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VOL NO 2, NOV. 2023



DISCOVER *Benin* REPUBLIC



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AJAY MENDA
CEO
Greenmood France
WAS NOMINATED
AS ONE OF THE
10 INDIAN LEADERS
CEO IN FRANCE)



"ROAD USERS SHOULD AVOID OVER SPEEDING DURING EMBER
MONTHS. IT IS ONLY THE LIVING THAT CELEBRATES"
SUPRITENDENT ROUTE COMMANDER
JAYEOLA OMOTOLA FATUAUSE,
UNIT COMMANDER LAGOS AIRPORT COMMAND

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Publisher's Comment

Welcome to the Month of November. A festive month for our Indian Community with the celebration of the Festival of Lights and for others Halloween and Thanksgiving.

At Expat Pro Business Magazine we celebrate with every community and value their traditions and Presence among our Expat Global Community.

In order to promote Tourism all over the African Countries , we have also started promoting a Country on each Edition. Last month Nigeria was promoted while this month you can discover Benin Republic, a neighbouring country just three hours away that you can as well discover with our team .

Feel free to contact us anytime for your African countries visas and other needful information.

Happy Diwali
Happy Thanksgiving
Happy Halloween

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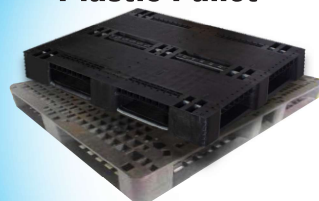
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At Greenmood we produce green walls and other 100% natural indoor acoustic solutions to meet the needs of modern workplaces. Using specially preserved greenery, the products reduce noise pollution, add beauty, and boost productivity – all while promoting respect for the natural environment and encouraging sustainability.

Inspired by Nature



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Ajay Menda CEO Greenmood France

Ajay Menda is the CEO of Greenmood France. A pioneering company in the interior design and workspace solutions industry. His dedication to eco-conscious practices and commitment to creating inspiring work environments have established him as a key figure in advancing sustainable interior design solutions.



Our commitment to sustainability drives positive transformation in workspaces, positioning us for continued growth and success

AJAY MENDA

A VISIONARY LEADING THE SUSTAINABILITY MOVEMENT IN WORKSPACE SOLUTIONS

The interior design and workspace solutions industry is a dynamic and constantly evolving sector. Dedicated to creating functional, aesthetically pleasing, and sustainable environments for workspaces, Greenmood is a name that inspires creativity, productivity, and employee well-being. Led by Ajay Menda as the CEO of Greenmood France, the firm has made significant strides in incorporating biophilic elements into workspaces. Ajay's visionary leadership has been instrumental in empowering the sector by infusing a strong commitment to using bio-sourced materials and natural components with minimal carbon impact. Greenmood has expanded its presence to 12 countries, establishing a solid brand reputation and recognition for the quality, uniqueness, and relevance of its products and services. Ajay's dedication to challenging projects and an ecological approach have contributed to making him a key figure in advancing the cause of creating sustainable and environmentally friendly workspaces. Let's discover more insight from him in the below interview snippets.

Can you share a summary of your professional journey and what drives your daily routines?

I was born in West Africa into a family of entrepreneurs, who introduced me to the business world at a young age. After finishing high school in 2001, I took a bold step and launched my first business, which became the driving force behind my future career path.

In 2003, I moved to France to pursue higher education. After completing my studies, I joined an operational consulting firm that specialized in assisting clients with project management and transformations. This experience provided me with the opportunity to work with industry leaders like Veolia, Valeo, and Airbus.

In 2014, we founded Greenmood, a company with a vision to promote environmentally friendly



CEO *Insights* TOP 10 INDIAN LEADERS IN FRANCE - 2023

workplaces. Since then, I have embarked on various other commercial projects, both independently and in collaboration with partners, focusing on ecological transition, innovation, and Web3 technologies, and facilitating access to the European market while also supporting the financing needs of innovative Indian and African companies seeking growth opportunities. A significant milestone was achieved in 2023 with the launch of a venture capital initiative aimed at funding high-growth projects.

Alongside these ventures, we are also establishing a dynamic business circle centered around our core values and expertise. The primary goal of this initiative is to foster strong business connections, encourage collaboration, and facilitate growth opportunities. Throughout all our endeavors, our central objective remains consistent - to make a positive impact in our daily operations. With each organization we establish, our aim is to contribute positively to society and the environment, driving meaningful change wherever we can.

Tell us about Greenmood as an organization and its position in the market.

Greenmood is an organization established in 2014 from the fertile imagination of my partner and friend Sadig Alekperov with a clear mission to incorporate biophilic elements into workspaces using bio-sourced materials and natural components with minimal carbon impact. Today, Greenmood has expanded its presence to 12 countries worldwide through subsidiaries and franchisees, earning a solid brand reputation for the quality, uniqueness, and relevance of its products/services compared to competitors.

Tell us about the factors you consider while developing effective corporate growth strategies.

As the CEO, when developing effective corporate growth strategies, I consider several key factors alongside classic strategic considerations. Understanding the dynamic market nature is vital for success and remaining competitive. Staying in sync with the market pulse and being responsive to trends and shifts allow us to adapt strategies and offerings accordingly.

Gaining deep customer insight is equally important, as understanding evolving mentalities, and consumer habits, and increasing environmental

awareness. Catering to the environmentally conscious generation drives us to create planet-friendly designs and products through talented designers like Alain Gilles, Studio Nove 3, Jérémie Kuntzinger, Cas Moor & Lieven Musschroot & Pierre-Emmanuel Vandeputte.

Our commitment to sustainability drives positive transformation in workspaces, positioning us for continued growth and success.

How do you promote a learning culture within your team?

We believe in creating a nurturing and empowering environment for our team members to flourish. To achieve this, we foster a culture of freedom, autonomy, and initiative within our teams, encouraging them to take ownership of their work and drive innovation. As leaders, we set a positive example for our teams. Our focus extends beyond customer satisfaction alone; we also aim to strike a balance between customer, collaborator, and partner satisfaction. This balanced approach is a strategic investment in fostering a positive organizational culture, which ultimately enhances customer satisfaction. When our collaborators and partners are content, they are more motivated to go above and beyond, leading to improved customer experiences.

Customer feedback is integral to our continuous improvement efforts. It not only helps us enhance our internal processes but also enables us to tailor our products and services to meet our customers' specific needs and address their concerns effectively.

What is the future destination your organization is aiming for?

Geographically, our company is actively involved in advanced negotiations to expand its presence and enter the promising markets of Japan and India. These strategic initiatives present significant opportunities for us to tap into two dynamic and expansive economies with tremendous growth potential.

Strategically, we are placing a strong emphasis on bio-sourced and acoustic direction and advancing the integration of biophilic elements into our work environments. This is being driven by our talented and trend-conscious R&D team, led by Sadig and our designers. The focus includes incorporating biophilic design principles and creating specific furniture designs that align with our vision, enriching our workspaces with nature-inspired features. [CEO](#)



Jimmy Amusu

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LAGOON RESTAURANT

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At the Lagoon Restaurant Lagos, our Executive Chef's unique concept brings together five different cuisines under one roof: Chinese, Continental, Indian, Brazilian (Churrasco), Japanese (Fusion Steak house & Sushi). On work days, from 12:00 to 23:00, enjoy a wide range of food as well as aromatic Italian coffee, juices, aromatic teas, and delectable pastry and bakery's prepared by our Pastry Chef at Marcelino Café.

The Lagoon Restaurant is an extraordinary dining experience located in Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria. Situated right on the water's edge, this restaurant offers breathtaking views of the lagoon, creating a tranquil and peaceful atmosphere. The menu is full of flavorful dishes, with an emphasis on seafood and Nigerian cuisine. Each dish is freshly prepared and generously portioned, perfect for sharing. The staff is friendly and attentive, providing great service throughout the meal.

LAGOON RESTAURANT

34a Gbolade Adebajo St, Ilupeju, Lagos , ILUPEJU (Lagos), Lagos
Tel: +2348061900647



Welcome to Gypsy's Restaurant & Bar, located in the vibrant city of Lagos. We offer a variety of cuisines from around the world, including Indian, Nigerian, and Chinese. Our menu allows you to explore a range of flavors from all three cultures.

Whether you are looking for a romantic evening or a business meal, Gypsy's Restaurant & Bar has something for everyone. Our fine dining atmosphere is perfect for a special occasion, while our casual dining atmosphere is ideal for a family gathering or a night out with friends. We also offer business meals to accommodate any corporate dining needs.

SPICE ROUTE RESTAURANT

A taste of India in Nigeria of Spice Route

36 Adeola Odeku St Opp Spar, Adjoining Access bank, Lagos 101241 Nigeria
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BLU CABANA RESTAURANT & CAFÉ

1322 Shehu Yar'adua Way, Mabushi, Abuja, Nigeria.
info@blucabana.com Tel: 0810 0900 000



Blucabana restaurant provides a wide selection of local and international delicacies, served by well-trained and friendly staff. Meals at Blucabana are prepared fresh by gourmet chefs. The finest ingredients are used for the most delicious dishes that will delight you and make your experience in our restaurant unique.

Breakfast: 07:00-10:30;

Lunch: 11:30-14:30;

Dinner: 15:00-23:30

Indoor dining, restaurant terrace or by the pool.

A private room where you could host a special event like a birthday party, an anniversary, a rehearsal dinner, or even a wedding.

Our restaurant offers themed nights and live entertainment on selected nights and occasions.

Our bar is the perfect spot to unwind after a hard day's work. It offers guests cocktails, pre-dinner drinks, and quiet nightcaps.

