

MINING SECTOR MID YEAR REPORT

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CHAPTER 3

2025 MID-YEAR REPORT ON THE NIGERIAN MINING SECTOR



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01 INTRODUCTION



Following the close of 2024, when we [reported](#) bold steps towards sanitising and revitalising Nigeria's mining sector, 2025 opened with even more determined activity. In our [2024 End-of-Year Report](#), we identified regulatory overhauls, strategic investments in lithium and gold, and a renewed focus on host community engagement. This mid-year report continues the narrative from December 2024 to June 2025, reflecting a sector in transition, one that is striving to deliver on its long-promised potential through structural reforms, targeted funding, digital innovation, and increased investor confidence.

02 REAFFIRMING THE 2016 MINING ROADMAP AND BEYOND

The implementation of the 2016 Mining Roadmap¹ remains the benchmark against which sectoral growth is measured. However, as highlighted in our 2024 End of Year Report, Nigeria is now in the long-term phase of the Roadmap (5–10 years). Unfortunately, key deliverables from the earlier phases, including full legal reform, infrastructure expansion, and robust geoscience data generation, remain largely unmet. Still, several actions since January 2025 suggest the Federal Government is finally making strides toward aligning with the original Roadmap.

The Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, led by Dr. Dele Alake, continues to drive reforms under the renewed seven-point agenda.² Emphasis remains on restructuring governance, boosting investment, strengthening data systems, and enforcing compliance.



¹ <https://nigeriareposit.nln.gov.ng/items/8f9a27ac-03b5-4cb7-8c20-2fa7b8760a4f/full> accessed 25th May 2025.

² https://leadership.ng/alake-unveils-7-point-agenda-for-solid-minerals/#google_vignette accessed 22nd May 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

The Nigerian mining sector has witnessed a flurry of strategic developments since our last report, reflecting the government's ongoing commitment to reposition the industry as a pillar of national economic transformation. Key activities within this period underscore renewed international cooperation, landmark agreements, and bold institutional reforms, each reinforcing Nigeria's drive toward a more diversified, investment-ready, and sustainable mining ecosystem.

NIGERIA–AUSTRALIA BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT³

As part of broader efforts to enhance Nigeria's mining sector and diversify the economy, international partnerships continue to play a crucial role. A recent milestone in this regard is the renewed diplomatic and economic engagement between Nigeria and Australia, underscored by the visit of a high-level Australian delegation led by Marc Innes-Brown, First Assistant Secretary, Middle East and Africa Division of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in January. The visit formed part of the fourth edition of the Nigerian-Australian Bilateral Consultation, aimed at deepening cooperation in key sectors such as trade, mining, agriculture, and food security. Both countries recognized their shared climatic conditions and development aspirations, providing fertile ground for mutual learning and collaboration, particularly in resource management and renewable energy deployment.

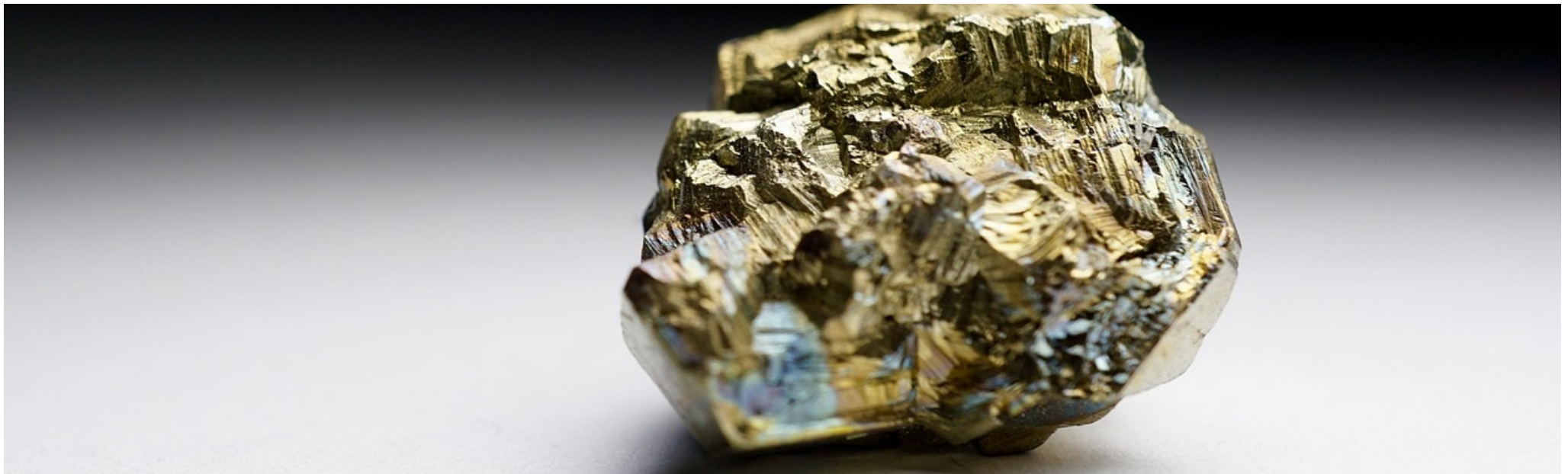
The consultation provided a formal platform for senior officials from both nations to evaluate past collaborations, propose new initiatives, and explore investment opportunities. Mining, as a shared area of expertise and interest, remains a focal point in this renewed partnership.

