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Bank of Industry (BOI) is the foremost Development Finance Institution galvanising the industrialisation of the Nigerian economy.

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PROGRAM

THEME: Activating Diaspora Investments for a Diversified Economy.
VENUE: State House Banquet Hall, Aso Villa, Abuja.

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2018

Summit Coordinator: Dr. Badewa Adejugbe-Williams
Programme Coordinator: Theodore O. P. Sefia Esq.
Rapporteur-General: Mrs. Marie David

07:00 Arrivals and Registration
08:55 All Participants Seated

COMMENCEMENT

Rapporteurs: Samuel Audu Ibrahim & Ms. Olayinka Solange Kuye-Romelus

09:00 National Anthem
09:05 Welcome Remarks by Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa.
09:10 Goodwill Messages by:
   i. Chair, Events Committee, Nigerian Diaspora Alumni Network (NiDAN), Dr. Mrs. Badewa Adejugbe-Williams.
   ii. Executive Secretary/Chief Executive Officer, Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Ms. Yewande Sadiku
   iii. Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama.
09:20 Address by Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Mr. Boss Mustapha.
09:25 Keynote Speech, The Diaspora: Investing for Growth and Development, by His Excellency, Rwandan High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Kamanzi Stanislav.
09:45 Group Photographs

NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS BREAK

FIRST PLENARY SESSION – THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS

Chairman: Mr. Godwin Emefiele, Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

Rapporteurs: Olusegun Akintoye & Olajumoke Usifoh

10:30 Plenary Presentation:
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and the Capital Market: Promoting Diversified Economic Growth – Director General, Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), Ms. Mary Uduk.

10:40 Agribusiness – Enhancing Demographic Expansion for Effective Agricultural Value Chains
Speakers:
   i. Mr. Kabir Mohammed Adamu, Managing Director, Bank of Agriculture (BoA).
   ii. Mr. Solomon Bamidele Jnr., Founder and President, SBJ Foundation and Consultancy Company Limited, Vietnam.
   iii. Chief Audu Ogbeh, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

11:10 Infrastructure and Real Estate – Structured Infrastructure for Sustained Growth
Speakers:
   ii. Mr. Ebrima Faal, Senior Director, African Development Bank (AfDB).
11:40 **Education, Training and Skilled Workforce Development – Capacity Building for Knowledge Acquisition and Application**

**Speakers:**

i. Sir Joseph N. Ari, Director-General/Chief Executive, Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Nigeria.

ii. Mr. Endi Ezengwa, Chief Executive Officer, Kiara Academy.

iii. Mr. Masauda Adamu Kazaure, Executive Secretary, National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), Nigeria.

12:10 **Health Care – Ensuring Functional Health Services Provision**

**Speakers:**

i. Dr. Charles Cudjoe, Chief Medical Director, Chasel Hospital, Nigeria.

ii. Dr. Oluremi (Remi) Adewale, President/Chief Executive Officer and founder, Women Focus Canada Inc.

iii. Dr. Omobolanle Rosemary Olowu, Director, Public Private Partnership and Diaspora Unit, Federal Ministry of Health, Abuja.

12:40 **Energy and Manufacturing – Powering Job Creation and Market Expansion in a Developing Economy**

**Speakers:**

i. Mr. Olusegun Joseph Ajayi-Kadir, Director-General, Manufacturers’ Association of Nigeria (MAN).

ii. Mr. Kazeem Bello, Chief Executive Officer, Afrique Capital and Equity Funds Limited, USA.

iii. Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Power, Works and Housing.

13:30 **LUNCH BREAK**

**SECOND PLENARY SESSION – THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS**

**Chairman:** Prof. Kenneth Ife, London Enterprise Ambassador & Chief Economic Strategist in ECOWAS Commission.

**Rapporteurs:** Gad Onyeanyu & Emmanuel Oseni

14:30 **Plenary Presentation:** Taxation and the Diaspora – Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), Mr. Babatunde Fowler.

14:40 **Entertainment, Hospitality and Tourism – Leveraging Potentials for Economic Development**

**Speakers:**

i. Mr. Chike Nwoffah, Director, Silicon Valley African Film Festival, U.S.A.

ii. Mr. Chike Nweke, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Marketing, Hollywood Entertainment Production Inc., USA.

iii. Alhaji Momoh Kabir, Acting Director-General, National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (NIHOTOUR).

15:10 **Telecommunications, Technology and Innovations – Expanding the Frontiers for Deepening Technology Development and Application**

**Speakers:**

i. Mr. Stanley Jegede, Chief Executive Officer, Phase 3 Telecoms.

ii. Prof. Umar Garba Danbatta, Executive Secretary, Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC).

16:10 **Transportation – Enhancing Intermodal Establishment and Expansion**

**Speakers:**

i. Dr. Osileke Osipitan, Intermodal Transportation Specialist, New York State Department of Transportation, Albany, New York, USA.

ii. Mrs. Kike Johansson, Africa Representative, Skyway Invest Group.

iii. Mr. Rotimi Ameachi, Honourable Minister, Ministry of Transportation.

16:40 **Waste Management and Environmental Remediation – Providing for Sustainable Communities**

**Speakers:**

i. Mrs. Patience Ndidi Key, Co-owner, Divine Home Healthcare LLC, Chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Americas (NIDOA) USA and President, NIDOA, Maryland Chapter.

16:40 **Mining and Solid Minerals Development – Sustainable Harvesting of the Nation’s Subterranean Resources**

**Speakers:**


ii. Mr. Utus Linus Adie, Project Coordinator, Mindiver Project, Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development.

iii. Hon. Abubakar Bawa Bwari, Honourable Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development.
17:30  NETWORKING

DAY 2:  WEDNESDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2018.
09:00  National Anthem
09:05  Address by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
       His Excellency, Muhammadu Buhari GCFR.
09:20  Tour of Exhibition

BREAK-OUT PARALLEL BUSINESS SESSIONS

09:30  PITCHING SESSIONS I
       Room I
       Agriculture and Extractives
       Agribusiness
       Moderator:  Mr. Godwin Abiodun Oyefeso, Chief Executive Officer, Success Edge Limited.
       Rapportéurs:  Jane Samson & Augustine Adebudo

       Room II
       Infrastructure and Real Estate
       Infrastructure Development (with focus on PPP)
       Moderator:  Ms. Lola Visser-Mabogunje, Independent Consultant on Policy, Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, EU-SUFEGOR.
       Rapportéurs:  Olusegun Akintoye & Olajumoke Usifoh

       Room III
       Manufacturing
       Industrial Development
       Moderator:  Engr. Obed Monago, Chairman, Board of Trustees NIDO Americas, Chairman, NIDO World Governing Council.
       Rapportéurs:  Gad Onyeanu & Emmanuel Oseni