For the sports lover, we offer exclusive memberships to enjoy our gym and pool.

A kid-friendly restaurant that serves families delicious food with a special kids menu and an indoor kids playground to keep kids entertained as it's also a great space to host birthday parties.

Blucabana has three conference rooms to meet different budgets and group sizes - ideal for both corporate functions and business meetings. Blucabana offers different conference packages which make commercial events at both affordable and attractive. For more details about the facilities.

- Variety of conference venues to choose from
- Packages may include a PA system, wireless projectors, and microphones.

- Morning/afternoon tea/coffee breaks
- Buffet breakfast, buffet lunch varieties
- Dinner option.

Our flexible meeting rooms make perfect venues for any conference or important personal celebration. The rooms come in different sizes and can be set up to suit your needs. Every room includes audio-visual equipment, air conditioning, and free wireless Internet.

DUO RESTAURANT

98, Aminu Kano Crescent, Abuja, Nigeria, ABUJA-WUSE ZONE 2, FCT - Abuja
Tel: +234 817 575 6669 www.duo.com.ng



Duo restaurant offers a truly unique dining experience with its mix of African and continental dishes. Whether you're looking to enjoy a relaxing meal on the patio or take in the fresh air while enjoying your food, Duo provides an ideal setting. The knowledgeable staff is happy to help you choose from the extensive menu, ensuring that you'll find something to your taste.

The outdoor seating area is very cool and captivating. The wood design gives the ambience a cheery feel.

They have very professional and friendly staff, you get a smile on your arrival and throughout your stay in the restaurant.

They have a wide variety of beverages which include alcohol like cocktails, wine, beer, spirits, etc and soft beverages of different brands.

www.atenvo.com



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famous for ancient towns, UNESCO heritage sites, and serene beaches to scrumptious Pho and different kinds of coffee



PORTUGAL

Portugal is known for incredibly colorful tiles, sunny cities, Cristiano Ronaldo's right foot, delicious food and wine, and much more!





COCONUT BEACH
BADAGRY LAGOS

Badagry Coconut Beach is located in Badagry town in the West of Lagos State, Nigeria. It is situated towards the border of the Benin Republic. The beach is surrounded by holiday resorts where people can rest, receive refreshments and entertainment while visiting the beach. According to reports, "Badagry currently harbors two million coconut trees and has the potential of having 10 million tree

Accessible through Lagos-Badagry expressway, Coconut Beach is surrounded by holiday resorts where revelers could refresh while visiting the beach.

With the kind of tropical sun that could be enjoyed within the environment; Coconut Beach is an ideal destination for lovers of fun and holiday makers.

Revelers are often left with options of enjoying the ocean breeze or watch the ocean as it rages and roils.

Waves race and rise against the pebbled sands of the beach at any time of the day.

Tall coconut trees form bewitching scenery. The sun seems to be resting on the edge of the horizon where sky and water meet; creating a kind of colourful contrast.

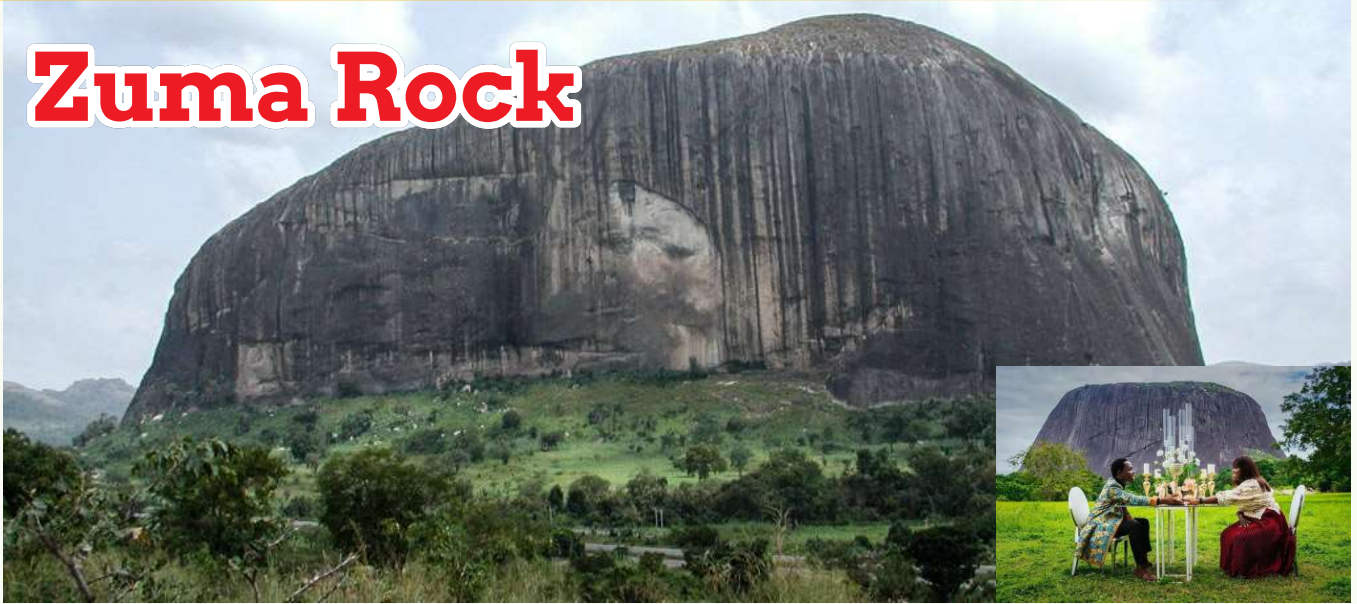


This beach is known to have similar features of many beaches in Lagos State. The beach entertains various fun-seekers with music and other musical jamboree. It is an ideal destination for any fun-seekers during the holiday or yuletide season.

It is usually agog with Tourists and revelers at the weekend. Fun-seekers who desire a memorable moment away from home could consider Coconut beach as his or her destination as it provides shades and peaceful environment for travelers and tourists.



Zuma Rock



Zuma Rock is a large natural monolith, or inselberg, an igneous intrusion composed of gabbro and granodiorite, in Niger State, Nigeria. It is located in the west of Nigeria's capital, Abuja, along the main road from Abuja to Kaduna off Madala, and is sometimes referred to as the "Gateway to Abuja from Suleja". Zuma Rock rises approx. 300 metres (980 ft) above its surroundings. It was once thought to be in the Federal Capital Territory but actually located at the upper end of Madalla, a rural settlement in Suleja Local Government Area of Niger State.

Zuma Rock is depicted on the 100 naira note. It was used for a defensive retreat by the Gbagyi people against invading neighbouring tribes during intertribal wars.

Zuma Rock is very tall by the standards of Nigerian geography. It is over four times taller than NECOM house (Lagos' tallest skyscraper, as of 1979) and it is taller than Aso rock and Olumo rock combined.

The Origin

The rock was found in the 15th century by the Zuba people of Niger State, who called it zumwa, which could translate to "a place of guinea fowls". It had been known that by the 15th century the Kwararafa (Kororofa) had started to spread all over the northern areas of Nigeria. The people of Zuba today were part of the Kwararafa that are called or identified today as Koro. They are part of the Jukun that are in diaspora. The forefathers spread from the Kwararafa empire, travelled to the western direction through Lafia (but Lafia was not there as

at that time), then through Keffi area (but there was nothing like Keffi as at that time), then into the old Abuja area which was not in existence then too. But before they reached the Zuma Rock, their soothsayers told them that they are not to settle down permanently until they reached one wonderful rock, far ahead of them. They continued to move approaching the Zuma rock till they came to meet the Zuma rock in the middle of a thick forest. When they entered into the forest, they settled within a mile radius around it and founded settlements like Shinapa (where their leadership was), Chaci, Luki, Esa, Zumwa, Yeku, Huntu, Wagu of the upperland and Wagu of the lowerland.

Local Legends

Zuma Rock, situated near Abuja in Niger State, Nigeria, is not only a geological marvel but also a site steeped in local folklore and legends. According to the Gwari people, the indigenous inhabitants of the surrounding area, Zuma Rock holds profound spiritual significance. One prevalent legend among the Gwari people posits that Zuma Rock is a deity, acting as a protective guardian for those residing in its shadow.

Local beliefs attribute healing powers to Zuma Rock, and there exist accounts of individuals who claim to have experienced remarkable recoveries after visiting or praying at the site. These indigenous myths and beliefs contribute to a unique cultural and spiritual dimension, enriching the overall significance of Zuma Rock beyond its geological features.

<https://en.wikipedia.org>



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Benin, country of western Africa. It consists of a narrow wedge of territory extending northward for about 420 miles (675 kilometres) from the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean, on which it has a 75-mile seacoast, to the Niger River, which forms part of Benin's northern border with Niger. Benin is bordered to the northwest by Burkina Faso, to the east by Nigeria, and to the west by Togo. The official capital is Porto-Novo, but Cotonou is Benin's largest city, its chief port, and its de facto administrative capital. Benin was a French colony from the late 19th century until 1960.

Prior to colonial rule, part of the territory that is now Benin consisted of powerful, independent kingdoms, including various Bariba kingdoms in the north and in the south the kingdoms of Porto-Novo and Dahomey (Dan-ho-me, "on the belly of Dan;" Dan was a rival king on whose grave Dahomey's royal compound was built). In the late 19th century French colonizers making inroads from the coastal region into the interior borrowed the name of the defeated Dahomey kingdom for the entire territory that is now Benin; the current name derives from the Bight of Benin.

