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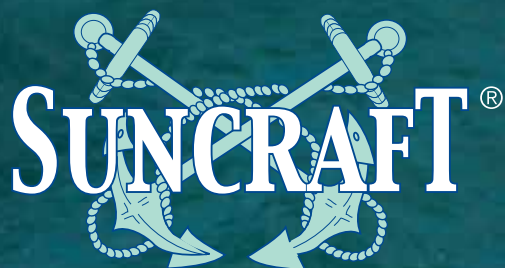
A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION BY THE HIGH COMMISSION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA IN SINGAPORE

Opportunity NIGERIA



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Creating Value Is Our Business

OPPORTUNITY NIGERIA

2010 Edition

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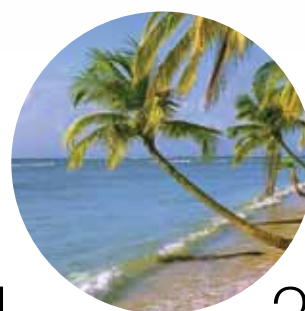
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Congratulations & Best Wishes to the Government & People of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on their 50th Independence Day

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DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN GCFR
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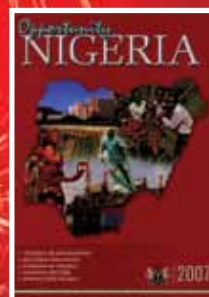
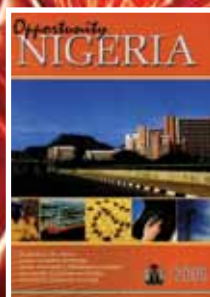


MRS SALAMATU H. SULEIMAN
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF STATE II



DR. MARTIN I UHOMOIBHI
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Opportunity Nigeria Celebrates 10th years



With this edition, we celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Opportunity Nigeria*. Any good relationship that endures for ten years is a cause for celebration, but we at Sunmedia are particularly proud of and happy with this relationship because of its special nature. For one thing, Nigeria had just opened its High Commission in Singapore when we established our relations with the High Commission and started telling the Nigerian story here in this region.

Over the ten years of our working together with the High Commission, our relationship has both deepened and broadened. We have come to know each other well and have grown to appreciate both the similarities and differences between our two countries.

Right from the start, *Opportunity Nigeria* has been dedicated to helping the residents of Singapore and its environs discover more about Nigeria, its geography, its people, its history, its customs, its traditions, its arts and culture and its pride as a country. We have written about the various regions, the country's signature federal system of 36 states, the many ethno-linguistic groups within this diverse country, and the most important cities. We've also covered the various regions of Nigeria while highlighting the best places for tourism.

Of course, as this publication bears the title *Opportunity Nigeria*, we have from the beginning focused on the immense opportunities this country offers. While that includes opportunities for tourists, we have focused primarily on the great economic opportunities this vast country presents to investors and companies of various types.

Nigeria is Africa's most populous country, being almost twice as large as the next two most populous countries (Ethiopia and Egypt). This means that it is potentially an enormous market for those wishing to invest and/or do business. It also offers a huge, highly educated and industrious work force for those thinking of setting up business operations in one of the most dynamic parts of the world. In the ten years of our relationship, we have looked at key industries and regions for investment and offered helpful tips on what government agencies to contact or how to find strong, reliable partners.

As mentioned above, we at Sunmedia are both proud and happy to have made this journey with the Nigerian High Commission and to have served as a bridge between the High Commission and the nation it serves and the people of Singapore and the region. We look forward to continuing the journey and learning more about one of the world's most interesting and opportunity-laden countries. ■

Testimonials from our Readers

❖ "The publication gave us some useful insight regarding the organisation of business and investment forum. We therefore intend to use the publication in our preparation to hold the Nigeria / Netherlands Business Forums in October 2010."

Embassy of Nigeria, Netherlands

❖ "The Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) appreciates the publication and notes with satisfaction the role your Mission is playing in promoting the abundant investment opportunities in the country to the business community in Singapore and environs. Whilst appreciating your gesture, please accept the assurances of the Executive Secretary / CEO"

Director, Office of the Executive Secretary, NIPC

❖ "We found the magazine, which contains useful information on the oil and non oil sectors of the Nigerian economy, to be an invaluable and additional contribution to the existing literature for potential investors and the business community interested in the Nigerian economy. Please accept the Mission's warm regards and sincere appreciation."

Embassy Of Nigeria , Philippines

❖ "You may wish to note that His Excellency and the entire staff of the Embassy found it educative and informative. Please accept the assurances of His Excellency's highest regards."

Embassy of Nigeria, Democratic republic of Korea

A MOMENTOUS LANDMARK, A SHINING FUTURE

*H.E. AMBASSADOR EMMANUEL ADEMOLA
OGUNNAIKE, IN CONVERSATION WITH NOMITA DHAR,
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, OPPORTUNITY NIGERIA*

YOUR EXCELLENCY, CONGRATULATIONS ON COMPLETING 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE. COULD YOU RUN US THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES YOU HAVE FACED SINCE ACHIEVING INDEPENDENCE?

It is indeed a momentous landmark. We have made tremendous progress as an independent nation. There were many challenges, but we rose up as a nation to resolve them. Now there is no looking back. Democracy, as you will realise, has its own set of challenges, but we are trudging on, and for the first time in 50 years, the last eleven years have witnessed an unbroken period of democratic dispensation. The current government is very mindful of its responsibilities and the challenges ahead. But most importantly, we are resolved as a people, individually and collectively, to make democracy work. Governments at the various levels – local, state and federal – are committed to good governance and the need to involve people with immense leadership skill in politics. It is important to note that in a democracy, we must do things in a structured manner so that the dividends become evident.

NIGERIA HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE AFRICAN CONTINENT AND HAS SHARED GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBOURS. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LAST FIFTY YEARS, HOW HAVE THESE RELATIONS EVOLVED AND WHAT IS THE CURRENT LEADERSHIP'S FOREIGN POLICY THRUST?

Nigeria continues to be a leading player in the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Africa has always been the centrepiece of Nigerian foreign policy. Of course, we are not unmindful of making our foreign policy work for the attainment of our economic, cultural, political and social interests. We use all platforms available at both multilateral and bilateral levels to advance these interests. Nevertheless, you will agree with me that besides being the country with the largest black population, Nigeria has made many contributions to the current freedom and relative peace we enjoy in Africa to make her the natural leader of the continent. More importantly, Nigeria now enjoys excellent and mutually beneficial relations with many countries of the world.

AS THEY SAY, "LOTS OF WATER HAS FLOWN THROUGH THE NIGER RIVER." IN THE PAST 50 YEARS, DISCOVERY OF OIL HAS BEEN ONE OF YOUR COUNTRY'S MAJOR MILESTONES. HOW HAS



H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike. Head of Mission High Commission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Singapore

“Africa for a long time was the cornerstone of Nigeria’s foreign policy initiative. It was underpinned by the involvement of Nigeria in independence struggles and peace processes in Africa.”



The African Heads of Mission from Left H.E Nasser Zaghloul Mahmoud Hamday, Ambassador of Egypt, Mr Paul Ronald Rwinziza Kayoboke Acting High Commissioner of Rwanda, H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike (Nigeria High Commission), H.E. Dr Simeon Selby Ripinga (South Africa High Commissioner to Singapore), H.E. Flavio Saraiva de Carvalho Fonseca, Ambassador of Angola at the Africa Day Celebration

IT CHANGED THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE? MOST RECENTLY, POWER ARRANGEMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT HAVE SEEN THE SMOOTH TRANSITION FROM OBASANJO TO YARADUA TO GOODLUCK JONATHAN.

In April 2007, Nigeria held its third consecutive national elections, further consolidating the transition from military to democratic rule that began in 1999. The third democratically elected government in 2007 was a landmark because it ushered in, for the first time in the history of Nigeria, a transition from civilian to civilian government. Political and economic reforms in line with the “development agenda” and a focus on the development of human capital; the critical infrastructure; food security; land tenure changes and home ownership; national security; wealth creation are gradually making an impact on the economy and improving the living standards of Nigerians.

WHAT IS THE PRESENT STATE OF NIGERIA'S ECONOMY?

Even at the height of the global economic meltdown in 2009, Nigeria posted a 6.5 per cent annual growth. It, however, suffered some reversals by the close of that year, particularly in banking and the capital market leading to major intervention by the government. Comprehensive reforms are being carried out in these sectors and the predictions for the coming years are quite assuring.

As should be expected, we were affected by the global meltdown, but we rose up to the challenges by coming to the aid of our financial institutions. We developed pragmatic policies and intervened in the banking systems and the capital market. Unfortunately, we suffered from the disease of a monocultural economy. Oil remains the mainstay of our economy, a situation that wasn't the case at the time of independence. We have since learnt the lesson of its distractive tendency to the disadvantage of other critical areas of

the economy such as energy and infrastructure development.

The government is doing everything to diversify and privatize the economy. Without any attempt at deriding the competence of the public sector, it has been seen that the private sector does better in the management of commercial activities; hence, the government is divesting from these critical areas for more active private sector participation.

THE MUCH TALKED ABOUT NIGERIA VISION 2020 – IS IT RUNNING ON TRACK?

Yes, all we have been talking about before now is all new policy orientation for the attainment of vision 20-2020. Right now, we are all dedicated to attaining that vision. We are focused on improving power and other infrastructural deficiencies in the economy. The machinery has been put into place and everything is being done towards attaining the status of one of the 20 most industrialised nations in the world by the year 2020.

SINGAPORE AND NIGERIA HAVE ENJOYED EXCELLENT BILATERAL AND BUSINESS RELATIONS. PLEASE RUN US THROUGH THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES TAKEN WITHIN THE PAST ONE YEAR.

Singapore is a model that many countries would like to emulate. It has a very committed leadership that sets a high standard in governance. In the past one year, there have been many interactions. The latest was the visit of the Nigerian First Lady, Dame Patience Jonathan, who was in Singapore for the commissioning ceremony of an off-shore specialized ship, Jascon 34, a project by West African Ventures/Sea Truck Group.

Before then, the Minister of State for Trade & Industry Lee Yi



H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike (Nigeria High Commission) with Justice Lawal H. Gummi Chief Judge of the Federal High Court of Abuja Federal Capital Territory Nigeria

Shyan had led a business delegation to Nigeria from 11 – 13 October 2009 to explore the vast opportunities in the fast-growing Nigerian market. Thirty-one companies – including PSA International, Yanlord and ST Electronics – were part of the delegation. The trip to Nigeria, South Africa and Ghana was jointly organized by IE Singapore, the Singapore Business Federation and the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr Lee witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Pacific International Lines and their African partner, Hull Blyth. The agreement is for a joint venture to develop an Inland Container Depot in Nigeria.

Between April and July 2010, two major trade investment forums, the Africa-Asia Investment Forum and the Africa-Singapore Trade Investment Forum, witnessed a large participation of companies and businesses from Nigeria.

A number of civil servants from Nigeria were also in Singapore within the period, under the auspices of the Singapore Cooperation Programme for Technical Assistance (SCPTA) for various training programmes in leadership and governance. Besides these activities, the level of Singapore business community interest in Nigeria is growing, as evident from the rise in the number of visa applications to the Mission.

INTERNATIONAL INVESTORS FAVOUR NIGERIA AS AN INVESTMENT DESTINATION. WHAT ARE THE POLICY INITIATIVES TAKEN TO KEEP THIS MOMENTUM GOING?

Nigeria is a country that looks beyond its current infrastructural

challenges. As a matter of fact, investors are advised to see the opportunities in those challenges as they are linked with incredible potential to maximize their gain. Besides, any serious investor will see the large, diverse and skilled Nigerian population, its vast natural resources and a stable environment as an immediate attraction. Moreover, the government, through the agency of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Council, continues to provide a very generous policy framework and incentives for businesses, both local and foreign, to prosper.

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT SOME DYNAMICS OF THE NIGERIAN PEOPLE AND CULTURE THAT MAKE YOUR NATION SPECIAL.

Those who know Nigeria will tell you that Nigerians are very friendly, warm and hospitable people. They are kind, generous and accommodating, particularly to foreigners. They want to protect the interests of foreigners even if to their own detriment. Even skeptics have been known to change their minds after a stint in the country.

There are many aspects of our culture that Singapore can learn and take lessons from. Of course, our dance, which in a sense is aerobic as well as acrobatic in form and movement, should be attractive to the Singapore audience. Then there is our theatre, which is highly renowned. Nigeria's Nollywood boasts of being the third largest film industry in the world, after Hollywood and Bollywood.

NIGERIA IS KNOWN TO HAVE A LOT OF SCAMS, WHICH HAS EARNED THE COUNTRY A NOT SO FAVOURABLE REPUTATION. COULD YOU COMMENT ON THIS.

Every society has its share of scams. Nigeria is not in isolated case and should not be judged by that standard. Those who indulge in what is now popularly called 419 constitute a very minute percentage of the population. As we have come to see, they have the capacity to damage the reputation and credentials of the larger population besides destroying the very image of their country. People should be mindful of their own involvement in such ludicrous stories of making money where nothing was invested. There is the wise saying that when something sounds too good, it cannot be true. Besides, it takes two to tango – if you're not greedy and don't want to reap what you didn't sow, then these fraudulent stories won't lure you.

However, action is constantly being taken being to address this concern. When we gained independence, we were an innocent nation. But we got ourselves in this mess by others who were trying to do business with us without any sense of social responsibility. Our collaborators should accept their share of the blame, seeing what damage they have done or are still doing, and take appropriate measures.

