reputational exposure, regulatory compliance, and governance challenges.

According to him, boards, investors, and regulators are increasingly asking whether organisations can withstand disruptions while continuing to operate responsibly and sustainably.

He identified key drivers reshaping the risk landscape, including rising urban crime, infrastructure exposure,

workforce safety and duty-of-care obligations, supply chain volatility, ESG pressures, and heightened stakeholder expectations. He stressed that modern risk is continuous and business-critical, requiring intelligence-led and technology-enabled security frameworks integrated into corporate governance structures.

The presentation highlighted why business resilience is critical to Nigeria–South Africa trade relations, noting that predictable operating environments encourage cross-border investment, foreign direct investment (FDI), and long-term partnerships. Security maturity, Babangida explained, directly influences investor confidence, insurance costs, organisational valuation, and diplomatic trust.

He also outlined the high cost of failing to



build resilience, citing employee injuries and fatalities, legal exposure, talent attrition, reputational damage, prolonged downtime, revenue losses, supply chain disruptions, rising insurance premiums, and increased regulatory scrutiny.

Participants were told that resilience has become a competitive differentiator in bilateral commerce, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises seeking to scale across borders. Professionally managed risk, Babangida said, enables faster SME growth and strengthens the overall trade ecosystem.

Babangida urged organizations to conduct comprehensive risk assessments before entering new environments, warning that reactive security approaches expose businesses to significant financial, operational, and reputational losses.

“Resilience is not built in a crisis. It is built before one. Hope is not a strategy, preparedness is,” he said.

He further added that moving from risk to resilience requires shifting from a purely preventative security mindset to one that assumes breaches will occur and focuses on maintaining, or quickly restoring, critical business functions

. Practical security solutions for business continuity in 2026 involve integrating 24/7 monitoring, automated responses, and rigorous, tested recovery strategies. Key Practical Security Solutions for Business Continuity

- **Immutable Backups & Ransomware Protection:** Ensure critical data is unchangeable and undeletable for a set retention period, protecting it from encryption.
- **Managed Detection and Response (MDR):** Utilize 24/7 monitoring to identify threats in real time, reducing the

burden on internal IT teams.

- **Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA):** Implement "never trust, always verify" principles, using micro-segmentation to isolate critical applications and prevent threats from spreading.
- **Identity-Centric Security:** Focus on securing non-human identities (service accounts, machine credentials) and implementing strong multi-factor authentication (MFA) to prevent unauthorized access.
- **Unified Cloud Security Plane:** Consolidate security tools across multi-cloud environments to prevent operational drag and improve visibility.
- **Attack Surface Management (ASM):** Continuously scan for and fix vulnerabilities in internet-facing assets, including shadow IT and outdated subdomains.
- **Secure Email Gateways:** Use machine learning-supported filtering to stop phishing, deepfakes, and business email compromise (BEC).

Operationalizing Resilience

- **Test and Train Regularly:** Conduct at least annual, or more frequent, tabletop exercises and simulation drills to test response, escalation, and decision-making during a disruption.
- **Develop a "Clean Room" Environment:** Maintain an isolated network segment (recovery vault) to validate and restore data, ensuring it is not re-infected.
- **Establish a Crisis Communication Plan:** Create a clear, pre-defined plan for notifying employees, customers, and partners,

including alternative communication channels if primary ones fail.

- **Third-Party Risk Management:** Continuously monitor the security posture of vendors and suppliers, as their vulnerabilities can create cascading failures.
- **Embed Security-by-Design:** Align with frameworks like the EU Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) by integrating security into product development and IT systems.

The panel discussion featured Ibe Nnah, Chief Executive Officer of Stang Security Services Limited, who shared real-world experiences on risk mitigation and the dangers of ignoring professional security recommendations.

He emphasized the importance of confidentiality in security consulting and the role of technology, real-time surveillance, and access control systems in preventing large-scale losses.

The forum concluded with a consensus that effective security strategies reduce operational downtime, improve workforce productivity, strengthen investor confidence, and support cross-border trade between Nigeria and South Africa.

NSACC reaffirmed its commitment to promoting resilient businesses and sustainable economic partnerships through continued dialogue and collaboration.

The session concluded with a call for a shared security vision between Nigeria and South Africa, positioning resilience as a collective agenda for sustainable business, community stability, and long-term economic cooperation.

NIGERIA HOSTS WORLD BANK TALKS ON JOBS, INVESTMENT

The Managing Director of Operations at the World Bank, Anna Bjerde, is in Nigeria for a three-day visit to deepen engagement on accelerating economic growth and job creation.

The World Bank said the visit, scheduled for February 1, 2026, will focus on how the World Bank Group can best support Nigeria's reform agenda, with consultations feeding into its forthcoming Country Partnership Framework for Nigeria.

According to the Bank, the new strategy places jobs, energy access, and private-sector-led growth at the centre of Nigeria's development priorities. It said discussions during the visit will gather feedback on improving the enabling environment, unleashing human capital, building resilience, and maximising private capital.

“World Bank Managing Director of Operations Anna Bjerde visited Nigeria on February 1, 2026, to discuss how the World Bank Group can best support the country's efforts to accelerate growth and job creation.

“During the visit, Ms Bjerde will meet with senior government officials, private sector leaders, and civil society organisations as part of consultations on the World Bank Group's upcoming Country Partnership Framework for Nigeria. The new strategy places jobs, energy access, and private sector-led growth at the centre of Nigeria's development agenda.

“The consultations will seek feedback on four areas: improving the enabling environment, unleashing human capital, building resilience, and maximising private capital,” the statement read.

It added that the visit would also underscore Nigeria's role in advancing global development initiatives, including Mission 300, a joint World Bank Group and African Development Bank programme aimed at connecting

300 million Africans to electricity by 2030.

Under the initiative, Nigeria's Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scaleup programme is expected to provide household energy access to 17.5 million people through mini-grids and solar home systems.

The bank said talks would further cover progress on digital connectivity, power sector reforms, social protection and human capital outcomes, alongside AgriConnect, an initiative designed to turn smallholder farming into a commercially viable source of jobs, higher incomes and food security.

During the visit, Bjerde is scheduled to meet Vice President Kashim Shettima; the Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Wale Edun; the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Olayemi Cardoso; and the Governor of Lagos State, Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

She will be joined by Ousmane Diagana, Vice President for Western and Central Africa at the World Bank; Ethiopis Tafara, Vice President for Africa at the International Finance Corporation; and Ed Mountfield, Vice President at the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

The World Bank noted that its active portfolio in Nigeria exceeds \$16bn, covering education, health, social protection, energy, and infrastructure, alongside policy advisory and institutional strengthening.

It added that the IFC's investment portfolio in Nigeria stands at over \$1.2bn, with a focus on diversified growth, inclusion, sustainability, and job creation, particularly in energy, finance, agribusiness, and manufacturing.

As of June 30, 2025, Nigeria's external debt stood at \$46.98bn, according to the Debt Management Office. The World Bank Group remains Nigeria's largest single creditor, accounting for \$19.39bn of the total, comprising

\$18.04bn from the IDA and \$1.35bn from the IBRD.

This represents 41.3 per cent of the country's external debt, underscoring the bank's dominant role in financing Nigeria's development initiatives.

OUR POLICIES HAVE SECURED \$8 BILLION FIDS IN OIL, GAS SECTOR, SAYS TINUBU

President Bola Tinubu yesterday said his administration has strengthened the oil and gas sector to secure a Final Investment Decisions (FIDs) surpassing \$8 billion in offshore gas developments from global energy firms.

He said the torrent of direct investments into the sector revived strongly because of regulatory certainty and fiscal reforms.

Tinubu, who was represented by the Vice President, Kashim Shettima, stated this yesterday while declaring open the 9th edition of the Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES) at the Banquet Hall, State House, in Abuja.

He said: “The sector secured final investment decisions exceeding \$8 billion, including major offshore gas developments involving global energy companies. The outpouring of direct investment into the oil and gas sector rebounded strongly, driven by regulatory certainty, fiscal reforms and improved operational guidelines and conditions.”

He said domestic gas supply exceeded two billion cubic feet per day for the first time, strengthening power generation, industrial utilisation and energy access.

Export volumes, according to him, increased alongside sustained expansion of gas processing and transportation infrastructure, reinforcing Nigeria's role in regional and global gas markets.

NIGERIAN NEWS

Tinubu reminded the stakeholders that on his assumption of office in 2023, the sector was only rich in potential, but weighed down by inefficiencies, uncertainty and underinvestment.

