



## \$12b e-commerce suffers as Twitter ban costs N7.5 billion in three days

By Geoff Iyatse and Adeyemi Adepetun

THE suspension of Twitter, a leading micro-blogging platform, has begun to take its toll on struggling Nigeria's economy, leading to a loss of N7.5 billion in the past three days.

Nigeria's decision to suspend Twitter, at first indefinitely but later temporarily, could backfire for the government and cost the country economically in terms of new investment into its technology sector. The ban may threaten Nigeria's status as one of the best-performing African countries in attracting investment for technology start-up businesses.

According to NetBlocks, a watchdog organisation that monitors cyber-security and governance of the Internet, each hour of the social me-

- **FG in talks with China, considers Internet firewall to block VPN access**
- **A4AI Nigeria says situation creates \$1.2b loss for MSMEs**
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dia gagging costs Nigeria about \$250,000 (N102.5 million), bringing the daily loss to N2.5 billion. It means the

economy would have lost approximately N7.5 billion in the past three days. The suspension has already created a market access gap

for millions of small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) that use the platform to reach their customers. This could

potentially complicate the challenges COVID-19 and other structural defects had imposed on businesses. Also hit is the e-commerce mar-

ket in the country, estimated at \$12 billion.

But within hours of the ban, internet searches for 'VPNs' - virtual private networks, which allow users to disguise their online identity and evade country-specific limits, surged across the country. Multiple videos appeared on YouTube explaining the ins and outs of VPNs to Twitter-hungry Nigerians.

Nigerians also have plenty of other digital options to share opinions and information, from the popular WhatsApp to the Indian micro-blogging service, Koo, which has quickly announced plans to expand into the country.

Already, many Nigerians are bypassing the Telcos' twitter blockade through the use of VPNs, necessitating moves by the Federal

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Sympathisers and members of the Synagogue Church of All Nations gather at the entrance of the church to mourn death of Pastor TB. Joshua in Lagos...yesterday. Inset: Top left, TB Joshua. PHOTO: AYODELE ADENIRAN

### 'TB Joshua asked Nigerians to pray for 2023'

From Daniel Anazia, Chris Irekamba, Jesutomi Akomolafe (Lagos), Terhemba Daka (Abuja), Timothy Agbor (Osogbo), Michael Egbejule (Benin City), Joseph Wantu (Makurdi) and Oluwaseun Akingboye (Akure)

A CARNIVAL was expected this weekend on Nigeria's Democracy Day, June 12, to celebrate the 58<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prophet Temitope Balogun Joshua against his wish, but in a twist of fate, the

- **Shocked worshipper relives last moment before collapse**
- **Buhari, governors, church leaders mourn**
- **Losing a loved one is never easy, wife mourns**

'Man' in the Synagogue breathed his last on Saturday night, seven days to his birthday.

It was a throng of shocked worshippers and well-wishers who gathered yesterday, at

the Ikotun location of the sprawling Synagogue Church Of All Nations (SCOAN), where they stood non-plussed, gazing into space. Some, finding it hard to absorb the news

knelt at the entrance to the church in silent prayers as many others betrayed emotions and wept uncontrollably.

The news of the popular tel-evangelist's death had fil-

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# SIFA LAUNCHES MULTI-MILLION EURO PROGRAMME FOR TVET PROJECTS IN NIGERIA TO STRENGTHEN OCCUPATIONAL PROSPECTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE

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## National TVET plans and strategies to bring about remedial actions To change the public perception towards TVET and fully unlock its potential in the country

Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) constitute important system of education and training leading to the acquisition of practical knowledge, understanding and skills, which are relevant for gainful economic engagement, in both the formal and informal sectors.

A qualitative and relevant TVET system is critical for national economic growth and holds a strategic position in effective implementation of our national plans/agenda.

In the light of this, the Federal Government of Nigeria appreciates financial and technical assistance from Development Partners and the Private Sector to uplift TVET systems in the country. We value the significant commitment from the African Union (AU) and the German Government for establishing the SIFA Financing Facility that is implemented by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), with Nigeria as one of the benefitting countries.

To change the public perception towards TVET and fully unlock its potential in the country, the Federal Ministry of Labour & Employment, in cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, has over the years embarked on resolving problems hindering the implementation of national TVET plans and strategies to bring about remedial actions. These efforts include a range of projects, programmes and activities top on the list of which is the construction and equipping of Specialized Skills Acquisition Centres in various states of the Federation to improve quality and access to TVET. Several skills acquisition training programmes have also been conducted for categories of unemployed persons and artisans to either boost employability or update skills for better prospects in self employment.

