



MALAYSIA CONNECTS



HIGH COMMISSION OF MALAYSIA
ABUJA, NIGERIA

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER VOL. 2/2016 (JULY-DEC 2016)



In this edition:

- Event Highlights: National Day Reception (Page 1)
- Malaysia Info Page: Malaysia Truly Asia (Page 2)
- Highlights of High Commission's activities (Page 3)
- PERWAKILAN activities (page 5)
- Picture Speaks (page 6)
- News coverage (page 7)



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

MALAYSIA'S 2016 NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

His Excellency Datuk Lim Juay Jin, High Commissioner of Malaysia to the Federal Republic of Nigeria hosted the National Day of Malaysia reception on Friday, 16 September 2016 at the Chancery of the High Commission, in an atmosphere filled with Malaysian hospitality. The celebration was also to commemorate the Malaysia Day which falls on 16 September. Around 200 guests comprising senior government officials, prominent local politicians, representatives of diplomatic corps and captains of industries as well as the mass media were present. The guests were served with specially prepared Malaysian cuisines.



Home Based Staff of the High Commission:

- H.E. Datuk Lim Juay Jin,
(High Commissioner / Head of Mission)
- Mr. Mohd Khairy Maidin
(Trade Commissioner)
- Mr. Mohd Yunus Ibrahim
(Second Secretary / Head of Chancery)
- Mrs. Sarmiah Haron
(Third Secretary)
- Mrs. Intan Zurainee Abd Rahman
(Personal Assistant to H.E.)

→ Continued on page 4

Malaysia Info Page

MALAYSIA – SINGLE DESTINATION, MULTIPLE EXPERIENCES (part 2)

Being one of the 12 mega biodiversity countries in the world, Malaysia certainly has plenty to boast when it comes to pristine rainforests rich in flora and fauna. The forests of Taman Negara, for instance, reputed to be among the oldest in the world, offer the perfect backdrop to watch wildlife in their natural habitat.

For adventurous activities and ecotourism, Sabah is indeed a haven. Whether it's scaling Mount Kinabalu, Southeast Asia's highest peak, or exploring the lush rainforest of Danum Valley, spotting



Mount Kinabalu (4,095m)

proboscis monkeys along the Kinabatangan River, or visiting the world's largest orang utan sanctuary at Sepilok, Sabah is a true tropical wonderland.

Neighbouring Sarawak, Malaysia's largest state, also has its fair share of superlatives. Its magnificent Mulu Caves boast the world's most extensive cave system and the world's largest cave chamber while the Niah Caves are one of the most important archaeological sites in the world as the oldest modern human remains discovered in Southeast Asia were found there.



LEGOLAND Malaysia

Further information on Malaysia's tourism industry, places of interests and events could be obtained from the official Tourism Malaysia page @ www.malaysia.travel / www.tourism.gov.my



Taman Negara Pahang



World's largest flower, Rafflesia

Besides having various innovative tourism products such as parks and gardens, homestay, and helicopter tour, Malaysia is also home to Southeast Asia's first Premium Outlet Center and Asia's first LEGOLAND theme park.

The first part of this Tourism Malaysia's article was published in the newsletter vol. 1/2016.

Highlights of High Commission's activities

'JALUR GEMILANG' FLAG HOISTING CEREMONY (31 AUGUST 2016)

In conjunction with the Malaysia's National Day 2016, the High Commission of Malaysia in Abuja hosted a 'Jalur Gemilang' Flag Raising Ceremony on 31 August 2016. The ceremony, held at the compound of the Chancery, was to commemorate the 59th National Day of Malaysia as well as to showcase the patriotic spirit of Malaysians in Nigeria.

In his remarks, H.E. Datuk High Commissioner highlighted the importance of the spirit of patriotism to be upheld in the hearts of each Malaysians, especially those who are abroad. The theme of 'Sehati Sejiwa' reflected the spirit of solidarity, understanding, togetherness and humanity of all the people in the country. The High Commissioner took the opportunity to advise all Malaysian in Nigeria to continue to fly Malaysia's name high in Nigeria.

At the end of the event, H.E. Datuk High Commissioner, accompanied by all HBS had a Merdeka cake-cutting ceremony. All guests were served with traditional Malaysian dishes and *kambing golek*.



TRADE COMMISSIONER'S WORK HANDOVER, 31 AUGUST 2016

The High Commission bid farewell to Mr. Saifuddin Khalid, Trade Commissioner of Malaysia to Nigeria (MATRADE Lagos) who completed his tour of duty in Nigeria. He was succeeded by Mr. Mohd Khairy Maidin, who arrived Nigeria on 22 August 2016. We welcome Mr. Khairy and his family to Nigeria and looking forward to working closely with you.