“When this administration assumed the mantle of leadership in May 2023, we inherited an energy sector rich in potential, yet constrained by inefficiencies, uncertainty, and prolonged underinvestment. We set to work without panicking, guided by the clear understanding that energy cannot be treated simply as an economic commodity if stability is our goal. Energy is a catalyst for national security, industrial growth, social inclusion, and regional cooperation,” he said.

Tinubu said under his administration, the upstream activity recorded a historic rebound, recounts growth from eight weeks in 2021 to 69 weeks by late 2025, reflecting renewed exploration and building momentum

The Federal Government, he said, has also introduced a broad executive order on oil and gas investment enabling to unlock up to \$10 billion in capital inflows, streamline project approvals, reduce bureaucratic delays and position Nigeria as a prepared investment destination.

He recalled that in 2025, the administration introduced the Upstream Petroleum Operations Cost Efficiency Incentives Order, providing tax credits of up to 20 per cent to promote cost efficiency, enhanced competitiveness, and deepened Nigerian participation.

Tinubu also noted that as a direct result of the reforms the government has introduced, Nigeria's average crude oil production improved to approximately 1.6 million barrels per day.

The administration, he said, consolidated its role as a live wire of sector reform and strengthened regulatory institutions to ensure clarity of goals, transparency and investor

competitiveness.

He added that the country introduced fully digital, transparent, and competitive licensing rounds to the upstream sector, widely regarded as among the most credible bidding processes in our history.

On the 2025 bid round, he said: “In furtherance of this objective, we approved the commencement of the 2025 licensing round, creating new investment windows and enabling additional crude oil and gas production capacity.”

He said Nigeria's refining landscape entered a new era with the commencement of local operations and the Dangote Petroleum Refinery, significantly enhancing domestic supply of refined petroleum products.

The president said modular and indigenous refineries advanced under supportive regulatory frameworks, diversifying national refining capacity. On the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited NNPC refineries, he said: “Rehabilitation of state-owned refineries also gained renewed momentum, with operational stability and efficiency remaining a primary focus.”

He added that the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC) recorded strong and consistent revenue performance, surpassing annual targets and fiscal sustainability.

In similar vein, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Oil), Senator Heineken Lokpobiri said the renewed confidence has culminated in the huge FIDs inflows into the sector.

He said: “International confidence has also returned: Shell's \$5 billion Bonga North project, and TotalEnergies' \$550 million Ubeta project marks Nigeria's first major FIDs in over a decade. This was followed by Shell's \$2 billion HI project and the \$1.8million cumulative spent by Chevron in their Panther project.

“Only recently, the global CEO of Shell announced their commitment to taking a \$20 billion FID, with several other FID lined up to be announced in this year and in the coming year.

“In 2025 alone, 28 new field development plans worth \$18.2 billion were signed, with potentials of 1.4 billion barrels of oil daily.

“Between 2024 and 2025, of the seven major FIDs announced across Africa, four were in Nigeria. This did not happen by accident, it is the result of steady work, policy clarity, and better governance. These are not rhetorics but proof that Nigeria is once again a magnet for serious business.”

In his remarks, the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPCL) Group Chief Executive (Officer) Bashir Ojulari, an engineer, revealed that the firm has planned to expand the Escravos Lagos Pipeline Line (ESPL) this year.

He said: “Our recent achievements reflect this momentum. The presentation of the NNPC Gas Master Plan last week and the remarkable progress of our strategic gas infrastructure projects, the OB3 and the AKK pipeline and we are moving forward this year to also expand the ELPS pipeline, and the regional pipelines to their projects signal a new era of mining discipline, infrastructure development, and long-term commitments. These projects are more than a pipeline.”

NNPCL, according to him, is nurturing a new generation of professionals grounded in accountability, performance excellence and national service.

He said the strategic shifts, under the leadership of President Tinubu, is positioning Nigeria in a global competitive investment destination, from fiscal stability to policy liberalisation and security improvement.

FG TARGETS STRONGER GAS-TO-POWER LINKAGE TO BOOST ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The Federal Government (FG) has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Nigeria's gas-to-power value chain as part of efforts to expand electricity supply, drive industrial growth and reduce energy poverty.

Minister of State for Petroleum Resources (Gas), Ekperikpe Ekpo, stated this while delivering his address at the National Gas Day session of the 9th Nigeria International Energy Summit (NIES 2026).

Ekpo said natural gas currently accounts for over 70 per cent of Nigeria's on-grid electricity generation, describing it as the backbone of the country's power sector and a critical enabler of economic development.

He stated: "With proven natural gas reserves of over 210 trillion cubic feet, Nigeria is uniquely positioned to leverage gas not just as a resource, but as a catalyst for power delivery, industrialisation and national growth".

He noted that while Nigeria's gas reserves are among the largest globally, the real measure of success lies in the ability to translate those resources into megawatts delivered to homes, industries, hospitals and schools.

Ekpo stated that the federal government has prioritised gas as a transition fuel to guarantee reliable electricity supply while supporting climate commitments.

He said, "As a cleaner and more affordable energy source, gas enables us to expand electricity access, deepen industrialisation and reduce energy poverty in a pragmatic and development-focused manner". The minister disclosed that one of the major breakthroughs recorded under the current administration was the resolution of longstanding gas-to-power debts owed to gas producers, following presidential approval and ratification by the National Economic

Council (NEC).

He explained that the settlement of the legacy debts has restored confidence in the domestic gas market and is already unlocking fresh investments in gas supply for power generation.

"For decades, unpaid gas-to-power obligations discouraged investment and constrained supply. Resolving this issue has removed a major bottleneck and laid the foundation for a more sustainable gas-to-power framework," Ekpo said.

In 2025, Nigeria maintained its status as a cornerstone of the West African financial landscape, ranking as the second-largest investment banking market in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This was indicated in the Sub-Saharan Africa Investment Banking Review Full Year 2025 published by LSEG Data & Analytics, which showed that while Nigeria saw its overall fee revenue rise, the year was defined by a stark divergence between a booming debt market and a cooling environment for mergers and equity deals.

Nigeria remains one of the primary engines for financial services in the region, trailing only South Africa in total fee generation.

"An estimated \$503.9m worth of investment banking fees were generated in Sub-Saharan Africa during 2025, representing a 13.1 per cent increase from the prior year. South Africa accounted for 51.5 per cent of all Sub-Saharan African fees in 2025, followed by Nigeria (19.4 per cent) and the Ivory Coast (6.9 per cent). Investment banking fees in Nigeria reached \$97.9m for the year, which marks an eight per cent increase compared to 2023. This growth contributed to Nigeria's position as a top-three fee-earner alongside South Africa and Ivory Coast," indicated part of the report.

While the total volume of equity issuance in Nigeria saw a pullback compared to the previous year, several

landmark corporate deals stood out in the regional rankings. The LSEG report revealed that Sub-Saharan African equity and equity-related issuance totalled \$5.5bn in 2025, which was a 58 per cent increase from 2024 and the highest level in eight years.

In Nigeria, equity issuance proceeds totalled \$690.9m, a figure that represents a 27 per cent decrease compared to the prior year. Despite this decline, Nigerian firms featured prominently in the largest regional deals, such as the \$163.7m follow-on offering by Presco Plc in December. Furthermore, United Bank for Africa Plc successfully executed two separate follow-on offerings in April and September 2025, raising a combined total of over \$255m.

The value of Mergers & Acquisitions deals involving Nigerian entities saw a significant contraction in 2025. The value of announced M&A transactions with any sub-Saharan African involvement reached \$37.2bn in 2025, a slight 0.8 per cent increase in value compared to the previous year. However, the value of M&A deals involving Nigeria plummeted 76 per cent to reach just \$1.3bn. Despite this sharp decline in total deal value, Nigeria remained the fourth most targeted nation for M&A activity in the region. The broader regional activity was led by the Consumer Staples and Energy & Power sectors.

A notable highlight for the year was the performance of local Nigerian financial institutions, which broke into the top tiers of regional league tables. Local Nigerian firms demonstrated significant growth in the regional Equity Capital Markets bookrunner rankings during the year. United Capital PLC secured the tenth spot in the regional table, recording \$84.3m in proceeds, which was a massive 678 per cent increase compared to 2024.

CardinalStone Partners Ltd also earned a place on the regional leaderboard, ranking eleventh for the year. These

domestic players were part of a competitive field led by global giants such as Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley.