Benin consists of five natural regions. The coastal region is low, flat, and sandy, backed by tidal marshes and lagoons. It is composed of, in effect, a long sandbar on which grow clumps of coconut palms; the lagoons are narrower in the western part of the country, where many have become marshes because of silting, and wider in the east, and some are interconnected. In the west the Grand-Popo Lagoon extends into neighbouring Togo, while in the east the Porto-Novo Lagoon provides a natural waterway to the port of Lagos, Nigeria, although its use is discouraged by the political boundary. Only at Grand-Popo and at Cotonou do the lagoons have outlets to the sea.

The Benin plateaus, four in number, are to be found in the environs of Abomey, Kétou, Aplahoué (or Parahoué), and Zagnanado. The plateaus consist of clays on a crystalline base. The Abomey, Aplahoué, and Zagnanado plateaus are from 300 to 750 feet high, and the Kétou plateau is up to 500 feet in height.



www.britannica.com

Découvrez le Complexe Agoualand au Bénin

Le Bénin, état de l'Afrique de l'Ouest, est un pays qui a connu au cours des dernières années une avancée sur plusieurs plans notamment le plan touristique. En effet, ce secteur n'a cessé d'être le théâtre d'innovations et de nouvelles attractions suscitant ainsi l'intérêt et l'engouement de tout un monde. Pour étoffer ce secteur, en 2021 voit le jour une nouvelle destination; le Complexe Touristique Agoualand.

Ambitionnant de participer au renchérissement de l'offre touristique, Edmond AGOUA, promoteur, crée ce temple de la nature; cadre ludique, instructif, attractif, reposant où «la faune et la flore communient dans une parfaite harmonie».

Situé à quelques kilomètres de Cotonou, au sud du Bénin, dans la commune d'Abomey-Calavi, arrondissement de Togba, ce complexe étendu sur 10 hectares environ est un espace viabilisé capable d'accueillir jusqu'à 1000 personnes à la fois.

Le complexe ouvre ses portes à une grande variété de visiteurs tant les raisons vous y invitant sont diverses. En effet, aux touristes nationaux et étrangers, il est proposé la découverte animalière; le complexe zoologique et touristique Agoualand se veut être le seul parc en Afrique subsaharienne à détenir une gamme diversifiée d'espèces animales rares: on y retrouve entre autres des autruches, des faucons, l'aigle royal, le singe à ventre rouge..., des reptiles comme le boa, le caïman, le naja sans oublier la catégorie la plus attractive des lieux; les félins qui a accueilli en septembre dernier un événement inédit, la naissance d'un lionceau blanc preuve du travail assidu et soigné que M. AGOUA et son équipe entreprennent pour préserver un environnement propice à l'entretien et la pérennisation d'espèces rares et menacées. C'est plus de 150 espèces endémiques et venu d'ailleurs que se disputent la place d'honneur au sein du parc.

D'autre part, le centre met à disposition des étudiants et chercheurs des laboratoires de recherches tout en proposant des stages pratiques aux désireux.

A tout visiteur, le complexe se divise en deux zones distinctes proposant des services et attractions en tout genre.

La Zone 1, l'Esplanade du Complexe, se définirait comme un lieu de retraite en nature et de détente. Outre ces derniers, la promenade y est également de mise tant l'esplanade est un vaste espace reposant équipé de particularités représentant un vrai plaisir pour les yeux tels une fontaine, des arbres et arbustes soigneusement entretenus sans oublier la diversité de fleurs présentes. On y retrouve aussi des piscines, des restaurants, un supermarché, une boutique de souvenirs, des points d'eau, une scène de spectacles et d'innombrables coins permettant d'immortaliser l'expérience. Cet espace est également dédié à la

découverte culturelle par la présentation des diverses spécificités du Bénin (danses cérémonielles, ballets, expositions, représentations des trésors royaux,...). Le complexe met à la disposition de ses visiteurs une équipe de guides accueillants et attentifs à leurs besoins afin de les accompagner dans leur joyeuse expérience. Cette zone est accessible de tous, tous les jours de 9h à 23h pour la modique somme de 1000FCFA (environ 2\$).

La Zone 2 du Complexe Touristique Agoualand est essentiellement composée du zoo et des aires de jeux. Situé dans un environnement se rapprochant de la nature par ses critères et préservé par l'équipe du complexe, le zoo regorge de plus de 500 animaux incluant des espèces rares et en voie de disparition. Les visiteurs peuvent y découvrir également une grande variété d'espèces végétales provenant des quatre coins du globe. Afin de rendre l'expérience plus qu'unique, il y est également proposé des activités éducatives et interactives comme des visites guidées, des séances d'alimentation des animaux, des ateliers et des promenades en calèche. «Le zoo d'Agoualand est sans doute la destination idéale de tout amoureux de la nature et visiteur en quête d'aventures» résume ainsi le site internet du complexe (www.agoualand.com). Cette zone est ouverte au grand public tous les jours de 9h à 17h. Pour y accéder, les visiteurs doivent prendre connaissance des tarifs d'accès du milieu; pour les enfants de 0 à 2ans l'accès est totalement gratuit, de 3 à 17ans l'entrée à la zone est de 5000FCFA (environ 10\$) pour les résidents et de 10000FCFA (environ 20\$) pour les non résidents. Quant aux adultes de 18ans et plus, l'accès à la zone 2 est facturée à 10000FCFA (environ 20\$) aux résidents et 20000FCFA (environ 40\$) aux non résidents.

Il est aussi à noter que le Complexe Touristique Agoualand dispose de zones de plaisance et d'hébergement (120 chambres) pour les aventuriers désireux de prolonger l'expérience plus d'une journée.

Le Complexe touristique Agoualand est tout simplement un paradis de sensations et d'émotions à vivre au cours d'une vie. Se présentant comme la plus grande réserve animalière de la sous région, de nombreuses espèces sont attendues dans les temps à venir. L'expérience y est magique et est fortement recommandée à tous et surtout à partager en groupe ou en famille, résident ou pas de la sous région.

Discover the Agoualand Complex in Benin

Benin, a state in West Africa, is a country which has experienced progress in recent years on several levels, particularly tourism. Indeed, this sector has continued to be the scene of innovations and new attractions, thus arousing the interest and enthusiasm of everyone. To expand this sector, in 2021 a new destination will be created; the Agoualand Tourist Complex.

Aiming to participate in the increase in the tourist offer, Edmond AGOUA, promoter, created this temple of nature; fun, informative, attractive, relaxing setting where "fauna and flora commune in perfect harmony".

Located a few kilometers from Cotonou, in the south of Benin, in the commune of Abomey-Calavi, district of Togba, this complex spread over approximately 10 hectares is a serviced space capable of accommodating up to 1000 people at a time.

The complex opens its doors to a wide variety of visitors as the reasons for inviting you there are diverse. Indeed, to national and foreign tourists, animal discovery is offered; the Agoualand zoological and tourist complex aims to be the only park in sub-Saharan Africa to hold a diverse range of rare animal species: there are, among others, ostriches, falcons, the golden eagle, the red-bellied monkey, etc., reptiles like the boa, the caiman, the naja without forgetting the most attractive category of places; felines which hosted an unprecedented event last September, the birth of a white lion cub, proof of the diligent and careful work that Mr. AGOUA and his team undertake to preserve an environment conducive to the maintenance and perpetuation of rare and rare species. threatened. More than 150 endemic species from elsewhere compete for the place of honor within the park.

On the other hand, the center provides research laboratories to students and researchers while offering practical internships to those who wish.

For all visitors, the complex is divided into two distinct areas offering services and attractions of all kinds.

Zone 1, the Complex Esplanade, would be defined as a place for nature retreat and relaxation. In addition to these, the walk is also a must as the esplanade is a vast relaxing space equipped with features representing a real pleasure for the eyes such as a fountain, carefully maintained trees and shrubs without forgetting the diversity of flowers present. There are also swimming pools, restaurants, a supermarket, a souvenir shop, water points, a performance stage and countless corners to immortalize the experience. This space is also dedicated to cultural discovery through the presentation of the various specificities of Benin (ceremonial dances, ballets, exhibitions, representations of royal treasures, etc.). The complex provides its visitors with a team of welcoming guides

who are attentive to their needs in order to accompany them in their joyful experience. This area is accessible to everyone, every day from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. for the modest sum of 1000 FCFA (around \$2).

Zone 2 of the Agoualand Tourist Complex is essentially made up of the zoo and play areas. Located in an environment close to nature in its criteria and preserved by the complex team, the zoo is full of more than 500 animals including rare and endangered species. Visitors can also discover a wide variety of plant species from the four corners of the globe. To make the experience more than unique, educational and interactive activities are also offered such as guided tours, animal feeding sessions, workshops and carriage rides. "Agoualand Zoo is without doubt the ideal destination for any nature lover and visitor in search of adventure" sums up the complex's website (www.agoualand.com). This area is open to the general public every day from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. To access it, visitors must be aware of the area's access rates; for children from 0 to 2 years old access is completely free, from 3 to 17 years old entry to the area is 5000FCFA (around \$10) for residents and 10000FCFA (around \$20) for non-residents. As for adults aged 18 and over, access to zone 2 is charged at 10,000 FCFA (around \$20) for residents and 20,000 FCFA (around \$40) for non-residents.

It should also be noted that the Agoualand Tourist Complex has pleasure and accommodation areas (120 rooms) for adventurers wishing to extend the experience for more than a day.

The Agoualand Tourist Complex is quite simply a paradise of sensations and emotions to experience over the course of a lifetime. Presenting itself as the largest animal reserve in the sub-region, many species are expected in the coming times. The experience is magical and is highly recommended to everyone and especially to share in a group or family, whether residents of the sub-region or not.



