NASARAWA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2026

Bold Transitions:
BUILDING A LEGACY
FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Aliyu Akwe Doma Banquet Hall, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

6th – 7th May 2026



NASARAWA INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT AGENCY · GACN · NNPC · WORLD BANK GROUP

DIAMOND NEW ENERGY · FEDERAL MORTGAGE Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria · access · Tetracore Energy · DANGOTE · PremiumTrust Bank · SARO · Levene ENERGY HOLDINGS LIMITED

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NASARAWA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2026

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NASARAWA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2026

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Welcome



Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Investors, and Partners,

It is my honour to welcome you to the 2026 Nasarawa Investment Summit - the third and very significant edition of this gathering. Permit me to state upfront, that we have been very deliberate in curating the theme, **"Bold Transitions: Building a Legacy for a Sustainable Future,".** This is our declaration of where we stand and where we are going.

When we hosted our first Summit in 2022, we introduced Nasarawa to the world as a **Diamond in the Rough** — a State with extraordinary potential waiting to be unlocked. In 2024, we demonstrated that potential was being converted into structured industrial development. Today, we stand before you with a different, more mature question: How do we ensure that what we have built together endures?

Over the past seven years, my administration has institutionalised reforms that have fundamentally transformed the ease of doing business in this State. We have established NASIDA as a world-class investment agency, created a One Stop Investment Centre, implemented the Framework for Intensive Land Use in Agriculture (FRILIA) for responsible land governance, harmonised taxes, and attracted significant investment across agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and infrastructure.

This Summit is about legacy. As we approach a political transition in 2027, I want every investor, partner, and citizen to know that what we have built is bigger than any administration. The Lafia Declaration, which we will formally sign at this Summit, is our collective commitment, across political divides, that Nasarawa's economic progress will continue, contracts will be honoured, and institutions will be respected.

Nasarawa is open for business. Our institutions are built. Our pipeline is ready. Our word is given. Come, invest, and build with us.

H.E. Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule

Executive Governor, Nasarawa State

NASARAWA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2026

About #NIS2026

The 2026 Nasarawa Investment Summit (#NIS2026) is the third and most consequential edition of Nasarawa's flagship investment and economic dialogue platform. Convened under the theme "Bold Transitions: Building a Legacy for a Sustainable Future," it takes place on 6 and 7 May 2026 at the Aliyu Akwe Doma Banquet Hall, Government House, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

What distinguishes #NIS2026 from its predecessors is its explicit focus on continuity, institutionalisation, and legacy. While earlier editions concentrated on attracting investments and showcasing opportunities, the 2026 Summit places stronger emphasis on safeguarding the policy and institutional reforms that have enabled those investments — and ensuring they endure beyond the current political administration, which concludes in May 2027.

Why Attend #NIS2026

For Investors

- Access a curated pipeline of eight investment-ready projects across energy, agriculture, mining, technology, and infrastructure.
- Engage directly with federal ministers, the World Bank, and state officials in high-level dialogue.
- Secure bilateral meetings with the NASIDA Project Team and One Stop Investment Centre.
- Participate in the Deal Room — Nasarawa's structured investment matchmaking facility.
- Witness the signing of the Lafia Declaration — a public commitment to policy continuity across political transitions.

For Partners & Development Finance

- Shape the next Nasarawa Economic Development Strategy (NEDS 2.0).
- Engage with the Nasarawa Infrastructure Fund — a ₦100 billion private-sector-led vehicle
- Identify co-financing and blended finance opportunities across priority sectors.
- Connect with indigenous MSMEs that are investment-ready and scaling.
- Benchmark Nasarawa's reform progress against global subnational governance standards.

Summit Objectives and Expected Outcomes

Objectives

1. Consolidate Nasarawa's reputation as Nigeria's leading sub-national investment destination by demonstrating seven years of measurable reform impact.
2. Demonstrate that economic reforms are embedded within durable institutions that will outlast political transitions.
3. Mobilise new investments and partnerships through the Deal Room, MOU signings, and investor matchmaking.
4. Launch the Lafia Declaration 2026 — Nasarawa's public commitment to economic continuity, competitiveness, and sustainable development.
5. Establish the framework for the next phase of the Nasarawa Economic Development Strategy (NEDS 2.0).

Expected Outcomes

- New investment commitments and MOU signings across priority sectors.
- A publicly signed Lafia Declaration with cross-party political commitment to economic continuity.
- A clear implementation roadmap for the Nasarawa Gas Master Plan
- Strengthened confidence among domestic and international investors in Nasarawa's governance stability.
- Three MSME businesses funded and provided with a comprehensive business support package.
- A shared, evidence-based agenda for the next decade of Nasarawa's economic development.



Day 01 - Wednessday May 6th			
S/N	**Activiity**	**Duration**	**Participant**
01	Arrival, Registration & Tea Break	8:00am – 9:30am	NASIDA Protocol Team
02	**MSME Challenge:** Top 5 Pitch Session from Survival to Scale: Unlocking the Growth Potential of MSMEs	9:30am – 10:30am	• Moderator: Akumishi Ayenajeh • Top 5 MSMEs Pitch: 5 minutes pitch per business and 5 minutes Q&A per business • Judges Panel (5 Judges)
03	National and State Anthem & Invocation	10:30am – 10:40am	Compere
04	Reforms & Investment Showcase	10:40am – 10:50am	Media
05	Opening Statement	10:50am – 11:00am	Ibrahim A. Abdullahi MD/CEO NASIDA
06	Goodwill Messages	11:00am – 11:15am	Sponsors and Key Partners
07	**Plenary I: Institutionalizing Reform and Making Economic Progress Irreversible**	11:15am – 12:00pm	Session Chair: Dr. Joe Abah Regional Director for Africa, DAI Panelists: • Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, CON - Honourable Minister of Budget and Economic Planning • Mathew Verghis -Country Director, World Bank • Dr. Joseph Ogebe Head Research & Development • H.E. Dr. Emmanuel Agbadu Akabe, Deputy Governor, Nasarwa State
08	Goodwill Messages	12:00pm – 12:15pm	Sponsors and Key Partners
09	**Plenary II: Investor Expectations and Risk Management - The Critical Drivers Shaping the Next Wave of Investment**	12:15pm – 1:00pm	Session Chair: Prof. Konyinsola Ajayi, SAN - Senior Partner, Olaniwun Ajayi LP Panelists: • Jumoke Oduwole, Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investments • Engr. Mansur Ahmed, OFR – Senior Adviser, Dangote Group • Rasheed Sarumi GMD Saro Africa • Hadiza Ambursa – Executive Director Commercial Banking, Access Bank • Mr. Brijesh Nandal – GM Olam Rice Farm
10	Governor's Address Presentation and the Signing of the Lafia Declaration 2026	1:00pm – 1:45pm	H.E. Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule Executive Governor of Nasarawa State

11	Vice President's Address	1:45pm – 2:00pm	H.E Sen. Kashim Shettima GCON, Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria
12	Group Photograph	2:00pm – 2:10pm	Compere
13	Tour of Deal Room, MSME Showcase Room & Exhibition Booths	2:10pm – 2:30pm	Led by H.E. the Executive Governor
14	Lunch and End of Day 1	2:30pm – 3:30pm	
15	**DEAL ROOM – TWO (2) DAY RUNNING EVENT**		
16	Deal Room: Project Pipeline Exhibition & Investor Matchmaking	All Day	NASIDA Project Team: 8 Project Showcases across Agriculture, Mining, Infrastructure, Technology & Housing

Day 02 – Thursday May 7th

S/N	Activiity	Duration	Participant
01	Arrival, Registration & Tea Break	8:00am – 9:00am	NASIDA Protocol Team
02	National Anthem	9:00am – 9:05am	Compere
03	Opening Statement and Recap of Day1	9:05am – 9:15am	Ibrahim A. Abdullahi MD/CEO NASIDA
04	Special Remarks & Goodwill Messages	9:15am – 9:30am	Partners & Sponsors
05	Investment Stories (Video & Physical Presentation)	9:30am – 9:45am	Media
06	**Plenary III. Operationalising the Nasarawa Gas Master Plan for Accelerated Industrial Transformation**	9:45am – 11:00am	Presentation of the Nasarawa Gas Master Plan – Mr Augustine Ebekozien CEO, BEKOS Energy Services Limited Session Chair: Mr Augustine Ebekozien, CEO, Bekos Energy Services Limited **Panelists:** • Mr Olalekan Ogunleye - EVP, Gas and Power, New Energies, NNPCL • Nzan Ogbe - Chairman Axxela and Founder Levene Energies • Chijioke Uzoho - MD Gas Aggregation Company of Nigeria • Olakunle Williams - CEO Tetracore Energy Group • Princess Magaret Elayo - Honourable Commissioner of Environment and Natural Resources, Nasarawa State • Abdulkabir, Adisa Aliu - Group Managing Director/CEO Matrix Energy Group

07	**Plenary IV**	11:00am – 12:00pm	Session Chair: Sutura Aisha Bello Partner, AP3 Advisory • Abba Abubakar Aliyu MD/CEO, Rural Electrification Agency of Nigeria • Dr Moses Aregu, Commissioner for Economic Regulation and Consumer Affairs, Nasarawa Electricity Regulatory Commission • Veronica Abah, MD/CEO Nasarawa Electricity Distribution Company • Olu Aruike, Country Director, Husk Power Systems • Alex Obichiena, MD/CEO, ACOB Lighting Technology Limited
08	MSME Challenge Winner Announcement & Award Presentation 1st Place — 5,000,000 2nd Place — 3,500,000 3rd Place — 2,000,000	12:00pm –12:30pm	Awards presented by HRM Emir of Lafia & Others
09	• Investment Showcase & Deal Room Signings • Investment Announcements • MOU Sign-offs	12:30pm – 1:00pm	Ibrahim A. Abdullahi - MD/CEO NASIDA
10	Goodwill Messages	1:00pm – 1:15pm	Sponsors & Partners
11	Summit Closing	1:15pm – 1:45pm	H.E Engr Abdullahi A. Sule – Executive Governor, Nasarawa State
12	Lunch/Prayers/Departure	1:45pm – 3:00pm	
13	**DEAL ROOM — TWO-DAY RUNNING EVENT**		
14	Deal Room: Project Pipeline Exhibition & Investor Matchmaking	All Day	NASIDA Project Team

Our Reform & **Investment Story**

Seven Years of Transformation: From Potential to Performance

In 2019, Nasarawa State began a reform journey that would fundamentally reshape its investment landscape. Guided by the Nasarawa Economic Development Strategy (NEDS), the State has systematically dismantled barriers to investment, built credible institutions, and created the enabling conditions for private capital to flow into every major sector of its economy.