       Room IV
       Services
       Health Care
       Moderator:  Dr. Charles Cudjoe, Chief Medical Director, Chasel Hospital.
       Rapportéurs:  Ekundayo Jacobs & Justin Williams

10:30  PITCHING SESSIONS II
       Room I
       Agriculture and Extractives
       Mining
       Moderator:  Mr. Godwin Abiodun Oyefeso, Chief Executive Officer, Success Edge Limited.
       Rapportéurs:  Jane Samson & Augustine Adebudo

       Room II
       Infrastructure and Real Estate
       Real Estate Development
       Moderator:  Mr. Roland Igbinoba, Founder, Ronald Igbinoba Real Foundation for Housing & Urban Development (RIRFHUD).
       Rapportéurs:  Olusegun Akintoye & Olajumoke Usifoh

       Room III
       Manufacturing
       Energy Development
       Moderator:  M. K. Balaji, Project Delivery Lead, Deloitte Consulting LLP.
       Rapportéurs:  Gad Onyeanu & Emmanuel Oseni

       Room IV
       Services
       Waste Management and Environmental Remediation
       Moderator:  Mrs. Patience Ndidi Key, Co-owner, Divine Home Healthcare LLC,
       Rapportéurs:  Ekundayo Jacobs & Justin Williams
11:30 NETWORKING AND REFRESHMENTS’ BREAK

12 noon PITCHING SESSIONS III
Room I
Agriculture and Extractives
Solid Minerals Development
Moderator: Dr. John U. Osonwa, Legal and Strategic Adviser, Association of Nigerian-American Professionals in Nigeria (ANAPIN) & Consultant to the Nigeria National Assembly on Solid Minerals Development.
Rapporteurs: Jane Samson & Augustine Adebudo

Room II
Infrastructure and Real Estate
Transportation (Road and Aviation)
Moderator: Mr. Mobolaji Lewis, Euromoney Institutional Investor PLC.
Rapporteurs: Samuel Audu Ibrahim & Olayinka Solange Kuye-Romelus

Room III
Services
Education, Training and Skilled Workforce Development
Moderator: Kachi Okezie Esq., Chief Executive Officer, CTP International.
Rapporteurs: Gad Onyeanu & Emmanuel Oseni

Room IV
Services
Telecommunications, Technology and Innovations
Rapporteurs: Ekundayo Jacobs & Justin Williams

13:00 PITCHING SESSIONS IV
Room I
Agriculture and Extractives
Oil and Gas
Moderator: Dr. Tengi George-Ikoli, Public Policy Expert.
Rapporteurs: Jane Samson & Augustine Adebudo

Room II
Infrastructure and Real Estate
Transportation (Maritime and Rail)
Moderator: Mr. James Zang, Director, Corporate Services, Nigerian Railway Corporation.
Rapporteurs: Samuel Audu Ibrahim & Olayinka Solange Kuye-Romelus

Room III
Manufacturing
Energy Development (with focus on PPP)
Moderator: Mr. Tunde Gbajumo, Deputy Chief of Staff, USAID Power Africa Team, USAID Nigeria.
Rapporteurs: Olusegun Akintoye & Olajumoke Usifoh

Room IV
Services
Entertainment, Hospitality and Tourism
Moderator: Mr. Baba Jella Epega, Chief Executive Officer, EMC3, U.K.
Rapporteurs: Ekundayo Jacobs & Justin Williams

13:30 LUNCH BREAK (Lunch Speaker: Mr. Ade Olufeko)
15:00 Bi-lateral Business Meetings/Investment Discussions
19:00 DINNER/AWARDS/GALA NIGHT with the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON.

Courtesy Visit
Private Site Visits
Development of Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)
END OF INAUGURAL NIGERIA DIASPORA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2018
DEPARTURE
The Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit is convened by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President (OSSAP) on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora in collaboration with the Nigerians in Diaspora Alumni Network (NiDAN), with the support of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC), in recognition of the fact that Nigerians in Diaspora constitute the best group to target when designing strategies for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Nigeria.

The Inaugural three-day Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit of investors and participants with viable projects in Nigeria aimed to harness and showcase feasible and prospective investment opportunities with which Nigerian Diaspora investors could identify and readily explore. The Summit therefore demonstrated and rolled out the goal of targeting the Diaspora as an effective and sustainable strategy for attracting investment into an emerging economy like Nigeria.

The Summit explored ways of harnessing the substantial and untapped skills, capital and technical know-how of Nigerians abroad. Institutional groups that are major players in the Nigerian economy including, the Organized Private Sector (OPS); Government Agencies responsible for investment promotion; Foreign Development Agencies like USAID, DfID, UNDP, World Bank, IMF etc.; and Nigerian investors abroad participated in this landmark event. Diaspora organizations and support groups also participated and were fully engaged in this novel approach of targeting prospective investors from the Diaspora.

The event, in large part, was an affirmation of the fruitful relationship currently subsisting between the OSSAP on Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora and the various Diaspora organizations in creating requisite synergy for Nigeria’s development by Nigerians both at home and in the Diaspora.
REPRESENTED SECTORS

- Agribusiness
- Education, Training and Skilled Workforce Development
- Health Care Services and Awareness Programmes
- Entertainment, Hospitality and Tourism
- Infrastructure and Real Estate
- Manufacturing
- Extractive Industries
- Telecommunications, Technology and Innovation
- Waste Management and Environmental Remediation
- Transportation

SUMMIT FOCUS & OBJECTIVES

- The NDIS mission is to generate unprecedented investment traffic to Nigeria as our nation is fertile grounds and ready for business.

- The specific aim of the Summit is to demonstrate that targeting the Diaspora is an effective and sustainable strategy for attracting inward into the emerging diversified Nigerian economy and to recommend the summit to policy makers as an annual trackable event.

- The inaugural NDIS will establish a platform where Diaspora investors can interact with potential sponsors, partners collaborators and the government. They will have direct roundtable deals for mutual benefits.
SUMMIT ATTENDANCE

• Diaspora investors and potential foreign investors with a favourable risk appetite, seeking opportunities for a decent return/investment in Nigeria.

• Diaspora Nigerian Businesses, particularly start-ups, as well as growth-oriented MSMES seeking venture capital and investment in return for equity participation in Nigeria domiciled businesses and projects.

• Financial intermediaries and stakeholders with an interest in or commitment to the resurgence and revival of the Nigerian economy, with particular regard to its diversification and enhanced attractiveness to investment inflows, particularly inward investment in the post-oil era.