NITDA BACKS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-DRIVEN TRANSFORMATION AT CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

The National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) has thrown its weight behind the Corporate Affairs Commission's (CAC) moves to recalibrate its operations with artificial intelligence-driven transformation.

The Director General of NITDA, Malam Kashifu Inuwa, disclosed this in Abuja when the Commission marked its 35th anniversary.

Delivering a goodwill message at the celebration, which was held at the Ladi Kwali Hall of Continental Hotel, Inuwa commended CAC for its uncommon consistency and resilience. He said it was delightful that while many organisations rise and fall after initial success, CAC has continued on a steady growth trajectory.

“We know organisations go up and come down, but some will keep thriving, thriving, and thriving, and today, this is what we are witnessing for CAC,” he said.

Reflecting on his early engagement with the Commission, the NITDA boss recalled that the Registrar General made organisational transformation a priority from the very start of his leadership, particularly in embracing digital innovation.

According to Inuwa, the current era demands more than basic digitisation, stressing that meaningful transformation can only be achieved through the integration of artificial intelligence into core operations.

“We are in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) era, and the only way to transform today is to embrace and integrate AI

into your operations. This is exactly what the Registrar General is doing,” he said.

He assured CAC of NITDA's commitment to working closely with the Commission to embed AI across its numerous processes, explaining that the technology would infuse intelligence into workflows, simplify company registration and business management, and strengthen cybersecurity.

“We will make sure you integrate AI into CAC processes. With AI, it will infuse intelligence in everything you do and make things easy for Nigerians to register companies and manage businesses,” Inuwa averred.

The NITDA boss further noted that deploying advanced AI tools would help CAC staff stay ahead of fraudsters and curb hacking and fraudulent alterations of company records, while also safeguarding the system through responsible deployment.

“At NITDA, we will make sure you deploy ethical and responsible AI in your operations, with the right guardrails in place,” he assured.

He further described CAC's digital reforms as bold and impactful, noting that the Commission has reduced company registration timelines from several months to as little as 24 hours. He added that further integration of AI would enhance name search and reservation, automate filings, improve corporate governance, and significantly reduce fraud.

He also highlighted NITDA's ongoing role in reviewing CAC's digital and AI transformation roadmaps, providing guidelines, standards, training support, and safeguards to ensure sustainable, people-centred, and secure digital services.

IFAD SEEKS STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN YOUTH, WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

The 49th Session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Governing Council has concluded in Rome, with Nigeria's Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Senator Abubakar Kyari, leading the charge for strategic investment in youth and women in agriculture. Themed, “From Farm to Market: Investing in Young Entrepreneurs,” the meeting highlighted the critical role of youth in driving jobs creation, innovation, and inclusive growth. The session opened with the election of Kyari as Chairperson of the IFAD's Governing Council (GC). Having previously served as vice chair, his election reflected the confidence of Member States in the nation's constructive engagement and leadership in advancing global food security.

Kyari expressed profound appreciation to member states for the trust reposed in him, reaffirming his commitment to serve with humility, diligence, and an unwavering focus on rural women and men worldwide.

Addressing participants at the biennial event, the Chairperson highlighted that the emphasis on youth and women in agriculture aimed to unlock economic opportunities, drive innovation, and foster inclusive growth, ultimately strengthening food systems and reducing hunger and poverty across the globe.

He lauded President, Bola Tinubu for his clear mandate which places food security at the centre of the country's national priorities.

The minister noting that Nigeria's stewardship at IFAD aligns with the President's charge to strengthen agricultural productivity, expand opportunities for youth and women, as well as build resilient systems capable of withstanding climate and market

disruptions.

He commended the strong work of the IFAD Nigeria Country Office, led by Country Director, Ms. Dede Ekoue and her team for their dedication which continues to translate global commitments into measurable impacts for rural communities across the country, particularly in strengthening value chains, empowering youth and women, while also building resilience for smallholder farmers.

As the conference closed, Nigeria reaffirmed its resolve to champion multilateral cooperation in confronting hunger and poverty, demonstrating that the nation remains a responsible and forward-looking voice on the global stage.

According to a statement by the ministry's Head, Department of Information, Mr. Ezeaja Ikemefuna, key highlights of the 49th Session included the Centre Stage Event featuring drive IFAD President, Dr. Álvaro Lario and leading African entrepreneur Mr. Tony Elumelu highlighted the catalytic role of young innovators in transforming rural economies.

It also recognised women farmers' critical role in strengthening food systems, marking the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

The meeting called for urgent priorities of water security and climate resilience, with calls for strategic investment in irrigation and adaptive infrastructure, among others.

BANKING SECTOR TO DRIVE 7% NIGERIA'S GDP GROWTH, SAYS WORLD BANK

World Bank on glass building. Mirrored sky and city modern facade. Global capital, business, finance, economy, banking and money concept 3D rendering illustration.

Nigerian banking sector has the

capacity to drive more than seven per cent growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) if properly leveraged, the World Bank Country Director for Nigeria, Mr Mathew Verghis, has said.

Verghis spoke yesterday at the Agosto & Co 2026 Economic Roundtable held in Lagos in honour of the firm's late founder, Mr Olabode Agosto.

He spoke on the theme: "Nigeria's Banking Recapitalisation Is Almost Over: What Does the Recapitalisation Mean for the Nigerian Economy?"

Verghis noted that Nigeria recorded nearly 4.5 per cent GDP growth in the second quarter of last year, its strongest performance in a decade.

"And it's not nearly enough. The ambition should be seven to eight per cent growth, and there is no reason why Nigeria cannot achieve that," he said.

Verghis stressed that the banking sector must play a central role in achieving higher growth, particularly as returns on government securities decline.

He said banks had benefited from investing heavily in government securities, but falling yields would make such investments less attractive, creating incentives to redirect funds into lending to the domestic economy.

"With interest rates expected to moderate over time, banks will be compelled to change strategy," he said.

"The good news is that banks should be incentivised to do this. As interest rates come down, banks can no longer rely as heavily on government securities. That liquidity will need to be put to good use, and the incentives are well aligned," he added.

The World Bank official also applauded the ongoing bank recapitalisation process, describing it as the right step to strengthen financial stability and reposition lenders to support private sector-led growth.

He explained that years of macroeconomic pressures, exchange rate depreciation and high inflation had eroded banks' capital buffers, making recapitalisation inevitable.

"The basic reason recapitalisation was needed is that banks had become undercapitalised. Capital adequacy requirements had to be raised because of inflation and exchange rate pressures," Verghis said.

"An adequately capitalised banking sector is central to economic stability, and the Central Bank has taken the right step."

He observed that domestic credit to the private sector remains low compared with peer economies.

"The ratio of domestic credit to the private sector is about 21 per cent. The Sub-Saharan Africa average is 33 per cent, while a country such as the Philippines is around 50 per cent," he said, stressing that increased credit must also be productive.

Verghis backed new tax laws, describing them as an important stabilisation measure that would boost government revenue and help manage fiscal deficits.

He explained that as of December, about 25 of the country's 38 commercial and merchant banks had met the new recapitalisation requirements, mobilising roughly N2.5 trillion, while the remaining banks have less than 50 days to comply.

Placing the recapitalisation within a broader reform agenda, he linked it to foreign exchange harmonisation, subsidy reforms and revenue measures aimed at stabilising the economy.

He stressed the need for inflation to fall to single digits to protect purchasing power and for growth to accelerate beyond current levels.

"In my view, inflation has to come down much faster to single digits so it

stops eroding people's incomes," he said.

"Growth of four per cent is good, but it is not good enough. Nigeria must grow faster to achieve its ambition of becoming a trillion-dollar economy."

He identified micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), which account for about 97 per cent of businesses, as critical to inclusive growth, despite challenges such as informality and limited access to credit.

"I firmly believe that Nigeria's tomorrow will be better than today," Verghis said.

Managing Director of Augusto & Co, Mrs Yinka Adelekan, recalled that during the 2005 recapitalisation process, banks were required to raise N25 billion, with a total of N406 billion mobilised, equivalent to \$3.1 billion at the time.

She estimated that the current recapitalisation would require about N4 trillion, equivalent to \$3.08 billion at today's exchange rate, warning that weak governance and supervision could turn recapitalisation into a systemic risk.

"Unlike in 2005, fintech companies are now competing aggressively with banks, with about four estimated to have reached unicorn status," she said.

Managing Director/CEO of Access Bank, Mr Roosevelt Ogbonna, said newly recapitalised banks would be better positioned to fund infrastructure, support private sector investment and boost consumer activity.

