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National Diaspora Day Celebrations & National Diaspora Merit Award 2025

JULY 25TH - 26TH, 2025

Theme:

**Optimizing Formidable Diaspora
Potentials For National Development
And Growth**



Banquet Hall, Presidential Villa, Abuja



National Anthem

Nigeria, we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribes and tongues may differ
In brotherhood we stand,
Nigerians all, and proud to serve
Our sovereign Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honour'd,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request.
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.



Diaspora Anthem

(Verse 1)

From distant lands, we shine our light
Nigerians abroad, with hearts full of might
We carry our roots, wherever we roam
Our culture and pride, forever our home

(Chorus)

Nigerians in diaspora, we're strong and we're bold
Our spirit unbroken, our hearts made of gold
We rise above borders, our love for Nigeria stays
In our hearts, our homeland, every single day

(Verse 2)

From America to Europe, to Asia and more
We spread our wings, but our roots we adore
We work hard, we strive, we make our mark
Nigeria's pride, in every step we embark

(Chorus)

Nigerians in diaspora, we're strong and we're bold
Our spirit unbroken, our hearts made of gold
We rise above borders, our love for Nigeria stays
In our hearts, our homeland, every single day

(Bridge)

We'll contribute our skills, our knowledge, and might
To build a brighter future, for Nigeria's light
We'll stay connected, through thick and thin
NIDCOM, the bridge between diaspora and home

(Chorus)

Nigerians in diaspora, we're strong and we're bold
Our spirit unbroken, our hearts made of gold
We rise above borders, our love for Nigeria stays
In our hearts, our homeland, every single day

Composed By Amb David Obama Onyekachi Geoman



SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR



H.E. BOLA AHMED TINUBU, GCFR
PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

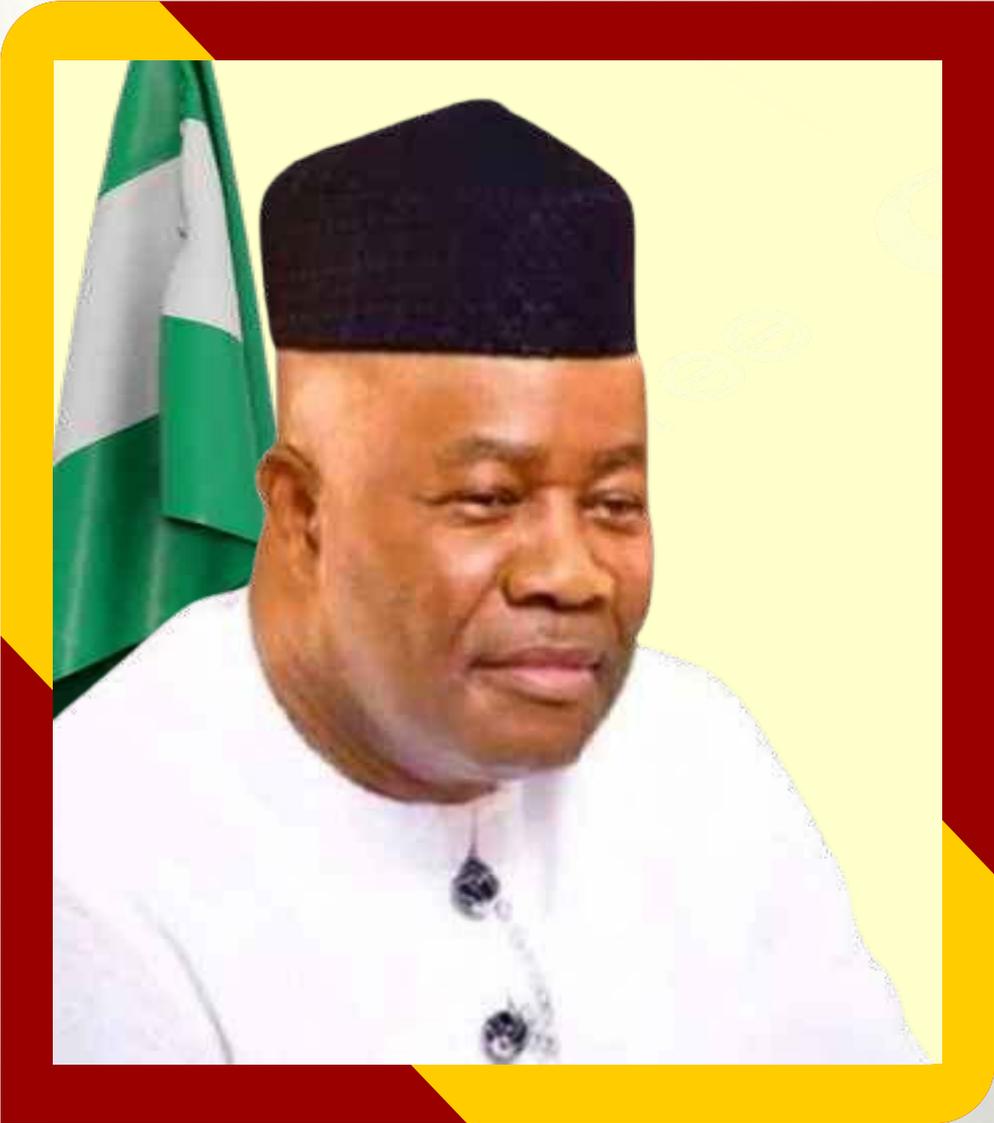
**Special Guest Of Honour
National Diaspora Merit Award 2025**