Mr. Saifuddin Khalid



Mr. Mohd Khairy Maidin

MALAYSIA'S 2016 NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, 16 SEPTEMBER 2016

In his welcoming remarks, H.E. High Commissioner highlighted the significant milestones of Malaysia's success stories in the 59 years of nation building. He attributed the achievements to the united and hardworking Malaysian with the right policies under visionary leadership. Innovation, creativity and productivity were fundamentals in those achievements. Over the years, the developmental strategies have transformed Malaysia from once a primarily agriculture-based economy, to one with a strong industrial base. As it is, Malaysia ranked as the 18th easiest place to do business with, 9th in the world for Financial

Market Development, 4th best shopping destination and 10th friendliest country in the world.



H.E. High Commissioner also outlined the progress of bilateral relations between Malaysia and Nigeria and reiterated Malaysia's confidence in the leadership of Nigeria and the resilience of its people.

Before concluding his remarks, H.E. High Commissioner proposed a toast for the success and prosperity of both countries as well as for the friendship and the enhancement of relations between Malaysia and Nigeria. H.E. High Commissioner also expressed his sincere appreciation to those who contributed to the success of this reception especially the sponsors who have made this event possible. The event was concluded with a *Jalur Gemilang* cake-cutting ceremony by H.E. High Commissioner accompanied by all home-based staff and spouses.



NATIONAL SPORTS DAY 2016, 8 OCTOBER 2016

In line with the Malaysian government's initiative to promote a healthier lifestyle, the High Commission of Malaysia held a Sports Day on Saturday, 8 October 2016. The programme started with the national anthem *Negaraku*, followed by a warm-up session before brisk walking around the Chancery's neighborhood. The programme continued with an aerobic session, led by a certified fitness trainer from Malaysia Mr. Sia, followed by *sukaneka* for the children. A total of 38 participants took part in the programme.



PERWAKILAN activities

FUND RAISING CHARITY COOKING DEMONSTRATION, 6 DECEMBER 2016

The Malaysian Ladies Association, or better known as PERWAKILAN had geared up to conduct the first cooking demonstration on 6 December 2016. The popular Malaysian dish, *roti jala* and *teh tarik* was demonstrated during the class. All fees collected for the event were meant for charitable cause.



VISIT TO THE OAKLAND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, 15 DECEMBER 2016

PERWAKILAN Abuja visited the Oakland International School on 15 December 2016 at the invitation of the latter to engage with a year one class, who were keen to learn about Malaysia. Mdm. Norazlina Zakaria, spouse of the Head of Chancery successfully presented basic information about Malaysia. Responses from the children were positive and overwhelming, and they all expressed their interest visit Malaysia soon.



CHARITY VISIT TO THE ALPHA & OMEGA ORPHANAGE, NASARAWA STATE, 16 DECEMBER 2016

PERWAKILAN Abuja, led by its President Datin Lin Yi, visited the Alpha & Omega Orphanage in Nasarawa State on 16 December 2016 as part of its charitable activities. Contribution of food items, books and stationeries raised by PERWAKILAN were handed over to the principal of the orphanage.



Malaysia Donates Food Items To Orphanage |

Leadership.ng/news/564223/malaysia-donates-food-items-to-orphanage

— Dec 17, 2016 6:18 am

Malaysia Donates Food Items To Orphanage

BUKOLA OGUNSINA

The PERWAKILAN (Malaysian Ladies Association in Abuja) in conjunction with the Malaysian High Commission has paid a charity visit to the Alpha & Omega orphanage in Maraba, Nasarawa State. This show of love and care is in line with Malaysia's Vision 2020, there are 9 pillars targeted at achieving a developed nation, and one of them is aimed at establishing a caring society.

The orphanage which is presently has 6 volunteers, cares for orphans and the less privileged children regardless of which religion they belong to. The children welcomed the entourage from the Malaysian community and friends with songs, display of cultural dance and a match parade among others.