HOW MANY NIGERIANS ARE IN SINGAPORE CURRENTLY? WHAT MESSAGE DO YOU HAVE FOR NIGERIANS LIVING IN SINGAPORE, AND FOR YOUR SINGAPOREAN FRIENDS ON NIGERIA'S 50TH NATIONAL DAY?

There are about 600 Nigerians in Singapore. At least half of that figure is students at the Informatics School of Technology on scholarship from Nigeria. To Nigerians, I say: we have come a very long way. We must believe in our country and should be ready to make our own individual contribution to its progress.



H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike (Nigeria High Commission) with contingent at the Singapore 2010 Youth Olympic Games

The Nigerian in the Diaspora platform provides the avenue for engagement; use this platform so that one day you will find it attractive to go home and directly get involved towards our country's growth.

For Singaporeans: I urge you to believe in the opportunities and possibilities that Nigeria presents. You will only know this when you seize the initiative. As the saying goes, "the taste of the pudding is in the eating".

THE PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITY NIGERIA COMPLETES A DECADE ... YOUR COMMENTS?

Congratulations, good work done. And the only piece of advice I have for you is to continue to do what you're doing, as you do it very well. ■■■



Nigeria's High Commissioner H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike, Ag. in conversation with Nomita Dhar, Editor-in-Chief of Opportunity Nigeria

LONG LIVE THE FEDERAL, REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

IN REMEMBRANCE : LATE PRESIDENT UMARU MUSA YAR' ADUA (1951-2010)

The People of Nigeria mourn with this swaro the passing of our beloved President. Adieu.



7 May 2010
His Excellency Goodluck Jonathan
President
Federal Republic of Nigeria

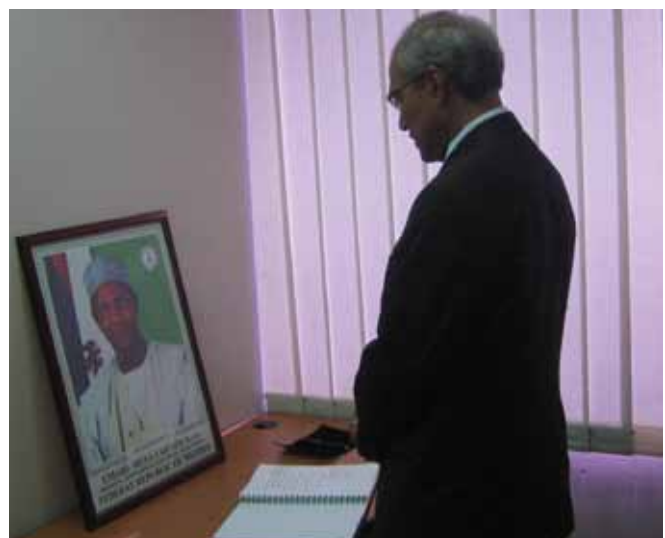
Your Excellency,

I was saddened to learn of the news of the passing of your predecessor, His Excellency Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. On behalf of the people and the Government of Singapore, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to President Yar'Adua's family and to the people and Government of Nigeria.

His Excellency Yar'Adua's commitment to building peace, stability and security in Nigeria are important legacies to the people of Nigeria, and I am confident that Nigerians will remain united during this difficult period.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

S R NATHAN



Singapore Senior Minister of State for Foreign affairs Mr Zainul Abidin Rasheed, paying last respects to Last President Umaru Musa Yar' Adua

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NIGERIA AT 50: STABLE, PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT AND STEADY DEVELOPMENT



Earlier this year, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan ascended to the full presidency upon the death of his predecessor, President Umaru Musa Yar' Adua. President Jonathan was duly sworn in as leader of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on 6 May 2010 in a further sign of the strength of the country's democratic institutions.

security, wealth creation, and the Niger Delta. Internationally, Nigeria continues to be a leading player in the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Nigeria is the biggest oil exporter in Africa, with the largest natural gas reserves in the continent. With these large reserves of human and natural resources, Nigeria's FDI inflow in 2008 was over US\$2 billion with 90 per cent of it coming from the oil industry. Nigeria has one of the highest rates of investment returns in the emerging markets, presently estimated to be around 30 per cent.

ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY

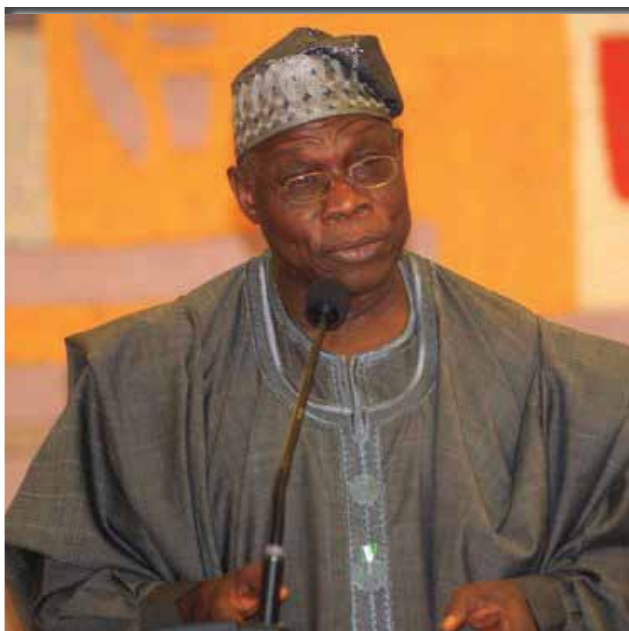
In the last five years, Nigeria has embarked on an ambitious reform agenda. The most far-reaching of these steps taken was to base the budget on a strategic reference price for oil, with excess saved in a special account. The economy responded with strong growth between 2003 and 2007 and Nigeria obtained its first sovereign rating at BB by the Standard and Poor economic index, averaging 7.6 per cent annual growth.



President Goodluck Jonathan Ebele
Insert: President taking the oath of office on 6 May 2010

In April 2007, Nigeria held its third consecutive national elections, further consolidating the transition from military to democratic rule that began in 1999. The third democratically elected Government in 2007 was a landmark because it ushered in, for the first time in

the history of Nigeria, a transition from civilian to civilian government. Political and economic reforms in line with the 'Development Agenda' focus on the development of human capital, critical infrastructure, food security, land tenure changes and home ownership, national



Former President Olusegun Obasanjo (1999-2007)



Late President Umaru Musa Yar' Adua (2007-2010)

The Federal government reallocated all of the US\$750 million fiscal space created through the completion of the debt deal with Paris Club creditors towards expenditures related to reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and towards reducing poverty with the Virtual Poverty Fund. It was among the first countries to adopt and implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) to improve governance and the oil sector. The economy depends on the oil and gas sector – which contributed 97.5 per cent of export revenues and 81 percent of government revenues in 2008. Economic growth continues to be closely linked to oil. The non-oil economy grew by nine percent per year in 2003-2007, benefiting from sound macro economic policies. Growth continued to be broad-based and driven by strong performances of the agricultural, manufacturing, solid minerals and telecommunications sectors.

THE IMPACT OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS

Nigeria's economy was also affected by the global economic crisis and is now going through a period of economic recovery. The decline in oil revenue owing to the fall in oil prices and in oil production turned the fiscal balance from a surplus of 3.7 percent of GDP in 2008, to a deficit of 9 per cent of GDP in 2009. Moreover, a rise in non-performing loans partly related to the global economic downturn brought to the fore capital inadequacies in 10 out of the country's 24 banks – some of which were illiquid – and led to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) needing to inject new capital in the amount of \$4 billion (about three percent of non-oil GDP).

In spite of the effects of the global financial crisis and economic downturn, indicators continue to show that Nigeria's economy remains very robust, based on the following statistics:

- Growth of the non-oil economy continues to be strong and remains at over 7 per cent since 2001;
- The average inflation rate is back on a downward trend, having risen to 11.6 per cent in 2008, largely due to the impact of the food crisis. End of period inflation in 2009 was 10.6 per cent;
- International reserves were put at US\$42.4 billion at the end of 2009, equivalent to 10.2 months of imports. The large external reserves have enabled the CBN to maintain a flexible but stable exchange rate;

- Foreign and domestic debts remain low, although the latter has recently increased.

Following a write-off of significant external debt by Paris and London Clubs of creditors in 2005/06, Nigeria's external debt stood at US\$4.9 billion, or 2.8 percent of GDP in 2009, though domestic debt rose to 15.4 percent of GDP in 2009 compared to 12 percent in 2008.

DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

Nigeria faces significant short-term challenges. The global economic crisis has decreased international financial flows—direct foreign investment, private foreign lines of credit, remittances—and oil prices have declined, affecting Nigeria's trade and fiscal balances. In piloting the economy through these difficult years, the Federal government is trying to sustain spending, but with a focus on improving effectiveness of expenditure for growth and employment.

Medium-term development challenges are equally large. Nigeria faces a growing unemployment crisis. The share of young people between the ages of 15 and 24 outside the labor force is growing, despite the country's strong growth performance. In spite of successful initiatives in human development, Nigeria is behind meeting most of the MDGs. As a result, the Federal government has put in place measures which emphasise strong growth in non-oil human capital developments; enhancing the investment climate; infrastructure development; policy incentives affecting agricultural productivity; and qualitative tertiary education.

The Honourable Minister of Finance Olusegun Aganga has said that Nigeria's economy will hit double-digit growth by the end of 2011 or early 2012. His optimism comes as a result of the Nigerian economy growing by more than 7% in the first half of 2010. According to the Honourable Minister, the Federal government's economic growth strategy emphasises a strict compliance with its economic/developmental agenda to build new infrastructure and to privatise the power sector. Major investors from other parts of the world namely Brazil, Germany and even China - all these countries have expressed strong desire to invest in Nigeria. ■



THE PRIDE OF AFRICA: NIGERIA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

The lifestyles and occupation of the people of the various kingdoms and empires evolved into what is Nigeria today. Prominent among those were the following.

CALABAR KINGDOM

The Calabar Kingdom, also known as Efik Kingdom, was an ancient kingdom that existed thousands of years before Christ. The city of Calabar was the seat of power of the Calabar Kingdom. It was an active, ancient trading kingdom. Recorded history shows that the Calabar Kingdom was the first kingdom to use a money system in trading in West Africa. The ancient money of the Calabar Kingdom was called “*Okpoho*”, a Calabar word for money. This money became known as the manillas.

The coastal ports of the Calabar Kingdom, especially the Calabar port, allowed indigenes of the Kingdom to become the first group in the southeastern parts of Nigeria to have contact with European traders and missionaries.

The Obong of Calabar signed a treaty with the British government in the 17th century that resulted in the Southern Protectorate of Nigeria, with headquarters at Calabar, thus making Calabar itself the first Nigerian capital city.

YORUBA EMPIRES

Historically, the Yoruba have been the dominant group on the west bank of the Niger. The Yoruba were organised in patrilineal groups. From approximately the 8th century of the Modern Era, urbanisation was accompanied by high levels of artistic achievement, particularly in terracotta and ivory sculpture and in the sophisticated metal casting produced at Ife.

By the 15th century, the Yoruba empires of Ife and Oyo were already political and economic powers. Ife preserved its status as a religious center and was respected for the priestly functions. The Oni of Ife was influential in the evolution of Yoruban culture. The Ife model of government was adapted at Oyo, where a member of its ruling dynasty controlled several smaller city-states. A state council (the Oyo Mesi) named the *Alafin* (king) and acted as a check on his authority. Their capital city was situated about 100 km north of present-day Oyo.

THE IGBO STATES

The city of Nri is considered to be the foundation of Igbo culture. Nri and Aguleri, where the Igbo creation myth originates, are in the territory of the Umueri clan, who trace their lineages back to the patriarchal king-figure, Eri. Eri's origins are unclear, though

*Our heartiest congratulations to the Government of Nigeria and its people
as the country celebrates its 50th Independence Day*



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MT MOR PROSPERITY
Delivered: February 2010
Singapore to Lagos, Nigeria



MT MOR POWER
Delivered: March 2010
Fujairah, UAE to Lagos, Nigeria



RANGK (S) Pte Ltd



Rangk (S) Pte Ltd A joint venture of Anderson Marine Services Pte Ltd and Rangk Limited- Nigeria. Rangk Limited acquired the ownership of a crew boat aptly named Rangk Pride ex Pelican Pride from Pelican Offshore Services Pte Ltd in Nov 2008 and duly designated Rangk Singapore to manage and secure contract for the vessel. To date, Rangk Pride under our management has acquired successful charter work since its delivery in 2008.

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he has been described as a “sky being” sent by Chukwu (God). He has been characterised as having first given societal order to the people of Anambra.

With the decline of Nri kingdom in the period from 1400 to 1600, several states once under their influence became powerful economic oracular oligarchies and large commercial states that dominated Igboland. The neighboring Awka city-state, the Onitsha Kingdom, which was originally inhabited by Igbos from East of the Niger, was founded in the 16th century by migrants from Anioma (Western Igboland) and Benin. Western Igbo kingdoms like Aboh, dominated trade in the lower Niger area from the 17th century until European penetration. The Umunoha state in the Owerri area used the Igwe ka Ala oracle to their advantage. However, the Cross River Igbo states like the Aro and Abiriba had the greatest influence in Igboland and adjacent areas after the decline of Nri.

BENIN EMPIRE

By the 15th century, the Benin Kingdom had become powerful militarily and in trade. Political and religious authority resided in the Oba of Benin, Benin-City, which may have had about 100,000 inhabitants at its height, spread over 25 square km that were enclosed by three concentric rings of earthworks. By the late 15th century, Benin was in contact with Portugal.

