

PRESS CONFERENCE BRIEF

By the Chairman, NEPAD Business Group Nigeria (NBGN)

Date: Thursday 27 February, 2025

Venue: Metropolitan Club, 15, Kofo Abayomi, Victoria Island, Lagos

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, esteemed stakeholders, and distinguished guests,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to this important press conference, as we embark on a significant journey to relaunch and rebrand the NEPAD Business Group Nigeria (NBGN).

As you may be aware, NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development) has been a driving force in advancing economic growth, regional integration, and sustainable development in Africa. Over the years, the NEPAD Business Group Nigeria has played a critical role in aligning with these objectives, fostering public-private partnerships, and contributing to Nigeria's economic revitalization. However, in response to evolving challenges and opportunities, we are repositioning the NBGN to better serve as a catalyst for national and continental development.

Key Highlights of the Relaunch & Rebranding:

1. A Renewed Focus on Economic Development:

- Our revitalized strategy will emphasize key sectors that drive economic growth, including trade, investment, and industrial development.
- We will work closely with government agencies, the private sector, and international partners to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive.

2. Strengthened Engagement with Government & Institutions:

- Direct engagement with key policymakers, including the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Ministry of Finance, is a priority.
- We will present structured policy recommendations that align with Nigeria's broader economic agenda.

3. Encouraging Women and Young Innovators:

- NBGN is committed to fostering greater participation of women in business and leadership.
- We are developing proposals to attract funding for women-led businesses, including advocacy at the upcoming G7 and G20 summits.

4. Expanding Membership and Inclusivity:

- We are rolling out a strategy to welcome small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into the NBGN network, ensuring broader representation and impact.

- We will collaborate with academic institutions, particularly Economics Departments in universities, to harness innovative ideas for economic growth.
- 5. Strategic Partnerships & International Engagements:**
- We will enhance collaborations with global financial institutions, trade organizations, and regional economic communities to drive investment into Nigeria.
 - Plans are in motion to establish a NEPAD Business Group Center in Lagos to serve as a hub for strategic dialogue and business support.
- 6. Implementation of the 2025 NBGN Program:**
- The NEPAD Business Group has finalized its 2025 program, set to commence in April.
 - Our focus will be on policy advocacy, business facilitation, and capacity building for Nigerian enterprises.

Today marks the beginning of a new chapter for the NEPAD Business Group Nigeria. We are determined to reposition NBGN as a formidable platform that influences economic policies, fosters business growth, and contributes meaningfully to Nigeria's sustainable development.

We call on all stakeholders—government institutions, private sector leaders, development partners, and the media—to join us in this renewed vision. Together, we can build a stronger, more prosperous Nigeria and a thriving African economy.

Thank you.

BASHORUN J. K. RANDLE, *OFR*
Chairman, NEPAD Business Group Nigeria (NBGN)