



NIGERIAN INVESTMENT PROMOTION COMMISSION (NIPC)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Your Guide to Investing in Nigeria

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www.nipc.gov.ng | infodesk@nipc.gov.ng

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1 — General Information About NIPC

3

Section 2 — Investment Registration

3-4

Section 3 — Investment Incentives and Benefits

4-5

Section 4 — Business Permits and Licenses

6

Section 5 — Sectors and Investment Opportunities

6-7

Section 6 — Support for Investors

7

Welcome to the NIPC FAQ Guide

This document provides answers to the most frequently asked questions about investing in Nigeria through the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC). Whether you are a foreign investor, domestic entrepreneur, or member of the public seeking information about investment in Nigeria, this guide is designed to provide clear, accurate, and helpful information.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT NIPC

Q: What is the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC)?

A: The Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) is a federal government agency established to encourage, promote, and coordinate investments in Nigeria. It was created by the NIPC Act of 1995 (as amended). NIPC serves as a one-stop agency for both foreign and domestic investors.

Q: What is NIPC's mandate?

A: NIPC's mandate includes promoting Nigeria as a premier investment destination, facilitating investments, providing information and advisory services to investors, coordinating investment-related activities across government agencies, and advocating for policy reforms to improve the investment climate in Nigeria.

Q: Where is NIPC located?

A: NIPC's headquarters is located in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. NIPC also has Zonal Offices in Enugu, Ibadan, Jos, Kano, Maiduguri, and Port Harcourt to support investors at the subnational level.

Q: How can I contact NIPC?

A: You can contact NIPC via: Website: www.nipc.gov.ng | Email: infodesk@nipc.gov.ng | Phone: +234 707 490 8911 | Address: Plot 1181 Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja, Nigeria.

SECTION 2: INVESTMENT REGISTRATION

Q: Who is required to register an investment with NIPC?

A: All foreign enterprises or enterprises with foreign participation investing in Nigeria are required to register with NIPC. This includes joint ventures, wholly foreign-owned enterprises, and any business with foreign equity participation.

Q: How do I register my investment with NIPC?

A: Investment registration is done through the One-Stop Investment Centre (OSIC). You are required to submit the NIPC registration form along with supporting documents such as your Certificate of Incorporation from the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Memorandum and Articles of Association, Certificate of Capital Importation (CCI), and other relevant documents. Applications can also be submitted online via the NIPC portal.

Q: What documents are required for investment registration?

A: Required documents include:

- Duly completed NIPC registration form
- Certificate of Incorporation from the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- Memorandum and Articles of Association
- Form CAC 7B (Particulars of Directors)
- Evidence of share capital remittance/inflow
- Audited accounts (for existing companies)
- Expatriate Quota approval (if applicable)

- Any sector-specific licenses or approvals

Q: How long does the registration process take?

A: NIPC aims to process investment registrations within 48 hours upon receipt of complete and accurate documentation. Delays may occur where additional information or clarification is required. NIPC's OSIC is designed to expedite this process.

Q: Is there a fee for investment registration?

A: Yes, there are registration fees applicable based on the investment capital. Please visit the NIPC website or contact NIPC directly for the current fee schedule.

Q: Can I register my investment online?

A: Yes, NIPC has an online investment registration portal available on its official website (www.nipc.gov.ng). Investors can initiate and track their registration applications through this portal.

Q: What is the One-Stop Investment Centre (OSIC)?

A: The OSIC is a facility at NIPC's Abuja headquarters that brings together representatives of multiple government agencies under one roof. It is designed to simplify and accelerate the process of obtaining approvals, permits, and licenses required to establish and operate a business in Nigeria.

SECTION 3: INVESTMENT INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS

Q: What investment incentives are available to investors in Nigeria?

A: Nigeria offers a wide range of investment incentives including:

- Economic Development Incentive (EDI), a 5-year tax incentive scheme.
- Investment Tax Credit for companies in infrastructure
- Free Trade Zone incentives including tax exemptions and duty-free importation
- Research & Development Tax Credit
- Various sector-specific incentives in agriculture, solid minerals, oil & gas, and others

Q: What is the Economic Development Incentive (EDI)?

A: EDI is a 5-year tax incentive scheme under the Nigeria Tax Act 2025 that grants companies tax credits on qualifying capital expenditure to promote investment in priority sectors.

Q: How do I apply for Pioneer Status?

A: Submit an application to NIPC, present your project, undergo due diligence, and obtain approvals from the Minister, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) and the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Q: Are there incentives for investing in special economic zones or free trade zones?

A: Yes. Businesses operating within Nigeria's Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Free Trade Zones (FTZs) enjoy significant incentives including:

- 100% tax holiday for the duration of operation in the zone
- Exemption from import and export duties
- No restrictions on remittance of profits and dividends
- Full repatriation of capital
- Streamlined regulatory processes

Q: Are there sector-specific incentives?