WHY INVEST OR SPONSOR

• Strengthen your profile in the industry
• Expand your network
• Showcase your practice, products, services at a face to face forum with potential partners, sponsors and government actors
• Meet key decision makers and industry influencers
• Generate new leads
• Brand exposure
• Access to targeted audience
Nigeria’s greatest resource is not material but human, referring to the talents and ambition of our people scattered all around the world.

No country in the world can make any kind of progress in its economic policy unless the issue of corruption was dealt with, hence the fight against corruption must be central to every economic policy and must be sustained and supported by all and sundry.

Nigeria was now out of recession and firmly on a path of sustained growth. The Diaspora is central to the implementation of the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) and must take its rightful place as major drivers of the economy and enablers of necessary environment to drive private sector-led innovation and market based solutions. The ERGP outlines options for Diaspora’s investment in Nigeria through mechanisms such as the National Social Housing Programme, the Foreign Currency Bonds as well as the Diaspora Medical Assistance Programme, which encourages Nigeria medical professionals abroad to provide volunteer health services in Nigeria.

Government’s focus on Diaspora is evident, being the first Administration to appoint a Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Foreign Affairs and Diaspora as part of its commitment to the Diaspora, as well as the establishment of the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission and the inauguration of the ongoing Diaspora Summit.

The Diaspora should therefore take full advantage of the investment opportunities presented at the Summit to establish their footprints on the sands of the Nigerian economy.
Diaspora is a very important constituency that every government should engage to unleash the potentials of its Diaspora communities. Nigerians in the Diaspora possess what it takes to attract investment to the country for socio economic development.

High Commissioner of Rwanda, His Excellency Mr. Kamanzi Stanislas

Diaspora should focus less on the challenges but take the bold step by looking at the brighter side; this brighter side is the success stories of China and India. Diaspora should keep up the good work as the President is pleased with their contributions to the country.

Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama

Government’s approach to improving agricultural productivity involves moving people back to the rural areas, since land for agricultural production was in the rural areas and is providing infrastructure in the rural communities to aid agricultural practices. Diaspora should invest in agriculture by introducing mechanized farming and technologies that could improve production with Government’s support to genuine farmers who are willing to invest in the Agricultural Sector.

Honourable Minister of Agriculture Chief Audu Ogbeh
Executive Order V places preference for skilled Nigerians over their foreign counterparts ….. which should encourage skilled Diaspora to partake effectively.

There is need to fill the housing deficit gap via partnership with Diaspora investors.

Consultations are ongoing with concerned stakeholders on the Africa Free Trade Agreement before Government will sign, in order to protect Nigeria’s interest.

Federal Government is also working on a National Maintenance Framework that would target four main areas of Data on government assets; Undertake condition assessments (buildings); Service level agreement; and Design and work maintenance programme.

Honourable Minister of Works, Power and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN

Nigerian doctors in Diaspora should consider utilizing their holidays by coming home to train and provide skills to health workers…. with an initiative to be inaugurated by early next year.

Honourable Minister of Health, Prof Isaac Adewole

Diaspora investors to invest in agriculture as there are enormous potentials (and challenges) in the sector.

Former Polish Parliamentarian, Hon. Dr. John Abraham Godson
Enormous resources exist within the Nigerian Diaspora sufficient to positively transform the Nigerian nation. Development of Nigeria is achievable with the Diaspora’s deep involvement in the development processes. There are existing areas of opportunities for foreign direct investments in the Country in Agriculture; Entertainment and media; Real estate; and Health.

“Senate President, H.E. Distinguished Senator Dr. Olubukola Saraki”

EFCC is mobilizing all to join in the fight against corruption. Investment atmosphere in the country is changing and the Diaspora should bring back what they have into their home country.

“Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mr. Ibrahim Magu”

There are so many opportunities in Nigeria for the Diaspora community to contribute their quota in the urgent quest for development of the country.

“Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Khadija Abba Bukar Ibrahim”
The Diaspora community should help in promoting Nigeria-made rice and cashew nuts to their host countries. Experiences have shown that real development can be achieved with the deep commitment of the Diaspora through investments in Agriculture so we “Grow what you eat, eat what you grow”.

Governor of Kebbi State, Alhaji Abubakar Bagudu

Remittances into Nigeria are not investment related but rather largely consumption related, with only a paltry 30% of remittances into the country being investments’ related, of which a larger portion is specifically related to investment in the real estate sector. Activities of the Commission towards promoting Diaspora investment in the country include better information on the investment climate on the website of the Council, online Investment Guide, profiling investment opportunities in Nigeria on a State-by-State basis and making them available on the website.

Executive Secretary, Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Mrs. Yewande Sadiku

Tax exemption on 25% of income in convertible currencies from investment in the tourism sector (investment in Hotels, Conference facilities, etc.) with exemption from minimum tax provision for companies with up to 25% foreign equity and a five-year tax free dividend for foreign individual investors in Agricultural sector.

Mr. Babatunde Fowler, Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)
Farmers are gradually growing old and there is need to encourage participation of the younger generation in agriculture. Nigeria loses so much money because it does not process the produce from the farms. Emphasis should be placed on value addition to agric products, rather than expansion of farm lands, through the development of farming skills and training, updating and improvement of seedlings, and improvement on the quality of stock.

Mr. Solomon Bamidele Jnr.

AfDB is supporting government in the ERGP goal is also encouraging policy formulations towards promoting Diaspora investment.

Mr. Ebrima Faal, Senior Director, African Development Bank (AfDB)

There was direct connection between infrastructure index and economic growth of a country and Nigeria, ranked 127th out of 138 countries, is identified as having insufficient infrastructure in the country. The private sector has an important role to play in bridging this gap. The FCT Administration is at the forefront of opening up the economic space in the FCT for private sector participation and has made available about 150 hectares of land for development by interested investors.

Alhaji Sani Abubakar Pai, Group Managing Director, Abuja Investment Company Limited (AICL)
Encourage education that takes care of the needs of the workforce.

Mr. Endi Ezengwa, Chief Executive Officer, Kiara Academy.

Aggregated funding from Subscribed Health Bank can be used for the purpose of developing infrastructure, training and manufacturing in the health sector.

Dr. Charles Cudjoe, Chief Medical Director, Chasel Hospital, Nigeria.

Need to revisit the Abuja Declaration which allocated 15% of the Country’s budget to the health sector ... so more resources can be allocated to health care development to keep Nigerians healthy and improve the national health indicators.

Dr. Oluremi Adewale, President/Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Women Focus Canada Inc.
A second of film strip is equivalent to many stories, as pictures tell stories. It is better that Nigerians tell their own stories as this would affect the way we woo interested investors. Our stories as Nigerians and Africans are being told by lenses too far from us and of course the focus is negativism. A Liaison office should be established in California.