Summit Objectives and Expected Outcomes



INVESTMENT FACILITATION: Establishment of NASIDA as a world-class investment promotion agency. Creation of the One Stop Investment Centre (OSIC) for streamlined approvals. Development of the Nasarawa Infrastructure Fund for strategic project financing.



BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT REFORMS: Over 20 reforms implemented under BERAP. Harmonisation and reduction of taxes and levies. Digitisation of regulatory processes. Consolidated demand notices for transparent compliance.



LAND GOVERNANCE: FRILIA framework for responsible, inclusive land-intensive agriculture. Accelerated Certificate of Occupancy (C-of-O) processing. Protection of investor land rights and community interests.



JUDICIAL REFORMS: Establishment of Small Claims Courts for commercial dispute resolution. Multi-door court system for alternative dispute resolution. Commercial courts to protect investor interests.



INFRASTRUCTURE & CONNECTIVITY: Zero-cost Right-of-Way for fibre optic deployment. Nasarawa Technology Village development. Public Procurement Law and Bureau for Public Procurement established.



STRATEGIC POLICY FRAMEWORKS: Nasarawa Export Promotion Strategy. State PPP Law and Framework. Nasarawa Gas Master Plan. Nasarawa Electricity Regulatory Commission established under the 2023 Electricity Act.

NASARAWA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2026

$2B+
Total investment attracted since 2019

20+
Business Enabling reforms implemented

50K+
Jobs created across sectors

Top 10
Investment destination states in Nigeria

The Evolution of the **Nasarawa Investment Summit**

NIS 2022 "Diamond in the Rough"

Nasarawa introduced itself to the investment world. The focus was on potential — natural resources, proximity to Abuja, and untapped opportunity. Investors were invited to be early movers in a State on the rise.

NIS 2024 "The Industrial Renaissance"

The narrative shifted from potential to delivery. The Summit showcased deliberate efforts to industrialise through targeted sectoral development in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and infrastructure. Commitments became projects.

NIS 2026 "Bold Transitions"

The focus is on protecting and institutionalising the reforms that have enabled progress. The question is not "can Nasarawa attract investment?" — it already has. The question is: "How do we ensure this progress is irreversible?"

Special Guest & **Summit Keynote**



Senator Kashim Shettima Mustapha, GCON, is the current Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Born September 2, 1966 in Maiduguri, Borno State, VP Shettima is a Nigerian politician and Agricultural Economist.
He attended Lamisula Primary School in Maiduguri, where he studied from 1972 to 1978 and proceeded to Government Community Secondary School, Biu and Government Science Secondary School, Potiskum, for his West African School Certificate Examinations (WASCE). Thereafter, he bagged a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Maiduguri. In 1989, he commenced his mandatory National Youth Service at the Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative Bank in Calabar, Cross River State. He followed up in 1990 with a Master's degree in Agricultural Economics at the University of Ibadan.

VP Shettima started work as a banker at the Commercial Bank for Africa in Lagos State, African International Bank (AIB) Limited, Kaduna and Zenith Bank as Branch Head of the bank's Maiduguri Office in 2001. He rose to become General Manager at Zenith Bank in five years.

Senator Shettima left banking in 2007 to assume the position of Commissioner of Finance and Economic Development in the Borno State Government. He was also Commissioner in the Ministries of Local Governments and Chieftaincy Affairs, Education, Agriculture, and then Health.

Senator Shettima was elected two-time governor of Borno State from 2011 to 2019 and served concurrently as Chairman of the Northern Governor's Forum in his second term.

In 2019, Senator Shettima was elected to represent Borno Central under the All Progressives Congress (APC), from where he was nominated and became the Vice President of Nigeria in 2023.

H.E. Sen. Kashim Shettima, GCON
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

NASARAWA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2026

The Plenaries

#NIS2026 features four substantive plenary sessions over two days, each bringing together a curated group of policymakers, investors, regulators, and sector leaders in a structured, candid discussion. The plenaries are designed to move beyond presentations toward concrete conclusions, commitments, and actions.

PLENARY I | DAY 1 | 11:15 AM – 12:00 PM

Institutionalizing Reform and Making Economic Progress Irreversible
Session Chair: Dr. Joe Abah — Regional Director for Africa, DAI

This is the opening substantive session of #NIS2026 — and it addresses the most important question this Summit must answer. Over the past seven years, Nasarawa State has implemented a wide-ranging reform programme: NASIDA has been established as a world-class investment promotion agency, the One Stop Investment Centre is operational, the FRILIA land framework has transformed land governance for agribusiness investors, taxes and levies have been harmonised, regulatory processes have been digitised, and over $2 billion in investment has been attracted. The evidence of progress is real and documented.

But with a political transition approaching in May 2027, sophisticated investors are asking a different question: will this progress survive the change of administration? History across Africa and globally shows that reforms embedded in personalities rather than institutions are vulnerable. This plenary confronts that vulnerability directly. It brings together the federal minister responsible for national planning, the World Bank's Country Director for Nigeria, an independent macroeconomic policy expert, and the head of NASIDA itself — to make an evidence-based case for why Nasarawa's economic progress is now institutionally anchored, not personality-dependent.

The session will explore which reforms require legislative entrenchment before the end of the current administration, how data-driven accountability tools can make reform reversal publicly visible and politically costly, what role federal-state fiscal coordination plays in insulating subnational progress, and how the Lafia Declaration functions as a governance instrument rather than a political statement.

Key Questions the Session Will Address:

- What distinguishes a reform that survives a change of government from one that does not?
- Which of Nasarawa's reforms are most durably embedded — and which remain most vulnerable?
- What must the State do before May 2027 to protect its reform gains?
- What signals actually move investor perception about governance continuity?

Panellists: Sen. Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, CON (Minister of Budget & Economic Planning) | Mathew Verghis (World Bank Nigeria) | Dr. Joseph Ogebe (NESG) | H.E. Dr. Emmanuel Agbadu Akabe (Deputy Governor, Nasarawa State)

PLENARY II | DAY 1 | 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

Investor Expectations and Risk Management: The Critical Drivers Shaping the Next Wave of Investment
Session Chair: Prof. Konyinsola Ajayi, SAN — Senior Partner, Olaniwun Ajayi LP

Nasarawa has attracted over $2 billion in investment. The question this plenary asks is: what does it take to attract the next billion — and then the next? This session shifts the conversation from the government's perspective to the investor's chair. It brings together some of the most significant names in Nigerian and African private capital — Dangote, Access Bank, Saro Africa, Olam — alongside the federal minister responsible for trade and investment facilitation, in a candid, experience-grounded dialogue about what actually determines investment decisions.

Investment decisions at scale are not made on the basis of fiscal incentives alone. They are made on the basis of regulatory predictability, the enforceability of contracts, infrastructure reliability, the quality of the labour force, security of tenure, and the confidence that a new government will not unilaterally alter the terms of an existing deal. This plenary examines all of these factors — not in the abstract, but through the direct experience of people who have committed major capital to Nigerian states and bear the consequences of those decisions every day.
Brijesh Nandal of Olam brings a particularly grounded perspective: he is not speaking hypothetically about what investment in Nasarawa could look like — he is running one of the largest single agricultural investments in the State's history, from Rukubi in Doma LGA. His assessment of what is working and what needs to change carries weight that no policy document can replicate.

Key Questions the Session Will Address:
• What conditions do serious, long-term investors require before committing capital to a subnational destination?
• Of Nasarawa's reforms, which have had the most meaningful impact on investment decisions — and why?
• What are the remaining gaps — in policy, infrastructure, or governance — holding back larger or faster investment?
• How do investors manage political transition risk — and what signals give them confidence?
• What is the one thing Nasarawa must do differently to attract the next wave of high-quality, long-term investment?

Panellists: Dr. Jumoke Oduwole (Minister, Industry Trade & Investment) | Alhaji Aliko Dangote, GCON (Dangote Group) | Rasheed Sarumi (Saro Africa) | Roosevelt Ogbonna (Access Bank) | Brijesh Nandal (Olam Rice Farm, Doma)

PLENARY III | DAY 2 | 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

Operationalising the Nasarawa Gas Master Plan for Accelerated Industrial Transformation
Session Chair & Gas Master Plan Presenter: Mr. Augustine Ebekozien — CEO, BEKOS Energy Services Limited

This session is structured differently from the other plenaries. It opens with a formal, focused presentation of the Nasarawa Gas Master Plan — developed by BEKOS Energy Services in partnership with the Gas Aggregation Company of Nigeria (GACN) and Axxela — by the engineer who led its development. This gives every panellist and every investor in the room a shared factual foundation: what the plan actually says, what it costs, what the priority projects are, and what the implementation roadmap looks like. The panel discussion then responds to the plan — not in general terms, but with specific, institutional commitments.
The case for gas in Nasarawa is straightforward: the State sits in proximity to the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) pipeline corridor, has a growing industrial base in mining, agro-processing, and manufacturing, and currently relies overwhelmingly on expensive, unreliable diesel for industrial energy. Gas — whether delivered by pipeline, CNG, or modular LNG — would dramatically reduce the cost of doing business and make industrial investment in Nasarawa significantly more competitive.