A: Yes. Specific sectors enjoy targeted incentives. For example: Agriculture enjoys import duty waiver on agricultural equipment and inputs; Solid Minerals enjoys waiver on import duties for mining equipment; Manufacturing enjoys reduced import duties on raw materials; Oil & Gas enjoys various fiscal incentives under the Petroleum Industry Act; and Technology enjoys tax relief for ICT and digital economy investments.

Q: Are there specific incentives for technology startups?

A: Yes. Technology startups in Nigeria benefit from a dedicated legal and regulatory framework under the Nigeria Startup Act 2022 (NSA), which provides significant support through the Startup Label and associated benefits.

What is the Startup Label?

The Startup Label is an official designation granted to qualifying technology startups under the Nigeria Startup Act 2022. It serves as a certification that unlocks access to a suite of incentives and support mechanisms provided by the Federal Government. To qualify, a startup must:

- Be incorporated as a limited liability company under the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA)
- Be in existence for not more than 10 years from the date of incorporation
- Have its objectives as the creation, development, production, improvement, and commercialisation of an innovative digital technology product or service
- Have at least one Nigerian among its founders, co-founders, or core management staff
- Not be a subsidiary or be owned by any government entity

Key Benefits of the Startup Label:

- Tax incentives — Labelled startups are eligible for Pioneer Status under the PSI framework, providing a Company Income Tax holiday of up to 3 years (renewable for up to 2 additional years)
- Capital Gains Tax and Stamp Duty exemptions on investment instruments issued to investors
- Preferential access to government procurement — Labelled startups enjoy an accelerated pathway to participate in Federal Government digital contracts and procurement
- Expedited business registration — The NSA mandates a simplified and fast-tracked registration process through the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and other relevant agencies
- Startup Investment Seed Fund — Access to a government-backed fund established to provide early-stage funding to Labelled startups
- Regulatory sandbox access — Labelled startups can participate in regulatory sandboxes administered by relevant regulators (such as the CBN, SEC, and NCC) to pilot innovative products in a controlled environment
- Expatriate Quota facilitation — Simplified processes for obtaining Expatriate Quotas to attract global talent
- Skilling and capacity building — Access to training programmes, mentorship, and accelerator support coordinated through the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) and other designated institutions

How to Apply for the Startup Label: Applications for the Startup Label are submitted through the Startup Portal managed by NITDA (startupportal.gov.ng). NIPC works in close collaboration with the Startup Council and NITDA to facilitate access for eligible technology startups to applicable investment incentives.

Q: Can foreign investors repatriate their profits?

A: Yes. Nigeria's investment laws guarantee the right of foreign investors to freely repatriate their profits, dividends, and capital after payment of applicable taxes. This is guaranteed under the NIPC Act and the Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act.

SECTION 4: BUSINESS PERMITS AND LICENSES

Q: What permits do I need to start a business in Nigeria as a foreign investor?

A: Foreign investors typically require:

- Business Permit (issued by the Federal Ministry of Interior)
- Expatriate Quota (for employment of foreign nationals)
- Relevant sector-specific licenses (e.g., CBN license for financial services, NAFDAC for food/drug)
- Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) registration
- Tax Identification Number (TIN) from the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS)

Q: What is a Business Permit and who needs it?

A: A Business Permit is an approval granted to foreign companies or companies with foreign equity participation to conduct business in Nigeria. It is required for any enterprise in which foreigners hold equity. The permit is issued by the Federal Ministry of Interior, and NIPC can assist investors in obtaining it through the OSIC.

Q: What is an Expatriate Quota and how do I apply?

A: An Expatriate Quota is an approval granted to a company to employ foreign nationals in Nigeria for specific positions. It is required when a company wishes to bring in foreign employees. Applications are submitted to the Federal Ministry of Interior, with NIPC facilitating the process. The quota specifies the number of foreign nationals allowed in named job positions.

Q: How long is a Business Permit valid?

A: A Business Permit is typically issued for the lifespan of the business but is subject to renewal and review. Expatriate Quotas are usually granted for 2–3 years and are renewable.

Q: Can NIPC help me obtain permits and licenses?

A: Yes. NIPC's OSIC was specifically established to assist investors in navigating the regulatory and administrative processes for obtaining permits and licenses. Representatives of key agencies including the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS), Federal Ministry of Interior, and others are co-located at OSIC.

Q: Do domestic investors also need NIPC support for permits?

A: Yes. NIPC provides support to both domestic and foreign investors. Nigerian entrepreneurs can also leverage NIPC's services to obtain information about regulatory requirements, apply for incentives, and access investment facilitation services.

SECTION 5: SECTORS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Q: What sectors are open to foreign investment in Nigeria?

