THE RAISING OF THE

NEXT GENERATION OF YOUTHS

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Advocacy for Youth Peace and Enlightenment Mission

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Thirteen features on Nigeria, young people and the sectors that shape the country's future.

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Middle East

US DEPLOYS THIRD CARRIER STRIKE GROUP & 10,000 TROOPS AMID ESCALATING:

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth made an unannounced trip to the Middle East to visit troops and conduct high-level meetings in Israel.

According to reports published on October 1–2, 2026, the US military is sending additional naval forces and thousands of personnel to the Middle East as tensions with Iran continue.

The deployment includes two major groups of ships:

1. *USS Theodore Roosevelt carrier strike group: A powerful naval formation centred on an aircraft carrier.*

2. *USS Makin Island amphibious ready group: A group of ships that can transport Marines, helicopters, aircraft and equipment for military operations.*



Palestinians save their belongings from buildings destroyed by an Israeli airstrike late Thursday in Gaza city, Friday, Oct. 9, 2026. (AP Photo/Jehad Alshrafi)

The objective is to give American military commanders more options if President Donald Trump decides to resume or intensify military action against Iran.

Important distinction: Sending troops and warships does not automatically mean that an attack has been ordered. It means the US is increasing its military capabilities in the region.



Masoud Pezeshkian
President Iran



Isaac Herzog
President Israel



Donald Trump
President United States



Joseph Aoun
President Lebanon



U.S. AND IRAN ON THE BRINK:

RISING TENSIONS, MILITARY CONFRONTATION, AND THE FEAR OF A WIDER WAR



US AND IRAN WAR







The world is watching as tensions between the United States and Iran raise serious concerns about the possibility of a wider regional conflict. What began as a long-standing struggle over security, nuclear ambitions, military influence, and regional power has become a source of international anxiety, with potentially far-reaching consequences for millions of people.

Behind every military confrontation are human lives, families caught in uncertainty, communities fearing for their safety, and ordinary citizens who may pay the highest price for decisions made by political and military leaders.

The consequences could extend far beyond the battlefield. Escalating hostilities may disrupt global oil supplies, increase fuel prices, unsettle financial markets, threaten shipping routes, and place additional pressure on economies already struggling with rising living costs.

But the most important question remains: Can diplomacy prevent further bloodshed, or will continued confrontation push the region toward an even more dangerous crisis?

As the situation develops, the world needs verified information, responsible leadership, and meaningful diplomatic efforts to reduce the risk of further escalation. The stakes are enormous—not only for Washington and Tehran, but also for neighboring countries and the international community.

One conflict can affect the entire world. One decision can change the course of history. And one genuine effort toward peace could help

NATION

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA



Bola Ahmed Tinubu
President of The Federal Republic of Nigeria



Ayodele Olawande
Minister of Youth Development,
Federal Republic of Nigeria.

MINISTER AYODELE OLAWANDE ADVANCES SKILLS TRAINING, ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT, AND NEW INITIATIVES FOR YOUNG NIGERIANS



FROM SKILLS TO OPPORTUNITIES — WHAT THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IS DOING FOR NIGERIA'S NEXT GENERATION

Nigeria's youth population remains one of the nation's greatest assets, and the question of how to transform young people's talent, creativity, and ambition into meaningful opportunities continues to shape the national conversation.

Under the leadership of the Minister of Youth Development, Comrade Ayodele Olawande, the Federal Ministry of Youth Development has highlighted several initiatives aimed at improving skills acquisition, supporting entrepreneurship, strengthening youth participation, and making government interventions more responsive to young Nigerians.



NATION

Here are some of the key developments worth knowing about:

1. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE NIGERIAN YOUTH ACADEMY (NiYA)

In August 2026, the Minister reported that 239,726 young Nigerians had acquired digital, employability, and practical skills through the Nigerian Youth Academy (NiYA). He also reported that more than 1.2 million certificates had been downloaded through the platform. The initiative is intended to help young people prepare for employment and take advantage of emerging opportunities.

2. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

The Minister also reported that 200 young business owners had received ₦1 million each through NiYA StartUp, while another 200 young people operating in the informal sector had received ₦500,000 each to support their businesses.

These interventions are intended to help young entrepreneurs strengthen their operations and create opportunities for business growth. Their long-term impact will depend on sustained support, access to markets, and the ability of beneficiaries to grow their businesses.

3. LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH DATA BANK

On September 29, 2026, the Federal Government announced the launch of the National Youth Data Bank. The initiative is designed to improve information about young Nigerians, including their skills, educational backgrounds, employment circumstances, and development needs.

The goal is to help government agencies and partners identify young people's needs more effectively and connect them with relevant opportunities in employment, internships, digital training, and entrepreneurship.

4. NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2026

The Minister opened the National Youth Conference on October 2, 2026, urging participants to move beyond discussions and develop practical solutions to the challenges facing young Nigerians.

The conference addressed issues including unemployment, education, digital inclusion, access to finance, entrepreneurship, peace and security, and participation in governance. The Minister called for recommendations that could be translated into measurable actions through collaboration between government, the private sector, civil society, and youth organizations.

5. YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

In October 2026, the ministry also announced plans to institutionalise an annual National Adolescent and Youth Mental Health Week. The initiative signals an intention to give greater attention to mental health awareness and young people's well-being as part of the broader youth development agenda.



MENTORSHIP



APOSTLE MICHEAL OROKPO PHD,

President Encounter Jesus ministry Int

MENTORSHIP

Apostle Michael Orokpo phD, is a revivalist , prophetic teacher, and founder of encounter Jesus ministry international (EJMI) based in Abuja, Nigeria.

Apostle is an influential voice across Africa and the world, known for his spirit filled message and genuine passion for the growth of the youth around the world. His message and ministry emphasis genuine encounter with God, revival, holiness and making an apostolic authority.

Growing up in Benue state, particularly in markudi exposed him to a diverse cultural and religious landscape of Nigeria's middle belt region. This upbringing would later inform his understanding of ministry and his ability to connect with people and youth from various background. At the heart of apostle Orokpo ministry lies a three fold mandate; intimacy with God beyond religion routines, he teaches believers to encounter the person of Jesus in prayers, study and worship.

Apostle Michael Orokpo also runs an online mentoring program, where he mentor millions of people (especially young people) all around the world into knowing God experientially and fulfilling their purpose within the context of God's will .The mentoring program provides structured guidance for believers seeking to grow spiritually and discover their divine purpose.
INFLUENCE ON YOUNG PEOPLE
Apostle Michael Orokpo has become a voice for a generation of young African Christian's seeking authentic spirituality beyond religion traditions. His emphasis on encountering God personally rather than merely hearing about him has resonated powerfully with millennials and Gen z believers who often feel disconnected from traditional church structures.