H.E. SEN. KASHIM SHETTIMA, GCON

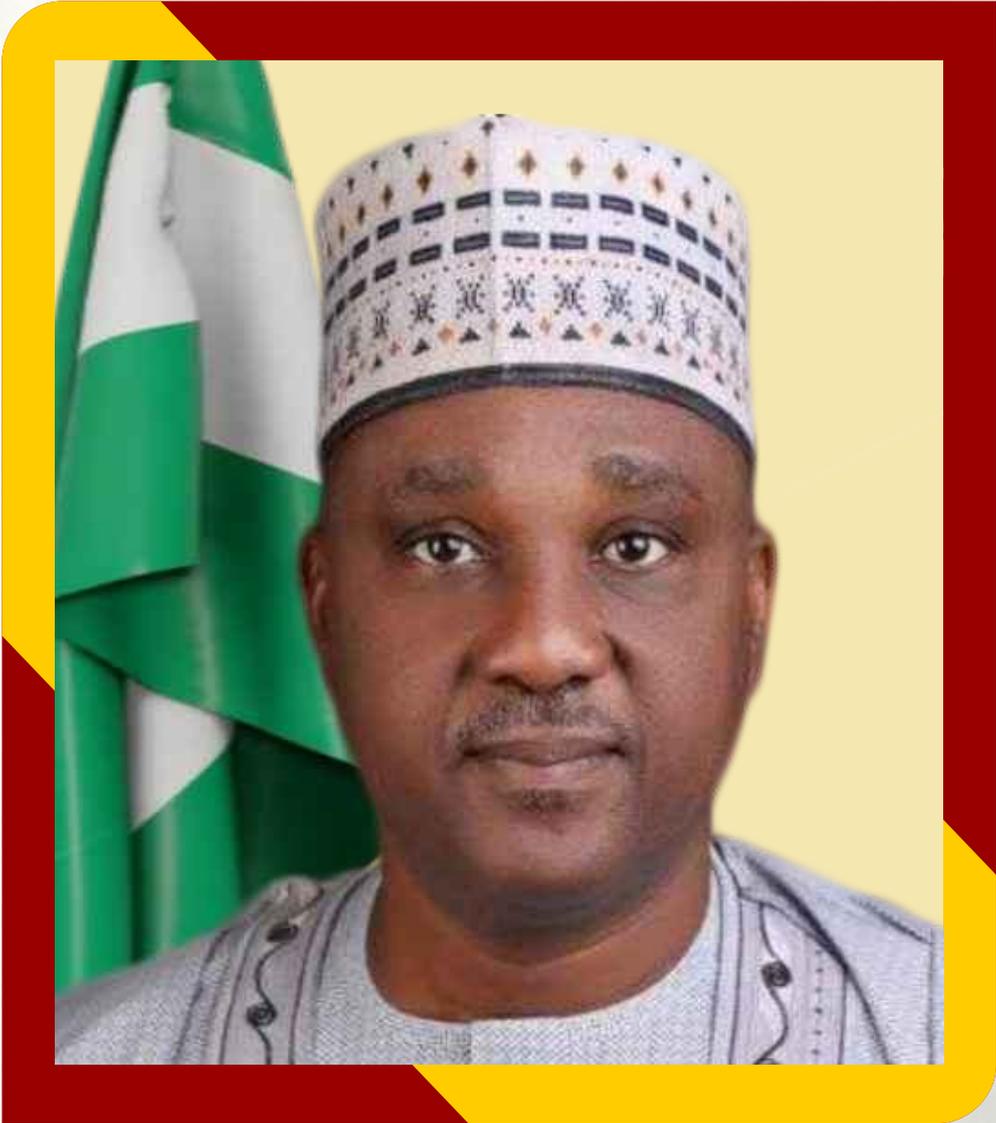
VICE PRESIDENT, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA,