Picture Speaks



Business Meeting with OFI Services Ltd and Mr. Clifton George (Lagos, 22 October)



Symposium on Takaful Insurance by Noor Takaful (Lagos, 20 October)



Working Visit by MPOB to the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (Abuja, 18 October)



Signing Condolence Book at the Royal Thai Embassy (Abuja, 18 October)



H.E. Datuk visited Chief Haresh G. Aswani, Honorary Consul General of Singapore (Lagos, 21 October)



Visit by Heitech Berhad (Abuja, 23 November)



Interview by News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) (Abuja, 29 August)



Interview Session for MATRADE Marketing Officer (Lagos, 20)



ASEAN Day Celebration (Abuja, 8 August)



ASEAN Committee in Abuja Meeting (Abuja, 30 August)

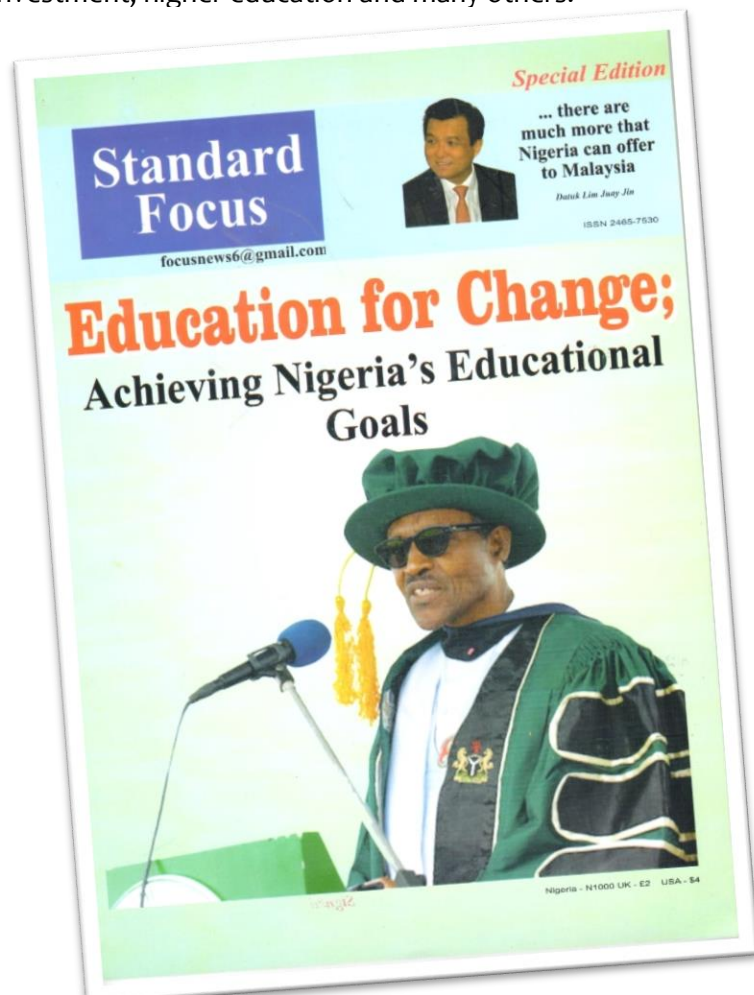


Eko Atlantic site visit (Lagos, 21 October)

News Coverage

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW FOR THE STANDARD FOCUS MAGAZINE
(11 NOVEMBER 2016)

H.E. Datuk High Commissioner gave an exclusive interview for a political magazine, the Standard Focus on 11 November 2016. During the interview, H.E. deliberated on the huge potential of cooperation between Malaysia and Nigeria, especially in industrialization and investment, higher education and many others.



Malaysia Company, Bionas Agropolitan Technology Corridor (BATC) Development Bhd) Kicks off USD 2.5 Billion Investment in Nigeria - Lim Juay Jin

Recently the Editor-in-Chief of STANDARD FOCUS ELDER S. CHAPI had a chat with His Excellency DATUK LIM JUAY JIN, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Nigeria, he bears his mind on Nigeria Malaysia bilateral relationship and a wide range of other issues. Excerpts.

Since the establishment of bilateral relations between Nigeria and Malaysia, what can you say are the outstanding achievements?

First of all, let me say that bilateral ties between Malaysia and Nigeria continued to be warm and cordial. Official relations were established in 1965 with Malaysia first resident mission in Lagos. It was later relocated to Abuja in 2006. Malaysia achieved independence in 1957 while Nigeria gained hers in 1960 so we were then both newly established countries and were forging ahead confidently and relying on our own self in our nation building. In fact, Nigeria was Malaysia's first mission in the Sub Sahara region.