DEMAND OF VISION

The first demand of vision is

1.DISCIPLINE, discipline is self dispose restriction every one who want to affect his generation must have, he must have certain laws that his life is pattern after, he/she may desire to do anything but where is he going will not allow him. If you're not regenerated you can not fulfill destiny. There must be restrictions about your talking, friendship, spending and everything you do. Discipline taking out of vision cause the vision to fail. So a man who want to take his world must be a disciplinarian, the ability to control your desires is what makes you outstanding in your generation.
1Corinthians 9:29.

2. Humility No matter how good you are , it's takes invisible fingers for you to be lifted. God resist the proud but give grace to the humble, in every level you will get to, you will need grace. The skills for greatness is humility, a visionary person must exhibit brokeness and humility in order for him to continue to grow.

3. ORDER AND STRUCTURE Every vision that is ward wide must have a structure around it, a vision without administration will never work.4. SERVICES There is a place of service, if there is deficiency in knowledge , go and study more. If there's deficiency in the place of presence of God , pray and worship more, if there's deficiency in human relationships, improve on it build good relationships and good networks. Service to vision requires taking out time to ask questions and know the area to improve.



THE BEAUTY OF PURPOSE

Tonight, I want to share with us on a very interesting topic. I've titled it "The Beauty of Purpose."Who is living the beauty of purpose? Who is living it? At the end of your journey on this side of the divide, two things will matter when you look back: whether you find fulfillment, and when you look forward into eternity, whether there is a reward for you. These are the two things that will matter at the end of your journey in time. Most of the things we pursue, most of the things we spend our lives on and spend ourselves fighting for, may not really count at the end of time. When you look back, what will matter is if there is fulfillment. And when you look forward, what will matter is if there is a reward. I keep teaching you. I tell you: the works of Jesus will take you to eternity with God, but your work with and for the Lord will give you a place in eternity. That's why Jesus advised us, saying to lay up treasures. Lay up treasures. You must be deliberate about life with a focus that when you come to the end of your journey, there should be both fulfillment and reward. Otherwise, your existence will be a waste.



But you see, whether these two things will await you at the end of time depends on one thing: purpose.
This is why it's important that you understand what purpose is and live your life solely to fulfill purpose. Because if you don't believe me, you will find out too late that your existence and your time on earth was lost to the glory of God. And so tonight, three things I want to do is to show you the benefits of purposeful living.

You know that's the way to live this life; that's the way the Scriptures bless me so much. It says, "For I am now ready to be offered." The guy came to a point where he knew his time on earth was over. He didn't—there are not people fighting, "Oh Lord, let me live long."Living long is a byproduct. Yes, you're going to live long—don't get me wrong—but there's no point in living long if you are not living purposefully. Imagine Jesus lived for only thirty-three years, but He is the most impactful person that has walked the earth. This guy knew when his time was finished. He said extra time is not important; "I'm ready to go.

Come on, I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." So he was not just ready; he knew it. The patriarchs lived their lives, and when their time was over, they said, "I will tell you the things that will befall you," giving inheritances and shaping the destinies of their children. When he was finished, the Bible says he gathered himself up and rested with his fathers. What a way to leave!

They knew when to go, and they were ready when it was time. Jesus was on the cross, and before that time, He said, "This commandment have I received from my Father. I have the power to lay down my life and to take it up." He said no man takes my life from me, because purpose will keep your life. But when it was over, He looked at them and said, "It is finished." And He looked up and said, "Father, into Your hands I commend my Spirit." You will fulfill destiny! Your life will count, and you will live a purposeful life in the name of Jesus Christ!

"I am ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." Verse seven makes a very powerful statement: You're in a fight. There will be distractions, there will be oppositions, there will be enemies, there will be wicked men. It's a battle. Even your flesh may want you to live a wasted life. But he said, "I have fought a good fight; I have finished." Don't leave here until you are finished! Don't just leave here old—you were not designed just to live old, you were designed to live finished!

So I was not moving haphazardly. I walked on my lane in the name of faith. And when he finished making this statement, next he said, "Henceforth, it's not begging."



Impacting the youth with the gospel

Not "God, Lord, if You are merciful, reserve a place for me." No, that one is not prayer. That one is not begging. That one is justice. Equity is the judgment of God that determines it. And if you qualify, you know it: "Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me." So this is a matter of equity and judgment justice. This is what is happening here: the righteous Judge will give it to me at that day. And he made a statement that encouraged me. He said, "And not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."So this is not an exclusive reserve for Paul. This is for every one of us. A point is coming in your life where you will say, "My time is at hand, I am ready to go. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course."As directives from the One, your ears will hear a word behind you saying, "This is the way to go." Purposeful people have a path. They don't let their emotions drag them around. People don't drag them around; circumstances don't drag them around.

MENTORSHIP





Touching lives through charity donation

They insist on staying focused. That is the power that purpose itself imparts to you. The moment you become purposed, your passion is coordinated in a particular direction. It becomes deep-cut for you to be distracted. I used to be a football fan and a football analyst—a very deep one. They used to call me "Sky-wide." We would enter the studio and mesmerize you with records of what you say. But when the weight of purpose became heavy, that appetite had to die. I can't go to the studio every Saturday and pass six hours. There are nations calling; my weekends are the biggest moments of my life. Imagine if I had to be watching football on Saturdays. Do you know how many full days we sacrificed? Do you know how many Apostolic meetings and Apostolic conferences we had to sacrifice? The weight of purpose gathered me into my path. There's nothing wrong with having fun once in a while, including watching football, but the weight of purpose will determine your path.

Many people are here and there because they have not found purpose. One of the blessings of purpose is direction—you just know what to do. Per time, there will be an urgency on your feet. When others are roaming, you pity them because there is something right inside you that gathers you to your path.

Number two: purpose gives you inner peace. Most of the noise everywhere won't get your attention. So there you see people go on Instagram, and when they see someone else doing well, they're dying inside: "Oh, see my friend that we just went to school together with. See the watch he's wearing. He just bought a house." They are anxious about many things. I am happy genuinely for people who are doing well, but I am on my lane. This doesn't move you because you know your calibration.

The reason you can easily lose your peace is when you compare yourself. Will you envy your friend who is Messi rising, when you are a Builder? His job is to roll with the ball, score goals, and make people happy. Your job is to buy land and build houses! His success does not put pressure on you. But when you don't have purpose, whatever anybody does puts pressure on you. Some of the prayers we even pray show where our heart is: You see your brother doing well that night, and you go lie down naked, crying, "Lord? What have I done? Oh Lord, why am I still here?"And then God is just looking at you, like, "What do you mean? Do you want to leave your track to run his race? Stay on your legs!" This is what purpose does: it keeps you in peace. For some of you, you will be shocked at the remarkable things that will happen from this week. You'll be shocked.