NIGERIA TARGETS CASSAVA AS INDUSTRIAL GROWTH ENGINE

The Federal Government has set its sights on transforming Nigeria's cassava sector into a major driver of industrialization and renewable energy.

The move is aimed at reducing the nation's reliance on imported fuel, stabilizing the Naira, and creating new economic opportunities for farmers and investors.

A statement from the federal ministry of Budget and Economic Planning yesterday noted that in line with this vision, a two-day Capacity Building Workshop for Stakeholders on the Cassava Bioethanol Value Chain Development Project recently took place in the North West Geo-Political Zone.

The workshop brought together farmers, processors, researchers, regulators, and investors to discuss ways to maximize cassava's potential beyond food production.

The Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, [Senator Atiku Abubakar Bagudu](#), through the Director of Economic Growth, Mr. Auwal Muhammad, described the initiative as a key part of President Bola Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.

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"This workshop is more than a training session. It is a strategic gathering designed to ensure that Nigeria no

longer just grows cassava to eat, but grows cassava to power our nation," Mr. Muhammad said.

Nigeria is the world's largest producer of cassava, but much of the crop's potential remains untapped. The Cassava Bioethanol Value Chain Development Project, often called the "white gold" initiative, aims to turn cassava into a catalyst for industrial growth and energy transition.

By blending bioethanol derived from cassava with Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), the government hopes to reduce the country's dependence on imported fuel, save billions of Naira in foreign exchange, and promote cleaner, renewable energy alternatives.

The ministry added that the initiative is also expected to help diversify the economy beyond oil and gas. Under the National Bio-Economy Policy, the project promotes a circular approach, ensuring that all parts of the cassava production and processing chain are utilized. This includes the use of high-quality cassava stems and starch, capturing carbon dioxide during fermentation, and converting distillery grains into animal feed.



GOVERNMENT IS PRIORITISING THE REFORM OF THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR TO CHANGE ITS FORTUNES – THE DTIC

Deputy Minister Zuko Godlimpi notes that the automotive industry has faced a number of disruptions since the adoption and implementation of the Automotive Masterplan since 2021. These include COVID-19, the Ukraine-Russia War and the global shift to electric vehicles. However, he highlights that the industry has shown recovery from the COVID impact.

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) has in the past few years published the EV White Paper and implemented shop-floor competitiveness interventions in partnership with the Japanese government.

A comprehensive South African automotive policy review is currently being carried out to deal with challenges plaguing the sector to revitalize and ensure its rapid growth.

This is according to the Chief Director: Automotives, at the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic), Mr Mkhululi Mlota. He delivered a presentation to the Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry, to give an update in the implementation of the Automotive Sector Masterplan. Mlota said the review will also include Intergovernmental engagements on Tax matters which will commence soon.

In the same session, Dr Tebogo Makube, Acting Deputy Director General: Sectors Branch, indicated that a suite of proposals aimed at reviving the sector are being considered. These include reviewing the customs tariff structure, developing a battery manufacturing policy, attracting new vehicle manufacturers and reviewing the ad valorem tax on light motor vehicles.

The overarching vision of the Masterplan is to create a globally competitive and transformed industry that actively contributes to the sustainable development of South Africa's productive economy, creating prosperity for industry stakeholders and broader society.

Some of the key objectives are to ensure South Africa ultimately contributes 1% to global vehicle production, with up to 60% local and 100% employment growth.

Mlota told parliamentarians that there are new challenges that the sector has had to contend with and the area of exports is one of the important ones.

“The United States is South Africa's third largest automotive export destination, with R28.7 billion in exports recorded in 2024. New US tariff measures and uncertainty regarding AGOA eligibility for the possible 2028 extension threaten the country's export position.

These risks extend across the value chain, from component manufacturers to OEM export programmes. The rise of China as a competitive producer of high tech but more affordable vehicles is also leading to intensifying competition for South African produced vehicles in export markets,” he said.

Mlota also highlighted that the implementation of the White Paper on Electric Vehicles (EVs) is currently continuing while the Localisation of EV Battery Manufacturing Policy Framework is being finalised with the first draft due next month.

The South African government, has been working with various stakeholders to develop and implement sector-specific Masterplans as a significant instrument to promote inclusive economic growth and tackle unemployment. They are action-oriented policy implementation documents targeted towards boosting local jobs and developing local value chains.

NEW ACTOM FACTORY INSTRUMENTAL IN ADVANCING SA'S INDUSTRIAL POLICY OBJECTIVES

The reopening of the ACTOM Pretoria Power Transformers factory represents a critical development for South Africa's industrial policy objectives, particularly in advancing localisation, industrial capacity retention, and job preservation within the electrical equipment

manufacturing sector..

This was revealed by the Acting Director General of the Sectors branch at the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition, Dr Tebogo Makube. He was speaking at the official opening of new facilities of transformer manufacturer, ACTOM in Pretoria.

ACTOM has become Sub-Saharan Africa's largest transformer manufacturer after acquiring SGB Smit Power Matla, after it was placed under voluntary business rescue.

Dr Makube said ACTOM's investment in reviving the Pretoria West plant directly supports government's broader objectives of reindustrialisation, energy security, and job creation.

“The initiative is aligned with the Industrial Policy, Integrated Resource Plan, Energy Action Plan, Localisation Policy and related Masterplans. The reopening of the facility reinstates South Africa's capability to manufacture large power transformers locally, supports industrial competitiveness, and underscores the importance of local content and skills development. This initiative contributes meaningfully to job creation, economic recovery, and the reindustrialisation agenda,” he said.

About 250 employees returned to the Pretoria West factory to restart operations after nearly two years of inactivity, marking a significant milestone towards restoring full-scale local production.

PARTNERSHIPS KEY FOR SOUTH AFRICA'S INDUSTRIAL FUTURE-MINISTER TAU

South Africa's industrial future will be defined by bold, collaborative decision-making. This was the message delivered by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Parks Tau, during his address at the Sasol Engagement Dinner held on the sidelines of the Mining Indaba in Cape Town last night.

According to Tau, the path to a thriving, competitive and sustainable economy lies in adopting a low-carbon industrial policy that draws global investment, broadens market access and safeguards our industrial base.

“If we build the energy system of the future, mobilise capital at scale, and secure our position in the global critical minerals economy, we will not only decarbonise — we will reindustrialise,” stated Tau.

Tau added that Sasol and its clients have a pivotal role to play, and government stands ready to partner with them. Together, they can turn this period of transition into a transformative opportunity that drives growth, strengthens competitiveness and expands opportunities for all South Africans.

“The transition before us requires reliable electricity, that must be both green and affordable. There are hard-to-abate sectors that cannot be fully electrified, and for these industries we must unlock sustainable fuels that are competitive at scale,” said Tau.

Furthermore, Tau emphasised the need for coordinated planning, greater transparency and a shared commitment to long-term policy certainty.

Against this backdrop, he stressed that collaboration must also extend across government-to-government channels. This, he said, can be advanced through deepening commercial dialogue with the United States, strengthened cooperation with China, and engagement with the European Union through the Clean Trade and Investment Partnership.

“Sasol's role is profound in building a new industrial economy. The operations sit at the intersection of energy, chemicals, fuels, and advanced manufacturing, which gives both responsibilities and opportunities. The opportunities include unlocking giga-scale investment in renewable energy, mega-storage, High-Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission, and gas-to-power—especially as Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) becomes central to our industrial feedstock strategy post-2028,” emphasised Tau.

MINISTER TAU UNDERScores THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIALISATION-LINKED INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition, Mr Parks Tau, has emphasised the importance of investments that support industrialisation in South Africa. He made these remarks during a high-level panel discussion on critical minerals, held alongside fellow ministers and private-sector representatives at the Investment Forum at the Investing in Africa Mining Indaba in Cape Town. The session was held under the theme Building Critical Minerals Value Chains in South Africa.

“The focus is now on ensuring that investments from other countries are linked to industrialisation in South Africa. The objective is to review and negotiate trade partnerships to prevent minerals from being exported without delivering meaningful benefits to the country,” said Tau.

He further highlighted the importance of special economic zones in advancing industrialisation, noting that efforts are focused on attracting targeted investors to utilise these zones as platforms for industrial development.

“the dtic is tasked with implementing measures to ensure genuine beneficiation. The emphasis is on moving beyond the extraction and export of minerals to adding value through local processing, close to the source, for broader societal benefit. Measures to support value addition include repositioning trade agreements, particularly with developed countries, reviewing how South Africa partners with other nations, and providing dynamic fiscal and supply-chain support to local industries,” said Tau.