The panel brings together the five institutions whose coordination is essential to make this happen: NNPCL controls access to the gas supply and the AKK spur connectivity; GACN provides the commercial aggregation architecture that makes sub-national gas off-take viable; Axxela (through Nzan Ogbe) has already built 300km of private gas pipeline in Nigeria and knows what last-mile connectivity actually requires; Tetracore has proven that CNG and modular LNG can be deployed at speed to serve industrial clusters; and the State Government (through the Commissioner for Environment and Natural Resources) must provide the land access, environmental clearances, and community engagement frameworks that allow all of the above to proceed. Matrix Energy's Engr. Abdulkabir Aliu adds the voice of an indigenous downstream energy investor with the scale and appetite to take equity positions in this kind of infrastructure.

PLENARY III | DAY 2 | 9:45 AM – 11:00 AM

Key Questions the Session Will Address:

- What is the most critical implementation step in the next 12 months to move this plan from document to pipeline?
- What is the realistic pathway for connecting the AKK corridor to Nasarawa's industrial hubs?
- How quickly can CNG and modular LNG be deployed as bridging solutions — and what does the commercial case look like?
- What is the one commitment each institution on this panel can make today that would most accelerate operationalisation?
- What environmental, land access, and permitting conditions can gas infrastructure developers expect from the State?

Panellists: Olalekan Ogunleye (EVP Gas, Power & New Energies, NNPCL) | Nzan Ogbe (Chairman Axxela / Founder Levene Energies) | Chijioke Uzoho (MD/CEO GACN) | Dr. Olakunle Williams (CEO Tetracore) | Princess Margaret Elayo (Commissioner, Environment & Natural Resources, Nasarawa) | Engr. Abdulkabir Adisa Aliu (GMD/CEO, Matrix Energy Group)

PLENARY IV | DAY 2 | 10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Powering the Last Mile: Regulation, Rural Electrification, and Nasarawa's Energy Future
Session Chair: Sutura Aisha Bello — Partner, AP3 Advisory

Energy access is the single most consistently cited barrier to investment and productivity across Nasarawa's agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and small business sectors. Without reliable, affordable electricity, the State's broader economic development agenda — the agro-industrial parks, the mining clusters, the technology village — cannot reach its potential. This plenary addresses that constraint directly, and does so by bringing the full ecosystem of electricity access in Nasarawa into a single, structured conversation.

The electricity landscape in Nasarawa is unusually complex. Grid-connected distribution is handled by the Nasarawa Electricity Distribution Company — a newly created subsidiary of Abuja DisCo (AEDC) formed specifically in response to the 2023 Electricity Act's decentralisation of electricity regulation to states. Nasarawa's own Electricity Regulatory Commission (NASERC) is

PLENARY IV | DAY 2 | 10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

now a live institution with licensing and tariff-setting authority. At the federal level, the Rural Electrification Agency is deploying the $750 million DARES facility — one of the world's largest public-sector off-grid programmes. And two private mini-grid developers — Husk Power Systems (international) and ACOB Lighting (indigenous Nigerian) — already have operational installations in Nasarawa State and are making live capital deployment decisions about where to expand next.

This is an extraordinary moment for Nasarawa's energy sector. For the first time in Nigerian history, a state has the legal authority to set its own electricity tariffs, license its own generators and distributors, and attract private capital into a fully state-regulated electricity system. The question this panel must answer is whether Nasarawa is using that authority effectively — and what it would take to accelerate both grid and off-grid electricity access across the State.

Key Questions the Session Will Address:

- What does 'the last mile' actually look like on the ground — for the communities and businesses that remain unserved?
- Is Nasarawa's regulatory authority under the 2023 Electricity Act being used effectively to attract investors?
- What conditions would make private mini-grid and off-grid developers commit more capital to the State?
- How can the REA's federal programmes (DARES, NEP) be better targeted to Nasarawa's specific opportunities?
- What does a realistic 5-year roadmap for energy access in Nasarawa look like — and who is responsible for what?

Panellists: Abba Abubakar Aliyu (MD/CEO REA) | Dr. Moses Arigu (Commissioner, NASERC) | Veronica Abah (MD/CEO, Nasarawa Electricity Distribution Company) | Olu Aruike (Country Director, Husk Power Systems) | Alexander Obiechina (MD/CEO, ACOB Lighting Technology)

#NIS2026 brings together some of the most distinguished voices in Nigerian economic policy, investment, energy, governance, and enterprise development. Below are profiles of our keynote speakers and plenary session participants.

Our Speakers





Dr. Joe Abah (Session Chair)
Regional Director for Africa, DAI

A renowned expert in governance and institutional reform, Dr. Joe Abah is a former Director-General of Nigeria's Bureau of Public Service Reforms in the Presidency. He led transformative improvements in passport administration, national identity, and tax administration, and pioneered the Abuja Enterprise Agency which has supported over 73,000 entrepreneurs. He holds a Ph.D. from Maastricht University, certificates from Harvard and London Business School, and is a Professor of Practice at Miva Open University. He is a dual-qualified solicitor in Nigeria and the UK, an Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON), and currently serves as Country Director at DAI.



Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, CON
Honourable Minister of Budget and Economic Planning, Federal Republic of Nigeria

A seasoned economist with over three decades of experience across finance, development, and governance. A World Bank scholar with degrees from Columbia University, University of Jos, and Usmanu Danfodiyo University, he has held pivotal roles at the Central Bank of Nigeria and the International Finance Corporation (IFC). Following two distinguished terms as Governor of Kebbi State, he now leads Nigeria's national planning agenda — overseeing strategic resource allocation and driving the country toward its $1 trillion economy target by 2030.



Matthew Verghis
Country Director, World Bank Nigeria

A distinguished economist and development leader with over two decades of global experience across Africa, East Asia, Europe, and South Asia. Mr. Verghis holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Notre Dame and has been with the World Bank since 1999, previously serving as Regional Practice Director for Prosperity in South Asia. He now leads the World Bank's strategic engagement in Nigeria — one of the Bank's largest and most complex country programmes.



Dr. Joseph Ogebe
Head of Research & Development, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG)

A distinguished development economist with over a decade of experience across international development and private-sector policy analysis. Formerly a Research Economist at the World Bank, Dr. Ogebe holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Ibadan. At NESG, he leads strategic, evidence-based research initiatives designed to drive structural reform, fiscal sustainability, and inclusive growth within the Nigerian economy.



H.E. Dr. Emmanuel Agbadu Akabe
Deputy Governor, Nasarawa State

A distinguished medical consultant, specialist ophthalmologist, and seasoned technocrat, he has over three decades of experience in healthcare, public administration, and governance.He currently serves as Deputy Governor of Nasarawa State, providing strategic leadership in health reform, infrastructure development, and environmental management.
He holds an MBBS from the University of Jos and is a Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, with specialist eye surgery training in India.
He previously served as Nasarawa State Commissioner for Health, leading major reforms including the construction of three General Hospitals.
His career includes key leadership roles at the National Hospital Abuja, Plateau Hospital Jos, JUTH, and the University of Jos, with expertise in glaucoma and medical retina.



Prof. Konyinsola Ajayi, SAN (Session Chair)
Senior Partner, Olaniwun Ajayi LP

One of Nigeria's most distinguished legal practitioners with over 40 years of experience in litigation, arbitration, and transactional law. Academic excellence at Harvard and Cambridge underpins a career advising on matters ranging from US$600 million energy disputes to complex cross-border M&A and project finance. Pioneer Chairman of the Nasarawa Economic Advisory Council, he chairs the Capital Market Master Plan Implementation Committee and serves on the boards of Dangote Fertiliser Ltd. and Leadway Holdings.



Dr. Jumoke Oduwole, MFR
Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade, and Investment

A distinguished legal scholar and reformer who spent nearly a decade at the forefront of Nigeria's economic modernisation. A Harvard and Stanford-trained lawyer, she previously served as Executive Secretary of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC), pioneering over 200 reforms that improved Nigeria's ease of doing business. She is the primary architect of Nigeria's AfCFTA strategy and a Senior Fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School.



Engr. Mansur Ahmed, OFR
Senior Adviser, Dangote Group

Distinguished engineer and strategic leader with a career spanning over five decades across Nigeria's public and private sectors. A former Group Executive Director at the Dangote Group and past President of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, he has been a pivotal architect of industrial policy and infrastructure reform. He previously spearheaded Nigeria's petroleum refining operations at NNPC and served as the founding Director General of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission. An alumnus of Nottingham and Cranfield Universities, he currently leads the Pan-African Manufacturers Association, driving continental integration through the AfCFTA framework.



Rasheed Sarumi
Group Managing Director, Saro Africa International

A visionary entrepreneur and industrialist with over three decades transforming Nigeria's agricultural landscape. As GMD of Saro Africa, he oversees a diversified conglomerate employing over 30,000 people across West Africa, Europe, and Asia. A graduate of Agricultural Engineering from OAU and an alumnus of Harvard and Lagos Business Schools, he is Chairman of Presco Plc and a member of the Presidential Economic Coordination Council.