SPECIAL GUEST



SENATOR GODSWILL AKPABIO, GCON
PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

SPECIAL GUEST



RT. HON. TAJUDEEN ABBAS, GCON

**SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

SPECIAL GUEST



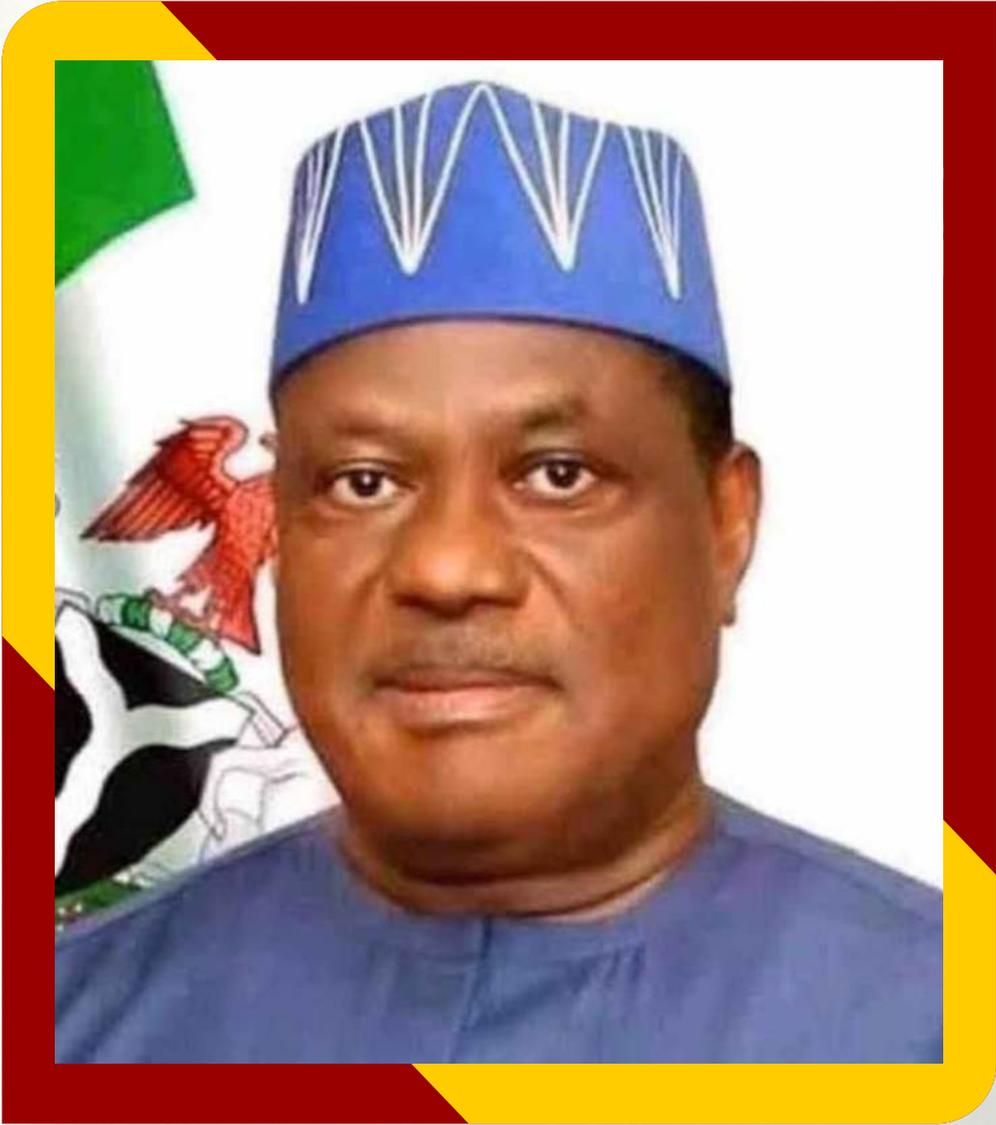
SENATOR ANIEKAN BASSEY
CHAIRMAN SENATE COMMITTEE ON DIASPORA & NGOs.

