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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

DRAFT NATIONAL POLICY ON DIASPORA MATTERS

NOVEMBER, 2016

FOREWORD

Human capital resource creates wealth and determines the pace of development. Nations seeking to achieve sustainable development therefore pay particular attention to critical issues of capacity building, mobilization, harnessing and deployment of human capital resources wherever they may be. Thus, of the current most globally discussed topics in capacity development is the immense potentials of the Diaspora to help develop their countries of origin.

While Nigerian Diaspora have continued to contribute immensely to the world labour market, there conversely seems to be a dearth of professionals and experts serving within the country.

Nigeria has recognized the Diaspora as a veritable tool for the socio-economic development of the country leading to the desire to draw a national policy that guarantees their right of participation in the socio-economic development of their home land.

The modern Diaspora can be conceived as ethnic minority groups of migrant origin residing and productively engaged in host countries but often maintaining some strong sentimental and material link with their countries of origin. In the Nigerian context, and for the purpose of this Policy, Nigerian Diaspora refers to any Nigerian who lives and works abroad and has interest in contributing to the socio-economic, political, technological and industrial development of Nigeria.

It is estimated that there are about 15 to 17 million Nigerians in the Diaspora (Nigeria Diaspora.com). It is on record that the Nigerian communities abroad are among the best educated and relatively affluent of the immigrant population. A large number of those in advanced countries are professionals with specialisation in all fields of human endeavour including medicine, education, research, ICT, law and engineering, among others. Nigerians in the Diaspora thus constitute a large pool of skilled human capacity, the critical means through which the country needs to take-off in the 21st century, bearing in mind that galvanization and utilization of intellectual capacity is integral to development. Furthermore, effective coordination and regulation of remittances from Diaspora all over the world no doubt contribute to the social economic development of Nigeria.

While previous governments had taken steps in the direction of granting increasing recognition to the place of Diaspora in our development, President Muhammadu Buhari's creation of the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (OSSAPFAD), together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' policy contributions, further emphasize the recognition of the group's potential to positively impact on Nigeria economically, politically and socially. Thus this policy document is put in place to guide Nigeria's relations with its Diaspora.

This policy document stands out in the way it recognizes Diaspora as a complex phenomenon that transcends the simplistic definition that limits the Diaspora of an African nation to only those living outside it, but who are connected to it by descent through the colonial cartography of nationhood. Such understanding undermines the place of Historic African Diaspora (HAD) which designates a far greater population of people of African descent whose dispersal and migration out of the continent, forced or otherwise, preceded colonial mapping in Africa. On this account, while recognizing people of Nigerian descent born or living outside the country, the policy also admits the potential agency of members of Historic African Diaspora that may elect to identify with Nigeria for the realization of its developmental goals.

At another level, the policy recognizes, among others, that development between a homeland state and its Diaspora is not one dimensional. The Nigerian Government therefore recognizes that while collaborating with its Diaspora for the attainment of national developmental goals, it will also facilitate a collaboration framework that would translate into simultaneous benefits for its Diaspora. Thus, the Nigerian Government reads the relationship as mutually beneficial.

The policy also recognizes that during emergencies, Diaspora women and children are peculiarly vulnerable. In line with this, the policy acknowledges the need to develop a framework to cater to such peculiar needs during moments of emergencies and distress. The policy also endorses a practical step towards the recognition of Diaspora through the establishment of a National Diaspora Village as well as the creation of a Diaspora category in the National Award Programme.

Overall, the policy lays down the parameters for Nigeria's engagement with its Diaspora, taking into account the internal dynamics of the country as well as the external dynamics of its far-flung Diaspora. It is a well-thought out policy geared towards economic, political, social and cultural development in Nigeria. This is so as the nation strives to consolidate its reputation in the comity of nations and achieve development on all positive fronts. It is therefore hoped that the implementation of the policy will redound to the nation's development and that of its Diaspora in all areas.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The place of Nigerian Diaspora in African development can no longer be pushed to the background. This calls for an appropriate response to mainstream Diaspora matters in the nation through the formulation of a policy that would boost Nigeria's relations with its Diaspora and facilitate sustainable development.

While countries have adopted and applied specific definitions to guide their Diaspora policies, the Nigeria Government has adopted a broader understanding of Diaspora for its application. Government thus broadly conceives and recognizes Diaspora on two levels. The first category designates people of Nigerian descent either born in Nigeria or otherwise living abroad who are interested in contributing to the development of the nation. The second category refers to people of African descent who are members of Historic African Diaspora (HAD) who may choose to identify with Nigeria for collaboration towards the achievement of the nation's goals. The Nigerian Diaspora Policy stands out in the way it also recognizes that the development caveat for collaboration with its Diaspora is mutual, as Government is also committed to programmes and frameworks for the development and betterment of Nigerian Diaspora.

At present, Government is aware of the challenges to the phenomenal promise the Nigerian Diaspora holds for national development. Some of the identified challenges are lack of a reliable database for the Nigerian Diaspora, inability to exercise their voting rights in the homeland, high cost of remittances, inadequate infrastructure, lack of reintegration framework for returnees, etc.

In view of the above, the broad objective of the policy is to address these challenges by identifying areas of Diaspora needs and setting machinery in motion to address them.

The policy identifies the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (OSSAPFAD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) as the main agencies charged with the coordination of Diaspora matters. It also lists other Government agencies, institutions and Diaspora formations to be involved in the implementation process.

On a last note, the policy recommends a framework for regular monitoring and evaluation of the policy implementation. It shall be undertaken by the main agency and other appropriate agencies like the Diaspora and Transnational Studies Programme, University of Ibadan (DTSPUI) in order to assess and review the implementation reports geared towards better performance and all round development of the nation and its Diaspora.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 DEFINITION

There are various definitions of the term "Diaspora". These include: "any person who lives and works outside the shores of his home country". The International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines Diaspora as members of ethnic and national communities who have left, but maintain links with their homeland. In the past 50 years, the number of people living outside their countries of origin has doubled from about 120 to over 200 million and constitutes an appreciable number of world populations. This fact underscores the place of this category of people in world population, particularly with respect to the management of international migration, transit, destination, integration and return. It further explains why all the world over since the turn of the 20th century, policy formulation around international migration has occupied the front burner of individual countries and the international community.

