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**Abuja:** The Bank of Industry (BoI) and Office of Senior Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora signed a memorandum of understanding on business development initiative. The agreement signed in Abuja is to help Nigerians abroad invest back home.

The acting Managing Director of BoI, Mr Waheed Olagunju, said the partnership was to provide a structured platform for mobilizing the resources of Nigerians in diaspora towards national development.

He said that there were millions of highly talented Nigerians in diaspora who had acquired qualifications and skills that wanted to invest in Nigeria. “Some of these Nigerians have acquired skills and become experts in their various callings and professions. Many of them are also wealthy; they have substantial financial resources and they are sentimental about Nigeria and want to make their contribution towards national development.

“Some of them are also well off at home, they enhance their dignity despite facing visa,” Olagunju said.

He said that in the past, a lot of things had gone wrong in terms of initiative, adding that was why the country had not achieved the desired results in this regard.

“IT is part of our mandate to mobilise resources from within and outside the country for national development. So what we need to do is to ensure that these resources are properly harmonized for national development”.

Olagunju further said available data showed that an average of 20 to 35 billion dollars came annually to Nigeria from Nigerians in diaspora.

Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, Senior Special Assistant on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, said that the initiative would change perceptions of Nigerians in diaspora wanting to invest back home. “For the first time, we want to have a structured coordinated approach to Nigerians in diaspora who want to be part of investment in their country. We are talking about huge talented, experienced and successful Nigerians in diaspora who want to invest back home. So we are providing a platform to enable them to invest. We look forward to a move that will impact positively on Nigerians in diaspora and the nation,” Dabiri-Erewa said.

The Presidential aide commended BoI for putting in many efforts in leading the way in such an initiative. For further details kindly link up with www.diaspora.gov.ng, cell-phone: Yabani +2348174383962, www.boi.ng.com
FG hails World Heavyweight Champion, Nigerian-born Anthony Joshua for defending title

The Federal Government has congratulated British professional boxer of Nigerian descent Anthony Oluwafemi Joshua, who recently defeated Ukranian Wladimir Klitschko to become the unified world heavyweight boxing champion.

In a statement issued in Lagos, the Minister of Information and Culture, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, said Nigeria is proud to be associated with the new unified world champion, whose Nigerian heritage he has publicly acknowledged.

“My heart is in Nigeria, My heart is in Britain. I am a Nigerian man by blood, yes,” the Minister quoted Joshua as saying in a recent interview, during which the boxer also listed the secret of his success as pounded yam, eba and egusi – all Nigerian cuisine.

Alhaji Mohammed hailed Joshua for his humility, despite his success in boxing, and his undying spirit, coming off the canvas after he was knocked down by Klitschko in the sixth round to win by a Technical Knock Out in the 11th round of their pulsating fight.

The Minister disclosed that the government will soon invite Joshua, especially as he has said he is looking forward to giving something back to the country.

In the same vein, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Mrs Abike Dabiri-Erewa, also congratulated Nigerian-born boxer, Anthony Oluwafemi-Joshua, for defeating Wladimir Klitschko in the World Heavyweight Boxing fight.

Dabiri-Erewa said that the victory over the Ukrainian was not only a thing of pride to Nigerians, but to Africa. “I congratulate you on this wonderful feat, for winning the biggest fight in British boxing history. “We are truly proud of you and urge you to continue to use your professional prowess to extol the virtues of Nigerian heritage.

“She noted with satisfaction that in spite of the challenges being faced by Anthony in his career, he had remained focused and did not allow that to lure him into any form of criminality.

Joshua defended his IBF heavyweight title and fought for the vacant WBA (Super) and IBO heavyweight titles against Klitschko before 90,000 spectators at Wembley Stadium on April 29, 2017.

Joshua, 27, was born in Watford to Yoruba parents from Southwest Nigeria, with a fellow Nigerian boxer, Ben Ileyemi, made their professional debut together in 2013.

DN reports that Joshua was a bricklayer before taking up boxing full-time. He also excelled at football and athletics and broke nine-year-old 100-metre record with a time of 11.6 seconds.