The Benin Kingdom was famous for its arts, provincial administration and strong monarchy. With headquarters in Benin-City, it extended its suzerainty over most of the Niger Delta area to as far as the Atlantic Ocean at the height of its power in the

forest region. At its zenith in the 16th and 17th centuries, Benin influence may have reached as far as the Atlantic Ocean.

KANEM-BORNU EMPIRE

Borno’s history is closely associated with Kanem, which had achieved imperial status in the Lake Chad basin by the 13th century. Kanem expanded westward to include the area that became Borno. The mai (king) of Kanem and his court accepted Islam in the 11th century, as the western empires also had done. Islam was used to reinforce the political and social structures of the state although many established customs were maintained. Women, for example, continued to exercise considerable political influence.

HAUSA STATES

The Hausa (which subsequently transformed into the Sokoto Caliphate following an Islamic religious revolution initiated by Shiekh Uthman Dan Fodio and his followers in 1805) comprised such principal cities such as Kano, Katsina, ZauZau (Zaria) Gobir, Daura and Rano etc., which were already famous commercial and administrative centres as early as the 9th century of the Modern Era.

By the 11th century, some Hausa states - such as Kano, Jigawa, Katsina, and Gobir - had developed into walled cities engaging in trade, servicing caravans, and the manufacture of various goods. Until the 15th century, these city-states were on the periphery of the major powers.

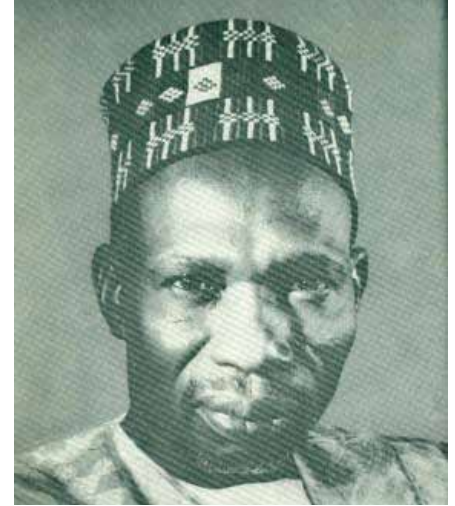




Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, First President of Federal Republic of Nigeria



Alhaji Shehu Shagari, Second President of Federal Republic of Nigeria



Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, First Prime Minister of Federal Republic of Nigeria

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

The Federation of Nigeria was granted full independence in October 1960 under a constitution that provided for a parliamentary government. In October 1963, Nigeria became the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and former Governor General Nnamdi Azikiwe became the country's first President.

In a move towards greater autonomy for minority ethnic groups, the military divided the four regions into 12 states. The ensuing Nigerian Civil War resulted in an estimated one million deaths before ending in the defeat of Biafra in 1970.

Following the Civil War, the country turned to the task of economic development. Foreign exchange earnings and government revenues increased spectacularly with the oil price rises of 1973-74.

A constituent assembly was elected in 1977 to draft a new constitution, which was published on September 21, 1978, when the ban on political activity was lifted. In 1979, five political parties competed in a series of elections in which Alhaji Shehu Shagari was elected president.

In August 1983, Shagari was returned to power in a landslide victory, with a majority of seats in the National Assembly and control of 12 state governments. But on December 31, 1983 the military overthrew the Second Republic.

REPUBLIC

The emergence of democracy in Nigeria on May 1999 ended 16 consecutive years of military rule. Olusegun Obasanjo became the new president of Nigeria. He inherited a country suffering economic stagnation and the deterioration of most democratic institutions. Obasanjo, a former general, was admired for his stand for democratic governance and for returning the federal government to civilian rule in 1979. The new President took over a country that faced many problems, including a collapsed infrastructure. The President moved quickly and established a panel to investigate human rights. The government also moved to recover millions of dollars in funds secreted to overseas accounts.

Most civil society leaders and Nigerians witnessed marked improvements in human rights and freedom of the press under Obasanjo. As Nigeria works out representational democracy,

conflicts persist between the Executive and Legislative branches over appropriations and other proposed legislation.

In the 2007 general election, Umaru Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan were elected President and Vice President, respectively. In November 2009, President Yar'Adua fell ill and was flown out of the country to Saudi Arabia for medical attention. In May 2010, Goodluck Jonathan was serving as acting President in the absence of Mr Yar'Adua when the beloved President died from long-term afflictions. Jonathan will now finish Yar'Adua's term and has already announced his intention to stand for re-election to the top post in new elections.

POST INDEPENDENCE HISTORY

Nigeria was granted full independence in October 1960, as a federation of three regions (northern, western, and eastern) under a constitution that provided for a parliamentary form of government. Under the constitution, each of the three regions retained a substantial measure of self-government. The emergence of a democratic Nigeria in May 1999 ended 16 consecutive years of military rule. Olusegun Obasanjo became the steward of a country suffering economic stagnation and the deterioration of most of its democratic institutions.

Obasanjo, a former general, was admired for his stand against the Abacha dictatorship, his record of returning the federal government to civilian rule in 1979, and his claim to represent all Nigerians regardless of religion. The new President took over a country that faced many problems, including a dysfunctional bureaucracy, collapsed infrastructure, and a military that wanted a reward for returning quietly to the barracks. The President moved quickly and retired hundreds of military officers who held political positions, established a blue-ribbon panel to investigate human rights violations, ordered the release of scores of persons held without charge, and rescinded a number of questionable licenses and contracts let by the previous military regimes. The government also moved to recover millions of dollars in funds secreted in overseas accounts.

COLONIAL HISTORY

Nigeria came under the colonial rule of the British during the second half of the 19th century and the first decade of the 20th century. The United Kingdom conquered the territory of



present-day Nigeria, except for the section of former German-controlled Kamerun, in several stages. The British dependencies of Northern and Southern Nigeria were merged into a single territory in 1914, and a legislative council, initially with limited African representation, was created in 1922. Traditional native rulers, however, administered various territories under the supervision of the colonial authorities. In 1947, a federal system of government was established under a new Nigerian constitution introduced by the United Kingdom. This system was based on three regions: Eastern, Western and Northern. The idea was to reconcile the regional and religious tensions as well as accommodating the interest of diverse ethnic groups: mainly the Ibo (in the east), the Yoruba (in the west) and the Hausa and Fulani (in the north). ■■■



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Facts & Figures	
Location	West Africa
Federal Capital	Abuja
Area	923,768.64 Sq.Km
Population	Over 150 million
Principal Rivers	Niger and Benue
National Day	October 1
Official Language	English
Other Languages	Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba
Main Airport	Abuja, Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt
Road Network	Over 49,920km
Inland Waterways	8,575km
Currency	Naira
Vegetation	Mainly forest and savannah
Rail Roads	3,567km.
Religion	Islam, Christianity and Traditional Religions
Climate	Humid sub-tropical, with wet season from April to October and dry season from November to March
Legal System	Based on English Common Law and Customary Law
Weight and Measures	Metric System
Natural Resources	Petroleum, Tin, Columbite, Iron Ore, Coal, Limestone, Lead Zinc, Natural Gas
Cash Crops	Cocoa, Cassava, Ground-nuts, Kola Nuts, Palm Produce, Cashews, etc
Major Industries	Crude Oil, coal, tin, columbite, food processing, palm oil, peanut, textiles cotton, rubber, wood, hide and skin, building materials, footwear, chemicals, printing, ceramic, steel
Commercial Cities	Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt, Warri., Kaduna, Onitsha, Ibadan, Aba, Maiduguri
Currency	1 Naira (N) = 100 kobo 1 US Dollar = 145 Naira
Electricity	220V

NIGERIA-SINGAPORE RELATIONS BROADENING PARTNERSHIPS

Trade and investment between Africa and the Southeast Asian region have been rising to ever new levels in recent years. Earlier this year, two key forums and a high-powered seminar were held in Singapore to encourage, expedite and bolster these trends. Here, we give them a closer look.



Africa-Singapore Business Forum (ASBF)

In mid-July, a large group of movers and shakers met at Singapore's Fullerton Hotel for the inaugural Africa-Singapore Business Forum (ASBF). The Forum is projected to become a premier conference and networking platform for the business community, where decision-makers and entrepreneurs gather to explore business opportunities and collaborations.

This first ASBF was jointly organised by International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF). The prime objective of the Forum is to foster stronger trade and investment ties between Africa and Singapore by providing a platform for dialogue and so allowing business leaders to gain insights into the many opportunities in African countries and Singapore. The gathering also served as a networking platform for government officials, business and academic leaders.

The participating African delegates were also able to tap into business matching services by IE Singapore in order to liaise with Singapore-based companies, and go on visits to company sites and thus gain a richer understanding of various business sectors in Singapore.

About 400 participants attended the opening of the ASBF, with roughly a third of them hailing from 17 out of Africa's 53 countries. Eight African ministers from Angola, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Mauritius, Nigeria and Togo were present and were hosted to an official lunch by Minister for Trade and Industry Mr Lim Hng Kiang and Minister of State for Trade, Industry and Manpower Mr Lee Yi Shyan.

"Africa's potential as the 'final investment frontier' has been widely talked about, but many investors are still hesitant to enter

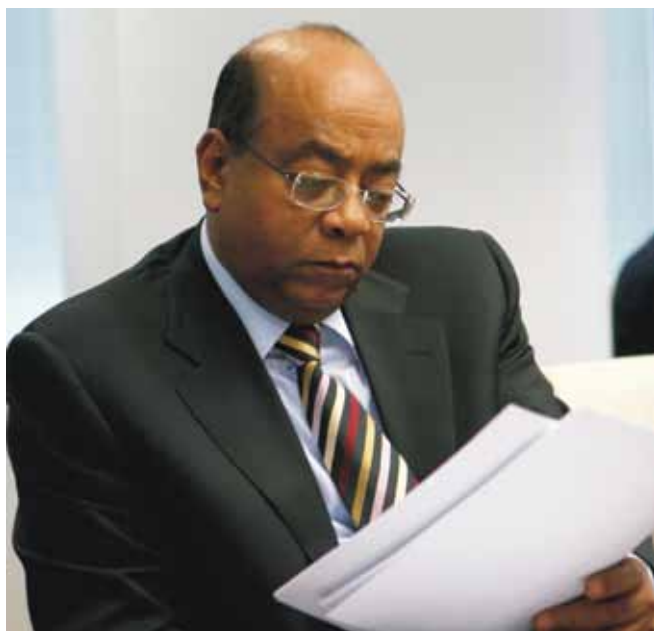
the market. In light of this, IE Singapore brought 40 Singapore companies to Algeria, Ghana, Nigeria and South Africa on business missions last year. The missions concluded with encouraging results and provided our participants with more confidence to enter the market. Therefore, we hope that platforms like ASBF will help Singapore companies plan how best to enter Africa. For companies who are already in Africa, we hope that this Forum will provide them with the necessary contacts to further their presence," said Mr Chong Lit Cheong, CEO of IE Singapore.

The opening address was given by Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Manpower Lee Yi Shyan, who announced new initiatives to help Singapore and African businessmen foster stronger relations.

The Forum's keynote address was then delivered by Dr Mo Ibrahim, Chairman of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, established to support African leadership. His company, Celtel International, builds and operates mobile networks in Africa. In the seven years that Dr Ibrahim headed Celtel, it became one of Africa's most success companies with operations in 15 countries on the continent. Dr Ibrahim is also the Founding Chairman of Satya Capital Ltd, an investment company focusing on opportunities in Africa.

This address was followed by the opening presentation, delivered by Ms Obiageli Ezekwesili. The presentation bore the evocative title "Exploring the Final Frontier – One Continent and Many Markets".

Ms Ezekwesili, herself a Nigerian, is the World Bank's Vice President for Africa Region. Having previously served as Special Assistant to Nigeria's President on Budget Monitoring and the Price Intelligence Unit, Ms Ezekwesili brought a great store of



Dr Mo Ibrahim, Chairman, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

expertise and experience to inform attendees about the nature of and best approaches to doing business in Africa.

These two experts were followed over the next two days by an impressive group of business executives, academics and opinion-makers who pursued the main Forum themes in a series of talks and panel discussions.

Forum co-organiser SBF also launched the Africa Business Group (AFBG) at the Forum. The AFBG is a business-to-business platform that aims to enhance interaction between the business communities in Africa and Singapore. Programmes to be run by SBF under the AFBG will enable Singapore businesses to establish contacts, build market knowledge, and enhance advocacy efforts. The AFBG aims to recruit 200 members in the next one year.

Mr Shabbir Hassanbhai, Chairman of the SBF AFBG, pointed out that “The continent of Africa, with more than 900 million consumers, is one of the world’s fastest growing markets and this clearly reveals a remarkable marketplace with massive needs and surprising buying power for the enterprising to seize. Africa has a demand for every conceivable type of consumer goods and services, from cell phones and banking to television sets, construction, education, healthcare, water treatment and travel. This recognition of an emerging Africa therefore comes at an opportune moment for Singapore companies to explore new avenues of investments and business. This is where SBF’s AFBG, as the national business networking and resource platform in Singapore, can play a role to bridge the information, connection and perception gaps between the Singapore and Africa business communities.”

Africa also has a vast amount of natural resources to maintain healthy trade flow with its trading partners. This will serve to be a good avenue for Singapore businesses looking to venture into emerging markets. In fact, the African Development Bank projects a growth rate of 5.5 to 6 per cent this year.