Mr. Chike Nwoafia, Director,
Silicon Valley African Film Festival USA

The Nigerian Diaspora community represents a large untapped reservoir and engaging and involving the Diaspora could increase GDP from US$560 Billion to US$620 Billion

Mr. Chike Nweke, Co-Founder and Executive Director (Marketing), Hollywood Entertainment Production Inc, USA & Life and Times Media

Nigeria is a tourism hub and haven because it is blessed with so many tourist attractions. Nigeria has so much diverse culture and traditions, rich natural vegetation, rivers, mountains, forests with many diverse wild animals and bird species. There's need to redefine the Nation's Tourism Policy & Master Plan.

Alhaji Momoh Kabir, Acting Director General, National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (NIHOTOUR)
Decentralize the ports by considering other ports in the South. Road to Rail interventions are inevitable. Move local terminals out of Lagos to cater for those moving goods to the East.

Dr. Osileke Osipitan, Intermodal Transportation Specialist, New York State Department of Transportation, Albany, New York, USA

Improvement in infrastructure is required for managing solid waste and developing high quality infrastructure that meet the needs of the people. Implement a waste to energy technology that frees the land of waste and develop training at every level to help build a responsible citizenry having regard for waste as a resource opportunity.

Mrs. Patience Ndidi Key, Co-owner, Divine Home Healthcare LLC, Chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Americas (NIDOA) USA and President, NIDO-A, Maryland Chapter.

Nigeria/West Africa are mining destinations; with the country having diverse & favourable geological potential, diverse minerals (34 Minerals in over 450 locations) with yet significantly unexplored territory. Take the investment opportunity in this frontier destination and invest in the value chain.

Honourable Minister of State for Mines and Steel Development, Hon. Abubakar Bawa Bwari
“Sky way transport is a very new innovation and the road to the future in the transport sector in the world. It is at least 5 times better in its high energy efficiency and superiority compare to traditional electric vehicles.”

“Mrs. Kike Johansson, Africa Representative, Skyway Invest Group”

“Social cohesion and security is fantastic as a result of the State Government’s evolvement of some security initiative making the State safe for business investment. The State promotes 3 key sectors with competitive and comparative advantages; Agriculture, Solid minerals and Tourism.

Bauchi State seeks Expression of Interest for Agriculture in soya beans and sesame seeds, as well as livestock and meat processing.

It is endowed with key minerals with over 60 different types being mined informally such as industrial gem stones, uranium, iron ore and non-metallic minerals like hydro carbon and kaolin.

The State has great tourism potentials: Yankari Resort and Safari and Sumu Wildlife Park, the Tomb of the first and only Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and other cultural festivals like Dubar (Horse Racing).

Ongoing investment in a structured and certified geological survey to ascertain the type, quantity, quality and commercial viability of mineral deposits in the State.”

“Alhaji Aminu Musa, Director-General, Bauchi Investment Corporation Limited.”

“There is the need to be mindful and vigilant of what is being imported into the country. It should be degradable and not polluting.”

“Dr. Lawrence Chidi Anukam, Director-General, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)”
PITCHERS


Mr. Willie McKnight, The Universal Biomass Solution

Mrs. Marie David, Vantage Point Academy, Gwarimpa, Abuja, Nigeria.

Dr. Badewa Adejugbe-Williams, Royal School of Educational Therapy Foundation (RSETF), Abuja, Nigeria

Mr. Kenneth Adoki, Aquatic splendor cum ferry wheel and Dinosaur Park, Abuja, Nigeria.

Mr. Fawale Oluwaseun, Agric Business Global Enterprise

Mr. Uchenna Obi, Emergin Mark Limited

Mr. Kingsley Onwuzuruike

Dr. Tony Okoye, Representative (Business arm), Nigerian Medical Association – Developing Health Care in the Rural Areas

Chief Dr. (Mrs.) Olusola Olagunju, Insight Petrochemical Limited

Messrs. Chibuike Aguene & Ugochukwu Aronu, Binary Hills

Mr. Damola Adelakun

Mr. Wale Banjoko, Awujo Genesis International Limited
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1.0 PREAMBLE:

1.1 Statistics have shown that the Diaspora can play vital roles in the economic development of countries of descent. As a matter of fact, much more than their well-known roles as senders of remittances, the Diaspora can promote trade and foreign direct investment, create businesses and spur entrepreneurship, and transfer new knowledge and skills.

1.2 Cognizant of this fact, the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, in collaboration with the Nigerian Diaspora Alumni Network (NIDAN), supported by the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a three (3) day Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit 2018 with the theme “Activating Diaspora Investment for a Diversified Economy” from Tuesday, 27th November, 2018 at the State House Banquet Hall, Aso Villa, Abuja.

1.3 The objective of the Summit was to generate unprecedented investment traffic to Nigeria in view of the enormous opportunities existing in the country, coupled with the fact that the government in recent times has intensified activities aimed at facilitating the enabling environment for a viable economic space that guarantees adequate returns on investments. The specific aim of the Summit was to establish a platform where Diaspora investors can interact with potential sponsors, partners, collaborators, as well as the Government (local, state and federal), overseeing the investment opportunities, with the ultimate goal of creating direct round table deals that engenders mutual benefits.

2.0 ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:

2.1 The Summit was well attended by Diaspora across the globe, Ministers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, members of the Diplomatic Community, Chief Executive Officers of Government Agencies and Parastatals, Resource Persons, Members of the Press, among other interested Participants.

2.2 Among the array of dignitaries that participated in the Summit were: the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbe, Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, the Senior Special Assistant (SSA) to the President on Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Rwanda High Commissioner to Nigeria, His Excellency, Ambassador Stanislas Kamanzi, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Ms. Yewande Sadiku, Director General/CEO, Nigeria Environmental Standards Regulatory and Enforcement Agency (NESREA), Dr. Lawrence Anukam and the Acting Director General, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, Engr. Kingsley Izuwah.

2.3 The three day gathering of investors and participants with viable inventions and innovations in Nigeria witnessed various sessions and fora which included Pitching Sessions, Presentations on different sectors of the economy, Exhibitions, among others.

3.0 DAY I: OPENING

3.1 The first day commenced with the Welcome Address from the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Diaspora and Foreign Affairs, His Excellency, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, who welcomed the Diaspora and all Participants to the first ever Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit.

3.2 Goodwill Messages were received from Dr. Kenneth Gbagi, Chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Europe (NIDO-E) and Dr. Badewa Adejugbe-Williams, the Summit Coordinator, on behalf of the Nigerian Diaspora Alumni Network (NiDAN).