In addition to the efforts made by the Federal Government in the past six years to address unemployment and improve

the quality of skills training, the inauguration of the National Council on Skills in February 2020 is an indication of the commitment of this administration to address problems associated with the skills gap and youth unemployment in the country. We have prioritized the skilling and employment of Nigerian youths and consider vocational and digital skills training to be critical to providing employment opportunities to them and also as an important strategy for diversifying our economy. The Council will formulate skills development policy and also lay out plans and strategies for skills development in Nigeria; it will also direct the conduct of regular skills surveys to identify the skills gaps in the country so that training will be demand-driven. In addition, it will fast-track the institutionalization of the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), and enforce legislation on the use of certified professionals in the country as well. The Council also seeks to bring coherence to skills development architecture in Nigeria.

Skills Initiative For Africa's (SIFA's) Funding Window I is a welcome development as it complements this administration's ongoing efforts to tackle youth unemployment. The Ministry of Labour & Employment's Jobs for Youths and Women Post Covid-19 project, implemented through our Sub-Committee on Creation of Jobs for Youth and Women, brings together some of the key elements already existing in the Nigeria Economic Sustainability Plan (NESP) 2020, which include Public Works in Road Maintenance, various Digital Training Programmes, and Agriculture. It also contains additional elements such as the creation of a Special Public Works (SPW) Programme and Special Empowerment Schemes designed to boost the capacity of women in artisanal employment and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), undertaken by Federal Ministry of Industries, Trade and Investment (FMITI).

Our focus is to create jobs for youths in relevant priority sectors, built on the guiding principles of developing an enabling environment for the proactive engagement of the country's youth in priority sectors of the economy and promoting the creation of a productive and inclusive society.

The Jobs For Youth Project will support the creation of jobs through training in digital skills in partnership with private sector entities like Google, Microsoft, IBM and Cisco. It will also feature direct labour in SPW Programme in a National Public Infrastructure Maintenance Project to create 774,000, as an Ad-hoc Jobs, in all 774 local governments of the country, where cutting of grass on highways, cleaning of drains, etc are done, with the provision of start-up capital and entrepreneurship skills for women and young people as Skills Development interventions of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), Industrial Training Fund (ITF), and other Agencies.

Finally, may I, once again, take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the German Government, through the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), the industry sectors, civic and professional communities as well as the public at large for continually partnering with the Federal Ministry of Labour & Employment in activities, specially those geared towards supporting the present administration's efforts to provide employment opportunities for young Nigerians.

**Opening statement by Sen. Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige, MD, OON, KSJ, Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Labour & Employment on the occasion of the Online Launch of the Call for Proposals under Funding Window I of SIFA - Skills Initiative for Africa, Abuja, Nigeria, 27 May 2021.**

## SIFA - Skills Initiative for Africa launches FUNDING WINDOW I

### The African Union has developed a continental TVET strategy to foster youth employment

In 2018, the African Heads of State and Government decided to transform the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) into the African Union Development Agency-NEPAD, with a clear mission to support the 55 African Union Member States in implementing the Continent's development blueprint known as "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want". This new mandate gives AUDA-NEPAD a wider role in coordinating and implementing priority development programs, providing knowledge-based advisory services, technical assistance and capacity building, and acting as the continent's technical interface on policy recommendation and implementation with partners and stakeholders.

In pursuit of its vision, Africa can rely on the tremendous potential provided by its youthful population. Annually, about 10 - 11 million youths enter the job market, yet only about 3 million formal jobs are created every year in Africa. Africa must create at least 475 million new jobs in the coming decade to absorb the 73 million young people currently unemployed and the 40 million new workers entering the job market each year.

The African Union developed a continental Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) strategy to help bridge the gap. TVET is recognised as the most practical avenue for acquiring readily employable skills for the job market. Rising unemployment among young people is a severe challenge for all countries, whether developed or developing.

SIFA is implemented by AUDA-NEPAD, with funding from the German Government and the European Union provided through the KfW Development Bank. The SIFA Financing Facility is designed to respond coherently to everyday challenges of skills development in Africa by developing and disseminating local best practices and supporting innovative and sustainable approaches, thereby promoting employment and the spirit of entrepreneurship among young people, women and other vulnerable populations. The countries benefiting from the SIFA financing mechanism are Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Togo and Tunisia.