Africa-Southeast Asia Business Conference

Just over three months earlier (5-6 April), the initial Africa-Southeast Asia Business Conference was held in Singapore. This



Obiageli Ezekwesili, Vice President for Africa Region, The World Bank

event was attended by over 250 leading African and Southeast Asian policymakers and businessmen to address the multifaceted topic of business opportunities in Africa.

The aim of the conference was to bring together headliner companies and institutions in a creative environment in order to foster better relations and inculcate a better understanding of future investment opportunities while exploring the possibilities for joint-ventures.

During this forum, Southeast Asian firms were urged to capitalise on high potential investments in the African continent in such fields as energy, transportation infrastructure, management of seaports, upgrading of airports, water treatment, agriculture, food processing, real estate and mining, to name but a few.

Panel discussions over the two days of the forum addressed issues such as investment climate, high-growth sectors, key players, and facilitation tools to do business in Africa, legal frameworks to secure business, risk management, agribusiness opportunities, banking, insurance and experience-sharing.

Moreover, African cabinet ministers and bankers pitched the potential of deals in infrastructure, agribusiness and utilities to expanding regional companies such as commodity trader Olam, water treatment firm Hyflux and Singapore’s state investor Temasek Holdings.

Moreover, African policymakers at the Conference also drew the attention of those attending to the continent’s robust economic growth and growing middle-class.

The general consensus was that despite Africa’s being increasingly courted by China to feed its demand for resources, there remains a clear need to tap the investment potential from the fast-growing Southeast Asian economies and seek much needed investment expertise from a region that stands out as a leading producer of commodities such as palm oil, rice and rubber.

Asia is leading the world recovery as Southeast Asian economies specifically are anticipated to grow by up to 5.6 percent this year



H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike (Nigeria High Commission) with Deputy Governor of Lagos State Nigeria Princess Adebisi Sarah Sosan during her visit to Singapore for the African Singapore Business forum in 2010

(2010), much stronger than either Europe or the United States, though still a bit slower than China. (according to a report by regional body ASEAN.).

The time was quite ripe for these forums and a related seminar (see box text), as Africa has seen growing interest from many countries around the world. The surging demand for commodities from the world's emerging economies has spurred the "South-South" expansion of trade and investment. For instance, between 2000 and 2008, Asia's share of African trade doubled to 28 per cent, from the previous decade.

Economic relations between Africa and Singapore are also growing. Singapore's trade with the continent amounted to \$8.4 billion in 2009 and has averaged an 11% year-on-year increase since 2002. To date, a total of \$9.6 billion in projects have been secured by Singapore-based companies in Africa – in the industrial, consumer products and construction sectors.

Seminar on Doing Business in Western Africa

IE Singapore recently organised a seminar: Doing Business in Western Africa-Ghana and Nigeria. From the point of view of Mr Iran Lee, Director of Middle East and Africa, the 16 countries of the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African state) account for 290 million people and a GDP of over US\$200 billion. These are important factors that Singapore companies should take into consideration in their business and investment decision-making for expansion.

Nigeria and Ghana are specific targets for business and investment as a result of abundant resources and huge populations. According to Director Iran, Nigeria in particular with a population of about 149 million, is also the 6th or 7th largest producer of oil worldwide. The important role of Nigeria as a major player in the global oil industry cannot be over-emphasized. Nigeria alone accounts for 41 per cent of Africa GDP in 2008; its GDP grew by 6.5 per cent. What is significant about the Nigerian economic growth is the performance of the non-oil sector.

In his remarks, Ambassador Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike, the Head of Mission of the Nigeria High Commission, said that he is optimistic that the Nigerian economy will remain on an even keel.

This is due, of course to the fact that Nigeria is virtually free from external debts and boasts a tidy foreign resource. He also took time to explain the NIPC (Nigeria Investment Promotion Council) One Stop Investment Centre (OSIC).

Similarly, H.E Shabbir Hassanbhai, Singapore High Commission to Nigeria, pointing out that Nigeria and Singapore are major trading partners, with bilateral trade in 2008 totaling S\$613 million. Mr Hassanbhai, who is also Chairman of the Africa Business Group said that trade between Singapore and Nigeria has mostly been on exporting refined petroleum products, heating and cooking equipment ship and board parts. But he added the huge potential for expansion for business activities because there is demand in Nigeria. Investment opportunities in Nigeria include tourism, agricultural and telecommunication.

Loi Eng Koon, Managing Director of G&W International, said that one of the reasons why she chose to expand into Nigeria was because of its huge population, which equates to massive buying power. In addition, she said the people are warm, friendly and hard-working and she has no problems communicating with them since they speak English. As for Informatics, instead of setting up a presence in the capital Abuja or the main commercial city Lagos, it established itself in the state of Jigawa in 2001. It had partnered with the Jigawa state government to transform the state into an IT hub.

According to Alan Phua, Managing Director of the Singapore School Operation for Informatics Education, the company was one of the first Singapore companies to venture into Nigeria. Since its foray into Nigeria, it has around 5,000 graduates. As of August 2009, about 1,170 students are currently studying in its Nigeria campus, and 250 students in the Singapore campus.

Delegation of Judges of the High Court of Abuja Federal Capital Territory

A delegation of judges of the High Court of Abuja Federal Capital Territory visited Malaysia and Singapore from July 26 to August 1 of this year, led by Chief Justice Lawal H Gummi. During a courtesy visit of the judges to the Nigeria High Commission in Singapore, Mr Gummi expressed his appreciation for the work the High Commission did during their stay and explained that the



A Delegation of the Police service commission Nigeria were in Singapore to participate in SCE program

purpose of their visit to Singapore was fact-finding. He noted that the choice of Singapore for this tour was significant because, as he said, Singapore ranks as one of the best countries in the world for quick dispensation of justice. The Chief Judge remarked that in the judicial system, timing is of crucial importance. According to Mr Gummi, "justice delayed is justice denied".

In his remarks, H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike (Nigeria High Commission) commended the chief judges on the good work the judiciary has done to promote national development. He also noted that one of the pillars of national development in Singapore is the utmost respect for the rule of law. He added that the judicial institutions in Nigeria have distinguished themselves, especially in the rendering of justice following the 2007 in election Nigeria. ■■■

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- All guidelines and procedures are to be simplified and made very clear to remove the use of discretion

- All participating agencies to review, re-engineer and streamline their procedures and requirements to attain set standards
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- Single Payment Management System to be put in place to facilitate payment of fees

Participating Government Agencies (First Phase)

- Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC)
- Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)
- Nigeria Customs Service (NCS)
- Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)
- National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)
- National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
- Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)
- Bureau of Statistics (BOS)
- Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals
- Federal Ministry of Finance (FMF)
- Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)

More information visit: www.nipc-nigeria.org



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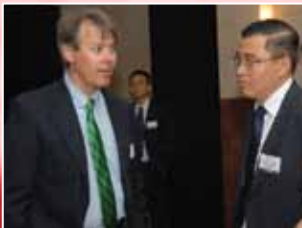
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NIGERIA AT THE SINGAPORE 2010 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES



At reception held in honour of the 25-member Nigerian contingent on the 13th of August just before the opening ceremonies, the Head of the Nigerian Mission in Singapore, Ambassador Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike, was on hand to welcome the athletes. In his address to the young athletes, Ambassador Ogunnaike encouraged them to perform creditably during the Games. He urged them to be good ambassadors of Nigeria and make the nation proud. He said that the whole nation will be looking up to them to show good examples: not just in their performances, but also in their behaviour.

In his own address, the Secretary General of the Nigerian Olympic Committee, Mr. Olabanjo Oladapo, expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome given to the Nigerian contingent at the Youth Olympic Games, right from the reception on their arrival at Singapore Changi Airport, where the Nigerian contingent was received by officials of the Nigeria High Commission, and he promised that it was the kind of support which the athletes need as tonic to perform very well in their respective events.

Nigeria's participation at the first-ever Youth Olympics in Singapore (tagged Singapore 2010), which ran from 14 – 26 August, was marked with success, especially in the girls 100 and 200 metre events where both Josephine Omaka and Florence Nnakwe won gold medals respectively. Also, Abogunloko Bukola won a bronze in the 400 metres. In the Medley Relay, Africa (represented by Nigeria's trio Josephine Omaka, Florence Nnakwe and Bukola Abogunloko and South Africa's Neuheff Izelle) took the silver medal.



NIGERIA ON MEDAL LIST OF FIRST YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES

GIRLS 100m RESULTS

Rank	Bib	Name	NOC Code	Date of Birth	Lane	Reaction Time	Fn	Result
1	535	OMAKA Josephine	NGR	29 NOV 1993	4	0.193		11.58
2	725	JACOBS Myasia	USA	8 JAN 1994	6	0.180		11.64
3	275	CHALAS Fany	DOM	2 FEB 1993	5	0.243		11.65 SB
4	343	TAGOE Annie	GBR	4 JUN 1993	3	0.209		11.73
5	390	NGUYEN Anasz-tazia	HUN	9 JAN 1993	7	0.204		11.81
6	186	DOS REIS Jessica	BRA	17 MAR 1993	2	0.223		11.94 =PB
7	417	ROBINSON Dametia	IVB	14 FEB 1993	1	0.171		12.06
8	356	HAASE Rebekka	GER	2 JAN 1993	8	0.213		12.08

GIRLS 200m RESULTS

Rank	Bib	Name	NOC Code	Date of Birth	Lane	Reaction Time	Fn	Result
1	532	NWAKWE Nkiruka Florence	NGR	28 JULY 1994	3	0.217		23.46 PB
2	142	GAITHER Tynia	BAH	16 MAR 1993	6	0.185		23.68 PB
3	720	EKPONE Olivia	USA	5 JAN 1993	5	0.161		23.75 PB
4	423	JACKSON Shericka	JAM	16 JUL 1994	4	0.192		24.08
5	200	OKOLIE Karin	BUL	1 MAY 1994	8	0.219		24.34 PB
6	208	FOFANAH Isatu	CAN	13 APR 1993	7	0.185		24.42 PB
7	404	BONGIORNI Anna	ITA	15 SEP 1993	2	0.201		24.53
8	123	BRENNAN Monica	AUS	22 JAN 1994	1	0.235		24.83

GIRLS 400m RESULTS

Rank	Bib	Name	NOC Code	Date of Birth	Lane	Reaction Time	Fn	Result
1	728	REYNOLDS Robin	USA	22 FEB 1994	6	0.166		52.57 SB
2	580	RAZOR Bianca	ROU	8 AUG 1994	4	0.226		53.10
3	528	ABOGUNLOKO Bukola	NGR	18 AUG 1994	3			53.47
4	140	BROWN Rashan	BAH	27 NOV 1993	5	0.223		53.63 PB
5	212	REID Katherine	CAN	19 NOV 1993	7	0.270		53.69
6	424	JAMES Olivia	JAM	1 JUN 1994	2	0.314		54.14
7	362	MOSLER Sonja	GER	23 AUG 1993	8	0.227		55.20
8	595	NEUHOFF Izelle	RSA	3 MAY 1994	1	0.432		56.27

AFRICA DAY

A two-day event comprising football and a gala night reception



The African team



Various Heads of Mission at the Africa Day celebrations

African missions in Singapore came together for the first time to celebrate the Africa Day Penultimate FIFA World Cup in South Africa. The observance of an Africa Day by African Union members involved the diplomatic missions of Angola, Egypt, Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa.

The event lasted for two days; the first day was a football tournament featuring an African team against Singapore sides. The African team included the Dean of the African missions. The African team won the tournament.

The second day saw a reception held at the residence of the Egyptian ambassador. At this event, guests including Singapore government officials and members of the diplomatic corps were entertained with assorted dishes from all five African countries involved.



FIRST LADY OF NIGERIA VISITS SINGAPORE FOR JASCON 34 CHRISTENING



Her Excellency Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, delivering the Keynote address at the christening of Jascon 34

H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike
(Nigeria High Commission) at the inspection of Jascon 34

The Sea Trucks Group held the christening of Jascon 34, the newly outfitted and commissioned offshore DP3 pipelay heavylift vessel, at the Kwong Soon Shipyard in Singapore. At the ceremony, held at the Marina at Keppel Bay, Lady Sponsor Her Excellency Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan – First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria – officially christened the Jascon 34. The celebration was attended by a number of distinguished guests including government officials from the Federal Republic of Nigeria and managing directors of the major oil companies operating in Nigeria and internationally.

Jascon 34 is a multi-purpose DP3 offshore construction vessel which is suitable for operations in deepwater regions and built

using the Sea Trucks unique hybrid design concept. The vessel was delivered on schedule and on budget. The vessel's key differentiators are its rigid and/or flexible pipelay capability, large flexible unobstructed deck area, high capacity craneage, large accommodation facility of 335 beds and its DP3 positioning system. This specialized vessel, built to American Bureau of Shipping Classification rules, will be operated by the Sea Trucks Group globally.

Jascon 34 has recently successfully completed sea and pipelay trials and will shortly commence its first assignment. Mr. Jacques J. Roomans, President and CEO of the Sea Trucks Group, said, "We are delighted to have taken delivery of Jascon 34 and very proud that Her Excellency Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan honoured us with performing the christening of our vessel." ■■■

Christening of Jascon 34 multi purpose Offshore DP3 Pipelay and Construction vessel by Her Excellency Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan – First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



DELIVERING THE DIFFERENCE
www.seatrucksgroup.com

Sea Trucks Group / West African Ventures is an international group of companies offering offshore services to the Oil & Gas industry. The Group was founded in the late 1970's and provides marine services to the major oil and construction companies in West Africa and globally. The Group has one of the most diverse and modern fleets delivering a varied package of offshore installation services to clients internationally.



