

# DOING BUSINESS

IN NIGERIA

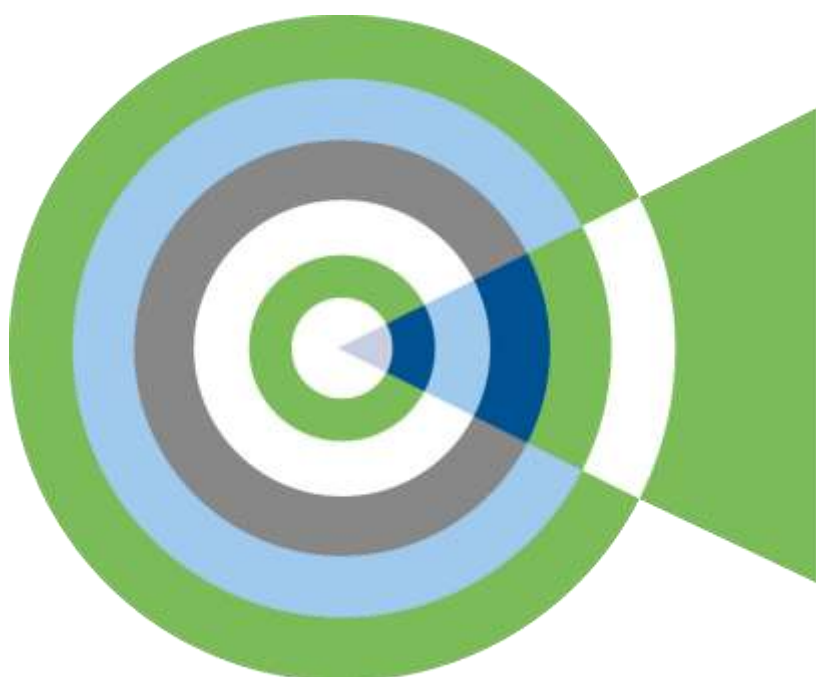


The network  
for doing  
business

---

## CONTENTS

1 – Introduction	3
2 – Business environment	4
3 – Foreign Investment	6
4 – Setting up a Business	11
5 – Labour	12
6 – Taxation	15
7 – Accounting & reporting	17
8 – UHY Representation in Nigeria	18



# 1 – INTRODUCTION

---

UHY is an international organisation providing accountancy, business management and consultancy services through financial business centres in over 90 countries throughout the world.

Business partners work together through the network to conduct transnational operations for clients as well as offering specialist knowledge and experience within their own national borders. Global specialists in various industry and market sectors are also available for consultation.

This report providing key issues and information for investors considering business operations in Nigeria has been provided by the office of UHY representatives:

UHY Maaji  
22, Town Planning Way,  
Ilupeju  
Lagos  
Nigeria

Phone +234 803 315 7232, +234 802 329 5410  
Website [www.uhy-ng-maaji.com](http://www.uhy-ng-maaji.com)  
Email [info@uhy-ng-maaji.com](mailto:info@uhy-ng-maaji.com)

You are welcome to contact [Gabriel Idahosa \(g.idahosa@uhy-ng-maaji.com\)](mailto:g.idahosa@uhy-ng-maaji.com) for any inquiries you may have.

A detailed firm profile for UHY's representation in Nigeria can be found in section 8.

Information in the following pages has been updated so that they are effective at the date shown, but inevitably they are both general and subject to change and should be used for guidance only. For specific matters, investors are strongly advised to obtain further information and take professional advice before making any decisions. This publication is current at March 2017.

We look forward to helping you do business in Nigeria.

## 2 – BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

---

Nigeria's economy has much in common with those of China, Malaysia, Brazil and India.

Free enterprise is the norm, although there are a number of important economic sectors such as electricity and water that have been or continue to be partially government-owned and controlled. The government's policy is to promote the commercialisation, restructuring and privatisation of certain government-owned enterprises.

### ECONOMY

Nigeria is a mixed economy and emerging market, with expanding manufacturing, financial, service, communications, technology and entertainment sectors. It is ranked as the 25th largest economy in the world in terms of nominal GDP, and the 21st largest in terms of Purchasing Power Parity. It is the largest economy in Africa. Its re-emergent manufacturing sector became the largest on the continent in 2013, and produces a large proportion of goods and services for the West African subcontinent.

Although a major exporter of oil and gas, the sector only contributes about 9% to the Nigeria's GDP. The petroleum sector has contributed greatly to the country's economic growth, as Government revenues still heavily rely on this sector. It however remains in fact a small part of the country's overall vibrant economy.

The current diversification policy or programme of the present Government has ensured a large participation of investors in agriculture which before now used to be the main stay of the economy. Solid minerals development is another thrust of the government in pursuit of its diversification programme.

In the non-oil economy, there are several unexplored segments and business opportunities such as the telecommunication and the service sectors. Nigeria has one of the largest free market economies on the African continent. Most of Nigeria's economic activity occurs in four main metropolitan areas, namely Lagos, Abuja, Kano and Port Harcourt. However, there are other economically vibrant areas including Ibadan, Kaduna, Enugu, Warri, Calabar, Aba, Eket, Nnewi and Onitsha.