While deliberating on the shift from traditional trade agreements to those that support industrialisation and investment in South Africa, Tau cited the recent agreement with China as an example of this new approach, which includes a pipeline of investment projects. He noted that four priority

areas have been identified, with industrialisation being one of them.

“The early harvest programme will be unveiled by 26 March, focusing on industries in which Chinese investors will industrialise in South Africa. The programme is designed to ensure that Chinese investments contribute to local industrialisation, rather than merely exporting products to the Chinese market,” Tau added.

Furthermore, Tau highlighted the importance of critical minerals in advancing e-mobility and digitisation. He outlined the dtic's policy strategy linked to the transition of the automotive sector, which emphasises South Africa's broader objectives of decarbonisation, digitisation and diversification.

The session was hosted by the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) in partnership with the Departments of Mineral and Petroleum Resources (DMPR), and Water and Sanitation (DWS).

“Policy stability under the Critical Minerals Strategy and the G20 Framework remains critical to the economy. South Africa has adopted a Critical Minerals Strategy and Implementation Plan that positions the country as a reliable supplier and value-adding hub for minerals essential to the global energy transition, digitalisation and advanced manufacturing. This is further reinforced by the adoption of the G20 Critical Minerals Framework at the G20 Leaders' Summit,” Tau added.

The forum was attended by the International mining and exploration companies, battery mineral processors and electric vehicle manufacturers, development finance institutions, sovereign wealth funds and investors, as well as local mining firms and junior miners, are expected to attend the forum. In addition, engineering, water management and logistics companies, provincial investment promotion agencies (IPAs), special economic zones, industrial development zones, and diplomatic missions also formed part of the discussions.



KEYSTONE BANK RELOCATES AWOLOWO IKOYI BRANCH IN LAGOS

A statement by the bank said the relocation reinforces its commitment to enhancing customer experience, operational efficiency, and engagement with clients in the Ikoyi business district.

The lender added that the newly relocated branch has been strategically designed to offer a modern, convenient, and customer-centric banking environment.

Speaking at the event, Managing Director & CEO of Keystone Bank, Mr. Hassan Imam, emphasised that the relocation aligns with the bank's broader strategy to strengthen its presence in key commercial hubs while delivering innovative and responsive banking solutions.

He said, "The relocation of the branch offers us another opportunity to further optimise our strategic expansion and digital transformation drive by deploying channels that enhance our customers' experience at all touchpoints. As a bank, we will continue to raise the bar in creating best-in-class service environments for our customers in line with our core values of professionalism and customer focus."

In her comments, Executive Director, South and Corporate Bank, Keystone Bank, Mrs. Nnenna Anyim-Okoro, highlighted the branch relocation as a reflection of the bank's customer-first philosophy, innovation, and commitment to sustainable growth.

This new branch is a hub for community interaction, business support, and seamless banking solutions. We are committed to investing in people, technology, and processes that enhance customer experience and build long-term trust.

AIG-IMOUKHUEDE CALLS FOR ENHANCED FOCUS ON AGRICULTURE

Chairman, Access Holdings Plc, Mr. Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede has called for a renewed focus on agriculture as

Nigeria's pathway to sustainable jobs, inclusive growth and long-term national resilience.

He said Nigeria's growth lies in deliberate reinvention of agriculture as a coordinated, system-driven engine of work.

Aig-Imoukhuede spoke at the weekend at the 33rd Convocation Lecture of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB), in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

Speaking on the theme "Agriculture, the Future of Work, and the University as Catalyst," Aig-Imoukhuede challenged policymakers, universities and graduates to look beyond traditional narratives of farming and recognise agriculture as Nigeria's most scalable platform for dignified employment, innovation and national transformation, if properly governed and coordinated.

The lecture formed a central intellectual pillar which has reinforced the university's growing reputation as a global thought leader at the intersection of agriculture, governance and development.

Aig-Imoukhuede noted that while global discourse on the future of work was dominated by automation and artificial intelligence, Africa's more urgent challenge is the creation of productive, sustainable and large-scale employment for its youthful population.

Agriculture, he argued, offers a unique comparative advantage.

He said: "Agriculture is not merely about farming. It is a complex system encompassing science, engineering, logistics, finance, technology, regulation and trade. No other sector matches its capacity to create jobs across skill levels, income bands and rural-urban divides while strengthening food security and national resilience".

Drawing lessons from the biblical account of Joseph in Egypt and Brazil's agricultural transformation, he emphasised that agriculture becomes

truly transformative only when treated as an integrated system rather than a series of isolated interventions. Turning to Nigeria, he observed that despite vast arable land, human capital and a large domestic market, the country remained a net food importer due to weak coordination rather than a lack of ideas or effort.

"Nigeria's agricultural story is not one of failure," he stated, "but one of unfinished architecture."

He urged graduates to see agriculture as a modern, technology-enabled and value-chain-driven career space, noting that the most significant employment opportunities lie beyond the farm gate, in storage, processing, logistics, quality assurance, branding and export markets.

He also cautioned against over-reliance on technology without strong institutions and governance, stressing that enduring transformation required patient capital, credible systems and consistent leadership.

Addressing the graduating class, directly, Aig-Imoukhuede called for adaptability, lifelong learning and civic responsibility, reminding them that Nigeria's future depends on builders of systems, not spectators.

STERLING BANK ACCELERATES RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION

Sterling Bank Limited has brought together stakeholders in the renewable energy industry to explore ways to accelerate action in the sector.

The premier colloquium, held in Lagos on Monday, aimed to identify priority areas for action to increase energy access and drive economic growth in the quest to attain a one trillion-dollar economy.

Managing Director, Sterling Bank Limited, Mr. Abubakar Suleiman, gave the charge in his address at the colloquium organized with the theme: Beyond The Grid; Unlocking New Frontiers in Renewable Energy.

The CEO, who was represented by



Dele Faseemo, Group Executive, Corporate & Investment Banking, explained that Sterling Bank will be paying closer attention to policy actions in two or three key priority areas, especially regulation and financing.

He noted that by focusing on these areas, the Bank can do more to drive progress and expand access to energy, which he described as essential for supporting economic growth and overall development.

In a keynote address titled Scaling Electrification in Nigeria, The REA Impact, Managing Director and CEO of The Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Dr. Abba Aliyu, spoke on the vision, mission and mandate of the agency.

He noted that Nigeria requires about \$26 billion to address its energy deficit. He said the energy transition in Nigeria is a strategic shift towards achieving universal, reliable and sustainable energy access by integrating the grid, mini-grid and off grid technologies while aligning with national development and climate goals.

The CEO who was represented by Mr. Abba Hayatudden, Senior Advisor to the MD, said “REA is strategically expanding and optimizing channels to accelerate the adoption and sustainable growth of renewable energy across the country in the areas of value chain development, regulation enhancement, funding windows, alternative resources and technical standardization.”

Minister of Power, Adebayo Adelabu, commended Sterling Bank for convening the conversation on renewable energy.

He stated that the Federal Government has placed renewable energy and rural electrification at the heart of the Renewed Hope Agenda.

The minister who was represented by Engineer Samuel Ayangeaor said, “The Federal Ministry of Power has continued to expand electricity access to underserved communities in a bid to drive economic growth, foster industrial activity and create jobs across the nation.”

In his goodwill message, Mr. Biodun Ogunleye, Lagos State Commissioner for Energy and Mineral Resources, noted that the current administration is implementing the most ambitious energy transformation ever undertaken.

He highlighted the state’s efforts in renewable energy and sustainability, including the two-gigawatt Lagos grid scale solar project.

The CEO of Sterling One Foundation, Mrs. Olapeju Ibekwe, emphasized the need for collective action. She urged participants not to allow the day’s deliberations to end as mere conversations or points documented in a communiqué.

Instead, she encouraged everyone to leverage the strength of their networks, act with intention, and remain focused on delivering meaningful impact.

ACCESS BANK TO DRIVE AFRICA’S TRADE AMBITIONS AT CAPE TOWN CONFERENCE

Access Bank Plc has announced plans to host the second edition of the Africa Trade Conference (ATC 2026), a high-level strategic convening designed to accelerate Africa’s role in shaping the future of global trade.

The bank in a statement noted that its maiden edition, which convened senior decision-makers from 28 countries, the 2026 conference will be held under the theme:

“Turning Vision into Velocity: Building Africa’s Trade Ecosystem for Real-World Impact.”