By Gurdip Singh

A 1968 tourist adventure in Nigeria changed the life of an insurance man into that of an international contractor and investor. He now has a business that is stretched across the globe.

"And I would do it all over again if I had to," says Jacques J. Roomans, President and CEO of Lagos-based Sea Trucks Group (STG), which provides tugboats and specialised construction and accommodation vessels for oil and gas field developments along the coast of West Africa.

SEA TRUCKS GROUP

CONTRIBUTING TO THE NIGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The STG has grown along with the development of the Nigerian petroleum industry, and its master plan is based on the deepwater field developments being undertaken in Nigeria, Angola and Ghana," says Roomans, a Dutch insurance man who has taken Nigerian citizenship as a commitment to Nigeria, the Nigerian economy and his Nigerian-origin business.

He started the business in the 1970s and built it into a 150-boat fleet for inshore oilfield operations in the Niger Delta. Today, it is handling pipeline installations and contracting business offshore Nigeria.

"We are expanding on a daily basis," he says, keeping up with an annual investment of US\$250 million a year on heavy-duty floating assets, mostly accommodation, construction and pipeline vessels. STG has built 40 offshore

support and service vessels in China, had the units fitted in Singapore, tapping on the world's best expertise for installing technology, equipment and machinery. Singapore also has the best standards for sea trials for the vessels before they are deployed on offshore projects. Offshore business began in 1996 to tap Nigeria's new frontier areas, says Roomans.

The vessels are built in China, fitted with the state-of-the-art equipment and machinery in Singapore, and managed by STG's operating offices in Nigeria, Angola, Ghana, Australia, United Arab Emirates and Holland.

After having built STG's first two vessels in Louisiana in the late 1990s, it became important to search for a cost effective place to build the fleet, an average of which could cost between \$160 million to \$180 million. "It was a milestone business

decision, given that the Louisiana yard had doubled their price after building the first two units," says Roomans.

China has remained a good place for building these vessels, and more vessel building plans are likely to come. "The STG fleet growth is in tandem with West African oil and gas industry development," he says. Most of STG's vessels are 5000 horse power units, providing high-speed vessels for the region's accelerated oil and gas field developments.

Offshore Nigeria

STG's first offshore unit was an anchor-handling tugboat (AHT), and the group has since raised standards by building accommodation and construction vessels, with the largest being a 400-man strong workforce to work on an offshore field. STG's accommodation and construction vessels offer an average deck space of

1,500 sq m to ensure sufficient equipment and material are carried to the site.

But Roomans is not stopping. He has planned an 800-man accommodation vessel, which would be 140-m long with 36-m beam. The first such super-size work vessel would be on the market by 2013-2014.

Roomans backs West Africa's field development demand with industry-wide projections of 25 floating, production, storage and offloading vessels being readied for offshore oil and gas production. Pressure on early field development comes from energy-short African economies. "Once a discovery is made, it is important that we bring the oil and gas to shores to support each of the country's national energy development programme," he says, highlighting the Nigerian gas master plan covering a nation-wide electrification programme.

STG is experiencing strong demand for its services from the African markets. Roomans is pledging to support the

Roomans has built STG's reputation from a single landing craft he had bought in Nigeria in 1970 through to an international corporation with multi-facility operations in Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates.

"We began in Nigeria with an idle craft that was bought from a building contractor working on the Royal Dutch Shell's housing complex near the Niger Delta. We started with transporting equipment on landing craft in the swamp of Niger Delta," he recaps.

But as the Nigerian industry flourished, STG added vessel building and fabrication yards and supply bases as well as training schools. Today, STG has these facilities at Warri and Onne in Nigeria and at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

"We keep expanding our yards and bases with a strong emphasis on local contents and manpower," he says. Of the 2,500 STG employees, 1,800 are Nigerians operating vessels, working at the yards and on offshore projects.



understanding the local culture. "Be humble and frank with the local community, give them a helping hand and you will win their hearts and loyalties," says Roomans of his corporate philosophy.

STG's main working areas are at Warri and Onne, where it has set up schools for the local children – providing uniforms, books and classroom amenities and teachers. A hospital at Port Harcourt offers free medical treatment and medicine to local employees and their families as well as friends.



ongoing field development across the West African coast.

The Ehra and Egina deepwater field developments in Nigeria and the Jubilee field development in Ghana as well as ongoing projects in Angola are some of the world scale projects that are further changing STG's work scope. It has formed joint ventures with international project management groups Acergy and McDermott to participate in these projects. "Our targets are to be one of the leading international contractors, offering one-stop turnkey project implementation and service," Roomans stresses.

A recently completed project is a 30-km offshore gas pipeline, built through the Nigerian rainy season but with an ambitious target to have it completed ahead of schedule to supply gas to onshore power plants. "Usually work is stopped during rainy season, but we kept going with the pipe-laying work and have set an industry benchmark for the Nigerian pipeline projects. The project was complete in record six months, against an original schedule of one year," he says.

Be Nigerian

Being in Nigeria is hard work, cultivating relationships with employees and

"STG is a corporate citizen of Nigeria and it is our responsibility that we share as much as we can with the local community," Mr Roomans says. Christmas parties and festivities are annual events to share with the local employees and their relatives. "The people make us what we are and we want to give them the STG support," he underlines in stating the company philosophy.

STG has also joined other oil companies in Nigeria to provide a free boat-bus service in places like the Niger Delta. "We can pick them up from their jetties in the Niger Delta and send them wherever they want to go. It is important support that the local community appreciates," he adds. ■

“NIGERIA WELCOMES INVESTMENTS FROM ASIA”



Interview with the Presidential Advisor to the President of Nigeria on Petroleum Matters.

Nigeria will welcome a wide range of investments from Asia, especially in the infrastructure and energy sector, says Dr Emmanuel Egbogah, Presidential Advisor to The President of Nigeria on Petroleum Matters.

“We are seeing China and India leading the Asian investments, followed by South Korea and others,” he said in an interview during a visit to Singapore. India has emerged as the second largest market for Nigerian petroleum after the United States, he says. Nigeria exports about 2.2 million barrels of oil per day, one million barrels per day of which goes to the United States.

“China is an equally big and important market for the Nigerian petroleum sector,” he says, adding that the Chinese have been expressing keen interest in undertaking projects in Nigeria, ranging from the infrastructure sector to the railways network and energy sector. China and India would be joined by other Asian investors as Nigeria becomes more business-friendly in the coming years, especially with the passage of its new Petroleum Industry Bill which the National Congress is expected to pass by September of next year.

Dr Egbogah discloses that one of the attractive terms under the new bill would be an increase in offers of sharing gas production. Nigeria is expected to offer more than 40 per cent of the gas sharing under its revised production sharing contract (PSC). Nigeria is a gas-producing country and needs the investment to exploit its gas resources, he said after the christening of Jascon 35, a pipelay barge built by Nigeria’s Sea Trucks Group.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) would also be restructured to operate as a commercially driven and profit-generating company, he says. It would be seeking “Incorporated Joint Ventures” with international investors which would allow the new partnerships and entities to seek out project financing from the global capital markets. Previously, NNPC was not allowed to participate in private funding of projects under the state-enterprise constitution.

NNPC would be turned into a corporation matching the world’s top national oil companies – Petronas, Petrobras and Saudi Aramco – he pointed out. Going forward, the restructured NNPC would be working on new frontiers to increase the country’s natural resources. “We aim to increase our petroleum reserves to 40 billion barrels from the current 38 billion barrels and daily oil production to 3.5 to 4 million barrels per day,” he says.

“Nigeria is more of a gas country than oil, and the projections are that our known reserves will grow into 600 trillion cu ft of gas in the coming years through new exploration efforts,” said Dr Egbogah. Nigeria’s current reserves are 187 trillion cu ft. “We have just launched a new gas master plan allowing for exploration of gas in the country because, in the past, all the gas that we have had has only been through incidental oil exploration,” Dr Egbogah points out. ■■■

**Heartiest Congratulations
and Best Wishes**

to

**His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan
President and Commander-in-chief of the
Armed Forces**

and

**The Government and People of the
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Important Breakthrough In The Treatment of Musculoskeletal Diseases

With an ever increasing older population in developed countries, the rates of serious musculoskeletal diseases have been spiking alarmingly. Until now, the treatment for these diseases has not kept pace with the growing numbers of those afflicted. But now the Urah Resources company has made a significant breakthrough which promises safe relief to all those suffering from such maladies. Dr Jonathan Obaje tells us how:



What motivated you to go into research on this formula?

Scientific Challenge! As a result of a global escalation of the aging population, cases of degenerative musculoskeletal diseases such as osteoarthritis (OA) have become a nightmare, with its attendant social and economic trauma on the individual and national economies. For many years, pharmacologists have failed to provide satisfactory treatment for osteoarthritis (OA), and this has resulted in many disabilities and even deaths. This was the scientific challenge that formed the basis of Urah Transdermal Glucosamine Cream (Urah TGC).

How is the URAH topical application different from oral glucosamine?

Oral glucosamine has two disadvantages – gastric toxicity and low bio-availability. Because the glucosamine chemical structure is about 80% glucose, it is digested like glucose right from the tip of the tongue to the end of the digestive tract and it is also removed in the liver.

Therefore, only a very minute quantity actually gets absorbed into the body for the maintenance of joint health. This is why it may take a long time to see the effects of oral glucosamine in the form of tablets, capsules, powder or liquids.

Secondly, glucosamine compounds are naturally acidic. Long-term oral dosages may cause excess gastric acidity, leading to gastric ulcers. The first signs of these side-effects are nausea, gastric irritation, shortness of breath and wheezing. These are now commonly referred to as “glucosamine allergy”. You can now avoid these side-effects by using Urah TGC

For the first time, a high concentration of glucosamine can now be delivered to the body directly through the skin with no side effect. Urah Technology is backed by a US patent, Singapore patent and Japan patent.

How fast can one experience results?

Because of the high-penetration efficacy of Urah® TGC, results can be experienced within few hours of application of the cream.

How is URAH Glucosamine Cream (Urah TGC) different from many other creams on the market?

Urah® TGC is unique because of its high emulsion stability and the ability to deliver high concentration (8-10%) of glucosamine directly, using proprietary Obalin® Transdermal technology.

Many other creams lack such efficacy because it is naturally difficult to blend enough concentration of glucosamine into a cream and they do not have the appropriate technology to penetrate through the skin.

How often can I apply Urah Cream?

For optimal results, rub it in 2 to 3 times daily, especially before going to bed, in the morning and after sporting activities.

When can I stop using Urah TGC?

Urah TGC is suitable for both the immediate restoration of comfort and for long-term protection from degenerative musculoskeletal ailments. Therefore, one should continue its use even after improvement to ensure long-term protection.

Can I rub Urah Cream onto my stiff neck?

Yes. The cream is ideal for all joint and body aches, and for sporting activities. It can be rubbed onto the knee, shoulder, neck, ankle, back, hip, elbow, wrist, fingers and even sore muscles.

Urah TGC is now available in many clinics around Singapore, and sold internationally in Japan, Germany, South Africa, Nigeria and Malaysia.

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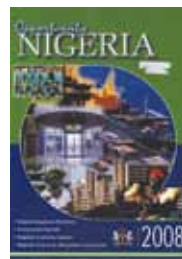
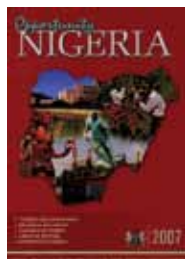
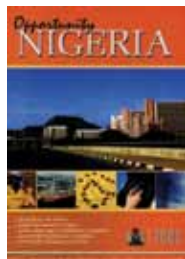
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*Our heartiest congratulations to the Government of
Nigeria and its people on their 50th Independence Day*



Congratulations to Opportunity Nigeria on the 10th Anniversary



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EXPLORING THE MARITIME SECTOR IN NIGERIA

Nigerians are undertaking an aggressive industry-wide expansion, adding more ships to cater to the oil and gas sector, says Singapore businessman Richard Lim of Anderson Marine Services Pte Ltd, a maritime industry veteran who has been doing business with resource-rich Nigeria since the early-1990s.



Admiral Godwin Ndubuisi Kanu and Mr Richard Lim

His company, Anderson Marine Services Pte Ltd, has been working very closely with Nigeria and has formed several alliances to support the maritime industry. One such alliance is with Admiral Ndubuisi Godwin Kanu, whose Rangk Limited is a major underwater engineering company.

The close relation and partnership between Mr Richard Lim and Admiral Kanu, who founded Rangk Limited, has come a long way since 1992. Admiral Kanu, a former governor of Lagos and a board member of a number of commercial and public institutions in Nigeria, has been guiding the partnership in building bridges between Anderson's Southeast Asian business network and the Nigerian business sectors, says Lim.

The RANGK Group has a number of joint ventures and affiliates. These include Swiss International Diving Services, which offers a wide range of underwater jobs, including remotely operated vehicles for deepwater drilling programmes; Afro-Swiss Maritime Finance Ltd, managing offshore support vessels; and the fleet maintenance company Underwater Engineering Ltd.

Lim's Anderson has been supporting these businesses by providing ship delivery services, ship brokering, agency services and management services. Lim points out that the oil & gas industry is currently one of the busiest sectors in Nigeria. With the increase in Nigeria's hydrocarbon reserves in the coming

years, this sector could expect to play a bigger role in contributing to the exports of hydrocarbon products from Nigeria.