Hadiza Ambursa
Executive Director, Commercial Banking, Access Bank PLC

A distinguished banking executive and influential leader in African finance, overseeing Commercial Banking at Access Bank PLC. With over three decades of expertise across corporate finance and the public sector, she sits on the board of Access Bank Ghana and has pioneered frameworks for sub-national development. An alumna of Harvard Business School, her leadership is defined by an emphasis on blended finance, de-risking large-scale infrastructure, and integrating social impact as a core commercial strategy for institutional investment.



Mr. Brijesh Nandal
General Manager, Olam Rice Farm, Doma, Nasarawa State

A seasoned business leader with 25+ years of cross-domain, hands-on experience driving large-scale, heavy asset operations and P&L growth in challenging environments. Mr. Nandal has been heading the Olam Rice Farm in Rukubi, Doma LGA for the past four years, overseeing one of the most significant agricultural investments in Nasarawa State. He brings proven leadership in strategic operations, e-commerce, and supply chain management.



Mr. Augustine Ebekozien (Session Chair & Presenter)
CEO, BEKOS Energy Services Limited

CEO of BEKOS Energy Services Limited, a specialist gas engineering consultancy with a distinguished track record across upstream-to-downstream assignments for leading energy companies in Nigeria. BEKOS co-developed the Nasarawa Gas Master Plan with GACN and Axxela. Mr. Ebekozien previously served as General Manager Operations at the West African Gas Pipeline, bringing deep cross-border gas infrastructure experience to his dual role as plan presenter and session chair.



Mr. Olalekan Ogunleye
EVP, Gas, Power & New Energies, NNPC Limited

A law graduate of Obafemi Awolowo University with nearly three decades in gas commercialisation. He previously served as MD/CEO of N-Gas Limited, Deputy MD of Nigeria LNG Limited, and Company Secretary at both NGC and NGMC. Appointed EVP in September 2023, he oversees NNPCL's entire domestic gas commercialisation strategy and represents NNPCL at global forums including CERAWeek.



Mr. Nzan Ogbe
Chairman, Axxela Nigeria Limited & Founder, Levene Energies

A corporate leader with over three decades of executive and board-level experience across gas, power, renewable energy, and capital investment. As Chairman of Axxela Nigeria — which operates over 300km of gas pipeline network in Nigeria — he oversees one of the most significant private gas infrastructure platforms in sub-Saharan Africa. An alumnus of the Georgetown Leadership Seminar and member of the Chartered Institute of Directors.



Mr. Chijioke Uzoho
MD/CEO, Gas Aggregation Company of Nigeria (GACN)

A seasoned energy professional with about two decades of experience across the oil and gas value chain. Seconded from NNPCL, he leads GACN in its strategic mandate to drive domestic gas utilisation. He previously served as GM Commercial at GACN and is recognised by the African Energy Chamber as one of the '25 Energy Personalities to Watch.' As co-developer of the Nasarawa Gas Master Plan, he brings unparalleled insight to its implementation.



Dr. Olkunle Williams
President & CEO, Tetracore Energy Group

A visionary energy leader with over 17 years of expertise across the natural gas and power value chain. Under his direction, Tetracore has built a gas portfolio exceeding 120 MMscfd, enabling over 300MW of power generation. He leads the commissioning of Nigeria's first major CNG mother stations, a 10 MMscfd LNG facility, and a landmark gas-to-power plant in Ogun State. He is a key contributor to the Presidential CNG Initiative and featured in the Choiseul 100 Africa ranking.



Princess Margaret Itake Elayo
Honourable Commissioner for Environment and Natural Resources, Nasarawa State

Appointed by Governor Abdullahi A. Sule, Princess Elayo oversees environmental regulation, natural resources governance, climate change policy, and waste management across the State. She is the political champion of NASPOCC (the Nasarawa State Policy on Climate Change) and has direct regulatory authority over mining and extractive industry environmental compliance — a critical role in a State known as Nigeria's Home of Solid Minerals.



Engr. Abdulkabir Adisa Aliu, FNSE
Group Managing Director / CEO, Matrix Energy Group

Founder and pioneer Group CEO of Matrix Energy Group, which he built from a single downstream trading operation in 2004 into one of Nigeria's leading integrated energy conglomerates, with diversified operations spanning petroleum products distribution, logistics, shipping, LPG distribution, and fertiliser blending. Matrix was listed among the top 100 businesses in Nigeria as early as 2014. Engr. Aliu is a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (FNSE), a member of the Presidential Economic Coordination Council (PECC), and a celebrated philanthropist — having funded over 4,000 university scholarships and established specialist kidney treatment centres in Maiduguri and Ile-Ife. President Tinubu has publicly commended his transformative contributions to Nigeria's energy sector. His presence at #NIS2026 brings a major private indigenous energy investor into the Gas Master Plan conversation.



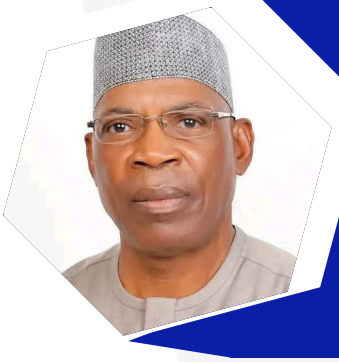
Sutura Aisha Bello (Session Chair)
Partner, AP3 Advisory

One of Nigeria's most accomplished infrastructure finance and PPP specialists, with over thirty years of experience. Infrastructure Finance Lead for the £72.8m UK-Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility, she led the World Bank-funded $315m Nigeria PPP Project (21 grain silos concessioned) and played a key role in establishing the Development Bank of Nigeria under a $1.2 billion multi-donor initiative. She serves as Alternate Director on the Board of Abuja DisCo and as Independent Non-Executive Director at United Capital Group Plc.



Abba Abubakar Aliyu
MD/CEO, Rural Electrification Agency of Nigeria (REA)

Appointed by President Tinubu in January 2025, he previously led the REA's project management unit for the $550 million Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP). His leadership has secured the $750 million DARES (Distributed Access through Renewable Energy Scaleup) facility — one of the world's largest public-sector off-grid programmes. The REA has deployed over 150 functional mini-grids and powered more than 260 healthcare centres with solar energy under his watch.



Dr. Moses Arigu
Commissioner for Economic Regulation and Consumer Affairs, Nasarawa Electricity Regulatory Commission

A distinguished academic and finance professional holding a Ph.D. in Computing and Mathematics from Brunel University, UK. His mathematical methods have been applied by NASA and the High Performance Computing Laboratory in the United States. He brings over 25 years of capital markets experience from Credit Suisse, JP Morgan Chase, and the Royal Bank of Canada, and previously served as a Commissioner at the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) representing the North Central zone.



Veronica Abah
MD/CEO, Nasarawa Electricity Distribution Company

A seasoned and result-driven senior manager with over sixteen years of progressive experience in Nigeria's electricity distribution industry. She holds an MBA in Marketing from Nasarawa State University and a B.Sc. in Business Management from the University of Jos. She previously served as Chief Business Officer at the Nasarawa Electricity Distribution Company — a new subsidiary of AEDC created under Nigeria's 2023 Electricity Act reforms — and has earned recognition for delivering the 'Best Customer Service Business District' award for three consecutive years.



Olu Aruike
Country Director Nigeria & VP Business Development (West Africa), Husk Power Systems

An experienced professional in energy and finance who leads Husk Power Systems' operations and growth strategy in Nigeria. Husk is a leading global solar mini-grid developer with multiple installations already operating in Nasarawa State and concrete expansion plans. Husk recently secured $20 million in EIB debt financing to scale its solar mini-grid operations across Nigeria.



Alexander Chinedu Obiechina
MD/CEO & Founder, ACOB Lighting Technology Limited

Founder and CEO of ACOB Lighting Technology, established in 2016 to bridge Nigeria's energy access gap through decentralised solar solutions. ACOB has commissioned over 100 projects serving 50+ communities and 32,500 Nigerians, with operational mini-grid sites in Nasarawa State. He holds a degree in Political Science from the University of Abuja, an MBA from Cardiff Metropolitan University, and is a 2019 Mandela Washington Fellow. ACOB partners with the REA, World Bank, InfraCredit, GIZ, and the African Development Bank.

NASARAWA INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2026

The Deal Room

The Deal Room is #NIS2026's structured investment activation platform — the bridge between the plenaries and actual capital deployment.

Running across both days of the Summit, the Deal Room provides a dedicated space where NASIDA's project team presents eight investment-ready projects to prospective investors, financiers, development partners, and private sector operators. Each project has completed feasibility studies, defined PPP structures, and a clear pathway to financial close. The Deal Room is not a passive exhibition — it is a structured engagement facility designed for direct, deal-oriented conversations. Project sponsors and the NASIDA team are present throughout to respond to investor questions, discuss risk allocation, review financing options, and facilitate the bilateral engagements that lead to commitments.



Priority Pipeline Projects — 2026

1. **Nasarawa Embedded Power & Independent Electricity Distribution Network (IEDN)**
   Sector: Energy & Power | Estimated Cost: $20 Million | LGA: Toto, Karu, Akwanga | Projected Jobs: 10,000+ | Duration: 48–60 Months

   Nasarawa's industrial and commercial clusters currently rely almost entirely on diesel self-generation — expensive, unreliable, and a direct drag on investment competitiveness. This project addresses that constraint through the development of approximately 20MW of embedded power generation (Phase 1) integrated with a private Independent Electricity Distribution Network (IEDN). The project is structured as a hybrid PPP-JV with the State Government providing land, Right-of-Way facilitation, and regulatory coordination through the Nasarawa State Electricity Regulatory Commission (NASERC).
   The opportunity for investors is substantial: a BOO/DBFO PPP concession with tariff-based revenues and strong risk transfer, equity investment at SPV level with a target IRR of 20–30%, long-term debt financing backed by stable electricity cash flows, EPC and O&M contracts, and offtake-linked investment structures for anchor industrial users seeking dedicated power supply. The project is currently at early-stage structuring, with the State having already secured regulatory coordination support.