It stated: “ATC 2026 will feature a rich programme of high-impact sessions, including a Ministerial Panel, High-Level Plenaries, Partner-Led Workshops, an Innovation and Exhibition Arena, Media Content Studios, curated Networking Lounges, and an Awards and Cultural Showcase, all designed to foster collaboration, catalyse capital flows, and translate ambition into execution.”

Speaking on the significance of the

conference, the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Access Bank Plc, Roosevelt Ogbonna, described ATC as more than a traditional convening.

“Africa is no longer at the margins of global trade conversations. The question today is not about potential, it is about execution. The Africa Trade Conference is designed as a platform for action, not rhetoric. It brings together the people shaping policy, capital, infrastructure, and innovation to build the systems that will define Africa’s trade future,” Ogbonna said.

He added, “At Access Bank, we see ourselves not just as financiers, but as connectors of markets, ideas, and opportunities. Our role is to help African businesses move from ambition to impact, from local relevance to global competitiveness.

“Our presence across Africa and key global corridors gives us a front-row seat to the realities of trade. It also gives us the responsibility to design solutions that are inclusive, scalable, and future facing. ATC 2026 is part of that commitment.”

STANDARD CHARTERED OUTLINES 2026 INVESTMENT OUTLOOK FOR NIGERIA

Standard Chartered Bank Nigeria Limited hosted its clients at the 2026 Global Market Outlook event, bringing together industry experts to examine the evolving global financial landscape and its implications for Nigeria in 2026, where it revealed that the country’s growth outlook is optimistic.

A statement from the bank on Tuesday stated that the well-attended event featured presentations from speakers drawn from Standard Chartered, including Manpreet Gill, Chief Investment Officer, Africa, Middle East and Europe; Lanre Olajide, Head of Wealth and Retail Banking, Nigeria; Ernest Adejumo, Head of Wealth Solutions; Uche Ugboh, Head of Treasury Markets; and Chima Eboh, Head of Affluent Banking and Branches.

The speakers delivered insights on



current market trends, economic shifts, and wealth-building strategies, followed by a question-and-answer panel session that offered attendees practical perspectives on navigating opportunities and challenges in the year ahead.

Speaking on the impact of the global outlook on Nigeria and the investment opportunities available to stakeholders, Gill said, “Clients took away three key messages from the 2026 global market outlook: (i) Stay overweight equities, (ii) continue to generate attractive yields through diversified bonds, but most importantly (iii) diversify, both within equities and across asset classes given valuations and continued uncertainty.”

Adejumo said the key takeaways from the bank’s 2026 Global Market Outlook highlighted the importance of discipline and diversification in an increasingly complex global environment.

“While short-term volatility may persist, investors who concentrate on long-term fundamentals, quality assets, and informed, advisory-led portfolio construction are best positioned to navigate uncertainty and seize emerging opportunities.

“Our GMO reinforced a clear message for investors: clarity comes from context, not noise. By understanding the global themes influencing growth, inflation, and interest rates, clients are better equipped to make confident and well-timed investment decisions. This approach focuses not on predicting markets but on preparing portfolios through diversification and discipline, aligned with their long-term financial goals,” he said.

The event hosted over 1,200 clients across Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt and concluded with a networking lunch with the bank’s management team.

Nigeria’s economic outlook for 2026 remains cautiously optimistic, with GDP growth projections of 4.3 to 4.4 per cent, driven largely by the services sector, particularly ICT and finance, as well as a potential recovery in the oil

sector. Efforts to diversify revenue sources beyond oil are ongoing.

However, challenges, including high inflation and fiscal pressures, persist, while poverty is expected to remain an issue despite reforms aimed at promoting inclusive growth.

Key focus areas include stabilising the naira, controlling inflation through effective monetary policy, improving infrastructure, and ensuring that government policies translate into tangible benefits for citizens. Achieving these goals will require strong fiscal discipline and comprehensive structural reforms.

Standard Chartered said it remains optimistic about Nigeria’s long-term economic potential, emphasising the importance of sustainable reforms, infrastructure development, and regional cooperation in driving growth in Nigeria and across Africa. The bank noted that by aligning global trends with regional strengths, it is well-positioned to support clients and communities in achieving their goals in 2026 and beyond.

INFACREDIT REDEEMS AFC’S \$28.9MILLION PREFERENCE SHARES

Infrastructure Credit Guarantee Company Plc (InfraCredit) has paid \$28.93 million for complete redemption of the 7.246 per cent Redeemable Cumulative USD Preference Shares held by Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), settling the obligation of the instrument’s maturity date.

Under the transaction, InfraCredit redeemed 9.952 billion units of the preference shares and paid a total redemption amount of approximately \$28.93 million, inclusive of \$1.65 million in accrued and unpaid dividends up to the redemption date.

The transaction marked AFC’s exit from InfraCredit’s United States Dollar (USD)-denominated redeemable preference share instrument, effectively simplifying the company’s capital structure and removing future

fixed foreign-currency dividend obligations tied to the instrument.

The redemption also underscored InfraCredit’s capacity to meet large USD obligations as they fall due, reinforcing confidence in its balance sheet strength and liquidity position.

Following the transaction, AFC remains a shareholder in InfraCredit through its holding of 4.36 billion ordinary shares, representing 11.45 per cent of the company’s issued share capital, with such shares ranking *pari passu* with other ordinary shares.

A filing with the NASD OTC Securities Exchange showed that the redemption was executed on November 25, 2025, in line with the Share Subscription Agreement dated July 04, 2018. The preference shares were originally due to mature on November 30, 2025.

All rights, preferences, privileges, and dividend entitlements attached to the redeemed preference shares ceased with effect from 25 November 2025, the redemption date.

The redeemed instrument carried a fixed 7.246 per cent cumulative USD dividend, and its retirement removes a layer of quasi-debt from InfraCredit’s balance sheet. The move is expected to enhance the company’s long-term financial flexibility, particularly as it continues to support local-currency infrastructure bond issuances and credit enhancement transactions in Nigeria.

Post-redemption, InfraCredit’s shareholding structure remains diversified and institutionally anchored, led by NSIA, Access-ARM Pension, AFC, CardinalStone, and other long-term domestic and international investors.

The redemption comes at a time when InfraCredit continues to play a central role in Nigeria’s infrastructure finance market, providing credit guarantees that deepen the domestic capital market and crowd in long-term institutional capital for infrastructure development.

By retiring the USD preference shares in



full and ahead of final maturity, InfraCredit has further strengthened its capital profile and reduced foreign-currency exposure, positioning the Company for the next phase of growth.

Ecobank Nigeria to Host Customer Forum on Strengthening Regional Integration for Economic Transformation

Ecobank Nigeria is set to host the second edition of its Customer Forum, at the Ecobank Pan-African Centre, Ozumba Mbadiwe Avenue, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The forum, organised by the bank's Fixed Income, Currencies and Commodities (FICC) Business (Treasury), is themed 'Strengthening Regional Integration for Economic Transformation.'

It is designed to examine critical issues shaping Nigeria's and Africa's economic outlook in 2026, with particular focus on trade, financial markets, foreign exchange liquidity and regional integration, especially as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement enters a strategic phase of implementation.

Announcing the event in Lagos, the Regional Treasurer, Ecobank Nigeria Limited, Olumide Adebayo, said the one-day programme reinforces the bank's role as a trusted financial partner and customer-focused institution, with intention to foster dialogue, support informed decision-making and deeper regional economic integration across Africa.

According to him, the programme will open with welcome remarks by the Managing Director/Regional Executive, Ecobank Nigeria, Mr. Bolaji Lawal, who will underscore the bank's commitment to supporting customers and driving inclusive growth through strategic dialogue, innovation and pan-African collaboration.

The keynote address, titled 'The Future of Trade in Africa: Harnessing the AfCFTA for Economic Transformation,' will be delivered by the Group Chief Economist & Managing Director, Research and Trade Intelligence,

African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), Dr. Yemi Kale.

His address will provide insights into Africa's trade prospects and the transformative potential of the AfCFTA.

The forum will feature two high-level panel discussions: balancing the Risk between Interest Rate and Exchange Rate: Business Expectations and Outlook in 2026 and Export Proceeds, Oil Receipts and Remittances in 2026: Exploring Options that Best Support FX Liquidity and Flows in Nigeria.