According to IOM and KNBS, about 30 million Africans live outside their home countries. Such estimate is exclusive of the huge population of people of African descent whose migration narratives fall within the categorisation of Historic African Diaspora; their migration preceded the colonisation of Africa beginning from mostly the second half of the 20th century. The understanding then explains why for the African Union, **"The African**

Diaspora consists of peoples of African origin living outside the continent, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of the continent and the building of the African Union.”

1.1 AFRICAN UNION

The African Union recognizes the growing importance of the Diaspora in the polity. It is the recognition of the African Diaspora as an important part of the continent that prompted the African Union (AU) in 2003 to declare the African Diaspora as the sixth region of the continent.

1.2 THE NIGERIAN PERSPECTIVE:

In the Nigerian context and for the purpose of this policy, Diaspora refers to two broad categories of people. This first has to do with people of Nigerian descent who live and work abroad and have interest in contributing to the socio-economic, political, technological and industrial development of Nigeria. It is important to note that the relationship is not however one-sided. Just as the designated category of Nigerians stands to enhance development in the homeland, Nigeria also recognizes the mutuality of the relationship and is also committed to a responsibility towards the well being and development of its Diaspora. The second category designates members of Historic African Diaspora. These are people of African descent living in other continents in the Americas, Europe, Asia and Australia and whose

history of migration antedates colonization. The Nigerian Government recognizes members of this Diaspora category that may elect to identify with the country to genuinely contribute to its socio-economic, political, technological and industrial development. Again, such genuine interest in Nigerian development shall place a responsibility of ensuring the wellbeing and development of this category of Diaspora in the Nigerian agenda as terms and conditions of relationship unfold. Reckoning that the African Union alone cannot be assigned the prerogative of relating with people of African descent living in Diaspora, Nigeria welcomes and offers to be in partnership with willing members of this group. This is much more so because the African Union is spread across all the nations on the continent and Nigeria plays a leading role in the reconnection agenda with both contemporary and Historic African Diaspora.

At the moment, there is no reliable information regarding the number of Nigerians living abroad. It is estimated that there are over 12 million Nigerians living in the Diaspora. About 6 million of them reside in the Americas particularly in the United States of America and Canada while another 3 million live in Europe with the United Kingdom as the destination of choice. Diaspora Nigerians are found not only in Europe and America; they are dispersed all over the globe including Africa, Australia, Asia, and the Middle-East, where they live in substantial numbers.

What is significant about the Nigerian communities abroad is that first, they are among the most educated and relatively successful of the immigrant population. A large percentage of them are professionals with specialization in fields such as medicine, education, teaching, information technology, real estate, law, banking and engineering, among others.

Secondly, many years of their sojourn abroad have not diminished their patriotism. Like most Nigerians at home, they remain concerned about the situation in the country and have critical skills needed to solve Nigeria's socioeconomic problems. Through their cultural activities, they remain Nigeria's foremost cultural ambassadors and a potent force for positive external image. In the same vein, Nigeria recognizes the efforts of members of Historic African Diaspora who may consciously elect to identify with the hopes and aspirations of the nation and project its image towards a more positive global reception of the country for development.

The Diasporas have continued to play a key role in the development of their home countries. With remittances, Nigerians in the Diaspora have shown their importance as a viable economic force. Nigeria receives the largest inflow of remittances in Sub-Saharan Africa with 65% of its total and 2% of global inflow. In 2012, Nigeria was ranked as the 5th largest remittance receiving developing country in the world with an estimate of 21 Billion US dollars.

This, coupled with their investment potentials, if properly harnessed, could positively impact the country's socio-economic development. Given the significant role they play and the impact they make on their countries of origin, many countries have initiated policies and legislations that create the enabling environment that will facilitate the full participation and contribution of the Diaspora to national development.

In essence, Nigerians abroad, especially the professionals, constitute a large pool of skilled, experienced and well trained human capital. The pool constitutes the critical mass that the country needs to drive its transformation into a technologically advanced nation in the 21st century and beyond.

Government has come to recognize the importance of mobilizing and engaging Nigerians in the Diaspora as strategic partners to be involved in the national development process. Under President Olusegun Obasanjo, Government encouraged the establishment of the Nigerians in the Diaspora Organization (NIDO). NIDO was set up to serve as an umbrella organization of all Nigerians abroad and a vehicle through which Nigerians in the Diaspora could be mobilized to participate in the development process.

As part of the effort to provide an institutional framework for involving the Diaspora in the affairs of the country, in 2016, the Government of President Muhammadu Buhari created the Office of Senior Special Assistant on Foreign

Affairs and Diaspora (SSAFAD). The office has the responsibility to directly coordinate Diaspora matters for the facilitation of engagement with Diaspora to actualize mutual development processes in the homeland and the Diaspora.

The need to engage the Nigerian Diaspora was based on the recognition of the huge human capital and resources of the Diaspora as a major contributor to national development. There is also the realization that some countries notably India, China, Pakistan, Mexico and the Philippines have successfully utilized their Diaspora for their rapid development.

1.3 VISION, MISSION AND GOAL

The Vision, Mission and Goal of the policy document are as follows;

- i. Vision:** Effectively promote and harness the capacity of Nigerians at home and abroad for the socio-political and economic development of the nation.
- ii. Mission:** To empower Nigerians in the Diaspora as change agents for the development of Nigeria through promoting a framework for the Diaspora to maximize their potentials in capital, knowledge and networks.
- iii. Goal:** Constructive engagement of the Diaspora for sustainable national development.

CHAPTER TWO

CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE DIASPORA CONTRIBUTION TO NIGERIAN DEVELOPMENT

In spite of the phenomenal promise Diaspora holds in the mediation of national development, the Nigerian Diaspora is faced with series of challenges that stand in the way of realizing the potentials. The challenges also continue to hinder the full realization of Government's efforts at responding more effectively to Diaspora needs.

2.0 Challenges

Some of the challenges to the full realization of Nigerian Diaspora potentials for development are listed below.