³ <https://www.arise.tv/nigeria-australia-strengthen-ties-with-bilateral-talks-on-trade-agriculture-and-mining/> accessed 23rd May 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

NIGERIA AND SAUDI ARABIA DEEPEN STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT TO STRENGTHEN GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY⁴

As part of Nigeria's broader efforts to enhance international cooperation in the mining sector, the country renewed its collaboration with Saudi Arabia to build the technical capacity of their respective geological agencies. This strategic initiative was discussed during a high-level bilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the 2025 Future Minerals Forum (FMF) in Riyadh, themed "Year of Impact", held in January. The meeting featured closed-door deliberations between Nigeria's delegation, led by the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, and the Saudi Minister of Mining, Bandar Al-Khorayef. Discussions focused on leveraging Saudi Arabia's advancements in mineral exploration and integrating them into Nigeria's growing mining ecosystem.



⁴ <https://nannews.ng/2025/01/21/nigeria-s-arabia-deepen-ties-on-solid-mineral-exploration/#:~:text=follow%20and%20like%20on,new%20technologies%20for%20mineral%20exploration>. Accessed 25th May 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025



Minister Alake proposed targeted partnerships along key areas of mutual economic interest within the mining value chain, including knowledge transfer, market access, and investment promotion. Specifically, he pointed to Saudi Arabia's globally recognized gold market as a potential outlet for Nigerian gold refineries under mutually beneficial trade arrangements, and encouraged officials of the Saudi Chamber of Commerce to explore Nigeria's vast deposits of lithium and iron ore, which are currently being processed under Nigeria's beneficiation-driven policy. He assured potential investors of support through access to certified geological data via the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA), aimed at de-risking investments. The Minister also emphasized Nigeria's critical role in the global energy transition, particularly in relation to its lithium reserves, an essential component for electric vehicle batteries and other clean technologies. He stated that Saudi partnerships could help drive the export of processed industrial mineral inputs from Nigeria. Citing Nigeria's investment in laboratory infrastructure, Alake reiterated that Nigeria currently hosts the most advanced certified mineral testing laboratories in West Africa, further enhancing investor confidence in the integrity of local mineral analysis and processing systems.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIA SOLID MINERALS CORPORATION (NSMC)⁵

In the first quarter of the year, the Federal Government, through various public statements by the Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals Development, revealed plans to establish the Nigeria Solid Minerals Corporation (NSMC). This marks a notable shift in Nigeria's strategy to harness greater economic value from its mineral sector by expanding its mining operations and promoting sector-wide reforms. According to the Minister's remarks, the proposed ownership structure for the NSMC is envisioned as follows: 25% to the public, 25% to the Federal Government, and 50% to the private sector. This blended model reflects a deliberate effort to limit direct government control, incentivize private sector participation, and promote a commercially viable corporate vehicle. This structure bears some resemblance to the Nigeria LNG (NLNG) model, which has seen success largely due to its private-sector-led governance and insulation from political interference. By adopting a similar approach, the NSMC aims to balance regulatory oversight with operational independence and investor confidence.

For the NSMC to achieve its intended goals, the incorporation of a strong corporate governance framework will be critical. If implemented effectively, the corporation could serve as a catalyst for unlocking Nigeria's mineral potential, diversifying the economy, and positioning the country as a competitive player in the global mining industry.



⁵ <https://businessday.ng/news/article/fg-to-launch-new-mining-corporation/> accessed 24th May 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

NIGERIA AND SOUTH AFRICA SIGN STRATEGIC MINING COOPERATION AGREEMENT⁶

In a major step toward strengthening regional collaboration in the extractive sector, Nigeria and South Africa signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in April 2025 to deepen bilateral cooperation in geology, mining, and mineral processing. The agreement was executed in Abuja by Dr. Dele Alake, and South Africa's Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, under the framework of the Nigeria–South Africa Bi-National Commission. The MOU outlines clear areas of collaboration, including investment facilitation, technology transfer, geoscientific data sharing, and skills development across both jurisdictions. Key initiatives include capacity building in geological mapping using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), application of spectral remote sensing for exploration, mineral processing training, and joint exploration of Agro and energy minerals in Nigeria.

