

## LEADERSHIP VISION FROM AEZO STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



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The Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) remains the gateway to the continent's various special economic outlets, providing the necessary strategic information through its network of free trade zone experts to accelerate the growth of the scheme in Africa.

For us in Nigeria, the Nigeria Export Process Zones Authority (NEPZA) has continually leveraged on new AEZO's findings and strategies over the years to expand the frontiers of the country's zone operations.

The development of Special Economic Zones (SEZ's) in Nigeria under the direct supervision of President Muhammadu Buhari is a presidential priority intervention aimed at attracting substantial foreign and domestic investments to develop global

standard facilities dedicated to export-oriented manufacturing in a range of industries across Nigeria. SEZ's are therefore seen as a tool for accelerating Nigeria's industrialization programme through the creation of jobs and promotion of exports.

The SEZ scheme in Nigeria is continually being revamped and repositioned in order to put the required infrastructure in place to ensure these zones become business tools that speed up Nigeria's industrialization.

Buy-in is key to success and as a result, NEPZA continues to invest in the education and sensitization of the Nigerian public to see the special economic zone concept as a key driver of the economy. There is also constant engagement with sister agencies that support the free zone scheme such as the Nigeria

Customs Service (NSC), the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and State Governments for improved understanding of the dynamics of the scheme as a free business ecosystem with global rules that exempt operators from taxes, levies and duties.

I thank you for this AEZO initiative and look forward to a continuance of the AEZO/NEPZA partnership in developing the SEZ landscape in Africa.