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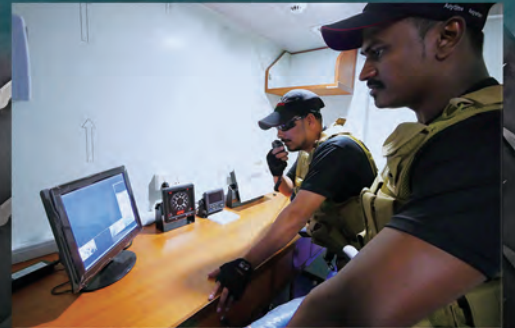
PMB Renews Mandate



ALSO INSIDE: President Special Envoys Meet PM Lee Hsien Loong ■ Interview with HE Akinremi Alade Bolaji ■ SBF Trade Mission to Nigeria 2019 ■ Investment Profile of Delta State ■ Nigeria at the Centre of Global Diplomacy ■ Nigeria Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Visit to Singapore ■ Nigerian Society of Engineers Visit to Singapore

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Welcome to MORE

A special publication by the High
Commission of the Federal Republic of
Nigeria in Singapore



*H.E. Akinremi Alade Bolaji, Head of Mission Nigeria High Commission
Singapore*



*His Excellency Akinremi Alade Bolaji and Mrs Foluso Bolaji (7th & 8th from left resp.) on arrival at
Changi Airport on January 2019 were received by officers and staff of the Nigeria High Commission
Singapore*

MESSAGE BY THE HEAD OF MISSION

It is a great privilege for me as the Principal Representative of Nigeria in Singapore, to welcome you and present the new official publication of the High Commission of Nigeria in Singapore, titled **MORE**. The previous publication, Opportunity Nigeria has been repackaged to keep our partners and potential investors better informed of developments in the Nigeria-Singapore relations, in a more realistic and timely manner. Bilateral co-operations between Nigeria and Singapore hold immense significance for both countries.

MORE will also highlight the Federal Government of Nigeria's incentives to provide additional impetus to boost investors' confidence in Nigeria as a propitious business and investment destination. The fundamentals of this strategic partnership are based on shared mutual values of economic diplomacy. On the diplomatic front, there will be updates on Nigeria-Singapore bilateral relations and on Nigeria's participation in international fora.

Singapore has long been a supportive and effective partner of Nigeria and I look forward to enhancing that relationship and will spare no efforts to improve upon what has already been achieved. Business opportunities in Nigeria are growing and the High Commission will intensify its efforts towards promoting foreign investment into Nigeria and continue to support both public and private sector initiatives as well as public-private-partnership.

Through a free and fair election held nationwide in February 2019, Nigerians have renewed four years term for President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. Thus, Nigeria has made progress towards a stable democratic dispensation and this signifies good tidings for Nigeria and the world at large. In commencement of my tour of duty I have set as goal to create a better understanding of the enormous investment potentials of Nigeria in Singapore and as well to motivate Nigerian investors to make a foray into Singapore. To this effect, I will intensify awareness and activities that will develop official ties, trade delegations and people-to-people contact between Nigeria and Singapore. To achieve these lofty goals require that the hands of all officials and staff of the High Commission should be on the deck. I encourage everyone to live by the spirit of this magazine; MORE which is captured in the corner of this page.

Akinremi Alade Bolaji
Head of Mission
Nigeria High Commission,
Singapore

DO MORE...

Do more than exist. Live
Do more than hear. Listen.
Do more than agree. Cooperate.
Do more than talk. Communicate.
Do more than grow. Bloom.
Do more than spend. Invest.
Do more than think. Create.
Do more than work. Excel.
Do more than share. Give.
Do more than decide. Discern.
Do more than consider. Commit.
Do more than forgive. Forget.
Do more than help. Serve.
Do more than co-exist. Reconcile...
Do more than think. Plan.
Do more than dream. Do.
Do more than see. Perceive.
Do more than read. Apply.
Do more than receive. Reciprocate.
Do more than choose. Focus.
Do more than wish. Believe.
Do more than advise. Help.
Do more than speak. Impart.
Do more than encourage. Inspire.
Do more than add. Multiply.
Do more than change. Improve.
Do more than reach. Stretch...

- John L. Mason

PMB Renews Mandate

Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari Takes Oath for Second Term: Promises Resurgence of Growth on Democracy Day



*Muhammadu Buhari President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
Federal Republic of Nigeria*

Your Excellencies, Fellow Nigerians, Our country Nigeria is a great country. According to United Nations estimates, our population will rise to 411 million by 2050, making us the third most populous nation on earth behind only China and India. We have water, arable land, forests, oil and gas and vast quantities of solid minerals. We are blessed with an equable climate. However, the bulk of our real wealth lies in Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Mining. We possess all the ingredients of a major economic power on the world stage. What we require is the will to get our acts together.

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And our strength is in our people – our youth, our culture, our resilience, our ability to succeed despite the odds. A huge responsibility therefore rests on this and succeeding Administrations to develop, harness and fulfill our enormous potential into a force to be reckoned with globally.

Thus far, we Nigerians can be proud of our history since Independence in 1960. We have contributed to UN peace-keeping responsibilities all over the world; we have stabilized Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and two years ago we prevented the Gambia from degenerating into anarchy.

Without Nigerian influence and resources, the liberation of Angola, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and ultimately South Africa would have come at greater cost. This fact had been attested by none other than the late Nelson Mandela himself. Elsewhere, Nigeria is the Big Brother to our neighbours. We are the shock-absorber of the West African sub-region, the bulwark of ECOWAS and Lake Chad Basin Commission. We can therefore be proud to be Nigerians. We must continue to be Good Neighbours and Good Global Citizens. At home, we have been successful in forging a nation from different ethnicities and language groups: our evolution and integration into one nation continues apace.

When, therefore we came to office in 2015 after a decade of struggle we identified three cardinal and existential challenges our country faced and made them our campaign focus, namely security, economy and fighting corruption. None but the most partisan will dispute that in the last four years we have made solid progress in addressing these challenges.

The great difference between 2015 and today is that we are meeting these challenges with much greater support to the security forces in terms of money, equipment and improved local intelligence. We are meeting these challenges with superior strategy, firepower and resolve.

In face of these challenges, our Government elected by the people in 2015 and re-elected in March has been mapping out policies, measures and laws to maintain our unity and at the same time lift the bulk of our people out of poverty and onto the road to prosperity. This task is by no means unattainable. China has done it. India has done it. Indonesia has done it. Nigeria can do it. These are all countries characterized by huge burdens of population. China and Indonesia succeeded under authoritarian regimes. India succeeded in a democratic setting. We can do it.

With leadership and a sense of purpose, we can lift 100 million Nigerians out of poverty in 10 years. Following the 60 percent drop in oil prices between 2015 and 2016, through monetary and fiscal measures, we stimulated economic growth, curbed inflation and shored up our external reserves. We now have witnessed 8 quarters of positive growth in the economy and our GDP is expected to grow by 2.7 percent this year. Furthermore, our external reserves have risen to \$45 billion enough to finance over 9 months of current import commitments.

This Administration is laying the foundation and taking bold steps in transforming our country and liberating our people from the shackles of poverty. First, we will take steps to integrate rural economies to the national economic "grid" by extending access to small-scale credits and inputs to rural farmers, credit to rural micro-businesses and opening up many critical feeder roads. Secondly, for small-scale enterprises in

towns and cities, we shall expand facilities currently available so that we continue to encourage and support domestic production of basic goods and reduce our reliance of imported goods as I will outline later.

For the next four years, we will remain committed to improving the lives of people by consolidating efforts to address these key issues as well as emerging challenges of climate change, resettling displaced communities and dealing decisively with the new flashes of insecurity across the country, and the impacts on food scarcity and regional stability.

We are not daunted by the enormity of the tasks ahead. Instead, we are revived by this new mandate to work collaboratively with State and Local Governments, Legislators, the Diplomatic Corps and all Nigerians to rebuild and reposition our country as the heartbeat and reference point for our continent.