2. NTV Tech Hub — Nasarawa Technology Village

Sector: ICT / Digital Economy / Innovation | Estimated Cost: $15 Million | LGA: Karu | Projected Jobs: 5,000+ | Duration: 24 Months

The Nasarawa Technology Village (NTV) in Karu LGA is the State's flagship innovation infrastructure project — located on the Abuja-Keffi corridor and positioned to serve as the North Central region's premier technology and startup ecosystem. The NTV Tech Hub project involves developing a world-class innovation and startup campus on 2 hectares within the existing Technology Village site (which has already been handed over to the State Government), integrating physical infrastructure with ecosystem programming including incubation, digital skills training, venture building, and corporate innovation.

Investment opportunities include equity at platform level (returns from leasing, programmes, and partnerships), development capital for design and structuring, EPC with long-term O&M, senior or mezzanine debt, and PPP concession structures (DBFOM). The project is positioned to become a regional hub attracting technology companies, development finance institutions running digital skills programmes, and private sector innovation units seeking proximity to Abuja's talent and government market.

3. Aso-Pada-Nnanya Toll Road (7.6km Urban Access Road)

Sector: Transport Infrastructure | Estimated Cost: $25 Million | LGA: Karu | Projected Jobs: 2,000+ | Duration: 18 Months

The Abuja-Keffi-Mararaba corridor is one of the most heavily congested inter-state corridors in Nigeria, carrying thousands of cross-border commuters and commercial vehicles daily. This project involves the development of a 7.6km tolled urban access road linking the Nasarawa Technology Village to the Abuja-Keffi corridor, with integrated junction infrastructure to decongest the existing road network, provide direct access to Nasarawa's largest economic zones, and unlock land value along the development corridor.

The project's commercial viability is supported by strong traffic demand fundamentals, development finance backing from AFD, structuring support from InfraCredit, and synergy with the adjacent Mararaba flyover project. The primary investment structure is a PPP toll road concession (BOT/DBFOM) with revenue from tolling and ancillary income streams. The State Government contributes Right-of-Way, land acquisition support, and regulatory approvals. Feasibility studies confirm the project's financial viability.

4. Gudi Agro-Industrial and Logistics Park

Sector: Agriculture / Agro-Processing / Manufacturing | Estimated Cost: $52 Million | LGA: Akwanga | Projected Jobs: 10,000+ | Duration: 48 Months

Nasarawa loses 30–50% of its agricultural output to post-harvest wastage every year — a catastrophic drain on farmer incomes, food security, and economic value. The Gudi Agro-Industrial and Logistics Park is a transformative infrastructure project designed to address this directly. Located on 206 hectares in Akwanga LGA — at the geographic centre of Nigeria's North Central region and a natural transit route — the park will serve as a Free Trade Zone, Agro-Processing Zone, and Light Manufacturing Zone, structured to serve as the primary agro-industrial and logistics hub for the broader North Central region.

The State Government has procured feasibility studies and provides 206 hectares of land, land for Aggregation and Trading Centres (ATCs) across 3 LGAs, enabling policy framework (SAP, SAIP, PPP Law), and off-site infrastructure support. Investment opportunities include: master developer concession (DBFO), asset-level equity in agro-processing plants (rice, maize, sesame, groundnut), ATC operators (PPP/JV), infrastructure investors in power, water, and roads, logistics and cold chain operators, and blended finance structures. The project is positioned to unlock Nasarawa's agricultural export potential while creating over 10,000 direct jobs.

5. Nasarawa State Infrastructure Fund (₦100 Billion)

Sector: Development Finance / Infrastructure | Programme Size: ₦100 Billion (~$65–75M) | Geography: State-wide | Timeline: Ongoing rolling vehicle

Nasarawa State has a documented infrastructure deficit — and a fiscal envelope (~ 319 billion projected 2026) that is insufficient to close it at the pace the investment pipeline requires. The Nasarawa State Infrastructure Fund is a 100 billion private sector-led infrastructure financing vehicle, structured to deploy capital into revenue-generating infrastructure assets through debt, quasi-equity, and structured financing instruments, and to recycle returns into new projects. The Fund is anchored by State Government support (~5% of monthly IGR as pipeline credibility enhancement) and a prepared project pipeline of feasibility-completed PPP projects.

The Fund is structured to generate returns of 3–4% above FGN bonds for investors. Investment entry options include: equity participation through subscription to Fund units (institutional and qualified investors), co-investment in specific PPP/SPV projects alongside the Fund, senior or mezzanine debt to underlying infrastructure assets, and Fund-level strategic partnerships for DFIs and institutional investors. A transaction advisor has been secured to structure the Fund. This is an early-stage entry opportunity with catalytic multiplier effect across the State's entire project pipeline.

6. Nasarawa Integrated Gas Development Programme

Sector: Energy / Gas | Estimated Cost: TBA (phased programme) | LGA: Toto, Karu, Lafia | Projected Jobs: 10,000+ | Full Rollout: 5–10 Years

Nasarawa currently has limited gas infrastructure: no pipeline network connecting to its industrial hubs, limited storage, and only one CNG station in Lafia. The State's industries rely on diesel, increasing operating costs and reducing competitiveness. Simultaneously, the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) pipeline corridor passes in proximity to the State, creating an immediate and underutilised opportunity.

The Nasarawa Integrated Gas Development Programme addresses this through a phased approach: immediate — scaling virtual pipeline (CNG/LNG) systems across industrial and transport sectors; medium term — developing a spur pipeline from the AKK corridor via Toto, extending to Keffi, Karu, and Lafia; long term — establishing a gas-based industrial ecosystem including gas-to-power plants and downstream industries (fertiliser, cement, agro-processing). The programme is directly linked to the Gas Master Plan presented in Plenary III. Investment opportunities span equity in pipeline, gas-to-power, and CNG/LNG assets; BOT/BOO PPP concessions; senior debt backed by offtake agreements; and early-stage development capital.

7. Nasarawa Gold and Lithium Processing Plant

Sector: Solid Minerals | Estimated Cost: $20 Million (exploration phase) | LGA: Toto LGA (lithium), Karu LGA (gold), Nasarawa LGA | Projected Jobs: 1,000+ | Full Lifecycle: 10–20+ Years

Nasarawa is Nigeria's Home of Solid Minerals — with proven deposits of lithium (Tudu-Uku, Toto LGA and Nasarawa LGA), gold (Uke, Karu LGA), baryte, gemstones, tantalite, iron ore, and limestone. With global demand for lithium surging due to electric vehicle batteries and grid-scale energy storage, Nasarawa sits at the centre of one of the most significant commodity supply chain shifts of the 21st century. The project involves exploration, resource delineation, and establishment of SPVs with private mining partners to develop commercially viable lithium and gold assets.

Exploration licences are secured. The State Government provides regulatory support through NASIDA and MINCO, environmental and community engagement facilitation, and potential equity participation in SPVs. Investment structures include: Exploration JV Earn-In (investor funds exploration, earns 51–85% in SPV; State retains minority/free carry); Post-Discovery Mining Development PPP (investor leads development with 70–90% equity, pays royalties and taxes); Licence Farm-In/Acquisition (fast-tracked entry with secured tenure); and Offtake + Financing (development funding in exchange for long-term supply agreements). This is an early-stage, first-mover opportunity in a globally strategic mineral.

8. Nasarawa Small Hydropower Development Project (Farin Ruwa & Doma Dams)

Sector: Renewable Energy | Estimated Cost: $80 Million | Location: Farin Ruwa (50MW) & Doma Dam (20MW) | Projected Jobs: 2,000+ | Total Timeline: 3–4 Years

Nasarawa has significant untapped hydropower potential at two sites: the Farin Ruwa waterfall in Nasarawa State (greenfield, ~50MW potential) and the existing Doma Dam (brownfield, ~20MW). Both represent an opportunity to generate clean, renewable baseload power — the most reliable and cost-competitive form of electricity for industrial and commercial use — through PPP structures that bring private capital into renewable energy infrastructure with long-term tariff-based returns.

The Doma Dam opportunity is particularly compelling as a brownfield investment: the infrastructure already exists, a concept note has been developed, and early-stage investor interest has been recorded. The State Government contributes land, access to existing dam infrastructure (Doma), regulatory and permitting support, and potential IEDN/embedded power framework integration. Climate-aligned infrastructure credentials support access to carbon credit mechanisms and green finance instruments. The project is at feasibility/OBC stage with a target construction phase of 18–30 months.

