

# **UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA**

**Themed: TRANSFORMING CRITICAL MINERALS VALUE ADDITION  
WORKSHOP**

## **Keynote Speech: UPSCALING SOLID MINERALS INDUSTRIALIZATION AND VALUE ADDITION**

Presented by  
**Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals Development,  
DR. DELE ALAKE**

Represented by  
**ENGR. O.S. NKOM,**  
Director-General, Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office  
Venue: Marcellina Conference Centre, Lagos Nigeria

Date: 8th July 2025

# Content:

1. Introduction
2. Seven Point Agenda of the Honorable Minister
3. Highlight of the Current state of the Solid Mineral's Sector and Economic Promise
4. Global and Strategic Context
5. Policy and Regulatory Reforms
6. Institutional Capacity and Transparency
7. Security and Illegal Mining Controls
8. Infrastructure and Institutional Investments
9. Focus on Critical Minerals
10. Sustainability and Social Inclusions
11. Achievements to date
12. Incentives and Enablers for Private Sector Participation
13. Road Map forward
14. Call to Action
15. Conclusion



# Transforming Solid Minerals into National Wealth

Upscaling Industrialization & Value Addition

Hon. Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Nigeria

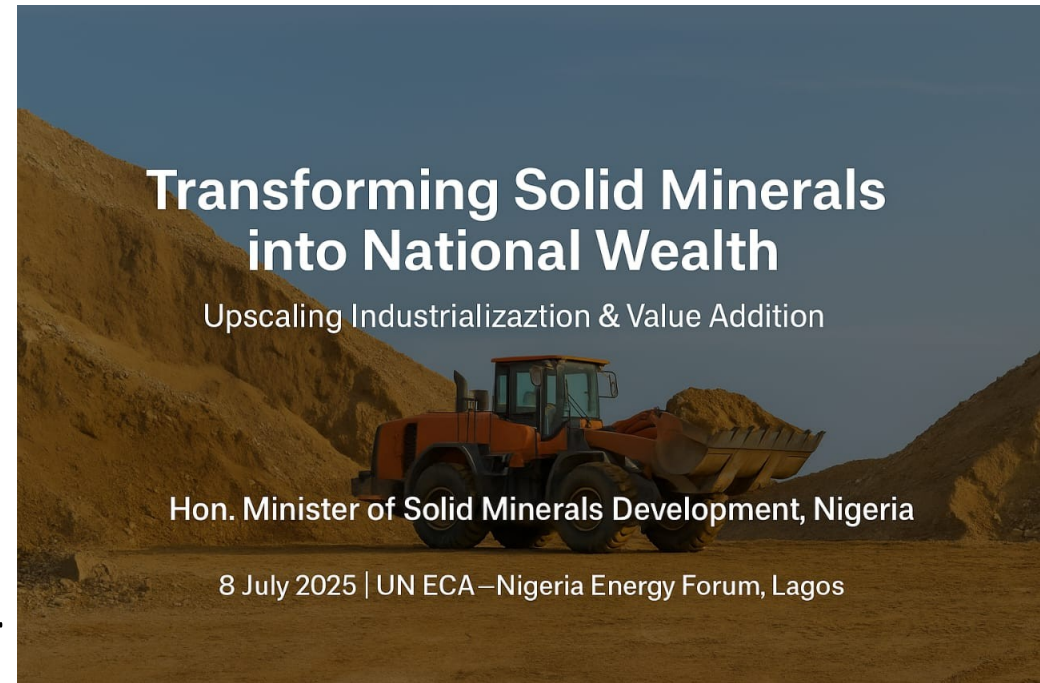
8 July 2025 | UN ECA–Nigeria Energy Forum, Lagos



# 1. INTRODUCTION

**“Your Excellency's, Distinguished Ministers and Government Officials, Industry Leaders, Captains of Innovation, Development Stakeholders, Esteemed Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my honour to deliver this keynote on behalf of the Honorable Minister, Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, Nigeria.**

**Today, we shall be discussing ‘Transforming Solid Minerals into National Wealth – Upscaling Industrialization and Value Addition.’**



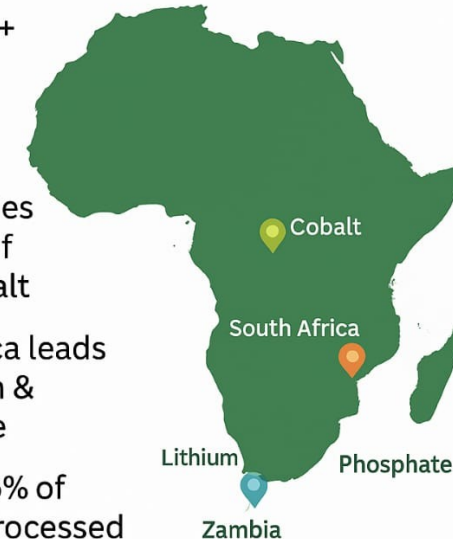
## 1. INTRODUCTION (cont.)

