



Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Press Release

No: MFA/PR/2026/38

EVACUATION OF STRANDED NIGERIANS FROM NIAMEY, NIGER REPUBLIC

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to inform the general public of the successful evacuation and safe return of stranded Nigerian nationals from the Republic of Niger. This coordinated humanitarian exercise underscores the Federal Government's unwavering commitment to the protection, welfare, and dignity of its citizens abroad.

The evacuation operation, facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with relevant national and international partners, led to the voluntary repatriation of a total of 1,230 Nigerians. The returnees were transported in two batches: the first group of 708 individuals arrived on March 23, 2026, while the second batch of 522 individuals arrived on March 29, 2026.

The Ministry worked closely with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), whose logistical and technical support proved invaluable in ensuring the smooth execution of the exercise. This partnership reflects Nigeria's continued engagement with international organizations in addressing migration-related challenges in a humane and orderly manner. Upon their arrival in Kano, the returnees were received by a multi-agency team comprising officials from the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). Also present were representatives from the Kano State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), and the Department of State Services (DSS), alongside officials of the Kano and Katsina State Governments.

The presence and active participation of these agencies ensured a well-coordinated reception process, highlighting the importance of inter-agency collaboration in responding effectively to humanitarian situations. The Ministry commends all stakeholders for their professionalism, dedication, and commitment to service.

Following arrival procedures, the returnees underwent a profiling exercise at the airport to ensure proper documentation and to facilitate subsequent reintegration measures. They were thereafter transported to the Immigration Training School, Kano (ITSK), where temporary accommodation was provided. During their stay, the returnees received essential support, including meals, sanitary supplies, and basic medical attention where necessary.

The Ministry is pleased to report that, upon completion of the necessary processes, the evacuees were safely discharged and reunited with their respective families. This outcome reflects the Government's emphasis not only on evacuation but also on the humane treatment and reintegration of returning citizens. This evacuation exercise is part of the Federal Government's broader responsibility to safeguard Nigerians wherever they may be. It also demonstrates Nigeria's proactive approach in responding to emerging situations that may pose risks to its citizens abroad. The Ministry remains vigilant and continues to monitor developments in the region while engaging diplomatically with relevant authorities to ensure the continued safety of Nigerians.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterates its appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Niger for the cooperation extended during the evacuation process. Such collaboration reinforces the longstanding bilateral relations between both countries and the shared commitment to regional stability and humanitarian principles.

Furthermore, the Ministry acknowledges the critical role played by international partners, particularly the IOM and ICRC, whose support contributed significantly to the success of the operation. Their continued partnership remains vital in addressing migration and humanitarian concerns in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

Nigerian citizens residing abroad are advised to remain law-abiding, adhere strictly to the laws of their host countries, and maintain regular contact with Nigerian diplomatic missions for guidance and support. The Ministry also encourages Nigerians to register with the nearest Nigerian Embassy or Consulate to facilitate timely assistance in emergency situations.

Signed:

**Kimiebi Imomotimi Ebienfa, anipr
Spokesperson,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja.
Tuesday, 31 March 2026**