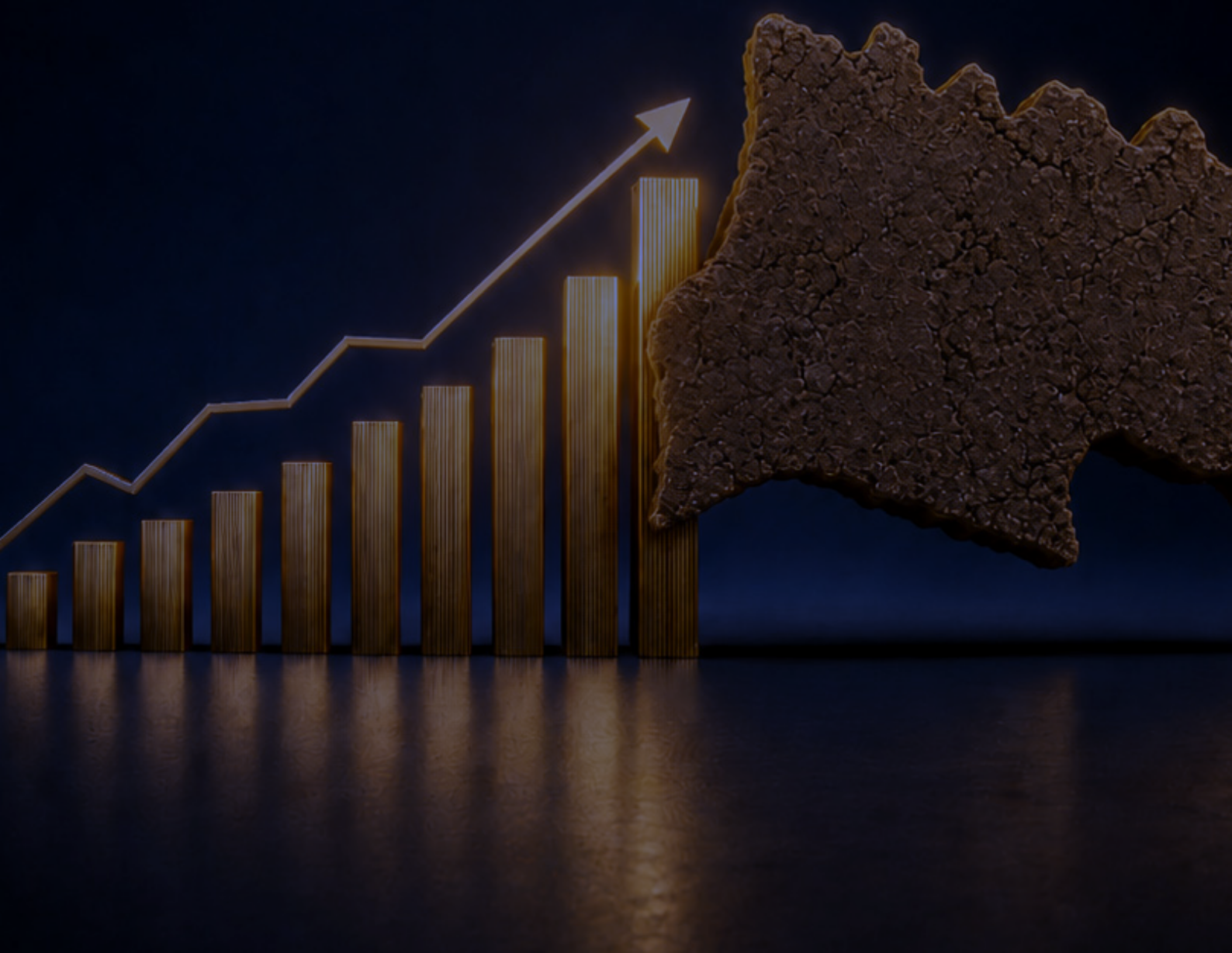
Visit the Deal Room for full project prospectuses, feasibility summaries, PPP term sheets, and to schedule bilateral meetings with the NASIDA Project Team.

Deal Room Location: Adjoining Exhibition Hall, Government House, Lafia | Open both days: **6 & 7 May 2026**

Contact: Mayowa Edgar, VP PPP & Infrastructure Finance, **NASIDA** |

mayowa.edgar@nasida.na.gov.ng

MSME Challenge



The MSME Challenge

From Survival to Scale: Unlocking the Growth Potential of MSMEs

The MSME Challenge is a flagship enterprise development initiative embedded within #NIS2026. Its purpose is to identify, showcase, support, and fund high-potential Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises that operate within Nasarawa State — converting locally embedded businesses into investment-ready enterprises capable of contributing to the State's industrialisation agenda.

The Top 5 — Pitching Live at #NIS2026 (Day 1)

Following a rigorous screening process across all applications received from MSMEs operating in Nasarawa State, five finalists have been selected to pitch live at the Summit on Day 1 before a panel of five expert judges. Each business has 5 minutes to pitch and 5 minutes of Q&A. The theme is: "From Survival to Scale: Unlocking the Growth Potential of MSMEs."

S/N	Business	Founder	What They Solve
01	**Agro-Chill Solutions**	Ibrahim Isah Liman	Addresses high post-harvest losses caused by inadequate cold storage and unreliable electricity — providing affordable, solar-powered preservation solutions for smallholder farmers, traders, and fish/meat vendors who lose up to 40% of perishable produce.
02	**Eggrow Africa Limited**	Yunusa Kolade Abdulkadir	Tackles post-harvest losses and poor market access in the egg and poultry value chain through structured aggregation, processing into longer shelf-life products (including egg powder), and stronger market linkages that reduce waste and improve farmer income.
03	**OMA-DAV'S Nutriment**	Chima-David Precious Akuoma	Produces 100% natural, additive-free whole-grain foods to address malnutrition in infants and poor dietary management in adults with health conditions including diabetes and high cholesterol — affordable nutrition from locally sourced ingredients.
04	**Joan Multipurpose International Trading Nig Ltd**	Ojeka Ehi Joan	Connects local farmers to wholesale and retail markets, packaging, processing, and distributing a range of quality agricultural products to consumers — building structured market linkages across the agricultural value chain.
05	**Hamsaaj Collectibles**	Abdulkarim Maryam	Offers premium, culturally relevant, locally produced luxury fragrances and jewellery — eliminating reliance on imported alternatives and providing confident self-expression through authentic, high-quality products made in Nigeria.

The Full Top 10 Finalists

Following a rigorous screening process across all applications received from MSMEs operating in Nasarawa State, five finalists have been selected to pitch live at the Summit on Day 1 before a panel of five expert judges. Each business has 5 minutes to pitch and 5 minutes of Q&A. The theme is: "From Survival to Scale: Unlocking the Growth Potential of MSMEs."

S/N	Business	Founder	What They Solve
01	**Renaissance Development Innovation Ltd**	Ummi Yahuza Waziri	Converts plastic and agricultural waste (including rice husk) into cost-effective interlocking tiles — addressing waste management, drainage blockages, and infrastructure affordability simultaneously.
02	**Eggrow Africa Limited**	Yunusa Kolade Abdulkadir	Aggregation, processing, and market linkage across the egg and poultry value chain, reducing post-harvest losses and improving farmer incomes. — TOP 5 PITCH
03	**Ombli Excellent Enterprises Ltd**	Blessing Emmanuel Ibi	Provides affordable, accessible, and trustworthy natural food and drink options as an alternative to unhealthy artificially processed products.
04	**Amas Women Agro Services**	Rashida Idris	Tackles food insecurity in rice and poultry by addressing low yields, poor processing, and supply shortages — with a focus on rural women farmers.
05	**Agro-Chill Solutions**	Ibrahim Isah Liman	Solar-powered cold storage and preservation solutions for smallholder farmers and food traders, addressing up to 40% post-harvest loss in perishables. — TOP 5 PITCH
06	**Oriam Delivery Express**	Maryam Odufa Adamu	Addresses unreliable and unstructured last-mile delivery for small businesses across Nasarawa State.
07	**Abwad Spices and More**	Habiba Umar	Provides clean, well-packaged, high-quality spices addressing a gap in quality locally sourced condiments.
08	**Joan Multipurpose International Trading Nig Ltd**	Ojeka Ehi Joan	Connects local farmers to wholesale and retail markets through structured packaging, processing, and distribution. — TOP 5 PITCH
09	**OMA-DAV'S Nutriment**	Chima-David Precious Akuoma	Natural whole-grain foods addressing infant malnutrition and dietary management for adults with health conditions. — TOP 5 PITCH
10	**HamsaajCollectibles**	Abdulkarim Maryam	Premium, culturally relevant local luxury fragrances and jewellery — eliminating import dependence. — TOP 5 PITCH

Prize Structure

1ST PLACE

5,000,000

Cash Grant + Full Business Support Package

2ND PLACE

3,500,000

Cash Grant + Business Support Package

3RD PLACE

2,000,000

Cash Grant + Support Package

All Top 10 Finalists receive a comprehensive business support package including a Business Development Kit, financial literacy training, branding audit, direct access to NASIDA's investor network, and significant media exposure. All finalists are required to attend a compulsory 2-day post-Summit bootcamp covering financial management, scaling operations, communications, investment readiness, and corporate governance.

Winners will be announced on Day 2, the 7th of May 2026

Judging Criteria						
Problem-Solution Fit 15pts	Market Opportu-nity 15pts	Business Model & Revenue 20pts	Traction & Execution 20pts	Founder & Team 15pts	Impact & Scalability 15pts	Total 100pts



Meet Our MSME Judges & Moderator

The MSME Challenge is judged by a panel of five industry experts spanning entrepreneurship, technology, fashion and creative economy, investment facilitation, and brand strategy. Together, they bring the full spectrum of experience required to evaluate not just what a business does today, but what it is capable of becoming. The Top 5 finalists will pitch live on Day 1 of #NIS2026 in front of this panel – five minutes to pitch, five minutes of Q&A.

Session **Moderator**



Akumushi Ayenajeh
Founder, Kreative Footprint | Co-Founder, SKDC Global Links Ltd
Edu-Entrepreneur | Business Consultant | Co-Organiser, Nasarawa Entrepreneurs Summit

Keeping the Energy Sharp — Facilitation, Entrepreneurship Education & Business Development

Akumushi Ayenajeh is an Edu-Entrepreneur, thought leader, and business consultant with deep roots in Nasarawa's entrepreneurship ecosystem. She is the founder of Kreative Footprint, an educational hub that builds learning products to teach teenagers life skills for work and success - with a specific focus on transforming the lives of young people in rural communities by equipping them with entrepreneurial skills that lead to self-reliance or employment. In 2021, she built a Career Acceleration Room in a rural community, equipping 800 teenagers with life and entrepreneurial skills.