Since then, both countries have been cooperating closely in international forum due to our common membership and of course by sharing common membership also we have a lot of mutual interest to promote such as those in the United Nations, Organization Of Islamic Corporation (OIC), Non Alliance Movement (NAM), G15 Movement, The Developing Eight (D 8), Group of 77(G 77), Smart Partnership Dialogue and others, so actually we find that Nigeria is our natural partner because of the common background we share, common interest that we share and for that, we have a shared destiny as a developing countries. Nigeria is a very important country in West Africa and also in Africa. We were non permanent member of the United Nations Security Council in 2015 so we have been working closely to ensure global peace and security.

As far as outstanding achievement, trade could be considered as the core

aspect of that. I am pleased to highlight that in the first six months of 2016, bilateral trade between Malaysia and Nigeria recorded a significant growth

Another area we can claim pride perhaps is in the area of capacity building. Nigeria is one of the recipient countries of the Malaysian Technical Corporation Programme (MTCP) and since 1981 more than 450 officials from various ministries and agencies and parastatals of Nigeria have



Sri Haji Mohammad Najib bin Tun Haji Abdul Razak,
Malaysia Prime Minister

of 121 % compared to the same period last year. The total trade was recorded at RM 178 billion, equivalent to USD 435 million, so I think this is one area we have achieved as two developing countries. The figure might be small in comparison with other bigger trading nations but as developing countries, I think this is quite significant and I am confident that the trade relations will continue to develop and expand in years to come.

attended training courses conducted under the sponsorship of MTCP.

Thirdly, in the area of education there are currently more than 1 thousand Nigerian students studying in various institution of high learning at all levels in Malaysia. I would consider it as another significant component of the bilateral relations. Nigeria has become the single largest country in Africa with the highest number of students in Malaysia

in term of the bilateral trade and investments, Malaysia and Nigeria enjoys good and working relations. There are a number of Malaysian companies operating in Nigeria, such as Edmark, a multi-level-marketing (MLM) company providing wellness products and has been making rapid expansion in other area of businesses in Nigeria.

There are also IRIS Cooperation Berhad, a parent company of IRIS Smart Technologies Ltd. based in Nigeria which responsible for the implementation of Nigeria's e-Passport solution as well as passport control infrastructure. Bumi Armada is also one of the largest owners and operators of offshore support vessels in Malaysia, providing floating production, storing and offloading (FPSO) services; and WASCO Group and SCOMI in oil & gas support services.

In term of investments, I was informed that recently a Malaysian company, BionasAgropolitan Technology Corridor (BATC Development Bhd) kicked off a USD 2.5 billion investment in Nigeria's biofuel and waste-to-energy sector.

Malaysia is one of the most preferred countries where Nigerians go to study, how has this contributed to strengthening Nigeria and Malaysia's bilateral relations?

As mentioned earlier, education sector has become a major cooperation area between Malaysia and Nigeria. As Malaysia welcomes more cooperation in this sector, I believe collaboration between public and private universities of both countries should be further promoted.

Malaysia is regarded as a top destination to pursue tertiary education among Nigerian students. Malaysia has become an ideal place for Nigerian students who were looking for quality and affordable postgraduate degrees. I must say Malaysia provides quality education and the teaching facilities in Malaysia are good and some are comparable to those in the Western countries. The English speaking environment



and a considerably large community of Nigerians residing in Malaysia were also considered 'environmental friendly' to the Nigerian students.

I think students find Malaysia educational process meaningful and useful. Some of the institutions has established twinning programmes with those universities in the developed countries. For example, the University of Nottingham has its campus in Malaysia. This is one of the two campuses outside the UK, the other one is in Beijing.

Another advantage is the cultural exchanges that allow students from all over the world to mix, interact and learn from each other. This has to a larger extend enhanced people to people's relationship and contributed towards the strengthening of the bilateral relations because the people are the most important element in terms of spreading good will and acting as an agent to promote cultural understanding. I was made to understand that in Malaysia right now, there are more than twenty Nigeria

restaurants that provider Nigerian cuisine. So I think this is yet another concrete example on the promotion of culture through food.

Like you mentioned earlier concerning the trade relation, how does Malaysia hope to improve on the trade relations between both countries?

Of course trading activities are very much private-sector driven. In this regard, there are many rooms for further expansion in the trade relations. Due to Nigeria's status as an importing nation, the trade is currently in Malaysia's favour. Presently, Malaysia imports LNG, metal scrap, iron ores and some agriculture products from Nigeria. I firmly believe that there are much more that Nigeria can offer to Malaysia apart from these products.