2.1 Lack of Reliable Database

The figures often quoted about the number of Nigerians abroad remain at best speculative. The situation obtains from the lack of accurate enumeration of the actual number of this all-important category of Nigerians, as a reliable database is yet to be generated for continual and automated capture of the various categories of Nigerians abroad. The inadequacy continues to stand in the way of planning both for the realization

of Diaspora potentials and the strategic interventions of Government in impacting Nigerian Diaspora in all-round development.

2.2 Lack of Enabling Environment arising from Inadequate Infrastructure

Implied in the spectrum of Diaspora is the possibility of return for the mediation of development. Return is thus considered a vital developmental constituent that requires the institution of adequate infrastructure for the attraction of Diaspora investment. So far, most members of the Nigerian Diaspora are discouraged by the lack of the enabling environment for the sustenance of an operational infrastructural system in the Nigerian homeland to drive their investment.

2.3 Insecurity

The security system in the country continues to be a source of worry to members of the Nigerian Diaspora. The situation touches on virtually all aspects of the national life and stands as a serious challenge to how the Diaspora can be reintegrated into national life where return, either in terms of investment or physical return, or both, is concerned.

2.4 High Cost of Remittances

Nigerians abroad are often faced with the difficulty of sending remittances back home. The formal channels of transfer are mostly expensive. The

situation accounts for why Diaspora members often resort to informal channels of remittances that prevent Government from having accurate information on how best to plan and harness Diaspora resources for national development.

2.5. Lack of Bilateral Agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation (ADT) with Some Countries with Significant Diaspora Population

Nigerians living in Diaspora have large concentrations in some countries than others. Where this occurs, it should ordinarily afford them the privilege of having exemption from double taxation. However this has not often been the case. Having to be doubly taxed is a source of discouragement for this category of Nigerians and has stood in the way of how they respond to tax regimes affecting them both in Diaspora and the Nigerian homeland.

2.6 Inability to Transfer Diaspora Skill and Technology

Diaspora members, especially those living in some of the most technologically advanced countries in Europe and North America constitute potential sources of skill and technology transfer. They have excelled in the acquisition of technologically-driven skills and the transfer of such stands to enhance the Nigerian developmental profile. However, the conducive environment for such transfer in the homeland continues to be a challenge,

as the skill and technology transfer through Diaspora is yet to have a clearly defined formal template that will boost Diaspora interest.

2.7 Lack of Integration Framework for Returning Nigerians

An integration framework for returning Diasporas is a mechanism by which the question of return can be addressed. But as things stand, such framework at present lacks a coherent expression. The situation often creates doubts and scepticism in members of the Diaspora wishing to return to the Nigerian homeland with the hope of resettling into their original space, a decision that holds amazing potentials for development.

2.8 Inability to Exercise Their Right as Nigerian Citizens to Vote and Participate in the Electoral Process

The Diaspora stands as the undeclared 7th geopolitical zone of the country because members of the community are unable to vote from their various locations and participate in other franchise-related matters in the Nigerian homeland. The challenges stem from the unavailability of a template for virtual voting and other similar provisions that can grant members of the Diaspora the full exercise of their franchise, considering that their contribution to national development cannot be denied.

2.9. Inadequate Response to Emergency and Distress Situations of Nigerians in Diaspora

Response to emergency situations during uncomplimentary moments of disasters, wars and xenophobic attacks and other similar situations require prompt response to the distress of Nigerians in their various countries of destination by the Nigerian Government. Much as these responses have been recorded in specific instances; they are few and far between at present. The situation tends to detract from the nationalist ego of Nigerians in Diaspora, which makes it an area of challenge requiring a more proactive response from Government.

2.2.1 Policy as Direct Response to Diaspora Needs

The current effort to develop a National Policy on Diaspora is a direct response to the need to provide an institutional framework for the mobilization and involvement of Nigerian Diaspora in the national development process and to address the challenges militating against their participation.

2.2.2 Policy and Consistency with International Migration Policy

The Nigerian Diaspora Policy shall be consistent with the overall objectives of the International Migration Policy.

CHAPTER THREE

DIASPORA POLICY OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

Nigeria, like many other developing countries, recognizes the enormous potential of the country's Diaspora population to facilitate trade, investment, amongst others, in the overall development of the country. It also seeks to commit itself to ways in which Diaspora contribution to homeland development translates into an enhancement of Diaspora life and development.

3.0 AIM

The main aim of this policy framework is to mobilize and harness the potential of Nigerian Diaspora for national development.

3.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- a. to develop robust and dynamic strategies targeted at harnessing Diaspora resources towards national development;
- b. to respond to the challenges and needs of the Diaspora in their efforts to participate in national development;
- c. to improve and sustain strong socio-cultural and economic relations with the Diaspora for national development;
- d. to strengthen relevant institutions for the coordination and proper administration of Diaspora Issues particularly the Office of Senior

Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (OSSAPFAD), amongst others.

- e. to facilitate a congenial atmosphere for members of Historic African Diaspora wishing to collaborate and identify with Nigeria for socio-political and economic development.
- f. to create favourable frameworks for programmes that will contribute to Diaspora members' wellbeing and development while contributing to homeland development

3.2 Strategies

To achieve the objectives of this policy, Government is committed to creating the needed human and material infrastructure to engage, enable and empower the Diaspora towards national development. Government shall continue to provide the enabling environment to encourage the Diaspora to contribute their quota to national development and in the process facilitate processes of enhanced Diaspora experience for this category of Nigerians and the other category of Historic African Diaspora committed to Nigerian development.

3.3.1 Trade and Investment

To encourage the Diaspora towards active engagement in Trade and Investment, Government shall continue to provide incentives such as tax

rebates and waivers on duties of certain goods and services in accordance with extant fiscal policy measures.

3.3.2 Remittances

Government shall, through its relevant organs and agencies, create incentives and educate the Diaspora community on policies that have been put in place to facilitate cheaper, efficient and secure channels of remittance flow. In addition, Government shall continue to create the necessary monetary policies that will facilitate the transfer of resources from the Diaspora, to Nigeria for national development.

3.3.3 Diaspora Day

July 25th shall be regarded as Diaspora Day. Government shall continue to improve on the structure of Diaspora Day event to allow for better result-oriented programmes for national development.