The country accounts for the highest production of crude oil in Africa.

### PRIVATISATION

The public sector's role in Nigeria's economy has historically always been substantial in comparison with that of the private sector. However the federal government is taking steps to commercialise, restructure and or divest from government-owned enterprises.

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Most of Nigeria's exports to industrialised countries consist of primary and intermediate commodities. A large proportion of exports consist of unprocessed raw materials, with the oil and gas industry contributing the greatest proportion to the country's total exports. Nigeria is a major exporter of crude oil. The country is also an exporter of cocoa, rubber, cashew nuts and raw timber. It has the world's third largest film production industry after the United States and India, becoming a major exporter of movies.

Imports include mainly capital goods, food products, refined petroleum and intermediate goods.

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Nigeria has become a significant player on the world political stage and plays an important role in international organisations such as the World Bank and in international affairs generally. Nigeria is one of the founding members of the African Union (AU), successor to the former Organisation for African Unity (OAU).

Nigeria has become an important centre for international conferences and has in recent years hosted a number of large international conferences such as the AU/OAU and the Commonwealth summits.

The government's foreign policy principles are to seek to prevent conflicts and promote democratisation, disarmament and respect for human rights, sustainable development and poverty alleviation.

### CURRENCY

The currency of Nigeria is the Nigerian Naira (NGN) with 100 kobo = 1 Naira.

## 3 – FOREIGN INVESTMENT

---

Nigeria is West Africa's most populous country and one of the most developed.

Investment in the petroleum industry has increased steadily since the 1970s. Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria, ExxonMobil, Total, Eni and ChevronTexaco dominate upstream operations.

### BANKING AND FINANCE

Banking in Nigeria is regulated by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to protect the interest of investors and depositors.

The banking system consists of the Central Bank (i.e the apex bank), a few large commercial banks, investment banks, mortgage houses and microfinance banks. In recent years, a reform in the financial sector has reduced the number of commercial banks in the country from 89 to 21.

### CAPITAL MARKET

The Securities Exchange Commission is the apex regulatory institution of the Nigerian capital market.

The Commission's functions include regulation, registration, investigation enforcement, timing of issues, review of accounts, approval of mergers and acquisitions, approval of state and local government bonds and authorisation of unit trust schemes.

### INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The industrial establishments in the country include those in the giant oil industry, iron and steel complexes, pharmaceutical industries, food processing and motor vehicle assembly.

Government economic policy places a priority on greater investment in agricultural production and manufacturing for export. Nigeria has abundantly skilled and versatile human resources and access to a vast local market of more than 300 million people and beyond in the West and Central African sub-region.

### PRIORITY AREAS OF INVESTMENT

There are four industrial sectors which are considered priority areas of development because of their linkage with other sectors and potential catalytic role in the overall growth of industry. These priority areas come top in the administration of government industrial incentives:

- Metallurgical/engineering industries
- Agriculture (forest-based and agro-allied activities)
- Chemical/petrochemicals
- Construction

Specifically, industrial projects desired from these sectors are:

- Foundries and forges
- Metal fabrication/machine tools
- Pharmaceuticals
- Rubber and plastics
- Leather and leather products
- Textiles and weaving apparel
- Cement
- Other non-metallic material building materials; bricks, ceramic glass
- Food processing
- Sugar, confectionery and beverages
- Cereal and grain milling
- Fruits, vegetables, vegetable oils, oil seeds, roots and tubers.

In addition to the twelve identified priority areas mentioned above, investors are welcome to participate wholly or jointly with Nigerians in the following specific projects:

- Gemstones cutting and polishing
- Gold processing
- Mini-sugar production plants
- Multi-mineral plants for gypsum, talc, kaolin, marble/dolomite and baryte etc
- Cement production (700 –1000 metric tonnes per day)
- Lead and zinc projects
- Processing of salt from sea water
- Sodium tri-phosphate production
- Small/medium scale plants for sheet metal production
- Mining of industrial minerals; bitumen etc
- Stone cutting/polishing
- Fabrication of spare parts
- Exploitation of coal with known reserves of 293,140,000 tonnes in Enugu, Kogi and Adamawa States
- Timber/wood processing.

## **FREE TRADE ZONES**

The Nigeria Export Processing Zone Authority ([www.nepza.org](http://www.nepza.org)) is Nigeria's Investment Promotion Agency for investment in the free trade zone areas in Nigeria.

The licensing, monitoring and regulation of the free zones scheme in Nigeria is vested in the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority by the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Act 63 of 1992.

The enabling Act also confers on the Authority the power to approve and grant all licences and permits to the exclusion of all other agencies, and to enforce obedience and compliance to rules and regulations. In effect, the Act is an omnibus law, which gives the Authority and its board the power to define the policy directions and provide a one-stop business transaction without bureaucracy.