He added that the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) is on track in its implementation of the coastal and Inland Shipping Act, or CABOTAGE. The primary objective of the Cabotage Act is to boost the Nigerian maritime industry by collaborating with local banks in providing a substantial amount of funds to assist local ship owners to purchase tankers, offshore support vessels and even built vessels that can contribute to the oil and gas industry. Such a scheme has tangible benefits, as more local marine personnel would be gainfully employed and more youths would have opportunities to be trained and employed in the maritime industry.

The Cabotage Act has propelled Nigeria onto the global shipping markets. "Nigerians are in the process of acquiring a substantial number of ships using the government-sponsored fund," notes Lim, expecting the Nigerians to start placing new-building orders for a wide range of boats, ships and tankers within the next five years. "Also, to fast-track in developing the maritime industry, we are seeing increasing Nigerian interests in learning from the Southeast Asian marine sectors," he added.

"The financing scheme offered would jump-start the indigenous maritime industry in Nigeria, which can be expected to develop into a multi-billion dollar sector, given the state-driven campaign to build domestic businesses for the oil and gas sector." With the industry increase in fleet size, the local shipyards would also benefit as more repairs and maintenance of such vessels allows shipyards to upgrade their facilities and expertise to cater to the increasing demand from the local marine sector.

Lim is well-linked with the Nigerians and understands their working culture. He foresees that "Nigeria is set to become an important player for oil and gas as well as a market for supplying hardware and high-tech software for the development of local industries, especially those supporting the energy sector."

Lim is currently spearheading activities to help the members of the Indigenous Shipowner Association of the region to source for offshore vessels, tankers, supply boats and expertise for shipyard upgrades. ■

Photo feature

Christening Ceremony of Jascon 34



Her Excellency Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and members of her entourage



Her Excellency Dame Patience Goodluck Jonathan, First Lady of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, with Nigeria's High Commissioner H.E. Emmanuel Ademola Ogunnaike and others at the luncheon reception



H.E. Shabbir Hassانبhai, Singapore's Ambassador to Nigeria with other guests



Mr. Abdulaziz Dankano, Minister/Head of Chancery of Nigeria High Commission, at the dinner reception of Jascon 34



Dragon dance at the Christening Ceremony of Jascon 34



Dinner reception of Jascon 34

Photo feature



Deputy Governor of Lagos State Princess Sarah Adebisi Sosan (extreme right) during her visit to High Commission of Nigeria in Singapore



Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Princess Sarah Adebisi Sosan, with Mdm Loi Eng Koon, Managing Director G&W International



Nigerian contingent to the maiden Youth Olympic Game, Singapore 2010



Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Princess Sarah Adebisi Sosan during her courtesy call to High Commissioner of Nigeria in Singapore



Home-based officers, Nigeria High Commission



Home-based and local staff of Nigeria High Commission Singapore

TOURISM NIGERIA: THE SPLENDOURS OF AFRICA AWAIT

Nigeria is a fairly large country boasting a great diversity of landscapes, cultures, cuisines and attractions. The biggest dilemma facing tourists to this exciting land is to decide which sights they most want to see and how best to portion out their time to get the most delight from their stay in Nigeria. Here we offer a brief introduction to the country's myriad attractions and charms.

Mambilla Plateau

The Mambilla Plateau, in the southeast corner of Taraba State, shares a border with Cameroon. A high grassland plateau averaging about 1,800 metres, it is scenic, cool and a pleasant change from the heat and humidity of Lagos. Because the roads are still under construction, a sport utility vehicle or jeep is recommended and visitors should pack essentials, camping equipment and food. As an option, there are a few hotels on the plateau.

The Park provides an attractive setting, well worth a visit. Mambilla has cattle ranches, tea plantations and rolling, grassy hills. It is different from the rest of Nigeria with regard to its flora and fauna and is home to some rare species of birds and animals, especially at the Gashaka-Gumti National Park.

Coconut Beach

Coconut Beach is a beautiful beach in the coastal town of Badagry, west of Lagos. The beach is attractively set in an area surrounded by coconut trees. About 20 miles towards the border of Nigeria and the Republic of Benin, Coconut Beach is accessible through the Lagos-Badagry expressway. Visitors will find a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Tarkwa Bay

Tarkwa Bay is a sheltered beach along the Lagos harbor. It is accessible by a 'trazan'

boat from Maroko or 'fiki' boat from under Falomo Bridge on Victoria Island. This beach provides a pleasant outing with safe swimming conditions, even for small children. Tourists may obtain deck chairs and an awning on the beach, for relaxed, casual comfort. Local vendors sell delicious pineapples, coconuts and variety of other delightful treats.

Calabar Beach

This superb beach, at the mouth of the new Calabar River, is about two miles long and 500 feet wide, uninhabited save for a solitary fisherman's hut. The beach is virtually isolated and lends visitors the luxury of privacy in a beautiful setting off the beaten path. Since the beach is flanked by a swamp and can only be reached by boat or canoe, getting there is half the fun and enhances one's fascination with this enchanting locale.

Lekki Beach

There are several beaches along the Lekki Peninsula, the foremost being Lekki Beach, located a few miles from the city center. Lekki Beach is another of Lagos' attractive beaches and remains popular with foreign tourists. Beach shelters made of palm fronds and umbrellas, available for rent, keep the sun at bay as well as providing a place to enjoy snacks or refreshments sold by local traders.

Eleko Beach

Opened in 1989, Eleko is the newest of

Lagos' Beaches, down the Lekki Peninsula about 30 miles from Lagos. There are no traders and no distractions on Eleko Beach, just peace and tranquillity, ideal for those seeking privacy.

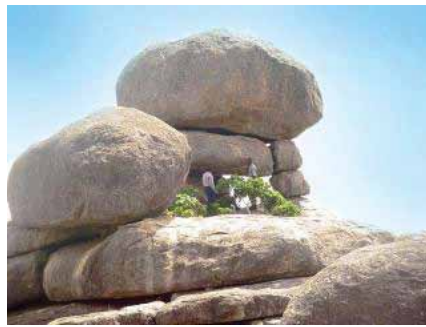
The Obudu Ranch

The Obudu Ranch is a popular holiday destination for adventurous tourists wishing to explore the remote corners of Nigeria. Situated in the northeast corner of Cross River State, only 45 miles from the Cameroon border, a tourist can enjoy the countryside of both Nigeria and Cameroon at the same time.

The Obudu Plateau is spread over an area of 40 sq. miles. It is 5,200 feet above sea level. The climate is cool and pleasant with no mosquitoes. The landscape is spectacular, with rolling grasslands, deep-wooded valleys and waterfalls. It is best to visit Obudu in the dry season since during the rainy season much of the ranch may be covered in mist and low clouds and there are frequent thunderstorms. Between December and February, the harmattan is heavy; therefore, the best times for a visit are the end of October to December and March to May – that is, before the rainy season.

Argungu Fishing Festival

This colourful annual festival takes place in Argungu, a riverside town in Kebbi State, about 64 miles from Sokoto. The leading tourist attraction in the area, the



festival originated in August 1934 when the late Sultan Dan Mu'azu made a historic visit. In tribute, a grand fishing festival was organised. Since then, it's become a celebrated yearly event held between February and March. During the festival, hundreds of local men and boys enter the water, armed with large fishnet scoops. They are joined by canoes filled with drummers, plus men rattling huge seed-filled gourds to drive the fish to shallow waters. Vast nets are cast and a wealth of fish are harvested, from the giant Nile perch to the peculiar balloon fish. Furthermore, there's canoe racing, wild duck hunting, bare-handed fishing, diving competitions and, of course, swimming. Afterwards, there is drinking, singing and dancing into the night. The fisherman with the biggest catch is awarded a huge prize at the end of the festival.

Eyo Festival

Eyo Festival is unique to the Lagos area, and it is widely believed that Eyo is the forerunner of the modern-day carnival in Brazil. On Eyo Day, the main highway in the heart of the city (from the end of Carter Bridge to Tinubu Square) is closed to traffic, allowing for procession from Idumota to Iga Idunganran. Here, the participants all pay homage to the Oba of Lagos. Eyo festival takes place whenever

occasion and tradition demand, but it is usually held as the final burial rites for a highly regarded chief.

The Atilogwu Dance

The Atilogwu dance has been elevated to a dazzling art form, particularly by the Igbos in Anambra State. Atilogwu is a vigorous dance which literally means "Is this magic?" and combines elements of gymnastics with foot-stomping rhythms and brilliant colors. It's performed by young men and women who undergo rigorous training before presenting the dance in public. Once approved, the dance is performed during important festivals and great social occasions. In fact, Atilogwu has become a celebrated signature of Nigerian culture, performed around the world.

National Museums

The National Museum at Onikan, Lagos provides one of the largest collections of art and artifacts in Nigeria. Of great importance to anyone seeking a deeper understanding of African art and the rich cultural heritage of Nigeria, the artifacts in the museum date from 500 BC to 200 AD, including the Nok terracotta heads. Its interior is majestic in scope, and retraces the development of various cultures through centuries of Nigerian history.

Operated by the National Commission for Museums and Monuments, the museum here, like others in Benin, Jos, Ife, Esie, Kano and Kaduna, plus many smaller ones, consistently draws thousands of tourists and historians each year to view its rich collections.

Osun Festival

Osun was one of the wives of Sango, the god of Thunder and former king of Oyo. She is widely worshipped in Yorubaland, particularly in the countryside through which the river Osun flows. The water of Osun is said to have the power of making barren women fertile. Her most important sanctuaries are in Oshogbo, which is contracted from 'Oso Igbo', or spirit of the forest, centered around a palace shrine where the chief priest performs rites and rituals.

Leather Work and Other Crafts

Nigeria is a veritable treasure trove of beautiful handmade crafts. Drawing from ancient traditions, Nigerian artisans create marvellous wood carvings, metal castings, exotic jewellery, traditional clothing, intricately decorated calabashes and finely-crafted leatherwork. Visitors are amazed at the quality and value of these unique creations, each made with a perfectionist's skill and attention to detail. ■■■

SINGAPORE BUSINESSES & INVESTMENTS IN NIGERIA

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Jurong Engineering Limited is a leader in the engineering and construction business. They have been in this business for the past 38 years. With their head office in Singapore and with a global network of more than 17 Subsidiaries and Associate Companies in all parts of the world, it intends to establish itself as a world-class Engineering and Construction Company. JEL meets the requirements of all their clients by keeping up with market needs and by using the best technology and resources available. It's biggest asset and strength is in having a diverse workforce consisting of nationalities from the Far East, to Japan, India and South Asia.

For more information, visit: www.jel.com.sg

TOLARAM GROUP



The Tolaram Group, headquartered in Singapore, has diversified business interests in six countries. The Group's existing operations in Nigeria are in the following areas:

instant noodles, floor coverings, fishing nets, chemicals, dyestuffs and printing inks, office automation products, telecommunication equipment, light and heavy commercial vehicles, energy sector, road modal logistics, soya milk, etc.

The new projects that are being developed in Nigeria include: PORT@ LEKKI.

LAGOS FREE TRADE ZONE.

PETROCHEMICAL PROJECT.

TOLARAM GROUP – COMMITTED TO BEING AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN THE INDUSTRIAL GROWTH OF NIGERIA

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Shankar's Emporium Pte Ltd (Shankar's) commenced operations in 1957 and is a leading trader in consumer electronic goods, household appliances and office equipments. Over the years, it has spread its presence in Dubai, the U.S.A, Vietnam, Australia and Angola. Shankar's has 30 years of experience in business with Nigeria and has built an extensive web of customers. Shankar's covers all aspects of export into Nigeria in the most cost and time effective manner. Shankar's is an authorised wholesaler for most global consumer electronics brands like Sony, Panasonic, Sharp and Toshiba and exports an extensive range of items like LCDs, CTVs, Hifi's, Home Theatres, Air conditioners, Refrigerators and Home Appliances among others.

For more information, visit: www.shankars.com

INDORAMA



Founded in 1976 in Indonesia with a small spun yarn manufacturing plant, the Indorama Group today is a leading Asian conglomerate with market leadership position in its products. Indorama is a global manufacturer of diversified industrial products such as Polyester, PET Resins, PTA, Polyethylene, Polypropylene, Spun Yarns, Fabrics, and Medical Gloves.

Indorama has manufacturing facilities in ten countries over four continents. Their products are shipped to over 90 countries across the four continents and over 20,000 employees are proud members of the Indorama family of companies.

At Indorama, they strive to deliver a world-class customer experience. They deliver the Indorama brand to their customers, which embodies symbol of quality, consistency, and responsiveness. At Eleme in Rivers State Nigeria, they have the largest petro-chemical complex producing 550 KTA of world-class olefins and polyolefins. Indorama is planning to make this complex the petrochemical hub of Africa by bringing it up to its full design capacity, and then undertaking expansion plans. For more information, visit:

For more information, visit: www.indorama.com

BRUNEL ENERGY



Brunel Energy is a leading global recruitment & resourcing organisation specialising in the Energy Sector on & offshore. With offices in 34 countries and over 4,000 professionals working worldwide, we fully support our client's project needs. Singapore is the regional headquarters for Southeast Asia where an enviable record of clients and successful projects has been built since 1996. Brunel Energy Nigeria has been successfully providing services to clients local and international, since 2003. Success in Nigeria is based on the recognition and utilisation of local resources supported by total corporate compliance in accordance with NAPIMS and in respect of the Nigerian Content Directive and all Employment and Health & Safety requirements.

