



## **Inauguration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition National Diaspora Merit Award (NDMA) Nomination by the Planning Committee of NDMA 2025, Conference Room, NiDCOM, Abuja.**

### **1.0 PROTOCOLS**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

On behalf of the Chairman/CEO, Management and Staff of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, I welcome you to the inaugural opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Diaspora Merit Award nomination portal for the nomination of Awardees. The Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM) was established for the purpose of encouraging the contribution and engagement of the Nigerians in Diaspora towards the development of Nigeria. The Nigerians in Diaspora are doing great things wherever they are and at home (Nigeria). This must not go unnoticed so the Commission has come up with the National Diaspora Merit Award to recognize and appreciate the efforts of the Nigerians in the Diaspora in national development to inspire others. This is pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph 2.3.24 of the National Diaspora Policy titled "Recognition and National Award" as adopted and approved by the Federal Executive Council on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2021.

These success stories of the Diaspora must be told and celebrated. The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Diaspora Merit Award ceremony is scheduled to take place 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2025.

#### **2.0 Objectives of the National Diaspora Merit Award:**

- i. The objectives of the National Diaspora Merit Award are:
- i) To recognize and celebrate the Nigerians in Diaspora who have made contributions and impacted in the development of Nigeria



- ii) To project them as Diaspora Champions and Role Models for others to emulate.
- iii) To change the narratives of the image of Nigeria and Nigerians in Diaspora,
- iv) To establish skill set of the Nigerians in the Diaspora who are active in different sectors of the Nigeria economy.

### **3.0 Sectors of the Award:**

The categories of the National Diaspora Merit Award include those who have excelled or contributed in the following development areas and others:

- i) Agriculture
- ii) Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- iii) Science, Technology and Innovation
- iv) Water Resources and Sanitations
- v) Finance and Economics
- vi) Youths and Sports Development
- vii) Oil & Gas /Energy
- viii) Education
- ix) Medicine/Healthcare
- x) Entertainment, Arts and Tourism
- xi) Hotel and Catering Management
- xii) Housing and Real Estate
- xiii) Transportation
- xiv) Fashion and Aesthetics
- xv) Philanthropy
- xvi) Leadership Development.



#### **4.0 Eligibility Criteria:**

The National Diaspora Merit Award is open to all Nigerians in the Diaspora who have traceable and trackable records proving continuous and consistent impact in the development of Nigeria for at least five (5) years in service to national development. These efforts could be in form of Skills, Technology Transfer, Cash and kind donations, Philanthropic work, etc all aimed at development. These contributions by Diaspora groups or Diaspora individuals who must be of good character would be recognized.

#### **5.0 Modalities:**

A Committee has been set up and calling for nominations of candidates to screen, to select and recommend to NiDCOM Management for recognition. The following are to be considered:

- i) Nominees must be Nigerians living in the Diaspora
- ii) Nominees must be of good character
- iii) Project and programs must be traceable and trackable
- iv) Contributions of the nominees must be consistent over five years.

#### **6.0 Who can Nominate?**

Nigerians in the Diaspora and registered Diaspora groups can nominate qualified Diasporas that meet the Eligibility Criteria.

#### **7.0 Nomination Process:**

- i. Submission of qualified candidates should be done at <https://nidcom.gov.ng/nomination2025/>
- ii. Call for Nomination starts Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2024.
- iii. Closing date for submission of Candidates is 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2025.



- iv. The National Diaspora Merit Award Committee will collate the submitted nominations after closure of the portal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March, 2025.
- v. The Committee would do the screening of nominees and selection of the Awardees within the time frame of two months from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025. Thereafter it will submit its recommendations to the Management of NIDCOM for final confirmation and approval in May, 2025.

### **8.0 Award Ceremony:**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> National Diaspora Merit Award would be conferred on the deserving recipients on the 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2025.

### **9.0 Conclusions**

The National Diaspora Merit Award is an annual event of Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM).

**10.0** Thank you.

**Mr. Abiodun Akanbi**  
**Chairman, LOC**  
**NDD 2025,**  
**For: The Management.**