Importantly, the cooperation also supports knowledge exchange on advanced techniques such as elemental fingerprinting with Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS), alongside value addition initiatives to enhance beneficiation. The ministers affirmed that the partnership is geared towards fostering intra-African trade, enhancing regional integration, and supporting sustainable industrialisation. Minister Alake emphasized that the alliance is expected to generate employment, attract technical and financial investments, and contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's ongoing drive to diversify its economy through the mining sector. This agreement signals a maturing policy direction that embraces regional synergies to fast-track economic growth and industrial competitiveness within Africa's solid minerals value chain.

⁶ <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/788529-nigeria-south-africa-sign-mining-cooperation-deal.html?tztc=1> accessed 25th May 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

PROPOSED NIGERIA METALLURGICAL INDUSTRY BILL⁷

As part of ongoing efforts to revitalise Nigeria's industrial base, the Federal Ministry of Steel Development in February unveiled the revised Nigeria Metallurgical Industry Bill 2023. The proposed legislation is a critical step toward establishing a comprehensive legal and regulatory framework to govern the nation's metallurgical and steel sector long identified as a cornerstone for industrialisation, economic diversification, and global competitiveness. The Bill, which is currently before the National Assembly, seeks to address longstanding challenges by enhancing regulatory oversight, curbing illegal activities such as scrap metal theft, and providing legal certainty to attract domestic and foreign investment. It introduces licensing protocols, quality control standards, safety provisions, and enforcement mechanisms. Minister of Steel Development, Shuaibu Audu, described the Bill as "transformative," noting that its passage will empower the ministry to better regulate the sector while supporting

industrial best practices and technology-driven growth. The legislation also aligns with the broader objective of reviving key infrastructure such as the Ajaokuta Steel Company.

Stakeholders, including the National Assembly committees on steel, have reaffirmed their support for the Bill, citing its potential to stimulate indigenous industrial participation, drive innovation, and secure Nigeria's strategic minerals from unregulated exploitation. Notably, the sector has faced heavy foreign dominance, particularly by Chinese and Indian recyclers, prompting renewed calls for legislative clarity and protection of national resources. The Bill's journey began in 2022 and has since undergone several reviews, including input from the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) and the Federal Ministry of Justice. Its enactment is expected to mark a turning point in positioning Nigeria's metallurgical sector as a globally competitive industrial hub.

⁷ <https://punchng.com/fg-pushes-new-metallurgical-bill-to-boost-nigerias-steel-sector/> accessed 30th May 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

MINING MARSHALS MARK ONE YEAR OF CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL MINING WITH MAJOR GAINS AND ENHANCED SURVEILLANCE⁸

As part of Nigeria's intensified efforts to sanitize the mining sector, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), through its specialized Mining Marshals unit, has made significant strides in curbing illegal mining since its inauguration on March 21, 2024. Over the past year, the unit has evolved into a cornerstone of the Minister's seven-point agenda, strengthening regulatory enforcement and restoring government control over mineral-rich zones.

Key accomplishments include:



⁸ <https://nannews.ng/2025/05/28/nscdc-uncovers-460-illegal-mining-sites-arrests-387-commander/#:~:text=The%20commander%20emphasised%20that%20the,significantly%20improved%20Nigeria's%20mining%20sector>. Accessed 25th May 2025.

⁹ <https://nairametrics.com/2025/05/28/nscdc-uncovers-460-illegal-mining-sites-arrests-387-suspects-in-14-months/>. Accessed 25th May 2025.

¹⁰ <https://www.tv360nigeria.com/327-illegal-mining-suspects-arrested-across-nigeria-since-2024-alake/>. Accessed 25th May 2025.

¹¹ https://www.vanguardngr.com/2025/03/3000-illegal-gold-miners-flushed-out-alake/#google_vignette. Accessed 25th May 2025.

¹² <https://www.thisdaylive.com/2025/03/23/mining-marshals-one-year-of-securing-nigerias-solid-minerals-sector/>. Accessed 25th May 2025.

¹³ <https://businessday.ng/news/article/mining-marshals-celebrate-one-year-327-arrests-98-sites-recovered/#:~:text=Speaking%20at%20the%20event%2C%20Minister,to%20take%20place%20this%20year>. Accessed 25th May 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025



The crackdown has enhanced investor confidence, boosted revenue, and improved transparency in the sector. To further strengthen monitoring, the Federal Executive Council approved a N2.5 billion satellite surveillance system in March 2025, integrating drones, robotic sensors, and SAR satellite data, a strategy inspired by successful use cases in Colombia, China, Peru, and Ghana.