Despite the enormous resources pledged to infrastructure development these past four years, there remains the urgent need to modernize our roads and bridges, electricity grid, ports and rail systems. Whilst agriculture and industrial output have recovered since the recession, we are more committed than ever to work with the private sector to improve productivity and accelerate economic growth. The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index which is the gauge of manufacturing activity in the country has also risen for 26 consecutive months since March 2017 indicating continuous growth and expansion in our manufacturing sector. It still takes too long for goods to clear at our seaports and the roads leading to them are congested. It still takes too long for routine and regulatory approvals to be secured. These issues affect our productivity and we are committed to addressing them permanently.

Our Government will continue work to reduce social and economic inequality through targeted social investment programs, education, technology and improved information. Our social intervention programs are a model for other nations. Together with state governments, we provide millions of school children with meals in primary schools, micro loans to traders and entrepreneurs, skills and knowledge acquisition support to graduates and of course, conditional cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable in our society.

A database of poor and vulnerable households is being carefully built based on age, gender, disability, educational levels for proper planning in this Administration's war against poverty. A database of unemployed but qualified youth has also been developed under the National Social Investment Programme which can be used by the public and private sectors for recruitment purposes. Cumulatively, nearly 2 million beneficiaries have received aid under this Programme apart from Anchors Borrowers Programme and School Feeding initiative each reaching 2 million recipients. And we will do more. Much more.

Fellow Nigerians, Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, we know that there exists a strong correlation between economic inequality and insecurity. When economic inequality rises, insecurity rises. But when we actively reduce inequality through investments in social and hard infrastructure, insecurity reduces.

The disturbing increase in rates of kidnapping, banditry and other criminal activities can be attributed to the decades of neglect and corruption in social investment, infrastructure development, education and healthcare. This issue is further compounded by the impact of our changing climate and ecology.

The ECOWAS and Sahel regions, starting from Chad all the way to Mali, are also experiencing adverse impacts of drought and desertification, which have triggered waves of human displacement; conflicts between farmers and herdsman; terrorism; and a fundamental socio-economic change to our way of life. These issues are regional and not unique to Nigeria alone. The problems call for increased regional and international cooperation in developing a sustainable solution.



President Buhari was appointed Grand Patron of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines & Agriculture (NACCIMA)

As Chairman of ECOWAS, I will be hosting a regional security summit of heads of states in the Sahel to develop a Joint Strategy to continue our efforts in addressing these issues.

At the heart of inequality and insecurity, is pervasive corruption. When we took office we realised that if you fight corruption, corruption will fight back – and we have seen this at all levels. For Nigeria to progress, a collective resolution to address corruption and foster broad-based prosperity is required to create a country that is not only for a few privileged, but for all Nigerians. This charge is not only to Civil Servants, Ministers, Legislators and State Government functionaries, but also to Corporate leaders.

We shall make greater investments in our rural economies. We shall aggressively source locally our raw materials. We have incentives for investments specifically made in rural communities. However, nationwide development cannot occur from Abuja alone; it must occur at States. And Government cannot do it alone.

I therefore implore all State Governments, especially those with large rural economies, to aggressively solicit investments in your states. Invest in developing human capital, reducing bureaucracy and corruption, hosting and attending investment summits and improving the ease of doing business.

At this point, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entrepreneurs, investors and venture capitalists who have built or are building agro-processing projects; petrochemical plants; crude oil and solid mineral refineries; energy exploration; software development projects; telecom infrastructure; health, education and manufacturing projects; and the like, across our country.

I would like to make special mention to promoters of our small businesses that are proudly making goods and services for export and for local consumption. The Nigerian economy rises and falls on the strength of your investments and productivity.

We will continue to listen to your ideas and plans not just about how we can secure more investment, but how your plans can help create a more equitable economy.

I also thank the labour unions, farmer groups and associations, organized private sector and the civil society organisations for their support and cooperation with our government these last four years. We will continue to count on your support, guidance and understanding during the next four years.

I especially thank our traditional leaders and congratulate re-elected and newly elected State Governors and members of the National Assembly. Our Government will continue to count on your support so that we can together move our country forward.

Fellow Nigerians, Your Highnesses, Your Excellencies, Ladies & Gentlemen, despite the challenges over the last four years, my optimism about Nigeria's future is unshaken and Nigeria's role in the world as an emerging economic force is without a doubt.

Over the next four years, we are committed to assembling a strong team of Nigerians, and allies, to implement our transformative plans and proposals. We will see significant focus, resource and, where necessary reform, in tertiary and technical education to reposition Nigeria's workforce for the modern technological age. We will accelerate investments in primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare programs, interventions and infrastructure as well as in upgrading of our medical personnel to stem the flight of our best trained people.

On food security, our farmers have made great strides in local production of rice, maize, cassava, poultry, fertilizer, fisheries and sesame. We remain resolute in supporting private sector in emphasizing backward integration and export expansion plans. Felling of trees to provide energy for domestic use is taking its toll on our rain forests, our ecology and our climate. Accordingly, we are taking steps to harness cleaner and more sustainable sources of electricity. We export over 2 million tons of cooking gas, yet we consume less than half a million tons. We will work to address this issue and support rural communities with challenges of safely switching from firewood to cooking gas.

Today, I propose the re-naming of the Abuja National Stadium. Henceforth it will be called MOSHOOD ABIOLA NATIONAL STADIUM.

In my first term, we put Nigeria back on its feet. We are working again despite a difficult environment in oil on which we depend too much for our exports. We encountered huge resistance from vested interests who do not want CHANGE, But CHANGE has come, we now must move to the NEXT LEVEL. By the Grace of God, I intend to keep the oath I have made today and to serve as President for all Nigerians.



Vice-President H.E. Prof. 'Yemi Osinbajo, SAN

HE Prof Yemi Osinbajo Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is also the Chairman of the EMT - the central body coordinating the activities of the country's ministries and the Federal government's economic policy initiatives. He along with 10 ministers including the ministers of Industry, Trade and Investment, Power, Works and Housing, the head of the Civil Service of the Federation, the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, representatives of the Lagos and Kano State governments, the National Assembly, and the private sector belong to the Enabling Business Environment Secretariat (EBES) to implement the reform agenda of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC).

Nigeria's New Federal Executive Council Members

President Muhammadu Buhari has assigned portfolios to his 44 ministers. Below is the full list of the ministers and their portfolios. There are seven women. Amongst 44 member cabinet of the Federal Government of Nigeria, including Zainab Ahmed Minister of Finance, and Gbemisola Saraki Minister of State, Transportation. Pauline Tallen, Minister of Women Affairs, Mariam Katagum, a former Nigerian ambassador and permanent delegate to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

- **Mohammed Musa Bello:** Minister of Federal Capital Territory, FCT
- **Godswill Akpabio:** Minister of Niger Delta
- **Chris Ngige:** Minister Labour and Employment
- **Sharon Ikeazor:** Minister of State, Environment
- **Adamu Adamu:** Minister of Education
- **Ambassador Maryam Katagum:** Minister of State Industry
- **Timipre Sylva:** Minister of State for Petroleum
- **George Akume:** Minister of Special Duties
- **Mustapha Baba Shehuri:** Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- **Goddy Jedy Agba:** Minister of State, Power
- **Festus Keyamo:** Minister of State, Labour and Employment for Niger Delta
- **Ogbonnaya Onu:** Minister of Science and Technology
- **Osagie Ehanire:** Minister of Health
- **Clement Ike:** Minister of State for Budget
- **Richard Adeniyi Adebayo:** Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment
- **Geoffrey Onyeama:** Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Ali Isa Pantami:** Minister of Communication
- **Emeka Nwajuba:** Minister of State for Education
- **Suleiman Adamu:** Minister of Water Resources
- **Zainab Ahmed:** Minister of Finance
- **Muhammad Mahmood:** Minister of Environment
- **Sabo Nanono:** Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
- **Bashir Salihi Magashi:** Minister of Defence
- **Hadi Sirika:** Minister of Aviation
- **Abubakar Malami:** Minister of Justice/ Attorney General of the Federation
- **Ramatu Tijjani:** Minister of State, Federal Capital Territory (FCT)
- **Lai Mohammed:** Minister of Information and Culture
- **Gbemisola Saraki:** Minister of State, Transportation
- **Babatunde Fashola:** Minister of Works and Housing
- **Adeleke Mamora:** Minister of State for Health
- **Mohammed H. Abdullahi:** Minister of State, Science & Technology
- **Zubair Dada:** Minister of State, Foreign Affairs
- **Olamilekan Adegbite:** Minister of Mines and Steel Development
- **Tayo Alasoadura:** Minister of State, for Niger - Delta
- **Rauf Aregbesola:** Minister Interior
- **Sunday Dare:** Minister of Youth and Sports
- **Paulen Tallen:** Minister of Women Affairs
- **Rotimi Amaechi:** Minister of Transportation
- **Maigari Dingyadi:** Minister of Police Affairs
- **Sale Mamman:** Minister of Power
- **Abubakar D. Aliyu:** Minister of State, Works and Housing
- **Sadiya Umar Faruk:** Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management
- **Dr. Ikechukwu Ogah:** Minister of State

Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Geoffrey Onyeama



HE Geoffrey Onyeama retains his portfolio as Nigeria's Foreign Minister while, HE Zubairu Dada was appointed as Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in August 2019. The news of the appointments of both Ministers was warmly received by the international community. In his congratulatory message, Singapore's Foreign Minister, HE Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, said, "Singapore and Nigeria enjoy friendly and longstanding relations and that next year, the two countries will celebrate 50 years of friendship." In his acceptance speech, HE Onyeama assured that there will be a robust working relationship that will be tailored towards realising their foreign policy objectives. Furthermore Nigeria Foreign Minister revealed that Citizen Diplomacy and Security of Nigerians will be given priority attention around the world. Below is the bio of the Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as portraits of the Minister of State and Parliamentary Secretary.

Career Experience

1983 - 1984: Research Officer in Nigerian Law Reform Commission, Lagos;
1984 - 1985: Law Practitioner at Mogboh and Associates, Enugu, Nigeria;
1985: joined the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) as an Assistant Programme Officer for Development Cooperation and External Relations, Bureau for Africa and Western Asia;
1990: became Senior Programme Officer for Development Cooperation and External Relations Bureau for Africa. He was responsible for the regional bureau for Africa, Arab Countries, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean; the Least-Developed Countries Division (LDCs); the Development Agenda Coordination Division (DACD); The WIPO Academy and the Special Projects Division;
1998: became the Deputy Director, Cooperation for Development Bureau for Africa and Senior Counsellor for Development Cooperation and External Relations, Bureau for Africa;
2006 to 2012: he was in charge of WIPO External Offices in Brussels,

New York, Rio de Janeiro, Singapore, Tokyo and Washington DC;
2008, he initiated the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations (IFRRO), the process within WIPO that culminated in the adoption of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons, who are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled.

Educational Background

- LL.M Masters (Hons) of Law degree, University of London, United Kingdom (1982)
- Admitted as a Barrister-at-Law of the Supreme Court of Nigeria (1983);
- Bachelor of Arts (B.A) degree, Political Science, Columbia University, New York, United States of America, (1977);
- LL.B. Bachelor (Hons) degree, Law, Cambridge University, United Kingdom (1980);
- The Honourable Minister was called to the English Bar of the Grey's Inn (1981).



HE Zubairu Dada
**Hon. Minister of State
 for Foreign Affairs**



Amb. Mustapha L. Sulaiman
**Permanent Secretary,
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Strengthening Nigeria's Profile in Singapore



HE Akinremi Alade Bolaji

"(The) thrust of my advocacy will be to promote Nigeria-Singapore bilateral relations. I will showcase Nigeria to Singaporeans and in the same measure of presentation to showcase the successes and achievements of Singapore to Nigerians. I realise that very little is known about Singapore in Nigeria."

The Federal Government of Nigeria has made strides with institutional governance reforms, please share with us the highlights.

In the 2018 World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report, Nigeria was ranked 145 out of 190 economies, moving up 24 spots from the previous year. According to the report, Nigeria was one of the top-10 most improved economies and top-three most improved in Sub-Saharan Africa. Nigeria's improvement in the Ease of Doing Business can be traced directly to certain initiatives and policy reforms introduced by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC).

The Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) was set up in July 2016, as an intergovernmental and inter-ministerial institution. It is chaired by the vice-president of Nigeria and comprises ten ministers including the ministers of Industry, Trade and Investment, Power, Works and Housing, the head of the Civil Service of the Federation, the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, representatives of the Lagos and Kano State governments, the National Assembly, and the private sector. The Enabling Business Environment Secretariat (EBES) was established to implement the reform agenda of the PEBEC.

President Muhammadu Buhari was re-elected in the Nigerian Presidential Elections, what would your message to the Singaporean investors be, with more political stability in the country?

The Presidential elections in February 2019, for the sixth consecutive time since its return to democracy in 1999. The incumbent, President Muhammadu Buhari won the elections and was sworn in for a second term on May 29, 2019. President Buhari has identified fighting corruption, increasing security, tackling unemployment, diversifying the

economy, enhancing climate resilience, and boosting the living standards of Nigerians, as the main policy priorities of his Administration.

Nigeria-Singapore have had thriving bilateral relations. In which areas can it be further enhanced?

The volume of trade between Nigeria and Singapore in absolute terms is about US\$62 billion and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Singapore to Nigeria was about US\$1.1 billion, more than any other country in Southeast Asia. However, there is potential for foreign trade and investment to grow for Nigeria products in Singapore. Singapore is a potential market for Nigeria's agricultural produce.

However, trade and investment can be further enhanced through the micro enterprises sub-sector or the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) is a critical sub-sector in both Nigeria and Singapore. The sector collectively account for a majority of the enterprises in both countries and also account for the highest number of jobs created in the economies.

However, it is important to note that over 90 per cent of the micro enterprises or SMEs are informal and populated by people at the bottom of the economic pyramid. Hence, the need for the High Commission to conceptualize and forge a counterpart programme in collaboration with the appropriate authorities and organisations in Singapore.

There have been several bilateral visits between the two countries recently, could you brief us on the major ones?

In February, 2019, President Muhammadu Buhari's Special Envoy, paid a visit to Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. The two man special envoy were Professor Ibrahim Gambari, a former United Nation Special Envoy



Singapore President HE Halimah Yacob (centre) with HE Akinremi Alade Bolaji (right) and First Gentleman Hon. Mohammed Abdullah Alhabsbee (left) at the Presidential Annual Diplomatic Reception 2019

“A key objective of the Nigeria High Commission in Singapore is to create a better understanding and awareness of the enormous economic and socio-cultural potentials of the Nigeria - Singapore relationship.”

to Myanmar and Darfur and Dr. Muhammadu Indimi, the Chairman of Oriental Energy Resources. Other official visits from Nigeria to Singapore since February 2019 include, Dr Okechukwu Enelamah, the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Engr. Chidi Izuwah the Director-General and CEO of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC), Mr. Ben Akabueze Director-General of the Budget Management Office, the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), the Nigeria Society of the Engineers, the Nigerian contingent of secondary school students, who came to Singapore to participate in the International School Debate and Public Service Institute of Nigeria.

A Singapore business delegation visited Nigeria recently, what were their engagements and outcome?

In July 2019, the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) in collaboration with Enterprise Singapore (ES) led a business delegation to Nigeria comprising 22 chief executives of Singapore companies to Nigeria. I have to emphasise here that the role of the private sector is significant in achieving the objectives of the Nigeria-Singapore bilateral cooperation. These are to provide an ideal platform for Nigerian and Singaporean businesses to share their business experience with their counterparts, as well as, explore business opportunities, which will further strengthen our bilateral cooperation.

What will be the thrust of cooperation during your term?

A key objective of the Nigeria High Commission in Singapore is to create a better understanding and awareness of the enormous economic and socio-cultural potentials of the Nigeria-Singapore relationship. This thrust of my advocacy will be; to promote Nigeria-Singapore bilateral relations. In this regard I will showcase Nigeria to Singaporeans and in the same measure of presentation to showcase the successes and achievements of Singapore to Nigerians. I realise that very little is known about Singapore in Nigeria.

Many Singapore companies have been doing business with Nigeria, why do you think Nigeria is the right investment choice in Africa?

Nigeria is increasingly attracting Singaporean companies and products and Singapore companies have successfully penetrated the Nigerian market, notable among these are, Tolaram – manufacturers of Indomie Noodles, which has become a popular household brand in Nigeria; Olam International, Pacific International Lines (PIL) Wilmar International, G&W International, Informatics Education, ITE Educational Services, Indorama, Hyflux, and a host of others.