SPECIAL GUEST



HON SIR TOCHUKWU OKERE
CHAIRMAN, HOUSE COMMITTEE ON DIASPORA AFFAIRS

SPECIAL GUEST



SEN DR GEORGE AKUME, CON
SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION

SPECIAL GUEST



AMB. BIANCA ODUMEGWU OJUKWU
HON. MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIASPORA ROLE MODEL



ABIGAIL MARSHALL KATUNG
LORD MAYOR OF LEEDS - UNITED KINGDOM

FATHER OF THE DAY



**HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY,
DR GREG NNAMDI OPUTA**

OBI OPUTA 111 OF ABOH KINGDOM, DELTA STATE

DIASPORA SPECIAL GUEST



Ms ALMAZ NEGASH
FOUNDER, AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK

CHIEF HOST



HON (DR) ABIKE DABIRI-EREWA, OON

CHAIRMAN/CEO, NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

HOST



ENGR DR SULE YAKUBU BASSI
SECRETARY TO NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION



**PROGRAM OF EVENTS FOR
THE NATIONAL DIASPORA DAY 2025 - CELEBRATIONS - (HYBRID)**

DATE:FRIDAY, 25TH JULY, 2025.

VENUE: BANQUET HALL, PRESIDENTIAL VILLA - ABUJA.

THEME: OPTIMIZING FORMIDABLE DIASPORA POTENTIALS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH.

MODERATORS: GABRIEL ODU & TOPE OJEME

TIME	TIME 15HOURS (WAT)
1:00pm	Pre- event: DJ Music / Ore Ofe Sax
1:30pm - 2:00pm	Diaspora Jingles/ Sponsorship Adverts
2:00pm- 3:00pm	Video Recap of the National Diaspora Day Celebrations 2024
3:00pm- 3:05pm	National Anthem/ Diaspora Anthem/ Opening prayers
3:05pm-3:15pm	Cultural Performance - WAZOBIA
3:15pm- 3:25pm	Welcome Address by Hon (Dr) Abike Dabiri - Erewa, OON - Chairman/CEO, NiDCOM.
3:25pm- 3:35pm	Opening Remarks by Amb. Bianca Odumegwu Ojukwu - Hon. Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3:35pm- 4:00pm	Goodwill Messages a) National Parliament i) Sir. Tochukwu Okere - Chairman, House Committee on Diaspora Matters ii) Senator Aniekan Bassey, Chairman Senate Committee on Diaspora & NGOs Goodwill Remarks b) Development Partners: c) Head of Parastatals
4:00pm-4:10pm	African-American Dance Group- Jamel Gaines Creative Outlet