In the context of the Coronavirus pandemic affecting our continent like the rest of the world, we are hopeful that this initiative will help alleviate the economic burden faced by our youth. The health crisis has revealed the weaknesses and



urgent steps needed to ensure a more significant contribution by technical and vocational training to help manage the crisis. These steps include, among others, the digitalization of classrooms, the development of emergency plans to ensure uninterrupted training, review and updating of training curricula adapted to the context of the African countries, and support for the empowerment of young learners who can provide innovative, sustainable solutions in the health field.

The stakes are exceptionally high for your country as Nigeria works to realize "Nigeria Vision 20:2020" (NV2020) by becoming one of the 20 largest economies in the world through transforming its youth into highly skilled and competent citizens. We laud the country's National Policy on Education and the 2018-2022 Ministerial Strategic Plan, the primary policy instruments for implementing most TVET programmes in Nigeria. We also note with appreciation that many programmes and projects were built within the framework of the Transformation Agenda, targeting job-intensive and private sector-led growth in the economy.

Today, under the leadership of his Excellency President Buhari, Nigeria remains committed to expanding access to

quality education to enhance the productivity of its citizens. SIFA will align with the Better Education Service Delivery for All (BESDA), established in some Federal science and technical colleges, and currently executing a pro-active Teacher Training Plan with all Federation States. We also welcome additional guidance from the Federal Republic of Nigeria through the established SIFA Ministerial Advisory Committee.

On behalf of AUDA-NEPAD, I wish to reaffirm our commitment to provide the necessary support to Nigerian authorities and potential applicants to the SIFA Large Skills Development Investment Projects Financing Window (FW1).

As part of the launch, the SIFA team of experts will deliver an information session later on today, giving potential applicants a detailed and precise understanding of the application process, the eligibility criteria, and the modalities for submitting the concept notes.

As already noted, this window supports large-scale investments for skills development projects. Projects must be proposed by Nigerian training structures in partnership with public or private enterprises. As in the other seven SIFA countries, an independent Investment Committee will select the two projects that will receive a grant of up to 3 million euros. The grant is intended to finance the construction, rehabilitation, or extension of training centres or the purchase of modern training equipment. In addition, the funding may cover the design of training programs, training of trainers (ToT) and scholarship programs for learners under certain conditions to be specified during the technical session.

**Speech by the Chief Executive Officer of AUDA-NEPAD Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki on the occasion of the Online Launch of the Call for Proposals under Funding Window I of SIFA - Skills Initiative for Africa, Abuja, Nigeria, 27 May 2021.**

More information, articles  
and videos of the launch on  
<https://SkillsAfrica.org>

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## CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

In Nigeria, AUDA-NEPAD in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched a call for proposals under SIFA Funding Window I for large skills development investment projects proposed by Nigerian technical and vocational training and skills development entities in partnership with private sector companies. SIFA - Skills Initiative for Africa is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC) supported by the German Government to strengthen occupational prospects of young people in Africa. SIFA is implemented by the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD).

### FUNDING WINDOW I

#### THEMATIC AREA



Large skills development investment projects

#### GRANT AMOUNT



Up to EUR 3 million per project

#### ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS



National training entities in partnership with private sector entities

#### APPLICANT CONTRIBUTION



At least 10 % of total project cost/investment

#### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD



Up to 30 months

#### PLEASE APPLY ON SKILLSAFRICA.ORG



This programme is co-funded by the European Union and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development



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The new Chairman, Nigerian Institute of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, Lagos branch, Mrs. Olabisi Demola-Alade (left); Second Vice President of the institution, Kunle Alonge, and immediate past chairman of the branch Adedotun Bamigbola after the election of new officers in Lagos.

## Lagos estate surveyors get new executives

By Victor Gbonegun

THE Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors and Valuers, (NIESV) Lagos State branch has elected new executives to run its affairs for the 2021/2023-service year.

The new chairman, Mrs. Olabisi Demola-Alade, was vice chairman of the branch before being elected 27th chairman and the first female to hold such

position.

She is a deputy director, Lagos State Lands Bureau.

The election, which was conducted electronically, also produced Ismail Olugbenga as the vice chairman, Akindiose Mosunmola as the honorary secretary while Omoyosi Godspower emerged as the honorary treasurer.

Okpeva Scholastica emerged financial secretary of the branch, while

the new publicity secretary is Ayodele Olamoju.

Others are Babarinde Sholakunmi, assistant secretary. The members include, Olayinka Wasiu, Kadiri Tosin, Adejumo Akure and Odeleye Paul Ayodeji.