3.3 The High Commissioner of Rwanda to Nigeria, His Excellency Mr. Kamanzi Stanislas, gave the Keynote Address, which focused on how the Rwanda Diaspora has contributed to Rwanda’s economic development after the Rwanda’s genocide, and how Rwanda was able to integrate Pre- and Post-colonial Rwandan migrants in Europe, Asia and United States of America into the national economy of Rwanda., with the Rwandan Diaspora community achieved exemplary feats on national reconstruction, peace and economic growth of the nation. He concluded by saying that Diaspora is a very important constituency that every government should engage with to unleash the potentials of its Diaspora communities.
3.4 Special Remarks by Invited Guests including the Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Chief Audu Ogbe, the Honourable Minister of Works, Power and Housing, Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN, a former Polish Parliamentarian and Diaspora Returnee, Hon. Dr. John Abraham Godson, the Honourable Minister of Health, Prof Isaac Adewole, represented by a Director in the Ministry, Dr. Bolanle Olowu. Participants were able to react and receive clarifications to the Presentations by the Honourable Ministers.

3.5 The Commencement Activities of the Summit came to a close with the Closing Remark by the Programme Coordinator, Theodore O. P. Sefa Esq., who appreciated the Participants and Speakers for making the first day of Summit a huge success.

4.0 DAY II: COMMENCEMENT

4.1 Day Two of the Summit commenced with discussions anchored by Mr. Gabriel Odu of the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and the Programme Coordinator, Theodore O. P. Sefa Esq. At the end of the discussions, the recommendation was made for the establishment of a Diaspora databank to capture the details of all Nigerians in the Diaspora.

4.2 Goodwill Messages were received from the President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, H.E. Distinguished Senator Dr. Olubukola Saraki, represented by Chairman of the Senate Committee on Diaspora and Nongovernmental Organizations, Distinguished Senator Dr. Mrs. Rose Oko, the Governor of Kebbi State, Alhaji Abubakar Bagudu and the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Khadija Abba Buka Ibrahimm.

4.3 The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Mr. Ibrahim Magu, gave an Address on The Role of the Diaspora in the Anti-Corruption Fight, and outlined some of the strategies of the EFCC for protecting investors towards building confidence and attracting foreign direct investments into the Country.

4.4 The Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Mrs. Yewande Sadiku, in her remarks addressed the issues of investment opportunities and strategies by the NIPC for engaging the Diaspora. She also examined some of the challenges as including the capacity of the Diaspora to identify reliable partners that they could deal with, as well as the incentives available on which they could latch for better returns on their investments.

4.5 The highlight of the Commencement activities was the Address by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, represented by the Vice-President, H.E. Prof. Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON, who commended the Diaspora noting that Nigeria had one of the most resilient, hardworking and knowledgeable people in the Diaspora in every field of human endeavour which should be tapped for national development. He stated that nations, the world over, had realized the huge potentials and benefits the Diaspora community possesses in contributing to the development of their nations. He explained the efforts so far made by the present Administration towards involvement and engagement of the Diaspora for national development as well as in addressing the Administration’s three dimensions of reviving and diversifying the economy, improving security and fighting corruption. Asserting that Nigeria was now out of recession and firmly on a path of sustained growth, he stated that Government was focused on creating an environment that allowed Diaspora investments to be structured for maximum benefit to Nigerian economy while building confidence that the investments were secured and protected. He observed that the Government’s focus on Diaspora was evident, being the first Administration to appoint a Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Foreign Affairs and Diaspora as part of its commitment to the Diaspora, as well as the establishment of the Nigerian Diaspora Commission and the inauguration of the ongoing Diaspora Summit. Therefore, while recognizing the Diaspora as central to the implementation of the Administration’s Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), he called on the Diaspora to take its rightful place as major drivers of the economy and enablers of necessary environment to drive private sector-led innovation and market based solutions and encouraged them to take full advantage of the investment opportunities presented at the Summit and establish their footprints on the sands of the Nigerian economy.

5.0 PLENARY THEMATIC PANEL PRESENTATIONS:

5.1 The two day Summit also featured 4 Plenary Panels with Thematic Presentations that examined the state of the Sector, Challenges, Opportunities and Recommendations for investment by the Diaspora.

5.2 The Sessions were moderated by Prince Niyi Akenzua, Executive Director, Finance and Risk Management, Bank of Agriculture, Nigeria and Mr. Onyeakachi Wambu, Executive Director, African Foundation for Development (AFFORD), United Kingdom and featured the following Presentations:

5.2.1 Ms. Yewande Sadiku, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) represented by Mr. Emmanuel Adesina, Director, NIPC.

5.2.2 Mr. Babatunde Fowler, Executive Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) represented by Mr. Femi Edgal, Special Assistant to the Executive Chairman, on Taxation and the Diaspora.
5.2.3 Enhancing Demographic Expansion for Effective Agriculture Value Chain – Mr. Solomon Bamidele Jnr.

5.2.4 Infrastructure and Real Estate – Structured Infrastructure for Sustained Growth – Mr. Ebrahim Faal, Senior Director, African Development Bank (AfDB).

5.2.5 Alhaji Sani Abubakar Pai, Group Managing Director, Abuja Investment Company Limited (AICL) represented by Mr. Ibrahim Aliyu, Senior Vice-President of AICL Group on Investment Opportunities in Real Estate in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

5.2.6 Education Training and Skilled Workforce Development – Mr. Endi Ezengwa, Chief Executive Officer, Kiara Academy.

5.2.7 Health Care – Ensuring Functional Health Services Provision: Dr. Charles Cudjoe, Chief Medical Director, Chasel Hospital, Nigeria and Dr. Oluremi Adegbe, President/Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Women Focus Canada Inc.

5.2.8 Energy and Manufacturing – Powering Job Creation and Expansion in a Developing Economy – Mr. Kazeem Bello, CEO – Afrique Capital and Equity Funds Limited USA.

5.2.9 Entertainment, Hospitality and Tourism: Developing Health Care in the Rural Areas.

5.2.10 Telecommunication Technology and Innovation – Expanding the Frontiers for Deepening Technology Development and Application – Prof. Umar Danbatta, Executive Secretary, Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) represented by Mr. Ogbonnaya Ugama, Deputy Director/Head, Policy and Knowledge Management, NCC.

5.2.11 Transportation – Enhancing Intermodal Establishment and Expansion – Dr. Osileke Osipitan, Intermodal Transportation Specialist, New York State Department of Transportation, Albany, New York, USA and Mrs. Kike Johansson, Africa Representative, Skyway Invest Group.

5.2.12 Waste Management and Environmental Remediation – Providing for Sustainable Communities – Mrs. Patience Ndidi Key, Co-owner, Divine Home Healthcare LLC, Chairman, Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Americas (NIDOA) USA and President, NIDO-A, Maryland Chapter and Dr. Lawrence Chidi Anukam, Director-General, National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA).