Nigeria, with a huge population of 180 million, is a market with enormous potential. Talking about the current push for the diversification of Nigeria's economy, I think Malaysia could play a significant role in this area, where

Cont. on Pg 20



more Malaysian businessmen should be encouraged to come and invest, as well as to share its technology and best practices available in Malaysia. Malaysia, as one of the fast developing country, has a lot to offer to Nigeria since we have gained considerable experiences on the path towards development. This experience could be useful for Nigeria, and we are always ready to share and learn from Nigeria.

Just like you mentioned earlier about Malaysia helping Nigeria diversify its economy, specifically in what area is Malaysia going to assist Nigeria?

Honestly, there is not much has been done on this. However, as a beginning, we could start from areas where Malaysia has comparative advantages that suits Nigeria's local reality. I am aware that Nigeria will emphasize on agriculture, mining, manufacturing and other non-oil and gas related sectors. One of the advantages that Malaysia has is in oil-palm plantation. Oil palm will ultimately come into picture because

of the similarity in terms of weather, soil condition and vegetation. Next come to manufacturing.

Malaysia is also an oil producing country, where we were also affected by the slump in oil price. Luckily, we have some other things to rely on. Over the years, we have built up a strong foundation in other economic sectors, including service-oriented sector such as banking.

Another possible area of cooperation would be the tourism industry. Undoubtedly, Nigeria hosts so many touristic places of interest to outsiders that can be exploited. Cultural heritage of Nigeria is fascinating, however has not been sufficiently developed.

Recently, I attended a cultural function with a theme of 'Rhythm of Hope: Festival of Art and Culture' with Zahra Muhammadu daughter of President Muhammadu Buhari as the patron. I found it very interesting and enriching as the cultural event showcased the richness of Nigerian culture through a theater-like performance. The local dance and songs that were performed were very rich and displayed the harmony

and unity of Nigeria. The arts and handicrafts of the respective 36 states were also displayed. I am impressed by the richness of the Nigerian culture. That is one area I think Nigeria can sell to the art and culture lovers, especially the foreign audience.

Likewise, Malaysia has put a lot of attention in promoting its tourism industry and over the years, has gained a lot of achievements. Tourism, if I may add, is considered as a soft industry, an 'industry without chimney'.

This is one area that both countries could partner together and cooperate. Some people ask me how do we promote tourism and I say, you must first of all possess a service oriented mind set. Nigeria people are very welcoming people, rich in culture and other things but it has not been fully exploited. In the tourism industry, hotel industry, transportation, cuisine and food all come hand in hand. Local food such as MoiMoi, ankra, pepper soup, even Zobo, Moringa could be introduced and promoted.

In the seventies, Malaysia came to Nigeria to understudy Nigerians palm produce and went back with seedlings in their research but presently Malaysia is one of the largest exporter of palm produce, what did Malaysia do?

I heard a lot of these since I came to Nigeria. However, the claim that Malaysia came and took the oil palm seed from Nigeria and brought it back to Malaysia. I was later made to understand that it was a cooperative effort by the Malaysian agency and the Nigerian Institute of Palm Oil Research (NIFOR). Some said historically, the first oil palm seeds in South East Asia were brought in by a Dutch expedition from Amsterdam in 1848. Later in 1871, the oil palm was introduced by the British government as ornamental plants for landscaping.

But that does not obscure that fact that Malaysia has gone way ahead of Nigeria in the development of palm oil industry. Palm oil industry has

Cont. on Pg 21

become an important agriculture sector of Malaysia's economy for the past three (3) decades. Not only have sourced for foreign exchange earnings, palm oil industry also used as a development tool to alleviate the local farmers from poverty. With huge capital invested in the oil palm research and development.

Concerning how Malaysia grew in this aspect, I would say first and

Subsequently, we went on a very vigorous industrialization of our developmental process where we manufacture and then export, and then there was a time when we encouraged and promoted foreign direct investments to Malaysia so at that time we saw a lot of Japanese, Korean and other European countries coming into Malaysia. We provided investment incentives, tax holidays

International

So that is how we actually commercialized it, we encourage the private sector to go in full force because oil palm is a very viable commodity so we actually single mindedly went into the research arm, there were number of institutes that we set up to complement this and we also set up an agency, FELDA to promote community-based oil palm programme. Through extensive R&D, we extended our marketing and widened the usage of our oil palm. Palm oil can be used to make soap, cosmetic and so many other useful products. After so many decades of hard work, Malaysia now accounts for 39% of the world palm oil production and 44% of world export.