## INCENTIVES

Companies in the FTZs various incentives including the following

- A complete tax holiday from all federal, state and local government taxes, rates, customs duties and levies
- One-stop approvals for all permits, operating licences and incorporation papers
- Duty-free, tax-free import of raw materials and components for goods destined for re-export
- Duty-free introduction of capital goods, consumer goods, machinery, equipment and furniture
- Permission to sell 100% of manufactured, assembled or imported goods into the domestic Nigerian market
- Goods manufactured in the FTZ sold into the domestic market shall attract import duty calculated only on the basis of the value of the raw materials or components used in assembly not on the finished products
- 100% foreign ownership of investments
- 100% repatriation of capital, profits and dividends
- Waiver of all import and export licences
- Waiver on all expatriate quotas for companies operating in the zones
- Prohibition of strikes and lockouts
- Rent free land at the construction stage within the zone.

In Nigeria's free trade zones (FTZ's) all products and services are designated for export (with certain exceptions). Enterprises operating in the FTZs are exempted from custom duties, local taxes and foreign exchange restrictions, and in addition qualify for incentives such as tax holidays, rent free land, no strikes or lockouts.

Nigeria has several FTZs. The most advanced is the Calabar FTZ in the southeast, which accommodates about 100 businesses. Another FTZ is the Onne Oil and Gas FTZ near Port Harcourt. Others in Kano, Maiduguri and Banki are still at the stage of infrastructure construction. Singaporean interests are investing USD 169 billion to develop the private Lekki FTZ.

The Government has initiated Export processing zones (EPZ) in Ondo, Akwa Ibom and Kano states, with another 12 under construction in Lagos. These zones have received infrastructure improvements, tax exemptions and incentives in order for companies to reduce their production costs and make their exports more competitive. There are also five export processing factories (EPFs) selected for their export potential to receive support for improvements, exemptions and incentives.

## TOURISM

The federal government of Nigeria evolved a tourism policy in 1991 as part of its determined efforts to develop and promote tourism into an economically viable industry.



The main thrust of the policy is to make Nigeria a prominent tourist destination in Africa, generate foreign exchange, encourage even development, promote tourism-based rural enterprises, generate employment, accelerate rural-urban integration and foster socio-cultural unity among the various regions of the country through the promotion of domestic and international tourism. It also aims to encourage active private sector participation in tourism development

## INSTITUTIONS

The following institutions are part of the framework put in place to enhance effective execution of the tourism policy:

- The Federal Ministry of Commerce and Tourism assumes full responsibility for policy initiation and monitoring, maintaining links with the state governments on funding and monitoring of nationwide tourism infrastructure and dealing with international tourism agencies
- The State ministries of Commerce and Tourism implement policies and directives from the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Tourism and initiate projects for tourism development in the states
- The National Council on Commerce and Tourism, chaired by the Federal Minister of Commerce and Tourism ensures the co-ordination of national planning and development of tourism in the federation. It is an annual forum for discussing and perfecting modalities for tourism management
- The Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) ([www.tourism.gov.ng](http://www.tourism.gov.ng)) is the apex tourism body responsible for promoting, marketing and disseminating information on the sector locally and internationally, through publication of books, brochures and general guidelines for the operation of the industry. It collaborates with the private sector as well as other tiers of government in implementing policy directives and executing tourism projects. It co-ordinates the activities of organised private sector tourism associations and practitioners
- State tourism boards are set up to identify, preserve, protect and develop tourism assets and resources within the states
- Local government tourism committees locate and identify potential tourist attractions in their areas, serve as information centres and provide tour guides, as well as preserving and maintaining monuments and museums in their areas of jurisdiction.

## INCENTIVES FOR INVESTORS

The following incentives have been put in place to encourage domestic and foreign investors' participation in the tourism industry in Nigeria:

- The tourism sector was accorded preferred sector status in 1991. This means the sector qualifies for incentives (available to similar sectors of the economy) such as tax holidays and longer periods for a tax moratorium or import duty exemptions on tourism related equipment
- The establishment of a specialised training institute, the National Institution for Hotels and Tourism Studies, Bagauda, Kano, where middle level manpower training is provided
- State governments are willing and prepared to facilitate acquisition of land through issuance of a certificate of occupancy for tourism development purposes
- Some states have created specific areas as tourism development zones, thereby making acquisition of land easier.

## INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Special investment potentials exist in the following areas:

- Overland safaris
- National parks
- Game and gorilla viewing
- Deep sea recreational fishing
- Lake and river fishing
- Archaeological tours
- Beach resorts and hotels
- Transportation – water, land and air
- Surfing and snorkelling
- Theme parks and exposition centres.

## INVESTMENT ASSISTANCE

THE NIGERIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION COMMISSION (NIPC) [www.nipc.gov.ng](http://www.nipc.gov.ng)

The NIPC is a one-stop shop for potential foreign investors. The NIPC is tasked with overcoming the bureaucratic and institutional red tape that had previously discouraged foreign investors from taking advantage of Nigeria's wealth of opportunities. Located in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, the NIPC building serves as a central investment approval agency, streamlining the activities of ministries, government departments and agencies involved with investment promotion. It helps in matters such as registration or incorporation of foreign enterprises, obtaining expatriate quotas or providing information about the different tax regimes for sectors like cargo, oil or mining.