On why Nigeria is the right investment choice in Africa? Nigeria is the largest economy in Africa South of the Sahara. The United Nations estimates the population at 190 million with an annual growth rate of

2.2%. Nigeria is strategically located in the oil rich belt of the Gulf of Guinea. It is the gateway to the West Africa Sub-region. Presently there are 24 Free Trade Zones across the country with 11 already operational while the remaining 10 are under construction.

Furthermore, the Nigerian market is the hub of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) market and covers an area of 5,114,162 square kilometre and an estimated population of over 349 million people. The ECOWAS sub-region. Nigeria Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) increased by USD1.2 billion in March 2019, making it one of the largest recipient of FDI in Africa.

Which are the sectors in Nigeria, you would like to invite Singapore investors?

The following sectors of the Nigerian economy are very lucrative and attractive to investors, power and renewable energy, petrochemical and gas, maritime (shipping and ports), automobiles, mining, agribusiness, healthcare and pharmaceuticals, ICT and railway.”

■ Power and Renewable Energy

The Federal Government has concluded plans to inject additional N600 billion into the Nigerian electricity industry. President Muhammad Buhari has already authorised the release of the fund. The current development, despite the poor performance of the sector, brings government's direct intervention in the sector to about N1.5 trillion in recent times.

■ Petrochemical and Gas

Nigeria has an abundance of resources, it is Africa's biggest oil exporter, and also has the largest natural gas reserves on the continent. Nigeria's undiscovered Oil and Gas Reserves potential is as high as 169 billion barrels of Oil and 600 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Nigeria's current reserve amount to 35 billion barrel of oil. Currently ranked 12th largest producer with daily output of 2.9 million barrels worldwide.

Also, Nigeria has 182 trillion cubic feet of Natural gas. Making the 7th largest gas deposit holder in the world. The Nigerian Gas Master Plan estimates US\$20-30 billion in strategic investment in Gas Infrastructure. Reforms in the oil industry will transform Nigeria into a downstream hub in the African continent.

■ Maritime (Shipping and Ports)

Singapore is a major trans-shipment port and it is the world's busiest in terms of shipping tonnage. The Singapore Ports handle about 1.04 billion gross tons annually. Singapore also emerged as the top port in terms of

cargo tonnage handled with 393 million tonnes of cargo annually. Singapore companies in this sector stand a good chance will find the Nigerian Maritime industry attractive given also that there is an MOU between Federal Ministry of Transport and Keppel of Singapore covering shipbuilding repairs and ship conversion was signed in November 2000 and a terms of reference (TOR) was signed between the Federal Ministry of Transport and Ports of Singapore Authority (PSA) November 2000.

■ Agribusiness

Value added manufacturing has become the means for developing Nigeria's Agricultural sector. Manufacturing is a catalyst which transforms the economic structure from simple, slow-growing and low-value agricultural activities to more productive activities. Technological input in the value chain will benefit the Nigerian farmers in the global markets to bridge the income gap with the industrialized world.

■ Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals

Singapore's healthcare is ranked one of the world's best by the World Health Organization (WHO). Singapore has one of the most successful healthcare systems in the world, in terms of both efficiency in financing and the results achieved in community health outcomes. This is one sector that Singapore companies very attractive to invest in.

■ Entertainment

A new trend in income earning has emerged in the music and movie industry nicknamed Nollywood. Nigeria has an abundance of intellectual properties and patents in the music and movie industries. Intellectual property skills of Nigerian artists, musicians and film actors/actresses, etc. are attracting recognition worldwide.

■ Education

The Federal Government economic growth strategy is anchored on leveraging on opportunities presented through Education to its workforce and recognises the invaluable contribution of human resources.

How can the High Commission facilitate the entry of new businesses to Nigeria from Singapore and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region?

The High Commission is there to answer any question, which an investor may wish to ask and provide information on the various sector of the Nigerian Economy.

The Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) Act No. 16 of 1995. The Act has abolished any restrictions in respect of the limits of foreign shareholding in Nigeria registered/domiciled enterprises. There is a range of incentives relating to the establishment of Export Free Zones, pioneer status companies, extended tax breaks, tax holiday allowances, and many others. The equity structure of businesses in Nigeria has been liberalized and allows foreign investors to own their businesses 100% or in partnership with Nigerians.

A non-Nigerian may invest and participate in the operation of any enterprise in Nigeria. The enterprise shall after its incorporation or registration be registered with the NIPC. Unconditional repatriation of Capital, profit and dividends is allowed, while technical fees and royalties on imported technical services and technologies are payable.



HOM with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister, HE Heng Swee Keat (next to him) Ministers of Law from Eswatini and Rwanda Ms Pholile Shakantu and Ms Providence Umurungi at the dinner for Singapore Mediation Convention signing ceremony

What would you brief a visiting Nigerian about Singapore investors and vice versa and what promotional activities do you have in mind for the rest of the year?

I will brief the Nigerian about the Singapore experience and success story. Singapore is a strategic base for foreign companies to penetrate and export from the Asia-Pacific region, which currently has the fastest growing economies in the world. There are over 7,000 Multi-National Corporations using Singapore as an offshore manufacturing and business base. Its strategic positioning, free trade policies, attractive investment incentives, a very sophisticated financial system, highly skilled manpower and its emphasis on

high technology account are some of the main elements, which lure investors to Singapore should not be left out.

Also, Singapore hosts various international business conferences annually. These events have the capacity to attract the best minds and captains of industries from all over the world several times a year, thus creating an avenue for Nigerian private sector operators to participate in these events as they provide opportunities to network with global business leaders and captains of industries.

I will brief the Singaporean about Nigeria being the largest economy in Africa. Nigeria is experiencing a fast-growing economy with a huge and dynamic market. Nigeria has a wealth of natural resources, including arable land, coal, iron, limestone, natural gas, ore, petroleum, tin and zinc.

Nigeria is strategically located in the oil rich belt of the Gulf of Guinea. It is the gateway to the West Africa Sub-region. Presently there are 24 Free Trade Zones across the country with 11 already operational while the remaining 10 are under construction. As for promotional activities, I have the pleasure to invite Singaporean investors to participate in the Global Maritime Security Conference taking place at the International Conference Centre in Abuja, Nigeria on 7th to 9th October 2019.

Which are the major international and Singapore investments in Nigeria in recent times?

Eat'N'Go Limited, a global franchisee for Domino's Pizza and its 2 other global brands, Cold Stone Creamery and Pinkberry Gourmet Frozen Yoghurt, is celebrating 7 years of continuous growth, since it began operations in Nigeria in August 2012. This anniversary further throws a spotlight on the company's success and immense progress in the dynamic quick service restaurant industry in Nigeria. Eat'N'Go has recorded significant milestone across all aspects of its business and currently operates with a 10 billion Naira (SGD38,400,568.00) investment in Nigeria, with 102 outlets.

Also, Olam Nigeria International Limited established a state of the art Integrated Poultry facility, which is located at Chikpiri Gabas Village, in Kaduna State, with an investment value of US\$100 million. The Poultry Farm will have a weekly production capacity of 1.65 million chicks, 4 billion Eggs, 100 million Kilogram of poultry meat yearly, 180,000 metric tonne of Maize (Corn) and 75,000 metric tonne of Soya beans, all sourced locally, as well as an integrated Rice Mill in Nasarawa State with a production capacity of 100,000 metric tonnes of rice annually.

Tolaram Group takes pride in being an active participant in the development of the economy in Nigeria.

We strive to create value with all our diverse business interests from manufacturing and distribution to energy, infrastructure and digital services. Our past success has built a strong foundation for our ongoing commitment in the region.

Tolaram Group – we will remain a part of Nigeria's future.



Tolaram Group

www.tolaram.com

Investment Opportunities in Delta State: Towards a Stronger Delta

The main thrust of the Investment Policy of Delta State is to provide the enabling environment for the private sector to utilize the available raw materials to produce goods in a manner that ensures sustainable environment, generates employment and creates wealth for our people and the investor.