The Minister reaffirmed the government's two-pronged approach: strict enforcement against illegal operators and structured formalisation for artisanal miners. He encouraged informal miners to organize into cooperatives and register with regulatory bodies, warning that failure to do so will be treated as economic sabotage. To promote sector accountability, the Ministry launched the Annual Prize for the Best Report on Solid Minerals Development, to be administered by DAME, aiming to foster investigative journalism.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

ACCELERATING TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMATION IN NIGERIA'S MINING SECTOR¹⁴

The global mining industry is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by the rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI), automation, and digital platforms that enhance operational efficiency, safety, and data-driven decision-making. Nigeria is progressively aligning with this global trend through a tech-driven transformation agenda spearheaded by the Federal Government in the solid minerals sector. Key milestones in this transformation include the deployment of strategic digital platforms such as the Nigeria Mineral Resources Decision Support System (NMRDSS), the Electronic Mining Cadastral System (EMC+), and the National Geo-Data Centre. Notably, the NMRDSS saw major development in Q2 2025, now offering integrated, terrain-specific data, geographic coordinates, mineral maps, and real-time geological assessments. These innovations allow global investors to remotely access high-resolution geological

information, effectively eliminating the need for physical data room visits. This advancement significantly lowers entry barriers, promotes transparency, and enhances the overall ease of doing business in Nigeria's mining industry.

Complementing these platforms, the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development has intensified its investment in geological research to expand the national mineral database and support data-centric exploration and development initiatives.

Despite these commendable strides, further investments in digital infrastructure, human capacity development, and AI-enabled solutions remain crucial to aligning Nigeria's mining practices with global standards. As global demand for critical minerals continues to rise, propelled by the energy transition and advancements in manufacturing, technology adoption will

¹⁴ <https://msmd.gov.ng/news/#:~:text=The%20Minister%20of%20Solid%20Minerals%20Development%2C%20Dr%20Dele%20Alake%2C%20has,Speaking%20at%20a%20%5B%E2%80%A6%5D> accessed 28th May 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

securing its competitive edge in the international mining landscape.

STRONG REVENUE PERFORMANCE BY THE MINING CADASTRE OFFICE (MCO)¹⁵

Between January and April 2025, the MCO recorded an impressive revenue generation of N10.9 billion, signalling the positive impact of ongoing reforms within Nigeria's solid minerals sector. This was disclosed by the Director-General of the MCO, Mr. Obadiah Nkom. The revenue growth has been attributed to the transformative measures introduced by the Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals Development, aimed at repositioning the sector for efficiency, investment, and transparency. In the first quarter alone, the MCO reportedly collected N7 billion in mining fees and successfully registered 118 new private mineral buying centres, a development that reflects growing investor interest and administrative efficiency.

According to the Minister, the revenue stemmed from a total of 955 applications for mineral title grants, broken down as follows: 651 exploration licences, 270 small-scale mining leases, 49 quarrying leases and 24 reconnaissance permits. The MCO's migration to the Electronic Mining Cadastre (eMC+) system in 2022 has significantly improved accessibility, automated core processes, and enhanced regulatory oversight. Furthermore, the MCO has deepened inter-agency collaboration as part of its compliance and due diligence framework. Partnerships with institutions such as the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and the Nigeria Police Force have strengthened its enforcement capabilities. In addition, a growing alliance with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) is helping to ensure that only duly registered and regulatory-compliant companies are eligible to operate in the mining space.

¹⁵ <https://nannews.ng/2025/05/12/mining-cadastre-generates-n10-9bn-revenue-in-4-months-dg/> accessed 5th June 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

As part of this partnership, MCO is working toward the exchange of compliance data with CAC, particularly on annual return filings, to ensure continued licence eligibility for operators. The Registrar-General of CAC, Mr. Hussaini Magaji, recently paid a courtesy visit to the MCO's headquarters, affirming the shared objective of reinforcing corporate compliance within Nigeria's extractive industries.

DOMESTIC MINERAL PROCESSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE¹⁶

Following the commissioning of the first lithium processing plant by the President in Nasarawa in 2024, Nigeria has since commissioned new lithium processing plants in Kebbi, Kwara and Nasarawa States in 2025. These facilities, operated by local and foreign consortia, reflect progress under the National Integrated Minerals Processing Strategy (NIMPS). The mining sector attracted over \$800 million in processing investments in 2024 alone, as reported in our 2024 End-of-Year Report, including a \$600 million lithium processing plant near the Kaduna-Niger border and a \$200 million refinery outside Abuja. Additional plants in Nasarawa, Kebbi, and Kwara States are also nearing commissioning. These projects are part of the NIMPS, designed to end the pit to port culture and promote in-country beneficiation.

Infrastructure development has complemented this industrial push. States like Kogi and Plateau are investing in road and rail systems to improve access to mineral-producing zones and processing hubs, easing mineral evacuation bottlenecks. Dr. Dele Alake, highlighted that over 10,000 new licence applications were received in Q1 2025, reflecting surging investor confidence from countries like the UK, US, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, particularly in Nigeria's lithium reserves. Alake stressed that no miner is now granted a licence without proof of a domestic processing plan.

¹⁶ <https://statehouse.gov.ng/news/president-tinubu-mining-reforms-yeild-six-fold-increase-in-revenue-800m-foreign-investment-reveals-alake/#:~:text=Reflecting%20on%20the%20rising%20investor,Tinubu's%20administration%2C%E2%80%9D%20he%20said>. Accessed 5th June 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ENDORSES \$400 MILLION RARE EARTH PROCESSING PLANT IN NASARAWA¹⁷

In a landmark development for Nigeria's mining sector, the Federal Government in June, announced its full support for a \$400 million foreign direct investment (FDI) led by Hasetins Commodities Limited to establish Africa's largest rare earth and critical minerals processing plant in Nasarawa State. The project is expected to generate over 10,000 jobs nationwide and significantly bolster Nigeria's industrialisation efforts through local value addition. The Minister commended Hasetins Commodities for aligning with the Tinubu administration's policy thrust on in-country mineral processing and beneficiation.

Hasetins Commodities specialises in the production of critical metals essential for defence systems and high-tech applications, including rare earth elements and platinum group metals (PGMs). The company plans to expand its installed capacity from 6,000 to 18,000 metric tonnes as it prepares to break ground on the new facility.



The company attributed the decision to invest at scale to recent reforms that have enhanced investor confidence, particularly the introduction of mining marshals to combat illegal operations and improvements in the licensing regime. He also noted that the project will incorporate early-stage beneficiation models that generate income for artisanal miners, alongside community training, protective equipment provision, and broader regional engagement.

¹⁷ - [\\$400m Rare Earth Minerals Project to be Established in Nigeria THISDAYLIVE](#) Accessed 30th June 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025



NIGERIA–CHINA COLLABORATION ON LOCAL MINERAL VALUE ADDITION AND EV MANUFACTURING¹⁸

In a significant diplomatic engagement, the Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Yu Dunhai, reaffirmed China's commitment to deeper cooperation with Nigeria in the solid minerals sector, particularly through the establishment of electric vehicle (EV) factories. During a courtesy visit to the Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Ambassador Dunhai emphasized China's strategic focus on supporting African industrialization and expressed readiness to advance full-cycle

mineral value addition in Nigeria. Both parties highlighted the importance of transitioning from raw mineral exports to local processing, especially in lithium beneficiation and EV battery production. Dr. Alake underscored Nigeria's commitment to creating an enabling environment for serious investors who align with the country's industrialization goals and sustainability principles.

¹⁸ <https://punchng.com/china-secures-fgs-approval-to-establish-electric-vehicle-factories/> accessed 5th June 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025



LANDMARK \$1.3 BILLION MINING INVESTMENT DEAL POSITIONS NIGERIA AS A CRITICAL MINERALS HUB¹⁹

In a major boost to Nigeria's solid minerals sector, the Federal Government has announced a \$1.3 billion investment deal, the largest private sector-led mining initiative in the country's history. Spearheaded by the African Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Solid Minerals Development Fund (SMDF), the project is expected to contribute over \$25 billion to Nigeria's GDP over its lifecycle and generate \$8 billion in foreign exchange inflows. Announced by the Minister of Solid Minerals Development at the BusinessDay Mining Conference in Abuja sometime in April, the project will anchor a critical minerals mainstream facility, targeting Nigeria's growing relevance in the global energy transition supply chain. Alake revealed that

the project has passed the initial feasibility phase and is set to take off with a formal structure already in place, including the appointment of a CEO and company secretary.

The facility will be operated under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) structure, with 50% private sector ownership and 25% government participation, ensuring a private-sector-led management culture and limiting government interference. The Minister described it as a legacy model for sustainable mining governance in Nigeria. It is forecasted to contribute \$1.2 billion annually to GDP, marking a significant turning point in efforts to diversify Nigeria's economy away from oil dependency.

¹⁹ <https://businessday.ng/news/article/nigeria-secures-major-mining-investment-targets-25bn-gdp-boost-8bn-fx-alake/> accessed 5th June 2025.

03 KEY ACTIVITIES FROM DECEMBER 2024 TO JUNE 2025

NIGERIA ALLOCATES ABOUT \$630 MILLION FOR MINING EXPLORATION IN 2025²⁰

In a significant policy shift aimed at repositioning Nigeria's mining sector, the Federal Government committed approximately \$630 million to support mining exploration activities in 2025. This announcement was made by Minister Dele Alake, in May. The move reflects a strategic effort to catalyse growth, attract investment, and align Nigeria's mining sector for global competitiveness. Minister Alake highlighted that when the current administration assumed office, the sector was significantly underperforming, generating just N6 billion in 2023. By the end of 2024, this figure had risen to N38 billion, which he attributed to ongoing policy reforms and renewed government attention. He noted that prior to 2023, Nigeria had invested a mere \$2 million in mining exploration, underscoring the historical neglect of upstream mineral data development.