GOVERNANCE



Advocacy for Youth Peace and Enlightenment Mission



GOOD GOVERNANCE

Good governance in Nigeria begins with transparency and accountability. Government activities, budgets, and decisions should be open to public scrutiny, while public officials must be held responsible for their actions and decisions.

Fighting corruption and upholding the rule of law are essential to building public trust. Anti-corruption laws must be enforced fairly, public funds protected, and everyone, including government officials, held equally accountable under the law.

Encouraging public participation strengthens democracy and promotes inclusive development. Citizens, particularly young people, should have opportunities to contribute to decision-making and policy development. By embracing these principles, Nigeria can build stronger institutions, improve public services, and create a more responsible and effective government.



YOUTH & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Expanding access to education, vocational training, and digital skills will equip Nigerian youth and women with opportunities for personal growth, employment, and financial independence.

Supporting entrepreneurship through grants, affordable loans, and mentorship will empower young people and women to establish businesses, create jobs, and contribute to economic development.

Promoting equal opportunities and inclusive leadership will encourage greater participation in governance, business, and community development. By removing barriers and investing in their potential, Nigeria can build a more inclusive, productive, and prosperous nation.



EDUCATION

Improving education in Nigeria starts with ensuring every child has access to affordable, inclusive, and quality learning opportunities, regardless of their background. Every Nigerian child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and achieve their potential.

Investing in qualified teachers and modern school facilities is essential to improving learning outcomes. Better classrooms, equipped laboratories, libraries, and digital learning tools will prepare students for a technology-driven future.

Increased education funding will strengthen infrastructure, expand scholarships, and support disadvantaged students. By prioritising education, Nigeria can empower its youth, encourage innovation, and build a stronger future.



EMPLOYMENT

Creating more employment opportunities in Nigeria requires expanding job creation across public and private sectors. Strengthening industries, supporting businesses, and promoting economic growth will help reduce unemployment and improve living standards.

Empowering young entrepreneurs and promoting skills development are essential to building a productive workforce. Access to grants, affordable loans, mentorship, vocational training, and digital skills will equip young Nigerians to establish businesses and compete in the modern job market.

Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and attracting investment will further stimulate economic growth. By improving access to funding, creating business-friendly policies, and encouraging local and foreign investment, Nigeria can strengthen industries, generate sustainable employment, and build a more prosperous economy.

GOVERNANCE



AGRICULTURE

Strengthening Nigeria's agricultural sector requires providing farmers with improved seeds, fertilisers, modern equipment, and affordable financing. Increased investment in irrigation, agricultural technology, and training will boost productivity, increase food production, and help reduce food costs.

Supporting small-scale farmers and improving agricultural infrastructure are essential for sustainable growth. Better storage facilities, efficient transportation systems, and expanded access to local and international markets will reduce post-harvest losses and improve farmers' incomes.

Investing in agriculture will also create employment opportunities and empower rural communities. By encouraging youth participation, supporting agricultural businesses, and strengthening food production systems, Nigeria can improve food security, stimulate economic growth, and build a more resilient agricultural sector.



HOUSING

Providing affordable and quality housing is essential to improving living standards across Nigeria. Promoting the construction of affordable homes and expanding access to mortgages and flexible payment plans will help low- and middle-income earners achieve homeownership.

Improving housing infrastructure and promoting urban renewal will create safer and healthier communities. Reliable electricity, clean water, good roads, and proper drainage, alongside the rehabilitation of deteriorating buildings, are vital to sustainable residential development.

Investing in housing development will also stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities. Supporting construction projects, encouraging private-sector participation, and strengthening housing policies will generate jobs, attract investment, and make decent housing more accessible to Nigerians.



HEALTH- CARE

Improving access to affordable and quality healthcare is essential to protecting lives and improving public well-being. Expanding healthcare facilities, strengthening health insurance coverage, and reducing medical costs will ensure more Nigerians receive timely and effective treatment.

Modernising hospitals and supporting healthcare professionals will strengthen medical service delivery. Equipping hospitals with modern technology, essential medicines, and diagnostic facilities, alongside improved training, recruitment, and working conditions for healthcare workers, will enhance the quality of care.

Promoting preventive healthcare is equally important for building a healthier nation. Strengthening vaccination programmes, maternal healthcare, health education, and disease prevention initiatives will reduce health risks and improve life expectancy. Through sustained investment and effective policies, Nigeria can build a more accessible, affordable, and reliable healthcare system.



ECONOMIC GROWTH

Strengthening local production and supporting Nigerian industries are essential to building a resilient economy. Encouraging manufacturing, reducing dependence on imports, and expanding key economic sectors will create employment opportunities and improve national productivity.

Empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and attracting investment will accelerate economic development. Providing affordable financing, business grants, and entrepreneurship support, alongside business-friendly policies, will encourage local and foreign investment, stimulate industrial growth, and generate sustainable jobs.

Controlling inflation and improving living standards are equally important for long-term prosperity. Promoting price stability, strengthening purchasing power, and making essential goods and services more affordable will improve the well-being of Nigerians. Through strategic investments and effective economic policies, Nigeria can build a stronger, more inclusive, and sustainable economy.



ROAD DEVELOPMENT

Creating more employment opportunities in Nigeria requires expanding job creation across public and private sectors. Strengthening industries, supporting businesses, and promoting economic growth will help reduce unemployment and improve living standards.

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SECURITY

Strengthening national security requires equipping security agencies with modern technology, improved training, and adequate operational support. Enhancing the capacity of the military, police, and other agencies will improve their ability to combat kidnapping, terrorism, and organised crime.

Effective intelligence gathering and coordinated security operations are essential for preventing threats and protecting lives. Improved surveillance, intelligence sharing, and early-warning systems, alongside stronger community policing, will help security agencies respond quickly and protect vulnerable communities.

Addressing the root causes of insecurity is equally important for achieving lasting peace. Expanding access to education, employment opportunities, and youth empowerment programmes can reduce vulnerability to crime. Through cooperation between government, security agencies, and citizens, Nigeria can build safer communities and a more secure nation.

COVER



BOSS INIMFON EFFIONG
Mission President

COVER

Advocacy for Youth Peace and Enlightenment Mission

RALLYING AFRICAN YOUTH FOR SCIENCE, SELF-RELIANCE & LASTING PEACE.