Agoualand ZOO Complex in Benin



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OPENING CEREMONY OF THE FRENCH WEEK AND BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU



The 2023 French week which commenced on Friday 17th November, 2023, at The Breeze Beach Club was a beehives of activities and Funfare with the presence of captains of Industries and Men from all walks of life.

The epoch-making event brought together Nationals from different Countries of the world in order to identify and show solidarity with the French.

The event started with the introduction of VIPs' and few speeches by the organizers which ushered guests into a night of Funfair, Relaxation with Beaujolais Nouveau and Intercontinental spice meals and music in order to make the day thrilling as guests were able to shake their body from the zooming sounds echoing from the well positioned sound system.

There are other activities lined up for the French Week such as The startup/conference and pitch tournament.

The Economy Summit commencing on the 23rd of November 2023 at the Access Tower, Victoria Island, Lagos, while on Friday of 24th November, 2023 is scheduled for the Job Fair/Lunch of France Campaign and the event will be rounded off with the Franco-Nigerian Business Awards/Dinner slated to take place at the Grand Africa Ballroom, Lagos Continental.



FRENCH WEEK @ SHIRO BREEZE BEACH CLUB LANDMARK CENTRE, VICTORIA ISLAND, LAGOS





"CREATING A VERY DYNAMIC BUSINESS ECO-SYSTEM IN NIGERIA IS VERY KEY TO US AT THE FRANCO-NIGERIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY"

MOSES UMORU, DIRECTOR-GENERAL FRANCO-NIGERIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.



Meet the Director General, Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, FNCCI, Mr. Umoru Moses, in this brief interview session, with Expat Pro Business Correspondent, he throws more light into the activities of the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other sundry issues. Below are excerpt; Have a pleasant reading.

Kindly introduced yourself and tell us more about the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry?

Thanks. My name is Umoru Moses. I am the Director-General Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I took over office sometimes in the Year, 2018, as the Acting Director-General and was confirmed as Director-General in 2019. Presently we have over 400 members that made up the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, cutting across various

sectors of the Nigeria economy. We are the only Chamber of Commerce that has the S.M.E category. We believed the future of any organization is when you have young people taking over position of authorities. So, we opened a young membership category in Nigeria and we have about 100 young businesses that registered in this category, that are doing business with company like CFAO, we have few of them doing business with Chinanda Electric and other French companies. The Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry also have an international affiliation, so, we are called the CCI Franco-Nigerian and we also have the CCI Franco-Ghana and we are present in 75 countries around the world. We have Chinese businesses that are members of the Chamber in Nigeria because we have an affiliation with our CCI France in China. So, it is very easy for us to tap into various network across the world to be able to get business going beyond France.

How will you defined your management philosophy and how does it contributes to the management of the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce of Industry in Nigeria?

Yes. For me I operate an opened door policy because I believed that everyone is key to the success of any organization and my staff always have access to

me to be able to shared ideas. So, there is no complex system of operation here at the Chamber and because we are a young team, we have been able to come up with fantastic ideas and we are the only Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nigeria that has been rated as the bilateral Chamber of Commerce by This Day Newspaper and some other rating Agencies. The African Report, recently, made a statement about the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. We also have what we called signature event and recently we have the third edition of the C.E.O. Luncheon, where we bring C.E.O of different multinationals together. We have another signature event known as the CFAO Luncheon target at Chief Financial Officers of different organizations. The ideas are virtue of the opened door policy system of leadership at the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. I must not forget to mention that corporate governance has a very special role to play. The board of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry which is made up 10 Nigerians and 10 French citizens with the current President, Alhaji Usman Mohammed. The board has given us a lot of support because beyond our ideas the board has to approve and they have given us tremendous support of which we are grateful.

What are some of the benefits in joining the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry?



I will like to talk about the economic figure between France and Nigeria. Today, Nigeria is France, number one trade partner in the sub-Sahara Africa region. As at 2019, before the pandemic, the trade figure between Nigeria and France is over 4.4 billion euros. As at Year 2021, is above 3 billion euros. France has key interest in Nigeria, despite the fact that Nigeria is an English speaking country. In Africa Nigeria is rated after Egypt and Tunisia by France. I think that is commendable. So, creating a very dynamic business ecosystem is key to us. Recently there has been the acquisition of Fan Milk by an international French company known as Dano. Today, Fan Milk has been expanded with an international footprint. Chinanda Electric was formerly a German-French company, but, presently is more of a French company. In Nigeria, we also have Total Energy, the biggest French company in Nigeria and recently launched an engineering project with the Nigeria National Petroleum Company, NNPC, providing 200,000 barrels of crude oil per day. Contributing to the Nigeria oil export. So, we created a platform where these businesses can blossom. We have had a lot of success story and that is what is propelling us forward.

What are some of the exposures that members will derived from joining the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry?

We are the only Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Nigeria that has a business directory and we have converted that document into an online document in our official website where members can access by log in and see other members across all sector of the Nigeria economy. So, all members of the Chamber enjoys international exposure. Beyond Nigeria and France, we

have international presence across the world and on a daily basis we get enquiries about members in different sectors, so, as a member beyond doing business with French companies which is our primary objective, they also have the exposure of doing businesses with other countries around the world.

How do you promote creativity and innovation among members of the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry?

We have a think-tank system on board of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where at the beginning of each Year, we request for members suggestions on the way forward. We have a slogan, "Together we can". So, it is the responsibility of every members of the Chamber to contribute to what we are doing. This has really help us to fostered relationship with members of the chambers.

Is the Chamber working in close collaboration with other trade promotion agencies in Nigeria?

Yes. We have been working with our closest friend, the Nigeria Investment Promotion Agency. We have also contributed and shared ideas with the ministry of transportation and the Lagos state government and NAFDAC. So, what we do every Year is to organized a programme tagged. "Regulators meet Business". It is a forum, where government agencies like NAFDAC, SON, and others come and talk and shared ideas with business owners. The Federal Inland Revenue Service is also invited to talk on tax related issues.

The last event organized by the Chamber tagged, CEO Luncheon in collaboration with KPMG addresses the issue of disruption in business. What is the essence of organizing event of this magnitude?



We always want to create a platform where members of the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry can meet. The C.E.O Luncheon was strictly for CEO. This are the decision makers. If you are not meeting the key decision makers, it simply means you are not making key decisions. The meeting allows C.E.O to rubbed minds and make concrete decisions. Secondly it afford members to take an analytical look at global event affecting businesses like the Russian/Ukraine war and how it affects business and the global economy. There is a new administration in Nigeria, and the removal of fuel subsidy, so, the C.E.O'S deliberated on strategies they could implement to be able to survived these disruption.

Can you give us a brief insight into the forthcoming event on the pipeline been put together by the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry?

We are putting together the French Week, 2023. It is an annual event that celebrates Franco-Nigerian business relationship. It is the largest sea gathering in Nigeria, starting from the 17th of November to 24th, 2023. We are starting with the "Beaujolais Nouveau". We are expecting over 800 people at that event. It is a global event. It is a festival of wine.



For the first time we are going to have an economy summit with the present of the French Minister of Trade and Investment. In partnership with Access Bank Nigeria, we are going to have the young membership group of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry for a beach tournament with the support of Air France. Last Year, we have one of our start up flying to Paris to have few meetings courtesy of Air France. It is going to be a massive event.

The Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry promotes French companies in Nigeria. How do you promote Nigeria companies in France?

Every Year, the Chamber leads a delegation of Nigeria companies to France. It is called the France Business Mission. Last Year, we took over 20 companies to France. This Year, we took 25 companies, strictly Nigeria companies to France. We visited two states, the North of France, which is the agricultural region of France and Paris. These are success stories from the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Tell us some of the challenges French companies are facing in Nigeria in terms of adaptation, general company practices, and government policies?

The Nigeria business environment is dynamic. In a country with different challenges, it creates opportunity for businesses to strive. You solved problems and make more money. One of the challenges we always put into consideration in the setting up of French companies in Nigeria is security. The perception out there that Nigeria is not safe, is totally wrong. Though,, we have pocket of insecurity in the North East of Nigeria and the South East, this does not portray Nigeria as unsafe security wise. There is also the challenges of new administration in Nigeria coming up with new policies, what we at the Chamber will always advocate for is consistency in government policies to enable international companies in Nigeria strives. The issue of taxation in any economy is also very vital.

Who are those that are qualified to participate in the events organized by the Franco- Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry? Can a non-member participate?

Non-member are allowed to attend the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry events upon registration. All our events involves key shareholders' and decision makers and so, not just for everybody.

What strategy have you put in place as the Director General of the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to effectively communicate your vision and goals to members?

The Chamber has a very strong visibility. All our events are on youtube, after an event you can always visit the YouTube for recapped and I also have a very strong background in economics and International trade. I am one of those notable voices that talks about and promotes the Chamber activities at every forum.

How does the Chamber influence government decision makers at the highest level?

It is through advocacy. We wrote a letter few months ago to the Corporate Affairs Commission, CAC, because we discovered that the response time of the commission on their website is slow. So, we will continue to advocate for positive change in the system. That is why we are having the Honourable Minister of Finance of Nigeria, Mr. Wale Edun, at our upcoming economy summit. He will listened to French investors and companies talk about their challenges and give necessary advice on how best to do business in Nigeria.

How do you as the DG of the Franco-Nigerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry discuss issues relating to risk management among members of the Chamber?

What we do is that, we have signed agreement with S.B. Morgan, an international risk management company. We always get security and risk management report from them on all sector of the Nigeria economy. We always make such reports available to French companies and investors that wants to do business in Nigeria.



