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ORCHESTRATING THE RHYTHM OF INNOVATIONS



In the story of Africa's digital transformation, fintech has emerged as both conductor and composer, setting the tempo for a new era of financial inclusion. Much like a symphony, where diverse instruments harmonize to create a powerful sound, the continent's fintech landscape thrives on collaboration, innovation, and resilience. Each startup, investor, regulator, and consumer is a note in this composition, and together, they are orchestrating the rhythm of innovations shaping our collective future.

Across Africa, we are witnessing bold strides that were once unimaginable. Mobile money is no longer a novelty but a lifeline; neobanks are reshaping the way people save, borrow, and in-

vest; and open banking is laying the groundwork for deeper trust, transparency, and access. These shifts go beyond technology, they are about rewriting the rules of financial participation and creating a system where opportunity is no longer a privilege but a right. Still, the rhythm of innovation is not without its challenges. Infrastructure gaps, regulatory hurdles, and questions of trust remain recurring notes that demand careful attention. Yet, as any orchestra knows, dissonance does not break the music; it adds depth, character, and urgency. Africa's fintech leaders are learning to turn challenges into crescendos, moments that push the performance to new heights.

This issue is a celebration of that

spirit. It shines a light on the visionaries and builders who refuse to accept limits, entrepreneurs scaling solutions across borders, regulators experimenting with progressive policies, and investors rediscovering the promise of the continent's digital economy. Together, they are proving that innovation in Africa is not an echo of global trends but a rhythm uniquely ours, dynamic, youthful, and unstoppable.

As we look ahead, the task is clear: to keep the symphony alive, every player must continue to contribute, adapt, and refine. Financial inclusion is not a one-time performance; it is an ongoing movement requiring harmony between technology, people, and policy. If the tempo is kept, the music of Africa's fintech will not only resonate within the continent but also echo across the world.

This is our invitation to listen, to engage, and to be inspired by the rhythm of innovations orchestrating Africa's digital future.

Warm regards,
Ajetunmobi Olumayowa

Previous Edition



Fintech AFRICA
MAGAZINE

KPMG: Why Global Fintech Investment Fell 18% in H1 2025



Global fintech funding slowed considerably in the first half of 2025, with total investment dropping by 18% compared to the same period in 2024, according to KPMG's latest Pulse of Fintech report. The decline underscores mounting investor caution amid higher interest rates, regulatory tightening, and global economic uncertainties that have tempered enthusiasm for risk-heavy fintech bets.

Despite the dip, KPMG notes that

the sector continues to attract significant capital, with payments, regtech, and embedded finance leading investment activity. However, large late-stage funding rounds have become scarcer, signaling a shift toward smaller, early-stage deals where investors see potential for disruptive innovation without the valuation risks.

Regionally, North America and Europe experienced the sharpest slowdowns, while Asia-Pacific and Africa showed resilience, buoyed by growing demand for mobile banking, digital payments,

and financial inclusion solutions. African fintechs, in particular, continue to capture investor interest due to untapped market potential and expanding digital infrastructure.

KPMG concludes that while the investment pullback reflects short-term caution, the fintech sector's fundamentals remain strong. The firm expects consolidation, innovation in digital assets, and adoption of AI-driven solutions to shape the next wave of growth once market confidence improves.

How Chams, eTranzact, CWG Made #59 Billion in Six Months

Nigeria's leading technology and fintech firms — Chams Holdings, eTranzact International, and Computer Warehouse Group (CWG) — collectively generated an impressive #59 billion in revenue during the first half of 2025. The performance highlights the growing strength of Nigeria's homegrown players in driving digital transformation and financial services across

that support banking digitization. Chams Holdings, meanwhile, saw gains from its identity management and payments services, tapping into government and private sector demand.

The results come against a backdrop of Nigeria's accelerating fintech adoption, where cashless policies, regulatory reforms, and consumer preference for digital channels are boosting transaction volumes.

Analysts say the combined revenue figures reflect not just strong execution by these companies, but also the broader resilience of Nigeria's fintech ecosystem.

Looking ahead, the firms are expected to deepen investments in artificial intelligence, blockchain-based

solutions, and cybersecurity to consolidate their market positions. Their success illustrates how local companies are becoming critical players in Africa's fintech growth story.

<https://etranzact.com.gh/>

The logo for eTranzact, featuring a red '@' symbol followed by the word 'tranzact' in blue lowercase letters.

the country.

eTranzact led the pack, benefitting from increased adoption of electronic payments, mobile money transactions, and digital gateways by banks and merchants. CWG also recorded solid growth, driven by its IT infrastructure solutions and partnerships



PalmPay Named Among the World's Top 300 Fintech Companies of 2025

PalmPay, one of Africa's fastest-growing neobanks, has been recognised on the CNBC and Statista 2025 list of the World's Top 300 Fintech Companies. This marks the second consecutive year the platform has earned a spot among the most innovative and impactful financial technology firms worldwide.

The annual ranking evaluates thousands of fintech companies globally, assessing factors such as growth, innovation, market penetration, and overall impact. Alongside established global players like Revolut, Nubank, and Ant Group, PalmPay's inclusion underscores the increasing influence of fintechs from high-growth emerging markets. With more than 35 million registered users and up to 15 million transactions processed daily, PalmPay has built a strong reputation as a leading digital financial services provider in Africa. In its main market, Nigeria, the company operates as a full-service neobank offering transfers, bill payments, credit, savings, and insurance, all accessible through its mobile app. Its services are supported by an extensive distribution

network of more than 1 million agents and merchant partners nationwide. Beyond consumer banking, PalmPay also provides POS services and API-driven solutions tailored for merchants and enterprise clients.

"To be recognised as one of the world's top fintech companies by CNBC and Statista is a powerful affirmation of our mission to build a more inclusive financial system," said Sofia Zab, Founding Chief

services. "PalmPay is building a neobanking platform tailored to the realities of emerging markets," explained Jiapei Yan, Group Chief Commercial Officer. "This recognition affirms our progress and highlights the scale of opportunity ahead. Our commitment is to create lasting value for users, partners, and communities as we scale across more emerging markets."

This latest accolade comes on the heels of another major achievement: earlier this year, PalmPay ranked #2 overall and #1 in the financial services category on the Financial Times – Africa's Fastest-Growing Companies 2025 list, based on revenue growth between 2020 and 2023.

Currently operating in Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, and Bangladesh, PalmPay continues to expand across Africa and Asia, combining device financing, digital banking, and B2B payment solutions. Backed by a partnership-driven strategy and robust neobanking infrastructure, the company is positioning itself as a key player shaping the next chapter of inclusive financial growth in emerging markets.



Marketing Officer at PalmPay.

"Through cutting-edge technology, local distribution, and a customer-first mindset, we've created Nigeria's leading neobank. As we expand to markets like Tanzania and Bangladesh, our focus remains on closing financial access gaps while growing the partner ecosystem that fuels our reach and impact."

PalmPay has recently entered Tanzania and Bangladesh through a smartphone device financing model, designed as an entry point for underserved communities to access digital financial

Mastercard Welcomes 11 New Startups to Start Path Program

Mastercard has expanded its global Start Path program, adding 11 promising fintech startups chosen for their expertise in card infrastructure, AI-driven credit, treasury management, and circular commerce. Since its launch in 2014, the program has supported more than 500 startups across over 60 countries, many of which have gone on to achieve unicorn status, enter public markets, or develop long-term commercial partnerships with Mastercard.



This year's announcement was timed with New York Climate Action Week, highlighting Mastercard's growing focus on sustainability and circular commerce. Several of the new participants are pioneering solutions that support responsible consumption and lifecycle management. Save Your Wardrobe, for instance, provides customizable tech infrastructure that helps businesses design after-sale services beyond the initial transaction. Pentatonic uses AI to automate product buybacks and channel goods into resale, repair, or recycling. Circulae is integrating automated resale functionality into payment methods to give consumers more purchasing power while reducing waste. Circulayo, meanwhile,

is transforming reusable packaging systems through financial touchpoints that deliver instant deposits, refunds, rewards, and environmental impact tracking. The rest of the cohort reflects the diversity of high-growth sectors shaping fintech innovation. AraxaTech is focused on connecting issuers and processors through seamless integrations with zero downtime, while Hyperlayer is enabling banks to develop and launch programmable financial products. In treasury and banking, amnis helps mid-sized companies streamline cross-border operations, and

Qawn delivers a chat-based banking experience designed to facilitate value exchanges across the Middle East.

In the credit space, Kamina uses AI to help financial institutions prevent delinquency, reward responsible financial behavior, and expand credit access. Rounding out the list are firmly, an agentic commerce platform that enables instant purchases across digital touchpoints, and MoovnPay, which is building an integrated ecosystem for moving, paying, and shopping online. With this latest cohort, Mastercard is reinforcing its role as a catalyst

for innovation in the global fintech ecosystem. By giving startups access to its international network of partners, customers, and in-house expertise, the Start Path program continues to serve as a launchpad for the next generation of fintech leaders. The initiative also underscores Mastercard's commitment to sustainability, financial inclusion, and the evolution of digital commerce.

