

**USE OF BUSINESS IMMIGRATION TO PROMOTE TRADE WITHIN AFRICA AND BETWEEN
AFRICAN AND NON-AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

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We thank you for your interest in business and corporate immigration strategies. These programs were created to promote trade and investment collaboration for corporations, investors, traders and experienced business managers and executives within Africa countries and between African and non-African countries. The advantages of global business immigration will assist African business to identify trade partnerships and build stronger markets.

We live in a time of remarkable change. It is a change that we must take advantage of by thinking new ways and taking actions so that we can make change work for us and emerge stronger and better than the past. Trade is what will drive the future of industrialization and specialization in Africa. So let's talk about the choices we can make in using business immigration strategies to drive intra-African trade as well as promote trade and investment between Africa and the developed economies of Europe and the Americas.

First: How do our businessmen and women gain access to dollar denominated loans at affordable interest rates, especially as we know that the cost of borrowing in Africa is prohibitive?

Second: How do we give everyone an opportunity for a college and graduate education at affordable cost at the best institutions anywhere in the world? Today, parents are paying more for school fees as they are getting older, instead of saving more for their retirement, the result is that parents are getting poorer as they are getting older, this is not sustainable.

Third: How can we earn foreign currency as individual business owners through opportunities like AGOA and other exportable products other than oil, which is no longer sustainable because of the fall in oil prices.

Four: How do we access the best and affordable medical care available especially as we know that our medical facilities in most African countries are inadequate.

Five: How do we reduce the Brain Drain in Africa.

The world today is a global village and African businesses must not be left behind. We are already at a disadvantage with businesses in developed countries and must take our destiny in our hands to chart a new course and set our priorities right. It is up to us to take control of our destinies and that means that we have to set up our priorities.

One way African businesses' can begin to think in a smarter and strategic way is the use of Business Immigration strategy to drive trade and investment as well as flow of funds from the Western world to

Africa, thereby providing an equal opportunity for both African businesses as well as their foreign competitors with ready and easy access to capital.

What is Business Immigration: *Business immigration is what facilitates the movement of goods and services across borders. It enables investors, traders and professionals to acquire favorable permanent immigration status in developed countries with the following benefits:*

- Access to dollar denominated loans at affordable and low interest rate
- Access to affordable medical care
- These benefits will enable family members to access quality education at a very reasonable cost and also obtain work visa status in these countries.

Using business immigration by African Business to access the above benefit through:

- Intra-company transferee visas-Set up a subsidiary of your company in the Western world qualifies the executives and managers to live, work and pay home school fees for their dependants thereby reducing the motivation for corrupt practices. Family dependants will also qualify for the same benefits.
- Treaty Trader and Treaty Investor Visas. Citizens of countries with trade treaties to the Western World will qualify for the best visa classification in the world as treaty traders and treaty investors. The advantage of these visas is that it will never expire thereby allowing the beneficiaries seamless entry and uninterrupted business activity in the relevant country. Dependants can work, live and obtain education for their children at affordable rates as well as pay home school fees. African countries should be well advised to use this business immigration classification to promote trade by entering into trade treaties where a minimum amount of investment such as \$25,000 dollars will allow their business people to qualify for permanent investment visas. For example Nigeria and South African can provide such preferential investment visas for their business citizens thereby promoting trade and investment between both countries. However, a higher investment dollar amount may be required from large businesses of Non-African countries because of the benefit of scale, size of their business and access to dollar denominated loans .
- It is therefore imperative that African countries entering into trade treaties with Western countries and China should be advised to secure treaty trade and treaty investor visa advantages for African investors and traders when entering into trade treaties or should re-negotiate existing trade treaties with these non- African countries so that their citizens will qualify to obtain favorable business immigration status.
- Immigrant Investor Programs-obtaining permanent residency or outright citizenship through investment of a certain sum. Today investment visa requirements between African countries and the Western World is stacked against African countries whose citizens are required to invest

several millions of dollars in order to qualify for investment visas in these countries. The United Kingdom requires an investment of 1,000,000 millions pounds sterling while USA requires an investment of \$1,000,000 million dollars to acquire an investment visas. These encourages corruption in some countries leading to the plundering of the economy by some African government functionaries. African countries can reduce corruption by using their combined regional power and strength to enter into trade treaties with other regional economic block to secure favourable business investment visas with lower investment dollar amount requirements.