Advocacy for Youth Peace and Enlightenment Mission (AYPEM) empowers emerging generations across Africa to overcome violence, conflict, and economic vulnerability through science-based mentorship and international peace forums.

CORE VALUES:

- Peace and unity
- Youth empowerment
- Integrity
- Responsible leadership
- Community development

MISSION STATEMENT

AYPEM which is non-profit, non-partisan, but a voluntary peace organization that advocates,dialogue as the only weapon to resolve conflicts and crises among the youth and members states instead of war , crime or conflict

VISION STATEMENT

To rally the youth behind shared goals, free from conflict, poverty, human dignity, and lasting peace and hope for the future

MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. Promote Science-Based Education
2. Develop Vocational Skills
3. Advance Youth Education
4. Promote Digital Literacy
5. Combat Social Vices
6. Improve Educational Infrastructure
7. Build Strategic Partnerships
8. Support Community Development
9. Promote Peace and Unity
10. Build Confidence and Positive Mindsets

54
African Nations Scope
Continental Outreach Target

10,000+
Youth Mentored
Science & Civic Academies

12
Regional Peace Forums
Conferences & Roundtables

SDG 4 & 16
UN Alignment
Quality Education & Peace

COVER



Best diplomat conference, New Jersey , United States

What do we mean when we talk about peace? A lot of people think that it's when everyone feels safe and accepted in their communities and that's true. But it's also more than that. The truth is, there is no one definition of peace because it looks different to all of us. I was born and raised in Akwa ibom, and then moved to Michigan in United States so there have been times when I've felt like an outsider. Because of my experiences, when I think of peace, I think of how important it is to accept and celebrate differences in people. When you think of peace, you might think the same thing, or you might think that peace is more about celebrating a similarity and treating people kindly because underneath it all we're all human. Neither version is wrong. But you might wonder, if we all have different ideas of what peace is, how do we make that happen?

Well that's the thing: peace is what we make of it. It's about what we, as a community of human beings, collectively achieve when we strive for peace. Maybe your idea of peace is stopping bullying, or kids all over the world being able to go to school. No matter what it is, it's in your power to achieve that.

Every time you do something, or every time you choose not to do something, you have a chance to build peace, or break it. When you stand up to a bully, or you make an effort to include someone, you make your definition of peace a reality. It's all these little actions that produce great results. We're so used to thinking of peace as a result of really big acts, like marching in protests that help achieve peace for an entire nation, the way Martin Luther King did.

We do this so much that thinking of achieving world peace seems almost impossible. How is a fifth grader at Charter Oak supposed to achieve peace for a person who lives all the way across America or the world? I remember I used to think this way a lot. Learning about these amazing historical figures was inspiring, but it also seemed intimidating, like peacemaking was for adults who could do big things like lead a protest.

But then in 5th grade, a woman named Wangari Maathai came to visit our school. If you don't know, she was a very important peacemaker in Kenya. She combatted poverty and environmental degradation there, and she even won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004for her work. But what stuck out the most to 5th grade me was that it all came down to planting trees.

She had noticed that women didn't have a lot of food or firewood, and they had to walk along way in the hot sun just to get these things. So she started the Green Belt movement which encouraged women to plant trees, which would provide food and wood, as well as shelter from the heat. And what started as just planting trees eventually turned into an entire movement fore quality. And I think that's when I really started to realize that our smallest actions can have the greatest impact.

So start small. Start at school. What can you do here that makes this a peaceful environment? Maybe it's standing up for someone who's being bullied, or stopping a rumor that's being spread. These little things make sure everyone feels safe and accepted. Then think of things

COVER

you can do in West Hartford that make it more peaceful. Donate to the food pantry, or host a bake sale for a cause you care about.

These might not seem like the kinds of things that accomplish world peace, but think about it this way there are about 60,000 people living in West Hartford alone. Can you imagine what 60,000 people can accomplish if they're all working towards peace? We're all a part of that! We can't expect to wake up one day to a world that has suddenly "accomplished peace."It's up to us. The heroes we look up to, Martin Luther King Jr, Mahatma Gandhi, Malala Yousafzai, they didn't have a grand, master plan to achieve world peace. It happens bit by bit. It's a collaboration between every person on this planet.

One day at a time, we learn to treat people better, to stand up for our rights and other people's rights. We learn from the great peace makers that came before us, and then we inspire the people around us in the same way. Girls who have been told they can't go to school because of their gender learn to demand equal rights because they saw a brave Pakistani girl stand up for her right to go school. People of color learn to expect equality because they listened to the leaders who rallied during the Civil Rights movement.

In that same way, your actions inspire others to be better, and do better. Your actions play a huge role in achieving peace, not just because of what you do, but because of what you inspire other to do.



War appears to be as old as mankind, but peace is a modern invention.

Boss inimfon Effiong
Mission president



The Advocacy for youth peace and enlightenment mission in a press release issued, when young people receive the right tools and real decision-making power, they drive strong economic growth and community progress.

Give Them a Seat at the Table: Involve youth directly in community planning, civic governance, and organizational decision-making instead of sidelining them

Build Mentorship Networks: Connect young people with experienced mentors who offer guidance, career insights, and valuable professional networks.



BOSS INIMFON EFFIONG

MISSION PRESIDENT

Boss Inimfon Effiong is a dynamic, adaptable, and resourceful leader recognised for his unwavering commitment to strengthening international relations, promoting cross-border peace, fostering cultural understanding, and advancing national interests.

With exceptional communication, negotiation, and diplomatic skills, he demonstrates a remarkable ability to navigate complex environments, build strategic partnerships, and foster meaningful collaborations across diverse cultures and institutions.

A passionate advocate for youth development, mentorship, and empowerment, he is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of African leaders by promoting access to education, skills development, leadership opportunities, and personal growth. He believes in equipping young people with the knowledge, confidence, and resources needed to become self-reliant, responsible, and impactful members of society.

Driven by a vision of peace, unity, and sustainable development, he remains committed to bridging cultural divides, empowering young minds, strengthening international cooperation, and creating lasting opportunities for progress and positive transformation across Africa and beyond.

COVER



Student of the University of pot harcourt gathered for Enlightenment conference on how to stay out of crime and violence and embrace peace

Dear brothers and sisters, we must not forget that millions of people are suffering from poverty and injustice and ignorance. We must not forget that millions of children are out of their schools. We must not forget that our sisters and brothers are waiting for a bright, peaceful future.