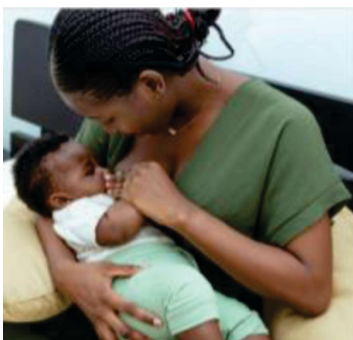


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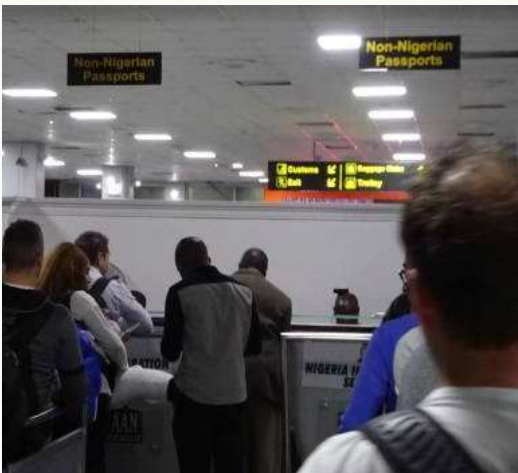
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Immigration Tips to Know at the Airport



The Government of Nigeria requires COVID-specific testing prior to arrival.

A passport valid for six months, a visa, and proof of Polio and Yellow Fever vaccinations are required to enter Nigeria. You must obtain your Nigerian visa from a Nigerian embassy or consulate in advance of your travel.

What does "Visa on Arrival" mean in Nigeria? Nigeria's "Visa on Arrival" requires pre-approval. You must receive a Visa on Arrival approval document from a Nigerian embassy or consulate prior to travel to Nigeria. A Visa on Arrival is only available for the purpose of business travel, as defined by the Nigerian government. No Visa on Arrival is available for tourism. If you attempt to travel to Nigeria without a visa issued into your passport or a Visa on Arrival approval document from a Nigerian embassy or consulate, you will be refused entry. This information is subject to change. Please refer to the Nigerian Immigration Services (NIS) guidelines (<https://immigration.gov.ng/visa-on-arrival-process/>) and utilize the forms available on their website.

Visit the Embassy of Nigeria website for the most current visa information.

The Nigerian Fire Arms Act (1990) provides that no person shall have in his possession or under his control any firearm or ammunition except such person that has a license from the President

or from the Inspector General of Police. U.S. citizens found with firearms (declared or undeclared) will be arrested.

You cannot legally depart Nigeria unless you can prove, by presenting your visa and entry stamp, that you entered Nigeria legally. In addition, if you exceed your authorized period of stay (as determined by the duration of stay given by the entry officer), you will be required to pay a fine before being allowed to depart. The fine can be up to \$4,000 USD depending on the length of overstay.

U.S.-Nigeria dual-national citizens are now required to have a valid Nigerian passport in order to depart the country. Dual-national citizens can be, and often are, denied boarding until they have obtained non-expired Nigerian passports.

A World Health Organization (WHO) yellow card is required for entry into the country. The Nigerian authorities require a Yellow Fever vaccination within the past ten years and that adults have a Polio booster after the original childhood vaccine series. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention publishes a country-specific list of recommended vaccines to receive prior to arrival. See also the Health section below.

Some HIV/AIDS entry restrictions exist for visitors to and foreign residents of Nigeria. Nigerian authorities may deny entry to foreigners who are "undesirable for medical reasons" and may require HIV tests for foreigners intending to marry Nigerian citizens. Please verify this information with the Embassy of Nigeria before travel.

Immigration Tips to Know at the Airport

When does my flight depart/arrive?

Unsure of your timings? It's best to be safe than sorry. Check your departure and arrival time with our handy Flight status tool.

What time should I arrive at the airport?

Leave those last-minute airport dashes to the big screen! We recommend that you arrive at least three hours before your flight is due to leave.

Do I need a visa?

Check out our Visa information pages for every country that we fly to.

Online check in

The best way to check in is online where you can pick your seat and print your boarding card. If you're travelling with carry on baggage only, you can print off your own boarding pass and we'll see you at the gate.

Counter check in and bag drop

You'll find our desks, numbered 7-14, in the International Terminal. Check in starts from four hours before departure and closes two hours before departure.

Other Protocols

All passengers travelling to Nigeria from any country **MUST** register via the online Nigeria International Travel Portal (nitp.ncdc.gov.ng)

Fully vaccinated passengers arriving in Nigeria will not be required to carry out a pre-boarding COVID-19 PCR test nor carry out a Post-arrival PCR test or Rapid Antigen Test upon arrival in Nigeria

Fully vaccinated passengers must show a verifiable full vaccination certificate otherwise, they will be treated as unvaccinated/partially vaccinated under this protocol

Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated passengers are required to take a COVID-19 PCR test 48hrs before departure and conduct days 2 and 7 post-arrival PCR tests. Such passengers will be expected to pay for their PCR tests through the NITP

Children below the age of 18 years will be accorded the same privileges as persons who are fully vaccinated.

Passengers who do not adhere to the travel protocol will face the penalty as stipulated by the Presidential Steering Committee (PSC) on COVID-19



or from the Inspector General of Police. U.S. citizens found with firearms (declared or undeclared) will be arrested.

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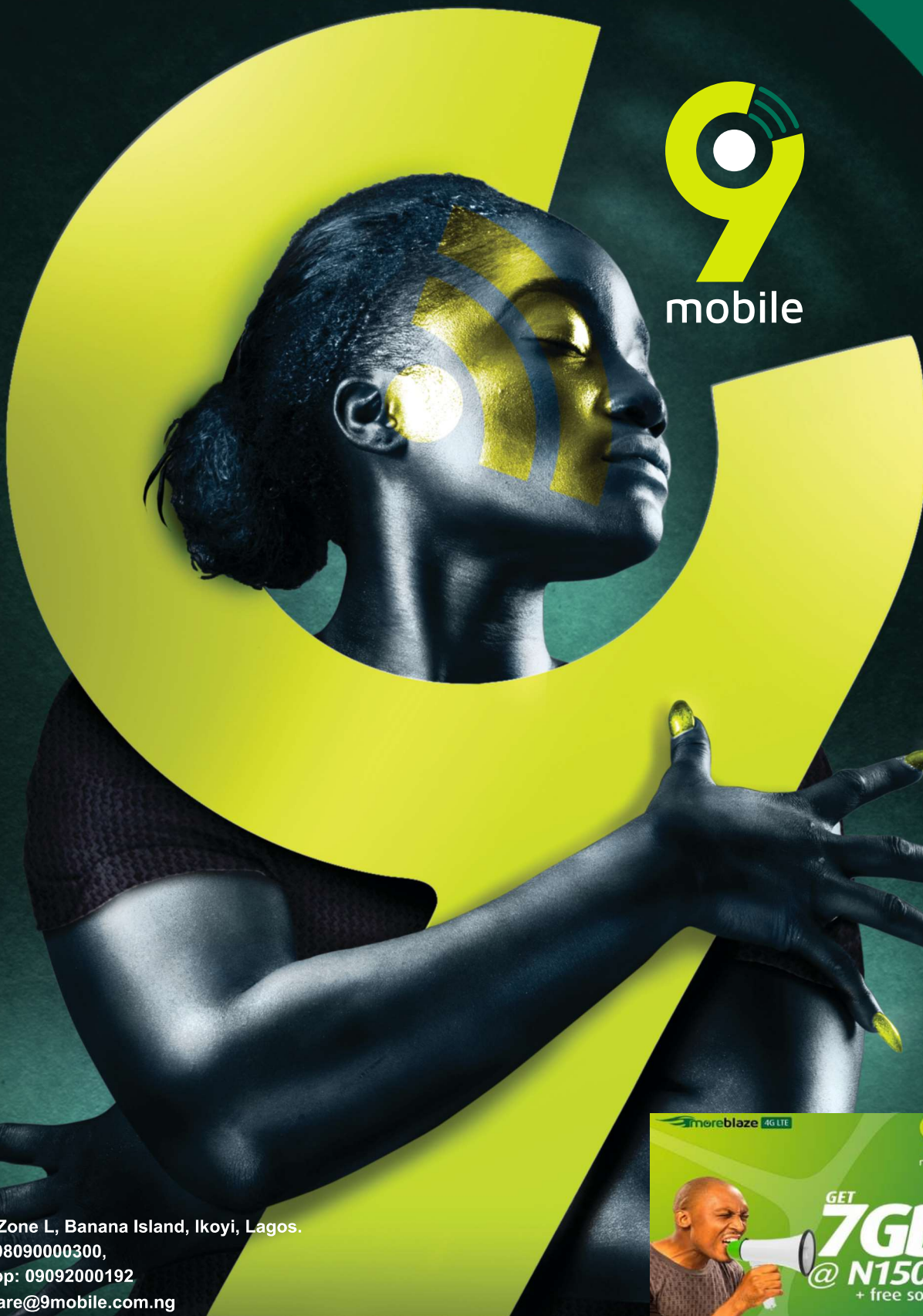
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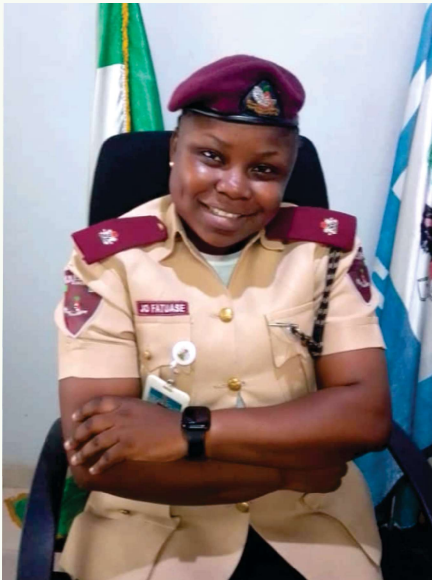


"ROAD USERS SHOULD AVOID OVER SPEEDING DURING EMBER MONTHS. IT IS ONLY THE LIVING THAT CELEBRATES"

SUPRITENDENT ROUTE COMMANDER

JAYEOLA OMOTOLA FATUASE,

UNIT COMMANDER LAGOS AIRPORT COMMAND



Our readers will like to know more about you?