3.3.4 Consular and Immigration Services

Consular services to Nigerians in their respective host countries shall be improved and where necessary, Diaspora Desk Offices shall be established. The Government shall enter into Bilateral Agreements aimed at protecting the interest of Nigerians in the Diaspora.

3.3.5 Engagement

Government shall take necessary steps to ensure the following:

- a. **Database:** Put in place necessary machineries to obtain reliable database and other relevant data for the purpose of registering Nigerians in Diaspora.
- b. **Outreach:** Shall work with recognised Diaspora Organisations and other relevant Diaspora associations and individuals to develop outreach strategies that will facilitate the involvement of Diaspora in national development.

3.4 Empowerment:

3.4.1 Health and Education

The huge human capital available among Nigerians in Diaspora in areas of Health, Education, Sciences, Technology and other sectors are vital for national development. In this respect, Government shall continue to create conducive environment for temporary and permanent transfer of such resources to Nigeria as well as encourage collaborative research between Nigerian Diaspora and their professional colleagues at home.

3.4.2 Tourism and Culture

Special recognition awards shall be created for Nigerian Diaspora associations that promote Nigeria as a tourist's destination. Governments

shall continue to encourage relevant sectors to participate in Diaspora Socio-Cultural and economic events.

3.4.3 Agriculture, Science and Technology/Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Government shall continue to encourage the participation of the Diaspora in the non-oil sectors of the economy particularly Agriculture, Solid minerals, manufacturing Science, Technology and innovation and ICT.

3.5 Social Security

Government shall continue to encourage host countries to facilitate Diaspora access to social security benefits applicable in their countries.

3.6 Homeland Security

Having been identified as one of the main challenges to the full realization of Diaspora potentials for homeland development, Government shall consolidate its efforts towards ensuring a more enduring and more sustainable peace in every sector and section of the nation.

3.7 Infrastructure

By identifying infrastructure as one of the challenges to smooth Diaspora return, transition and investment, Government shall endeavour to firm up its

plan to realize its infrastructural goal to meet up not only with Diaspora needs but also shall also ensure that the achievement of the goal is consistent with global best practices.

3.8 Diaspora Franchise

That the Nigerian Diaspora members are not able to exercise their right to vote owing to their location outside the country in the 21st century can no longer be tenable. Government shall therefore work hand in hand with the appropriate ministries, offices and agencies to ensure that a credible framework that is technologically driven and effective is put in place to integrate Diaspora voting as an integral part of the Nigerian voting system.

3.9 Development of a Framework for Pre-departure Training

As a global phenomenon in which citizens of all nations participate on an equally global level of competition, Government reckons that developing and harmonizing existing training platforms for pre-departure training for emigrants will enhance their chances of survival and success outside the shores of the nation. Government shall provide orientation, training and skill acquisition to intending emigrants in order to prepare them for the challenges of survival in Diaspora

3.10 Effective Response to Emergency and Distress Situations of Nigerians in Diaspora

Moments of extreme emergency leading to despair over safety are as unpredictable as they are treacherous. Government shall set up an effective response mechanism to accelerate rescue and evacuation processes, as the case may be, for those caught in the uncertainties of emergencies and other similar situations in order to assure Diaspora members of Government's concern for the wellbeing of its citizens irrespective of their location.

3.11 Institution of an Integration Framework for Returning Nigerians from Diaspora

In recognition of return at the other end of migration spectrum, Government acknowledges the difficulties associated with return and resettlement in the Nigerian homeland. Therefore, Government shall institute an appropriate integration framework to cater to the needs of returning Diaspora citizens as either voluntary returnees or forced return emigrants.

3.12 Institution of Collaboration Framework with Members of Historic African Diaspora

Reckoning that Historic African Diaspora constitutes the second category of Diaspora Nigeria has elected to identify with in line with the AU 2003 Declaration, Government shall develop a framework for collaboration with

individuals and groups belonging to this category that may choose to identify with the developmental goals of the nation.

3.13 Framework for Appropriate Response to Nigerian Diaspora Women and Children's Needs during Emergencies

Government recognizes that some of the challenges Diaspora members face are peculiar to the female gender and children. Government shall undertake to respond to such challenges particularly with respect to issues around emergencies, human rights and distress in Diaspora.

3.14 Establishment of a World Class Diaspora Resource and Research Centre (DRRC) to Aid Research and Development

Research and development are key to the implementation of this policy for national development. Therefore, Government shall establish a world class Diaspora Resource and Research Centre (DRRC) to be hosted as an arm of the Diaspora and Transnational Studies Programme at the Institute of African Studies of the University of Ibadan, which is the only university on the African continent to have developed such research programme on Diaspora Studies.

3.15 Framework for Diaspora Skill Transfer

Government shall endeavour to evolve a template for Diaspora skill transfer in collaboration with the Nigerian Diaspora Security Forum (NDSF) in a way that will mainstream the Diaspora contents of all federal ministries.

3.16 Creation of a Global Nigerian Network

The network shall draw membership from a large pool of outstanding Nigerian business people who are disposed to contributing to the nation's economic growth while enhancing the prosperity of their individual business empires. The network shall undertake the responsibility of providing the Nigerian homeland Government with expertise for economic development. The provision of expertise also includes possible willingness on the part of the network membership, which will be reviewed from time to time, to facilitate direct and indirect investment activities in the nation for economic transformation .It cannot be overemphasized that an interactive platform which offers Nigerian Diaspora and Diaspora Associations and entrepreneurs the tools to grow, will project Nigeria in the comity of nations.

3.17 Periodic Consultation with Emigration Stakeholders

Government reckons that emigration affects people differently particularly because their locations outside the country are different. Therefore, rather than adopting a blanket approach in its relations with the Diaspora,

Government shall facilitate platforms for people in different countries, through Nigerian Consulates to consult and receive feedbacks on how Diaspora people's lives may be enhanced for meaningful contribution towards homeland development.

