

ADVOCACY TASK (I): COORDINATION AND INTERACTION WITH FOREIGN INVESTORS

Title: Strategic Engagement with UK-Based Investor for Investment Promotion in Zamfara State

Background:

In our effort to open Zamfara State to global investment, the Zamfara State Investment Promotion Agency (ZIPA) recently coordinated a landmark high-level engagement with Mr. Laurence Robertson, Chairman of the Westminster Africa Business Group (WABG), and key members of the WABG network during an official visit to the UK Parliament in London. The engagement was anchored by a keynote address delivered by His Excellency Governor Dauda Lawal, who presented Zamfara State's investment potential before a distinguished audience of British parliamentarians, business leaders, and international investors hosted by the Right Honourable Andrew Rosindell MP.

What distinguished this engagement was the deliberate, sector-focused presentation of Zamfara's competitive advantages — particularly in sustainable mining of lithium, gold, and iron ore, renewable energy, agriculture, healthcare, and education — and the direct access it created between Zamfara's leadership and a high-value network of investors with active interest in West Africa.

ZIPA's Coordination Role:

ZIPA played a central role in preparing, coordinating, and following up on this engagement. Our specific contributions included:

1. Showcasing Opportunities — ZIPA prepared and presented a curated investment profile of Zamfara State for the WABG audience, highlighting the state's priority sectors: sustainable mining (lithium, gold, iron ore), solar energy, agribusiness, healthcare infrastructure, and education. The presentation positioned Zamfara as a state with extraordinary natural endowments and a reform-driven government actively removing barriers to investment.

2. Strategic Investor Targeting — Working alongside lead consultant Haroun Abba, ZIPA identified and engaged WABG members with active investment portfolios in mining, renewable energy, and agriculture across West Africa. The engagement was not a general awareness event — it was a targeted matchmaking session designed to convert interest into commitment.

3. Cross-Border Engagement at the Highest Level — ZIPA coordinated the Governor's attendance and presentation at the WABG lunch hosted inside the UK Parliament, ensuring Zamfara's pitch reached decision-makers at the level of British MPs, the WABG Chairman, and WABG Vice Chairman Mr. Tim Johnsen. The delegation included the Director General of ZIPA, Hajia Yaro, the Chief of Staff, Mouktar Mohammed Lugga, the Principal Private Secretary, Alhaji Kabiru Balarabe, and other senior officials.

4. Parliamentary Tour and Relationship Building — ZIPA facilitated a guided tour of the historic Houses of Parliament for the Zamfara delegation, observing parliamentary proceedings and deepening relationships with British parliamentarians committed to Nigeria-UK trade and investment ties.

5. Sustaining Investor Momentum — Following the event, ZIPA engaged WABG leadership on follow-up investor visits to Zamfara

State, proposed Memoranda of Understanding with interested parties, and initiated preparations for a formal investor delegation from the WABG network to tour Zamfara's mining and agricultural zones.

Government Response:

The Zamfara State Government demonstrated clear commitment by:

i. Directing ZIPA to prepare a formal investment prospectus for Zamfara State specifically targeting the UK and GCC investor corridors opened through the WABG engagement. ii. Authorizing ZIPA to pursue a Memorandum of Understanding with the Westminster Africa Business Group to institutionalize the investment promotion relationship between Zamfara and the WABG network. iii. Approving the appointment of Mr. Laurence Robertson, Chairman of the Westminster Africa Business Group, as Honorary Investment Ambassador of the Zamfara State Investment Promotion Agency, in recognition of his commitment to facilitating UK-Zamfara investment flows.

Impact on the Investment Ecosystem:

This engagement has already begun yielding measurable results beyond the immediate event. Zamfara State now enjoys:

i. Direct visibility within the UK Parliament's Africa business network — one of the most influential investor-facing platforms in British political life. ii. Strengthened diplomatic and commercial ties with the United Kingdom, with a clear pipeline for follow-on investor visits to Zamfara's mining and agricultural zones. iii. An established relationship with the Westminster Africa Business Group that provides a permanent platform for promoting Zamfara's investment

opportunities to UK and international investors. iv. Confirmation that ZIPA can successfully coordinate and sustain cross-border investor engagement at the highest levels of government and business.

Supporting Documents:

S/N	Document	Description
i.	Investor Engagement Report	Summary of WABG lunch at UK Parliament and Governor's keynote presentation
ii.	WABG Programme	Event Official programme of the Westminster Africa Business Group lunch hosted by Andrew Rosindell MP
iii.	Appointment Letter	Governor's approval of Honorary Ambassador role for WABG Chairman Laurence Robertson
iv.	ZIPA-WABG MOU (Draft)	Draft Memorandum of Understanding between ZIPA and the Westminster Africa Business Group
v.	Delegation Photographs	Official photographs of Governor Dauda Lawal and Zamfara delegation at UK Parliament

INVESTOR VISIT REPORT

1.0 Introduction

In a significant development for investment promotion efforts in Zamfara State, the Westminster Africa Business Group (WABG), led by its Chairman Mr. Laurence Robertson and Vice Chairman Mr. Tim Johnsen, hosted His Excellency Governor Dauda Lawal and a high-level Zamfara State Government delegation at a special investment lunch held at the UK Parliament, London. The event, organized at the invitation of the Right Honourable Andrew Rosindell MP, provided a premier platform for Zamfara to present its investment case directly to British parliamentarians and WABG-affiliated international investors.