Since I came to Nigeria, I have encouraged Nigerians to revive its oil palm plantation because we have similar weather and soil which are requisite for the purpose. Nigeria has rich soil especially in the southern east and south- south part of the country. I believe Nigeria has all the necessary condition to become an even greater oil palm producer than Malaysia. Right now, Malaysia is moving vigorously towards a knowledge based economy while emphasizing high tech and less capital labour intensive.

Educationally Malaysia is doing well, education is so stable, can you tell us how, and Malaysia was able to achieve this?

Education has become a major cooperation between Malaysia and Nigeria; I would say so many Nigeria students are going to Malaysia in search of useful educational experiences. We inherited the British system of education then over the years we have also came up with educational policies suited the local reality; we have clear educational blue print to achieve our educational objectives. The government has been pouring in large amount of the national budget to education sector. In 2016, the figure was 20.4%, this constitutes the largest allocation as compared

Cont. on Pg 22

Special Edition, Standard Focus



foremost it had to do with research and development and I think we were single minded in this, because Malaysia has gone through a lot of faces in its economic development, we were a commodity based nation, we relied on tin, rubber and other agricultural produce subsequently we had moved one more stage up to become an import substitution economy whereby we set up plants, factories to manufacture things to substitute the import by reducing importation.

and other attractive package just to encourage foreign investors to come and invest in Malaysia. It was also during those years that we promoted the cultivation of commercial crops which included oil palm plantations. I mentioned the word single minded because if you go to Malaysia now, before the plane touch down you will see from aircraft the oil palm plantation area. Along the highway while entering the city you will see oil palm plantation arranged systematically, orderly manner.



International

His Excellency, Datuk Lim Juay Jim, High Commissioner of Malaysia to Nigeria welcomes Elder S. Chapi Editor-in-Chief of Standard Focus to the Embassy in Abuja.

with other sectors although it is still below the UNESCO standard. That is how we have tackled our education sector, by making it a priority of our national policies we have managed to develop the necessary human capital and workforce. But again it goes back to what I said just now about single mindedness, and consistently, consciously targeting to achieving a certain goal.

You know, education is one of the crucial pillars of development that would that would help to nature younger generation, because these are the people that would prepare the country for tomorrow. Of course Malaysia has a well-developed and a matured educational system starting from the kindergarten up to the tertiary level. Research and development has always been stressed in our institute of higher learning. You may be aware Malaysia produces its own national cars under the brand name of Proton. We started to spearhead heavy industry in 1985. We cooperated with Mitsubishi of Japan

to produce the national car. At the initial stage, we imported 70 % of the components including the engine, but gradually we move up and now it is only 30% were imported and the rest were local contents.

Likewise, before we opened up our educational gate, we use to have only 6 public universities but now Malaysia has 21 public universities, 32 private universities, 26 university colleges and 326 private colleges. The public universities are divided to 5 research universities, 4 comprehensive universities and 12 focused universities. Nigeria has very good universities both public and private. I was privileged to visit AfeBabalola University in Ekiti, where I interacted with the students with very high level of intellectuality. We can do more to encourage and inspire the youths to move and develop the country. I told students at the AfeBabalola University that they were the hope of Nigeria and the future Nigeria depends on them and I have high hope in them.

In the area of technological advancement is Malaysia advanced in technical education?

Yes, Malaysia has made considerable stride in this area. We focus on both the theoretical and applied education, like in the general and applied science. We cannot ignore any, especially for developing country like us, applied science is vital but of course we cannot ignore the theoretical aspect which is the basic or general science. In Malaysia we have university technology, institutes of technology, we have engineering, electrical and other technological courses. We also have a lot of vocational school for students who want to specialize in technical fields; we also have training school where students are trained in the car manufacturing. In fact, under the Look East Policy, we sent many students to Japan Korea, to study and undergo training in car manufacturing, maintenance and other technical courses for short or long term courses and that's how we developed a pool of technical experts.

Special Edition, Standard Focus

**COVERAGE BY THE AUTHORITY NEWSPAPER
(25 OCTOBER 2016)**



Malaysia ready to help Nigeria diversify its economy - Envoy

authorityngr.com/2016/10/Malaysia-ready-to-help-Nigeria-diversify-its-economy-Envoy/

By: Anonymous
25-10-2016 04:18:22 AM



Since the establishment of bilateral relations between Nigeria and Malaysia, the relationship between both countries has continued to be warm and cordial.

Official relations between Nigeria and Malaysia were established in 1965 with Malaysia's first resident mission in Lagos. It was later relocated to Abuja in 2006. Malaysia achieved its independence in 1957 while Nigeria gained hers in 1960. Nigeria was Malaysia's first mission in the Sub-Saharan region. Since then, both countries have been cooperating closely in international forum by sharing common membership.