3.18 Facilitation of a National Diaspora Village (NDV)

In view of the prospects Diaspora holds in the nation's development, Government shall facilitate and support the creation of a National Diaspora Village. It will be located in the Federal Capital territory and will be symbolic for development and inclusion. Upon the facilitation of basic infrastructure and design for its take-off by Government, Diaspora members willing to own propriety and investment in such dedicated area will be invited to bid for allocation. But rather than being just a residential area, the Diaspora Village will be divided into segments for various socio-economic activities, with a substantial part dedicated to industrialization, investment and invention to accelerate development, particularly with respect to technology transfer and employment. Government is confident about the capacity of the initiative to boost the nation's GDP and development in all areas. Besides the location of the National Diaspora Village in Abuja, Government shall also encourage the replication of the model at regional and state levels through the coordinating role of the OSSAPFAD.

3.19 Creation of a Diaspora Category in the National Award Programme

The annual National Award Programme of the Federal Government has been one of the highpoints in the recognition of excellence in the country. As the Diaspora gains recognition in the development scheme of the nation, Government shall create a category of awards in the annual National Award Programme for the Nigerian Diaspora. The awards will serve as Government's commitment to rewarding outstanding members of the Diaspora whose individual or collective achievements in education, professionalism, business, invention and investment as well as sports and culture have translated into consolidating Nigeria's development nationally and globally. The nomination and award processes shall be part of the coordinating responsibilities of the OSSAPFAD.

3.20 Institutionalization of Diaspora Communities and Associations

One critical step in the process of engaging the Diaspora is for the country to know its Diaspora by determining the huge population of Nigerians dispersed across the globe, residing in what country or region, of what expertise and potentials and in what groups and associations.

3.21 Facilitation of the development of a central online hub that connects all the Diaspora Associations with government online platform

The online platform would promote dialogue and action on economic development in Nigeria. The numbers, distribution, skills, prosperity, and level of integration of the Diaspora will thus define the universe of possibilities for Diaspora partnerships and in developing effective Diaspora policies and programs.

3.22 Creation of comprehensive database of professional, skilled Diaspora and Business Associations to facilitate development of partnerships between local professionals and those abroad

The exercise of mapping the Diaspora offers the opportunity to generate knowledge on the business opportunities and partnerships that are available both at home and abroad, what the Diaspora is willing and able to offer and what it expects from Nigerian businesses in return.

3.23 Representation of the Diaspora Network in the design and implementation of Nigeria's development strategies

The Network, once established, would play a significant role in contributing to the economic growth of the country as well as foster Nigeria's international reputation. It will also be a valuable resource for the Government as members of the network can offer advice on various

positions on global issues and international trade and tourism, such as lobbying with the host country. The Diaspora can lobby for collective ends such as pressing for debt cancellation, trade concessions, exploration of markets and enhanced aid budgets in the social services. Through such lobby, the Diaspora can influence the policy options and strategies of policy makers in their host countries.

3.24 Development of initiatives that promote sense of togetherness among the various Diaspora groups

The Network will enable the activities of the Diaspora groups to be streamlined and harmonized for effective participation as well as foster linkages among the groups. It will also ensure that there are initiatives to promote Nigeria's image, culture and national heritage abroad in a coherent and coordinated manner.

3.25 Promotion of Diaspora Investments and Savings

Nigeria recognizes the fact that the Diaspora can contribute to defining their home country's value proposition and nation brand. This Policy Priority Area offers the basis for Diaspora investments and savings at home.

The Diaspora has the potential to play a crucial role in Foreign Direct Investment and in nurturing the venture capital industry. International

migrants save a significant part of their income in their host countries, whereas these could have formed a potential contribution of the Diaspora to the development of their home country. Nigerian financial institutions will therefore be encouraged to build their networks and operations globally in order to attract the Nigerian Diaspora to save and invest through them.

3.26 Establishment and Regulation of Diaspora Bonds

Diaspora bonds could be further used to mobilize savings for financing development projects. The legal framework for the regulation of Diaspora bonds should both encourage financial institutions to offer the service and the Diaspora to get involved in the service, through initiatives within financial institutions and private companies, such as attractive interest rates.

3.27 Facilitate Remittance of Funds

Nigerians abroad have been sending funds home and these have contributed to the quality of life at personal, community and national levels. Nigeria therefore, recognises the importance of Diaspora financial remittances and how other countries have benefited from it. The Policy will therefore ensure that:

3.28 Government liberalizes the market for cross-border money transfer operators so as to reduce transaction costs

The use of informal channels has thrived as a result of high transaction costs for money transfers, taxation on remittances and restrictive legislations of both host and recipient countries. While Government has consistently engaged financial institutions involved in money transfer in order to encourage affordable charges and competitive rates for cross-border money transfer transactions to encourage use of formal channels, it will also strive to ensure optimal liberalization of the money transfer market and advocate the innovation of economic strategies for promoting greater remittances from the Diaspora.

3.29 Build Data on Remittances

Important as they are, data on remittances, in terms of volume, source and impact, is scanty. Lack of comprehensive data on the volume of remittances is as a result of the fact that many transactions remain unrecorded due to the use of informal channels. Building reliable data on remittances will avail the necessary authorities of dependable information for national planning and policy making.

3.30 Knowledge/Skills Transfer

This Policy Priority Area seeks to leverage on the expertise and potentials of the Diaspora to develop Nigeria's infrastructure, science and technology, innovation, agriculture and agro-allied, nuclear technology for peaceful purpose, solid mineral development, public health, trade and investment, job creation, education, industrialisation, ICT, energy, etc. This Policy will:

3.31 Promote the formation and linking of professional associations, including scientific knowledge networks for domestic and Diaspora communities

Nigeria's Diaspora community has a vast array of skills and successful professionals who can contribute to the socioeconomic development of the country through various fields of their expertise. These professionals would therefore be encouraged and facilitated to integrate with and participate in the existing local knowledge networks and create new networks for this purpose in order to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices.

3.32 Create safe and trusted communication and knowledge sharing platforms through development and maintenance of ICT infrastructure and virtual networks

There are numerous ways the country can harness the potential in its kinship with the Diaspora through the development, utilization and

maintenance of information communication technologies, as well as physical and virtual networking mechanisms.

3.33 Promote volunteerism through development of internship and volunteer programs in various sectors at home for the young and upcoming Diaspora professionals

The spirit of volunteerism inherent in developed countries can be promoted, harnessed and further encouraged for engagement in development activities, programmes and projects in Nigeria by the Diaspora.