4:10pm-4:40pm	<p>Special Solidarity Messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms ALMAZ NEGASH, FOUNDER, AFRICAN DIASPORA NETWORK, USA • His Imperial Majesty, Dr. Greg Nnamdi Oputa, Obi Oputa 111 Of Aboh Kingdom, Delta State • FIRST BANK PLC • ARCO GROUP PLC • FIRST TRICON LTD • CRUXSTONE
4:40pm-4:45pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rt. Hon. Tajudeen Abbas, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Federal Republic of Nigeria
4:45pm-4:55pm	<p>1) Presidential Address: Special Guest Of Honour - His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, CCFR, President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.</p>
4:55pm-5:30pm	<p>UNVEILING OF THE DIASPORA HOME & ABROAD HOUSING PLATFORM</p>
5:30pm- 5:55pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgment of Partners. <p style="text-align: center;">PARTNERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA • FIRST BANK PLC • ARCO GROUP PLC • FIRST TRICON LTD • CRUXSTONE • PROVIDUS BANK • ABUJA INVESTMENTS COMPANY LTD • DANIEL FORD INTERNATIONAL • EXTRALARGE FARMS & RESORT • AVENUE IMPACT • WEMA BANK • MERISTEM <p style="text-align: center;">EXHIBITORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAIJA DIASPORA MAGAZINE • NIGERIAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND • CHARTERHOUSE LAGOS. • CENTENARY CITY • IMMIGRATION ADVICE SERVICE • EURACARE MULT-SPECISLIST HOSPITAL • HOME & ABROAD • CORONATION • THE ALTERNATIVE BANK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidential Tour of the Exhibition Stands.
5:55pm - 6:20pm	<p>Historic African Diaspora Discussion: Role of African Diaspora to National Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Manny Ohonme - Founder, Ohonme Foundation • Mrs. Thelma Ekiyor-Solanke - Chairperson, Nigeria Office for Philanthropy • Rev. Dennis Dillon, Publisher, NY Christian Times. • Dr. Jacqueline Mohair - Founder/CEO Serial Entrepreneur • Mr. Emil Ekiyor- Founder Innopower Indy.
6:20pm-6:25pm	<p>Celebrity Interview with Diaspora Role Model/ Recognition of Diaspora in Political Space</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Right Worshipful, Abigail Marshall Katung, Lord Mayor of Leeds, UK. 2. Khadija Haliru - Councilor Town of Ingersoll 3. Hon. Zulfat Suara - Councilor Member at Large, Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County. 4. Ajibola Abitoye- Councilor City of Fort Saskatchewan, AB, Canada. <p>Moderators: Hon (DR.) Abike Dabiri-Erewa, OON & Femi Oke - Ex CNN Correspondent</p>

6:25pm-6:55pm	<p>Theme Discussion: OPTIMIZING FORMIDABLE DIASPORA POTENTIALS FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH.</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Akintunde Akinade - Georgetown University, Qatar.</p> <p>Panel of Discussants-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Hauwa Ibrahim- International Scholar in-Residence, Wellesley Centre for Women, USA. 2. Mrs. Voke Ogueh - President Joe Biden's Award recipient on STEM 3. Prof. Hakeem Ibikunle Tijani - Morgan State University, Maryland, USA 4. Prof. Adedeji Bodunde Badiru- AB International Consulting Services, (ABICS) Ohio, USA 5. Dr. Adebayo A. Akintobi - Global Health Charity and Training Foundation
6:55pm-7:10pm	<p>Home Strings: 2nd and 3rd Generation Moderator - Aisha Dankano - NiDCOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Pelumi Nubi - London to Nigeria Solo Drive - UK. ◦ Nduka Nduka Eze - Knowledge Exchange- Motherland Hub - UK ◦ Kleopatra Vargas - 3rd Generation Nigerian Diaspora - USA ◦ Ayomide Sanwo-Olu ◦ Surayya Ahmed
7:10pm-7:15pm	<p>Presentation by the State Diaspora Focal Point Officer: Princess Margaret Elayo <i>Hon. Commissioner for Environment & Natural Resources & State Diaspora Focal Point Officer, Nasarawa State</i></p>
7:15pm-7:20pm	<p>Cutting of the Anniversary Cake: Nigeria High Commission, Canberra, Australia</p>
7:20pm-7:35pm	<p>Vote of thanks by Engr Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi - Secretary to NiDCOM</p>
7:25pm-9:00pm	<p>Entertainment at various centers globally, Dinner & Music performance</p>

End



**DAY 2 - PROGRAM OF EVENTS FOR
THE NATIONAL DIASPORA DAY CELEBRATIONS - 2025 - (HYBRID)**

DATE: SATURDAY, 26TH JULY, 2025.

VENUE: BANQUET HALL, PRESIDENTIAL VILLA - ABUJA.