My name is SRC Jaiyeola Omotola Fatuase Unit, Commander Lagos Airport Command, Federal Road Safety Corps.

Please highlight some of the activities of the Lagos Airport Command?

The Airport Unit Command is a protocol Unit Command. We do more of protocol activities and traffic control to ensure there is free movement of traffic both within the local and international Airport. We also engaged on enforcement to ensure there is sanity on the road. We cautioned offenders and at the same time enforced the law. We ensure that recalcitrant drivers are punished.

What measures has your Command put in place to checkmate road crashed and accidents?

We do 24 hours rescue services. We have the morning and afternoon shift on patrol. We have standby officers for rescued mission in case there is a crashed. Being an Airport community, we try to educate people both on the Car park and other road users plying the Airport. We also talked about their tires and other safety gadgets and things they need to do in order to avoid crashes at the Airport Command.

There have cases of Uniform Men using the One-way. What is your take on this?

We have a very good relationship with all the Uniform Men around the Airport Command. So far so good, most of them do comply. We hardly have cases of them plying the Oneway. Whenever we come across such unprofessional and indecent act, we report to the appropriate quarters and their leaders in order to call them to order. Basically, I don't have such issues around the airport command.

Tell more about the importance of using the Seat belt while driving on the road?

The usage of Seat belt is very important because if there any crashes it will hold you back. We don't joke about the issue of Seat belt on the road. So, if I am to rate the level of compliance in terms of the usage of Seat belt at the Airport Command, I will give 80 percent compliance at the Airport Command.

The Airport Command of the FRSC recently launched the Ember month's campaign. What is the essence of organizing this campaign?

The Ember Months campaign is to sensitized drivers that speed kills and the need for them to avoid overloading and over speeding. The Ember months is a rush period where people want to go and meet there family and love ones and most of the time are in a hurry. We Ember months campaign is to sensitize the people to avoid recklessness on the road. If you know you have a flight to catch, leave your house early enough rather than been in a hurry.

How will you rate the level of road crashes within your command this Year compared to last year?

Within the Airport Command this Year, we recorded little or no crashes. What we have is



just minor crashes. Last Year, we have cases of courier Bike that cause most of the crashes and I have written a letter to Courier Bike companies on the need for the riders to have a driver's license. So, the number of road crashes has reduced drastically unlike last year.

What are some of the challenges been faced by your command in ensuring safety on the road?

We are trying our best, we have some of the best officers and Special Marshalls around. Like the St Peter Cleaver at Ajao Estate, I have Special Marshal with FAAN. The location of the Road Safety Airport Command is a distance to the point of patrol activities. But that will not stop us from doing our job.

As a Command, how often do you sensitize Road Users on the danger of alcoholism while driving, use of expired tires and others?

Like I said earlier, we do go to parks around on a daily basis to sensitize drivers on the dangers of using wore out tires. We also visit some of the companies around to educate them.

What special message do you have for Road Users within your command?

We will continued to admonish drivers to avoid over speeding, because most of the road crashes are as a result of over speeding. Most drivers are in a

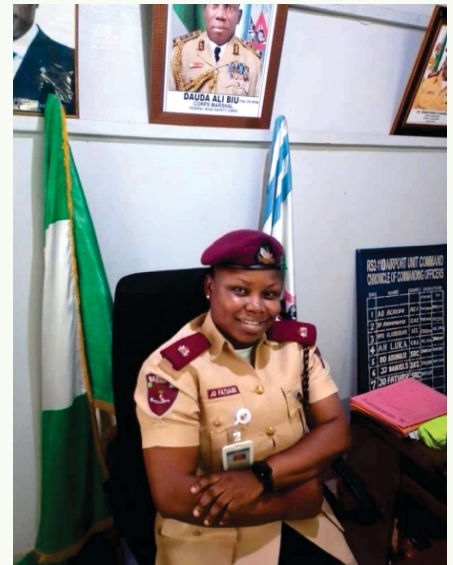
hurry, most especially during the Ember months. They should know it is only the living that celebrates. Drivers should stop using their phones while driving. Using phone while driving is a distraction, before embarking on a journey Road Users should endeavor to check their tires.

There are cases of Road Users with Driver's license yet not conversant with road signs?

No. in securing the Drivers License, there are procedures to follow. They are expected to enroll in a driving school where they will be taught about the road signs and a test is usually given to ascertain if the learner has performed well or not before been captured.

Most Road Users do have apathy towards officers of the Road Safety Corps. So, what is the level of relationship between your command and the Road Users?

To the best of knowledge most Road Users are still friendly with the Road Safety Corps. There must be an action, before a reaction. Most Road Safety Officers you see on the road are professionals. They are well trained. Some Road Users before you say anything to them they have already prepared their mind to fight. Some Road Users hate to be corrected. Some are also stubborn.



In your opinion, do you think a first offender should be book or cautioned?

We have been cautioning offenders. Cautioned forms are usually taken out by Road Safety Officers every day. We cautioned most Road Users, it is not every offender that we booked. There are some that we cautioned.

Most Road Users do not understand the primary objective of the Road Safety Corps?

Our vision is to eradicate road crashes and our mission is to enforced and coordinate all Road Safety activities and management through public education. This we do daily. We also promote stakeholders relationship. We do robust data management. We are also involved in data collation. We have our medical recued services. We do prompt recued services. We also engaged in effective patrol operation. We also try to enforce the law.



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FUNMILAYO AHMED, C.E.O. FUNCENT CONCEPTS LIMITED



Our esteemed readers will like to know more about you?.

My name is Funmilayo Ahmed. Popularly known as Oghenekome. I am a graduate of economics, Olabisi Onabanjo University, Ogun State. I have been able to take several courses on aviation and in all area of logistics and I have attended several conferences and training on aviation and logistics that has helped me in my operation.

What are some of the motivating factors that inspires you to identify with the Expat Pro Business Magazine?

The founder and Chief Executive Officer of Expat Pro Services has been a very good friend and business partner and he has been a person of high integrity and his services can be guaranteed. With him I believed things will be done properly.

Can you highlight on some of the special services provided by Funcent Concepts to prospective clients?

Funcent Concepts is an international trade forwarding company and we are licensed to operate in both Sea port and Airport in Nigeria. We also have license to work in all free trade zone in Nigeria. We are more into freighting in all area of the Nigeria economy, both in machineries, manufacturing, chemicals, Oil and gas, information Technology and many more. We have several clients we worked for and a lot of them has been with us for the past six Years. We have companies like Ayush International Limited, Copaaci, Specific Energy, MRS that are into oil and gas, Structure Engineering, and many more, just to mentioned few. We have been rendering both Air freight and Sea freight services and chattered freight for Export of goods out of Nigeria to most Africa countries.

When was Funcent Concepts established for business?

Funcent Concept has been established and has been in business for the past six Years with over 12 Years working experience.

Can you tell us some of the teething challenges stakeholders in the freight and forwarding business encountered in the course of doing business?

Well, every industries have their own peculiar challenges. We do have challenges in freighting in terms of discrepancies on weight, and fluctuation in exchange rate. As at this morning there has been sudden increase in the exchange

rate, FOREX. You can imagine the contract that you have given a quotation yesterday, you have your estimated duty that you want to pay that is 5 million naira and because of the sudden increase in the exchange rate you end up paying 7.5 million naira. Look at the differences which you never bargain for. Another challenge is loading out of the port as a result of the port congestion. Sometimes it takes between 4 days to one week for trucks to move out of the port. The more your containers stays in the port the more demurrage you pay.

Do you have any form of security challenges at the Port or Airport?

Whenever we have trucks going interstates, we informed the police and provide escort to go along with our trucks in order to provide the needed security. For the past six Years we been in business we have never had issues on security.

What is the time frame for clearance of goods at the port?

For clearance at the Airport is within two days, when we are able to secure the manifest on time. But in a case where we are unable to get the manifest on time and network problems, it takes a maximum of three days. For the Seaport we usually give maximum of two weeks.



What are some of outstanding qualities that put Funcent Concepts Limited ahead of others in the industry?

Our mission is to add values to the services we rendered to our clients in terms of price, delivery, and efficiency and we really take our time to study every form of documentation and shipment been forwarded by the clients to us. So, we guild as to the necessary declaration in order to void any form of challenges at the port. We followed the entire processes from the beginning to the end in order to ensure smooth clearance.

Where do you see the freight and forwarding industry in the next five Years in Nigeria?

Well. I will not condemned the country or the government. I believed they are doing their best to structure the entire freight and forwarding business in Nigeria. But, formerly in the industry, the processing system is done manually, but, now, everything is done electronically through the internet. It is now possible to verify prices of goods from the country of origin by the Central Bank of Nigeria. The process of verification is now very smooth compared to few years back. We all want better Nigeria.

How will rate some of these government Agencies like NAFDAC, Custom, SON, and others to ensure effective clearance of goods at the port and to the freight and forwarding processes in Nigeria?