Today it is an open secret that, Africa significantly contributes to global mineral reserves of the following critical minerals:

- Cobalt - Democratic Republic of the Congo, producing approximately 114,165 metric tons in 2024 (In 2023, over 70%).
- Copper - Zambia's production surged to over 820,000 metric tons.
- Bauxite - Guinea remains the world's second-largest producer, feeding aluminium industries across Asia and Europe.
- Lithium - Zimbabwe, Namibia, Ghana and Mali's projected rise in production from 4% of global output in 2023 to 10% in 2024; Nigeria also gaining recognition

### AFRICA: THE WORLD'S CRITICAL MINERALS POWERHOUSE

- Holds 30%+ of global mineral reserves
- DRC supplies over 70% of global cobalt
- South Africa leads in platinum & manganese
- Less than 5% of minerals processed locally
- Opportunity: drive Africa's industrialization



Source: African Union Minerals Development Centre



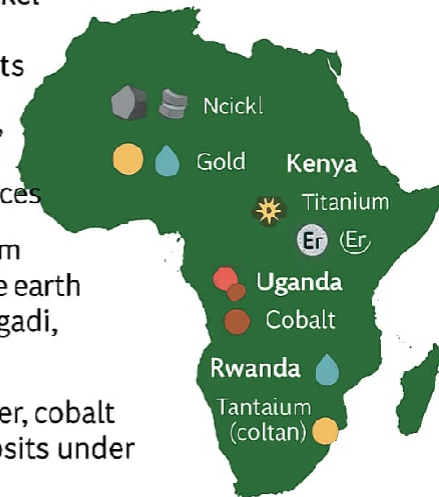


## 1. INTRODUCTION (cont.)



### EAST AFRICA: EMERGING FRONTIERS IN STRATEGIC MINERALS

- Tanzania: large graphite & nickel reserves; rare earth prospects
- Ethiopia: gold, tantalum, and potash resources
- Kenya: titanium sands and rare earth elements (Magadi, Kwale)
- Uganda: copper, cobalt and gold deposits under exploration
- Opportunity: develop processing facilities for battery minerals and high-tech industrial inputs within East Africa



Source: African Union Minerals Development S.  
AfDB

### WEST AFRICA: A RISING HUB FOR CRITICAL MINERALS

- Guinea: Largest bauxite reserves globally (critical for aluminium)
- Nigeria: Significant deposits of lithium, gold, and tin
- Ghana: Leading gold producer in Africa; also hosts manganese
- Sierra Leone: Rich in rutile (titanium dioxide) and iron ore
- Liberia: Large iron ore deposits under development
- Opportunity: Enhance mineral beneficiation and local smelting to boost regional industrialization



# 1. INTRODUCTION (cont.)



Advancing Value Addition in Africa's Mineral Sector

Unlocking Africa's Economic Transformation through Value Addition

Current State:

Predominantly raw mineral exports with minimal beneficiation or local processing.

Challenge:

Lack of infrastructure, power, technology transfer, and policy alignment.

Strategic Imperative:

- Develop regional mineral processing hubs.
- Establish intra-African value chains under AfCFTA.
- Build specialized mineral beneficiation industrial parks.
- Strengthen human capital and technical capacity for mineral processing and green energy technologies.

Outcome: Job creation, increased export revenues, industrial competitiveness, and economic resilience.



## 1. INTRODUCTION (cont.)

Nigeria's mineral endowment is vast, yet its economic impact remains limited. This workshop is a strategic step to reposition the sector for sustainable growth and in alignment with our national priorities under the Renewed Hope Agenda, Nigeria is committed to upscaling solid minerals industrialization and value addition, as a Nation, Nigeria is currently:

✓ Prioritizing a policy, that will move beyond raw mineral exports to establish domestic processing and manufacturing industries that transform our mineral resources into higher-value products.



### UPSCALING SOLID MINERALS INDUSTRIALIZATION AND VALUE ADDITION



Nigeria is prioritizing solid minerals industrialization by shifting from raw exports to local processing, manufacturing, and value addition – creating jobs, building capacity, and strengthening our economy.





## 1. INTRODUCTION (cont.)

✓ The government is prioritizing policies that attract investments in mineral processing plants, refinery projects, and finished goods production within Nigeria.

✓ We are working closely with global partners, including Australia, South Africa, France, Saudi Arabia, and others, to bring in technology, skills development programs, and capital investments needed for this industrial drive.



### STEPS TO UPSCALE SOLID MINERALS INDUSTRIALIZATION AND VALUE ADDITION

- 1 Policy & Legislative Enablement**  
Finalize Minerals & Mining Bill and incentivize value addition
- 2 Strengthen Institutional Capacity**  
Operationalize NSMC with robust governance
- 3 Invest in Processing Infrastructure**  
Build processing plants, refineries, & clusters
- 4 Enhance Human Capital Development**  
Skills transfer and technical training programs
- 5 Expand Geological Data & Mapping**  
Complete resource surveys and reports
- 6 Enforce Local Content & Community Development**  
Procurement & community benefit/prefit agreements
- 7 Strengthen Security & Regulatory Enforcement**  
Expand Mining Marshals deployment

**Outcome:** Create jobs • Enhance revenues  
• Promote industrialization • diversification



## 1. INTRODUCTION (cont.)

- ✓ This approach will create jobs for millions of Nigerians, build local capacity, and position Nigeria as a competitive hub for critical minerals and mineral-based products in Africa.
- ✓ Our ministries and agencies are aligning with this vision to fast-track approvals, strengthen regulatory frameworks, and incentivize local value addition investments.



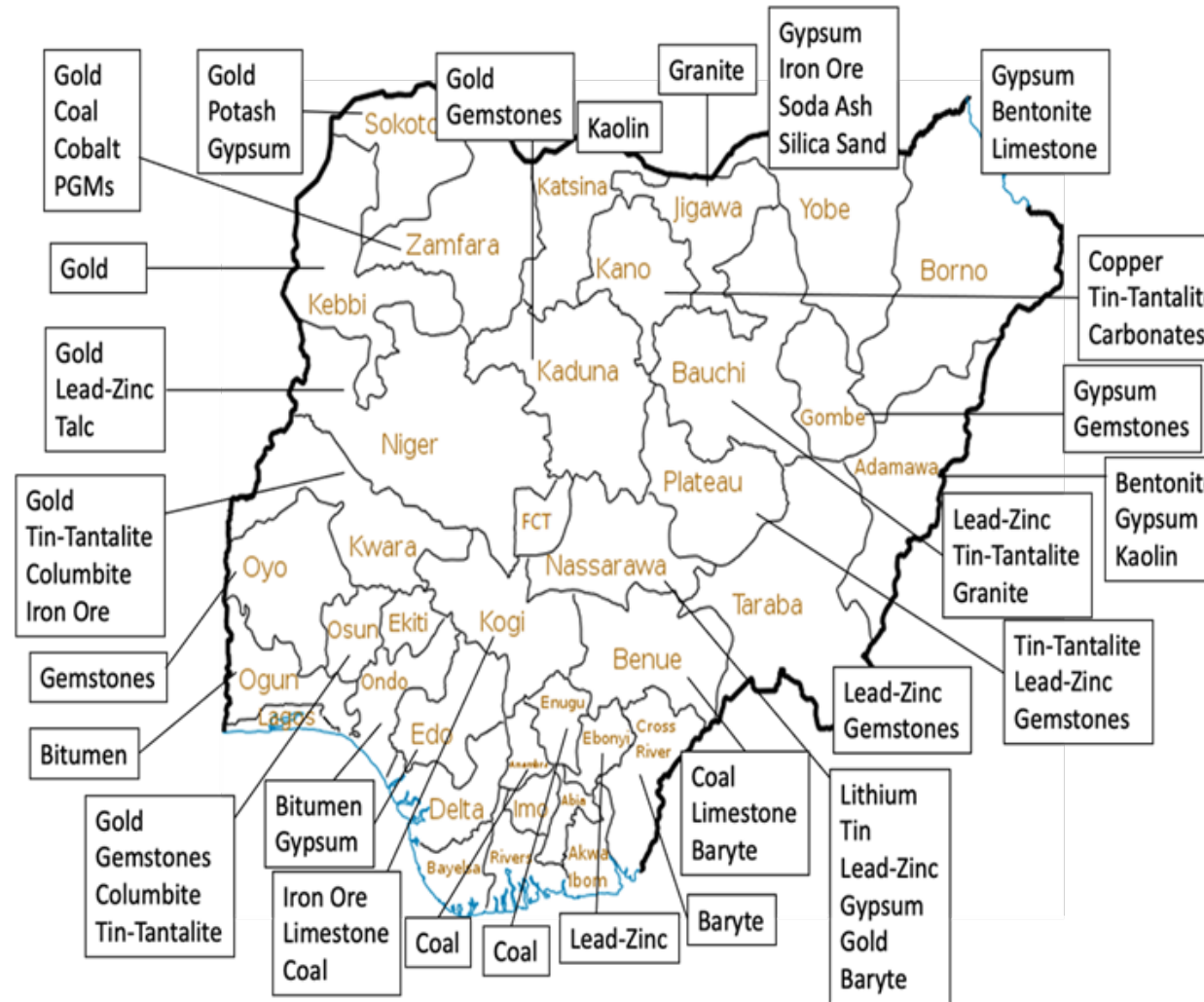
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# 1. INTRODUCTION (cont.)



- Nigeria, has discovered over 44 different types of mineral resources;



## 2. SEVEN POINT AGENDA OF THE HONORABLE MINISTER



Let me take a brief moment to draw your attention to the Seven (7) point Agenda of the Honorable Minister:

1. Creation of Nigerian Solid Mineral Company,
2. Joint Venture with Mining Multinationals,
3. Big data on Seven priority minerals and their deposits,
4. 30 day grace period for illegal miners to formalize into artisanal cooperatives,
5. Creation of the Mines Surveillance Task Force/Mines Police (Mining Martials),
6. Comprehensive review of all Mining Licences,
7. Creation of Six Mineral Processing Centres focused on Value Added products.

### Economic Promise



- Contributes less than 1% of GDP
- Over \$20 billion annual revenue potential
- 10 million direct and indirect jobs



### 3. HIGHLIGHT OF THE CURRENT STATE OF THE SOLID MINERAL'S SECTOR AND ECONOMIC PROMISE



“Nigeria’s solid minerals sector currently contributes less than 1% of our GDP despite our extensive deposits.

We have gold in Zamfara, Niger, and Kebbi; lithium in Nasarawa and Kaduna; iron ore in Kogi; and tin, zinc, coltan across the Middle Belt.

Estimates suggest that if properly developed, this sector could generate over \$20 billion annually, create 10 million direct and indirect jobs, and contribute more than 10% to our national GDP.

This illustrates our enormous untapped economic promise.”

- Nigeria’s solid minerals sector currently contributes less than 1% of our GDP
- Gold in Zamfara, Niger, and Kebbi; Lithium in Nasarawa and Kaduna; Iron ore in Kogi; Tin, Zinc, Coltan across the Middle Belt





## 4. GLOBAL AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT

“Nigeria is positioning itself as Africa’s mining hub.

Recent strategic accomplishments and partnerships include:

- Championing the Africa Mineral Strategic Group (AMSG)
- The Nigeria–South Africa Minerals Pact focusing on geological mapping and shared data for over 23 mineral targets.
- Collaboration with France on critical minerals exploration and value chain development.
- Strong investment interest from Saudi Arabia, UAE, UK, and the US.



**‘Our competitive advantage lies in our resource diversity, strategic location, and progressive policy reforms attracting these global partners.**



## 5. POLICY AND REGULATORY REFORM



**“Recognising the importance of strong governance, Nigeria has implemented several reforms; these reforms enumerated in the following slides, drive value addition and protect national interests.”:**



**Nigeria shall  
not export  
mineral  
resources raw...**



## 5. POLICY AND REGULATORY REFORM (cont.)

### VALUE ADDITION POLICY

Against wholesale export of minerals, value addition through processing and manufacturing, which domesticates the industrialization of the sector and promotes employment, is a major reform in the Nigerian Mining Sector.

Stage 1: Enhanced discovery through investment in geological exploration.

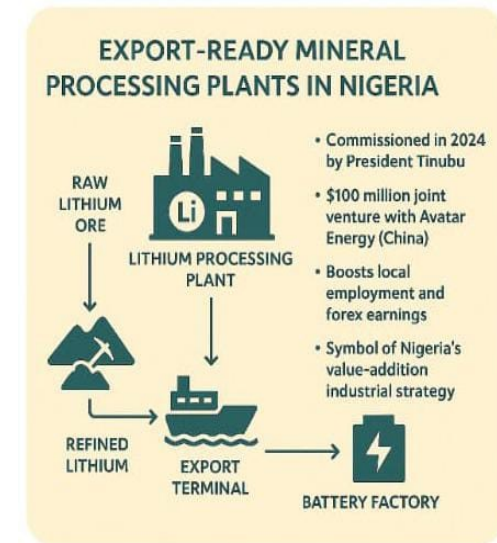
Stage 2: Sustainable extraction protocols with environmental safeguards.

Stage 3: Establishment of in-country processing zones.

Stage 4: Mineral-based product manufacturing and tech integration.

Stage 5: Exporting high-value finished goods, creating forex and jobs.

This model aims to end the raw material export dependency.