3.34 Develop and strengthen existing initiatives to encourage, attract, retain and support home-based migration of high-level expertise on permanent or temporary basis

The opportunities of mobility have become increasingly apparent as high level experts, professionals and specialists migrate for better remuneration and beneficial work environment to developed countries. The requisite environment for engagement by high-level Diaspora experts in the country should be fostered in order to encourage their participation in the short, medium and long term.

3.35 Diaspora Philanthropy

Nigeria recognizes the fact that Government alone cannot effectively address all sectors of development and as such partnerships with the private

sector and the Diaspora are becoming increasingly and evidently important. Therefore, this Policy shall:

i. Acknowledge and support works of charity by Diaspora foundations

The Government will acknowledge the profound contributions of the Nigerian Diaspora philanthropy to the national cause and align same with the National Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for a wider and lasting impact.

ii. Organise Awards and Recognition Events involving Diaspora individuals and associations for their efforts to support their homeland

The Government appreciates the Nigeria Diaspora for their continued involvement in homeland affairs through community developmental projects, relief and aid efforts. These efforts will not only be consolidated through formal/normal channels to strengthen their impact and sustainability, but the enabling individuals, associations or groups will also be duly recognized and awarded for their patriotic efforts.

iii. Provide timely information on the needs of local communities that may be of interest to the Diaspora

In order to facilitate and streamline the effective utilization of the generous application of Diaspora resources in nation building, Government across all

levels will provide a reliable database of development needs across the country for access by the Diaspora in the determination of their point of intervention and nature of engagement.

3.36 Supporting the Diaspora

While the Diaspora may have left the shores of the country in search of greater economic, educational, professional and social opportunities, they remain a valuable and integral part and asset of the nation and will be supported in their existence and endeavours in acknowledgment of their value, relevance and import to the nation. This Policy will therefore:

3.36.1 Improve awareness among Nigerians of the availability of Consular Services and the role of Nigeria Missions abroad

Government in conjunction with relevant stakeholders will continue to work with host authorities to help Nigerian citizens in normalizing their immigration status as well as dealing with issues concerning the Diaspora in those destination countries as they arise.

3.36.2 Promote research and define emerging needs of Nigerian emigrants

Government acknowledges the fact that Nigerians in the Diaspora are at different levels of settlement in the host countries. While some are better equipped for the demands of life abroad, others remain vulnerable to the

conditions of the host country as well as the challenges of life upon returning home. There are a number of factors that can render emigrants vulnerable, and these include age, evolving immigration and other laws, employment status and health. Requisite research into these factors will be promoted in order to enable emerging needs of the Diaspora to be determined and ways and means of intervention defined.

3.36.3 Facilitate a vibrant sense of community and Nigerian identity abroad

Nigerian Missions will engage with the Diaspora to facilitate activities and programmes that will inculcate the national spirit as well as encourage communal and convivial interaction among the Diaspora.

3.36.4 Development of facilities and initiatives to support returning Diaspora

Nigeria has always striven to assist her people abroad who have been in various situations demanding urgent attention. Improved coordination and systems in the protection of the Diaspora and support to returnees will be pursued for their successful and productive induction into the Nigerian society.

3.37 Financial law reforms

Financial laws in the country shall be reformed to encourage Diaspora investors to access financial facilities as well as protect investors.

CHAPTER FOUR

STRATEGIC APPROACH TO MOBILIZATION AND ENGAGEMENT

(SAME)

This chapter provides the justification for identifying Diaspora based on critical needs for national development anchored on the principles of Engagement, Enablement and Mutual Empowerment.

4.0 DIASPORA MAPPING AND NEEDS

In order to have a process of mapping Diaspora expertise relevant to national development, it is pertinent to identify specific areas of needs of the MDAs. For the purpose of this mapping, the under listed sectors are relevant:

4.1 EDUCATION

4.1.1 LECTURERS AND TEACHERS

Government shall continue to encourage lecturers and teachers in Diaspora whose skills and knowledge are relevant to Nigerian educational development to volunteer their services at their convenience. These lecturers and teachers shall be provided with necessary logistic support when they accept to volunteer their services.

4.1.2 Student Exchanges and Internships

Students' Exchange and Internships are avenues through which Nigerian Diaspora students can be exposed to Nigerian educational, economic and socio- cultural environment. Relevant agencies shall structure remuneration for students exchanges based on skills, knowledge and countries of abode; based on their relevance to Nigerian educational needs.

4.1.3 Research and Development (R & D)

Research and Development form the bedrock of any country's socio-economic, political, industrial and technological development. In order to achieve the ambition of becoming one of the twenty most developed countries, it is imperative that Nigeria invest immensely in R & D. Government shall continue to encourage Diaspora to contribute to Research and development in the country.

4.2 HEALTH CARE

In view of the importance attached to the healthcare sector in the country, Government shall:

- a) create enabling environment for Nigerian health care providers practicing overseas to easily migrate to Nigeria and practice their professions;

- b) encourage professional bodies to allow health care providers to register and practice without bottlenecks;
- c) put in place programmes for the re-orientation of health care practitioners from the Diaspora and in Nigeria to acquaint these providers with values, rules and regulations of their professions;
- d) encourage Nigerian health care providers practicing abroad to return home and practice, as against the recruitment of foreign health care providers; and
- e) encourage training and specialization of health care providers in critical health care areas. And also encourage the current medical missions being organized by Diaspora.

4.3 WAIVERS

Government shall continue to encourage Nigerian Diaspora importing medical equipment into Nigeria for intervention under this policy by granting waivers.

4.4 TRADE AND INVESTMENT

In order to facilitate Diaspora involvement in trade and investment Government shall:

- a. Provide enabling environment for Diaspora participation in trade and investment in Nigeria;
- b. ensure adequate security of lives and property of Diaspora and their accompanying investors in Nigeria;
- c. continue to improve on Power and Energy to attract and sustain viable investment;
- d. continue to encourage financial institutions to protect and regulate disbursement of Diaspora financial inflows and outflows; and
- e. continue to improve infrastructural needs to boost the economy and attract investors.

