



# THE BIG STORY

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## Nigerians in Diaspora can now enrol into the National Identity Database (NIDB)

**A**ccording to vocabulary.com, Diaspora is an ancient Greek word which means "scatter about." It is therefore a term used to describe the spread of people from their original homeland to different places across the globe, spreading their culture and traditions as they go.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), kept to her promise to extend the National Identity Management Scheme (NIMS) to Nigerians in Diaspora. This will ensure that all Nigerians in the Diaspora are enrolled into the National Identity Database and issued the National Identification Number (NIN) at a cost.

With the commencement of diaspora enrolment, Nigerians who have left their homelands to reside in other parts of the world will not be disenfranchised from the identity management programme, as they will be issued the unique identity number which they can use to affirm their identity anytime, anywhere in the world.

This unique identity, will help the Federal Government identify all Nigerians in Diaspora and to know what they are doing in the various countries where they reside, amongst other benefits.

The feat, is no doubt a laudable



Director General/CEO NIMC, Engr. Aliyu Aziz

achievement for NIMC, as it is the first of its kind in recorded history, where a country creates an opportunity for its citizens in diaspora to be issued an identification number from anywhere in the world.

For the NIMC DG/CEO, Engr. Aliyu Aziz, however, it is part of the Commission's mandate as enshrined in the NIMC Act, to ensure that all Nigerians and Legal Residents are enrolled into the National Identity Database and issued the unique National Identification Number for the purpose of transactions and services.

He said: The Commission launched the enrolment of Nigerians in Dias-

pora from South Africa on the 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, and has concluded plans to extend the programme to Dubai, the United Kingdom and the United States of America on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> March, Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2019 respectively.

"Taking the program to the people will make it easier for Nigerians in Diaspora to obtain the NIN, as it is a mandatory requirement for acquisition/renewal of the International Passport and the ECOWAS travel document.

He emphasised that it is mandatory for them to have the NIN in order to obtain services such as Bank account opening, Land Transactions, access to Legal/health services, Driver's License acquisition/ renewal, amongst others, whenever they return to Nigeria."

According to him, six (6) Nigerian companies have been licensed to work with their respective partners across all countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and America to carry out the enrolment of Nigerian adults and children in the Diaspora into the National Identity Database (NIDB).

The licensed Nigerian companies are Biosec Solutions Limited, CHAMS Consortium Limited, Defcon Systems Limited, National eAuthentication Limited, Thebez Global Resources and Venn Technology Limited.

**FORGOT YOUR  
NIN?**  
National Identification Number



**DIAL \*346#**  
Available on All Mobile Networks