A list of other key Nigerian bodies which may be useful to foreign investors can be found in the Appendix at the end of this report.

## 4 – SETTING UP A BUSINESS

---

### COMPANIES

The most common form of business entity in Nigeria is the limited liability company.

Companies can be limited by guarantee or limited by shares. Companies limited by guarantee are generally not-for-profit organisations that primarily promote religious, charitable, educational and/or other similar interests. The names of companies limited by guarantee must end with the words 'Limited by Guarantee'.

Companies having share capital may be public or private companies. The name of a public company must end with the word 'Public Limited Company' usually abbreviated to 'PLC' whereas private companies must end with the words 'Limited'.

For a private company, the minimum number of shareholders is 2 and of directors also 2, while a public company may have an unlimited number of shareholders and as many directors as desired.

Directors need not own shares in the company and need not be resident in Nigeria, but a Nigerian resident must be appointed as the Company Secretary of the company. The company secretary of a public company must be a Nigerian resident. The board of directors is responsible for the daily management of the company for the benefit of its shareholders and acts for the company in transactions entered into by it. The shareholders exercise their powers in general meetings. The annual general meeting must be held within nine months of the financial year end and not more than 15 months after the last meeting. Shareholders may be individuals or corporate bodies, and any or all of the company's shares may be held by non-residents.

The principle that a company is a separate entity and exists separately from its shareholders, applies to both private and public companies. A company can enter into contracts and can sue or be sued in its own name. A shareholder's liability for the debts of the company is limited to the amount of capital they have invested in the shares.

A director may be held liable to indemnify the company or its shareholders against losses suffered by them in the following circumstances (amongst others):

- Unauthorised loans to directors or companies controlled by directors
- Breach of trust or faith, or wrongs committed by the director
- Reckless trading or fraud
- Untrue statements contained in a prospectus or financial statements
- Failure to repay monies received in respect of a share offer within a specified period.

#### UNLIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES

Members of certain organised professions, such as attorneys, accountants, medical practitioners etc are not allowed to incorporate their companies as private companies which confer limited liability on the members who are therefore jointly and severally liable for the debts of the company. They can however register as Limited Partnerships in one state, Lagos State out of Nigeria's 36 States and Federal Capital Territory.

#### ASSOCIATIONS AND UNIONS

These may register as Corporate Trustees or companies limited by guarantee. The constitution of an individual association spells out the obligations of members, which may include the terms of contributions to be made by the members.

#### PARTNERSHIPS AND SOLE PROPRIETORSHIPS

Partnerships are not subject to the requirements imposed on companies, but are subject to the general principles of the law of contract and to various special principles of common law applicable particularly to partnerships. They are not separate legal entities but are free to register as Business Names which formalises the existence of partnerships if the Partners so desire.

Individuals may also carry on a business as sole proprietors and register them as Business Names if they so wish.

## 5 – LABOUR

---

The 1990 Labour Act (chapter 198) lays out the employment laws of the federation of Nigeria.

The labour laws prohibit forced or compulsory labour. They also prohibit the employment of children less than 15 years of age in commerce and industry and restrict other child labour to domestic or agricultural work.

#### EMPLOYMENT

The contract of employment and the employment relationship are regulated by the provisions of the basic conditions of employment (i.e. the employee handbook) and the provisions of the Labour Act.

The basic conditions of employment are contained in the employee/staff handbook, which sets out the minimum terms on which employees must be employed in relation to annual leave, sick leave, overtime and daily and weekly maximum working hours. The staff handbook stipulates minimum terms and conditions of employment such as maximum ordinary hours of work and overtime, minimum payment for overtime worked including work performed on Sundays and public holidays, as well as minimum meal intervals, rest periods and leave provisions, including minimum annual leave and maternity leave.

To safeguard the interests of employers or employees, various trade unions are formed. Employees' trade unions represent members in negotiating and concluding collective agreements with employers and in industrial disputes and strikes etc.

#### TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT

There are four different types of employment:

- 1) Probationary – this is a brief period of observation before the employee's appointment is confirmed or terminated. During this period, both the employer and the employee may terminate the employment giving one or two months' notice or payment in lieu thereof
- 2) Temporary – this type of employment shall not include most of the provisions entrenched in permanent appointments e.g. it is not pensionable
- 3) Permanent – this commences from the date of confirmation of probationary employment or with the conversion of temporary employment to permanent
- 4) Contract – the terms under this employment will be spelled out between the two parties i.e. the company and the person under such a contractual agreement. However, this kind of appointment is not pensionable.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

An employer with more than ten employees must take a monthly pension contribution (depending on the employee's wages) towards each employee's retirement. These contributions are paid to a Pension Fund Administrator. Employees are allowed to choose pension administrators of their choice without any restriction from the employers. Employers also pay a percentage or amount paid by employees to the pension administrator chosen by their staff. Employers do not have access to pension funds, which are strictly for the employees. Employees are allowed to change pension fund administrators.