4.5 SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI)

The success of any country is dependent on its scientific and technological competitive advantage. Nigeria's interest in mobilizing and engaging Diaspora to enhance development of Science and Technology cannot be over emphasized. To this end, Government shall:

- a. Through appropriate channels encourage Diaspora Teachers and Lecturers in areas of Science and Technology to return both on short and long term basis to volunteer their service;
- b. encourage MDAs to identify critical need areas and ensure that teachers, lecturers and students engage in both local and

international science and technology seminars, workshops and conferences;

- c. encourage MDAs to identify critical needs and make that available to the OSSAPFAD on Diaspora Mobilization for easy access to science and technology lecturers, teachers and students; and
- d. encourage Diaspora experts with critical skills to return and contribute to the development of the nation by the use of electronic devices that can translate their ideas and opinions to the areas of need in Nigeria.

4.6 POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE

Government shall encourage the realization of Diaspora's rights to vote, as soon as possible in line with its recognition as Nigeria's undeclared 7th Geopolitical Zone.

4.7 AGRICULTURE

Government shall continue to encourage Nigerian Diaspora to contribute to the development of agriculture in the following areas

- i. Commercial Agriculture
- ii. Extension services
- iii. Food storage and preservation

- iv. Improved seed varieties
- v. Food processing, etc.

4.8 HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Government shall continue to encourage relevant institutions to develop appropriate programmes and measures to promote Diaspora investment in housing and urban development in Nigeria.

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CHAPTER FIVE

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

The successful implementation of this policy which shall be anchored and coordinated by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (OSSAPFAD), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), shall require the involvement and active participation of relevant MDAs, recognised Diaspora Organisations, Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), various Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) and the Diaspora Resource and Research Centre (DRRC), among others.

5.0 FORMATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DIASPORA MATTERS.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (SSAPFAD) shall oversee the formation and Chair the **Presidential Advisory Committee on Diaspora Matters (PACDM)**. The Committee, which shall be constituted by the President shall be made up of not less than 9 members, including a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Other members may be co-opted as and when deemed necessary. OSSAPFAD shall provide the secretariat to the Committee. The PACDM will

meet at least quarterly to deliberate on issues and receive feedback from the key stakeholders. It shall also be responsible for Monitoring and Evaluation in collaboration with support from Diaspora and Transnational Studies Programme University of Ibadan (DTSPUI) and ensuring that its activities are mainstreamed into the national development framework.

5.1 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION

The Commission shall be established by the Bill For An Act to Establish the Nigerians In Diaspora Commission, Provide For The Engagement Of Nigerians In Diaspora In The Policies, Projects And Participation In The Development Of Nigeria And For The Purpose Of Utilising The Human Capital And Material Resource Of Nigeria Towards The Overall Socioeconomic, Cultural And Political Development Of Nigeria And For Related Matters, which is currently in the National Assembly, upon its passing.

The Commission shall be domiciled under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5.2 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES/INSTITUTIONS

The following institutions shall be responsible for implementing this policy and its programmes:

5.2.1 OFFICE OF THE SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DIASPORA (OSSAPFAD)

- a. The Office of the Senior Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (OSSAPFAD), shall engage in the design of workable Diaspora programmes that would be supported by all the institutions involved in the policy implementation process. These programmes would primarily assist in mapping and identifying the skills, efficiencies and preference that each Diaspora individual and groups could offer.

5.2.2 INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC)

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) shall be responsible for implementing the policy with respect to Diaspora participation in politics and their right to vote.

5.2.3 Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)

The Ministry shall provide policy guidelines for Missions/Consulates to address Diaspora-related issues and ensure that the Nigerian Foreign Policy gives priority to the protection of every Nigerian. It shall work closely with the Nigerian Communities abroad to provide the necessary advice on issuance of travel documents, Visa and Work Permit requirements. It shall

initiate dialogue with host countries to enter into bilateral agreements to ensure protection of Nigerians. It shall also facilitate collaboration dialogues with members of Historical African Diaspora whose collaboration proposals hold the promise of enhancing Nigerian development. Thus;

i. The Nigerian Diplomatic Missions shall facilitate the mobilization, proper documentation and integration of Nigerians in the Diaspora.

Ii Nigerian Embassies and Consulates will adopt effective communication strategies to disseminate government policies and other sundry matters to the Diaspora.

iii. A Nigerian Diaspora Day to be celebrated in various host countries to complement the Diaspora Day celebrated in Nigeria.

iv. Oversight by the Nigerian Missions of the Social Welfare and protection of the Diaspora in Host Countries.

5.2.4 Diaspora and Transnational Studies Programme, University of Ibadan (DTSPUI)

The Diaspora and Transnational Studies Programme in the University of Ibadan is a specialist institution that is the first and only postgraduate research programme to be so named and organized strategically around

Diaspora matters in Africa. The institution, which is based at the Institute of African Studies, shall provide research and intellectual expertise and shall advise both on the production and application of knowledge relating to Diaspora matters for all round development in Nigeria and its Diaspora as specifically conceived in this document. It shall work closely with the main agency, the Office of Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (OSSAPFAD) and other agencies in facilitating the implementation of the policy. To ensure seamless and utmost research performance relating to Diaspora matters, the programme shall work with OSSAPFAD for the establishment of a world class Diaspora Resource and Research Centre (DRRC) in the University of Ibadan.

5.2.5 National Population Commission (NPC)

The National Population Commission (NPC) shall collaborate with the OSSAPFAD and MFA as well as other stakeholders in establishing and periodically updating the database on Nigerian Diaspora.

5.2.6 National Universities Commission (NUC)

The NUC shall have the responsibilities of designing and implementing programmes aimed at linking experts and academics in the Diaspora to the development of university education in Nigeria.

5.2.7 Nigerian National Volunteer Service (NNVS)

As well as its statutory role, the Nigerian National Volunteer Service shall be involved liaising with the main agency to facilitate exchanges that specifically address Diaspora needs.

5.2.8 Ministry of Budget and National Planning (MBNP)

The Ministry shall ensure that issues relating to Diaspora are included in the mainstream national development agenda. Accordingly, the Ministry shall monitor and ensure that all activities and programmes are implemented as well as integrated into all MDAs for national development.