“Your shining beacon serves as inspiration to the youth of Nigeria. “Your victory is also a testimony to the fact that Nigerians are great people, contributing in many ways to the development of the country and the continent as a whole,” Dabiri-Erewa stated.
ABUJA: Vice President Yemi Osinbajo has hailed the talent and resilience of Nigerians wherever they are, noting that “the country is blessed with great talents and Nigerians are among some of the most creative and smartest persons around the world.” Osinbajo made the remarks when he received the first African to travel round the world as a solo traveller, Capt. Lola Odujinrin, on a courtesy visit to the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

According to the vice president, “your story is really fascinating and I am extremely proud of what you have done and more that you are a Nigerian and I am very sure that just as we took over the entertainment industry, we will certainly break new grounds.”

Osinbajo, who was full of praises for the young pilot and his team's achievements, said “this is the sort of things that people should hear especially young people. It is really inspiring and younger people must begin to learn from your experience and story, and I am glad that you achieved this feat.

“Also, the team is entirely Nigerian and that by itself is certainly a good thing and I am sure this portends even greater things for us in the future.”

On the pilot’s humanitarian project, Prof Osinbajo said that he looked forward to offering his support.

Earlier, Capt Odujinrin said his goal was to put Nigeria on the world map by being the first African to go round the world as a solo pilot and achieve that humanitarian aspect of his dream.

In his brief narration about his world flying project, Odujinrin said it was inspired by his dream to fly aircraft at the age of 10, stating that “it is important to share my story in order to inspire kids, adults and everyone about the struggles I went through in life.”

Odujinrin flew several hours to 25 countries and made 35 stops in nine months, making him the first African to attain the feat.

Earlier, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa, SSA Foreign Affairs and Diaspora had written a congratulatory message to Odujinrin where she extolled his uniqueness in the remarkable feat.
Past decadence, caused by bad leadership, followership -Dabiri-Erewa

Abuja: The senior Special Assistant to the President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa has attributed the decadence in the polity to the bad leadership and lethargic followership in the country. She made this assertion in Abuja during the National Orientation Agency (NOA) Value Re-Orientation Programme for secondary schools in FCT.

In her thought provoking lecture entitled: ‘’There is no better place than home: Think Nigeria, Build Nigeria, Grow Nigeria and make Nigeria Great Again’’, she recalled how some of the unpatriotic actions of previous leaders had discouraged Nigerians from being good citizens. The SSA said some of the cherished values of Nigerians like hardworking, trustworthiness, caring, loving, accommodating and peace-loving have gone bad due to the negative influence of past leaders.

She recalled how the coming around of President Muhammadu Buhari as a military head of state in 1984 to 1985 sanitised the rot in the system then just as he is tackling corruption, insecurity and restoring confidence in the economy now.

Dabiri-Erewa told the students how some Nigerian youths are excelling abroad by distinguishing themselves in all fields of human endeavour.

She advised the youths of nowadays to emulate such attitude, saying ‘’there is no alternative to hard work’’

‘’Let me tell you that you are today and tomorrow. You have the power to be the change and change things for the better’’

‘’You should demand the best from your leaders and parents and make sure you are always at your best in whatever you do because the change begins with you’’, Dabiri-Erewa said.
643 Nigerians voluntarily returned from Libya in three months - NEMA

Lagos: No fewer than 258 more Nigerian returnees from Libya arrived the country recently aboard a chartered Airbus A330-200 with registration mark 5A-LAT operated by Libya Airlines, thus bringing the total returnees from Libya in three months to 643.

The DN learnt that the aircraft that brought the latest returnees landed about 9:43 p.m. at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos. The returnees, who included four children and one infant, were made up of 233 males, 25 females. Their return was facilitated by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Nigerian embassy in Libya.

They were received at the Hajj Camp area of the airport by officers of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), the National Agency for the Protection of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and the Police.

Speaking with newsmen, Julie Okah-Donli, the Director-General of NAPTIP, said the agency was particularly interested in trafficked persons.

"After the profiling have been done, for those that have been trafficked, we will take them away to our shelters," she said.

According to her, the agency is working with the international community to clamp down on the trafficking syndicate.

"They are doing their investigation and very soon we will be able to come out with effective results," she said.

In the same vein, Dr Bandele Onimode, Director, Search and Rescue, NEMA, said some of the returnees had medical issues.

He said some of them were suffering from depression and malnutrition, while one person sustained gun injury.

Onimode said that the latest returnees brought the total number to 643 within the last three months of February to May, 2017.

All stories are compiled and edited by Abdur-Rahman Balogun, Special Assistant to Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa on Media