She is co-founder of SKDC Global Links Ltd, a business development hub, and is co-organiser of the Nasarawa Entrepreneurs Summit (NES), which has brought together over 5,000 business owners in a structured dialogue forum. She is also a facilitator at the Lagos Business School and has worked with organisations and startups as a business consultant, helping to build and rebuild marketing strategies and highlight the value propositions of products and services.

As moderator of the MSME Challenge pitch session, Akumushi will keep the energy sharp and the conversations focused - guiding each pitch, managing the interaction between finalists and judges, and ensuring that the session delivers both rigour and momentum.



Charles Isidi
Head of Growth & Marketing, African Impact Initiative
Founder, Mulla | Advisor, Techstars & 100x Impact Accelerator (LSE)
The Growth Architect — Brand Strategy, Startup Scaling & Narrative-Driven Marketing

Charles Isidi is a technology innovator, media, marketing, and communications professional with a decade of experience crafting compelling brand narratives for companies across finance, wealth tech, venture capital, fintech, telecommunications, agriculture, development organisations, and governments. He specialises in helping businesses find and articulate their voice — and then use strategic marketing to achieve their growth goals. Charles has led growth at Thrive Agric, Africa's foremost agritech company with over $73 million in funding, and at Rise, a premier wealth tech platform for Africans investing in global dollar-denominated assets.

He currently heads growth and marketing at the African Impact Initiative, a venture capital and startup accelerator supporting African startups to scale local solutions with global relevance. He also runs Mulla, a financial technology startup, and advises at Techstars and the 100x Impact Accelerator by the London School of Economics' Marshall Institute. His lens on the MSME pitches will be sharp: does the brand know what story it is telling — and can it communicate that story well enough to win the trust of investors and customers at scale?



Fatima Babakura
Founder & Creative Director, Timabee | Founder, Yerwa Secrets
Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 | TEDx Speaker | Harvard & Forbes Women Summit Speaker

The Creative Entrepreneur — Fashion, Beauty, Women's Economic Empowerment & Brand Innovation

Fatima Babakura is an award-winning Nigerian entrepreneur, creative visionary, and one of Africa's most recognised voices on women's economic empowerment. She is the founder and creative director of Timabee, a luxury accessories brand celebrated for its contemporary elegance and craftsmanship, and the founder of Yerwa Secrets, a perfume brand designed specifically to create economic opportunities for women. Her entrepreneurial journey began while studying accounting at McMaster University, where she transformed her passion for design into an internationally recognised brand.

She has delivered a TEDx talk and has spoken at Harvard University, KPMG, the Forbes Women Summit, and numerous other prestigious platforms, sharing her insights on leadership, innovation, and the critical role of women in business. Named to Forbes Africa's 30 Under 30 list — and featured as a cover star — Fatima brings to the judging panel a uniquely entrepreneurial perspective: she has built her own businesses from creative vision to commercial scale, and she understands what it takes to transform an original idea into a brand that earns global recognition.



Joshua Ofor
Managing Partner, Creofel Corporation
Organiser, TEDxAbuja | Venture Studio | Creator Economy Infrastructure

The Innovation Strategist — Design, Technology, Entrepreneurship & Venture Building

Joshua Ofor is a founder, designer, and strategist with over a decade of work across the global innovation landscape. His work sits at the intersection of design, technology, and entrepreneurship — with a particular focus on how products and platforms can unlock new forms of economic participation. He is currently building infrastructure for the global creator economy, developing the first-ever capital exchange rails — drawing on more than ten years of experience designing products, shaping go-to-market strategy, and helping founders translate early ideas into companies that can stand on their own.

Joshua leads Creofel Corporation, a Lagos-based venture studio that builds and partners with teams to design, launch, and scale ventures across consumer technology, social impact, clean energy, and digital infrastructure — from concept through commercialisation. He also serves as a partner at a multidisciplinary design firm, leading creative direction and strategy across brand, digital, and experiential projects for multinationals, governments, and impact organisations. He serves on the boards of and advises a number of companies, and currently organises TEDxAbuja — one of Nigeria's most significant platforms for ideas, leadership, and cultural exchange. His eye in the judging room will be on the founding teams themselves: does this founder have the mindset, adaptability, and clarity of vision to navigate the complexities of scaling a business?



Seyi Adekunle ('Seyi Vodi')
Founder & Chairman, Vodi Group of Companies
Fashion Pioneer | Business Builder | Mentor

The Style Innovator — Fashion, Traditional Craft, Enterprise Development & Cultural Entrepreneurship

Seyi Adekunle — popularly known as 'Seyi Vodi' — is the founder and chairman of the Vodi Group of Companies, a diversified enterprise group comprising Vodi Tailors, Vodi Debo, Vodi Kleen, Vodi Textile, the Vodi Training and Mentorship Institute, and real estate investments. He is one of Nigeria's most celebrated fashion entrepreneurs — the man credited with evolving a modern interpretation of the agbada that has gone on to become mainstream, transforming a traditional garment through original research, creative experimentation, and entrepreneurial persistence.

His pioneering work demonstrated how indigenous craft and cultural heritage can be reimagined into commercially successful, globally respected enterprises — without losing their roots. Through the Vodi Training and Mentorship Institute, he has extended his impact beyond fashion, providing structured pathways for young creatives and entrepreneurs to build their own businesses. As a judge, Seyi Vodi brings the perspective of someone who has built a business empire from a single creative insight: his assessment of each pitch will cut to the essential questions of originality, cultural relevance, and scalable execution.



Bako Ahzidzi Catherine
Director, Industry and Investment
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment, Nasarawa State

The Investment Facilitator — Development Economics, MSME Policy & Investment Promotion

Bako Ahzidzi Catherine is a seasoned development economist and investment promotion strategist with a proven track record in driving sustainable economic growth through MSME development, industrial advancement, and strategic investment facilitation. As Director of Industry and Investment at Nasarawa State's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Investment, she plays a pivotal role in shaping the policies and programmes that define the State's investment environment.

She leads high-impact initiatives focused on enterprise development, value chain optimisation, and investment attraction — fostering an enabling environment that supports innovation, job creation, and inclusive growth. Her professional experience spans MSME coordination, investor relations, and cross-sector collaboration, where she has successfully facilitated partnerships that have strengthened the State's industrial ecosystem and enhanced the ease of doing business.

Catherine brings the State Government's voice to the judging panel: she understands what it means for a small business to operate within Nasarawa's regulatory and commercial environment, and she is positioned to identify the enterprises most likely to contribute to the State's long-term economic development agenda.

Visit the **Exhibition Area**

Participants are encouraged to visit the Exhibition & Investment Showcase Area to engage directly with MDAs, project sponsors and partners, and to expore investment and business opportunities. Featured Government institutions include the Nasarawa Urban Development Agency (NUDA), Nasrawa Geographica Information Service (NAGIS), Nasarawa One Stop Investment Center, and multiple private sector players from agriculture to manufacturing to mining, real estate, financial services, amongst others.

The #NIS2026 Investment Ball

An Evening of Celebration, Legacy, and Continued Conversation

The #NIS2026 Investment Ball is the flagship evening event of the Summit — bringing together investors, government officials, development partners, private sector leaders, and distinguished guests for a night of celebration, recognition, and continued relationship-building. Taking place on the evening of Day 1 (6 May 2026) at the Aliyu Akwe Doma Banquet Hall, Government House, Lafia, the Investment Ball is more than a dinner. It is a statement: that investment in Nasarawa is beyond transactional, but the beginning of a long-term relationship between the State and those who believe in its future.

Evening Programme

S/N	Activiity	Duration	Participant
01	Red Carpet Reception	6:00 – 7:00pm	All Guests — arrivals, photography, networking
02	Welcome Remarks	7:00 – 7:10pm	Ibrahim A. Abdullahi, MD/CEO NASIDA
03	Live Stage Performance	7:10 – 7:25pm	Police Band Crew
04	Fireside Chat with H.E. the Governor & Book Launch	7:25 – 7:55pm	Moderated conversation and book presentation ceremony
05	Gala Dinner Commences	7:55pm onwards	All Guests
06	Awards Presentation (First Round)	7:55 – 8:20pm	Recognition of outstanding contributions to investment and economic growth in Nasarawa State
07	Live Stage Performance	8:20 – 8:35pm	Nasarawa State Cultural Troupe & Spoken Word Artist
08	Awards Presentation (Continuation)	8:35 – 9:00pm	Second round of award presentations
09	Vote of Thanks	9:00 – 9:05pm	On behalf of award recipients
10	Legacy Leadership Award	9:05 – 9:10pm	Presented to H.E. Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule, Executive Governor

11	Special Remarks	9:10 – 9:30pm	H.E. Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule, Executive Governor, Nasarawa State
12	Group Photograph & Departure	9:30 – 9:40pm	MC
13	Networking & Entertainment	9:05 – 9:10pm	All Guests

Highlits of the **Evening**

The Governor's Fireside Chat & Book Launch

This is a rare and candid conversation with H.E. Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule — one of Nigeria's most unusual political figures: an engineer and oilfield executive who governed a state, and who has spent seven years proving that private sector discipline can transform public administration. The Fireside Chat will explore his personal journey, his reflections on seven years of governing Nasarawa, and his vision for what a Bold Transition truly means. The evening also marks the launch of his book — a personal record of the reform era that will document what has been built and why it matters.

Investment Awards

The Investment Ball is the occasion at which Nasarawa State formally recognises the individuals, institutions, and companies that have made outstanding contributions to investment and economic growth in the State. These awards are not ceremonial — they are a deliberate act of public acknowledgment, sending a clear signal to the investment community that Nasarawa remembers and rewards those who committed early, stayed through difficulty, and helped build what exists today.
The evening culminates with the presentation of the Legacy Leadership Award to the Executive Governor — recognition of seven years of consistent, mission-driven economic governance.