Delta Government is committed to support investors by providing land, and where necessary, access road and other infrastructural facilities, which can be capitalized and constitute the equity contribution of government to investment. Promote export oriented industries including the establishment of Export processing Zones. The Delta State Government is willing to take minority shares, while the private sector takes the majority shares to drive investments.

Petroleum Sector and Energy

- Delta State contributes about 40% of the Nigeria's total gas reserves and is currently the second largest oil producing state after Bayelsa in Nigeria. Investments are sorted for in the following areas:
- Oil and Gas Sector - Modular Refineries, IPP and Fertilizer Plant.
- Power and Energy - Bio, Wind, Solar, Hydro and Gas Powered Plants.
- Delta State has 163km Coast Line, about 40% of the land is covered by water bodies/swamp, while 60% dry land is drained by all season rivers.
- Moreover, abundant rain fall, clement weather and favourable soil conditions make agriculture and aquaculture profitable ventures as the cost of irrigation, if any, is minimized.
- The state is good for Plantation Agriculture, Arable Farming, Animal Husbandry and Aquaculture.
- Investors are required to invest in the following areas:
- Cassava development programme for 2019
- Oil palm programme –the State desires to raise 2 million seedlings for 2019 in her oil palm nurseries.
- Aquaculture through the creation of additional fish clusters and fish processing equipment.
- Expansion of Rice Programme, to produce about 120,000 metric tons per year.
- Reactivation of the Egbudu-Akah rubber plantation.
- Refurbish and revitalize the moribund Agro service centres in the State

Agro Industrial Park Initiative

- Delta State is pursuing the establishment of Agro-Industrial Park in order to generate employment, create wealth and diversify the economy.
- Adequate land has been procured for the cultivation of cassava, rice, oil palm, aquaculture, vegetables (tomato, etc.) and maize agribusiness activities involving the whole agriculture value chain.
- The expected products include milled rice, cassava chips/ flour/ starch, banana/plantain flour, palm oil/kernel products, fish, wood/paper pulp products, milk and milk-based products, processed beef, broilers, pork, fresh and processed vegetables, etc.
- Investors are required to partner with the State Government under mutually acceptable PPP arrangement which will lead to the formation of project SPV Company. Project total capital outlay is about US\$30.5m to be funded with equity – debt capital mix.

Solid Mineral

- Apart from petroleum, Delta State is rich in solid minerals and they occur across the state due to the respective geologic soil formations.
- The following minerals occur in commercial quantities and opportunities exist for investors.
- Kaolin Industrial clay Silica sand Lignite.
- These minerals occur mostly close to the land surface and are easily exploitable. Investors are required to partner with the state government to mine and process them for industrial uses.
- The State government will procure mining and all necessary approvals.

Bendel Glass Industry (BGI) Limited, Ughelli

- The company is located at Ughelli, in Ughelli North Local Government Area, Delta state. BGI used to produce glass using the old Foucault Glass Manufacturing process. The kiln, glass production and finishing sections as well as other plant, machinery and equipment are nonfunctional and have to be replaced by the Investor with modern glass production facilities.
- The major attractions of BGI are as follows: there are existing office block, buildings, water supply, electricity, security post, etc. which are structurally sound and only require refurbishment/ rehabilitation to bring them to use; availability of natural gas from NNPC Gas Pipeline for energy



HE Sen. Dr. Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa
Governor of Delta State

and Otorogu Gas Plant for power supply; silica/ white sand which is the principal raw material for glass manufacture is in abundant supply nearby; and is located along the Warri - Port Harcourt Expressway which facilitates the movement of raw material and other inputs to BGI and it is also the gateway for selling BGI products to all the major markets in the country.

- Capable investor with cognate experience willing to invest and take majority shareholding is welcome.

Bendel Steel Structures (BSS) Limited, Enerhen

- The company is located at Enerhen, Uvwie Local Government Area, Delta State and was established to produce large steel products like badges, fuel and water tanks, silos, roof trusses, angles and bars for factories, vehicles chassis, profiles for bridges, walk easy, etc in giant sizes and of international quality. These products are vital for oil, gas, road, housing and agricultural sectors of the Nigerian economy.
- The major attractions for this investment opportunity are as follows: there are the Ogidigben Gas Park project worth US\$20.0 billion being implemented FGN through NNPC and other oil and gas companies already operating in Delta State that require the steel structures, platforms, storage tanks, etc. to be fabricated/produced by BSS; the location of BSS in Enerhen/ Warri metropolis is closest to the above oil and gas industry operators when compared to steel fabricators in Lagos, Port Harcourt and elsewhere; and BSS is the only company in Delta State having the facilities to produce the above steel products based on quality, size and speed, etc.
- Capable investor with cognate experience and capacity to invest, manage and take majority shareholding in BSS is welcome.



DELTA STATE FACT SHEET

Date of Creation	August 27, 1991
Capital City	Asaba
Geography	Land Coverage - 60% Water Coverage - 40% Length of Coastline - 163 km
2006 Population	4,112,790
2017 Projected Population	5,795,347
Land Area	18,050Sq. Km.
Major Economic Drivers/Sectors	Petroleum (Crude Oil –about 30% of National Production, Natural Gas -40% of National Reserves.) • Agriculture • Manufacturing • Commerce • Solid Minerals • Ports and Marine
GDP in 2017 - N4,057,812.28m @N360=US1\$ (Nigerian Bureau of Statistics, NBS)	\$11.27 Billion

Asaba Smart City, Asaba

■ Located in Asaba in Delta State Capital Territory with a population of over 0.5m on the bank of Niger River.

■ Undeveloped land measuring 366 hectares site along the Benin - Asaba Expressway; 10 minute drive from the Asaba International Airport to the west and Onitsha market (largest commercial hub in West Africa) to the East; a place where people want to live, work, play and invest with focus on driving Economic Growth and Urban Regeneration.

■ Projects under consideration include: Luxury hotel, Luxury Residential Apartments, Financial Institutions, Shopping Mall, Multi-purpose sports and recreational centre, International Exhibition & Conference Centre, Warehouses and cold rooms, Police Station, Fire Station, Hospital and Clinics, Educational Centre, Industrial Area/Park, Road and Drainage Network, Utilities - Electricity Supply, Water Supply, Waste disposal, etc.

■ The project land has been acquired with title documents. The State capital/Asaba and Anambra State/Onitsha with preponderance of middle class with high spending power offer excellent prospects for increased demand for modern housing and consumer durable goods, demand for leisure/recreational time and cultural activities, harnessing technology and enhancing good health which will be provided by the project.

■ Core Investor is required to partner with the state government to develop and manage



Vegetable oil production



Solid mineral exploration and production



Rubber production



Cassava / tapioca processing



Asaba Airport



Bendel steel structure



Burutu Port

the project site as well as Anchor investors to handle specific projects under suitable PPP arrangements.

Burutu Port, Burutu

■ Burutu Port is located in Burutu town, on 40.716 Hectares of Land.

■ It was built in 1887 by the British as a logistics Port for the exportation of Solid Minerals and Agricultural Produce.

■ The location of Burutu Port at an estuary of the River Niger running through the Northern, Eastern and Southern part of Nigeria (i.e. River Niger/Benue) makes it an excellent port for inland water transportation and trade.

■ The Port has several advantages which make it economically viable as follows:

■ Unique location – at the mouth river Niger makes it the only port that can feed all parts of the northern and eastern Nigeria,

■ Draft advantage – only Port with 18m draft in West Africa, potential transshipment port to West

and Central Africa

■ Efficient 3 means of evacuation – water, land and rail

■ Dedicated Port for Solid Mineral Export.

■ Project requires a Core Investors, that will play the roles of Developer and Manager of the Port Complex involving port operations, shipping, cargo and logistics, etc.

■ Envisaged Core Investor/Manager is expected to attract traffic and funding to the Port.

CONTACT

Delta State Investment Development Agency (DIDA)

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The Global Maritime Security Conference Holds in Abuja

from 7th to 9th October 2019 at the International Conference Centre

The Federal Government of Nigeria is set to hold the Global Maritime Security Conference (GMSC) in Abuja, Nigeria's capital from the 7th - 9th of October 2019. It aims to facilitate a clearer understanding of the challenges of maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea region and develop tailored solutions as well as coordinate efforts at strengthening regional and international collaborations to extinguish maritime threats.