The newly approved funds are intended to improve the quality of geological data and facilitate detailed mineral mapping, both of which are critical to de-risking the sector and attracting credible private investors. Alake emphasized that without reliable and accessible exploration data, global mining stakeholders often overlook Nigeria as a viable destination. This funding initiative is also in line with the African Union's Africa Mining Vision²¹, which stresses the importance of enhancing national exploration capacity as a foundation for sustainable mining development. However, as of the time of reporting, the government has not provided further clarity on how the fund will be mobilized, which exploration programs will be prioritized, or how the funds will be geographically or mineralogically distributed. Stakeholders await more detailed disclosures to assess the potential impact of this significant investment on Nigeria's mining landscape.

²⁰ [https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-industry/2705-47016-nigeria-allocates-about-630-million-for-mining-exploration-in-2025#:~:text=Nigeria%20Allocates%20About%20\\$630%20Million,mineral%20resources%20at%20\\$700%20billion](https://www.ecofinagency.com/news-industry/2705-47016-nigeria-allocates-about-630-million-for-mining-exploration-in-2025#:~:text=Nigeria%20Allocates%20About%20$630%20Million,mineral%20resources%20at%20$700%20billion). Accessed 5th June 2025

²¹ <https://au.int/en/ti/amv/about> accessed 5th June 2025.

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KOGI STATE SECURES 15 MINING LICENSES, ADVANCES MINING SECTOR MODERNISATION²²

The Kogi State Government has taken a significant step toward transforming its mining landscape by acquiring 15 mining licenses covering strategic mineral deposits across the State. This development was announced by the Governor of the State during the 2025 International Conference of the Nigerian Institution of Metallurgical, Mining and Materials Engineers (NIMMME) held in Lokoja, where he reaffirmed his administration's commitment to positioning Kogi as a leading mining hub in Nigeria and West Africa. With over 30 solid minerals identified in the State, including iron ore, limestone, coal, gold, marble, dolomite, tantalite, tin, and bauxite, Kogi

stands at the heart of Nigeria's mineral map. It is also home to major industrial assets such as the Ajaokuta Steel Complex, Itakpe Iron Ore Mines, Obajana Cement Plant, and Mangal Cement Factory.

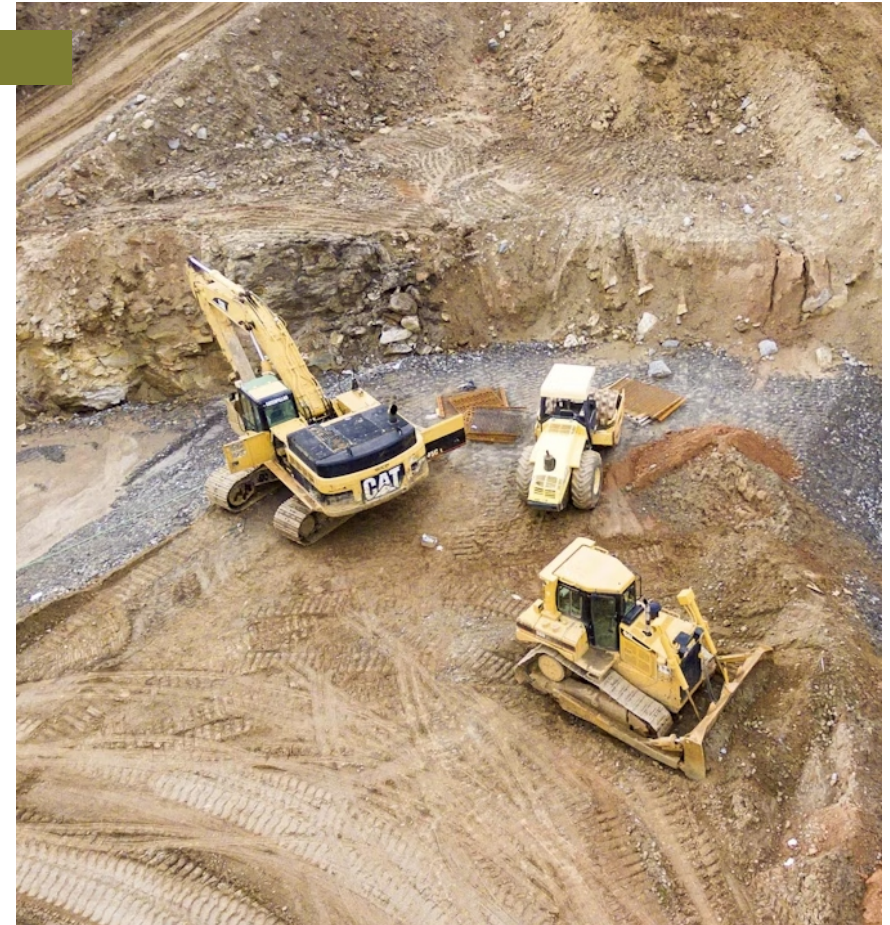
The Governor noted that the licenses are part of a broader strategy to modernise the State's mining value chain through the procurement of advanced machinery for the Kogi State Mineral Processing Company, facilitating downstream beneficiation and industrial linkages.