A: Nigeria is open to foreign investment in virtually all sectors of the economy, including Agriculture & Agro-Processing, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas and Petrochemicals, Mining & Solid Minerals, Financial Services, Technology & Digital Economy, Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Real Estate & Construction, Tourism & Hospitality, Education, and Infrastructure (roads, power, transport).

Q: Are there sectors restricted to Nigerian investors only?

A: Yes. The Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act provides a Negative List — sectors reserved exclusively for Nigerians. These include production of arms and ammunition, production of narcotics and psychotropic substances, production of military and paramilitary uniforms, and a few other sensitive sectors. For an up-to-date list, please consult NIPC or the relevant legislation.

Q: What are the most attractive sectors for investment in Nigeria?

A: Nigeria offers significant investment potential in Agriculture (given its arable land and food security needs), Solid Minerals (as Nigeria is rich in untapped mineral resources), Technology & Fintech (as Nigeria is Africa's leading tech hub), Renewable Energy (given the huge power deficit), Healthcare, and Infrastructure. NIPC publishes investment opportunity profiles to guide investors in identifying priority sectors.

Q: How can I find out more about specific investment opportunities?

A: NIPC publishes investment opportunity briefs, sector profiles, and State Investment Profiles on its website (www.nipc.gov.ng). NIPC also organises investment roadshows and forums to connect investors with opportunities. You may also contact NIPC directly for a personalised investment briefing.

Q: Are there opportunities for investment at the state level in Nigeria?

A: Yes. Each of Nigeria's 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has its own investment promotion agency and offers state-specific incentives to attract investment. NIPC works with State Investment Promotion Agencies (SIPAs) to help investors identify and access opportunities at the subnational level.

Q: Is Nigeria's business environment conducive for investment?

A: Nigeria has made significant progress in improving its business environment through sustained reforms aimed at simplifying business registration, improving access to credit, protecting minority investors, and enhancing trade facilitation. Nigeria is at the heart of Africa's growth and Africa's most populous country, offering a large consumer market. NIPC continues to advocate for further reforms to create an even more investor-friendly environment.

SECTION 6: SUPPORT FOR INVESTORS

Q: What aftercare services does NIPC provide to existing investors?

A: NIPC provides aftercare services including assistance with resolving regulatory challenges, facilitating renewals of permits and licenses, providing market intelligence and updates on policy changes, connecting investors with local partners and suppliers, and advocating on behalf of investors with government agencies.

Q: How does NIPC protect foreign investments?

A: Nigeria has signed several Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) that protect foreign investments against expropriation without compensation, guarantee free repatriation of profits and capital, and provide access to international arbitration in the event of investment disputes. NIPC provides information on applicable BITs and investment protections.

Q: Can NIPC help resolve disputes with government agencies?

A: NIPC serves as an advocate and liaison between investors and government institutions. While NIPC does not adjudicate disputes, it can facilitate dialogue through its OSIC Lab between investors and relevant agencies to resolve administrative or regulatory challenges. For legal disputes, investors may access formal dispute resolution mechanisms including Nigerian courts and international arbitration.

Q: Does NIPC offer investment advisory services?

A: Yes. NIPC provides tailored advisory services to prospective and existing investors including information on regulatory requirements, sector-specific investment guides, market entry strategies, and linkages to potential local partners. These services are available through various Departments of the Commission and the One-Stop Investment Centre.

For more information, visit www.nipc.gov.ng | Email: infodesk@nipc.gov.ng

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT NIPC REGISTRATION

1. What are the benefits of registering with NIPC?

NIPC registration provides legal legitimacy, investment protection, government incentives, and faster access to regulatory services, making it an important step for companies—especially those with foreign ownership or large-scale investments.

2. Which companies are eligible to register with NIPC?

Under the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act, companies that have foreign participation or foreign investment are required to register with the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC).

3. Is NIPC registration compulsory for all companies in Nigeria?

Registration is generally required for companies with foreign participation. However, fully Nigerian-owned companies may still register with NIPC voluntarily in order to access NIPC's services.

4. What documents are required to register with NIPC?

Key Documents Required for NIPC Registration:

- Certificate of Incorporation
- Memorandum and Articles of Association (MEMART)
- CAC Status Report (or CAC Form showing Shareholding Structure)
- Power of Attorney or Letter of Authorization (if using a consultant)
- Payment of Prescribed Registration Fee

5. How long does it take to obtain the NIPC Business Registration Certificate?

Typically, it takes 48 hours

6. What is the cost of registering with NIPC?

The processing fee for a new registration is ₦150,000.00

7. Can a business name or partnership register with NIPC, or is it only for limited liability companies?

NIPC registration is meant for incorporated companies, not for ordinary business names or simple partnerships.

8. Does a foreign company need to register with NIPC before operating in Nigeria?

Yes. A foreign company intending to operate in Nigeria is generally required to register with the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) after incorporation, before the commencement of business.

9. How can an investor apply for NIPC registration?

An investor can apply for NIPC registration online through swip.nipc.gov.ng