UN Ranks Nigeria 8th on African Industrialisation Index, 98th Globally

Nigeria has been ranked 8th in Africa and 98th globally on the United Nations' latest Industrialisation Index, reflecting gradual progress in the country's industrial sector. The index, which evaluates nations

its steady climb underscores improvements in manufacturing diversification, infrastructure development, and policy reforms. The UN notes Nigeria's efforts in encouraging local production, import substitution, and industrial clusters as positive indicators. However, challenges remain.

to credit also hinder small and medium-sized manufacturers. Analysts say Nigeria must double down on investment in energy, logistics, and technology-driven manufacturing to improve its global standing. The ranking is a call to action for policymakers to prioritize industrial policy



based on manufacturing value-added, industrial employment, and innovation capacity, highlights Nigeria's mixed performance. While Nigeria lags behind continental leaders like South Africa, Egypt, and Morocco,

The country continues to face infrastructure gaps, energy supply issues, and a heavy reliance on crude oil exports, which limit broader industrial competitiveness. Weak supply chains and inadequate access

execution and attract more private sector participation.

Microsoft's New Return-to-Office Plan: Three-Day Policy



Microsoft has unveiled a new workplace directive requiring employees to spend at least three days per week in the office, marking a shift in its post-pandemic hybrid work model. The company stated the move is aimed at enhancing collaboration, innovation, and employee engagement, while still allowing flexibility through two remote working days. The decision follows months of internal reviews and feedback, with Microsoft leadership noting that while remote work boosted productivity in some areas, it also created challenges in cross-

team collaboration and corporate culture building. By reinstating more in-person interaction, the company hopes to strengthen team cohesion and innovation velocity.

Employee responses have been mixed. Some workers appreciate the flexibility of maintaining partial remote options, while others express concerns about commuting costs, work-life balance, and reduced autonomy. Microsoft has pledged to provide support through flexible scheduling, wellness programs, and enhanced office spaces.

The move positions Microsoft alongside other tech giants like Google and Apple, which have also tightened hybrid work policies.

Industry analysts argue that the trend could shape the broader tech labor market, redefining how companies balance flexibility with operational efficiency in the long run.

Stablecoins to Account for 12% of Global Payments by 2030, Analysts Say



The global financial landscape is rapidly evolving, and stablecoins are emerging as one of the most disruptive forces in the payments industry. Analysts project that by 2030, stablecoins will account for nearly 12% of all global payments, signaling a major shift from traditional banking channels toward blockchain-powered settlement. This prediction underscores the growing trust in digital currencies that are pegged to stable assets like the U.S. dollar, gold, or other fiat currencies.

The appeal of stablecoins lies in their ability to reduce volatility compared to cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum,

while offering faster, cheaper, and more transparent cross-border transactions. Financial institutions and fintech players are increasingly integrating stablecoin infrastructure into their operations, particularly for remittances and e-commerce. This trend is reshaping how consumers and businesses perceive money movement in the digital age. Regulators, however, are approaching the rapid growth of stablecoins with caution. Concerns around financial stability, money laundering, and monetary policy implications are driving policymakers to establish clearer rules. The European Union's Markets in Crypto-Assets (MiCA) framework and U.S. stablecoin legislation efforts are

some examples of this tightening oversight. Striking a balance between innovation and regulation will be critical in ensuring sustainable growth. If projections hold true, stablecoins could become as ubiquitous as credit cards in global trade, enabling instant, borderless, and low-cost payments. For Africa and other emerging markets, the impact could be even more profound, helping to reduce financial exclusion by providing digital payment rails that bypass legacy banking systems.

Tech Innovation Propels Nation's Industrial Future

Technology-driven innovation is becoming a cornerstone of national industrial growth strategies across Africa. From smart factories and AI-

efficiency. The role of digital transformation in industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, and energy cannot be overstated. Innovations like Internet of Things (IoT) sensors, robotics, and advanced analytics

from oil dependency. Public and private partnerships are supporting investments in research hubs, industrial parks, and digital training programs to prepare the workforce for Industry 4.0. This strategic focus is designed



driven logistics to renewable energy adoption, technology is accelerating industrial output and shaping competitive advantages for nations seeking to climb the global value chain. Recent government initiatives and private sector partnerships have placed technology at the center of industrial policy, aiming to improve productivity and

are enabling companies to reduce waste, optimize supply chains, and meet the demands of modern consumers. These changes not only boost competitiveness but also create new employment opportunities. For Nigeria, in particular, the focus on tech-enabled industrialization is critical to diversifying its economy away

to attract foreign investment while building homegrown capabilities. Ultimately, the future of industrial development lies in how well technology is integrated across sectors. Countries that adapt quickly will be better positioned to secure long-term growth, attract global investors, and ensure sustainable development.

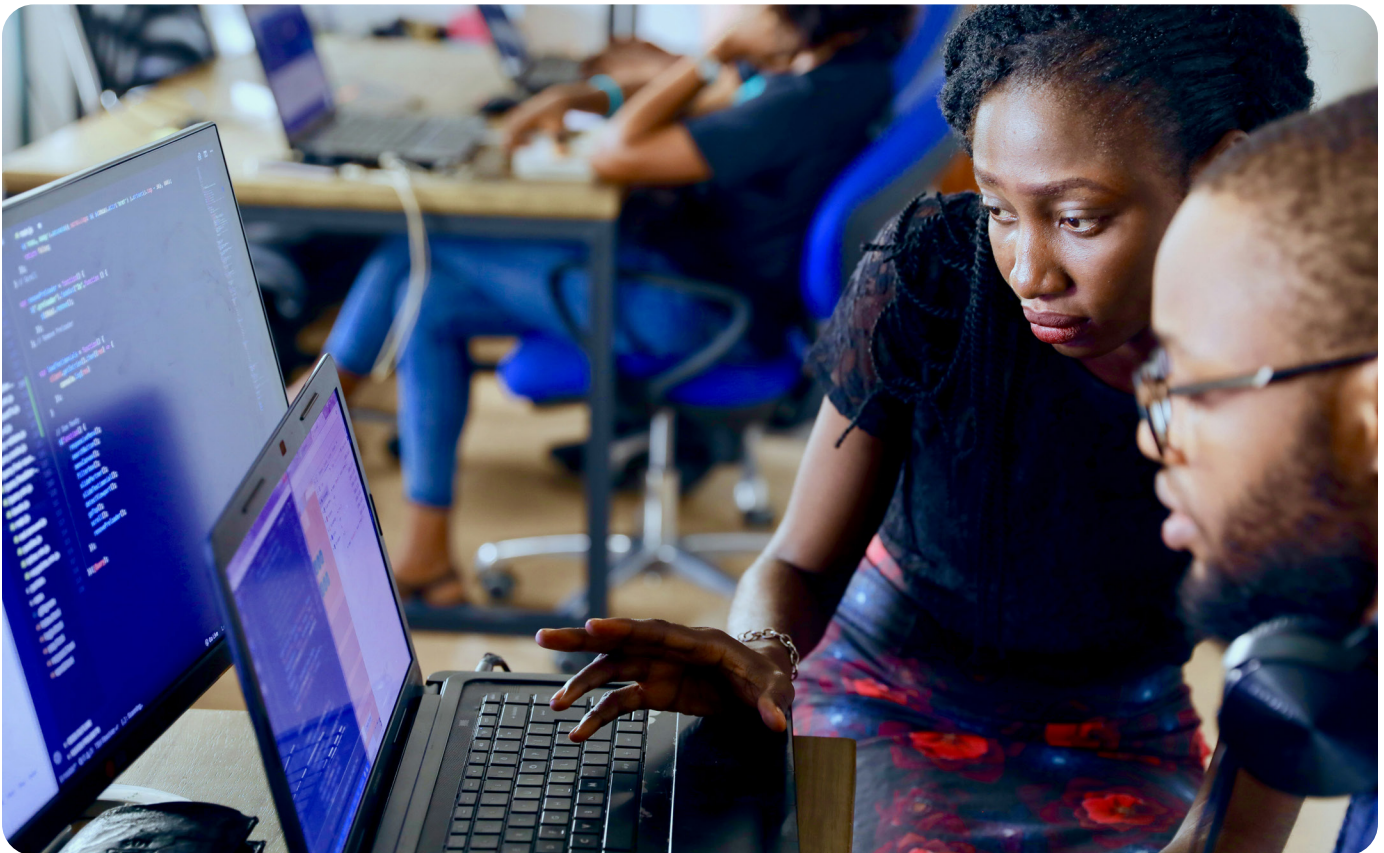


African Startups Rethinking Bookings, AI, Credits, and Commerce to Watch

Africa's startup ecosystem continues to demonstrate resilience and creativity, with a wave of new companies disrupting traditional

applications in healthtech, fintech, and logistics streamlining services and reducing costs. Similarly, startups offering flexible credit solutions are filling gaps left by traditional banks, allowing small businesses and individuals to

modernizing how Africans reserve travel, events, and hospitality services, integrating mobile payments and digital wallets to make the process seamless. As venture capital interest in Africa rebounds, these innovative



industries. Startups in booking services, artificial intelligence (AI), digital credit, and e-commerce are emerging as the ones to watch in 2025. These ventures are not only innovating in their respective fields but also redefining how African consumers and businesses interact with technology. The rise of AI-powered platforms is particularly notable, with

access much-needed financing. This has been critical in expanding financial inclusion across underserved markets. In e-commerce, entrepreneurs are leveraging local insights to design platforms that solve problems unique to African consumers, such as last-mile delivery challenges and mobile-first transactions. Booking startups, meanwhile, are

startups could become the continent's next unicorns. Their ability to adapt solutions to local realities while scaling globally gives them a unique edge in the global tech landscape.