In addition to tackling threats to maritime security, Director General of NIMASA (Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency), Mr Dakuku Peterside (pictured above right) said, the gathering will strategize alternative approach to prevent cyber security attack and other forms of emerging maritime security threats. It will also advocate for deeper global commitment to deployment of resources for ending maritime insecurity within the region he said.

In a move aimed at putting an end to piracy and banditry on Nigeria territorial waters, President Muhammadu Buhari had recently given his assent to the Suppression of Piracy and other Maritime Offences Bill, 2019. With the new Bill Nigeria has officially become the first country in the West and Central African Sub-Region to promulgate a separate law against piracy, an important international requirement set by the IMO as part of measures to guarantee secure global shipping.

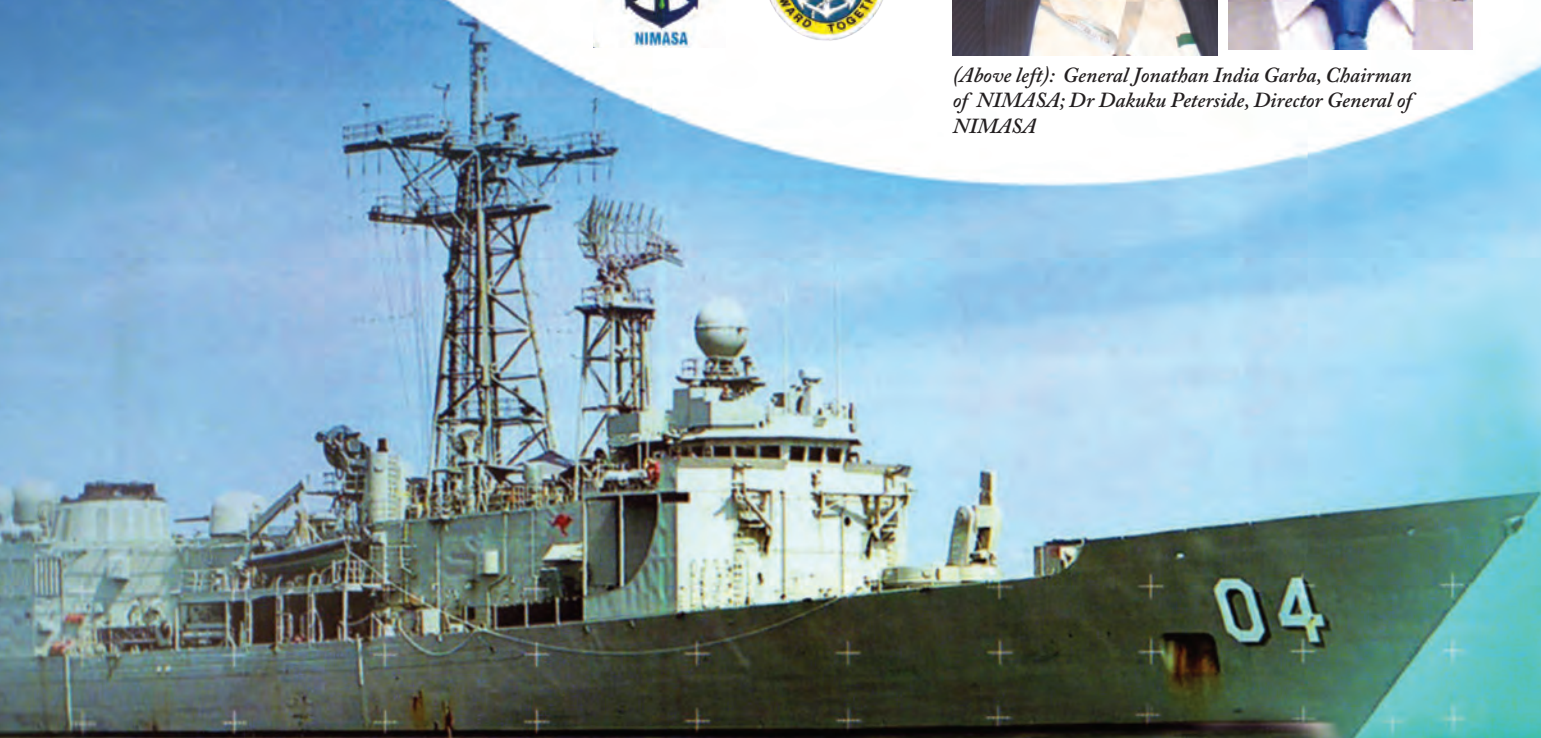


Dr Dakuku Peterside, Director General of NIMASA presenting promotional literature on GMSC to HE Bolaji

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
TRANSPORTATION, NIGERIA



(Above left): General Jonathan India Garba, Chairman of NIMASA; Dr Dakuku Peterside, Director General of NIMASA



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong Receives Nigeria's Presidential Special Envoys



Prime Minister
Singapore



29 May 2019

Dear President Buhari,

Please accept my congratulations on your inauguration as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. You ran a spirited campaign, and Nigerians have entrusted you with a fresh mandate to lead the country towards greater prosperity and national unity.

Nigeria is an important partner for Singapore. Our countries work closely at international fora such as the United Nations. Bilaterally the relationship is also strong. I am happy that since our last meeting at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London last year, we have deepened our collaboration across several areas, including oil and gas, trade and investment, education, and agro-processing.

When I received your Special Envoys Ibrahim Gambari and Muhammadu Indimi in February, they briefed me on your efforts to strengthen Nigeria's economy, tackle corruption, and combat terrorism. I wish you every success as you strive to achieve these goals in your new term, and look forward to working with you to expand our bilateral cooperation further.

Yours sincerely
Lee Hsien Loong

His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari
President
Federal Republic of Nigeria

On 12th February 2019, the Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong received the Nigerian Presidential Special Envoys, Prof Ibrahim Gambari (former Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur) and Dr Muhammadu Indimi. PM Lee recalled meeting Prof Gambari more than a decade ago, when he was the UN Special Rapporteur to Myanmar.

The Prime Minister said, "We have been steadily growing our bilateral ties. Many Nigerian officials have come for the Singapore Cooperation Programme, in public administration and economic development. We also have the biennial Singapore-Sub-Saharan Africa High-Level Ministerial Exchange Visits, and meet often at international fora."



The Presidential Special Envoys meeting with the Nigerian community in Singapore

Nigeria - Singapore Bilateral Cooperation

"Singapore and Nigeria are continents and oceans apart but that does not deter us from promoting cooperation and doing more together."

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong with HE Akinremi Alade Bolaji, Head of Mission of Nigeria High Commission in Singapore



(From left): Director General Akabueze, High Commissioner Bolaji and General Manager Ojulari

World Fiscal Systems for Oil and Gas

Nigeria is Africa's largest producer and exporter of oil and as indicated by Mr Ben Akabueze, Director-General of the Budget Office of the Federation in Nigeria's Ministry of Budget and National Planning, who was at the conference for a course on "World Fiscal Systems for Oil and Gas" in Singapore, he talked of how the government was looking at addressing issues in the fiscal sector in the light of the practices and experiences of other countries and how they could relate to and improve the Nigerian situation." The DG was one of 43 delegates from Nigeria and he shared that his department was always looking for additional resources to be able to do a larger budget and address fiscal constraints...to expand the fiscal space. Though he acknowledged the rising talk about the progress in the non-fossil fuels and alternative energy resources, he noted that there were still some decades to go before it was all over for oil and gas. He pointed out that despite this year on year the demand for oil continues to grow, but it would be prudent to keep an eye on the situation as developments could become more

rapid than envisaged. Nigeria needs to ensure its own oil and gas industry is properly positioned in that global competitive environment. There were still a lot of investment opportunities within the larger framework of oil and gas... for example fertilizers... he shared. There are many projects in the entire value chain in the oil and gas industry to engage investors, even in the area of refining, according to Olushola Ojulari, General Manager Planning and Business Development Upstream, Nigerian National Petroleum Corp (NNPC). There are also programmes and incentives given to investors who want to set up small modular refineries where they could do about 50,000 barrels a day or even below that. The NLNG Train 7 is an ongoing build up towards FID (Final Investment Decision) by the year end. These are things that will be of interest of investors in Nigeria.