So let us wage, so let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty and terrorism, let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first



Student of Nasarawa state university gathered

We call upon all governments to ensure free, compulsory education all over the world for every child. We call upon all the governments to fight against terrorism and violence. To protect children from brutality and harm. We call upon the developed nations to support the expansion of education opportunities for girls in the developing world. We call upon all communities to be tolerant, to reject prejudice based on caste, creed, sect, color, religion or agenda to ensure freedom and equality for women so they can flourish. We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back. We call upon our sisters around the world to be brave, to embrace the strength within themselves and realize their full potential.



Adamawa state

Dear brothers and sisters, we want schools and education for every child's bright future. We will continue our journey to our destination of peace and education. No one can stop us. We will speak up for our rights and we will bring change to our voice. We believe in the power and the strength of our words. Our words can change the whole world because we ware all together, united for the cause of education. And if we want to achieve our goal, then let us empower ourselves with the weapon of knowledge and let us shield ourselves with unity and togetherness.



While the quest to define peace as a concept and set of values is as old as recorded history, the effort to provide a systematic definition of peace within a rational and humane paradigm informed by best practices methodologies for research and analysis is a more recent development.

NIGERIAN IDEAS FOR NIGERIAN CHALLENGES



In Nigeria, innovation can help address challenges in education, healthcare, agriculture, electricity, transportation and unemployment. However, talented Nigerians cannot achieve their full potential without adequate government support. The government must create an environment where ideas can grow into useful products, services and opportunities.

One major challenge facing innovation in Nigeria is inadequate infrastructure. Unreliable electricity, poor roads, expensive internet services and limited access to modern facilities make it difficult for individuals and businesses to operate effectively. The government must prioritise reliable power supply, maintain road networks, expand affordable internet access and improve public infrastructure. These improvements would reduce business costs, support local industries and allow innovators to focus on developing solutions rather than struggling with basic necessities.

Education also requires urgent attention. Many students graduate without the practical skills needed to solve real-world problems. The government should invest in modern classrooms, laboratories, technical education and digital learning resources. Schools and universities should encourage research, creativity and practical projects instead of relying mainly on theoretical learning. Partnerships between educational institutions and businesses would help young people acquire relevant skills and prepare for employment or entrepreneurship.

Access to funding remains another major obstacle. Many promising Nigerian ideas never become reality because their creators cannot afford research, equipment or production.

INNOVATION

The government should establish transparent grant schemes, affordable loans and innovation programmes for young people, researchers and small businesses. Funding must be distributed fairly, with clear requirements and proper monitoring to prevent corruption and favouritism. In addition, innovators should receive mentorship, business training and opportunities to connect with potential customers and investors.

The government must also do more to support local industries and Nigerian-made products. Local entrepreneurs often struggle to compete with imported goods because of high production costs, limited financing and inadequate infrastructure. Public institutions should create fair opportunities for qualified Nigerian businesses to supply goods and services where they meet appropriate quality and safety standards. Supporting local production can create jobs, strengthen the economy and reduce unnecessary dependence on imports.

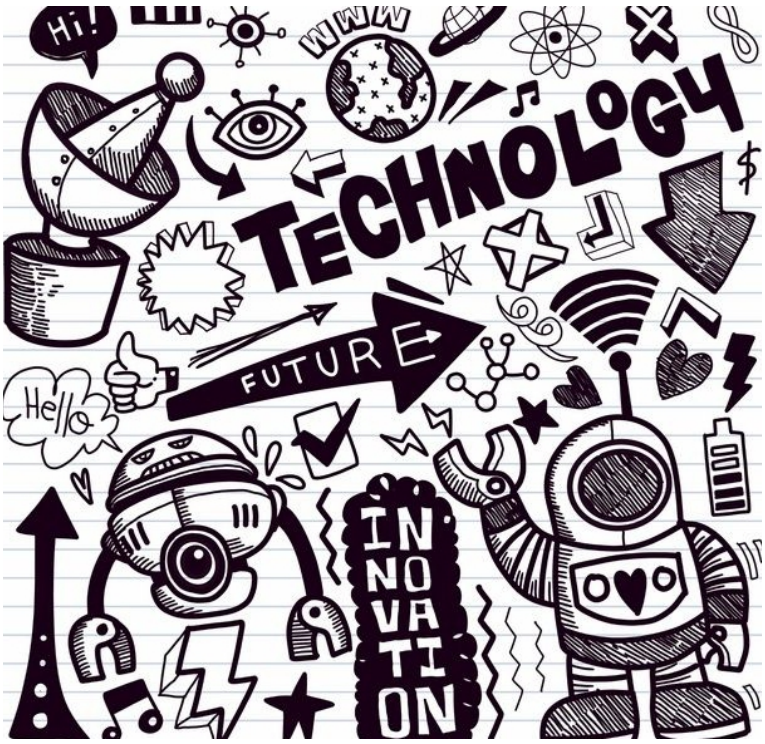
Agriculture is another sector where government action can encourage innovation. Farmers face high production costs, poor storage facilities, insecurity and difficulties transporting their produce to markets. The government should invest in rural roads, irrigation, agricultural research, modern equipment and affordable financing. Improved storage and distribution systems would reduce food waste, increase farmers' earnings and help make food more affordable for Nigerian households.

Healthcare innovation also depends on effective public investment. Many communities lack adequate medical facilities, equipment and essential medicines. The government must improve healthcare funding, maintain hospitals and support research into solutions for local health challenges. Digital health services can improve access to medical information, but they must complement properly equipped hospitals and qualified healthcare professionals. Patient privacy and access to affordable treatment must remain priorities.

Furthermore, government policies should make it easier for businesses and innovators to operate. Complicated registration procedures, inconsistent regulations and multiple financial burdens can discourage entrepreneurship. Government agencies should simplify administrative processes, provide clear information and protect intellectual property rights. Public institutions must also become more transparent and accountable. Funds allocated to research, education and youth development should be properly monitored to ensure that they benefit the intended communities.

Young people are central to Nigeria's future, yet many struggle to find employment and practical experience. The government should partner with businesses to provide apprenticeships, vocational training, research opportunities and skills development programmes. Young people should also be encouraged to contribute ideas to public policymaking and community development. Supporting innovation does not mean expecting everyone to become an entrepreneur; it means equipping citizens with the skills and confidence to solve problems wherever they work.

Environmental challenges also require innovative solutions. Poor waste management, flooding, pollution and expensive electricity affect households and businesses. Federal, state and local governments should improve drainage systems, waste collection and urban planning while supporting recycling and renewable energy projects. These efforts can protect communities, create employment and provide more sustainable alternatives for the future.