For more information, visit: www.brunelenergy.net

COTECNA

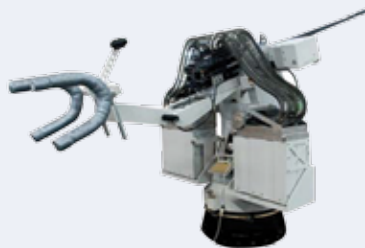


Cotecna is one of the world's leading trade inspection, trade security and trade certification companies, operating in close to 100 countries. Established in Switzerland in 1974, the company was born out of an entrepreneurial spirit, with the founder of Cotecna responding to a need to develop professional inspection services in the Middle East. It is this sense of entrepreneurialism and innovation, plus a continuing first-hand understanding of developing economies, which has enabled Cotecna to become the leading global trade facilitation and trade security solution providers.

Their key strength is the ability to tailor solutions to specific needs, as they treat each client, whether governmental or commercial, as a distinct entity with unique requirements. Cotecna operates with the understanding that "the client's fate is their fate" and every service they provide is conducted with a meticulous attention to detail.

For more information, visit: www.cotecna.com

SUNCRAFT



Founded on the philosophy of "nothing is impossible", Suncraft through its team of designers/engineers, has dedicated itself towards innovative integration of engineering concepts and is fully committed to pushing the envelope of technical and performance frontiers for their clients.

Suncraft is a one-stop provider of all the value-added services and technology and they have an exhaustive list of clients who will attest to this. With over hundreds of fully equipped naval crafts built and designed specifically to the needs of defense and law enforcement agencies around the world, Suncraft keeps customers satisfied with their dedicated, diligent and timely post-delivery support.

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G & W TRADING PTE. LTD



G & W Trading Pte Ltd was established since 1994 and is a leading electronic and electrical household appliances, hand phone and hand phone accessories.

To carry on the business of importers, exporters, wholesalers and retailers, suppliers, general merchants, commission agents, repairers, maintainers, manufacturers, installers, contractors, distributors, storekeepers, and dealers in all kinds of domestic, commercial, industrial and household electrical and electronic appliances & equipments, machinery, accessories parts, supplies and hand phone products and accessories.

The company offers numerous technological products, specializing in HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES - for example air conditioners, televisions,

hand phones, hand phone accessories, telephone & fax & copiers, computer appliances, electric appliances, home appliances, office appliances, audio system, video system, digital & video camera, storage media, tape, battery and etc. For more information, visit: www.gwtrading.com.sg

BUMI ARMADA

A company incorporated in December 1995 as a public limited company (under the Companies Act, 1965), the 'BAB umbrella' is a group of our diversified subsidiaries - Bumi Armada Engineering, BARMADA McDermott, Bumi Armada Navigation, Haven Automation Malaysia, and Haven Construction, all of which play major roles in their own areas of specialties.

Bumi Armada Berhad (BAB) is the largest owner and operator of offshore support vessels in Malaysia and one of the largest in Southeast Asia. They are established in Floating, Production, Storage and Offloading (FPSO) business and expanding in the Transport & Installation (T & I) as well as E & P business, making them a trusted service partner in the O & G industry. The company currently serves principal clients across 11 countries, including Southeast Asia, Nigeria, Congo, India, Mexico and Africa.

For more information, visit: www.bumiarmada.com





Business Guide

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE IMPORT GUIDELINES, PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE DESTINATION INSPECTION SCHEME IN NIGERIA

In pursuit of Government decision to abolish Pre-shipment Inspection Scheme (PSI) for imports to Nigeria and re-introduce Destination Inspection Scheme (DIS) for imports with effect from 1st January, 2006, the following guidelines, procedures and documentation requirements shall apply in respect of import transactions with effect from that date.

A. 1. GUIDELINES:

1. Any person intending to import physical goods into Nigeria shall in the first instance process Form 'M' through any Authorized dealer bank irrespective of the value and whether or not payment is involved.
2. The Form M shall have a validity period of Six months for all imports except Plants and Machinery which shall have a validity period of one year. Requests for subsequent revalidation thereafter should be directed to the Director, Trade and Exchange Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja.
3. Supporting documents shall be clearly marked '**VALID FOR FOREX or NOT VALID FOR FOREX**' as appropriate i.e. depending on whether or not foreign exchange remittance would be involved.
4. All applications for goods subject to Destination Inspection shall carry the "**BA**" code, while those exempted shall include "**CB**" in the prefix of the numbering system of the Form 'M'. Payments for goods exempted from Destination Inspection, under the Scheme, would not be carried out in the Foreign Exchange Market, without a prior approval from the Central Bank of Nigeria, The list of goods exempted from Destination Inspection shall be as approved by the Honourable Minister of Finance and the approval shall be a pre-condition for the completion of Form 'M' exempted from Destination Inspection.
5. The Form 'M' and the relevant pro-forma invoice (which shall have a validity period of three months) shall carry a proper description of the goods to be imported to facilitate price verification viz;
 - a) Generic product name i.e. product type, category
 - b) Mark or brand name of the product, where applicable
 - c) Model name and/or model or reference number, where applicable
 - d) Description of the quality, grade, specification, capacity, size, performance, etc
 - E) Quantity and packaging and/ or packing
6. Form 'M' shall be valid for importation only after acceptance by the relevant Scanning /Risk Management Provider. Consequently, Authorized Dealers are to confirm acceptance of the Form 'M' before proceeding with other import processes.
7. Documents in respect of each import transaction shall carry the name of the product, country of origin, specifications, date of manufacture, batch or lot number, Standards to which the goods have been produced (e.g. NIS, British Standards PD. ISO, IES, DIN, etc).
8. All goods to be imported into the country shall be labeled in ENGLISH in addition to any other language of transaction; otherwise the goods shall be confiscated.
9. Where import items such as food, drinks, cosmetics, drugs, medical devices, chemicals, etc. are regulated for health or environmental reasons, they shall carry **EXPIRY** dates or the shelf life (minimum of half shelf life at the time of importation)¹ and specify the active ingredients, where applicable.
10. Electrical appliances (fluorescent lamps, electric bulbs, electric irons and ties, etc) shall carry information on life performance while cables shall carry information on the ratings.
11. All electronic equipment and instruments shall carry:
 - a) instructions Manual;
 - b) Safety information and/or safety signs;
 - c) A guaranty/warranty of at least six months.
12. All computer hardware, software, operating and embedded system shall continue to be Year 2000 compliant.
13. Any wrong or fraudulent misrepresentation of facts will result in delays and or impoundment/seizures.
14. Importation of Blank products and/or without valid Form 'M' shall automatically qualify for seizure and destruction without warning, and subject to prosecution.
15. All imports into the country shall be accompanied by the following documents.
 - a) Combined Certificate of Value and Origin (CCVO), and contain the following details in addition to those on the pro-forma invoice.
 - i. Form 'M' No
 - ii. Adequate description of goods
 - iii. Port of destination. (The actual port shall be specified e.g. Tin-can, Apapa, Kano, Onne, etc)
 - iv. Shipment identification, date of shipment, Country of Origin, country of supply.
 - b) Packing list
 - c) Shipped/ Clean on Board Bill of Lading/Airway bill/Way bill/Road Way bill
 - d) Manufacturer's Certificate of production which shall state standards and where it, is not applicable, the Phytosanitary Certificate or Chemical Analysis Report should be made available.
 - e) Laboratory test certificates for chemicals, foods, beverages, pharmaceuticals, electrical appliances and other regulated products, where applicable.

16. The following procedure shall be adopted for payments for:
 - a) **Letters of credit transactions: where the transactions involve issuance of Certificate of Capital Importation (CCI) and or supplier's credit, all negotiating documents and or shipping documents (as may be applicable), must be routed from the Beneficiary/Supplier through his/her bank to the correspondence bank of the issuing bank and thereafter to the issuing bank. For the avoidance of doubt, on no account must banks endorse or pay on documents which do not comply with the routing outlined above.**
 - b) **For Bills for Collection transactions and Unconfirmed Letters of Credit, documents must come to the issuing bank either directly from the supplier's bank or through the offshore correspondent of the issuing bank.**
 - c) **For Not Valid for foreign exchange transactions (which do not require foreign exchange transfer), the supplier should forward the documents directly to the bank that opened the Form 'M'. In addition, applicable returns on non-submission of shipping documents after 90 days in respect of such transactions must henceforth be rendered.**
 - d) **In the case of personal effects, the relevant documents should be forwarded to the appropriate Service Provider. However where dutiable goods are found to be in excess of the approved passenger concession, they shall be liable to the clearance procedure applicable to commercial goods and accordingly all import documentation requirements must be complied with, failing which they shall be liable to seizure.**
17. For transactions with Post Landing charges, a retention fee of 5 -15% of the project cost as agreed between the importer and the overseas supplier shall be indicated on both the Contract Agreement and the Pro-forma invoice which shall form part of the supporting documents for the registration of relevant Form 'M'. In addition,
 - i. the stated fee shall not be remitted until a satisfactory evaluation of the project has been undertaken by the Industrial Inspectorate Department of the Federal Ministry of Industry
 - ii. The Scanning Company shall forward to the Federal Ministry of Industry (Industrial Inspectorate Department) and the Central Bank of Nigeria, Trade and Exchange Department copies of the Contract Agreement and Pro-forma invoice of such projects for monitoring purposes
 - iii. During Destination Inspection, the Nigeria Customs Service shall take cognizance of the value of shipment and Post Landing charges as would have been indicated on the Risk Assessment Report (RAR)
 - iv. The industrial inspectorate department, Federal Ministry of Industry shall thereafter carry out an evaluation of the project and advise the Central Bank of Nigeria accordingly.
 - v. On receipt of the report of the evaluation from the Federal Ministry of Industry (Industrial Inspectorate Department), the Central Bank of Nigeria shall advise the respective scanning company on the issuance of the RAR in respect of the retained value and the Authorized Dealer advised to remit same to the beneficiary.

B. IMPORT PROCEDURES

1. Each completed Form 'M' shall be submitted to an Authorized

Dealer bank with the following detailed information, in addition to A. 1 (5) above:

- a) Detailed description of the goods, including commercial name for each item, make, whether new, used or refurbished, and the standards adopted.
 - b) Quantities and/or their measurements
 - c) Unit Cost of goods
 - d) Total cost of goods
 - e) Freight cost
 - f) Mode of transportation (i.e. by Air/Sea/road)
 - g) Details of shipment; whether Full Container Load (FCL), Low Container Load (LCL), Bulk, Loose, etc
 - h) Other charges reflected on the Form 'M' (if any)
 - i) Country of Origin
 - j) Country of supply;
 - k) Pro forma Invoice with details of physical address and telephone and/or fax number of the supplier and e-mail (where available).
 - l) Other documents such as certificate of registration with NAFDAC, Pharmaceutical Board of Nigeria, etc. and any additional documents that might be prescribed by any relevant government agency.
2. All the copies of Form 'M' shall be legible, duly marked "Valid" or "Not Valid" for foreign exchange as the case may be; otherwise the application shall be rejected.
 5. Upon receipt of duly completed and signed copies of the Forms 'M' from the importer, the Authorized dealer bank shall:
 - a) ensure that the Form 'M' is duly completed with detailed description of goods clearly stated;
 - b) ensure that the entire relevant documents that are to accompany the completed Form 'M', are actually provided. It should be stated that the Authorized Dealer bank is expected to carry out proper Know Your Customer (K-Y-C) and be satisfied that all the relevant documents forwarded are genuine
 - c) after (a) and (b) above, the bank shall make necessary endorsements on the Form 'M', retain the original copy and thereafter forward the remaining three copies to the relevant Scanning and Risk Service provider, who will distribute to the appropriate Customs Offices when satisfied with the submission,

Submission Of Form M.

- i. Duly completed and approved Form 'M' should be submitted to the Office of the respective Scanning and Risk Service Provider in Lagos not later than five working days after the date of approval
- ii. Authorized Dealers are requested to confirm acceptance or rejection of the Form 'M' before proceeding on further action on the transaction

C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SCANNING COMPANIES

Upon receipt of the three copies of the Form 'M', pro-forma invoice and other necessary pre-import documents, the Scanning Companies shall:

1. Carry out a preliminary review on the application, using information provided therein and accept or reject the Form 'M' within one working day.
2. If "ACCEPTED", the SC shall distribute copies of the Form 'M' as follows:
 - a) One to be retained by them
 - b) Copy to the Customs Area Command (CAC), Port of clearance of goods
 - c) Customs Headquarters

3. The importer shall then procure the foreign exchange through his bank, if it is a Letter of Credit transaction and also advise the supplier to arrange for shipment of the goods.
4. If the Form 'M' is "**REJECTED**", the affected SC shall return all the copies of the documents to the Bank for necessary rectification.
5. The authorized dealer bank shall forward all the import documents to the Scanning Companies for the purpose of generating Risk Assessment "- Report (RAR).
6. The Scanning Company shall generate Risk Assessment Report (RAR) not later than five (5) working days in the case of shipment by sea and two (2) working days in the case of shipment by Air/Land after receipt of Import Document and Form 'M' from Authorized Dealer Bank.
7. Shall provide the Shipping Companies with relevant details from the accepted Form 'M'.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES OF IMPORTER.

1. It shall be the duty of the importer to ensure that the supplier makes available the pro-forma invoice in accordance with the imports procedure of the country. As a result, there must be no ambiguity in the description of the goods.
2. The importer shall also ensure that all the documents to be forwarded to the Authorized Dealer Bank are genuine and verifiable
3. All the requirements listed under the imports procedure must be complied with before documents are forwarded to the Authorized Dealer Bank.
4. The importer shall also advise the Supplier on the status of the relevant Form 'M' before shipment takes place.