NIGERIA FINTECH WEEK (NFW) 2025



FinTechNGR Unveils Theme and Next-Level Experience for Nigeria Fintech Week 2025

The Fintech Association of Nigeria (FinTechNGR) has announced the theme for the eighth edition of Nigeria Fintech Week (NFW), Africa's largest fintech event. This year's edition, taking place October 7–9, will run across Lagos, Abuja, and Enugu with global hybrid participation under the theme “The Fintech Ecosystem Symphony: Orchestrating Nigeria's Digital Future.” NFW25 will convene over 20,000 innovators, policymakers, regulators, investors, corporates, SMEs, creators, and professionals to discuss how fintech is reshaping every sector, from healthcare and agriculture to entertainment, transport, and education. “This year's theme reflects fintech's transformation from a niche financial solution to the conductor

of Nigeria's entire economic orchestra,” said Dr. Jameelah Sharrieff-Ayedun, Vice President of FinTechNGR. She noted that fintech now powers solutions such as micro-insurance for healthcare, transaction-based credit for farmers, and seamless payouts for creators.

To deliver an inclusive experience, the event will feature more than 20 thematic tracks tailored to different ecosystem players. Highlights include global networking with regulators such as the CBN, SEC, NDIC, and NITDA; innovation showcases and live demos; youth and SME workshops; and the unveiling of the Most Interesting Fintech of the Year.

“Fintech powers everything, and NFW25 is where Nigeria's future is co-created,” said Mr. Seun Folorunsho, Executive Secretary of the Planning Committee.

The main event will be hosted at the Landmark Centre in Lagos, with parallel sessions in Abuja at the Royal Choice Hotel and in Enugu at Hotel Sunshine. Registration is free but competitive, with early registrants prioritized.

Since its inception, Nigeria Fintech Week has hosted over 30,000 participants, showcased disruptive innovations, and created a trusted platform for collaboration across the fintech ecosystem.



“What excites me about Nigeria Fintech Week 2025 is how real it feels. Fintech isn't just numbers and policies; it's farmers being able to access credit without friction, it's a young creator getting paid instantly from anywhere in the world, it's traders in the market no longer worrying about carrying cash. This year, we're bringing all those stories and people together under one roof. Expect energy, honesty, and innovation you can see and touch. NFW25 is about showing how fintech powers everyday life, and inviting everyone to be part of that future.

Nigeria Fintech Week 2025: Major sponsors show support

Nigeria Fintech Week 2025 (NFW25) is gearing up to be one of the most transformative editions yet, bringing together global business leaders, investors, and Nigeria's brightest innovators under one roof. Set against the theme "The Fintech Ecosystem Symphony: Orchestrating Nigeria's Digital Future," the event will highlight fintech's role as more than just a financial tool—positioning it as the engine that powers trade, lifestyles, compliance, agriculture, healthcare, entertainment, and the broader digital economy.

The event has attracted an impressive roster of sponsors and partners, including First Bank, Sumsub, Huawei, Mastercard, PAPSS, Zenith, Rwanda Finance, and Network International. Their participation reflects a growing consensus that Nigeria's fintech ecosystem is central to Africa's economic transformation. More than just logos on a banner, these partnerships represent deeper investments, stronger credibility, and practical solutions designed to impact real lives.

According to Dr. Folasade Femi-Lawal (FCA, FCTI, MBA), Country Manager for West Africa at Mastercard, the sponsorship

underscores the company's ongoing commitment to enabling financial inclusion across Africa. "Nigeria Fintech Week is not just an event—it's a platform to drive innovation, connect ecosystems, and create opportunities that advance digital economies," she noted.

Huawei, another long-time sponsor, echoed this sentiment.



"We have proudly supported Nigeria Fintech Week for years because it represents the future of digital connectivity in Africa," said a Huawei spokesperson. "This year's theme resonates strongly with our mission to build technologies that bring people, businesses, and opportunities together."

Sponsors at NFW25 are not only offering financial backing—they are shaping conversations, hosting activations, and driving innovation across the industries they serve. Attendees can expect product demonstrations, solution showcases, and interactive sessions directly from these leading organizations.

With more than 20,000 professionals expected across Lagos, Abuja, and Enugu, NFW25 promises to be an unmatched hub for networking, deal-making, and knowledge exchange. Participants will have exclusive opportunities to engage with executives, regulators, and thought leaders defining Africa's digital future.

Registration for Nigeria Fintech Week 2025 is free, making it accessible to a broad audience of innovators, professionals, and entrepreneurs. Interested participants can secure their spot at nfw.fintechng.org and be part of the movement shaping the next chapter of Africa's digital economy.

THE FINTECH ECOSYSTEM SYMPHONY:

ORCHESTRATING
NIGERIA'S DIGITAL
FUTURE.

DATE – October 8th, 2025 | 09:00 – 16:00

LOCATION – Abuja-Royal Choice Hotel, CBD, Abuja

FREE REGISTRATION. Attend In-Person or Online. Register now at: <https://nfw.fintechng.org>

Fintechs Engage Regulators and Lawmakers on Growth Framework

The Fintech Association of Nigeria (FintechNGR), the umbrella body representing financial technology operators in the country, has intensified its efforts to strengthen collaboration with regulators and lawmakers to drive sectoral growth. In a series of high-level engagements, the association underscored the importance of aligning innovation with forward-looking policies that promote inclusion, innovation, and stability.

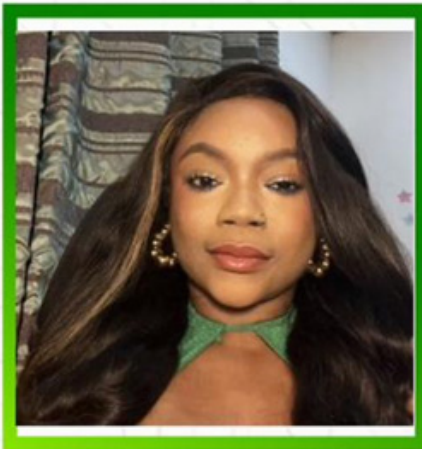
The delegation was led by Dr. Segun Aina, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of FintechNGR and President of the Africa Fintech Network (AFN). He was joined by Dr. Stanley Jacob, CEO of Zest Payments Limited and President of FintechNGR; Dr. Jameelah Sharrieff-Ayedun, CEO of Credit Registry Limited and Vice President of FintechNGR; Oluwaseun Adesanya, Transformation and Innovation Executive and Treasurer of FintechNGR; and Omotola Olatujayan, a fellow of AFN. During meetings with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and National Insurance Commission (NAICOM), as well as with key lawmakers including Senator Adetokunbo Abiru, Chairman of the Senate

Committee on Banking and Finance, and Senator Shuaib Salisu, Chairman of the Senate Committee on ICT, discussions centered on how fintech can accelerate Nigeria's digital and economic transformation. At the CBN, Governor Dr. Olayemi Cardoso highlighted the rapid growth of fintech in Nigeria and emphasized the need for regulatory frameworks that ensure sustainability and inclusivity. Dr. Rakiya Opemi Yusuf, Director of the Payments System Supervision Department, reaffirmed the apex bank's commitment to policies that promote innovation, compliance, and financial system stability. Dr. Jacob stressed that continuous dialogue between fintechs and regulators remains vital to deepening financial inclusion across the country. In discussions with NAICOM, Commissioner for Insurance, Olusegun Ayo Omosehin, and the FintechNGR team explored how digital solutions can bridge gaps in the insurance sector. Both sides agreed on the potential of fintech collaboration to expand insurance access and close coverage gaps through innovative technologies. At the National Assembly, Senator Abiru praised the expanding role of fintechs and highlighted opportunities beyond payments, including health-tech, edu-tech, insur-tech, and agri-tech. He also showcased the impact

of the SAIL Innovation Lab, a hub designed to equip young Nigerians with digital skills and entrepreneurial opportunities. Senator Salisu, in turn, reaffirmed the Senate's commitment to creating legislation that supports fintech growth, safeguards data, enhances cybersecurity, and strengthens Nigeria's global digital competitiveness.

These engagements come just days ahead of Nigeria Fintech Week 2025, scheduled for October 7 to 9. Themed "The Fintech Ecosystem Symphony: Orchestrating Nigeria's Digital Future", the event will bring together innovators from fintech, agri-tech, health-tech, lifestyle, entertainment, compliance, and artificial intelligence, alongside investors and policymakers. With major sponsors such as First Bank, Sumsu, Huawei, Mastercard, PAPSS, Zenith, Rwanda Finance, and Network International already confirmed, this year's edition is expected to showcase how fintech has become the backbone of how economies live, move, trade, and connect.

THE FINTECH ECOSYSTEM SYMPHONY: ORCHESTRATING NIGERIA'S DIGITAL FUTURE



Ore Badmus

REGISTRATION IS FREE

NIGERIA FINTECH WEEK 2025

📅 7th - 9th October 2025

🕒 09:00AM Daily

📍 Landmark Event Centre, VI, Lagos

Join me at NFW25.
Register with the link below.

<https://nfw.fintechng.org>

I WILL BE ATTENDING

For sponsorship and partnership opportunities - Contact Seun at exec.sec@fintechng.org
or call +234 903 000 3013

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“ *What excites me about Nigeria Fintech Week 2025 is how real it feels. Fintech isn't just numbers and policies; it's farmers being able to access credit without friction, it's a young creator getting paid instantly from anywhere in the world, it's traders in the market no longer worrying about carrying cash. This year, we're bringing all those stories and people together under one roof. Expect energy, honesty, and innovation you can see and touch. NFW25 is about showing how fintech powers everyday life, and inviting everyone to be part of that future.*

Guarding Against the Risks: Securing Your Wallet in Nigeria's Fintech Boom

Nigeria's fintech revolution has reshaped the financial landscape of Africa's largest economy. Household names such as Flutterwave, Paystack, OPay, and Kuda now process billions of naira daily, offering financial services to millions previously excluded from traditional banking. According to the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), mobile money transactions surpassed ₦59 trillion in 2023, cementing Nigeria's status as Africa's most vibrant fintech hub. This digital shift has delivered unprecedented financial inclusion, enabling Nigerians to send money, pay bills, save, invest, and access credit with just a smartphone. Yet, alongside this progress lies a troubling reality: as digital wallets multiply, so too do cyber threats. The very tools empowering financial access have become prime targets for increasingly sophisticated criminals, raising urgent questions about user safety and industry resilience. The sector's rapid growth is powered by Nigeria's young, tech-savvy population and widespread smartphone adoption. Platforms like Kuda, Carbon, and PalmPay have drawn millions of new customers, while processors support transactions ranging from informal market sales to large corporate payments. But this

scale has also opened new attack surfaces. Users today face a range of digital threats. SIM swap fraud remains a major risk, with attackers hijacking phone numbers to intercept authentication codes and seize accounts. Phishing attacks, often disguised as legitimate fintech messages or websites, trick victims into sharing passwords and OTPs. Vishing adds another layer, with fraudsters posing as bank staff over phone calls to extract sensitive data. Meanwhile, fake fintech apps impersonate trusted brands to harvest user credentials, and credential stuffing attacks exploit weak or reused passwords from past data breaches. Protecting digital wallets requires proactive measures. Experts recommend replacing SMS verification with authenticator apps and enabling biometrics like fingerprint or facial recognition. Strong device security is equally vital: using screen locks, avoiding public Wi-Fi for financial activity, updating software, and installing reputable security tools. Monitoring accounts through real-time alerts and reviewing transaction histories can help detect suspicious activity early. Password management—using unique, complex credentials stored in password managers—remains one of the simplest yet most effective defences.

Awareness is also key. Nigerians should remember that fintech providers never request PINs, OTPs, or passwords via unsolicited messages or calls. Red flags include urgent verification requests, offers that sound too good to be true, or sudden SIM deactivation, which may indicate an ongoing attack. Developing a "security-first" mindset means diversifying funds across platforms, keeping emergency reserves in traditional accounts, limiting balances in digital wallets, and conducting regular security updates. Families and employees sharing devices should also receive basic cybersecurity education. Nigeria's fintech boom represents a milestone in economic development, but its long-term success depends on trust. Providers must invest in advanced security systems, while regulators establish clear standards that protect users without slowing innovation. Consumers, for their part, must adopt responsible digital habits as everyday practice. Ultimately, the future of Nigeria's fintech ecosystem will be defined not only by the convenience of its services but by its resilience to cyber threats. If security is embraced alongside innovation, digital wallets can remain both accessible and safe, ensuring fintech continues to drive inclusion, growth, and empowerment rather than vulnerability.

ADVERT



South Africa, Morocco Lead Africa's Vehicle Production, According to Latest Data

Recent data highlights South Africa and Morocco as Africa's top vehicle producers, solidifying their positions as automotive hubs on the continent. South Africa's well-established automotive industry, anchored

player, attracting investment from Renault, Stellantis, and other multinational manufacturers. The success of both countries stems from strategic government policies, favorable investment environments, and strong infrastructure. South Africa benefits from decades of

elements have enabled both nations to dominate African auto production.

Other African nations are also looking to enter the automotive space. Nigeria, Kenya, and Egypt have launched policies to encourage local assembly and production, though they

face challenges such as infrastructure deficits, inconsistent regulations, and supply chain inefficiencies. Despite this, the growing demand for vehicles across Africa offers significant opportunities for new entrants.

The future of Africa's auto industry will also be shaped by the transition to electric vehicles (EVs). Both Morocco and South Africa are already exploring EV production, which could further enhance their competitiveness and make Africa a player in the global clean mobility revolution.



by global players such as Toyota, Volkswagen, and BMW, continues to drive significant production numbers. Meanwhile, Morocco has rapidly risen as a competitive

expertise, skilled labor, and established supply chains, while Morocco leverages proximity to Europe and tax incentives to attract manufacturers. These

Chinese Nickel Giant Tsingshan to Invest \$800m in Zimbabwe Steel Plant

Chinese industrial giant Tsingshan Holding Group has announced plans to invest \$800

million in a new steel plant in Zimbabwe, marking one of the largest industrial investments in the country's recent history. The project is expected to significantly boost Zimbabwe's steel production capacity, creating jobs and enhancing local industrial development.

Tsingshan, already a major player in global nickel and stainless-steel

production, has been expanding aggressively across Africa. The investment in Zimbabwe reflects the company's strategy to secure key resources while deepening its

industrial output. The steel plant will not only create employment opportunities but also stimulate related industries such as mining, logistics, and construction.



footprint in Africa's fast-growing industrial markets. The new facility will cater to both local demand and export markets, positioning Zimbabwe as a regional steel hub. For Zimbabwe, the project holds promise for economic revival. Years of underinvestment and infrastructure decay have left the country struggling with

However, concerns remain over resource governance, transparency, and environmental sustainability. To maximize benefits, Zimbabwe will need to ensure that the project aligns with national development goals and that communities benefit equitably from the investment.

Stable Naira, Harvest Season to Ease Inflation – Analysts

Nigeria's inflationary pressures may ease in the coming months, according to analysts who point to a stable naira and the arrival of harvest season as key factors. Food prices, which have been a major driver of inflation, are expected to decline as fresh agricultural output enters the market. Additionally, the naira's relative stability in the foreign exchange market could reduce imported inflation.

The Central Bank of Nigeria's monetary policies, including interventions to stabilize the naira, have started yielding results. While inflation remains high by global

standards, these developments suggest a more favorable outlook for households and businesses grappling with rising costs.



That said, structural challenges persist. Poor infrastructure, insecurity in food-producing

regions, and high logistics costs continue to weigh heavily on food supply chains. Addressing these underlying issues will be critical if Nigeria hopes to sustain inflation reduction beyond the short term.

If effectively managed, the current window could provide a much-needed reprieve for consumers while supporting stronger economic growth. The key will be balancing agricultural productivity with monetary stability to ensure long-term resilience



Karl Toriola Takes on Additional Role as Francophone VP in MTN Group Leadership Reshuffle



the Francophone market representing significant growth opportunities, Toriola's cross-market oversight could enhance synergies and drive innovation across the Group.

For Nigeria, Toriola's new role underscores the country's growing importance in Africa's telecom landscape. It also demonstrates how Nigerian executives are increasingly taking center stage in leading multinational operations across the continent.

Karl Toriola, the CEO of MTN Nigeria, has been appointed as Vice President for Francophone Africa in a leadership reshuffle at MTN Group. The expanded role positions Toriola as one of the most influential leaders within the telecommunications giant, overseeing operations across both Anglophone and Francophone markets. Toriola's appointment reflects

MTN's confidence in his leadership, particularly after steering MTN Nigeria through regulatory challenges and competitive market pressures. His experience and proven track record are expected to drive growth and operational excellence across diverse African markets.

The reshuffle also signals MTN's renewed focus on integrating its operations across linguistic and regional lines. With

Access Holdings: A Vision from Trade Halls to Maternity Wards

Access Holdings Plc is charting a transformative course that extends its influence far beyond traditional banking halls. Under a bold strategic vision, the conglomerate is leveraging its financial prowess to address

aims to tackle the nation's high maternal and infant mortality rates by upgrading facilities, providing essential medical equipment, and improving the overall standard of care for new mothers and their babies. This move represents a direct application of corporate capital and expertise to a pressing

strengthening its brand equity as a purpose-driven organization. The long-term vision suggests a model where corporate success is inextricably linked to community well-being. If successful, Access Holdings' investment could set a powerful precedent for other African corporates, proving that



critical social infrastructure gaps, notably in Nigeria's healthcare sector. This initiative signifies a profound evolution from a purely profit-driven entity to one embedding social impact at the core of its growth strategy, demonstrating a commitment to national development.

A central pillar of this strategy is a significant planned investment in modernizing maternity wards across the country. The initiative

humanitarian challenge. This foray into healthcare is not an isolated act of charity but a strategic diversification. By building a more resilient and multifaceted portfolio, Access Holdings mitigates risks associated with the financial sector's volatility. It positions itself as a foundational player in Nigeria's economic and social ecosystem, creating new revenue streams while generating immense goodwill and

strategic capital can and should be deployed to solve systemic problems. This journey from trade halls to maternity wards could redefine the role of a holding company in the 21st-century African economy.

Flutterwave Doubles Profit Margins in H1 2025 as Global Expansion Accelerates

bolstered investor confidence and



African fintech giant Flutterwave has reported a remarkable financial performance for the first half of 2025, announcing that its profit margins have doubled year-on-year. This surge in profitability underscores the company's successful transition from a growth-focused startup to a mature, scalable, and financially robust enterprise. The results have

solidified its position as a leader in the global payments landscape. The impressive margins are largely attributed to the accelerating pace of Flutterwave's international expansion and a strategic optimization of its operational costs. As the company scales its operations across new markets in North America, Europe, and other parts of Africa, it has achieved greater economies of scale, reducing the cost per transaction. Furthermore, the introduction

of higher-margin value-added services has diversified its revenue streams beyond basic payment processing.

A key driver of this growth has been the deepening of its enterprise solutions, catering to large multinational corporations requiring seamless cross-border payments across the continents where Flutterwave now operates. The company's ability to handle complex, high-volume transactions for big clients has proven to be a significant competitive advantage and a major contributor to the bottom line. This financial report signals a new era for African tech, demonstrating that homegrown companies can achieve and sustain global competitiveness with sound unit economics. Flutterwave's performance is a beacon for the entire ecosystem, showing that rapid expansion and profitability are not mutually exclusive but can be synergistically achieved through strategic execution and market discipline.

NCC, CBN Create Framework to Standardise Operations Around Airtime Recharge



CBN's involvement ensures that airtime transactions, which are a form of electronic value, adhere to the same rigorous standards as other financial instruments. Ultimately, consumers stand to benefit the most from this regulatory clarity. They can expect a more reliable recharge process, fairer pricing, and a robust mechanism for redress when issues arise. This framework

In a landmark collaborative effort, the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) have jointly established a new regulatory framework aimed at standardizing operations for airtime recharge and purchases. This initiative seeks to bring order, transparency, and enhanced consumer protection to a multi-billion-naira market that has historically operated with minimal formal oversight, affecting millions of Nigerians daily. The framework mandates strict operational guidelines for all entities within the airtime value chain, including

telecom operators, banks, fintech companies, and airtime vendors. Key provisions include standardized fee structures to eliminate arbitrary charges, clear rules for dispute resolution, and stringent requirements for the safeguarding of customer funds used for airtime purchases. The goal is to eliminate fraudulent practices and ensure reliability. For the financial and telecom sectors, this move represents a significant step towards deeper integration and formalization. It provides a clear legal and operational roadmap for fintechs specializing in bill payments, potentially attracting more investment into the niche. The

not only protects consumers but also fosters a more stable and trustworthy digital ecosystem, which is fundamental for Nigeria's continued digital economic growth.

31 Million Nigerians Are Food Insecure, UN Warns



A recent United Nations report has issued a grave warning, revealing that approximately 31 million Nigerians are currently facing severe food insecurity.

This staggering figure highlights a deepening humanitarian crisis driven by a confluence of factors including widespread conflict, climate change impacts, and economic instability. The situation paints a dire picture of hunger and malnutrition threatening a significant portion of the nation's population.

The crisis is particularly acute in the country's northeast and northwest regions, where prolonged insurgency and banditry have disrupted farming activities, destroyed livelihoods, Fintech Africa Magazine

and displaced millions from their agricultural lands. These security challenges have severed access to farms and markets, crippling local food production and distribution networks that communities rely on for survival.

Compounding the problem are broader economic pressures, such as rising inflation and a sharp decline in the purchasing power of ordinary Nigerians. Even where food is available, soaring prices place it out of reach for many families. The report emphasizes that this is not merely a production issue but an access and affordability crisis, requiring urgent and multifaceted intervention.

The UN's findings serve as a critical call to action for the Nigerian government and

international aid agencies.

Addressing this emergency demands a coordinated response that combines immediate food aid with long-term strategies to enhance security, support climate-resilient agriculture, and stabilize the economy. Without swift and sustained action, the food security situation risks deteriorating further, with devastating human consequences.

Interim Dividend: These Tier-1 Banks Will Pay If CBN Approves

Several of Nigeria's top-tier banks are poised to reward their shareholders with interim dividend payments, pending a crucial green light from the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). This move follows the banks' strong financial performances in the first half of the year, characterized by significant growth in earnings and profits. The declaration of an interim dividend is a strategic tool used by companies to distribute profits to shareholders before the

institutions despite a challenging economic environment. Factors such as higher net interest margins from monetary policy tightening, increased foreign exchange trading income, and successful digital banking initiatives have contributed to their impressive bottom lines, generating excess capital.

However, the final decision rests with the CBN, which must ensure that any capital distribution does not jeopardize a bank's stability or violate regulatory capital adequacy requirements.

that institutions remain resilient against potential future shocks. For investors, the prospect of interim dividends is a positive signal of corporate confidence and financial strength. It provides an early return on investment and can boost market sentiment towards the banking sector. Approval from the CBN would not only benefit shareholders but also reinforce perceptions of a well-regulated and thriving banking industry in Nigeria.



end of the full financial year. The potential payouts are a direct reflection of the robust health and profitability of these financial

The apex bank's approval process is a critical prudential measure designed to protect the banking system's integrity and ensure

ADVERT



N70,000 Minimum Wage Has Lost Value as Naira Falls – US Report

A report from a US-based institution has concluded that Nigeria's recently implemented N70,000 national minimum wage has already been significantly eroded by the rapid depreciation of the naira. The analysis highlights the brutal economic reality where nominal wage increases are swiftly negated by soaring inflation and a weakening currency, leaving workers' real purchasing power in a continued state of decline. The primary mechanism for this erosion is imported inflation. Nigeria is highly dependent on imported goods, from machinery and fuel to essential food items.

As the naira loses value against the US dollar, the cost of importing these goods skyrockets, and these increased costs are inevitably passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices for virtually all products and services. Consequently, while the gross amount of the minimum wage has increased, its real value—what it can actually buy—has fallen. The report suggests that for the wage to have its intended effect of improving living standards, it must be indexed against a realistic inflation rate or accompanied by aggressive policies to stabilize the national currency and curb inflation. This creates a complex policy dilemma for the government

and central bank. It underscores the limitation of wage increases as a standalone solution to cost-of-living pressures without addressing the fundamental macroeconomic instability driving the currency devaluation and inflation. The findings point to the urgent need for holistic economic reforms to restore stability.



UK Inflation Picks Up to Hotter-Than-Expected 3.8% in July

The United Kingdom's inflation rate unexpectedly accelerated to 3.8% in July, a figure that surpassed economists' forecasts and marked a reversal from the previous disinflationary trend.

suggest that inflationary pressures are becoming more domestically generated and entrenched, rather than being solely a result of global energy shocks, making them more difficult for policymakers to tame. For financial markets, the data immediately shifted expectations

resurgence of inflation is a dispiriting development that squeezes budgets further and delays the prospect of relief from the cost-of-living crisis. It signals that the path back to low and stable inflation will be bumpy and uncertain, forcing consumers and



This surprise increase complicates the economic outlook and presents a fresh challenge for the Bank of England (BoE), which has been engaged in a prolonged battle to return inflation to its 2% target. The uptick was reportedly driven by persistent pressures in the services sector, rising wages, and stubbornly high core inflation, which strips out volatile items like food and energy. These factors

regarding the BoE's monetary policy. The prospect of an imminent interest rate cut was pushed further into the future, and there is now heightened uncertainty over whether the central bank might even need to consider further tightening. This led to a strengthening of the pound as investors priced in a longer period of higher rates. For British households, the

businesses to brace for a prolonged period of elevated interest rates and economic pressure.

The World's Most Valuable Unicorn Companies in 2025

The global landscape of private companies has been reshaped, with the 2025 ranking of the world's most valuable “unicorns”—startups valued at over \$1 billion—revealing the dominant trends shaping the future of business. Topping the list are firms pioneering breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, renewable energy, and space technology, reflecting massive investor appetite for transformative and deep-tech innovation.

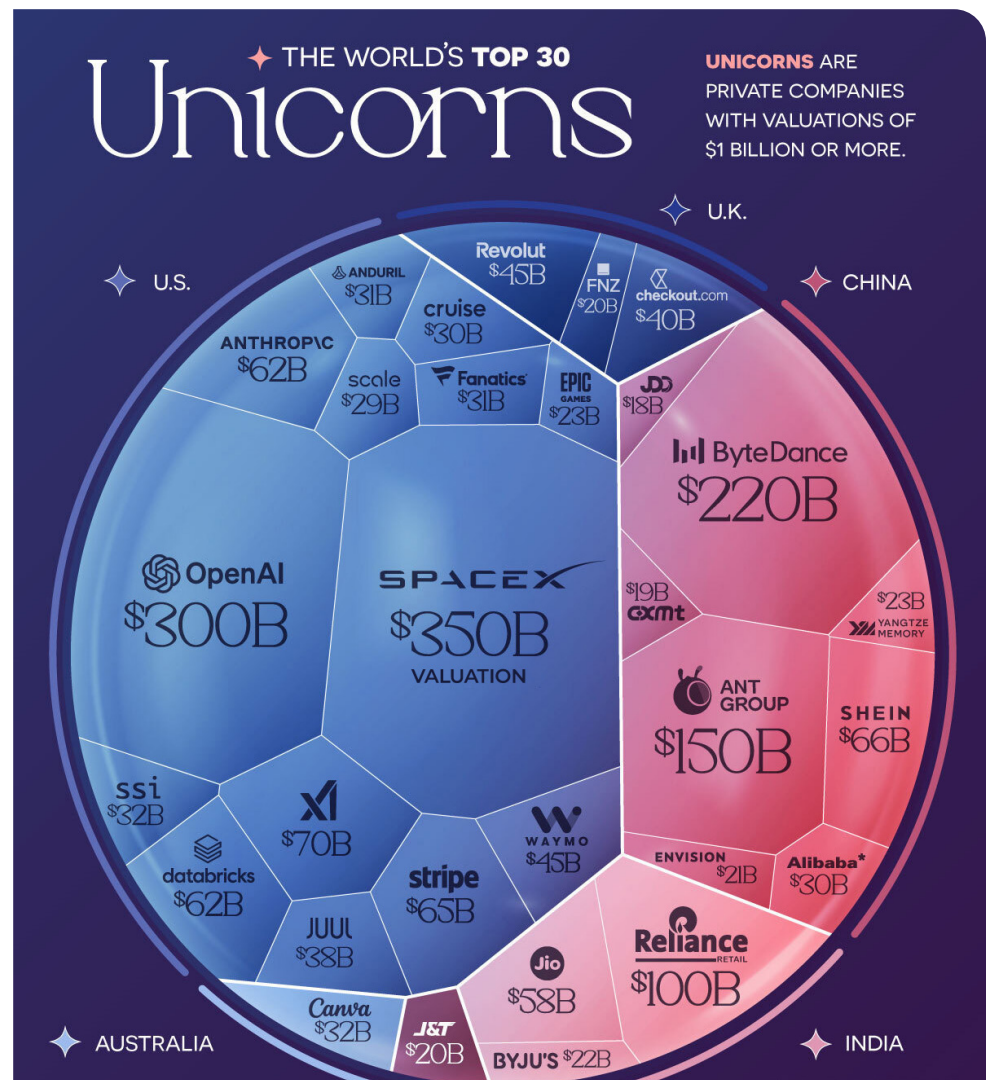
The geographical distribution of these elite companies continues to show strong representation from the United States and China, but also indicates a notable rise in unicorns emerging from other regions including Europe, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. This diffusion points to the globalization of venture capital and the maturation of startup ecosystems worldwide, though Silicon Valley remains a powerful epicenter.

These staggering valuations, often in the tens of billions of dollars, are fueled by private investment rounds led by sovereign wealth funds, major venture capital firms, and corporate investment arms. They bet on the potential for these

companies to redefine entire industries and achieve market dominance, often prioritizing long-term disruption over short-term profitability.

The list serves as a crystal ball

eventual need for these high-flying companies to go public and prove their business models to the broader market, a transition that will be closely watched by the global financial community.



for the next decade of economic activity, highlighting which sectors are attracting the smartest capital and brightest talent. However, it also raises questions about sustainability and the

Insurance: Navigating NAICOM's Recapitalisation Directive

The National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) has set the Nigerian insurance industry on a definitive path toward consolidation and strength with its newly enforced recapitalization directive. The policy mandates that insurance



companies significantly increase their minimum capital bases, a move designed to enhance their capacity to underwrite larger

risks, improve policyholder protection, and ensure the sector's overall stability and global competitiveness.

For many smaller and undercapitalized firms, this directive presents an existential challenge. The race to meet the new capital requirements has triggered a wave of strategic deliberations, including seeking fresh investment from private equity, considering mergers with stronger entities, or exploring acquisitions. The industry is poised for a significant shake-up that will likely reduce the number of players but create more robust and reliable institutions.

This consolidation is ultimately intended to benefit the consumer. A more capitalized insurance sector can offer more innovative

products, handle larger claims, especially from corporate clients, and inspire greater public trust—a critical factor in a country with historically low insurance penetration. It forces companies to move beyond survival mode and focus on sustainable growth and better service delivery.

The successful navigation of this recapitalization will define the Nigerian insurance landscape for a generation. It represents a painful but necessary metamorphosis, pushing the industry toward the pivotal role it should play in the nation's economic development by providing a secure safety net for businesses and individuals, and mobilizing long-term funds for infrastructure projects.



More European Refineries Struggle as Dangote Ramps Up Output

The global refining sector is experiencing a dramatic power shift, as evidenced by the growing struggles of several European refineries coinciding with the Dangote Petroleum

environmental regulations, and declining local demand for fossil fuels. The influx of refined products from Dangote threatens their export markets in West Africa, a region they have supplied for decades, eroding their profitability.

This trend signifies a broader realignment in the global energy economy, where refining capacity is moving closer to the source of crude oil production. The predicament of European refiners underscores the urgent need for them to adapt by investing in



Refinery in Nigeria hitting its operational stride and ramping up output. The mammoth \$20 billion facility, one of the largest in the world, is beginning to flood the African and Atlantic Basin markets with its products, altering traditional trade flows.

European refineries, particularly older and less complex plants, are facing an intense squeeze from this new competition. Their challenges are compounded by high operational costs, stringent

For Nigeria and the broader African continent, Dangote's success is a monumental achievement in energy independence. It drastically reduces the need to import refined petroleum products, saving billions of dollars in foreign exchange and insulating the region from supply disruptions. The refinery is also expected to catalyze a petrochemicals value chain, creating numerous ancillary industries and jobs.

modernization and transitioning to biofuels and cleaner energy solutions to remain relevant in a rapidly changing market.

We've Eliminated Unregistered SIMs from Nigeria's Telecoms Network – Maida

Dr. Aminu Maida, the Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), has announced a significant milestone in the nation's telecom security,

The comprehensive clean-up operation involved a strict audit of the databases of all Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), mandating them to deactivate any SIM that did not comply with the revised and stringent registration protocols. This process, while

mobile communications with greater confidence in the accuracy of subscriber data. This move is expected to drastically reduce the anonymity that criminals, kidnappers, and fraudsters have historically exploited, making Nigeria's digital space significantly safer for all citizens.

Looking ahead, the NCC's focus will shift to maintaining this sanitized environment through continuous monitoring and enforcing strict compliance measures on the operators. This foundational work of creating a credible SIM database is also essential for the future of Nigeria's digital economy, enabling trust in mobile-based transactions and paving the way for more advanced and secure digital services.



declaring that all unregistered and improperly registered Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards have been purged from the country's networks. This achievement is the culmination of a rigorous and extended regulatory drive to sanitize the telecom ecosystem, which has been persistently plagued by its use for fraudulent activities.

disruptive to some users, was critical for establishing a verified and accurate digital identity for every number in operation, linking them directly to a verified National Identity Number (NIN). The primary benefit of this achievement is a substantial enhancement in national security. Security agencies can now investigate crimes involving

Africa Becomes Japan's New Frontier with Investment Plans Worth Billions

In a major strategic pivot, Japan has officially identified Africa as its new economic frontier, unveiling ambitious investment plans worth billions of dollars. This move signals a deliberate effort by the world's

healthcare. Unlike models focused solely on resource extraction, Japan's approach emphasizes partnership, capacity building, and the development of quality infrastructure, aligning with the continent's own Agenda 2063 development goals.

relations marks a significant recalibration of global economic alliances. For Japan, it is a strategic bid to secure a stronghold in the world's next major growth market and ensure a stable supply of critical minerals for its advanced industries. For Africa, it means



fourth-largest economy to deepen its engagement with the continent, countering the decades-long influence of rivals like China, India, and European nations and securing access to Africa's vast potential.

The investment package is strategically targeted at high-growth and high-impact sectors, including infrastructure development, renewable energy projects, technology transfer, and

For African nations, this influx of Japanese capital and expertise presents a valuable opportunity to accelerate development, create jobs, and diversify their economic partnerships. The emphasis on quality and sustainability offers an attractive alternative for countries seeking to avoid the debt traps and uneven partnerships sometimes associated with other foreign investments.

This new chapter in Japan-Africa

more options, greater leverage in negotiations, and a broader path toward integrated economic development.

Six Steps to Keep Business Legally Active – CAC

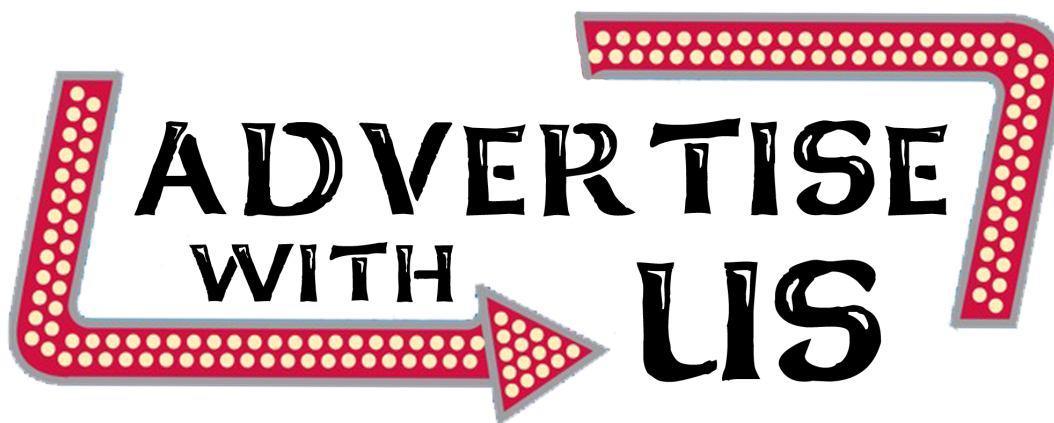
The Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Nigeria's official business registry, has delineated a clear six-step compliance checklist for companies to maintain their legal standing and avoid being struck off the register. This guidance is part of a broader initiative to promote corporate governance and ensure that all registered entities fulfil their ongoing obligations, moving beyond the one-time act of registration. The mandated steps are expected to include the timely filing of annual returns and financial statements, notification of any changes in company directors or registered address, and renewal

of business names upon expiry. The CAC has emphasized that compliance is not annual but a continuous process, and failure to adhere to any of these requirements can result in



penalties, loss of legal personality, and the inability to conduct business formally. For business owners, this clarity is crucial for risk management.

Maintaining an active status protects the company's brand, enables it to enter into enforceable contracts, and allows directors to avoid personal liability for corporate debts. It is the fundamental basis for operating with legitimacy and building trust with customers, investors, and financial institutions. By streamlining and communicating these requirements, the CAC aims to cultivate a culture of compliance and corporate responsibility. This, in turn, strengthens the formal business sector, improves the quality of data available for economic planning, and fosters a more transparent and attractive investment climate in Nigeria.



SoftBank Makes \$2B Investment in Intel



Japanese technology investment conglomerate SoftBank Group Corp. has made a strategic move into the heart of the semiconductor industry with a substantial \$2 billion investment in American chipmaker Intel. This significant capital injection is aimed at accelerating Intel's expansive foundry business and its ambitious plans to reclaim leadership in advanced chip manufacturing, particularly in the United States and Europe. The investment is a powerful endorsement of Intel's turnaround strategy under CEO Pat Gelsinger and provides crucial capital for the extremely expensive development

Fintech Africa Magazine

of next-generation fabrication plants (fabs). For SoftBank, which owns the British chip design giant ARM, this is a strategic play to ensure a stable and advanced manufacturing partner for its vast portfolio of tech companies that rely on semiconductors. The collaboration has profound implications for the global tech supply chain. An invigorated Intel Foundry Services, backed by SoftBank's capital and ARM's architecture dominance, could create a more resilient and competitive alternative to the current reliance on Taiwan's TSMC and South Korea's Samsung, aligning with western geopolitical goals of onshoring critical chip

production. This partnership represents the convergence of capital, chip design, and manufacturing muscle. It signals a new phase in the global chip wars where strategic alliances are key to navigating the high costs and technical challenges of future production, ultimately aiming to shape the landscape of the AI and data-driven economy for decades to come.

Fintech, Farming, and the Fight Against Climate Change

Across Africa, a powerful synergy is emerging at the intersection of financial technology, agriculture, and climate action. Fintech companies are increasingly developing tailored solutions to support the continent's smallholder farmers, who are simultaneously battling food insecurity and the devastating effects of climate change, such as drought and

marketplaces that reduce post-harvest waste by connecting farmers directly to buyers. By leveraging data and mobile penetration, fintech is de-risking farming and building resilience. The impact is twofold: it directly boosts agricultural productivity and farmers' livelihoods while promoting climate-smart practices. For instance, a farmer with insurance is more likely to invest in their farm, and efficient market linkages reduce the carbon

the sector is helping to future-proof Africa's agricultural sector—which employs a majority of the population—ensuring it can feed the continent and contribute to economic stability in the face of a changing climate.



erratic rainfall. These innovations include digital platforms offering micro-insurance products that pay out based on weather data (index-based insurance), facilitating access to credit for drought-resistant seeds and fertilizers, and creating mobile-based

footprint associated with food loss and transportation. This model makes adaptive farming financially viable.

This trend positions fintech as a critical enabler of sustainable development. By providing the financial tools and data-driven insights necessary for adaptation,

Fintech Giant Stripe to Power Global Internet Commerce Growth from Asia with Stablecoins & AI



Global payments powerhouse Stripe has announced a major strategic pivot, choosing Asia as the epicenter for its next phase of growth by integrating stablecoins and artificial intelligence into its core offerings. This move is designed to capture the immense potential of the region's rapidly digitizing economies and position Stripe at the forefront of the next generation of internet commerce. The company plans to leverage the stability and efficiency of blockchain-based stablecoins

for near-instantaneous, low-cost cross-border settlements, addressing a major pain point for businesses operating across Asia's diverse and complex regulatory landscapes. This will be coupled with advanced AI to optimize fraud detection, streamline payment routing, and offer hyper-personalized financial services. By basing this initiative in Asia, Stripe is strategically positioning itself to serve the world's largest and fastest-growing internet commerce market. The region's high mobile adoption, thriving startup ecosystem, and progressive stance on digital currencies

provide an ideal testing ground for these innovative technologies before a global rollout. This aggressive push signifies a fundamental evolution in Stripe's business model from a simple payments processor to a comprehensive financial infrastructure platform for the digital age. Its success could redefine how global e-commerce operates, making transactions more seamless, inclusive, and intelligent for millions of businesses and consumers.

governance and finances, with auditor Gbenga Badejo & Co reporting healthy liquidity and asset growth. In parallel, the board of trustees, chaired by Dr. Segun Aina, emphasized the association's efforts to secure seamless licensing harmonisation within the Africa Fintech Network frame- work and welcomed the PAPSS regional payment integration initiative.

Why This Matters for Nigeria's

Fintech Landscape?

FintechNGR's strategic roadmap highlights the increasing maturity of Nigeria's fintech sector. By building institutional capacity through COPs, driving open banking policy alignment, and hosting nationwide events, the association is enhancing ecosystem resilience. The upcoming open banking implemen- tation and regional events pave the way for broader

financial inclusion, regulatory clarity, and public private synergy key factors in accelerating Nigeria's transition into a robust digital economy.



Stripe Bolsters Asia Presence with New AI and Stablecoin Offerings

In a focused effort to dominate the Asian digital payments market, Stripe has unveiled a suite of new products powered by artificial intelligence and stablecoin technology. The announcement, made with a clear focus on the Singapore and Southeast Asian markets, details plans to embed these cutting-edge tools directly into its platform for merchants and developers. The AI enhancements are designed

to go beyond fraud prevention, offering predictive analytics for cash flow management, intelligent invoice generation, and automated customer service interactions. The stablecoin integration will facilitate real-time settlement for businesses, dramatically reducing the delays and fees associated with traditional cross-border wire transfers and currency conversions. This targeted expansion addresses specific regional challenges, such

as the high volume of cross-border trade between numerous countries with different currencies and banking systems. By offering a more efficient and intelligent payment stack, Stripe aims to become the indispensable financial engine for Asia's next wave of digital businesses. The move intensifies competition in Asia's already crowded fintech scene, challenging local giants and other international players. Stripe's bet is that its global scale, combined with hyper-localized AI and crypto-native solutions, will provide a superior value proposition, convincing Asia's ambitious enterprises to build their financial operations on its infrastructure.

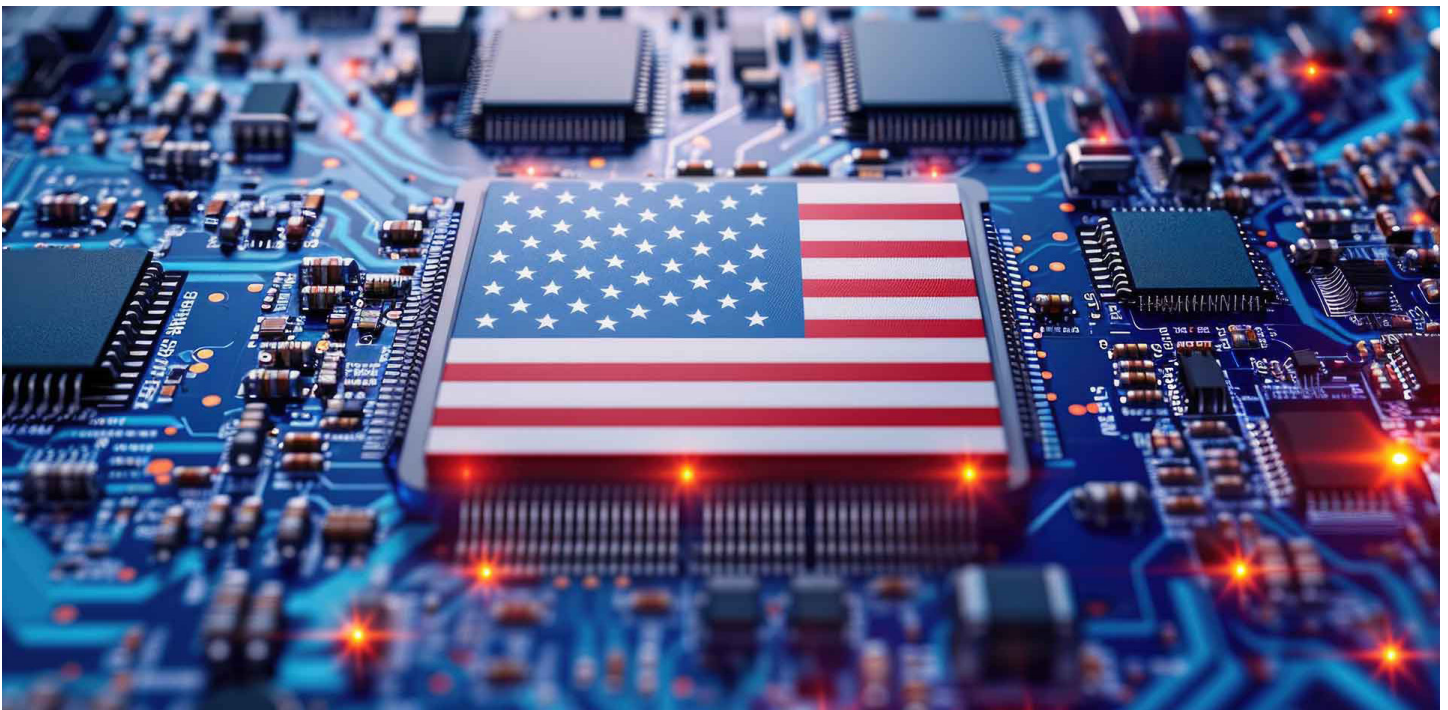
The Stripe logo, consisting of the word "stripe" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font, is centered on a rectangular background with a horizontal gradient from orange on the left to purple on the right.

U.S. Chip Industry Reaches Another Massive Milestone as Global Wafers Becomes the First

Firm to Produce Silicon Wafers Domestically, Backed By Investments from Apple & TSMC The United States' ambitious quest to rebuild a sovereign semiconductor supply chain has achieved a critical breakthrough. Global Wafers has commenced production of advanced silicon wafers—the

This achievement was made possible by significant financial backing from major tech titans Apple and Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC). Their investment underscores a shared strategic imperative to create a resilient and geographically diverse supply chain for the most essential components of the

manufacturing capabilities on American soil. It represents a major step beyond just chip fabrication, moving upstream to secure the entire supply chain, from raw materials to finished semiconductors. The successful launch of this facility strengthens the entire North American semiconductor corridor. It ensures that TSMC's



foundational material for all chips—at its new facility in the U.S., marking the first time in decades this vital component will be manufactured domestically at scale. This milestone reduces a key strategic vulnerability in the American tech ecosystem.

modern economy, mitigating risks associated with geopolitical tensions and logistical disruptions. The onshoring of wafer production is a direct and significant outcome of the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act, which provides incentives for companies to establish advanced

and Intel's new Arizona fabs, along with other planned facilities, will have a local, secure source of high-quality wafers. This vertical integration is crucial for the long-term competitiveness and national security of the U.S. tech industry.

Scaling Africa's Fintech to Bridge Financial Inclusion Gaps and Boost SMEs



The rapid growth of Africa's fintech sector is increasingly being recognized not just as a technological success story but as the primary engine for achieving widespread financial inclusion and empowering small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). By leveraging mobile technology and innovative platforms, fintechs are providing millions of unbanked and underbanked Africans with access to payments, credit, savings, and insurance for the first time. For SMEs, which form the backbone of most African economies, fintech solutions are

transformative. Digital lending platforms use alternative data for credit scoring, allowing small businesses without extensive collateral or financial history to access crucial working capital. Additionally, seamless digital payment systems enable them to easily transact with customers and suppliers, both locally and globally, reducing friction and cost. However, to fully realize this potential, significant scaling is required. This necessitates overcoming challenges such as fragmented regulatory landscapes across the continent, improving digital literacy, and building

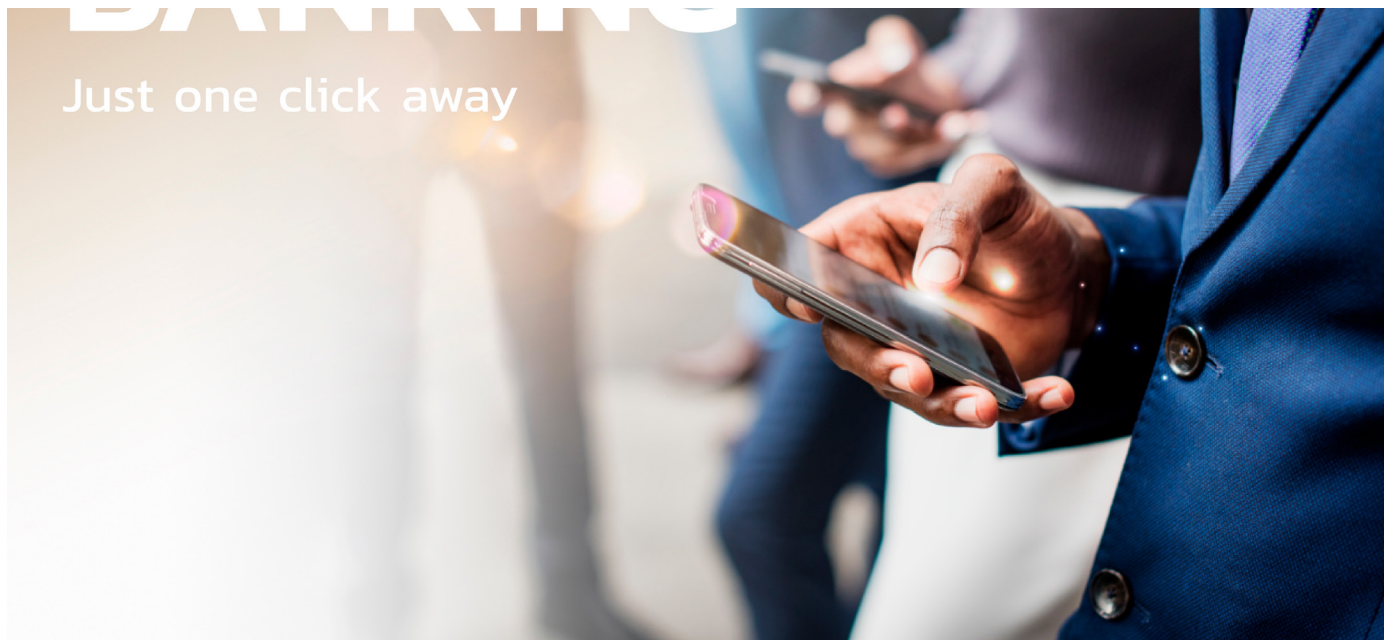
trust in digital financial systems. Collaboration between fintechs, traditional banks, and regulators is key to creating an enabling environment for growth. The future of African economic development is inextricably linked to the success of its fintech sector. By continuing to innovate and scale, these companies can effectively bridge the deep financial inclusion gaps, unlock the latent potential of millions of SMEs, and drive a new wave of inclusive economic growth across the continent.

Banque Misr's Fintech Arm Secures Final Approval to Launch Egypt's First Fully Digital-Native Bank, onebank

Egypt's financial landscape is set for a digital revolution with the central bank granting

services—from account opening and savings products to loans and payments—without any physical branch network. This model promises greater convenience,

risk typically associated with new digital entrants while ensuring the service is built on a stable and secure financial infrastructure. The launch of onebank is a



final approval to “onebank,” the country’s first fully digital-native bank. Launched by the fintech arm of Banque Misr, one of Egypt’s largest state-owned banks, this initiative represents a monumental shift in the traditional banking sector’s strategy, embracing a digital-first model to capture a new generation of customers. onebank will operate exclusively through a mobile application, offering a full suite of banking

lower operational costs, and highly personalized user experiences driven by data analytics, appealing particularly to tech-savvy youths and segments neglected by traditional finance.

The backing of Banque Misr provides onebank with a crucial advantage: immense trust and a robust regulatory foundation combined with the agility and innovation of a fintech startup. This hybrid model mitigates the

watershed moment for Egypt’s banking sector, signaling an aggressive move towards digitization and competition for the digital wallet. It is expected to accelerate financial inclusion goals, force incumbent banks to accelerate their own digital transformations, and set a new standard for consumer expectations in retail banking.

Fintech AFRICA

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