LEADERSHIP



DR. UDO SAMUEL ATANG

Senior Special Assistant (SSA) on Administration to the President

A LEGACY OF REFORM, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE IN THE FCT CIVIL SERVICE

1. Recognising Distinguished Service

The Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) paid tribute to Dr. Udo Samuel Atang, its pioneer Head of Civil Service, in recognition of his distinguished service, leadership, and commitment to public administration.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Atang contributed to the development of the FCT civil service, with particular emphasis on institutional reforms, staff welfare, career advancement, and improved service delivery.





2. Transforming the FCT Civil Service Through Reform

One of the significant milestones highlighted during Dr. Atang's reflections was the establishment of the FCT Civil Service Commission following the passage of the relevant bill, which President Bola Ahmed Tinubu signed into law in 2024.

According to Dr. Atang, the establishment of the commission addressed years of career stagnation and frustration among FCTA employees who had struggled to progress beyond the directorate level.

He commended the FCT Minister, Barr. Nyesom Wike, for his swift intervention in addressing these challenges. Dr. Atang noted that within three weeks of the Minister assuming office, 13 permanent secretaries were appointed, creating new opportunities for career advancement within the administration.

These reforms represented an important step towards improving staff morale, encouraging productivity, and creating a more structured career progression system for civil servants.



3. Infrastructure Development and Administrative Excellence

Dr. Atang also highlighted the significant infrastructural development taking place across the Federal Capital Territory under the leadership of the FCT Minister, Barr. Nyesom Wike.

He made these remarks while declaring open the Step-Down Retreat and Training for FCTA Performance Managers in New Karu, Nasarawa State.

The event focused on implementing performance bonds signed by key ministers in President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's cabinet. Its objective was to accelerate the delivery of democratic dividends and improve the well-being of FCT residents and Nigerians generally.

Dr. Atang, who was represented at the event by Bunmi Olowookere, Permanent Secretary of Common Services, FCTA, attributed the pace of infrastructural transformation to the Minister's extensive public-service experience and record of achievements.

He emphasised the importance of maintaining high standards, rejecting negligence and substandard work, meeting expectations, and ensuring that projects are completed within their scheduled timelines.

4. Commitment to Staff Welfare and Professional Development

Dr. Atang's contributions to staff welfare also received recognition from FCTA leaders and labour representatives.

The President of the Joint Union Action Committee (JUAC), Mrs. Rifkatu Lortyer, commended him for championing the welfare of junior staff, promoting timely salary payments, and advocating for training opportunities.

NIGERIA.

A NATION OF STRENGTH AND POSSIBILITY



NIGERIA IS A country of remarkable variety and energy. Its people come from many cultures, speak many languages and carry traditions that have been shaped by generations. This diversity can be seen in our music, food, clothing, festivals, stories and ways of welcoming one another. It is part of what makes Nigeria distinctive, and it offers a strong foundation for a national identity that makes room for many experiences.

Across the country, Nigerians are finding ways to build, create and serve. Farmers grow food, traders connect buyers and sellers, teachers help children learn, health workers care for communities, artisans preserve skills and entrepreneurs create new services. Nigerian artists and professionals contribute at home and abroad. These efforts may not always make headlines, but they sustain families and help communities move forward.

The country's greatest resource is its people. Natural resources and fertile land can create opportunities, but they do not guarantee shared prosperity on their own. People need education, health, infrastructure, reliable public services and the chance to use their skills. When those foundations are in place, individuals and businesses can contribute more fully. Nigeria's potential be-



> BEING PROUD OF NIGERIA CAN INCLUDE BEING HONEST ABOUT THE WORK STILL TO BE DONE.

comes meaningful when it is reflected in better lives for ordinary people.

Our young population brings enormous possibility. Young Nigerians are already shaping culture, technology, business and public discussion. They are curious about the world and eager to build careers and communities. Their ambition should be met with opportunities to learn, work and take part in decisions. A country that listens to its young people can discover new ideas and better understand the changes happening in society.

National unity does not require everyone to be the same. It asks us to recognise a shared responsibility to one another and to the country we call home. Respect for difference, fair treatment and honest public service help build the trust that unity needs. People are more likely to believe in a common future when they feel they have a place in it and when institutions serve them without discrimination.

Being proud of Nigeria can include being honest about the work still to be done. Pride should not prevent us from asking whether schools are serving students, whether communities feel safe, whether public funds are used well or whether young people can find decent work. Constructive questions are part of caring about a country. They help turn hope into practical action.

Every generation inherits challenges and possibilities. The task before us is to preserve what gives Nigeria its strength while improving the systems that shape everyday life. This means supporting education, building productive businesses, protecting culture, investing in infrastructure and encouraging responsible leadership. It also means recognising the contributions of people in every region and at every level of society.

Nigeria has the talent, creativity and resilience to achieve great things. The path forward will take patience and cooperation, but the work is within our reach when citizens and institutions share responsibility. A stronger country is built through many decisions: a young person given a chance, a public service delivered with integrity, a business supported to grow and a community included in planning. In those everyday efforts, the possibility of Nigeria becomes progress people can see. ■

10 EDUCATION.

BUILDING THE FOUNDATION FOR PROGRESS

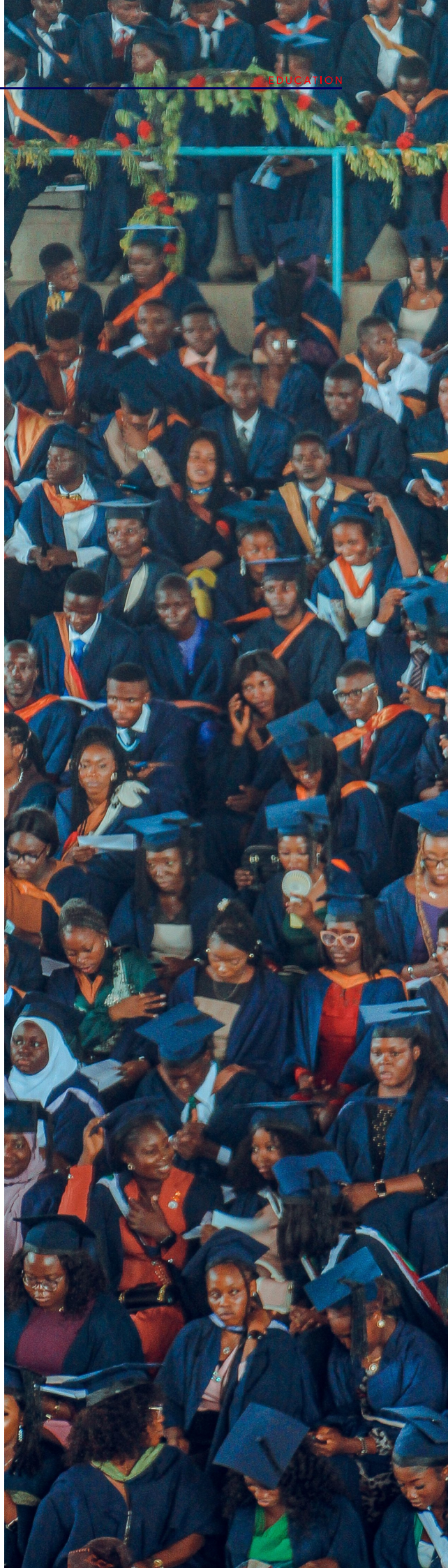
EDUCATION GIVES PEOPLE knowledge and helps them understand the world around them. It can open doors to employment, strengthen communities and give young people the confidence to take part in decisions that affect their lives. For Nigeria, education is not simply a social service. It is one of the foundations on which economic growth, innovation and responsible citizenship depend.

