

Dear Members,

We have been informed by the High Commission of India Abuja, Nigeria that they are receiving several queries and complaints from companies in India regarding award of multi-million-dollar contracts from (alleged) government organizations of Nigeria and getting defrauded on engaging with them.

In most of the cases, the unsuspecting businesses in India are approached by (alleged) government organizations of Nigeria and are asked to fill out contract forms or are informed of award of multi-million-dollar contracts. In this regard, we would like to clarify that no foreign company is allowed to participate in contract advertised by the Nigerian Councils and Commissions since these contracts are designed to suite the operation of local companies and organizations within the given Nigerian States. Further, it may be worthwhile to note that government contracts in Nigeria (if foreign companies are allowed to participate) are not issued under duress and sufficient time is given to the prospective bidders to fulfil the given criteria. Also, that the genuine contracts are usually published in local newspapers and media houses for the benefit of local industries.

At the same time, High Commission of India Abuja, Nigeria would like to emphasize that as per the Nigerian law, there is no constituted body such as Contract Awarding Committee or Contact Tender Board and if the foreign company is eligible to apply, there is no concept of their registration in Nigeria where the businesses are asked to pay a certain fee to a Lawyer for facilitation. This is called the "419 Scam" and it is a known fraud in Nigeria. You can see in the advisory that the money is always demanded/sent by Money Gram or Western Union and never through the SWIFT Network. The Central Bank of Nigeria (the Nigerian counterpart of Reserve Bank of India) has issued an advisory regarding this fraud which can also accessed through the following link: [Central Bank of Nigeria Website. > 419 \(cbn.gov.ng\)](http://Central Bank of Nigeria Website. > 419 (cbn.gov.ng)).

Some of the names that are being used by the fraudsters are Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), North East Development Commission (NEDC), North West Development Commission (NWDC), Nigeria Northeast Rebuilding Development Program (NNRDP), Taraba State Rural Development Council (TSRDC), Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA), Lower Benue River Basin Development Authority (LBRBDA), Nigeria Projects Authority Contracts Division (NPACD), Bauchi State Rural & Urban Development Authority (BSRUDA), Nigeria Northeast Rebuilding Development Program (NNRDP), Adamawa State Urban Planning & Development Authority (ASUPDA), Chad Basin Development Authority (CBDA), West African Communal Initiative Project (WARCIP), All Progressive Congress (APC) - Project Implementation Department and other similar sounding names.

If any business in India is being contacted using the name of any of the above or similar sounding organizations, you may advise the companies to seek full details (including the Registration Number with Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria, Tax Registration, Export or Import License and other relevant details) and send the same to the High Commission for getting the same verified from the concerned Nigerian Authorities. The contact details of the Commerce Wing of High Commission of India in Abuja are available on our website and can be accessed through the following link: [High Commission of India, Abuja, Nigeria \(hciabuja.gov.in\)](http://High Commission of India, Abuja, Nigeria (hciabuja.gov.in)).

At the same time, High Commission of India Abuja, Nigeria would also like you to advise the Indian businesses trading with Nigeria to refrain from entering a transaction and export merely on the basis of a purchase order. Further, please advise them to initiate the export only against a letter of credit (LC), legal contract and genuine bank guarantee. This because, in cases of default by either party, the resolution becomes difficult in the absence of these documents.

Regards,  
Ramesh Kolath  
Dy. Chief Executive Officer  
Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council

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