Well. For NAFDAC, if you are bringing chemicals or any other goods that requires NAFDAC permission, you have to get NAFDAC registration and permission. Although the process could take a while but it is very necessary. SON and the other government agencies are also doing well, the Custom are there to check what the importers are bringing and to ensure compliance. So, if I am to rate the Nigeria government agencies between one to one hundred percentage, I will give them sixty percent. The moment there is an effective computerization system in place, you don't need to visit these government agencies physically, to get things done right on the internet.

What are some of the basic formalities a company will required to do any form of importation or exportation of goods from your company?

At Funcent Concept Limited, we do both clearance for importation and exportation of goods out of the country. There are basic permits required by some of these government agencies for both imports and exportation of goods. If a clients doesn't have these permits, Funcent Concepts Limited can assist them in securing these permits and clearance. If you are an exporter doing export to some Africa countries there are some documentation that is required before shipment. Funcent Concept Limited can always come in this areas to assist clients for smooth clearance and shipment.

What are some of benefits an Expat Pro Service member will enjoy in doing business with your company?



Having been a partner with Expat Pro Services Limited, we are offering a fantastic import and export solutions in both the Seaport and Airport to all their clients and partners in terms of transparency and efficiency. We also grant credit facilities in terms of Sea freight. If we are financing the entire clearance process of goods, we charge ten percent depending on the value which is subject to negotiation. That give the importer the grace to import, sell and pay us as when due. The burden of fund for clearance will not be there. Why we shoulder that responsibility, they the importer have to keep to terms of agreement. Any failure in terms of agreement, the importer have to pay certain percentage.

At what point in your service delivery will you say you have put a smile in the face of a client?

So many. If Funcent Concept Limited is six Years, we can confidently say most of the customers that started business with us are still with us. Meaning they have no reason to go elsewhere because they have value for their money. Why will they want to change, when what they are looking outside is right here at Funcent Concepts Limited, on transparency they can always count on us.



Important Notice

CORPORATE AFFAIRS COMMISSION

MINIMUM PAID-UP CAPITAL FOR COMPANIES WITH FOREIGN PARTICIPATION

The Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) has set the minimum paid-up capital for Nigerian companies with foreign interest to N100 million.

The commission disclosed this in a statement on its website commenting on the implementation of its Revised Handbook on Expatriate Quota Administration (2022). The commission stated that processing any application for the incorporation of a company with foreign participation would be contingent upon its adherence to the specified requirement.

It further warned that any application for incorporation that fails to meet the requirement will not be approved.

It stated,

"The Commission wishes to notify the General Public that it has, in line with the Revised Handbook on Expatriate Quota Administration (2022), commenced the implementation of the requirement of N100,000,000 (One Hundred Million Naira) MINIMUM PAID-UP CAPITAL for Companies with foreign participation."

"Accordingly, any application for incorporation of a Company having foreign participation shall not be processed unless it complies with the above requirement."

The Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) has set the minimum paid-up capital for Nigerian companies with foreign interest to N100 million.

It further mandated that companies currently in operation with foreign involvement and a paid-up capital of less than N100 million must align with the mentioned requirement within six months from the issuance date of this notice.

The statement read,

"Existing Companies with foreign participation that have less than N100,000,000 paid-up capital are hereby advised to ensure compliance with the above requirement not later than six (6) months from the date of this notice, failing which the Commission shall commence proceedings for the compulsory winding-up of the Companies under Section 571 (e) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020.

Signed: Management 5th December 2023"

What you should know

The present review represents a 900% rise compared to the previous figures. According to the CAC, this increase aligns with the guidelines outlined in the Revised Handbook on Expatriate Quota Administration (2022).

Roles of the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)

Origin of Corporate Affairs Commission

There had been business registration in Nigeria even during the first republic. The body saddled with the responsibility at the time was called the Company Registry.

It was first under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Tourism. But its ineffectiveness prompted the establishment of the Corporate Affairs Commission which is now of the agencies of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment

Its headquarters:

The Act establishing the CAC says the headquarters shall be at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja. This is because IBB had already concluded plans to move the FCT from Lagos to Abuja at the time of the act creating the CAC.

Remember, the FCT moved from Lagos to Abuja on December 12, 1991, though the plan started in the 1980s.

The agency now has its permanent headquarters

located at Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja.

List of legal responsibilities of CAC:

- 1) Regulation of businesses in Nigeria
- 2) Supervision of the formation of companies to ensure the stipulated laws are followed as clearly stated in the Act establishing the commission
- 3) Incorporation of businesses of section 541 of the Act establishing the commission
- 4) Registration and management, and winding up of companies under or pursuant to the Act of its establishment.
- 5) Establish and maintain a company's registry and offices in all the States of the Federation
- 6) Arrange or conduct an investigation into the affairs of any company where the interests of the shareholders and the public so demand



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Glo-Djigbé special economic zone in Benin Republic: Results beyond expectations. More than 10,000 direct jobs already created



36 investors; 12 units already operational with more than 10,000 direct jobs created, 14 others currently under construction/installation with a projected creation of 40,000 jobs; the first integrated textile unit, ultra-modern and one of the largest in the world operational in a fortnight, ISO certifications and a historic positive impact on the Beninese economy. Such is the laudatory record of the Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone, just two years after its creation.

Indeed, the structural transformation of the Beninese economy desired by President Patrice TALON and his Government is underway thanks to the Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone (GDIZ-Benin) whose results constitute an achievement. These tangible results were touched by media professionals on Friday November 24, 2023 at the end of an exchange session with the General Director of SIPI-Benin SA, Mr. Létondji BEHETON, and the General Director of APIEx, Mr. Laurent GANGBES.

After the development of the first phase of 400 hectares, 36 investors signed to install factories within GDIZ-Benin. In terms of installation, 12 units are already operational. These include 02 textile production units, 05 cashew nut processing units, 02 organic and conventional soya processing units for a processing capacity of 260,000 tonnes of soya. By the end of 2024, the soybean processing capacity at the GDIZ level will be 600,000 tonnes. In addition to these factories, there is one (01) packaging manufacturing unit and 02 concrete plants. All these units already operational have generated more than 10,000 direct jobs.

Thanks to these two textile production units which are training and production units where high quality Made in Benin clothing is made by trained, determined and experienced young Beninese people, 600,000 pieces of Made in Benin clothing have been produced. have already been delivered to the prestigious American company The Children Place but also 12,000 military outfits delivered to

the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security and the Ministry of National Defense. Discussions are underway with several renowned brands such as KIABI and other American brands.

Among the 14 units currently under construction/installation is one of the three Integrated Textile Units of the GDIZ textile park. This ultra-modern unit, one of the largest in the world, will be operational in around two weeks. It is equipped with around thirty machines over 70 meters each to ensure spinning. In fact, this unit alone will transform 20,000 tonnes of Made in Benin cotton fiber into the manufacture of clothing. That is, there will be spinning, knitting, weaving, dyeing and making of clothes. It will employ around 5,000 young Beninese people because a large part of the unit is automated. The construction of 3 units of this type has currently been planned for the processing of 60,000 tonnes of cotton fiber Made in Benin. The operationalization of this integrated textile unit will not only bring added value to the Beninese economy but will avoid the importation of clothes in the near future because the populations will wear Made in Benin clothes made entirely from Beninese cotton, transformed on site, from the fiber to the manufacture of clothes.



More than 10,000 direct jobs have already been created by GDIZ-Benin but before the end of 2023, this number will be increased to 15,000. The objective is to create, by 2030, 300,000 direct jobs. Note that the second phase of development of another 400 hectares in the Zone has started. 20 new investors are already waiting to take plots of land to set up their factories.

A real industrial revolution is underway at GDIZ-Benin. This has resulted in the Zone obtaining several ISO certifications in terms of quality management, environmental management, and management of health and safety at work.

"The Glo-Djigbé Industrial Zone is an area of hope and a future. Economic development is underway in our country," confide with pride the General Directors, Messrs. Létondji BEHETON and Laurent GANGBES.

GDIZ-Benin aims to be a truly competitive and sustainable industrial ecosystem on a global scale.



Although, there are no official records stating the origin of Diwali; among many legends about this festival, one thing is common — the triumph of good over evil. It would be apt to say that different parts of the nation celebrate this day for different reasons. The northern part of India observes this day as the occasion when Lord Rama along with his wife Sita, brother Lakshman and Hanuman, returned to Ayodhya after defeating the demonic king Ravana. Since the night they came back was a no-moon day (Amavasya), people light earthen pots on the night of Diwali.

On the other hand, South Indians celebrate the occasion as the day when Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. Further, it is believed that Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi tied the knot on this day. Alternate legends also claim that Goddess Lakshmi was born on the new moon day of Kartik month.

5-Days of Diwali 2023 Celebrations in India

Diwali is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in India and among Hindus worldwide. This festival of lights spans five days, with each day holding its own significance and customs. Check the below table to learn about the 5 days of Diwali 2023 with Date, Shubh Muhurat timing and more.

1. Diwali Day 1: **Dhanteras:** November 10th, 2023 Trayodashi – Dhanteras is a joyous festival that celebrates wealth, prosperity, and the auspicious beginning of Diwali. People clean their homes, buy new clothes, and purchase gold and silver as it is considered to be auspicious on the day of Dhanteras.
2. Diwali Day 2: **Choti Diwali:** November 11th, 2023 Chaturdashi – Choti Diwali sets the stage for the main grand festival, which follows the next day. People decorate their homes, create colourful rangoli designs, and light oil lamps.
3. Diwali Day 3: **Diwali:** November 12th, 2023 Amavasya – On the main day of Diwali, people dress in new clothes and gather with their families for prayers

History and Significance of Diwali



and puja. The most auspicious time for worship or Puja Mahurat is from 05:40 pm to 07:36 pm. The exchange of gifts and sweets is an integral part of Diwali celebrations. Diyas and fireworks light up the night sky, and people enjoy special cuisines and sweets.