Learning begins before a child enters a classroom. Early childhood experiences help develop language, curiosity and confidence. As children move through school, they need safe classrooms, prepared teachers, relevant learning materials and enough time to practise what they learn. A student who is present but unable to follow lessons needs support, not just a mark on a register. Schools should help every learner build strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics.

Good education goes beyond memorising information. Students need to learn how to ask useful questions, assess evidence, solve problems and communicate clearly. These skills matter in every profession. A student may become a doctor, engineer, designer, farmer, business owner, teacher or public servant; all benefit from the ability to keep learning and adapt to new challenges.

Nigeria's young people follow different paths after secondary school. Universities are important, but they are not the only route to a productive life. Technical colleges, apprenticeships, vocational training and professional certifications can prepare people for skilled work. These pathways should have high standards and a clear connection to employment. Practical learning deserves respect and should not be seen as a second choice for students who do not follow a university route.

Teachers are central to the quality of education. They need strong preparation, fair working conditions, useful



professional development and support from school leaders. Families and communities also play a role by encouraging attendance and creating an environment where learning is valued. Partnerships among schools, employers and training institutions can help students see how classroom learning connects to real work.

Access and inclusion remain important. Children in rural communities, children with disabilities and those affected by poverty or displacement may face additional barriers. Schools should be accessible, safe and welcoming. Technology can support learning, but it should complement good teaching and be chosen according to students' needs. Where internet access is limited, printed materials, radio, community learning and other low-cost approaches can still help people continue their education.

Education should also prepare young people for civic life. Students need opportunities to practise teamwork, creativity, respect for different perspectives and responsible participation. These experiences help them understand how communities make decisions and how they can contribute. Learning about Nigeria's history, cultures and institutions can deepen a sense of belonging while encouraging informed questions about how the country is governed.

The measure of educational progress is not only the number of schools or programmes established. It is whether students are learning, completing their studies and gaining skills they can use. This requires reliable information, steady investment and a willingness to improve what is not working. When Nigeria gives each learner a fair chance to succeed, education can help unlock talent across the country and build a stronger future for all. ■



11

INVESTMENT.

TURNING CONFIDENCE INTO OPPORTUNITY



INVESTMENT IS THE commitment of money, time or resources to an activity with the expectation that it will create value. For a country, investment can help build businesses, infrastructure and skills. It can support jobs, improve services and bring new knowledge into an economy. But investment does not automatically produce broad progress. Its value depends on what it supports, how responsibly it is managed and who benefits from the results.

Investors look for a clear understanding of the rules, a way to assess risk and confidence that commitments will be respected. Reliable power, transport, communications and access to skilled workers also matter. Businesses need predictable processes for registration, licensing, taxation and dispute resolution. When rules are clear and applied fairly, companies can spend more time building their products and less time trying to navigate uncertainty.

Nigeria offers opportunities across many areas, including agriculture, manufacturing, technology, creative industries, healthcare, housing, logistics and renewable energy. Each sector has its own needs. Agriculture may require storage, processing and access to markets. A technology company may need trained workers and dependable broadband. Manufacturing often depends on power, transport and access to equipment. Investment works best when it responds to the practical conditions of the sector and the needs of the people it serves.

Local businesses deserve attention alongside large projects. Small and medium enterprises create livelihoods and help communities access goods and services. They may need appropriate financing, business support, reliable infrastruc-

> **“A PROFITABLE PROJECT THAT LEAVES LASTING HARM MAY UNDERMINE TRUST AND CREATE COSTS THAT ARE CARRIED BY THE PUBLIC.**



INVESTMENT IN PEOPLE IS AS IMPORTANT AS INVESTMENT IN BUILDINGS AND MACHINERY.

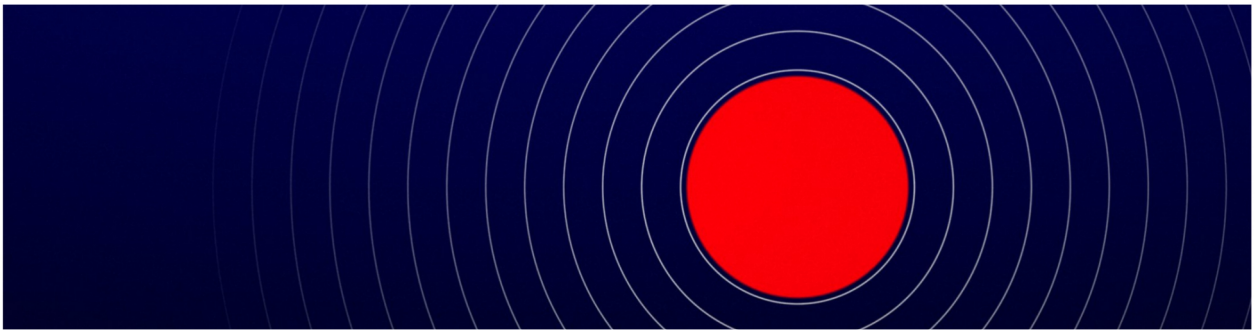
ture and a fair chance to compete. Mentorship and professional networks can help founders make sound decisions. Government can support business growth by reducing unnecessary delays and maintaining transparent procurement that gives capable local firms an opportunity to participate.

Investment in people is as important as investment in buildings and machinery. Education, health and workforce training increase the ability of individuals to contribute productively. A project that creates jobs but cannot find the skills it needs may struggle. A business that invests in its workers can build stronger service and retain valuable experience. Partnerships between employers, schools and training institutions can make skills development more closely connected to demand.

Responsible investment should consider environmental and social effects. Projects need to be assessed for their impact on communities, land, water and livelihoods. People affected by a development should be consulted in a meaningful way and given clear information. Strong standards can protect workers and the environment while helping investors manage risk. A profitable project that leaves lasting harm may undermine trust and create costs that are carried by the public.