The HOM and the delegation from Nigeria

Top Presentations for Nigerian Society of Engineers in Singapore

Fifty-one members of the Nigeria Society of Engineers (NSE), Abuja Branch were on their 2019 Executive Course and International Industrial Technical Visit to Singapore from the 15th to 24th of June. Together with assistance from the NHC of Singapore, a special programme was arranged whose highlights included visits and meeting engineers associated with engineering landmarks such as Changi International Airport's new Jewel nature-themed complex with its largest indoor waterfall; at the Institution of Engineers, Singapore there was also presentations by world-class architectural, planning, infrastructure, engineering and urban development companies such as DP Architects, Meinhardt Group and a talk by Singapore's former Chief Planner, Mr Liu Thai Ker who has been dubbed the "architect of modern Singapore." He has been largely credited for Singapore's success in urban planning and mass housing. NSE's head of delegation, Mr Inno Okolie, said the society has been taking such annual trips abroad since 2002: "Last year was China and this is the second time we have come to Singapore (the first in 2003). We really want to know how things are done elsewhere so when return home we could put it into practice. The core interest here is to find out how did Singapore got it right. Today we got an insight into this-it was with focussed and visionary leadership. For example, Mr Liu Thai Ker's talk was really awesome and inspiring. We really enjoyed it." The group also visited Surbana Jurong and the SP Jain Global School of Management during their stay here.



NSE presented an award of appreciation to HE Bolaji

SBF & ESG Mission to Nigeria



The Overseas Market Workshop (OMW), is an Enterprise Singapore (ESG) sponsored program for Singapore corporates, and Singapore Business Federation (SBF) curates a program for its 26,000 members. The Nigeria business mission was under this OMW scheme and it attracted 18 corporates who were represented by 22 delegates on this trip (pictured above some of the delegation).

SBF has long experience in crafting such market visits and this trip was specifically to Lagos and being a large market by itself, a whole week was dedicated to the trip. The trip was structured on three tracks: (i) Consumer Goods (ii) Construction and Built Environment' and (iii) Oil & Gas. The delegation had members from all these sectors and also interests in retail, printing, mass crockery producers, packaged foods, shipping and logistics, IT/tech, car agency, hotels, agrisector. Nigeria, inspite of all the headlines news of the economy having slowed down in recent times, was humming with energy and it was overall a very engaging trip.

It was impressive to be able to meet - banks, construction companies, vast real estate projects, e-commerce, retail, food production and distribution, law firms, large conglomerates. The value of the trip for every delegate was in the interactions amongst the delegation members and to have a shared learning experience from industry players - all brought together to an easy interaction platform.

NIPC (Nigeria Investment Promotion Council) and ESG Africa joined hands to assist in the trip and all the program ran very smoothly. Lagos is a vast and busy city and it was impressive that all the mission visit programme could be well covered inspite of some logistics challenges. Some of the more memorable impressions that stayed with members of the mission after the trip to the biggest African economy was that Nigeria is open for business, it has multitude opportunities to



service, and there are enough smart people and investors and entrepreneurs actively busy on ground. It was inspiring to see the size of ambition of the Eko Atlantic City, the diligent efforts of Konga and Shoprite, the immense business footprint of Dangote group. The delegation came back with new additions to their business networks, new business leads and with a clarity of the opportunity in a large and distant market.



Nigerian Policy Makers Research on Singapore's Health Funding System

The National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) is the apex think tank in Nigeria; part of its mandate is to train top level bureaucrats and technocrats. Every year participants are given a topic to research, this time President Mohammed Buhari has directed a study be done on funding for universal health care delivery. Prof Habu S Galadima (pictured right), the Director of Research for NIPSS led a delegation of 11 course participants to Singapore in June 2019; they form part of six groups that have been dispatched around the world to study the health systems in different countries. Prof Habu said the NHC in Singapore was instrumental in arranging the visits to various health organisations in Singapore and that, "Based on our requests we were able to identify appropriate places for us to visit and interact with the key health sectors' stakeholders here and learnt much from them. We will be sharing our findings with the Presidential Council in November 2019." He observed that Singapore has evolved and develop new medical funding strategies and the visiting delegation will compile reports on the best practices from all the places they have visited (including other African countries) to help transform Nigeria's own financial model for health services.



(Top): NIPSS participants at the Ministry of Health. (Above) Briefing by the officials of the Singapore Ministry of Health



(Standing far left): Mr Liu Thai Ker and (far right) Mr Inno Okolie.

Nigeria at the Centre of Global Diplomacy



Prof Tijjani Muhammad Bande President of Seventy-Fourth General Assembly of the United Nations

Professor Tijjani Muhammad-Bande (pictured above), Nigeria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, has taken over as the President of the 74th United Nations General Assembly. He succeeded Ecuador's Maria Fernanda Espinosa as the President of the 73rd UNGA.

Professor Bande, brings many important and admirable qualities to the job, as a result of years as Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN, as well as his invaluable insight into the Sub-Sahara African region and the Lake Chad Basin in particular. In his inaugural speech, Professor Bande identified his priorities as maintaining global peace and security, poverty eradication, zero hunger, quality education, climate action and inclusivity. He also promised to promote partnerships that are needed from all stakeholders to achieve these objectives.

During his tenure the following high-level agenda and more will be covered:

- Sustainable Development Agenda, including a High-Level Political Forum
- Climate Change Summit
- High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development
- High-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage
- high-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS).



Past Nigerian luminaries at the UN: (Above left): The late Major General Joseph Nanven Garba former President of the UN GA (1989 to 1990). The late Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin was the Executive Director of the UN Population Fund, held the rank of Under-Secretary-General of the UN

Ms. Amina J Mohammed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Ms Mohammed was appointed as Deputy-General by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in 2017. Hitherto, from 2002 to 2005, she coordinated the Task Force on Gender and Education for the United Nations Millennium Project. She was also the Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In 2005, she was charged with the coordination of Nigeria's debt relief funds toward the achievement of the MDGs. Her mandate included designing a Virtual Poverty Fund with innovative approaches to poverty reduction, budget coordination and monitoring, as well as providing advice on pertinent issues regarding poverty, public sector reform and sustainable development.



Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed The African Union Permanent Observer to the United Nations

Her past appointments included Senior Special Adviser to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission, with a focus on peace and security, regional integration and organizational development; The Executive Director at West Africa Conflict and Security Consulting. Programme Manager at the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOW and Regional Project Manager for Security Policy Projects in West Africa with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.



Interactions

1. HE K Shanmugam, Singapore Minister of Law and Home Affairs (centre) and Engr, Chidi Izuwah, DG ICRC, Presidency, Nigeria
2. HE Sam Tan Chin Siong, Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Ministry of Social and Family Development
3. HE Scott Wightman, High Commissioner of Britain
4. HE Stephanie Syptak-Ramnath, USA Charge d'Affaires
5. HE Simona Halperin, then Ambassador of Israel
6. HE Mrs Barbara Plinkert, Ambassador and Head of Delegation European Union
7. HE Dr Mohamed Omar Abdulla Balfageeh, Ambassador of UAE
8. HE Fredesman Turro Gonzalez, Ambassador of Cuba
9. HE Carlos Raul Vasquez Corrales, Ambassador of Peru
10. HE Margriet Vonno, Ambassador of the Netherlands
11. HE Magdalena Bogdziewicz, Ambassador of Poland
12. HE Flavio Soares Damico, Ambassador of Brazil
13. HE Andy Mariette J Detaille, Ambassador of Belgium
14. HE Dr Fidelino Loy De Jesus Figueiredo, Ambassador of Angola



MEET & GREET

1. Nigerian Heads of Missions in the ASEAN region
2. Mr Heng Aik Yeow, DG, Technical Cooperation Directorate, MFA
3. HE Lim Sim Seng, High Commissioner of Singapore to Nigeria
4. Associate Professor Muhammad Faishal Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education
5. HE Md. Mustafizur Rahman High Commissioner of Bangladesh
6. HE Saad Saleh I. Alsaleh, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia
7. HE Mohamed Ahmed Fathi Abulkheir, Ambassador of Egypt
8. HE Kwame Asamoah Tenkorang, Ghana Ambassador to Japan
9. Ms Quah Ley Hoon, CEO of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore
10. Mr Sri Venkataramani, MD Olam Africa & Middle East
11. Mr Douglas Foo, President of the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation
12. Mr Prakash Kejriwal, Director Indorama
13. Mr Teo Siong Seng MD of Pacific International Lines and Mr Teo Woon Tiong Chairman of PIL
14. Commodore EO Ferreira, Defence Attache Nigeria High Commission, Singapore
15. Mr Mohan Vaswani Chairman of Tolaram Group and Mr Haresh Aswani, MD Tolaram Nigeria
16. Pastor and Pastor Mrs E. A. Adeboye on a prayer mission to the ASEAN region