MODERATOR: GABRIEL ODU

TIME	MORNING SESSION - NiDCOM/ARCO-STEM/CANVAS INSTITUTE YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT
9:00am-10:00am	Registration of Participants
10:00am-10:05am	National Anthem & Opening Prayer
10:05am - 10:35am	Welcome Address by - Hon (Dr) Abike Dabiri-Erewa, OON, Chairman/CEO, NiDCOM Goodwill Message • Mr. Ayodele Olawande, Minister of Youth Development. Keynote Address - Engr. Alfred Okoigun, GMD- Arco Group
10:35am-12:00pm	YOUTH EMPOWERMENT SUMMIT: Diaspora Champions: • Moderator: Hon. Bobby Digi-Olisa - Canvas Institute, NY. • Cyber Security/Technology: Prof. Fene Osakwe- Cyber Security Expert -UK • Education: Funmilayo Ajala - Youth Advisor, Netherland Consulate Office, Lagos • STEM: Mrs. Voke Ogueh- STEM - USA • Regular Migration Pathway: Alex Oturu - NCFRMI - Nigeria • Migration Experience: Pelumi Nubi • Miss Nigeria Diaspora, USA - Queen Oyemen Ehikhamhen
12:00pm-12:45pm	Questions & Answers Session
12:45pm-1:00pm	Raffle Draw & Closing Remarks - Mr Abiodun Akanbi
1:00pm-1:30pm	Musical Entertainment - Lunch

End



**DAY 2 - PROGRAM OF EVENTS FOR
THE NATIONAL DIASPORA MERIT AWARD 2025 - (HYBRID)**

DATE: SATURDAY, 26TH JULY, 2025.

VENUE: BANQUET HALL, PRESIDENTIAL VILLA - ABUJA.

MODERATORS: GABRIEL ODU & FEMI OKE

TIME	EVENING SESSION - 05:00PM (WAT) NATIONAL DIASPORA MERIT AWARD & DINNER
3:00pm-3:40pm	Pre-Event - Musical Interlude
3:40pm-5:00pm	Diaspora Jingles /Recap of 2024 National Diaspora Merit Award
5:00pm-5:05pm	National Anthem/Opening Prayer
5:05pm -5:10pm	Welcome Address by Mr. Abiodun Akanbi - LOC Chairman,
5:10pm - 5:20pm	Special Remarks by Hon. (Dr) Abike Dabiri-Erewa, OON - Chairman/CEO, NiDCOM
5:20pm-5:25pm	Goodwill Messages: Hajja Hannatu Musawa- Hon. Minister of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy.
5:25pm -6:05pm	<p>FOCUS ON DIASPORA GROUPS: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nigerians in Diaspora Organizations (NIDO) 2. Zumunta Association Inc. USA 3. Association of Nigerian Physicians in the Americas (ANPA) 4. Nigerian Citizens Association South Africa (NICASA) 5. Nigerian Diaspora Alumni Network (NIDAN) 6. Nigerian American Public Affairs Committee (NAPAC) 7. Central Association of Nigerians in the United Kingdom (CANUK). 8. National Association of Nigerian Students in Diaspora (NANSO) 9. Nigerian Union South Africa (NUSA). 10. Medical Associations of Nigerians Across Great Britain (MANSAG). 11. Kaduna Cambridge Academy 12. Kingsley Madu - Expedier and the Nigerian and Canadian Business Network.
6:05pm-6:15pm	Acknowledgement/Appreciation of Partners
6:15pm-6:25pm	Overview of National Diaspora Merit Award - Engr. Dr Sule Yakubu Bassi --Secretary to NiDCOM.

6:25pm- 7:25pm	<p>Citation of Awardees/Presentations of Award Certificates and Plaques:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDUCATION • AGRICULTURE • FINANCE AND ECONOMICS • POLITICS • OIL & GAS • INFORMATION • COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY (ICT) • LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • ENTREPRENEURSHIP • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE/HEALTHCARE • PHILANTHROPY • MEDIA/ENTERTAINMENT • SPORTS • AVIATION
7:25pm-7:30pm	Group photographs with the Awardees
7:30pm-7:40pm	Musical Entertainment - American Cultural Dance Troupe
7:40pm - 7:50pm	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p>Hon. Abdulrahman Terab <i>Head, Technology, Transfer, Innovation & Investment Department - NiDCOM.</i></p>
7:50pm-9:50pm	Dinner/Musical Entertainment by Guest Artiste - Spyro