5.2.9 Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment

The Ministry shall incorporate issues relating to Diaspora in developing and implementing programmes within the National Labour Migration Policy on human resource planning and utilization. The Ministry shall also reach out to Diaspora through the OSSAPFAD to create awareness on employment opportunities within the country.

5.2.10 National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI)

The Commission shall ensure the effective implementation of the common strategy for sharing and managing migration and Diaspora related information.

5.2.11 Federal Ministry of Information

Awareness creation is imperative in showing the development contribution of Nigerians in Diaspora. In this respect, the Ministry of Information shall collaborate with the media and Nigerian Diaspora in highlighting and educating Nigerians on the importance of Diaspora on development issues.

5.2.12 Federal Ministry of Education

The Ministry in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders shall design schemes for the Nigerian Diaspora to return periodically to the country for project-tied tasks.

5.2.13 Federal Ministry of Health

The Federal Ministry of Health shall ensure the effective implementation of programmes within the framework of the National Health Policy.

5.2.14 Nigerian Immigration Services (NIS)

The Ministry, of Interior through the Nigeria Immigration Services, shall ensure collaboration and share information with the OSSAPFAD and NPopC on data relating to Nigerian Diaspora.

5.2.15 Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)

The CBN shall continue to facilitate cost effective remittances by Nigerians in Diaspora through appropriate policies.

5.2.16 Federal Ministry of Industry Trade and Investment

(FMITI)

The Ministry shall continue to ensure that all parastatals/agencies under its supervision create avenues for Diaspora participation in trade and investment.

5.2.17 National Assembly Committees on Diaspora Affairs (NACDA)

The National Assembly Committees on Diaspora Affairs may contribute to the implementation of this policy by supporting the legal framework(s) on Diaspora.

5.2.18 NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA)

NEMA shall support the OSSAPFAD in identifying Nigerians in Diaspora who can contribute to national development in addressing the challenges in the area of disaster risk management as well as search and rescue missions.

5.2.19 FEDERAL MINISTRY OF JUSTICE (FMOJ)

The Federal Ministry of Justice shall ensure that the implementation of the National Policy on Diaspora is in line with the relevant laws in the country.

5.2.20 INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES COMMISSION (ICPC) AND ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION (EFCC)

The Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) as well as other monitoring agencies shall ensure accountability and transparency should be institutionalized to build confidence and trust of the Diaspora by strengthening the roles and powers of anti-graft agencies.

5.2.21 CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION (CAC) AND NIGERIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION COUNCIL (NIPC)

Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) shall provide Regulations and handle bureaucracy, especially on company regulations and other investment requirements.

5.2.22 FEDERAL INLAND REVENUE SERVICES (FIRS)

Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) and state tax boards shall introduce incentives like applicable tax rebates for Diaspora investors.

5.2.23 Other implementing Ministries, Departments and Agencies

- i. National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons;
- ii. Ministry of Budget and National Planning;
- iii. Federal Ministry of Information;
- iv. Federal Ministry of Interior;
- v. Federal Ministry of Science and Technology

5.3 OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Relevant stakeholders shall provide necessary support to Government in building partnership towards mainstreaming Diaspora issues into national development agenda. These stakeholders shall include the following:

5.3.1 ORGANISATIONS OF NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA

Recognised Organisations of Nigerians in Diaspora shall facilitate:

- i. Mobilization of Diaspora
- ii. Registration of Nigerians in their host countries
- iii. Encouragement of its members to contribute to national development

5.3.2 MEMBERS OF HISTORIC AFRICAN DIASPORA (HAD)

The Nigerian Government recognizes the Historic African Diaspora as a strategic partner. Government shall endeavour to welcome as many individuals and groups of the Historic African Diaspora community that seek to collaborate with Nigeria on the implementation of the policy for development. As mandated, such collaboration shall be coordinated by the main agency together with others.

5.3.3 MINISTRY OF WOMEN AFFAIRS (FMWA)

The Ministry of Women Affairs shall work in partnership and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in particular to attend to the peculiar needs of African women and children in Diaspora where necessary during moments of emergencies, disasters, distress and human rights violation.

5.3.4 CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs)

Civil Society Organizations shall participate in the effective monitoring and evaluation of the impact of this policy.

5.3.5 Development Partners

Development partners shall partner with the Government, the private sector, the Civil Societies and recognised Organisations of Nigerians in Diaspora in terms of financial and technical support within the framework of this policy.

5.3.6 DIASPORA AND RESOURCE AND RESEARCH CENTRE (DRRC)

The Diaspora Resource and Research Centre (DRRC) to be hosted in the University of Ibadan in complementation of the Diaspora and Transnational Studies Programme, shall be responsible for training and retraining of diplomatic staff charged with Diaspora responsibilities. The centre shall also be responsible for pre-emigration training and other trainings relating to Diaspora matters.

5.4 INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

It is important to have institutional framework to guide the operators of this Policy. In this regard, the Federal Government and the National Assembly can work together to enact necessary laws, with the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), in conjunction with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora playing a supervisory role.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is central to the management and coordination of all issues concerning the Diaspora. It supervises all the activities on Diaspora matters through its network of Diplomatic and Consular Missions with well-established Diaspora Desks to handle and oversee all issues concerning the Diaspora.

Under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA) has, inter alia, the mandate to enhance Africa's development by creating the enabling environment and opportunity for Nigerian professionals to invest their immense intellect, expertise and skills in Nigeria's economy and to continually sensitize and mobilize Nigerians both at home and in the Diaspora to effectively participate in the nation's development process.

The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall therefore coordinate the implementation of the Policy in collaboration with all relevant Ministries and Agencies as well as with recognised Organisations of Nigerians in Diaspora.

5.6 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

To achieve the targets and objectives set out in this document, it will be necessary to have an effective monitoring and evaluation framework in place. The framework will provide for regular consultation and feedback between stakeholders entrusted with the implementation of this Policy.

The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) shall on regular basis monitor and evaluate progress of implementation of the Policy by key stakeholders, facilitate identification of deviation from set targets, take corrective measures and rate the overall success of the Policy.

They shall evolve a periodic monitoring and evaluation framework for periodic assessment of the extent to which the programmes and activities relating to Nigerian Diaspora and their implementation meet up with the nation's development goals for improvement.

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