In her acceptance speech, Demola-Alade pledged to work assiduously towards improving the relationship between the branch and the public sector.

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### INVITATION FOR TENDERS AND EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS AND ZONAL CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS

Federal Government of Nigeria has provided funds in the 2021 Appropriation Act to the Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences for the execution of research Development, programmes and projects aimed at achieving its mandate.

To this end, experienced and reputable Suppliers, Contractors and Consultant/Service Providers are hereby invited to tender/submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for the under-listed Goods, Works and Services:

#### 2.0 SCOPE OF SUPPLY/WORK/SERVICES

2.1 CATEGORY A: GOODS (INVITATION TO TENDER) Interested Suppliers and Contractors are invited to submit their Technical and Financial bids for the following projects:

LOT NO	PROJECT
G01	Supply and Installation of Inverter for Teaching and Research Purpose Tudun Wada Campus
G02	Purchase of Health/Medical Equipment
G03	Supply of Office Equipment
G04	Provision of ICT Equipment and Facilities
G05	Supply of Sewing Machines and Grading Machines for Youth and Women Empowerment in Bukuru/Maradun Federal Constituency, Zamfara State.
G06	Research and Development in Mineral Exploration, Mining Engineering and Mineral Processing/Metallurgy

2.2 CATEGORY B: WORKS (INVITATION TO TENDER) Interested Suppliers and Contractors are invited to submit their Technical and Financial bids for the following projects:

LOT NO	PROJECT TITLE
W01	Relocation of Power Supply from Ikarami/Taiwo Grid to Tudun Wada Campus
W02	Construction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Drainage and Erosion Control in The Permanent Site

2.3 CATEGORY C: CONSULTANCY SERVICES Interested Contractors are invited to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for the following project:

LOT NO	PROJECT TITLE
C 201	Training and Empowerment for Youth and Women on Mining Practice for Artisan Miners in Anka/Talata Mafara, Federal Constituency Zamfara State.
C202	Entrepreneurship Training and Empowerment for Women in Yengusa/Kokokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency, Bayelsa State.
C203	Grants for Market Women and Youth in Skill Acquisition and Self-Empowerment in Shendam LGA, Plateau State.
C204	IT & Learning and Provision of website and Internet Infrastructure

#### 3.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Interested and competent Contractors, Suppliers and Consultants/Service Providers wishing to carry out the projects listed under the above three (3) Categories are required to submit the following documents. Failure to fulfill any of the under-listed requirements will render a bid disqualified:

- Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including Form CAC1.1 or CAC2.8.7. Business Name is also acceptable;
- Evidence of Company Income's Tax Clearance Certificate (or Personal Income Tax Clearance Certificates of all Partners in case of Business Name) for the last three (3) years valid till 31st December, 2021; with minimum average annual turnover of N25 million;
- Evidence of current Pension Clearance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2021;
- Evidence of current Industrial Training Fund (ITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2021;
- Evidence of current Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF) Compliance Certificate valid till 31st December, 2021;
- Evidence of Registration on the National Database of Federal Contractors, Consultants and Service Providers by submission of Interim Registration Report (IRR) expiring on 31/12/2021 or valid Certificate issued by BPP;
- Sworn Affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the relevant committees of the Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences, Jos or the Bureau of Public Procurement is a former or present Director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and to confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particulars;
- Company's Audited Accounts for the last three (3) years – 2018, 2019, 2020;
- Reference Letter from a reputable commercial bank in Nigeria, indicating willingness to provide credit facility for the execution of the project when needed;
- Company's Profile with the Curriculum Vitae of Key Staff to be deployed for the project, including copies of their Academic/Professional qualifications such as COREN, QSRBN, ARCON, CORRON etc.;
- Verifiable documentary evidence of at least three (3) similar jobs executed in the last five (5) years including Letters of Awards, Valuation Certificates, Job Completion Certificates and Photographs of the projects/supply/services;
- Works: List of Plants/Equipment with proof of Ownership/Lease;
- For Consultancy Services: Evidence of Firm's current registration with relevant regulatory professional bodies;
- For Training Programmes: Evidence of Firm's Registration with the Centre for Management Development (CMD)
- Lot (C04): Evidence of current registration/accreditation with Computer Professionals Registration Council of Nigeria and National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA);
- For Supply of Equipment: Evidence of Authorization as Representative/Dealers of the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEMs);
- For Joint Venture/Partnership, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) should be provided (CAC, Tax Clearance Certificate, Pension Compliance Certificate, ITF Compliance Certificate, NSITF Compliance Certificate, IRR & Sworn Affidavit are compulsory for each Joint Venture partner); and
- All documents for submission must be transmitted with a Covering/Forwarding letter under the

Company/Firm's Letter Headed Paper bearing amongst others, the Registration Number (RC) as issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Contact Address, Telephone Number (preferably GSM No.), and e-mail address. The Letter Headed Paper must bear the Names and Nationalities of the Directors of the Company at the bottom of the page, duly signed by the authorized officer of the Company.