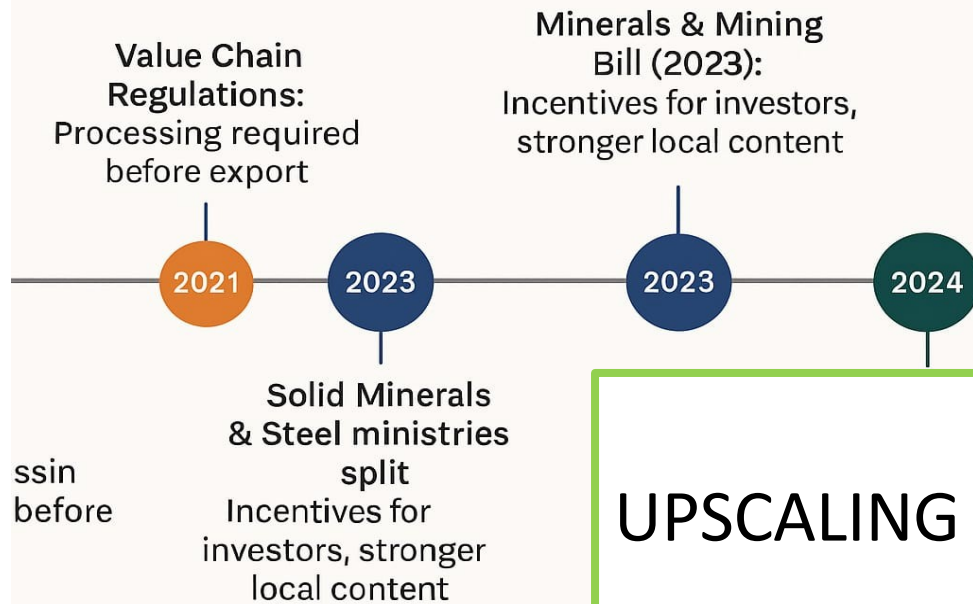
## 5. POLICY AND REGULATORY REFORM (cont.)



1. In 2023, the Solid Minerals and Steel Ministries were separated to sharpen focus.

2. The ongoing review of the Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act, 2007 with the intent to incentivise investors and strengthen local content amongst others.

### POLICY & REGULATORY REFORM





## 5. POLICY AND REGULATORY REFORM (cont.)



3. The 2021 Value Chain Regulations require local processing before export, catalysing lithium processing plants in Nasarawa and Kaduna.

**3. INSPECTION AT SOURCE**

a) All consignments shall, first, be beneficiated to concentrates and/or crushed to acceptable mesh size.

b) Exporter shall provide weighing facilities at warehouse during inspection for confirmation of weight.

c) FMO shall confirm assay results submitted by exporter using a handheld xrf spectrometer.

d) The inspection results shall be contained in an inspection report as specified in FORM MEX-5 of the Second Schedule.

e) Exporter shall pay for cost of logistics as contained in the Third Schedule.

f) FMO shall seal every pack after inspection with a special MMMSD seal and submit packing list to PIA.

g) The FMO shall issue a STATE CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN (SCOO) after successful inspection, as specified in FORM MEX-4 of the Second Schedule within 2 working days.

- This shall serve as Goods in Transit Certificate and
- Shall enable easy computation of derivation to states.
- It is an offence to cross state lines with solid minerals without a State Certificate of Origin.
- Copies of the SCOO shall be distributed to each State MIREMCO and MMMSD Headquarters.

**4. PRE-SHIPMENT INSPECTION OF EXPORTS**

a) All mineral exports from Nigeria shall be subject to inspection by the Pre-shipment Inspection Agent(s) (PIA) appointed by the Federal Government, specifically for mineral exports.

b) Minerals on the current Export Prohibition list as detailed in the Second Schedule, shall not be accepted for inspection by the PIA(s).

c) The focus of the PIA(s) shall be to ascertain the quality, quantity and price competitiveness of mineral exports from Nigeria.

**5. REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)**

a) Following the issuance of the State Certificate of Origin, the exporter shall collect a RFI form, as specified in FORM MEX-7 of the Second Schedule, from the PIA. The purpose of the RFI form is to enable the

**Federal Ministry of Finance**

**Export Guidelines for Solid Minerals**

PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SOLID MINERAL EXPORTS IN NIGERIA

**Ministry of Mines and Steel Development**

4. From 2024, Mining Leases are granted only to companies with clear local processing plans.

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**MINING CADASTRE**

**MINERAL TITLE APPLICATION FORM**

**LEASE**

**APPLICATION NO.**

**TYPE OF LEASE**

☐ SMALL SCALE MINING LEASE ☐ MINING LEASE ☐ QUANTITY LEASE

Requested duration:  Year(s)  Licence Type:  Number:

**LOCATION OF LEASE**

States:  LGAs:  Topo sheet(s):

**APPLICANT'S INFORMATION**

☐ BODY CORPORATE ☐ CO-OPERATIVE ☐ INDIVIDUAL ☐ HAVE YOU APPLIED BEFORE? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Full name:  Registration No:  ID card No:

Address:  Street / Road:  City / Town:  State:  LGAs:  Country of origin:

Communication:  Telephone:  Fax:  Mobile:  Email:  Web site:

**APPLICANT'S REPRESENTATIVE**

Full name:  ID card No:

Address:  Street / Road:  City / Town:  State:  LGAs:

Communication:  Telephone:  Fax:  Mobile:  Email:  Web site:

**APPROVALS AND FEES**

☐ Pre feasibility study ☐ Certified copy of the certificate of incorporation (body corporate) ☐ Affidavit of non conviction of criminal offence or an offence under the Minerals and Mining Act 2007 (Others):

☐ Receipt of payment for application fees

To be filled in by the Mining Cadastre Officer - Application submitted in 2 copies PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS ONLY

Mandatory information





## 6. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND TRANSPARENCY



**“Our institutions are becoming stronger and more transparent.**

The Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office has since upgraded to the Online Mineral Title Administration system – the electronic Mining Cadastre (eMC+), improving efficiency and investor access.

The Nigeria Mineral Resources Decision Support System - NMRDSS provides real-time geological, licensing and commodity data.

By the second quarter Q2 2025, the key revenue generating Agency (MCO) and Department (MID) of the Ministry generated **₦15,796** billion in Mineral Title Licensing and **₦15,451** billion in royalties respectively; with 802 new operators, while within same period in 2024 MCO, generated **₦3,627** billion and MID **₦5,573** billion with 553 new operators, demonstrating increasing sector confidence.”

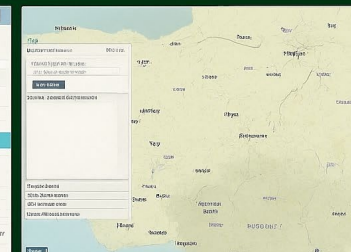


### Mining Cadastre & NMRDSS: Catalysts of Sector Growth



#### eMC+ - The Electronic Mining Cadastre

- The Nigeria Mining Cadastre Office has upgraded to the eMC+ online system, ensuring efficient mineral title administration
- Over 4,800 exploration licences & 3,375 small-scale mining leases are currently active, demonstrating robust sector participation



#### NMRDSS - Nigeria Mineral Resources Decision Support System

- Provides real-time geological, licensing, and commodity data, enabling informed decisions by operators, regulators, and global partners
- Interactive map interface ensure transparent access to mineral occurrences and infrastructure insights across Nigeria
- Demonstrates commitment to resource development, transparency, and job creation aligned with Nigeria's economic diversification goals



## 7. SECURITY AND ILLEGAL MINING CONTROLS



“A critical challenge remains illegal mining and insecurity.

To address this:

We have deployed 2,220 elite Mining Marshals nationwide to enforce compliance and protect mining operations.

Zamfara’s mining ban was lifted after robust security interventions, unlocking regional economic activities.

Parliament continues to pursue actions against illegal foreign operations and environmental infractions.

Security reforms are essential for sustainable mining.”

### Security & Illegal Mining Controls



**Mining Ban  
Lifted in  
Zamfara**  
Post-Security  
Reforms

- **2,220** Elite Mining Marshals Deployed
- Security Interventions at Mining Sites
- Parliamentary Actions on Illegal Foreign Operations



## 8. INFRASTRUCTURE AND INSTITUTIONAL INVESTMENT



“To drive industrialisation, we are prioritising infrastructure and institutional investment.

Plans are underway to establish the Nigeria Solid Minerals Company (NSMC) with:

50% Private sector ownership

25% Federal Government

25% Public ownership

This will catalyse exploration and processing.

Additionally, we are investing in road, rail, and port infrastructure to efficiently transport minerals to processing plants and export terminals.”



## 9. FOCUS ON CRITICAL MINERALS

## MINERALS

“Globally, critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and graphite are vital for electric vehicle batteries and energy storage.

Nigeria’s lithium boom is gaining momentum with \$1.3 billion worth of factories set to commence in Q2 2025 by investors including Chinese firms and Avatar Energy.

Our goal is not only to mine these resources but to build domestic value chains that produce intermediate and finished products, creating jobs and retaining value within our economy.”

Lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite vital for EV batteries and energy storage

\$1.3 billion lithium factories starting Q2 2025 (Chinese & Avatar Energy)



## 10.SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

“Our reforms” place strong emphasis on sustainability and social inclusion. Ensuring that natural resources are used to meet our needs today, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

We enforce child labour laws and community support programs in mining host areas.

All Mining Leases require robust Community Development Agreements, Environmental Protection & Rehabilitation Plans.

Furthermore, plans to activate the Mines Rehabilitation Fund (MRF) is on-going; aimed to reclaim mined lands, at the end of the life of the mine, ensuring host communities are not left devastated.”



### Social Inclusion



Enforcement of Child Labour Laws



Environmental  
Protection &  
Rehabilitation Plans

ools & livelihoods for host communities





## 11. ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE



“Despite the sector’s challenges, we have recorded significant progress:

- Championing the Africa Minerals Strategic Group (AMSG)
- Collected over ~~N~~**31,247** billion in mining fees (both mineral title and royalty fees) by Q2 2025.
- Processed over 1,613 new mining applications by Q2 of 2025.
- Commenced construction of lithium processing plants.
- Lifted the Zamfara mining ban, restoring economic activities.
- Advanced the NSMC formation, which will revolutionise sector investment and governance.
- Establishment of the Mining Marshals

These milestones demonstrate our commitment to sector transformation.”



## 12. INCENTIVES AND ENABLERS FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION



### Corporate Income Tax & Royalties

- Competitive Corporate Tax of 20 – 30%
- Royalty payable on any mineral may be deferred for several years (Royalty rates range from 3% to 5%)

### Financial Incentives

- Tax holiday for an initial period of 3 years from commencement of operations, and renewable for additional 2 years

### Customs Duties

- Exemption from customs and import duties in respect of machineries, equipment, plants and accessories imported exclusively for mining

### 95% Capital Allowance

- Accelerated Capital Allowance on mining expenditure (95% initial allowance and retention of 5% until asset is disposed)

### Free Transferability of Funds

- Free transferability of foreign currency through the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for servicing of certified foreign loan and for remittance of foreign capital in event of sale or liquidation

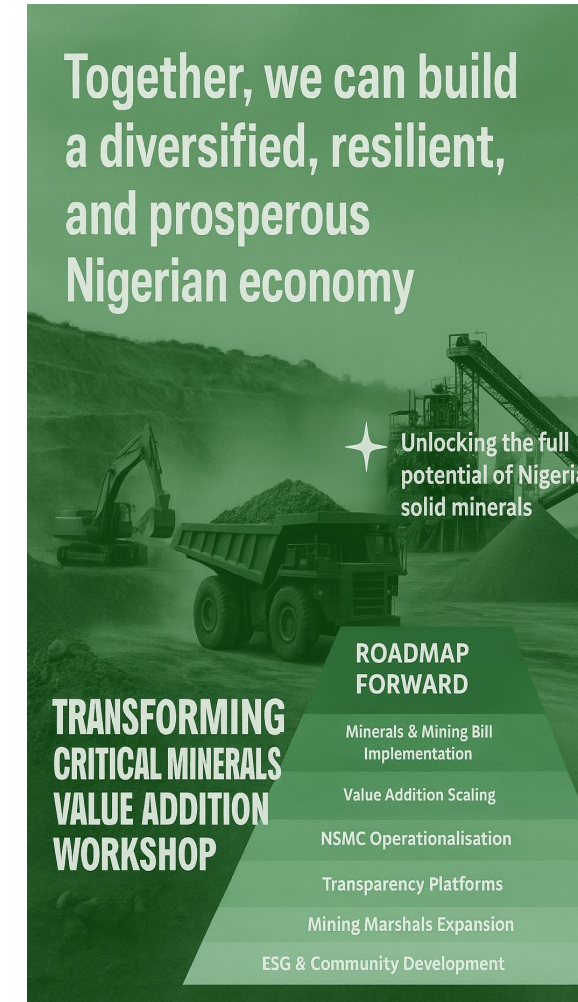




### 13. ROADMAP FORWARD

Looking ahead, our roadmap focuses on the following amongst others:

1. Passing and implementing the Minerals & Mining Bill for investor confidence and local content enforcement.
2. Operationalising the NSMC with best corporate governance practices.
3. Scaling up value addition plants nationwide.
4. Expanding Mining Marshals for stronger enforcement.
5. Enhancing transparency platforms for public data access.
6. Investing heavily in transport and processing infrastructure.
7. Embedding ESG compliance and community development in all mining operations.



“This strategic path will unlock the full potential of Nigeria’s solid minerals.”

## 14. CALL TO ACTION



“Ladies and gentlemen, It is time to transform our mineral wealth into sustainable prosperity.