Another social security area is the Employee Compensation Scheme.

## 6 – TAXATION

---

In Nigeria, all persons in employment, individuals in business, non-residents who derive income from Nigeria, as well as companies that operate in Nigeria are liable to pay tax.

Some taxes are payable to the federal government (and administered by the Federal Inland Revenue Service) while others are payable to the state and local governments.

Taxes payable to the federal government are:

- Companies income tax
- Withholding tax on companies
- Petroleum profit tax
- Value added tax
- Education tax
- Capital gains tax on residents of the federal capital territory (FCT)
- Stamp duties on bodies, corporations and residents of the FCT
- Personal income tax (e.g. army, police etc).

Taxes payable to the state government are:

- Personal income tax
- Capital gains tax
- Stamp duties on instruments executed by individuals
- Withholding tax on individuals
- Business premises registration.

Taxes payable to local government are:

- Shops & kiosks rates
- Tenement rates
- Marriage, birth & death fees
- Market taxes
- Illegal parking charges.

### INDIRECT TAXES

Indirect taxes are those which are demanded from one person with the expectation that he/she may indemnify himself/herself against the costs of the tax at the expense of another.

Nigeria imposes the following indirect taxes:

- Value Added Tax (VAT) – an invoice based value added tax which is levied on supplies of goods and services
- Excise and Customs Duties
- Stamp duties – charges levied on certain documentary instruments.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Responsibility for the administration of taxes is entrusted to the Federal Board of Inland Revenue and each state's Board of Internal Revenue.

These boards appoint inspectors who carry out the work of assessment for income tax, Capital Gains Tax, Company Income Tax or VAT and banks which collect these taxes.

Failure to pay taxes attracts penalties from the relevant arm of government. Employers are required to deduct employee's tax from their employees' remuneration and to pay such amounts to the authorities on a monthly basis. Employees' tax thus deducted is allowed as a credit against the total amount of an employee's liability for tax as finally assessed on the basis of his/her annual return.

## **COMPANY INCOME TAX**

This refers to tax levied on the profits made by companies or associations.

Companies are taxed on income at the rate of 30%. Education tax is 2% on the assessable profit.

## **OTHER TAXES**

### **VALUE ADDED TAX**

Value added tax (VAT) replaced sales tax with effect from 1 January 1994. 5% is generally applied to taxable goods in 17 groups and services in 24 groups

### **CAPITAL GAINS TAX**

Capital gains tax covers the disposal of assets. With effect from 1996, the rate of tax is 10% of the capital gain.

### **PETROLEUM PROFITS TAX**

This tax came into being through the Petroleum Profit tax Act of 1959. The rates are 85% on exports and 65.75% on domestic sales of oil and gas, while 2% for the education tax.



## 7 – ACCOUNTING & REPORTING

---

The generally accepted standards of auditing and accounting in Nigeria had been developed to meet the strict requirements established by the profession. These standards have now been replaced with the standards set by the International Accounting Standards Board and the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC).

### **ACCOUNTING**

#### **ACCOUNTING RECORDS**

All companies are required to keep accounting records which must fairly present the state of affairs of business explaining the transactions and financial position of the company.

#### **ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The directors of every company must ensure that annual financial statements are prepared and presented to the annual general meeting of the company.

Annual financial statements must fairly present the true state of affairs of the company as at the financial year end and its profit or loss for that year.

#### **ANNUAL AUDIT REQUIREMENT**

The financial statements of both public and private companies are subject under the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap 20 LFN 2004 to an annual audit. Only accountants registered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and Association of National Accountants of Nigeria may be appointed as auditors for the purpose of the annual audit.

## 8 – UHY REPRESENTATION IN NIGERIA

---

[Company information will be inserted by the Executive Office in London according to a standard format]

## APPENDIX – NIGERIAN BUSINESS RELATED ORGANISATIONS

### NIGERIA EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE AUTHORITY

[www.nepza.gov.ng](http://www.nepza.gov.ng) (See page 8)

### NIGERIA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NTDC)

[www.tourism.gov.ng](http://www.tourism.gov.ng) (See page 9)

### THE NIGERIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION COMMISSION (NIPC)

[www.nipc.gov.ng](http://www.nipc.gov.ng) (See page 11)

### THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA (CBN)

[www.cbn.gov.ng](http://www.cbn.gov.ng)

The CBN is the apex regulatory authority of the financial system. It was established by the Central Bank of Nigeria Act of 1958 and commenced operations on 1 July 1959. Among its primary functions, the Bank promotes monetary stability and a sound financial system, and acts as banker and financial advisor to the federal government, as well as banker of last resort to the banks. The Bank also encourages the growth and development of financial institutions. Enabling laws in 1991 gave the Bank more flexibility in regulating and overseeing the banking sector and licensing finance companies which hitherto operated outside any regulatory framework.