2.0 Purpose of the Visit

The visit was aimed at presenting Zamfara State's investment opportunities to a high-value network of UK-based and international investors, establishing a formal partnership between ZIPA and the Westminster Africa Business Group, and initiating discussions on specific investment projects in Zamfara's priority sectors.

3.0 Highlights of the Visit

3.1 Governor Dauda Lawal delivered a compelling keynote address in which he presented Zamfara's economic potential with particular emphasis on sustainable mining of lithium, gold, and iron ore — sectors in which global investor demand is growing rapidly in the context of the energy transition and electric vehicle revolution.

3.2 The Governor highlighted Zamfara's strategic advantages: a population of over 10 million, proximity to the Niger Republic and ECOWAS markets, significant agricultural output, and a reform-minded administration committed to business-enabling reforms under the SABER Programme.

3.3 WABG Chairman Mr. Laurence Robertson commended Governor Lawal's commitment to investment promotion and expressed the WABG's readiness to facilitate connections between Zamfara and investors across the UK, Europe, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

3.4 The Zamfara delegation — led by the Governor and including ZIPA Director General Hajiya Bilkisu Sulaiman Ibrahim, Chief of Staff Hon. Jabiru Abdullahi Tsauri, Chief Economic Adviser Hon. Khalil Nur Khalil, and Principal Private Secretary Hon. Abdullahi Ahmed Turaji — toured the historic Houses of Parliament, observing parliamentary proceedings and reinforcing the message of Zamfara's openness to international partnership.

3.5 The visit resulted in the following commitments:

- WABG agreed to facilitate investor site visits to Zamfara's mining and agricultural zones.
- WABG expressed willingness to enter into a formal partnership with ZIPA for the ongoing promotion of Zamfara's investment opportunities to its network.
- Individual WABG members expressed preliminary interest in opportunities in solid minerals, solar energy, and agro-processing.

4.0 Proposed Next Steps

To formalize the partnership, ZIPA was directed to:

- i. Prepare a formal investment prospectus for Zamfara State targeting UK and international investors across the WABG network.
- ii. Draft a Memorandum of Understanding between ZIPA and the Westminster Africa Business Group.
- iii. Coordinate an investor site visit delegation from WABG to Zamfara State's mining and

agricultural zones within six months of the London engagement. iv. Propose the appointment of Mr. Laurence Robertson as Honorary Investment Ambassador of the Zamfara State Investment Promotion Agency.

5.0 Conclusion

The UK Parliament engagement ended on a highly positive note, with both the Zamfara State Government and the Westminster Africa Business Group pledging to work closely toward the successful facilitation of investment in Zamfara. These initiatives are expected to create significant socio-economic impact, positioning Zamfara State as a competitive destination for British and international investment in Nigeria's North-West.

ZAMFARA STATE APPOINTS LAURENCE ROBERTSON AS HONORARY INVESTMENT AMBASSADOR

In a bold and strategic step to strengthen its drive for international investment and economic growth, the Zamfara State Government has appointed Mr. Laurence Robertson, Chairman of the Westminster Africa Business Group, as Honorary Ambassador of the Zamfara State Investment Promotion Agency (ZIPA).

The appointment follows the landmark engagement between Governor Dauda Lawal and the Westminster Africa Business Group at the UK Parliament in London, during which Mr. Robertson expressed his personal commitment to facilitating investment flows between the United Kingdom and Zamfara State. The appointment formalizes this commitment and creates an institutional channel through which Zamfara's investment opportunities can be continuously promoted to the WABG's extensive network of UK, European, and international investors.

In a letter conveying the approval of His Excellency Governor Dauda Lawal and signed by the Secretary to the State Government, the appointment was described as a recognition of Mr. Robertson's dedication to strengthening Africa-UK investment ties and his specific interest in Zamfara's development agenda.

"The appointment is based on the conviction that you will serve faithfully and diligently in the best interest of Zamfara State. By this appointment, you are expected to facilitate and promote foreign investment in the State, with particular focus on our priority sectors of solid minerals, renewable energy, agriculture, and infrastructure," the letter read.

The move underscores Governor Lawal's administration's proactive approach to attracting domestic and foreign direct investment and its commitment to leveraging international platforms for Zamfara's economic development. Mr. Robertson's role as Honorary Ambassador is expected to open doors to strategic partnerships across the UK and Europe, expand Zamfara's global investor network, and significantly boost confidence among international investors considering the state.

Stakeholders have welcomed the appointment, describing it as a forward-looking decision that will accelerate investment in Zamfara's solid minerals sector — particularly lithium, gold, and iron ore — which are positioned to benefit enormously from global demand driven by the clean energy transition and electric vehicle revolution. They urged the business community, development partners, and potential investors to engage with the newly appointed ambassador and explore the abundant opportunities Zamfara State has to offer.

This development further positions Zamfara as a competitive and globally connected investment destination, signaling the state's readiness to partner with visionary international leaders and businesses to drive industrialization, job creation, and inclusive economic growth.