- Execution of Bilateral Agreement between Nigerian-China Currency Swap. This was concluded recently to facilitate trade between both countries since China is Nigeria's trading partner in Africa. The benefits of this transaction are many because it will assist both countries to manage their reserves, especially Nigeria by reducing the exposure of foreign reserves to the volatility risk of a single currency, the dollar. Nigeria will gain from the technical know-how and ingenuity of the Chinese in Information technology. However, some major opportunities were over looked and not captured by the recent treaty. Since the deal was made to boost mutually beneficial business transaction and promote bilateral trade relationship, Nigeria missed the opportunity to ensure that a favorable business immigration visa classification based on trade was enshrined in the treaty to allow Nigerians to acquire long term business visa as China is Nigeria largest trading ally. This type of visa will allow Nigerian traders and business persons to acquire long term treaty trader visa with maximum duration of Seven years stay in China as is the case in the United States Immigration Laws. This benefit can be applied to any African country in a similar trade relationship with China, and reduce the current situation where some African countries are used as dumping ground for inferior/substandard chinese products, instead the African countries can use business immigration strategies to promote transfer and localization of Chinese technology in their various countries.
- Criminalization of African Traders and Business persons in China due to the issuance of the wrong visa classification by the Chinese Consulate : It should be noted that African traders are continuously issued with short term visitors visa's of less than six months duration, although their purpose of visiting china is usually for business. This is the wrong visa classification since most Africans are not interested in visiting the great wall of China but travel to China for to conduct trade and business. The Chinese government has a business and employment visa classification that most African traders should apply for to enable them spend the long duration normally required to develop their business in China. The benefits of these business classification visas are immense because it provides a permanent visa required for business operation. The African business owner can set up their corporate bank account and qualify to borrow money in local currency at low interest rate and avoid the current situation where their investment is usually placed at risk by some local partners who take advantage of the expiration of their short term visitors visa and the consequent imprisonment of these traders by the Chinese criminal authority, turning an immigration violation into a criminal offence, thereby making it impossible for these traders to renew their visa in future.

African countries have to use what they have to get what they do not have. In African, we have an abundance of raw material, the engine that drives development and industrialization in most developed economies.

It should be noted that Ivory Coast makes about \$2.5 billion dollars annually from their export of raw cocoa while MARS CHOCOLATE that processes the cocoa into chocolate makes about \$18 Billion dollars annually from the sale of the finished product.

African Governments must ensure they work together to use the benefit of scale to negotiate with regional economic blocks, such as the EU, other economic blocks in Asia and the Americas to negotiate trade treaties that will provide favorable conditions for their citizens to get favorable business visas. African countries need to take advantage of Brexit. Britain is in the market for new business partners post Brexit, obviously Africa will become an important market to United Kingdom because of the historical ties, and thus it should be much easier for African countries to extract favorable visa concessions from the United Kingdom such as treaty investor and treaty trader visa status for their business citizens. It is note worthy that many African traders visit china with temporary visas for pleasure while they exist a long term business visa that they qualify for but for lack of knowledge, many end up been criminalized upon the expiration of these visas, with the consequent loss of their investment in china.

Business Immigration can also serve as a catalyst to reduce corruption in African because when people have access to beneficial information by reducing the costs of borrowed funds as well reducing the payment of school fees and foreign medical bills; it will have the positive effect of reducing primitive accumulation.

What classification of People can Apply

- Traders
- Investors
- Professional's

There is the need for African business community to be trading more with each other and utilize business immigration to promote their business interest.

Fortunately one of the smarter approaches is the use of business immigration strategies to improve our lives. You can use your corporate status, professional or trade classification to acquire permanent immigration status in any of the developed country and ultimately to gain residency or citizenship through intra-company transferee visas, treaty investor /treaty trader visas and various types of investment visas.

We agree that real opportunity requires every African to get education and training they need to get a good job or set up a lucrative business. Our continents journey is not yet complete. And the responsibility to carry these efforts into the future now rests with each of us.

Thank you, once again for your ongoing commitment to this work. I look forward to where you must and will help to lead this giant continent from here and May God bless you all as you.