

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
FEDERATION, MR. BOSS MUSTAPHA, AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFREXIM BANK HELD AT TRANSCORP
HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA, NIGERIA, ON FRIDAY, 13TH JULY, 2018**

PROTOCOLS

It is a privilege for me to be here today to give a Goodwill message at the 25th Anniversary of the African Export-Import (AFREXIM) Bank. On behalf of Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the entire Government and people of Nigeria, I welcome Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, Management and Staff of AFREXIM Bank to Nigeria and particularly our capital city, Abuja. Your presence here today is a testimony to your unwavering commitment to our regional transformation ambition.

2. Nigeria appreciates the privilege to host the 25th Annual General Meeting and Anniversary celebration which is a defining milestone in our shared vision of realizing economic transformation in Africa, through collaboration and competitive exchanges. Today, we stand tall to acknowledge the great work done by the entire past and current Chairs and Managements of AFREXIM Bank's Board.

3. Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, over the years, despite several daunting hurdles, positive energy geared towards the structural transformation of Africa's economies has been witnessed in the AFREXIM Bank's initiatives, interventions and innovative products. The sustained momentum and deliberate steps to push this transformation faster inspire hope and give assurance that someday, Africa will reclaim her pride of place as the fulcrum of trade.

4. Twenty five years down the line, AFREXIM Bank has become the region's prosperity driver in the areas of credit exposure, industrialization, aviation development, medical intervention and innovative solutions to bridge the trade finance gap. The list is not exhaustive.

5. Ladies and gentlemen, Africa has experienced serious turbulence within the last decade despite the significant role played by the Bank. This calls for deep reflections on our policy choices, investment, finance and industrialization decisions as nations. For us in Nigeria, the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari has been making steady efforts to diversify the economy through agriculture, solid minerals development, human capacity development, infrastructure development, intellectual property rights protection and tourism. This administration has injected about US\$9 billion to strengthen its investment in power, roads and railway in the past two years alone. In order to boost investor confidence, government has issued a number of Executive Orders that will significantly improve the business and investment environment in Nigeria.

6. Before I close this goodwill message, let me state that Nigeria remains committed to the future of the AFREXIM Bank, its mandate and economic growth of Africa.

7. On this note, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I thank you once again for honoring Nigeria with your participation in this monumental event. I do hope that you will make out time to explore the beauty of our capital city, Abuja. I wish you a very memorable stay in Abuja.

8. Happy Silver Jubilee!

Long Live AFREXIM!

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

9. Thank you all for your attention.