²² [Kogi Mining: 15 New Licenses Attract Investors](#) Accessed 30th June 2025.

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The State government is also advancing policy measures aimed at promoting legal and sustainable mining practices, including plans to collaborate with the Kogi State House of Assembly on legislation to prohibit illegal mining, prohibit illegal mining, strengthen artisanal and small-scale operations, and mitigate environmental degradation. In alignment with this agenda, 25,000 youths are targeted for training and active engagement in mining and mineral processing activities.

To support its industrial ambitions, Kogi has made substantial investments in technical and tertiary education, establishing 11 engineering programmes at the Confluence University of Science and Technology (CUSTECH), including mining engineering, materials, and metallurgical engineering.



04 POLICY STRATEGIC OUTLOOK

TINUBU CALLS FOR REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION: FROM PIT-TO-PORT TO VALUE-ADDED GROWTH IN WEST AFRICA

At the inaugural West Africa Economic Summit held in Abuja in June, President Bola Tinubu²³ issued a clarion call for regional industrial transformation, urging West African leaders to abandon the extractive “pit to port” model in favour of local processing and regional manufacturing. Emphasising that Africa cannot afford to miss the next industrial revolution, the President noted that Africa’s rare minerals power tomorrow’s green technologies, yet it is not enough to be resource-rich as Africa must become value-chain smart. He underscored the need for integrated policy frameworks, regional value chains,

and intra-African trade expansion, now below 10%, as critical levers for sustainable growth. Tinubu’s remarks reflect a growing regional consensus that resource-rich nations like Nigeria must institutionalise beneficiation and invest in downstream capacity to translate mineral wealth into jobs, innovation, and inclusive economic value. His message reinforces the strategic urgency of the ongoing review of Nigeria’s Minerals and Mining Act 2007, as well as the broader shift toward a value-added, industrialised mining ecosystem across West Africa.



²³ [Tinubu urges West African countries to end raw mineral exports without processing them](#) Accessed 30th June 2025.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LAUNCH “AFRICANS FOR AFRICA FUND” TO BOOST RESOURCE-BACKED INDUSTRIALISATION²⁴

The Federal Government of Nigeria is set to unveil a landmark financing initiative, the “Africans for Africa Fund”, to mobilise intra-African capital towards the development of the continent’s mining and natural resource sectors. The initiative was announced in Abuja by Minister Dele Alake during a press briefing ahead of the 2025 African Natural Resources and Energy Investment Summit (AFNIS). The Minister noted that the Fund is a bold response to Africa’s long-standing reliance on external financing and is designed to leverage domestic capital for industrialisation, beneficiation, and strategic investments along the solid minerals value chain. The Fund will be a key highlight of the fourth edition of AFNIS, which has grown into a premier continental platform for investment matchmaking, policy dialogue, and strategic partnerships in the extractives and energy sectors.

The 2025 summit, themed “Harnessing Local Content for Sustainable Development,” will underscore the importance of shifting from raw material exports to domestic value addition, local manufacturing, and job creation. The Minister emphasised that the summit aims to move beyond rhetoric on Africa’s resource potential, focusing instead on production, beneficiation, and measurable socio-economic impact. The Minister called on public and private sector actors, including ministries, agencies, corporations, development partners, and civil society, to adopt AFNIS 2025 as a platform for bold initiatives and collaborative action.

²⁴ <https://puncTinubu Calls for Regional Industrial Revolution: From Pit-to-Port to Value-Added Growth in West Africa>hng.com/fg-to-unveil-africans-for-africa-fund-for-mining-sector/ Accessed 2 July 2025.

05 PROJECTIONS FOR NIGERIA'S MINING SECTOR IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2025

As Nigeria intensifies its solid minerals sector reform agenda, the second half of 2025 is projected to witness a wave of strategic implementation and deepened international cooperation that will accelerate investment, institutional capacity, and economic diversification.



OPERATIONALISATION OF THE NIGERIA SOLID MINERALS CORPORATION (NSMC):

The Nigeria Solid Minerals Corporation is expected to become fully operational in Q3 2025, serving as a commercially driven national mining champion. With its unique ownership structure, 50% private sector, 25% government, and 25% public, the NSMC is projected to roll out its first round of joint venture partnerships and secure initial capital injections.