The event would be moderated by Messrs. Aruoture Oddiri, Host and Producer of Global Business Report on Arise News and Barnabas Vajeh of Ecobank Nigeria Limited.

Ecobank Nigeria is a member of the Ecobank Group, the leading pan-African banking institution with operations in 33 African countries and international offices in London, Paris, Beijing and Dubai.

With over 220 branches, more than 36,000 agency banking locations, and robust digital platforms, Ecobank delivers accessible, affordable, and instant banking services. The bank is strategically positioned to support pan-African trade, particularly under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

ECOBANK NIGERIA UNVEILS BUSINESS APP TO BOOST SME GROWTH

Ecobank Nigeria has launched a new digital banking platform, Ecobank Business Enterprises across Nigeria.

According to a statement from the lender on, the app allows business owners to manage payments, monitor transactions, oversee cash flow, and run day-to-day financial operations directly from their mobile devices, eliminating delays, queues, and operational inefficiencies.

SMEs constitute over 96 per cent of Nigerian businesses, contributing roughly 46-50 per cent of GDP and 84 per cent of jobs, making their sustainability vital for economic

stability. Despite their significance, roughly 80 per cent of Nigerian SMEs fail within five years due to energy poverty, limited finance, and poor infrastructure.

Speaking at the launch in Lagos, Executive Director, Consumer and Commercial Bank, Kola Adeleke stated that the Ecobank Business App was developed to address the unique challenges faced by Nigeria's diverse SME landscape.

He explained that the platform caters to traders, retailers, tech startups, online businesses, hospitality operators, farmers, agro-processors, manufacturers, construction firms, professionals, social commerce entrepreneurs, schools, associations, and organisations that require transparent and efficient financial management.

Adeleke noted that the app delivers faster payment collection for merchants and retailers, seamless digital transactions for online businesses, efficient vendor and staff management for hospitality players, timely payment solutions for agriculture value chains, and secure handling of bulk and high-value transactions for manufacturers and construction firms.

He added that professionals such as lawyers and consultants can issue invoices and receive payments easily, while schools and associations can streamline fees, dues, and reporting from a single platform.

The launch reinforces Ecobank's broader commitment to empowering SMEs through digital innovation, sector-specific value propositions, and financial solutions such as structured loans, trade support, guarantees, and equipment financing. It also aligns with the bank's push to re-energise dormant SME accounts, deepen market penetration, promote digital adoption, and scale value-chain financing through partnerships with corporate anchors.

With the Ecobank Business App, Ecobank Nigeria strengthens its



position as a dependable growth partner to SMEs across all sectors, delivering tools that help businesses manage better, grow faster, and operate more competitively in a digital economy.

INFRASTRUCTURE SHARING, RESILIENT DATA CENTRES KEY TO DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Stakeholders in the technology industry have stressed the need for infrastructure sharing among telecoms services providers, as well as the availability of resilient data centres across the country, if Nigeria must achieve the status of a digitally connected economy.

The stakeholders said this in Lagos during a media workshop, themed: 'Digital Infrastructure and Artificial Intelligence (AI)', organised by Africa Hyperscalers, a pan-African market-intelligence and ecosystem platform focused on accelerating the continent's digital infrastructure economy across data centers, cloud, connectivity, power, and policy.

Head, Marketing and Communications, Rack Centre, a Tier 111 Co-location Data Centre, Mr. Adebola Adefarati, said shared infrastructure among telecoms operators would speed up infrastructure development and boost widespread digital connectivity for easy internet access in both rural and urban areas. According to him, it will also reduce operational cost and help nations achieve the status of a digitally connected economy.

Addressing the issue of trust among telecoms operators, Adefarati said no operator would want to compromise trust in any form of infrastructure sharing agreement in order to maintain its network integrity and to avoid sanction from industry the regulator that could lead to withdrawal of operational license.

Chief Executive Officer, Geniserve, a digital infrastructure company, Mr. Gbenga Adegbiiji, stressed the importance of resilient data centre that would enhance digital connectivity.

"Resilience means availability over time. So we need resilient data centre infrastructure that can power the digital economy, where volumes of online transactions are processed on a daily basis," Adegbiiji said

According to him, if a data centre is built in a particular location and there is no connectivity, such data centre will eventually become just a warehouse. "So data center functions with reliable connectivity to boost access to it, and this relies a lot on submarine connectivity, and of course, after the submarine connectivity, you have the metro network or the long-haul fiber," Adegbiiji said.

According to him, data centres must be scalable because of the nature of the capital expenditure (capex) that is involved in building a single data centre. Resilient data centre cannot be built to operate for a stretch of 10 years period without salability, because technology is evolving and customers' demand changes with technology evolution, Adegbiiji said.

He further explained that the location of data centres would no longer be determined by access to fibre connectivity, but would be determined by access to power. He gave details of the different kinds of data centre such as Enterprise Data Centre, Cloud Data Centre, Co-location Data Centre and Edge Data Centre, insisting that each of them must be built to have resilience, depending on the choice of the operator, in order to achieve a digitally connected ecosystem.

Speaking, Executive Director of Africa Hyperscalers, Temitope Osunrinde, said: "Digital infrastructure is now as critical to national development as roads, ports, and power. If Africa is to shape credible narratives that attract long-term investment and support sustainable digital economies, the media must understand how these systems work and what it takes to deliver them. This workshop is about equipping journalists with the insight to drive better public discourse, inform policy decisions, and ultimately support stronger infrastructure

outcomes."

Firm, UBA to Unlock Diaspora Real Estate Investment

Afriland Properties Plc has partnered with United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc as the official Real Estate Partner on UBA's newly launched Diaspora Services Platform.

Unveiled in Lagos under the theme, "Beyond Banking: Powering the Diaspora Lifestyle," the platform is a structured digital marketplace connecting Africans abroad to trusted service providers across banking, real estate, and lifestyle solutions.

As UBA's real estate partner, Afriland Properties Plc will provide verified property investment opportunities and institutional-grade project delivery tailored to address the common risks faced by diaspora investors in Nigeria.

Speaking at the launch, Executive Director, Afriland Properties Plc, Kayode Odebiyi noted that diaspora investors often face risks such as construction delays, cost escalations, developer credibility concerns, and challenges in oversight and management. "Afriland is well-positioned to address these concerns through rigorous due diligence, a competence-based development framework, first-class project management, and full information transparency," he said.

Also speaking at the event, Anant Rao, Head, Diaspora Banking, UBA Plc, highlighted the strategic importance of the African diaspora to the continent's growth. "Africa has not fully utilised the power of its diaspora. Engaging and enabling Africans abroad will define the next phase of Africa's growth," he said.

NIGERIA SOUTH AFRICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OCTOBER BREAKFAST MEETING SPONSORED BY PROTECTION PLUS SERVICES LIMITED



Cross section of participants.



Cross section of participants.



Cross section of participants.



Andre Okonta, COO, Protection Plus Services Limited; Ajibola Olomola, Vice Chairman, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Hamza Babangida, CPP, Executive Security Services, Protection Plus Services Limited; Dr. Ije Jidenma, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Lyke Ejimofor, Executive Secretary, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Ibe Nnah, CEO, Stang Security Services Limited; Professor Neave Kannemeyer, Managing Director of Arcfyre Nigeria and East Africa,



Cross section of participants.



Cross section of participants

NIGERIA SOUTH AFRICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OCTOBER BREAKFAST MEETING SPONSORED BY PROTECTION PLUS SERVICES LIMITED



Isaiah Akpan, XLAfrica Group; Charles Nebo, CPP, Integrated Cash Management Services Limited and Niran Aderinoye, Head, Security, DGM, AIICO Plc



Kemi Leke-Bamtefa, Country Manager, South African Airways; Ronke Ogunmowo, Key Account Manager, South African Airways; Adetoun, Fowode, Sales Manager, South African Airways.



Naomi Kubowei, Associate, Streamswowers & Kohn; Azeez Sulaiman, Senior Analyst, Inscape Analysts and Olusegun Dye, Business Development Manager, Basscomm Nigeria Limited.



Seyi Adeyemo, Publisher, Inside Watch Africa; lyke Ejimofor, Executive Secretary, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Ije Jidenma, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Ajibola Olomola, Vice Chairman, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce; Professor Neave Kannemeyer, Managing Director of Arcfyre Nigeria and East Africa.



Ibe Nnah, CEO, Stang Security Services Limited; lyke Ejimofor, Executive Secretary, Nigeria South Africa Chamber of Commerce and Hamza Babangida, CPP, Executive Security Services, Protection Plus Services Limited .