In this interview with The AUTHORITY correspondent, GIFT CHAPI, the High Commissioner of Malaysia to Nigeria, Datuk Lim Juay Jin, says Malaysia and Nigeria are natural partners because of the common background and interest both countries share.

Highlighting some outstanding achievements between both countries, the High Commissioner said trade is one of the core aspect both countries have recorded progress

"Nigeria and Malaysia have a lot of mutual interest to promote such as those in the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Corporation (OIC), Non-Alliance Movement (NAM), G15 Movement, The Developing Eight (D8), Group of 77(G 77), Smart Partnership Dialogue and others.

"We have a shared destiny as developing countries. Nigeria is a very important country in West Africa and also in Africa. We were non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in 2015, so we have been working closely to ensure global peace and security," he said.

According to him, in the first six months of 2016, bilateral trade between Malaysia and Nigeria recorded a significant growth of 121%, compared to the same period last year, adding that the total trade was recorded at RM 178billion, equivalent to USD 435 million.

"I think this is one area we have achieved as two developing countries. The figure might be small in comparison with other bigger trading nations but as developing countries, I think this is quite significant and I am confident that the trade relations will continue to develop and expand in years to come.

"Another area we can claim pride perhaps, is in the area of capacity building. Nigeria is one of the recipient countries of the Malaysian Technical Corporation Programme (MTCP) and since 1981 more than 450 officials from various ministries and agencies and parastatals of Nigeria have attended training courses conducted under the sponsorship of MTCP.

"Thirdly, in the area of education, there are currently more than 13 thousand Nigerian students studying in various institutions of higher learning at all levels in Malaysia. I would consider it as another significant component of the bilateral relations. Nigeria has become the single largest country in Africa with the highest number of students in Malaysia," he said.

3

Lim further explained that in the area of bilateral trade and investments, Malaysia and Nigeria enjoy good and working relations. He said there are a number of Malaysian companies operating in Nigeria.

"We have Edmark, a Multi-Level-Marketing (MLM) company providing wellness products and has been making rapid expansion in other area of businesses in Nigeria.

"There are also IRIS Cooperation Berhad, a parent company of IRIS Smart Technologies Ltd based in Nigeria which is responsible for the implementation of Nigeria's e-Passport solution as well as passport control infrastructure.

Bumi Armada is also one of the largest owners and operators of offshore support vessels in Malaysia, providing floating production, storing and offloading (FPSO) services; and WASCO Group and SCOMI in oil & gas support services.

"In terms of investments, I was informed recently that a Malaysian company, Bionas Agropolitan Technology Corridor (BATC Development Bhd) kicked off a USD 2.5 billion investment in Nigeria's biofuel and waste-to-energy sector," he said.

He also added that Malaysia hopes to do more in order to improve on the trade relations between both countries.

"Trading activities are very much private-sector driven. In this regard, there are much room for further expansion in the trade relations. Due to Nigeria's status as an importing nation, the trade is currently in Malaysia's favour. Presently, Malaysia imports LNG, metal scrap, iron ores and some agriculture products from Nigeria. I firmly believe that there are much more that Nigeria can offer to Malaysia apart from these products.

"Nigeria, with a huge population of over 180 million, is a market with enormous potential. Talking about the current push for the diversification of Nigeria's economy, I think Malaysia could play a significant role in this area, where more Malaysian businessmen should be encouraged to come and invest, as well as to share its technology and best practices available in Malaysia.

4

"Malaysia, as one of the fastest-developing countries, has a lot to offer to Nigeria since we have gained considerable experiences on the path towards development. This experience could be useful for Nigeria, and we are always ready to share and learn from Nigeria," he said.

He further said that Malaysia is ready to assist Nigeria diversify its economy, stating that much has not been done on this.

"As a beginning, we could start from areas where Malaysia has comparative advantages that suits Nigeria's local reality. I am aware that Nigeria will emphasize on agriculture, mining, manufacturing and other non-oil and gas-related sectors. One of the advantages that Malaysia has is in oil palm plantation. Oil palm will ultimately come into the picture because of the similarity in terms of weather, soil condition and vegetation. Next to come will be manufacturing.

"Malaysia is also an oil-producing country, where we were also affected by the slump in oil price. Luckily, we have some other things to rely on. Over the years, we have built up a strong foundation in other economic sectors, including the service-oriented sector such as banking.