End

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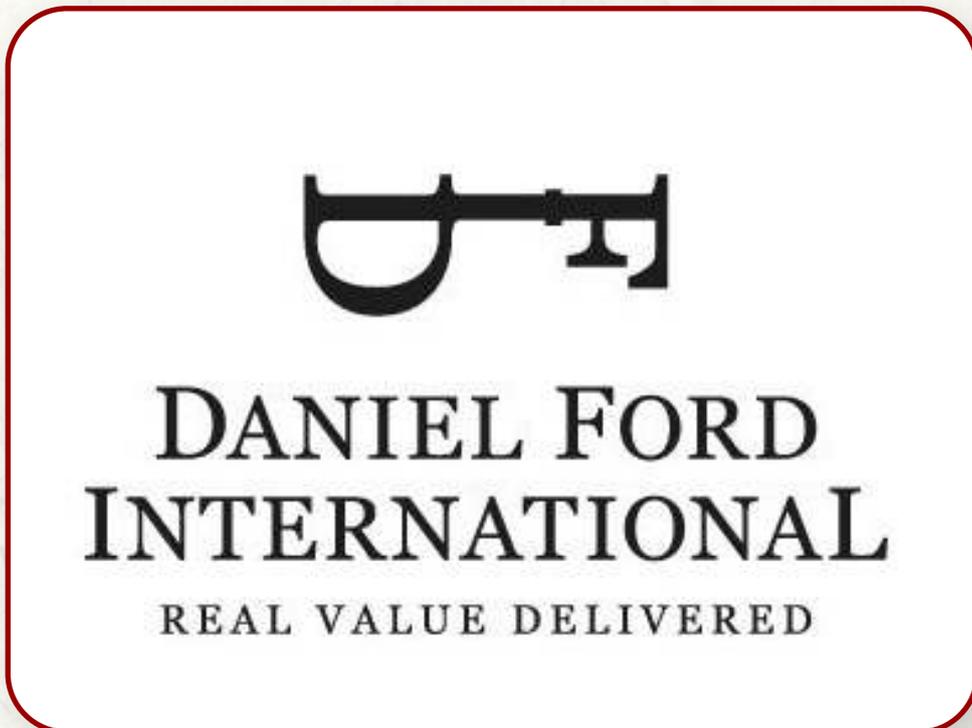


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EXHIBITORS



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**HOME
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CORONATION

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CITY**

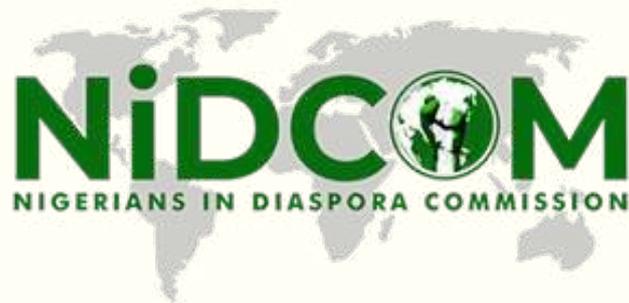
NIGERIA



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2025 NDD LIST OF LOC MEMBERS

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3. ABDULRAHMAN ABBA TERAB	TTI	MEMBER
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5. ULOMA VIOLET NWOSU	MEDIA	MEMBER
6. OMOBOLANLE STELLA OLATUNDE	SERVICOM	MEMBER
7. HARUNA KUJE ANZAKU	AUDIT	MEMBER
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10. ORONKE MERCY BENJAMIN	PROGRAMMES	MEMBER
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12. EFE AIRIOHUODION	LEGAL	MEMBER
13. ADETOUN ADEWUNMI SHEYINDEMI	DIASPORA RELATIONS	MEMBER
14. OSETOHAMEN ELYON IDIO	DIASPORA RELATIONS	MEMBER
15. OLUFUNKE ESTHER OLOYE	MEDIA	MEMBER
16. UKUME RITA TSUMBA	ADMIN	MEMBER
17. FELIX PHILIP IMOLOGHOME	PROGRAMMES	MEMBER
18. AKINSOLA JOSHUA AKINBOYE	MEDIA	MEMBER
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37. MAHMOUD MUHAMMAD JAZULI	DIASPORA RELATIONS	ASST. SEC. 1
38. DAEL ONECHOJON AMODU	PRS	ASST. SEC.



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