STRENGTHENED NIGERIA- AUSTRALIA PARTNERSHIP:

Following the fourth Nigeria-Australia Bilateral Consultation in the first half of 2025, both countries are expected to commence joint activities in the second half of the year, particularly in geological data development, solar integration for off-grid mining communities, and environmental stewardship. Australia's technical support and private capital are likely to be channelled into mineral exploration and renewables for the mining sector, with pilot projects in select Nigerian states.



EXPANSION OF SAUDI-NIGERIA MINING COLLABORATION:

Building on engagements at the 2025 Future Minerals Forum in Riyadh, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia are set to deepen cooperation in lithium processing, gold trading, and geological capacity development. Q3 and Q4 2025 may witness Saudi investments in certified mineral laboratories and beneficiation facilities in Nigeria, alongside high-level technical workshops between both countries' geological agencies.

05 PROJECTIONS FOR NIGERIA'S MINING SECTOR IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2025



NIGERIA-SOUTH AFRICA MINING AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION:

The bilateral agreement signed in April 2025 is expected to transition into an execution phase in the second half of the year, with the establishment of working groups to facilitate technology transfer, joint geological surveys using UAVs and spectral imaging, and skills development initiatives. Mineral value addition, particularly in agro and energy minerals, will be a core focus of the partnership, driving intra-African trade and supporting AfCFTA objectives.



INVESTOR MOBILISATION AND INTERNATIONAL ROADSHOWS:

Nigeria's Ministry of Solid Minerals Development is anticipated to hold investor roadshows in key mining capitals, such as Perth, Riyadh, Johannesburg, and Toronto, aimed at showcasing geological data, investment-ready projects, and regulatory reforms. These road shows are projected to stimulate project-level financing, technical partnerships, and long-term strategic alliances.



ADVANCEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE MINING INFRASTRUCTURE:

With rising international interest and renewed fiscal allocations, states like Nasarawa, Kebbi, and Kogi are expected to ramp up infrastructure projects (e.g., roads and logistics corridors) that support mineral evacuation and industrial processing zones. Renewable energy integration, particularly solar-powered mining infrastructure, is expected to become more prominent, supported by Australian and Saudi expertise.

05 PROJECTIONS FOR NIGERIA'S MINING SECTOR IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2025



STRENGTHENED LEGAL FRAMEWORKS:

The long-awaited passage of the amended Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act (NMMA) and the Nigerian Metallurgical Industry Bill is critical to modernizing the sector's regulatory environment. Fast-tracking this legislative process will promote local value addition, improve governance, and significantly boost investor confidence in Nigeria's mining and metallurgical sectors.



DECENTRALIZED OVERSIGHT:

State-level Mineral Resources and Environmental Management Committees (MIREMCOs) are expected to be rolled out in at least 10 additional states, improving regulatory enforcement, stakeholder inclusion, and community engagement at the subnational level.



CAPACITY BUILDING:

The launch of Nigeria's first Mining Skills Academy in Nasarawa State will address some of the sector's technical skills gap by providing specialized training in mining operations, safety, and mineral processing, while fostering youth employment and local expertise.



06 CONCLUSION

The Nigerian mining sector stands at a pivotal juncture, buoyed by proposed reforms, strategic investments, and renewed global interest, yet still encumbered by legacy challenges that require urgent and coordinated action. While some level of progress has been recorded in institutional development, infrastructure, and international collaboration, critical bottlenecks such as illegal mining, regulatory fragmentation, and delays in the passage of key legislative instruments threaten to slow the sector's momentum. Recent developments in Ghana offer a sobering lens. There, surging gold prices have intensified violent confrontations between artisanal and industrial miners, prompting the deployment of drones, AI-enabled surveillance, and demands for military protection. These tensions underscore the importance of proactive governance and cohesive regulation, particularly as Nigeria contemplates the review of the Minerals and Mining Act 2007.

Without timely action, the growing allure of Nigeria's mineral wealth could attract the same risks of conflict, environmental degradation, and economic leakage observed across West Africa. Nonetheless, the trajectory is promising. The foundations for a more transparent, investor-friendly, and industrially integrated mining ecosystem have been laid. The second half of 2025 will be decisive in testing the resilience of current reforms and the political will to actualize Nigeria's vast mineral potential. Turning mining into a cornerstone of Nigeria's economic diversification agenda will require consistent policy execution, deeper inter-governmental alignment, and robust stakeholder engagement. With these in place, Nigeria is well-positioned to evolve from a minerals-rich nation into a globally competitive mining jurisdiction.

We will continue to track these developments and present a comprehensive review in our 2025 End-of-Year Report.

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