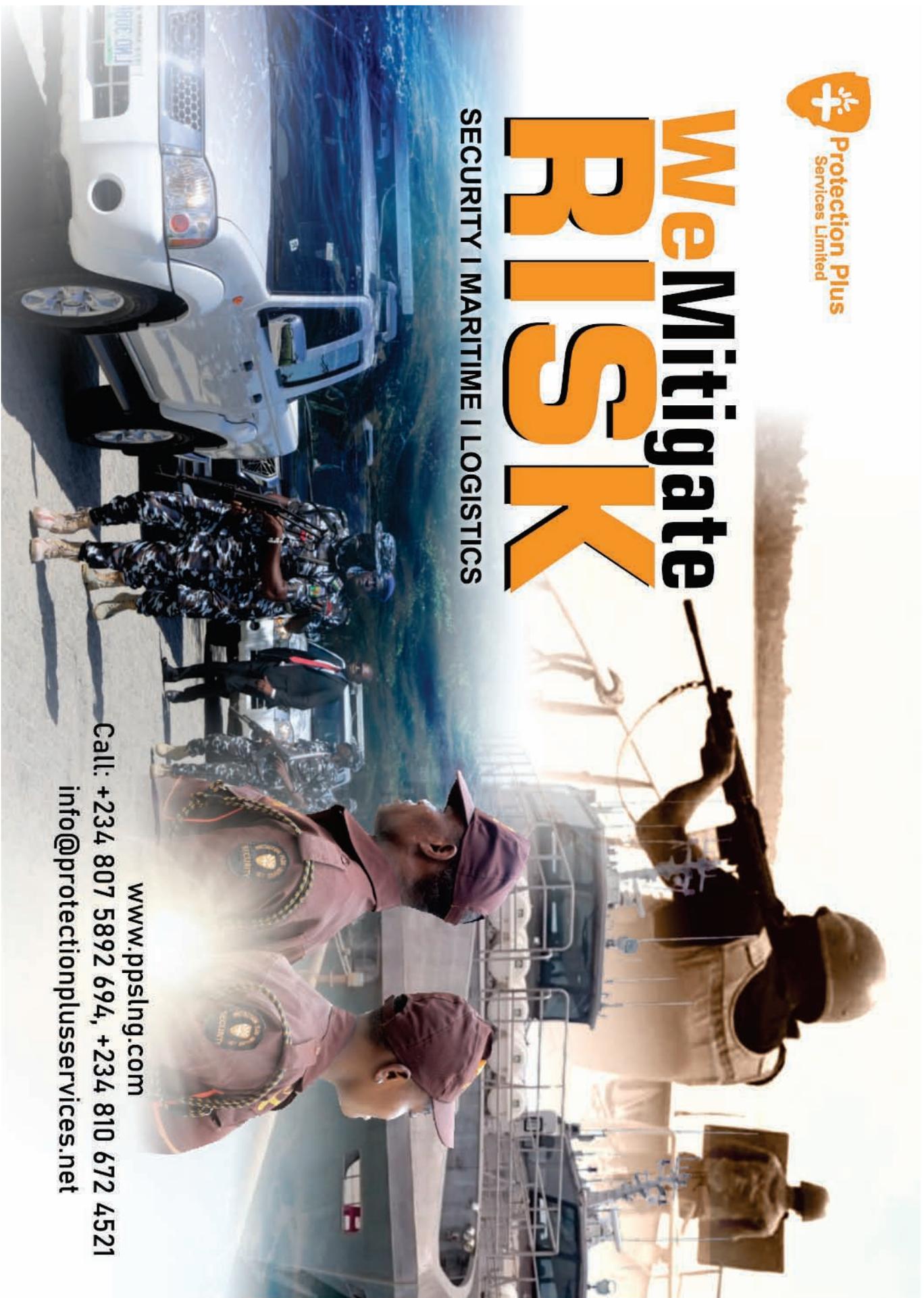


Hamza Babangida, CPP, Head of Journey Management and Personal Protection Services Department, Protection Plus Services Limited receiving appreciation plaque from Professor Neave Kannemeyer, Managing Director of Arcfyre Nigeria and East Africa



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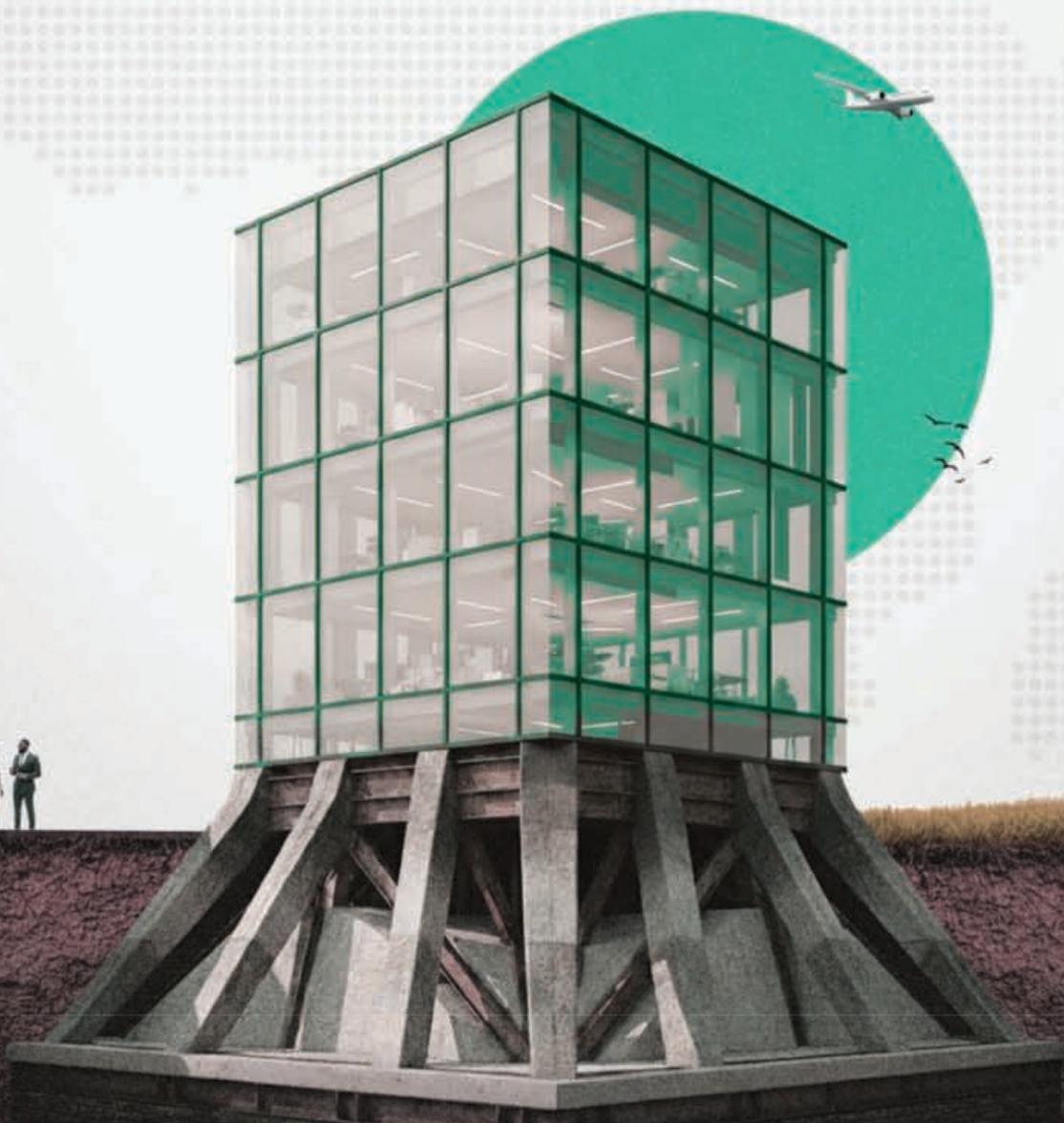


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- Opportunity to Network in our vibrant Business Fora
- Over 240 Strong Chamber Members - (inc Blue-Chip Nigeria and South African Companies)
- Relationship with the Consulate on matters relating to Investment, Trade Mission and Visa.
- Promoting bilateral 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

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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 23rd 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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Visit the chamber website through this link: www.nsacc.org.ng
Thank you for partnering with us.

Iyke Ejimofor
Executive Secretary

AdverTise

HERE!



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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