"Note that documents/information must be arranged and submitted in the sequence/order as listed above".

#### 3.0 COLLECTION OF BID DOCUMENTS

##### CATEGORY A and B (GOODS/WORKS)

Interested companies are to collect the Standard Bid Documents from the office Head Procurement, Procurement of the Institute on evidence of non-refundable Tender fee of N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand naira only) per Lot paid into the Remita E-Collection Account/ TSA of Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences - 023300900100 in any reputable commercial bank in Nigeria.

#### 4.0 SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

##### 5.1 CATEGORY A and B – GOODS/WORKS

Prospective bidders are to submit bid for each of the Lot desired, two (2) hard copies each of the technical and financial bids with softcopy of financial bid only in MS Excel format, packaged separately in sealed envelopes and clearly marked as "Technical Bid" or "Financial Bid". Thereafter, put the two sealed envelopes together in a bigger sealed envelope addressed to: The Director General/CE, Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences, No 1 Metropolitan Avenue Tudun-Wada, Jos, Plateau State. Furthermore, the reverse of each sealed envelope should bear the name and address of the Bidder and drop in the designated tender box at the Procurement unit, NIMG not later than 12:00 noon on Monday, 19th July, 2021.

##### 5.2 CATEGORY C – Expression of Interest (EOI)

Interested Firms are to submit two (2) bound copies of EOI documents, separated by dividers. The documents should be packaged in a sealed envelope and addressed as stated above, which should be submitted not later than 12:00 noon on Monday 21st June, 2021.

#### 5.0 OPENING OF BIDS/EOI DOCUMENTS

##### 6.1 CATEGORY A and B (GOODS/WORKS)

Only the Technical Bids will be opened immediately after the deadlines for submission at 12:00 noon on Monday, 19th July, 2021 in the Institute Auditorium, while the Financial bids will be kept un-opened.

##### 6.2 CATEGORY C - Expression of Interest (EOI)

Expression of Interest (EOI) will be opened immediately after the deadlines for submission at 12:00 noon on Monday 21st June, 2021 at the Institute Auditorium.

6.3 Please ensure to sign the Bid/EOI's submission register at the Procurement unit of the Institute, as the Institute will not be liable for misplaced or wrongly submitted Bids/EOIs.

#### 6.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

- Bids and Expressions of Interest must be in English language and signed by an official authorised by the bidder;
- Bidders are to note that Turnover for each separate project is specified in the relevant bid document;
- Bid and Expression of Interest submitted after the deadline for submission will be returned unopened;
- Bidders should not bid for more than two (2) Lots;
- Presence of Bidders/Representatives and members of the public shall not be required during the bid opening ceremony in compliance with COVID-19 Guidelines. The bids opening will be covered by video recording (link will be sent to bidders) with the presence of two (2) representatives of private sector, professional bodies and civil society organization in the areas of Anti-Corruption/Transparency;
- Bids documents can also be collected in soft copies and Bidders can submit through Post (Courier Services)
- Category A & B: Only pre-qualified bidders will be invited at a later date for financial bids opening while the financial bids of unsuccessful bidders will be returned un-opened;
- Category C: Only shortlisted firms will be invited at a later date for collection of Request for Proposal (RFP);
- All costs will be borne by the bidders as the Institute will not be held responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by any interested party (ies) in connection with any response to this invitation;
- Non-compliance with the Conditions stated therein will lead to authorised disqualification of the bidder from the bidding process;
- The Institute is not bound to pre-qualify/shortlist any bidder and reserves the right to annul the procurement process at any time without incurring any liabilities in accordance with Section 28 of the Public Procurement Act, 2007;
- Further enquiries, please contact Procurement Unit between 9:00 am and 3:30 pm (Mondays – Fridays) or send on the Institute website: www.nimg.edu.ng, email:nimg.jos.plateau@gmail.com and on the below address;

Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences,  
No 1 Metropolitan Avenue Tudun-Wada,  
Jos, Plateau State

Signed  
Director General/Chief Executive  
Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences