

ANNUAL CEO FORUM AWARDS 2025

THEME:

**Innovation and
Disruption:**
Leading the Next Wave
of Nigeria's Business
Transformation

 **30th JULY 2025**

 **2:00PM PROMPT**

 **LAGOS ORIENTAL HOTEL**
3, Lekki Road, Victoria Island,
Lagos, Nigeria



ANNUAL CEO FORUM AWARDS 2025

The Business Times is proud to announce the upcoming **Business Times CEO Forum & Awards**, an unparalleled gathering designed to unite top-tier business leaders, visionary entrepreneurs, and influential policymakers. This prestigious event offers a unique platform for high-level discourse, strategic collaboration, and the celebration of outstanding achievements that are driving economic progress and innovation. In an era of rapid transformation and evolving market dynamics, staying ahead requires more than just insight – it demands connection, shared wisdom, and a forward-looking perspective. The Business Times CEO Forum & Awards is meticulously crafted to provide just that.

WHY ATTEND THE BUSINESS TIMES CEO FORUM & AWARDS



This is more than just a conference; it's an immersive experience designed for impact. Attendees will benefit from:

Unparalleled Networking Opportunities: Connect with a curated audience of Nigeria's most influential CEOs, industry captains, and decision-makers. Forge high-value relationships, initiate strategic partnerships, and unlock new business opportunities in an exclusive, invitation-only environment. This forum is a melting pot where deals are initiated and collaborations are formed, extending far beyond the event itself.

Actionable Insights from Global Thought Leaders: Gain first-hand access to cutting-edge economic analyses, industry forecasts, and strategic recommendations from renowned local and international experts. Our agenda features thought-provoking keynote addresses, intimate fireside chats, and dynamic panel discussions that delve into the most pressing economic challenges and opportunities shaping our nation's trajectory. Learn from those who are actively shaping the future of business and gain insights that can directly inform your corporate strategies and investment decisions.

Catalyst for Economic Policy and Business Strategy: The discussions held at The Business Times CEO Forum have a direct impact on corporate strategies and economic policies. Your

participation contributes to a collective dialogue that influences the direction of Nigeria's economy, offering you a unique position to be part of the conversation that defines our nation's path from reform to recovery.

Celebration of Excellence: Witness and be inspired by the recognition of outstanding achievements at The Business Times Awards ceremony. Celebrate companies and leaders who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, innovation, and significant contributions to growth and progress across various sectors. These awards not only acknowledge success but also inspire a culture of excellence within the business community.

Exclusive Access and Strategic Engagement: As an attendee, you will be part of a select group, ensuring an environment conducive to deep engagement and meaningful interactions. The forum is designed to foster a sense of community among leaders, providing a safe and confidential space for sharing experiences, challenges, and solutions.

The Business Times CEO Forum & Awards is an institution of thought leadership, innovation, and economic transformation. It is where knowledge meets influence, and insights translate into action. Join us to be at the forefront of shaping Nigeria's economic future.



THE AWARDS

TOP 50 NIGERIA'S BEST PERFORMING CEOs 2025



As a cornerstone of **The Business Times CEO Forum & Awards**, the presentation of "**The Best Performing CEOs 2025**" awards stands as a testament to exceptional leadership and strategic foresight. This annual research report by Business Times Newspapers Limited is not merely a recognition; it is the culmination of a rigorous and innovative analytical process designed to identify Chief Executive Officers who have truly delivered outstanding performance through a blend of growth and transformative innovation within their respective industries.

In an environment where robust data on long-term CEO performance is often scarce, The Business Times has developed a unique and sophisticated methodology to cut through the noise and highlight leaders who have consistently demonstrated excellence. Our approach moves beyond conventional metrics, focusing on two pivotal pillars: Growth and Innovation.

Our comprehensive analysis begins by examining the entire performance spectrum of companies. We meticulously calculated each company's annual performance in terms of Growth, generating approximately 3,000 discrete performance observations. This extensive dataset allowed us to establish an average baseline, reflecting how CEOs typically perform each year, irrespective of the prevailing market conditions. To ensure fair and accurate comparisons, we then standardized this data.

Crucially, our methodology deviates from typical time-based comparisons, which merely assess how various CEOs performed within a specific calendar year. Instead, we focused on CEO performance based on their years in office. This means we didn't just compare all CEOs in 2024; we specifically examined how each CEO performed in their first year on the job, their second year, and across subsequent three-stage intervals of their tenure. This innovative approach effectively randomized the impact of specific market effects and transient industry trends, allowing us to draw meaningful comparisons between CEOs operating in different timeframes and economic cycles.

To ensure the integrity of our findings and rule out alternative explanations for observed performance differences, our analysis further incorporated a wide array of organizational and individual data points. These included, but were not limited to:

- The decade in which the CEO commenced their tenure
- The specific industry of operation
- Prior CEO or Board experience
- Age at the start date of their leadership
- Gender
- Founder status
- Changes in revenue and income
- Capital expenditures
- Market capitalization

The influence of extraordinary events, such as global financial crises.

These extensive inputs were then fed into multi-level statistical models. This allowed us to precisely discover how each variable might have affected performance and, more importantly, to confirm the robustness and validity of our results, ensuring that the identified "**Best Performing CEOs**" genuinely stand out based on their intrinsic leadership capabilities and strategic impact.

The "**Best Performing CEOs 2025**" awards, therefore, represent more than just recognition; they are a data-driven validation of leadership excellence, celebrating individuals who have not only driven significant growth but have also fostered a culture of innovation that positions their organizations for sustained success in a dynamic global landscape.

We look forward to welcoming you to this transformative event.





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- Creative thinking
- Integrity
- Innovation
- Fairness & Impartiality

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Conversion Continues
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Women Feed the Nation: Nigeria's Female Agripreneurs
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National Arts Theatre Revamp Picked to Unleash \$25 Billion in Creative Economy-Corridor
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Customs unveils strategy to secure Nigeria's borders

In a groundbreaking move, the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) has unveiled a comprehensive strategy to secure the country's borders, focusing on enhancing surveillance, intelligence gathering, and border management. The strategy, titled "Nigeria Customs Service Border Security Strategy 2025-2030," was presented by the NCS Commissioner, Mr. Oluwalope Williams, during a high-level meeting in Lagos.

The strategy outlines a multi-pronged approach to border security, including the deployment of advanced surveillance technologies, the establishment of a robust intelligence network, and the implementation of strict border management protocols. Williams emphasized the need for a holistic approach to border security, one that addresses both physical and digital threats.

The strategy also highlights the importance of community engagement and the role of the private sector in border security. Williams stated that the NCS is committed to working closely with the public and private sector to ensure the security and stability of Nigeria's borders.

How Policy Impacts Businesses in Nigeria

Nigeria's business landscape is heavily influenced by government policy, which can either foster growth or hinder it. A recent analysis by the Nigerian Business Association (NBA) highlights the impact of various policies on different sectors of the economy.

The NBA report identifies several key areas where policy has a significant impact on businesses. These include taxation, trade, and labor. The report also provides recommendations for how the government can improve its policies to better support the business community.

One of the most significant findings of the report is the impact of taxation on businesses. The NBA notes that high tax rates and complex tax systems can discourage investment and hinder growth. The report recommends that the government simplify the tax system and reduce tax rates to encourage investment.

Adeboye Ogunlesi: The Rise of the Nigerian Billionaire Behind 3 UK Airports
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In CBN Survey, Business Foresee Stronger Naira in 2025
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How Policy Impacts Businesses in Nigeria

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Thriving Against the Odds: Stories of SMEs in Nigeria
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Lagos: Sanwo-Olu's wife induces 700 students into Young Farmers club
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Recapitalization Drive: Reshaping Nigeria's Financial Landscape and Business Outlook

The Nigerian financial landscape is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by a recapitalization drive aimed at strengthening the country's financial system and improving the business outlook. This drive, led by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), involves the recapitalization of several key financial institutions.

The CBN has announced that it will be injecting capital into the CBN, the Nigerian Interbank Settlement Account (NISA), and the Nigerian Clearing and Settlement System (NCSS). This injection of capital is expected to significantly strengthen the financial system and improve the business outlook.

The recapitalization drive is part of a broader effort to reform the financial system and improve the business environment. The CBN has also announced plans to introduce new regulations and policies to further strengthen the financial system.

Dangote Sugar Refinery posts NGN192.62bn loss after tax in 2024

Dangote Sugar Refinery (DSR) has reported a significant loss after tax for the year 2024, amounting to NGN192.62 billion. The loss was primarily due to a combination of factors, including a decline in sugar prices and increased operational costs.

The DSR management has attributed the loss to a number of factors, including a decline in sugar prices and increased operational costs. They have also noted that the company is working to address these issues and improve its performance in the coming years.

Inflation, Weak Naira May Push 13m Nigerians into Poverty-PwC

A recent report by PwC predicts that a combination of rising inflation and a weak naira could push 13 million Nigerians into poverty by 2025. The report highlights the need for the government to take action to address these issues.

PwC notes that inflation has been a major problem for Nigerians, with prices of many goods and services rising significantly. This has led to a decline in the purchasing power of the naira, which has in turn led to a decline in the standard of living for many Nigerians.

Federal Government Earns N103.7bn from Digital Cash Transfers in Six Months

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) has reported a significant increase in revenue from digital cash transfers, earning N103.7 billion in the first six months of 2025. This revenue is expected to be used to fund various government programs and initiatives.

The FGN has attributed the increase in revenue to a number of factors, including the widespread adoption of digital cash transfers and the implementation of new policies to encourage their use. The government is expected to continue to promote digital cash transfers in the coming months.

Digital financial inclusion brings new risks for emerging markets - Adajio
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Rising Stars: How Emerging Economies Are Reshaping Global Markets
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Tunji Belle: The Shift in FPCPC with Unrelenting One Month Ultimatum
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Gas Shortage Cripples Aba Power: Industrial Growth at Risk

The gas shortage in Aba, Nigeria, has severely crippled the local power supply, putting industrial growth at risk. The shortage is primarily due to a combination of factors, including a decline in gas prices and increased demand.

The power supply in Aba is primarily generated by gas, and the shortage has led to a significant decline in the amount of power generated. This has in turn led to a decline in the amount of power available to businesses and industries in the area.

Naira-for-crude: Why petrol price may continue to rise

Nigeria's petrol prices are expected to continue to rise due to a combination of factors, including a decline in the naira and an increase in crude oil prices. This is expected to have a significant impact on the cost of living for many Nigerians.

The naira has been declining against the dollar, and this has led to an increase in the cost of importing crude oil. At the same time, crude oil prices have also been rising, which has further increased the cost of petrol.

Nig Breweries Records N1.1tn Revenue up 81% in 2024: Casselli
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Naira-for-crude: Why petrol price may continue to rise

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40 Years of Vision: Metroways and the Future of Eyecare in Africa
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Naira Gains Momentum: CBN Reforms Attract Foreign Inflows, Boost Liquidity

Nigeria's naira is gaining momentum, thanks to a series of reforms implemented by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). These reforms have attracted foreign inflows and boosted liquidity in the financial system.

The CBN has implemented a number of reforms, including the introduction of a new currency and the implementation of new policies to encourage the use of the naira. These reforms have led to a significant increase in the value of the naira and a boost in liquidity.

Naira Set for Revival with \$500 Million Diaspora Bond Boos

The Nigerian government is set to launch a \$500 million diaspora bond, which is expected to boost the naira and provide a source of capital for the government. The bond is expected to be sold to Nigerian diaspora members around the world.

The government has announced that it will be using the proceeds from the bond to fund various government programs and initiatives. The bond is expected to be a significant success, as it will provide a source of capital for the government and boost the naira.

A Currency Under Siege: The CBN's High-Stakes Battle to Save the Naira

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is engaged in a high-stakes battle to save the naira from a currency crisis. The CBN has implemented a number of measures to stabilize the naira, including the introduction of a new currency and the implementation of new policies to encourage the use of the naira.

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Customs, Agencies Must Consult More with Stakeholders for Better Policies in Maritime - Dr Mustapha

Dr. Mustapha, a prominent maritime expert, has urged the Nigerian Customs Service and other maritime agencies to consult more with stakeholders when developing policies. He believes that this will lead to better policies and improved maritime trade.

Dr. Mustapha has also urged the government to implement a number of measures to improve the maritime sector, including the implementation of new policies and the improvement of infrastructure. He believes that these measures will lead to a significant improvement in the maritime sector.

Leading the Green Revolution: How Unam on Sustainability Excellence at Dangote Sugar Refinery
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Naira's New Dawn: Navigating the Path to FX Stability

The naira is on a new path towards stability, thanks to a series of measures implemented by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). These measures have led to a significant increase in the value of the naira and a boost in liquidity.

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Fuel Price Surge: Businesses on the Brink Amid Rising Costs

Fuel prices in Nigeria have surged, putting businesses on the brink of financial collapse. The surge is primarily due to a combination of factors, including a decline in the naira and an increase in crude oil prices.

The surge in fuel prices has led to a significant increase in the cost of many goods and services, which has in turn led to a decline in the purchasing power of the naira. This has put many businesses in a difficult financial position.

Building Wealth Across Generations: The Story of a Nigerian Dynasty
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Make agriculture compulsory in secondary schools, Senator Mustapha urges FG
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Yungun Machinery Travels Farther to Bring Value to Nigerian Agribusiness
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Governor Cardoso Outlines Vision: CBN to Strengthen FX and Remittance Reforms in 2025
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FG to Raise N1.8tn from Bond Market in Q1 2025
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Empowering Communities: The Growing Impact of Corporate Social Responsibility in Nigeria's Business Landscape
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Nigeria's GDP Projected to Grow by 3.6% in 2025 - World Bank

Nigeria's GDP is projected to grow by 3.6% in 2025, according to the World Bank. This growth is expected to be driven by a number of factors, including a decline in inflation and an increase in investment.

The World Bank has also projected that Nigeria's inflation will decline in 2025, which will lead to a significant improvement in the purchasing power of the naira. This is expected to lead to a significant improvement in the standard of living for many Nigerians.

Catalysts of Prosperity: Top Businesses Honored by Business Times for Impacting Nigeria's Economic Growth

The Business Times has honored several top businesses for their significant impact on Nigeria's economic growth. These businesses have been recognized for their innovation, leadership, and commitment to social responsibility.

The honored businesses include Dangote Group, MTN Nigeria, and several other leading companies in various sectors. The Business Times is proud to recognize these businesses for their contributions to the Nigerian economy.

From Banking to Business Icon: The Journey of a Nigerian Entrepreneur

The journey of a Nigerian entrepreneur from banking to business icon is a story of resilience, innovation, and hard work. This entrepreneur has built a successful business empire, and his story is an inspiration for many Nigerians.

The entrepreneur has started his business in banking and has since expanded into various other sectors. He has built a strong reputation for his leadership and innovation, and his business has become a household name in Nigeria.

Donald J. Trump Set to Be Inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States

Donald J. Trump is set to be inaugurated as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, 2025. This marks a significant moment in American history, as Trump will be the first person to serve two non-consecutive terms as President.

Trump's inauguration will be a major event, and it is expected to attract a large number of people to Washington, D.C. Trump's presidency is expected to have a significant impact on the world, and it will be closely watched by many people.