Young people can take part in investment as workers, founders, researchers, creative professionals and future business owners. They need financial knowledge so they can evaluate opportunities, understand risk and avoid schemes that promise unrealistic returns. For people who want to invest personal savings, caution, diversification and reliable advice matter. No opportunity is guaranteed, and anyone considering a financial decision should understand the terms and risks.

Investment should ultimately be judged by the value it creates. Does it improve productivity? Does it support decent work? Does it strengthen local capacity? Does it serve a genuine need? When confidence, clear rules and responsible planning come together, investment can help turn Nigeria's potential into lasting opportunity for businesses, communities and the next generation. ■



12

CRUDE OIL.

FROM RESOURCE TO LASTING VALUE

CRUDE OIL HAS shaped Nigeria's economy, public finances and place in the global energy market for decades. It is an important resource, but the history of oil also raises a larger question: how can a country turn a valuable natural resource into lasting benefits for its people? The answer depends on what happens at every stage, from production and revenue management to refining, investment in other industries and protection of communities and the environment.

Oil revenue can support public services and infrastructure when it is managed transparently and used carefully. That requires clear accounting, responsible budgeting and strong oversight. Citizens should be able to understand how public income is collected and what priorities it supports. Because oil prices and production can change, a national budget that depends too heavily on one resource may become vulnerable. Planning for volatility can help protect essential services and future generations.



Value can be created beyond exporting raw crude. Processing and refining can support supply chains, technical expertise and employment, provided projects are economically sound and operated responsibly. The wider energy industry also includes engineering, maintenance, logistics, safety services and research. Nigerian businesses and workers can participate more deeply when they have access to skills, fair procurement opportunities and the standards required by the sector.

Communities close to oil production should not carry the costs of national revenue without seeing meaningful improvements in their own wellbeing. People need clean water, safe livelihoods, healthcare, education and a voice in decisions affecting their environment. Pollution and damage to land or waterways can undermine fishing, farming and health. Prevention, monitoring, transparent reporting and timely remediation matter. Companies and public agencies have responsibilities that should be measured and enforced.

The global energy landscape is changing. Countries are investing in energy efficiency and lower-emission sources, while oil continues to play a role in transport, industry and the production of many everyday materials. Nigeria needs a practical energy strategy that recognises current needs and prepares for future changes. This includes improving reliable power, reducing waste, supporting cleaner options and helping workers and businesses adapt as technology and markets evolve.

Young Nigerians can build careers in many parts of the energy sector. Opportunities exist in engineering, environmental science, data, safety, finance, law, logistics and technical trades. Training should connect to real standards and practical experience. Universities, vocational institutions and employers can work together to prepare people for jobs that require both specialised knowledge and a strong commitment to safety and responsibility.

Oil should be viewed as one asset among many, not the only measure of Nigeria's promise. The country's long-term strength will depend on turning resource income into education, infrastructure, productive businesses and a skilled workforce. It will also depend on transparent institutions that manage public wealth for shared benefit. When crude oil supports the development of people and other sectors, its value can reach further than the export terminal and contribute to a more resilient economy. ■

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TOURISM. 13

SHARING NIGERIA WITH THE WORLD

TOURISM INVITES PEOPLE to experience a place through its landscapes, history, food, art, festivals and everyday life. Nigeria has a rich range of experiences to share, from coastal scenery and natural sites to historic communities, music, crafts, cuisine and contemporary creative culture. Tourism can help more people understand the country while supporting livelihoods in the places they visit.

The visitor experience begins before a journey. People need reliable information about how to reach a destination, where to stay, what to see and how to travel safely. Roads, transport links, clean public facilities, clear signs and dependable communication can make a trip more comfortable. Attractions need maintenance, trained staff and thoughtful planning. Small details, such as available toilets, waste collection and respectful visitor guidance, shape how people remember a place.

Tourism can create work for many kinds of businesses. Hotels, guides, restaurants, transport operators, artisans, performers, photographers and event organisers may all benefit when visitors spend time in a destination. Local communities should have a meaningful role in shaping tourism and sharing in its benefits. When people are paid fairly for their work and local culture is presented with respect, tourism can strengthen livelihoods and pride in place.

Nigeria's creative industries can be a powerful part of its appeal. Music, film, fashion, literature and food already introduce audiences to Nigerian ideas and ways of life. Festivals and cultural events can give visitors a reason to travel while creating spaces for artists and businesses to work together. Good promotion should be matched by good organisation. Events need

PRESERVING A DESTINATION HELPS ENSURE THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS CAN ENJOY IT TOO.

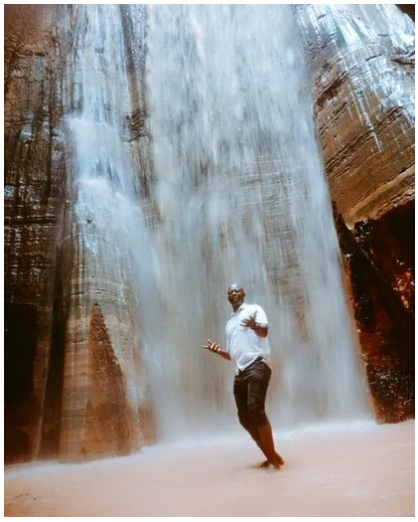
clear schedules, accessible venues, safety plans and information visitors can trust.

Natural and heritage sites need care. Tourism should not damage the landscapes, wildlife, historic buildings or community practices that make a place special. Visitors should be encouraged to follow local guidance and respect cultural norms. Site managers can protect important places through conservation, visitor limits where needed, waste management and reinvestment in upkeep. Preserving a destination helps ensure that future generations can enjoy it too.

Safety and accessibility are essential. Visitors want clear travel information and confidence that they can ask for help if something goes wrong. People with disabilities should be able to access attractions wherever possible, and information should be available to a range of travellers. Public and private organisations can work together to improve standards, provide staff training and respond to visitor feedback.

Young people can contribute to tourism as guides, hospitality professionals, event producers, digital storytellers, designers and entrepreneurs. Training in customer service, languages, business management and digital marketing can help them build careers. Local schools and community organisations can help young people learn about the history and ecology of their area, giving them the knowledge to share it accurately and proudly.

For Nigeria, tourism is an opportunity to tell a fuller story of the country and support local economies at the same time. It requires collaboration among government, businesses, communities and cultural organisations. Promotion can attract attention, but lasting success depends on quality, safety, service and respect for the people who live in each destination. When visitors leave with good memories and communities benefit from their presence, tourism becomes a practical way of sharing Nigeria with the world. ■









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