5.2.13 Mining and Solid Minerals Development – Sustainable Harvesting of the Nation’s Subterranean Resources – Ms. Amanda Lumun Feese, representing the Honourable Minister of State for Mines and Steel Development, Hon. Abubakar Bawa Bwari, and the Project Coordinator, Mindiver Project, Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Mr. Utus Linus Adie.

5.2.14 Investment Opportunities in Bauchi State of Nigeria – Alhaji Aminu Musa, Director-General, Bauchi Investment Corporation Limited.

5.2.15 Manufacturing Sector – Energy Development:

6.2.1 Manufacturing Sector – Energy Development:

6.0 PITCHING SESSIONS:

6.1 The Summit also featured pitches by entrepreneurs seeking investors in their different fields of endeavour. The Pitches addressed the current state of the business, its challenges, opportunities, financial requirements and sales strategies, amongst other relevant information for Investors, with interventions from interested and willing investors and Participants.

6.2 The Pitches made were as follows:

6.2.1 Manufacturing Sector – Energy Development:

6.2.2 Services – Education, Training and Skilled Workforce Development:

6.2.3 Services – Entertainment, Hospitality and Tourism:

6.2.4 Agriculture and Extractives – Agribusiness:

6.2.5 Services – Health Care:

6.2.6 Agriculture and Extractives – Oil & Gas:
Limited.

6.2.7 Services – Telecommunications, Technology and Innovation:
Moderator: Mr. Titus Olowokere

6.2.8 Infrastructure and Real Estate – Real Estate Development:
Moderator: Mr. Roland Igbina
Pitcher: Mr. Damola Adelakun

6.2.9 Services – Waste Management and Environmental Remediation:
Moderator: Mrs. Patience Ndidi Key
Pitcher: Mr. Wale Banjoko, Awojo Genesis International Limited

7.0 CONCLUSIONS:

7.1 The Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit concluded with a Dinner hosted by the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Prof. Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON, represented by the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa and had dignitaries in attendance including the Honourable Minister of Communications, Mr. Abdur-Raheem Adebayo Shittu, the Honourable Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hon. Khadija Abba Bukar Ibrahim, the Ambassador of Lebanon to Nigeria, H.E. Amb. Houssam Diab, the Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Mr. Babatunde Fowler, as well as representatives of the Bauchi and Ogun State Governments, among others.

7.2 The Inaugural Nigeria Diaspora Summit was indeed a huge success. It brought together a diverse network of people, including policy makers and the Diaspora, with the common interest of starting and building sustainable businesses to address some of the teething challenges that confront the development of the Nigerian nation.

7.3 The status of the policy makers on board and profiles of the Presenters at the Summit was a great reassurance that the Nigerian Government was indeed ready and committed to ensuring the attainment of an environment conducive to the investments of not only Diasporas but of all Nigerians alike.

7.4 The different Sessions were very useful, productive and provided an exposition on the Nigeria investment landscape, the incentives and opportunities available to would-be investors. The Exhibition stands, toured by the Vice-President and visited by Participants, provided a visual array of the varied nature of businesses being undertaken and thus the multiplicity of options open to the international (and local) investors. In addition to these, the Summit provided very rich networking experiences and opportunities which indeed attracted willing investors in various businesses, especially from the Diaspora community.

7.5 A number of business linkages were birthed at the Summit and the next phase of the event looks forward to the success stories emanating therefrom.

THE ABUJA COMMUNIQUE OF THE INAUGURAL NIGERIA DIASPORA INVESTMENT SUMMIT

The inaugural Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit, a Landmark summit with the theme “Activating Diaspora Investments for a Diversified Economy” took place at the Presidential Banquet Hall, Abuja, Nigeria, November 27 – 29, 2018.

The summit was a Call to Tap into the Enormity of Diaspora Expertise and Resources as Nigeria’s Surest Path to a Strong Economy and to Prioritize Incentives and Policy to Facilitate the Engagement of Diaspora in all Sectors of the Economy.

The Summit assembled over 250 participants, 65 project submissions, several Banks, Nigerian Diaspora investors, businessmen and interested business promoters from diverse parts of the world as well as indigenous investors, inventors, innovators and entrepreneurs and many government officials and agencies. It featured among others, vibrant exhibition booths, presentations covering ten important economic sectors

i. Agribusiness;
ii. Education, Training and Skills Development;
iii. Entertainment, Hospitality and Tourism;
iv. Extractive Industries;
v. Healthcare;
vi. Infrastructure and Real Estate;
vii. Manufacturing;
viii. Telecommunication, Technology and Innovations;
ix. Transportation; and Waste Management and Environmental Remediation.

The engaging proposals/pitching sessions by entrepreneurs, inventors and innovators ended with an informal Dinner with dignitaries in an ambiance of cultural entertainment.

The Summit was convened by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President (OSSAP) on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora in collaboration with Nigeria Diaspora Alumni Network (NiDAN) and was supported by the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the specific goals of:

- Demonstrating that targeting the Diaspora is a highly effective and sustainable strategy for attracting inward investment into the emerging diversifying Nigerian economy
- Creating an ongoing sustainable annual platform for channelling reliable investment into the

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country
- Connecting Diaspora investors with potential sponsors, partners, collaborators and the government
- Business match making opportunities
- Showcasing the business and sponsorship opportunities in all the 36 States of Nigeria for Diaspora investment.

The Summit was declared open by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, represented by the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo SAN GCON.

After a thorough analysis of presentations and contributions from participants, stakeholders and organizers the Summit concludes, resolves and declares as follows:

RESOLUTIONS / OBSERVATIONS:

1. This Summit is both timely and invaluable in appreciating the role of Diaspora in furthering the development of the nation.
2. Many nations have successfully leveraged Diaspora commitment to their countries of heritage to encourage investment of their financial resources, experiences and expertise in building their economies. Nigerian Diaspora are poised to become major drivers of the economy, charting the path for private sector-led innovation and market-based solutions.
3. Nigerians in the Diaspora contribute more in remittances to the Nigerian economy than most other foreign aid (about 25% of Nigerian GDP). It is therefore important to create a formal non-partisan channel to harness the enormity of resources existing within the Nigerian Diaspora globally to transform the economic base of the nation.
4. Successful Nigerians in the Diaspora seat on the frontiers of technology, science and innovation and should be tapped to help guide the diversification of the economic base of the nation through consultancy and investments
5. The Diaspora laments at the challenge and difficulty of investing in Nigeria and implores all players and government stakeholders to improve the ease of doing business in Nigeria by generating data-driven indices and projections as well as creating insurance and contract transparency in the country.
6. The Federal Government of Nigeria’s Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council’s (PEBEC) initiative on the ease of doing business in Nigeria is a good step in the right direction if sustainably implemented
7. The Government should extend the same incentives available to foreign investors to its Diaspora investors who face the same international competition in their respective host countries; and facilitate matching them with reliable partners.
8. The government cannot afford to relent on the assiduous task of fighting against corruption as it remains a scourge that can derail progress of economic growth and social fabric.
9. The Federal Government of Nigeria’s Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) provides for Diaspora investment and socio-economic engagement in Nigeria, such as the National Social Housing Programme, Foreign Currency Bonds, Medical Assistance Programmes and the proposed Diaspora Investment Trust Fund are good ideas that should be actively promoted among the Diaspora
10. The signing into law of the Diaspora Commission Act and the nomination of a passionate advocate of Diaspora affairs - Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa as its pioneer Chairman/Chief Executive Officer is a commendable step towards actualizing the goal of engaging with the Diaspora for national development and their self-fulfillment and actualization as Nigerians in the Diaspora.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Institutionalize the Diaspora Investment Summit as an annual event.
2. Strengthen the Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria by enacting policies that favour transparency and accountability while punishing corruption at all levels. This will further enhance the achievements of this Summit and attract additional investments from the Diaspora and other foreign investors.
3. Strict Adherence to business ethics and regulatory standards must be sustained and supported by all and sundry, including the Diaspora.
4. Commend the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Chief Adu Ogbe on his decision to setup a Diaspora Desks in the ministry and urge other ministries to do same.
5. Expedite the creation and staffing the Office of Facility Management domiciled in the Ministry of Works as promised by Honourable Minister for Power, Works and Housing, Mr Babatunde Raji Fashola.
6. Liaise further with the Chairman of Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) on a tax friendly environment for Diaspora Investors.
7. Engage further with EFCC on tackling fraudsters that attempt to dupe foreign investors coming to invest in Nigeria.
8. Engage the expertise of Diaspora in Commissions, National Committees to contribute to creating national blueprints for the development of Economic Sectors of the 21st Century such as the Bio-Economy, Computer and Cyber industries and precision agriculture among others.
9. Establish the Diaspora Commission - to be fully set up and adequately funded and empowered to achieve the goal of engaging the Diaspora for national development. This is imperative to show the world that the government truly values the contribution of the Diaspora.

Dated this 14thday of December, 2018
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Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa worked for the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) for fifteen years, anchoring the weekly NTA Newsline programme and taking a particular interest in poverty and social justice issues. She retired from her position at Nigerian Television Authority to stand for election in the House of Representatives, winning with a substantial majority.

She was the Chairman, House Committee on Media in Federal House of Representatives from 2003 to 2007, Honourable Member, Federal House of Representative from 2003 to 2007, Board Member, Lagos State Broadcasting Corporation Vision 2010, Honourable Member, Federal House of Representative from the year 2007 to 2011.

In 2015 She was appointed as the Senior Special Assistant to President Muhammadu Buhari on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora. In 2018 she was appointed as Chairman, Nigerian Diaspora Commission.
Dr. Badewa T. Adejugbe-Williams is an Educational Specialist and Therapist (Educationist with core specialization in pupils with Disabilities), Writer, Director, Producer, Stage Manager, and Actress. She piloted collaborative practices amongst teachers, held teacher training programs and facilitated staff development workshops during the course of her employment as an educational specialist in Los Angeles, USA and while in Nigeria. She is currently the General Manager of the Abuja Film Village International Ltd and also the founder of the Royal School of Educational Therapy Foundation, a nonprofit that provides therapeutic services for persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities and learning disorders. She has presented academic papers on films and education, and served under numerous committees including for professional and non-profit organizations, and diaspora affairs related committees.

Theodore O. P. Sefia Esq. is a lawyer, called to the Bar in 1990 with stints in the financial sector and in legal practice before joining the services of the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA) in 2002 rising to be the Head of Legal Unit and Legal Adviser to the Directorate before being appointed to head the Diaspora Affairs Department of the Directorate. He has been involved over the years in all aspects of the DTCA’s engagement in technical cooperation, capacity building and trust fund operations, particularly in the negotiations and operations of the Nigerian Technical Cooperation Fund (NTCF) at the African Development Bank (AfDB). A multiple recepient of the Director-General’s Annual Merit Award, he has served in numerous Committees, and as Secretary of the Editorial Committee had direct responsibility for and involvement in the editing and publishing of the over eighteen publications of the Directorate.

Marie David, Founder/CEO of Vantage Point Academy in Abuja, is also Managing Partner of EmergMark Ltd, a Nigerian based Management Consulting, International Development and Business Strategy firm advising Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Before returning to Nigeria, Marie served in multiple capacities in the United States, where she lived with her family for over 2 decades. She was Director of Social Responsibility and then Director, Corporate Strategy & Sustainability for Walmart Stores, Inc. Marie believes in and enjoys aligning with disrupters that stimulate emerging economies like Nigeria through strategic partnerships and stakeholder engagement of investors, SMEs and governments. She has created public private partnerships that stimulate market forces and prosperity and is passionate about impacting the next generation through the instrumentality of education, training and trade. Marie holds a Juris Doctor (JD) and Masters of Laws (LL.M) from the University of Arkansas in the US, a Bachelor of Law (LLB) from the University of Benin, Nigeria and Barrister at Law (BL) from the Nigerian Law School.
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......... INFINITE POSSIBILITIES
Amb. Akenson Rotimi joined the Ministry of External Affairs in 1981 and served in various capacities both at home and overseas during his over three decades in the Diplomatic Service. He was posted to several Nigerian missions until he was appointed Nigeria’s pioneer High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. Apart from heading three separate Nigerian Embassies, he also held important portfolios at Headquarters such as Director, Trade and Investment, Director, Bilateral Economic cooperation and Director, Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was credited with the negotiation and conclusion of several economic and trade agreements between Nigeria and numerous countries, As Charge d’Affaires in Berlin, Germany he established the Nigeria-Germany Bi-National Commission (BNC) which, till date, forms the bedrock of Nigerian-German relations. He also organized the first Nigeria-Portugal Business Forum. Aside from his passion for environmental preservation, he also has interest in areas as diverse as cultural activities and property development. Chairman of the LISATECH GROUP OF COMPANIES, Amb. Rotimi is on the board of other fledging companies like Avant garde Security Company Ltd.

