



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

PRESS RELEASE

NO: MFA/PR/2026/247

NIGERIA, ZAMBIA ADVANCE BILATERAL COOPERATION AS HIGH COMMISSIONER EFE CLARK-OMERU PRESENTS LETTERS OF CREDENCE

Her Excellency, Ambassador (Mrs.) Efe A. Clark-Omeru, JP, has presented her Letters of Credence to His Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, in Lusaka.

During the ceremony, which took place on 18 September, 2026, the High Commissioner conveyed the warm fraternal greetings and best wishes of His Excellency, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to President Hichilema and the people of Zambia.

On behalf of President Tinubu, Ambassador Clark-Omeru also congratulated President Hichilema on his re-election for a second term in the August 2026 Zambian general elections. She underscored the longstanding and fraternal relations between Nigeria and Zambia, founded on shared interests, mutual respect, Pan-African solidarity and shared history of support for the struggle against colonialism and apartheid in Southern Africa.

The High Commissioner expressed Nigeria's readiness to further strengthen bilateral relations through existing agreements and new partnerships in key areas, including agriculture, mining and solid minerals, trade and investment, education, tourism, the creative economy, science and technology, as well as the deployment of volunteers under the Technical Aid Corps Scheme.

In his remarks, President Hichilema highlighted Zambia's focus on economic diplomacy under the Grow Zambia Agenda, and called on the diplomatic corps to support increased investment, trade, tourism and international economic partnerships. He stressed the need to translate diplomatic relations into concrete projects and deliverables through stronger business-to-business, people-to-people and Government-to-Government partnerships, with emphasis on technology and local value addition.

President Hichilema also emphasized the importance of peace, security and stability as prerequisites for sustainable development. He called for affordable access to capital and highlighted Zambia's tourism potentials, informing of plans to upgrade four provincial airports to international standards. He further underscored Zambia's commitment to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and stronger intra-African trade.

During a tête-à-tête with President Hichilema, Ambassador Clark-Omeru highlighted the contributions of Nigerian businesses and professionals to Zambia's economy, including Dangote Cement, Access Bank Zambia, UBA Zambia, Sahara Group, Harvest Group, Atlas Group, Naija Chops and Tasty Bite. She also conveyed Nigeria's interest in exploring a Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) to establish direct air connectivity between Nigeria and Zambia.

President Hichelema acknowledged the significant contributions of Nigerian businesses to Zambia, noting that efforts had been made to create a more favourable business environment in the country. The engagement between President Hichelema and Ambassador Clark-Omeru highlighted opportunities for stronger Nigeria-Zambia economic relations through enhanced private-sector and people-to-people exchanges.

The ceremony was followed by a reception at the Nigeria High Commission in Lusaka, which brought together the leaders of the Nigerian community and representatives of Nigerian businesses. The reception provided Ambassador Clark-Omeru the opportunity to reaffirm the Mission's commitment to promoting the welfare of Nigerians, while working with Nigerian community and businesses in Zambia to advance Nigeria's economic interests, values and image.

The Federal Government of Nigeria looks forward to working closely with the Government of Zambia to further consolidate the longstanding bonds of friendship between the two countries and promote partnerships that advance their shared interests and mutual prosperity.

Signed:

Oluwafemi Adeniyi
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Wednesday, 23 September 2026