I call on all stakeholders:

Government: to continue policy stability and infrastructure investment.

Investors: to embrace responsible financing and local content partnerships.

Communities: to engage as partners in sustainable development.

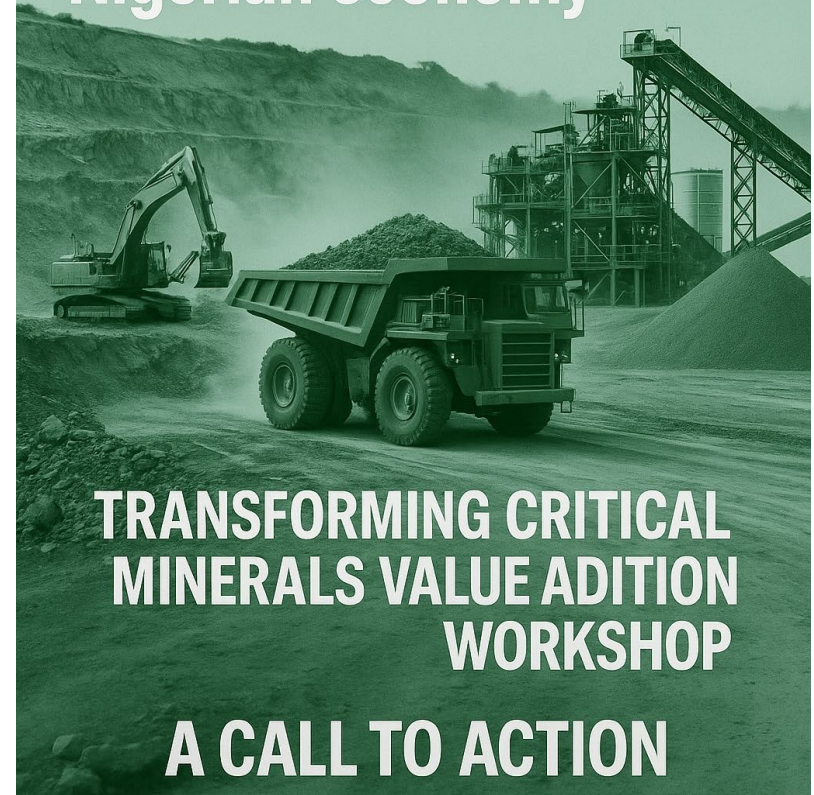
Regulators: to enforce compliance with fairness and transparency.



Together, we can build  
a diversified, resilient,  
and prosperous  
Nigerian economy

TRANSFORMING CRITICAL  
MINERALS VALUE ADDITION  
WORKSHOP

A CALL TO ACTION





## 15. CONCLUSION

We believe that industrializing our solid minerals sector is the fastest pathway to diversifying our economy, strengthening our currency, and improving the livelihoods of all Nigerians.

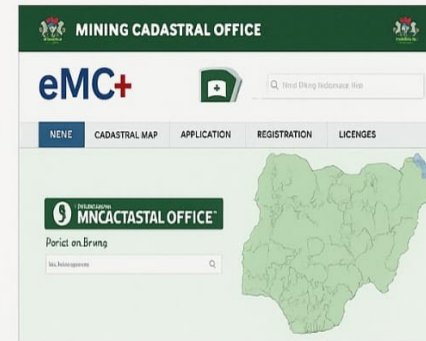
We look forward to engaging with you during the workshop sessions and exploring pathways to realise these ambitions for the benefit of all Nigerians.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.”



### Institutional Capacity & Transparency

#### Mining Cadastral Office

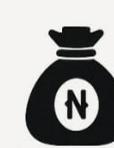


**₦6.96 BILLION**

FEES GENERATED  
(Q1 2025)

#### Mineral Resources Decision Support System

- Real-time geological and licensing data



**FEES  
GENERATED**  
(Q1 2025)



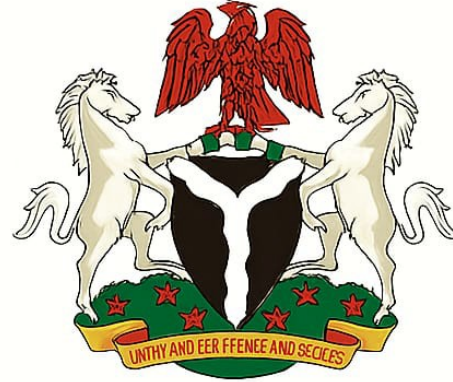
**118**  
NEW  
OPERATORS  
LICENSED



**LAUNCHED**  
Q1 2025







# THANK YOU

## FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION

Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, Nigeria

website: [www.minesandsteel.gov.ng](http://www.minesandsteel.gov.ng)

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