A lawyer and management consultant, Kachi is a Principal Consultant at CTP International, a UK-based training and management consultancy with offices in Dubai, UAE and Abuja, Nigeria. He is also a partner in Pembrooke Solicitors, an Abuja based commercial law firm specialising in transactions, IP, investment and sports law. Kachi has an LL.B from the University of Nigeria (1986) and a BL from the Nigerian Law School (1987). Kachi also has a post-graduate diploma in journalism from the London School of Journalism. Prior to earning his MBA from the University of Wales in 1999, he worked with the London Borough of Brent. Kachi is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, British-Nigeria Law Forum, LawinSport UK and Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (Associate). He is also a Trustee of Sports Lawyers Association of Nigeria and Fellow of Ethics and Corporate Compliance Institute of Nigeria, Common Purpose UK, the UK Millennium Fellowship and Institute of Leadership Development. He is currently Chairman, Committee on Communication and Advocacy of the Central Bank of Nigeria’s MSME Forum.

Shola Erogbogbo is the Managing Director of Paramount Web Nig. Ltd. A web development company offering web development services for clients worldwide and with over 15 years’ experience in the web industry. He has a BA in Accounting from Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas, USA. Shola has extensive knowledge of the web industry and has worked on several projects ranging from web development, online database management, web programming mobile applications, online school management, online payment solutions, e-commerce platforms and online advertising. Prior to starting his current company, he has also owned and managed other IT companies in USA and Canada, notably Paramount Webmasters with over 30 employees, which he founded in 2003.
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Bolaji Lewis currently works for an international business-to-business information company focusing on the global financial community. He is involved in Information Technology, Programme Management, Change Management, Political Economics and Business to business introduction for over 25 years. He has an Honours degree in Political Science and a Postgraduate in Business Information Systems. He has worked in various industry segments, including IT, public sector (central and local government), international charities, investment banking and faith groups. He facilitates and participates in various diaspora led initiatives towards Nigerian development. He is a promoter of foreign direct investment by resourcing foreign investors with local knowledge of desired investment destination. One of his successful Diaspora direct investment into Nigeria is Nurture-All Foods, processing highly nutritious foods (Soykunu, Soykunu Extra and Soyalac) in Kano, Nigeria using locally grown ingredients and exploring how to compliment the use of renewable energy to drive agro processing industry in Nigeria. He nurtures social enterprise through the WoManBeing brand.

Aliyu obtained a BA Honors in International Economics from the University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom and a post graduate degree in International Economics, Banking and Finance from Cardiff University. Aliyu later went to the American University, Washington DC to study for a PhD in Economics. On his return to Nigeria, he began his career in banking as a senior executive trainee. Aliyu held various positions in the bank from Head of Marketing, Branch Manager and Regional Manager until his resignation in 2015. He contributes to social programs in Nigeria mostly on economic matters and is a regular contributor on economic debates in the country. Aliyu ran for the office of the House of Representative in 2019 representing his federal constituency in the national Assembly which was unsuccessful. He holds various memberships from British Council to Nigerian Economic Association.

Vivian is the CEO and Principal Partner Vivian’s Legal Consult, Amsterdam the Netherlands. She is presently serving as Senior Special Assistant to the Executive Governor of Abia State on Diaspora Matters while she still holds the position of National Coordinator NCWS-Netherlands from 2013 to date. She was a board member as well as the General Secretary to the Board of International Catholic Church in the Netherlands 2008-2015. She worked as Counselor/Consultant with Christain Aid group, Amsterdam.
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Engineer Titus Olowokere is a technology management professional and business executive with more than 25 years of domestic and global experience conceptualizing ideas, building operations, leading successful new business development initiatives and ventures. Prior to his current role as Executive Director of a technology solutions company in Atlanta, Titus had served as Senior Executive of a large fiber last-mile operator. He has served as the Regional Capability Area Lead at Accenture, and at senior management levels in the Office of Information Technology at the State of Georgia; ClearOrbit, John Holt, General Motors and UAC of Nigeria. Since 2013, Engr. Olowokere has served as the Executive Director of US-Nigeria Trade Council USA, a trade organization focused on improving the volume of trade across the U.S.-Nigeria axis, particularly in Agribusiness, Technology, and Renewable Energy projects. He is the immediate past Secretary General of the Institute of Software Practitioners of Nigeria (ISPON). He was honored as one of the recipients of the 2012 “African Leadership Award” by the African Leadership Magazine for demonstrating exceptional leadership skills among Africans in the Diaspora, and for excellence and commitment to the Africa project.

Affi is the Vice-Chairperson of AML Bonded Terminal (Advanced Motors and Logistics Ltd), a leading freight forwarder, export/import services, shipping agency and Bonded Terminal Operator. She is also the Chief Executive Officer of AML Farms and Industries Ltd. She holds a Master’s degree in Transport Management with Specialization in Logistics (MTM) and Post Graduate Diploma in Logistics (PGD) from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Oyo State. She is also a graduate of Atlanta Technical College, Atlanta Georgia, USA. As a Vice Chairperson, she ensures due diligence in the implementation of the organization’s policies, coordinating ideas. She belongs to several associations both nationally and internationally, including Institute of Shipping, Chartered institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT), Women in Shipping & Trade Association (WISTA) Nigeria as well as the Africa Women in Maritime (WIMA). She is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of A-Smile Initiative and Empowerment Foundation, (Georgia, USA & Nigeria).

M. K. Adoki is the CEO of MyEvents Africa Ltd, a multi-faceted global events company with offices in Malaysia, South Africa, UAE and Nigeria. He is also the Chairman of Nairanet Technologies, an indigenous tech company with diverse interests in Nigeria. A product of King’s College, Lagos and the College of Science & Technology, Port-Harcourt, Rivers State, Adoki read Environmental Design at University of Lagos and the Asia Pacific Institute of Technology (APIIT), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He has over thirty years combined experience in Construction and IT Software development. He is a member of the Information Technology Association of Nigeria and World Information Technology Services Alliance (WiTSA).
Professor Diuto Esiobu is a distinguished academic and executive with expertise and extensive experience in research and instruction. She has served in senior leadership roles in academia, industry, and governments, including the Africa Union and the US government on critical decision-making platforms on global food security and the energy, water and environment nexus. Prof. Esiobu is the CEO of Applied Biotech Inc. USA and Applied Biotech Nigeria. She earned her B.Sc, MSc and Ph.D with grand distinction and had her post-doctoral training in molecular biology and biotechnology from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA, where she is currently a Visiting Scientist at the Center for Microbiomes. Her company Applied Biotech International Nigeria Ltd (ABINL) provides training in Life Science and Biotechnology using mobile labs to take its message across the country to young entrepreneurs. From her lab in Abuja, the firm offers analytical services in all areas of molecular biology and biotechnology. Prof. Esiobu is a passionate advocate for the African renaissance.
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