Official visit to Singapore by Dr Okechukwu Enelamah, Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in April 2019



Africa Day celebrations in Singapore in May 2019



(Above): African Heads of Mission (from l): Nigeria, Rwanda, Angola, Special Guest of Honour, HE Mohamad Maliki Osman, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence and Foreign Affairs, Egypt, South Africa and Zimbabwe



Pamper and Protect with Penguin's Flex Fighter

State-of-the-art armoured security vessels are the new normal in the shipping business and Penguin's FLEX FIGHTER leads the way in innovation and reliability

Commitment to clients and quality products have been pivotal to the growth of Penguin International Limited, a Singapore-based publicly listed designer, builder, owner and operator of aluminium high-speed ships.

One of Penguin's most abiding ties has been with indigenous Nigerian firms to which Penguin has delivered more than 60 crewboats and armoured security vessels out of the roughly 200 high-speed ships it has delivered to ship owners around the world since 1995.

Penguin's flagship product in Nigeria is the FLEX FIGHTER, a 40-metre armoured security vessel with multi-role crewboat features. This vessel helps to protect Nigeria's offshore personnel as well as oil and gas facilities. Amongst the end users are ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell, AGIP and Total.

The FLEX FIGHTER is just one of several proprietary designs in Penguin's portfolio of high-speed craft. Other designs include the 33-metre, 285-passenger Flex Ferry X and the 42-metre, 80-passenger Flex-42X Executive Fast Crewboat. Penguin builds all these vessels without orders for stock, using only its own cash with no borrowings.

In recent years, Penguin's Flex crewboats have become the standard bearers for mid-sized crewboats and security boats in the offshore petroleum and maritime security industries. As the world's fastest and most prolific builder of mid-sized crewboats and security boats, Penguin is constantly adding new enhancements to its designs for improved speed, comfort, security and overall functionality.

With industry-leading speed, comfort and endurance, the FLEX FIGHTER provides reliable 24/7 protection for personnel and property offshore. The latest Flex Fighter is powered by three Caterpillar C32 main engines and features all-round wheelhouse ballistic protection, gun mounts with gunner shields forward and aft, plush cabins and amenities for 12 security personnel and 8 crew, reclining seats for 42 passengers, heavy-duty/self-cleaning fuel oil purifier, external fire fighting monitor and a 93-sqm cargo deck.

For its 2020 FLEX FIGHTER model, Penguin has added FuelTrax's Electronic Fuel Management System as a standard feature. In addition to crewboats and security boats, Penguin also builds patrol boats, fire fighting search-and-rescue vessels, passenger ferries and windfarm support vessels.



Forward bridge console with all-round view



Comfortable cabins for crew and security personnel



Homely crew mess



Gun mount with ballistic shields and fire fighting monitor.



Investment Meets Opportunities



Singapore represents a potentially key partner for Nigeria which continues to beckon investors with a range of opportunities open in various sectors

Nigeria's great potential as an investment destination is richly evidenced by the number and quality of investors that are currently in the country. The leading features of its attraction as one of Africa's most alluring investment destinations are:

Government Policy In the wake of the 2015 economic recession, the Government unveiled the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) to stabilize, diversify and grow the economy. The priority sectors identified for private sector participation were: Services, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Real Estate, Oil & Gas and Solid Minerals. In the very first year itself with the implementation of the ERGP, the country's economy catapulted itself out of the recession. What was heartening that this recovery was propelled by non-oil sectors, making it a sustainable recovery.

Improved Business Environment President Muhammadu Buhari's government also introduced fresh measures to enhance Nigeria's Enabling Business Environment in the light also of the country's poor ranking (169 out of 189 countries in 2016) in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business. Spurred on by the establishment of the (which ranked Nigeria at number), established the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) Nigeria moved from 169 to 145 position (an improvement of 24 points) in 2018. Although, the result for 2019 showed Nigeria sliding backwards from 145 to 146 out of 190 countries, in terms of distance to frontier, Nigeria's ease of doing business recorded an improvement by 1.37 points.

Attractive Investment Incentives

To lure more investors the government introduced a host of incentives which included the Pioneer Status Incentives, which is tax holiday of 3-5 years for activities that are qualified; Deductions for Research and Development; Rural Investment Allowance; Investment Tax Relief; Export Expansion Grant; and Export Processing Zones Incentives.

Large & Growing Population Projections estimate that Nigeria will become the 3rd most populous country in the world by the year 2050 with over 400 million people. and not only is it growing, about 178 million people (representing 91% of the population) are under 50 while 108 million people are between the age brackets of 15-64 years, being the bulk of working class with purchasing power.

Biggest Economy in Africa as of December 2018 Nigeria's GDP is US\$397.3 billion making it the biggest economy in Africa. According to PWC analysis, it could also become the fastest growing African economy with the prospect of moving up the GDP rankings to 14th largest economy in 2050, as Nigeria has the third-highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) among African countries.

Political Stability Nigeria has recorded political stability since the return to democracy 20 years ago. It is the longest period of democratic rule since independence.

Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) was established to encourage, promote and coordinate investment in the Nigerian economy. It selected twenty countries of priority in its investment promotion strategy. These countries, also include Singapore.

NIPC also initiated the review of Nigeria's model Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) which produced a balanced 'new generation' investment treaty containing innovative clauses. The model BIT has been used to successfully conclude negotiations and sign BITs with Morocco and Singapore.

Nigeria-Singapore Relations NIPC is seeking to attract investment from

Singapore in particular. As a global commerce, finance and transportation hub, with a GDP of US\$364.16 billion in 2018, Singapore is an upwardly mobile and potentially long term partner for mutual growth. Since 2012, Nigeria and Singapore have forged strong bilateral investment relations. This culminated in the first Nigeria-Singapore Business and Investment Forum. The agreement on avoidance of double taxation was concluded in October 2014.

The Nigeria-Singapore relationship is expected to increase manpower development and facilitate technology and knowledge transfer. Improved free flow of goods and services with a focus on electronics, capacity building, and chemicals from Singapore and agricultural goods and solid minerals from Nigeria, illustrate the mutual benefit for both countries.

Singapore represents a potentially key partner for Nigeria. NIPC will continue to seek foreign investors and establish mutually beneficial frameworks that drive economic growth and diversification. With Nigeria's signature of the AfCFTA in July 2019, investors in the country will have access to both the large domestic and continental markets.

LATEST

PMB CONSTITUTES ECONOMIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

President Muhammadu Buhari has constituted an Economic Advisory Council (EAC) made up of the following:

1. **Prof. Doyin Salami** – Chairman
2. **Dr. Mohammed Sagagi** – Vice-Chairman
3. **Prof. Ode Ojowu** – Member
4. **Dr. Shehu Yahaya** – Member
5. **Dr. Iyabo Masha** – Member
6. **Prof. Chukwuma Soludo** – Member
7. **Mr. Bismark Rewane** – Member
8. **Dr. Mohammed Adaya Salisu** – Secretary (Senior Special Assistant to the President, Development Policy)

This advisory council will replace the current Economic Management Team (EMT) and will be reporting directly to the President.

The Economic Advisory Council (EAC) will advise the President on economic policy matters, including fiscal analysis, economic growth and a range of internal and global economic issues working with the relevant cabinet members and heads of monetary and fiscal agencies.

The EAC will have monthly technical sessions as well as scheduled quarterly meetings with the President. The Chairman may, however, request for unscheduled meetings if the need arises.



A public private partnership project leads a business and trade delegation to Singapore from 30th September to 6th October 2019 under the leadership of Hon. Nwabueze Buchi George.

The Nigeria High Commission

Welcomes Delegates to Singapore!

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Nigerian Secondary School Students in Singapore



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