### THE NIGERIAN DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION (NDIC)

[www.ndic.gov.ng](http://www.ndic.gov.ng)

The NDIC complements the regulatory and supervisory role of the CBN. It is however autonomous of the CBN and reports to Federal Ministry of Finance. The NDIC effectively took off in 1989 and was set up to provide deposit insurance and related services for banks in order to promote confidence in the banking industry. The NDIC is empowered to examine the books and affairs of insured banks and other deposit-taking financial institutions. Licensed banks are mandated to pay 15/16 of 1% of their total deposit liabilities as insurance premium to the NDIC. A depositor's claim is limited to a maximum of NGN 200,000 in the event of a bank failure.

### THE NIGERIA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NCC)

[www.ncc.gov.ng](http://www.ncc.gov.ng)

This is the regulatory authority for the telecommunications industry in Nigeria. Its major role is to facilitate private sector participation in communication services delivery, and to co-ordinate and regulate the activities of the operators to ensure consistency in availability of service delivery and fair pricing.

It has powers to give written directions to a licensee or an authorised carrier in connection with its functions and consult, where appropriate with the President of Nigeria, commercial and industrial organisations, consumers and standards organisations as well as other relevant bodies.

### THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE (NSE)

[www.nigerianstockexchange.com](http://www.nigerianstockexchange.com), [www.nse.gov.ng](http://www.nse.gov.ng)

This is a statutory body licensed by the Securities Exchange Commission to operate a stock exchange for trading in financial securities. It has six branches with trading floors in some of the major commercial cities of the country.

#### THE CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC)

[www.cac.gov.ng](http://www.cac.gov.ng)

The Corporate Affairs Commission was established by the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 to regulate the formation and management of companies.

The Commission's mandate is to establish and maintain a Companies Registry and offices in all the states of the federation equipped to discharge its functions under the Act or any law in respect of which it is charged with the responsibility, and to conduct an investigation into the affairs of any company where the interests of the shareholders and the public so demand.

The Commission also registers business names, incorporated trustees and non-government organisations, as well as providing a wide range of ancillary services.

#### THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA (ICAN)

[www.ican-ngr.org](http://www.ican-ngr.org), [www.icanig.org](http://www.icanig.org)

It is the first group of professionally qualified accountants founded in Nigeria under the name 'The Association of Accountants in Nigeria'. This Association was absorbed by the Institute created by the Act of Parliament No. 15 of 1965 which came into force on 1 September 1965.

The Institute has reciprocal privileges with many regional and international professional accountancy associations. It is an active member of the Association of Accountancy Bodies in West Africa (ABWA) and IFAC.

#### NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL (NAFDAC)

[www.nafdac.gov.ng](http://www.nafdac.gov.ng)

By the provisions of the enabling law (Act No. 15 of 1993) the Agency is mandated to regulate and control the importation, exportation, manufacture, advertisement, distribution and sale and use of drugs, cosmetics, medical devices, bottled water and chemicals.

#### THE NIGERIAN IMMIGRATION SERVICE (NIS)

[www.immigration.gov.ng](http://www.immigration.gov.ng)

The NIS was established by an Act of Parliament (section 5 Of Immigration Act L.N. Cap. 171). It issues residence permits for foreign business owners and workers.

#### THE NIGERIA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY (NCAA)

[www.ncaa.gov.ng](http://www.ncaa.gov.ng)

The NCAA was established by decree 49 of 1999, with among others, statutory responsibilities for ensuring the regulation, monitoring and promotion of safety, security, economic soundness and reliability of air navigation in line with International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) standards and recommended practices (SARPs).

The NCAA was established to ensure aviation safety and economic regulatory services in the most efficient, effective, quality and technology driven manner to the satisfaction and benefit of all stakeholders, consistent with the highest international standards and the sustainable development of the industry and national economy. It issues licenses and permits for all operators in the aviation industry including airlines, airports, flight schools, travel agencies and the professionals working in the organisations.

#### NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION

[www.nuc.edu.ng](http://www.nuc.edu.ng)

The main functions of the Commission include the following:

- Granting approval for all academic programmes run in Nigerian universities
- Granting approval for the establishment of all higher educational institutions offering degree programmes in Nigeria.
- Ensuring quality assurance of all academic programmes offered in Nigerian universities
- Acting as a channel for all external support to Nigerian universities.

#### FINANCIAL REPORTING COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (FRC)

[www.financialreportingcouncil.gov.ng](http://www.financialreportingcouncil.gov.ng)

The FRC came into being with the Financial Reporting Council Act No 6 2011. It is the only recognised independent body in Nigeria responsible for the development and issuance of statements of accounting standards for users and preparers of financial statements, investors, commercial enterprises and regulatory agencies of the government.

## DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES (DPR)

[www.dpr.gov.ng](http://www.dpr.gov.ng)

The Department of Petroleum Resources is vested with various legal provisions to discharge the following functions and responsibilities:

- Supervising all petroleum industry operations being carried out under licences and leases in the country in order to ensure compliance with the applicable laws and regulations in line with good oil-producing practices
- Enforcing safety and environmental regulations and ensuring that those operations conform to national and international industry practices and standards
- Keeping and updating records on petroleum industry operations, particularly on matters relating to petroleum reserves, production and exports of crude oil, gas and condensate, licences and leases, as well as rendering regular reports on them to the government
- Advising the government and relevant agencies on technical matters and policies which may have impact on the administration and control of petroleum
- Processing all applications for licences so as to ensure compliance with laid-down guidelines before making recommendations to the Honourable Minister of Petroleum Resources
- Ensuring timely and adequate payments of all rents and royalties as and when due
- Monitoring government indigenisation policy to ensure that any local content/philosophy are achievable.

## PENSION COMMISSION

[www.pencom.gov.ng](http://www.pencom.gov.ng)

The Pension Reform Act 2004 established the National Pension Commission (PenCom) as the body to regulate, supervise and ensure the effective administration of pension matters in Nigeria.

The functions of the Commission include:

- Regulation and supervision of the scheme established under the Act
- Issuance of guidelines for the investment of pension funds
- Approving, licensing, regulating and supervising pension fund administrators, custodians and other institutions relating to pension matters as the Commission may, from time to time, determine.
- Establishing standards, rules and guidelines for the management of the pension funds under the Act. The new pension scheme requires pension funds to be privately managed by licensed pension fund administrators (PFA's)

Before it is issued with an operating licence, the PFA must be a limited liability company whose sole object is the management of pension funds. To discourage frivolous applications and to ensure credibility, such a company must have a prescribed minimum paid-up share capital and demonstrate the professional capacity to manage pension funds and administer retirement benefits.

#### NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, MINES AND AGRICULTURE

[www.naccima.com](http://www.naccima.com)

The Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture popularly referred to by its acronym, NACCIMA, is the umbrella organisation for all city/state and bilateral Chambers of Commerce within the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The primary objective of the Association is to create an environment which is conducive for the pursuit of commerce, industry and all other forms of economic activities of interest to the private sector. Other objectives include:

- To promote, protect and develop all matters affecting business
- To encourage an orderly expansion and development of all segments of the community
- To contribute to the overall economic stability of the community
- To encourage and promote the nation's private sector
- To provide a network of national and international business contacts and opportunities
- To carry out training programmes for members and other relevant economic agents
- To create business services and information and attract inflows of investment and tourists
- To advocate for a better business environment and create new opportunities and industries.

Its functions include:

- The collection and dissemination of vital business information.
- Monitoring the performance of the economy and making representation to the government and its agencies with regard to the effects of various economic, fiscal and monetary measures
- The identification of obstacles to the establishment and profitable operations of commercial, industrial and other enterprises, especially those arising from government policies or the administration of such policies and the exertion of pressure for the removal of such obstacles
- Organising seminars and workshops on various aspects of the economy, business and management
- Promoting commercial, industrial and general economic cooperation between Nigeria and other countries
- Assisting in the protection of Nigeria's image and business interests abroad by mediating in commercial disputes.

#### LAGOS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

[www.lagoschamber.com](http://www.lagoschamber.com)

The Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry was established in 1888 and is the premier chamber of commerce in Nigeria. It was incorporated in 1950 as a not-for-profit organisation limited by guarantee under the Companies Act of 1948. The primary objective of the Chamber is to promote, support or oppose legislative or other measures affecting trade, industry, commerce and agriculture, as well as to represent the opinion of the business community on these matters in particular and on the economy as a whole.

**OTHER CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN NIGERIA****Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

Address: Plot 232A, Adeola Odeku Street, P.O. Box 7001, Victoria Island, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 2621424, 2621424; Fax: +234 1 2621422

**Nigerian-American Chamber of Commerce**

Address: Marble House (8th floor), 1, Alfred Rewane Road, Falomo, Ikoyi, G.P.O. Box 8508, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 2692088, 2693041; Fax: +234 1 2693041

**Nigerian-Asean Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

Address: Block B, Suite 9, Falomo shopping complex, Falomo, P.O.Box. 51693, Ikoyi, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 2690428; Fax: +234 1 2690428

**Nigerian-Belgium Chamber of Commerce**

Address: 9a, Lisabi Road, off Liverpool Road, Apapa, P.O. Box 4309, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 7743650; Fax: +234 1 2637855

**Nigerian-Brazilian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Address: Western House (6th Floor) P.O. Box 517, Apapa, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 2631328, 2631328

**Nigerian-British Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Address: Ebani House, 149/153, Broad Street, P.O. Box 109, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 2660298, 2641266; Fax: +234 1 2660298

**Nigerian-Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Industry**

Address: 21, Boyle Street, Onikan, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 2647858, 2633936; Fax: +234 1 2633936

**Nigerian-Chinese Chamber of commerce & Industry**

Address: 79, Adeniran Ogunsanya street, P.O.Box. 6112, Surulere, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 5851363

**Nigerian-Hungarian Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

Address: 190, Ikorodu Road, Onipanu, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 2820171; Fax: +234 1 2880241

**Nigerian-Israeli Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

Address: C/o Embassy of Israel, Cowrie House, Plot 636, Adeyemo Alakija Street, Victoria Island, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 2622055, 2622056, 2620121

**Nigeria-Jamaica Chamber of Commerce & Industry**

Address: 1B, Shiro Street, off Ikorodu Road, Fadeyi, Lagos

Phone: +234 1 862853, 820290

**Nigeria-Japan Chamber of Commerce & Industry**



Address: Ebani House, 149/153, Broad Street, P.O.Box. 2508, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 2668552, 22661744

Nigerian-Korean Friendship Association  
Address: Kajola House (5th floor), 62/64, Campbell Street, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 2635401, 2635714

Nigerian-Netherlands Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Address: Regency Suites (Apartment 204), 17, Ahmed Onibudo Street, Victoria Island, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 2614619; Fax: +234 1 2614619

Nigerian-Nordic Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Address: Mclver House (Suite 13/14), 61, Marina, P.o. Box 4253, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 2662021, 2641194, 2640024; Fax: +234 1 2641195

Nigeria-Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Address: 10, Randle Road, P.M.B. 1211, Apapa, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 5452136, 5870240, 5875311; Fax: +234 1 5874751, 5452137

Nigerian-Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Address: C/o Embassy of Poland, 1, Amodu Tijani street, Victoria island, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 2620660; Fax: +234 1 2620649

Nigeria-Romania Chamber Of Commerce  
Address: 228B, Muri-Okunola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 2622314, 2622576; Fax: +234 1 2622314

Nigerian-South African Chamber of Commerce  
Address: K & P Towers, 24 Norman Williams Street, S.W. Ikoyi, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 7949870, 2707430, 4811529, 2671294; Fax: +234 1 2707430, 2671294  
Website: [www.n-sacc.org](http://www.n-sacc.org)

Nigeria-Taiwan Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
Address: C/o Taipei World Trade Centre, Bankers' House, Plot 19c, Adeola Hopewell street, Victoria Island, Lagos  
Phone: +234 1 2620895; Fax: +234 1 2620896

#### NIGERIAN MARITIME ADMINISTRATION AND SAFETY AGENCY

[www.nimasa.gov.ng](http://www.nimasa.gov.ng)

The Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) is the apex regulatory and promotional maritime agency.

These enabling laws confer the following functions on the Agency:

- To pursue the development of shipping and regulate matters relating to merchant shipping and seafarers;
- Administering the registration and licensing of ships
- Regulate and administer the certification of seafarers
- Establish maritime training and safety standards
- Regulate the safety of shipping as regards the construction of ships and navigation

- Provide direction on the qualification, certification, employment and welfare of maritime labour
- Enforce and administer the provisions of the Cabotage Act 2003
- Perform port and flag state duties
- Establish the procedure for the implementation of conventions of the International Maritime Organisation and the International Maritime Labour Organisation and other international conventions to which the Federal Republic of Nigeria is a party on maritime safety and security, maritime labour and commercial shipping and for the implementation of codes, resolutions and circulars arising there from.

Its regulatory services are:

- (a) Flag state administration
- (b) Port state control / administration
- (c) Marine environment management
- (d) Implementation of the ISPS Code
- (e) Certification of seafarers and registration of dockworkers
- (f) Registration of shipping companies.

#### NIGERIAN ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

[www.nercng.org](http://www.nercng.org)

The Commission is mandated to carry out the monitoring and regulation of the electricity industry, the issuance of licences to market participants and to ensure compliance with market rules and operating guidelines.

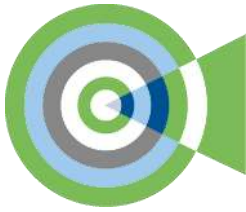
#### STANDARD ORGANISATION OF NIGERIA

[www.son.gov.ng](http://www.son.gov.ng)

The Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) is the sole statutory body that is vested with the responsibility of standardising and regulating the quality of all products in Nigeria.

#### NATIONAL INSURANCE COMMISSION

[www.naicom.gov.ng](http://www.naicom.gov.ng)



---

## LET US HELP YOU ACHIEVE FURTHER BUSINESS SUCCESS

To find out how UHY can assist your business, contact any of our member firms. You can visit us online at [www.uhy.com](http://www.uhy.com) to find contact details for all of our offices, or email us at [info@uhy.com](mailto:info@uhy.com) for further information.

---

UHY is an international network of legally independent accounting and consultancy firms whose administrative entity is Urbach Hacker Young International Limited, a UK company. UHY is the brand name for the UHY international network. Services to clients are provided by member firms and not by Urbach Hacker Young International Limited. Neither Urbach Hacker Young International Limited, the UHY network, nor any member of UHY has any liability for services provided by other members.

UHY Maaji & Co (the "Firm") is a member of Urbach Hacker Young International Limited, a UK company, and forms part of the international UHY network of legally independent accounting and consulting firms. UHY is the brand name for the UHY international network. The services described herein are provided by the Firm and not by UHY or any other member firm of UHY. Neither UHY nor any member of UHY has any liability for services provided by other members.

© 2017 UHY International Ltd