4. Diwali Day 4: **Govardhan Puja and Padwa:** November 13th, 2023 Pratipada – Govardhan Puja celebrates the divine intervention of Lord Krishna. Devotees create a replica of Govardhan Hill using food items like rice and sweets. Govardhan Puja also emphasizes the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices. Padwa is a celebration of a bond between husband and wife. On this day, husbands buy gifts for their wives. People also start new accounts for their businesses as it is considered to be auspicious.

5. Diwali Day 5: **Bhai Dooj:** November 14th, 2023 Dwitiya – Bhai Duj is a special day that celebrates the beautiful bond between brothers and sisters. It is a time to express love, gratitude, and blessings to strengthen the bond of siblinghood.



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Halloween in the USA

History and origin of Halloween

Many believe that Halloween is a purely American tradition. Yet this is not true; the origins of the spooky season actually can be found in Europe.

Celtic roots

How old is Halloween? Well, as old as 2,000 years approximately. This means it is one of the oldest festivals of mankind. Evil spirits and supernatural beings were involved in the Celtic festival of Samhain (translation: Summer's End), which was celebrated at the end of the harvest season, respectively, the beginning of the new year, on October 31st. For the Celts, it was a magical time during which the gate to the realm of spirits was open, and ghosts, elves, demons, and other supernatural beings walked the earth. On Samhain, the Celtic druids held large bonfires to get in touch with them.

Religious renewal

The name Halloween was established when the Catholic Church was on the rise in Europe. To gain more influence over the pagan Celts, the celebration of Samhain was given a "new look." The Christian feast of All Saints' Day, also known as All Hallows' Day, was moved to November 1st. Samhain was renamed All Hallows' Eve, which was later shortened to Halloween. Both celebrations, which revolved essentially around spirits and the supernatural, thus merged into a unit.

American import

Halloween, as we know and love it today, was invented by Irish immigrants who came to the



USA in the early 20th century. Not only did they bring their traditions with them, they even added to them in their new country. About 100 years ago, Halloween in the USA was truly dangerous: more and more pranks by young people occurred on Halloween night, some of which resulted in injuries as well as economic damage. Halloween was, therefore, also called Mischief Night. In order to prevent the situation from getting out of control, American cities began to promote organized Halloween activities in the 1920s.

Commercial success

Parades, parties, costume contests, etc., are a must during today's Halloween celebrations. Places like Anoka in Minnesota, the self-proclaimed "Halloween capital of the world," paved the way for this. In Anoka, the first official Halloween celebrations of the USA took place in 1920. Scary costumes became more and more popular in America from the 1930s on, and a huge market was built around Halloween products. In the following decades, artists, advertising agencies, television, and cinema all developed an eerie yet fascinating image of the "most horrible night of the year."

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Africa is a continent teeming with culture, diversity, and natural beauty. In South Africa alone, the cosmetics industry is experiencing remarkable growth, with annual sales surging by more than 15%, expected to surpass \$1.5 billion, according to Statista's report titled "Beauty, Health & Household Care—South Africa.

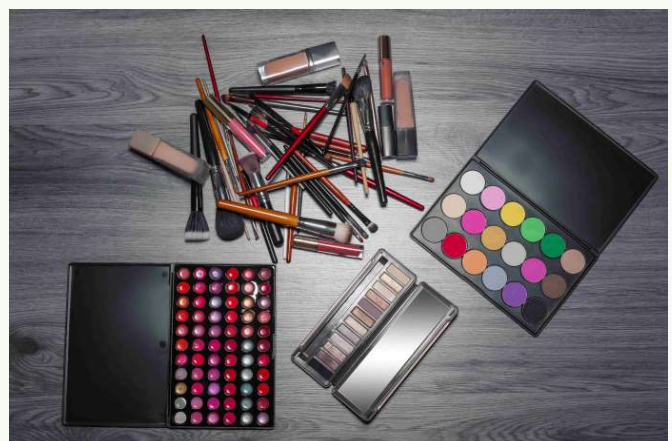
"In recent times, Africa's beauty traditions and its native ingredients have captured the world's attention. Indigenous local brands like Oriki and Arami Essentials from Nigeria, Nokware from Ghana, Lelive, and Suki Naturals from South Africa, represent a fresh wave of independent cosmetic brands across the continent. These brands are taking center stage, proudly embracing their African heritage, offering products that celebrate the rich diversity of African ingredients, and crafting an identity that resonates with the desires of youthful consumers.

The Youthful Surge In a world where the global population is aging, Africa stands as an exception. The burgeoning African population plays a pivotal role in fuelling the local cosmetics industry's growth. With a median age of approximately 19 years, Africa's youthful consumer base stands out as a driving force behind the soaring demand for beauty and skincare products. The influence of social media and widespread internet connectivity has heightened their awareness of appearance and well-being. They seek cosmetics tailored to their varied needs and skin types. This demographic shift has ignited innovation and entrepreneurship, inspiring young Africans to establish their own beauty brands that resonate with their peers.

Furthermore, their digital-savvy nature has accelerated the e-commerce landscape, facilitating easy access to local beauty products. Digital accessibility allows consumers to readily acquire products in markets where infrastructure may be lacking. As Africa's youthful population continues

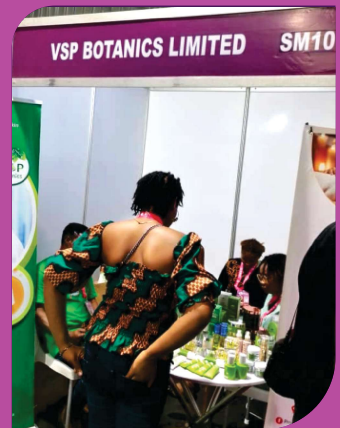
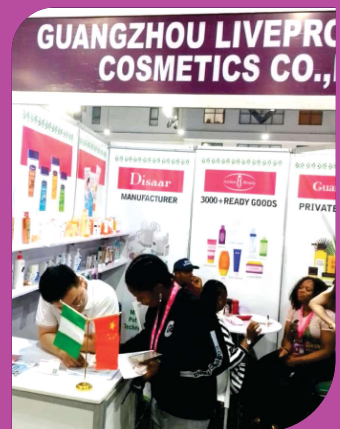
to assert its influence, the local cosmetics industry is poised for sustained growth and transformation, with youth-driven trends shaping the future of African beauty. African Beauty Redefined Africa's independent cosmetic brands are rewriting the beauty narrative by emphasizing authenticity. These brands proudly embrace their roots, drawing inspiration from traditional African beauty practices that have been passed down through generations. Whether it's utilizing indigenous ingredients or incorporating cultural motifs into packaging and brand names, authenticity is the driving force behind these brands.

A defining feature of African cosmetics is the use of indigenous ingredients, such as shea butter in West Africa or marula oil in Southern Africa. Independent African brands harness the power of nature to create products that are not only effective but also sustainable. Consumers increasingly seek these natural, locally-sourced ingredients, recognizing their benefits for skincare and haircare. African independent cosmetic brands champion inclusivity as well. They acknowledge the diverse range of skin tones and hair types found across the continent and are committed to offering products that cater to everyone. In doing so, they challenge the industry's historically limited representation of beauty, extending inclusivity to men as well as women.



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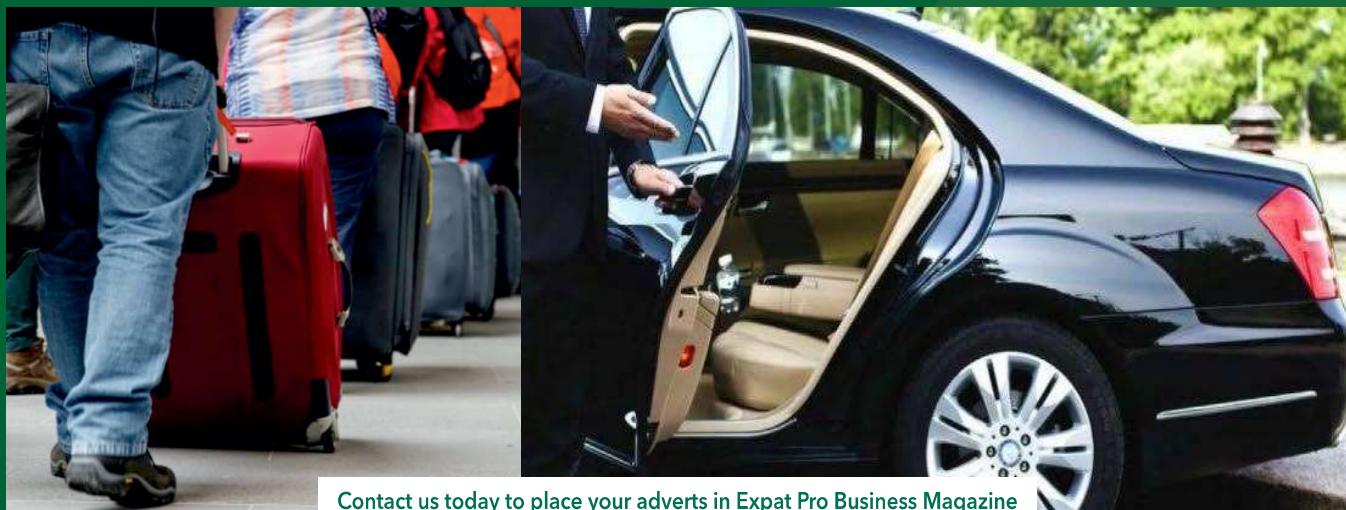


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