Another possible area of cooperation would be the tourism industry. Undoubtedly, Nigeria hosts so many touristic places of interest to outsiders that can be exploited. The cultural heritage of Nigeria is fascinating, however and has not been sufficiently developed.

Explaining Malaysia's progress in the palm oil sector, Lim said that Malaysia was able to achieve progress in this area through proper Research and development.

"The claim that Malaysia came and took the oil palm seed from Nigeria and brought it back to Malaysia. I was later made to understand that it was a cooperative effort by the Malaysian agency and the Nigerian Institute of Palm Oil Research (NIFOR). Some said historically, the first oil palm seeds in South East Asia were brought in by a Dutch expedition from Amsterdam in 1848. Later in 1871, the oil palm was introduced by the British government as ornamental plants for landscaping.

"But that does not obscure the fact that Malaysia has gone way ahead of Nigeria in the development of palm oil industry. Palm oil industry has become an important agriculture sector of Malaysia's economy for the past three (3) decades. Not only as source for foreign exchange earnings, palm oil industry also used as a development tool to alleviate the local farmers from poverty. With huge capital invested in the oil palm research and development.

5

**MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE CALL BY THE
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE OIL AND GAS FREE
ZONES AUTHORITY ON H.E. DATUK HIGH
COMMISSIONER (18 NOVEMBER 2016)**



Umana Umana secures Malaysia's support for Oil and Gas FZs

thekillerpunch.com | umana-umana-secures-malaysia's-support-oil-and-gas-fzs/ | 11/19/2016



The managing director of the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority (OGFZA), Mr Umana Okon Umana has said that the nation's oil and gas free zones should be Nigeria's first ports of call for foreign direct investments because the Authority has mouth-watering incentives and benefits to investors who set up businesses in the oil and gas free zones.

Speaking to the Malaysian High Commissioner, Lim Juay Jim, during a visit to the Malaysian High Commission in Abuja on Friday, Umana said the benefits for investors include zero tax from federal, state and local tax authorities; zero levies and rates (that is no corporate tax, withholding tax, value added tax and capital gain tax); 100% foreign ownership; 100% repatriation of profit and dividends; 100% repatriation of foreign capital investment.

He said other benefits to the investor include streamlined documentation that makes for fast-tracking of all business transactions.

Umana explained to High Commissioner Jim that there were functioning and vibrant oil and gas free zones in Onne, Rivers State; Warri in Delta State and Apapa in Lagos, adding that the OGFZA was developing additional oil and gas free zones in Brass, Bayelsa State; Ikpokiri, which is contiguous with Onne in Rivers State and Ibaka in Akwa Ibom State.

He told the High Commissioner that the new oil and gas free zones being developed in Brass, Ibaka and Ikpokiri, including the developed ones in Onne, Warri and Lagos, presented viable and irresistible opportunities for investors to take advantage of and become part of the profitable history of Nigeria's oil and gas industry.

He said there were opportunities for the development of infrastructure such as roads and power plants to provide dedicated electric power for the oil and gas free trade hubs.

Umana also explained that attractive opportunities for downstream industries like refineries, manufacturing of pipes for the oil and gas sector and other related industrial goods as well as infrastructure existed for investors in the free zones, adding that the oil and gas Authority was willing to partner with any investors using the public-private partnership (PPP) model to achieve its mandate and business plan. He said the success recorded in the Onne free zone derived from the PPP business model.

High Commissioner Jim expressed joy at the visit and the presentation made by the chief executive of the OGFZA, promising to visit the OGFZA headquarters with a delegation of Malaysian investors to explore investment opportunities in keeping with the strong historical and economic ties between Nigeria and Malaysia.



High Commissioner Jim explained that Malaysia has for long seen Nigeria as the economic hub of Africa, explaining that it was Nigeria's economic weight that made Malaysia to relocate its Africa trade mission from Nairobi to Lagos. He said though Nigeria was currently going through a recession, Malaysia expects the country to bounce back soon.

Umana was accompanied on the visit by the head of trade and investment at OGFZA, Adamu Kontagora; head of legal department and company secretary, Barr. Abduwasiu Sule and Maurice Etim, Chairman of Aurum Energy Maritime and Construction Limited.

This newsletter was published by:

The High Commission of Malaysia | Address: 4A, Plot 2232B, Rio Negro Close, Off Yedseram Street, Maitama, Abuja |
Tel: +234-92908488 | Email: mwabuja@kln.gov.my | URL: http://www.kln.gov.my/web/nga_abuja/home