E. RESPONSIBILITIES THE SUPPLIERS:

1. On consignment of goods for shipment, the overseas supplier shall:
 - i. make available three sets each, of original Combined Certificate of Value and Origin (CCVO); Transport document (depending on the mode of transport) and Packing list to the relevant bank as indicated in 2 above.
 - ii. forward only two sets of the documents in 5 above through his/her banker to the relevant overseas correspondent bank of the Nigerian Authorised Dealer Bank, for transactions valid for foreign exchange and those for which Certificate of Capital Importation would be issued or involving supplier's credit. The third copy should be forwarded to the Authorised Dealer Bank that opened the Form 'M'.
 - iii. Similarly, in the case of Bills for collection and unconfirmed letters of credit, two sets should be forwarded either through the supplier's bank or the offshore correspondent of the issuing bank, to the issuing bank, while the third copy is forwarded directly to the Nigerian Authorised Dealer bank.
 - iv. In the case of Not-valid for foreign exchange transactions, only two sets should be forwarded directly to the bank that opened the Form 'M',

- v. In the case of dutiable personal effects, two sets should be forwarded to the designated bank and if they are not (i.e. normal personal effects), the two sets should be forwarded to the appropriate Risk Management and Service provider.

F. RESPONSIBILITIES OF AUTHORIZED DEALERS:

These documents should be forwarded within 14 days after shipment.

1. Upon receipt of the third copy of the said documents, or copies received directly in the case of Not-valid for foreign exchange transactions or dutiable personal effect, Authorised. Dealers should forward photocopies with a letter duly signed by authorized signatories of the bank to the Risk Management and Service Provider for issuance of Risk Assessment Report (RAR).
2. In addition, for transactions involving foreign exchange transfer, the assessed value on the Risk Assessment Report (RAR) shall be the amount payable. Where there is excess remittance, such must be repatriated within two weeks failing which appropriate sanction shall be imposed.
- 3) enjoined to bring the provisions of these guidelines to the attention of their customers (importers), correspondent banks, suppliers, etc for their compliance, and,
- 4) to be guided by the provisions of Memorandum 27(x) of the Foreign Exchange Manual on the need to refer policy issues in respect of which they are in doubt to the Director, Trade and Exchange Department for clarification.
- 5) Furthermore, Authorized Dealers, importers, suppliers, shipping lines, air carriers, etc, are expected to ensure compliance with these guidelines as any breach and/or infraction shall attract appropriate sanction(s) in line with the provisions of the relevant guidelines, regulations and or statutes.

Authorised Dealers must henceforth keep and retain evidence of receipt of documents as outlined above for Bank Examiners.

G. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SHIPPING LINES/OTHER CARRIERS

1. It shall be the responsibility of Shipping lines/ air carriers to ensure that all goods being consigned for shipment to Nigeria are covered by appropriate Form 'M'.
2. The Form M number MUST be reflected on the Bill of Lading or Airway Bill or road way bill for such goods.
3. An advance summary of the manifest of the cargoes must be made available to the Scanning Companies electronically within five working days after shipment for goods by sea and two working days by other modes of transport. This requirement shall be in addition to those forwarded to the Nigeria Customs Service.

H. IMPORT DUTY PAYMENT.

1. Importer shall continue to pay an administrative charge of 1% of FOB value of all imports based on the exchange rate on the approved Form 'M'.
2. All imports shall continue to be assessed for duty at the C. I. F. value of the goods using the rate of exchange on the approved Form 'M'

3. It shall be the duty of the importer's bank through which the Form 'M' was processed to issue the customer a draft in respect of the amount assessed as duty. Import duty payment shall continue to be restricted to the bank that opened the Form 'M' if it is a designated bank in line with existing regulations.
4. The issuance of bank draft by the customer's bank and the payment thereof into the designated bank shall be done and receipt issued by the designated bank before clearance of the goods.
5. The draft for import duty and other charges shall be paid to any of the designated bank and receipt issued with serial number of the SGD Form stated thereon before goods are cleared
6. The designated bank shall continue to transfer all payments of which effects have been cleared to CBN Head Office (Banking Office) in Lagos or the nearest CBN Office or Currency Centre for onward transfer to the CBN Head Office on every Monday.

I. DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR IMPORT PAYMENTS UNDER THE DESTINATION INSPECTION SCHEME

1. **Confirmed letters of credit**
Original copies of:
 - a) Approved Form 'M'
 - b) CCVO
 - c) Manufacturer's Certificate with standards adopted stated thereon
 - d) Clean/Shipped on Board Bill of Lading/Airway bill/ road Waybill
 - e) Packing list
 - i) Letter of credit instrument (tested)
2. **Documents to be submitted after clearance of goods:**
 - a) Risk Assessment Report (RAR) with the Form 'M' number.
 - b) Single Goods Declaration (SGD) Form duly completed and signed by either the importer or his appointed Agent
 - c) CCVO
 - d) Copy of the packing list
 - e) Import Duty Payment receipt with the SGD number clearly stated thereon
 - f) Copy of the attested Manufacturer's Certificate with Standards adopted stated thereon
 - g) Copy of the Carrier Certificate
 - h) Laboratory test certificate for chemicals, food, beverages, etc.
3. **Bills For Collection Transactions**
 - a) Approved Form 'M'
 - b) SGD Form
 - c) CCVO
 - d) Attested Manufacturer's Certificate;
 - e) Shipped / Clean on Board Bill of Lading/Airways Bill/ road waybill,
 - f) Certificate of Insurance
 - g) Import duty Payment receipt with SGD No. stated thereon
 - h) Bill history/bill of exchange
 - i) Tally Sheet/Gate Pass
 - j) Packing List

It should be noted that these documentation requirements for imports under Destination Inspection Scheme are part of the provisions of the Foreign Exchange Manual. Consequently, the relevant provisions on imports as they relate to the Comprehensive Import Supervision Scheme (CISS) are hereby amended by the provisions of these guidelines.

Furthermore, the provisions of CBN circular Ref. No. TED/AD/55/2004 of 7th May, 2004 on importation of petroleum products shall continue to apply.

J. CLEARANCE PROCEDURES (ASYCUDA ++ SITES)

The procedures outlined in this document may be subject to change as the project progresses. More features may be added or removed as infrastructure are improved upon.

1. **Declarants**
 - * Complete the SGDs. The declarants may refer to their copies of the RAR (produced by the Scanning Companies and received through the b) to prepare the SGD. fi i all the necessary and supporting documents, i.e. final invoice and CCVO, pro-forma invoice, bill of lading, Insurance certificate payment schedule, RAR, copy of "Form M" and certificates (where necessary),... Etc.
 - * Present the completed SGDs along with the attached documents to the designated Face Vet Officers.
2. **Face Vet:**
 - * Check basic details of the SGDs.
 - * Check that required documents are attached.
 - * Return SGDs back to declarants for correction and/or completion of missing data and/or documents.
 - * Refer the checked SGDs to the Technical Supervisor.
3. **Technical Supervisor:**
 - * Streamline the flow of SGDs for control by Data Capture.
4. **Data Capture:**
 - * Input the SGDs and the manifest details into ASYCUDA++ respective modules.
 - * Register the declarations in ASYCUDA+ + .
 - * Print the ASYCUDA++ declarations.
 - * Refer the entries to Verification & Query Seat.
5. **Verification & Query Seat/ ASYCUDA CPC:**
 - * Receives RAR messages from the Scanning Company (SC).
 - * Checks details of the ASYCUDA++ SGDs against the attached documents, but with emphasis on the values and commodity codes of the goods.
 - * Requests the assessment of the declarations, thus the ASYCUDA++ selectivity is triggered. Lanes of the declarations are automatically determined. If scanners are in place, then declaiations are selected on Green, Yellow or \ Red lanes, otherwise declarations are routed to Green or Red lanes only.
 - * Possibility of upgrading to the next level of examination based on the lanes selected by the system and risk-related information provided by the RAR messages.
 - * Stamp the ASYCUDA++ SGD with the selected lane and the name of the inspector knowing that the ASYCUDA-f +System assigns the inspectors for examination of the consignments automatically. The terminal copies of the manual SGD are stamped with the selected lane stamp, as well. The importer copy is to be delivered to the respective shipping line/ company.

If any discrepancy is found, then it shall be entered into the ASYCUDA++ Inspection Report, and the declaration is modified and returned to the declarant to sign and stamp. If a dispute continues to exist, then dispute settlement mechanisms

are followed. These may include allowing the importer to clear his goods on bank indemnity, application for a tariff decision from the Tariff and Trade Department of NCS, an appeal to Hon. Minister of Finance, WCO or ultimately taking the dispute to a Court of competent jurisdiction.

Assessment Notices are printed so that declarants can pay the duties and taxes at the bank.

At this point, CPC has completed the verification process. All other discrepancies will be the result of physical inspection or scanning of goods. Hence, number of incidences of further payment is reduced.

If on Green Lane:

Assess the declaration, and then the payment details can be inputted by the Accounts Officers at CPC.

Print the Release Order if payment is confirmed (cleared by the bank), and attach to the SGD.

If on Yellow Lane:

Hold the documents until the payment of duties and taxes are confirmed (cleared by the bank).

If so, a terminal copy of the SGD is stamped with the ALS (Authorization to Load for Scanning) stamp so that the declarant can start release procedures at NPA. The rest of the documents are referred to Sorting.

If on Red Lane: The documents are referred to Sorting.

If on Fast Track: Redlined entries are re-routed to blue, and the same Green Lane procedures will apply for these declarations. Later, the physical inspection will be carried out at the importers' premises. If, on the other hand, a fast track entry is selected on Yellow, then Yellow Lane procedures should apply.

6. Sorting:

* The (8) copies of SGD are sorted according to the lane of the declaration.

- If on Red Lane: Copies no. 1, 4, 5, and 7 go to terminals via Dispatch, copy no. 2 to valuation (statistics copy) for further analysis of the value, copy no. 3 to Accounts, copy no. 6 to the declarant through the Paging/ Importer Copy Seat, while copy no. 8 goes to the Central File.
- If on Green or Blue Lane: No copies are dispatched to terminals for inspection.
- If on Yellow Lane: The rest of the terminal copies, after excluding the ALS-stamped copy which was delivered to NPA, go to the Customs office at the scanning site.

7. Despatch:

Record the numbers of the SGDs that are to be despatched.

8. Terminals/ Scanning Site:

If on Green or Blue Lane: Consignments related to declarations marked on the Green or Blue Lane should start release procedures at once. No effort by the Customs staff at either the terminals or the scanning site is required for Green or Blue Lane declarations.

If on Red Lane:

- Inspectors physically examine the goods marked for that purpose by the Verification & Query Seat, Inspection is carried out jointly with the representatives of the other concerned agencies, (as approved by Government), and in the presence of the declarants.
- The findings of physical inspection are entered in the

"Inspection Report" of the ASYCUDA++ by the Assessment Officers at the terminals, and then re-routed to Green Lane and assessed. Following the exchange of messages with the Accounts Officers at CPC, where the payment details are inputted into ASYCUDA++ , Release Orders can be printed by the Assessment Officer at the terminal, and attached to declarations.

- The Officer in Charge of the terminal issues Demand Notice Assessment Notice of any additional payment that is to be made if any discrepancy is found as a result of physical examination. **If on Yellow Lane:**
- Containers which were selected on Yellow Lane can be loaded on trucks in accordance with NPA procedures, and then head to the scanning site.
- The findings of scanning are entered in the "Inspection Report" of the ASYCUDA++ by the Assessment Officers at the scanning site, and then re-routed to Green Lane and assessed.
- Input payment details into ASYCUDA++ by the Accounts Officer at the scanning site.
- The Officer in Charge of the Customs Office at the scanning site issues Demand Notice/ Assessment Notice of any additional payment that is to be made if any discrepancy is found as a result of physical, examination or scanning. However, for containers that are returned back to terminals because of the limited space of the holding area, then the Red Lane procedures will apply on these cases as far as inputting the payment details into ASYCUDA++ at CPC, and the printing of the Release Order at the terminal. Also, the additional charges of NPA have to be settled before release procedures are continued.
- Release Orders are printed, and attached to declarations.

9. Gate:

Issue the Exit Gate to allow the containers to leave the port.

K. CLEARANCE PROCEDURES (ASYCUDA V.2.7 SITES)

The same procedures as in the ASYCUDA++ Sites shall be applied at all ASYCTJDA V. 2.7 Sites, except for the following slight differences:

1. The Risk Assessment Reports (RARs) will not be Transmitted electronically; hardcopies of the RARs, nevertheless, will be received by the Verification & Query Seat.
2. No selectivity can be triggered in ASYCUDA Ver. 2.7, thus lanes will be determined at the Verification & Query Seat based on the levels of risk advised by the Scanning Company in the RARs.
3. Since most of the ASYCUDA Ver. 2.7 Sites will not have scanners in place at the beginning, then the declaration may be routed to Red and Green Lanes only.
4. All physical inspection/ scanning findings will be recorded manually since ASYCUDA Ver. 2.7 does not have the "Inspection Report" facility as in ASYCUDA++.

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND TRADE RELATIONS DIVISION
HOME FINANCE DEPARTMENT FEDERAL MINISTRY OF
FINANCE CENTRAL AREA, ABUJA APRIL, 2006**

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Our heartiest congratulations to the Government of Nigeria and its people as the Country celebrates its 50th Independence Day

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