Dress Code: Black tie / Smart formal.
Venue: Aliyu Akwe Doma Banquet Hall, Government House, Lafia, Nasarawa State
Tickets / Invitations: By invitation only. Contact Rabiu on **+234-811-797-5815 to confirm attendance.**

The Lafia Declaration 2026

Nasarawa's Commitment to Economic Continuity, Competitiveness, and Sustainable Development

The Lafia Declaration is one of the most consequential outcome of the 2026 Nasarawa Investment Summit. It is a formal, publicly signed compact between the Government of Nasarawa State, the private sector, and political stakeholders - committing all signatories and their respective blocs within the State to economic continuity, institutional stability, and investor protection beyond the 2027 political transition.

The Declaration addresses the single greatest concern that sophisticated investors have when considering sub-national investments in Nigeria: the risk that reforms, contracts, and institutional frameworks will be reversed or ignored when a new administration takes office. By committing political actors, government institutions, and private sector partners to a shared set of economic principles, the Lafia Declaration converts that political risk from a deal-breaker into a manageable and publicly monitored factor.

The Seven Core Commitments

1. Sustaining and strengthening key reforms, ease of doing business improvements, PPP frameworks, and sectoral master plans already yielding measurable results.

2. Protection of Investments — Upholding the sanctity of contracts, respecting existing concessions and MOUs with private investors, and ensuring no arbitrary policy reversals.

3 Institutional Safeguards — Supporting and strengthening independent institutions and legal instruments that insulate economic policy from political cycles, including NASIDA, fiscal responsibility laws, and multi-year development plans with legislative backing.

4 Transparent Fiscal Management — Prudent fiscal management, timely publication of budgets and financial statements, and adherence to agreed debt sustainability thresholds.

5 Private Sector-Led Growth — Nasarawa's economy will remain private sector-led. Government will act as an enabler — providing infrastructure, security, and policy clarity — while avoiding undue market interference.

6 Stakeholder Engagement — Institutionalising regular dialogue with investors, development partners, traditional institutions, and civil society through the Nasarawa Economic Council.

7 Dispute Resolution — Fair, timely, and transparent mechanisms for resolving commercial and investment disputes, including arbitration and specialised commercial courts.

The Lafia Declaration will be formally launched on **Day 1 — 6 May 2026** — in the presence of the Executive Governor, the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and invited signatories including political, private sector, and development partner representatives.

Why Invest in **Nasarawa State**

Nasarawa State is strategically positioned at the intersection of geography, resources, and reform — offering investors a rare combination of exceptional natural endowments, a maturing investment climate, and the institutional credibility that long-term capital requires.

Strategic Location

Nasarawa shares borders with the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), giving it unrivalled access to Nigeria's largest concentration of purchasing power, government procurement, and infrastructure investment. The State sits at the crossroads of Nigeria's North Central geopolitical zone and serves as the primary logistics and industrial corridor for the FCT. The proximity to Abuja's 4+ million population creates immediate market access for food, energy, construction materials, and consumer goods.

Home of Solid Materials

Nasarawa State contains the most diverse concentration of solid mineral deposits in Nigeria -including lithium, gold baryte, gemstones, tantalite, iron ore, and limestone. With global demand for lithium surging due to electric vehicle batteries and energy storage systems, Nasarawa is positioned at the centre of the global energy transition supply chain.

Agricultural Powerhouse

With over 70% of Nasarawa's population engaged in agriculture and an abundance of fertile land, water resources from the Benue River and its tributaries, and a growing ecosystem of anchor agribusinesses - including Olam's integrated rice farm in Doma, the Gudi Agro-Industrial and Logistics Park, and Saro's operations - the State offers exceptional opportunities in food processing, agro-allied manufacturing, and agricultural value chain development.

Institutional Credibility

NASIDA, the One Stop Investment Centre, the FRILIA land framework, the Nasarawa Infrastructure Fund, the State's PPP Law, and the Nasarawa Electricity Regulatory Commission collectively represent an institutional architecture that is among the most sophisticated of any state in Nigeria. They go beyond policy announcements to operational systems through which investors engage and transact.

Gas and Energy Gateway

Nasarawa's proximity to the Ajaokuta-Kaduna-Kano (AKK) gas pipeline corridor creates an immediate opportunity for gas-led industrial transformation. The Nasarawa Gas Master Plan provides a clear, technically anchored roadmap for deploying gas into industrial clusters in mining, agro-processing, and manufacturing. Combined with the State's own renewable energy potential (hydropower at Farin Ruwa and Doma Dams) and its growing mini-grid ecosystem, Nasarawa is becoming an energy investment destination.

Energy and Technology Corridor

The Nasarawa Technology Village in Karu LGA - located on the Abuja-Keffi corridor - is the State's flagship innovation and ICT investment. With the planned 7.6km Aso-Pada-Nnanya toll road improving access, and the NTV Tech Hub project attracting investment, Nasarawa is building a technology and innovation corridor that complements its natural resource and agricultural base with digital and knowledge-economy capabilities.

Visit Our One Stop **Investment Centre**

The Nasarawa One Stop Investment Centre (OSIC) is the physical and institutional gateway for investment in Nasarawa State. Established under NASIDA to consolidate all investor-facing government services in a single facility, the OSIC provides investors with streamlined access to every approval, permit, and registration they need to establish and operate a business in the State — without navigating multiple agencies.

What You Can Do at the OSIC

- Business name reservation and CAC registration facilitation
- Land acquisition and Certificate of Occupancy (C-of-O) processing
- Environmental Impact Assessment coordination
- Tax identification and State Revenue Service registration
- Business permit and regulatory licence facilitation across MDAs
- Investor grievance registration and escalation
- Project pipeline enquiries and investment opportunity briefings



A Message from the OSIC Administrator

"The Nasarawa One Stop Investment Centre was established with a singular commitment: that no investor coming to this State should have to navigate government bureaucracy alone.
Whether you are exploring an opportunity, completing an approval process, or seeking to resolve a challenge, our team is here. We have worked hard to reduce approval timelines, digitise key processes, and build a culture of investor service that puts your needs first.
We look forward to serving you — at the Summit and beyond."

Habiba Saidu
Administrator, Nasarawa One Stop Investment Centre (OSIC)

Location:	NASIDA Headquarters, Lafia, Nasarawa State
Operating Hours:	Monday – Friday | 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
At the Summit:	The OSIC will be represented at the #NIS2026 Exhibition Booths throughout both days. Visit our stand for on-the-spot consultations.
Contact:	Habiba.saidu@nasida.na.gov.ng | www.nasida.na.gov.ng

Our **Resources**

NASIDA maintains a comprehensive library of publications, reports, and frameworks to help investors, researchers, and partners engage with Nasarawa's investment landscape. All resources are available for download from the NASIDA digital resources portal.

REPORTS & EVALUATIONS
- NASIDA 4-Year Impact Report (2019–2023)
- NASIDA 2025 Annual Investment Report
- NIS 2022 Summit Report
- NIS 2024 Summit Report

FRAMEWORKS & PLANNING DOCUMENTS
- NASIDA PPP Manual
- Nasarawa Gas Master Plan (Abridged)
- Nasarawa PPP Disclosure Portal
- FRILIA Framework for Responsible Land-Intensive Agriculture

Access All Resources:
www.nasida.na.gov.ng/resources. Scan the QR code at our exhibition stand or contact info@nasida.na.gov.ng for digital copies of any document.

Acknowledgment



We thank you most sincerely for coming to Lafia, the capital of Nasarawa State and the venue of Nigeria's most ambitious sub-national investment conversation.

#NIS2026 has been designed with a singular purpose: to demonstrate that the economic transformation of Nasarawa State is real, durable, and investor-ready. Every plenary, every Deal Room session, every MSME pitch, and every signature on the Lafia Declaration is a deliberate act in service of that purpose.
We have assembled an extraordinary group of minds for this Summit – ranging from federal ministers, global investors, multilateral partners, indigenous entrepreneurs, and sector specialists – because we believe that the conversation that happens in this hall over the next two days will shape the trajectory of Nasarawa's economy for the next decade.

The most valuable outcome of any summit is not the announcements made from the podium but the decisions made in the conversations that follow.

We have created the structures to support those decisions wherever they lead.

Special appreciation to His Excellency the Governor of Nasarawa State, Engr. Abdullahi A. Sule, for the tremendous support and frontline leadership without which none of the successes recorded in curating Nasarawa as a top investment destination in Nigeria would have been possible.

We thank all our partners, sponsors, and volunteers for making this summit a success.Special appreciation goes to our colleagues in Government for the spirit of partnership extended towards the success of this summit and all the reforms achieved.

We thank our private sector-led #NIS2026 planning committee of dedicated professionals and experts across different sectors who put together this summit. The diversity, dedication, and brilliance of the team mirrors the possibilities of the great things that can happen when well-meaning Nigerians from across different spheres come together to achieve a common goal.

Ibrahim A. Abdullahi
MD/CEO, NASIDA | Chairman, #NIS2026 Planning Committee

We Value Your **Feedback**

Your experience at #NIS2026 matters to us.
We are committed to making each edition of the Nasarawa Investment Summit more useful, more impactful, and more actionable than the last. To do that, we need your honest assessment of the sessions, the facilities, the logistics, and the overall experience.
Please take two minutes to complete our Summit feedback survey. Your responses will directly shape the design of #NIS2028 and the ongoing programme of NASIDA's investor engagement activities.

Scan to submit your #NIS2026 Feedback
feedback.nasida.na.gov.ng



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