



## **MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

**NO: MFA/PR/2026/280**

### **NIGERIA EVACUATES 114 MORE DISTRESSED NATIONALS FROM SOUTH AFRICA**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to inform that another batch of 114 distressed Nigerian nationals has been evacuated from South Africa amid concerns over Xenophobic and Afrophobic attacks in the country.

The group, comprising 57 men, 23 women and 34 children, arrived in Lagos aboard South African Airways (SAA) Flight SA060 at approximately 20:30 hours on Thursday, 22 October 2026.

The returnees were received upon arrival by the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and other relevant Federal Government agencies.

Their one-way tickets were fully funded from the Two Hundred and Sixty-Five Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Four US Dollars (\$265,854.00) donated by the **Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG)** to support the evacuation of **500** distressed Nigerians from South Africa. With this latest batch, the Church has funded the evacuation of a total of 432 Nigerian nationals.

The Federal Government, once again, expresses its profound appreciation to the RCCG, under the leadership of Pastor Enoch Adejare Adeboye, for its charitable financial support towards the humanitarian exercise.

The latest operation marks the sixteenth (16<sup>th</sup>) consular evacuation since the commencement of the ongoing exercise on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2026, bringing the total number of Nigerian nationals evacuated

from South Africa to 2,151. Of this number, the Federal Government of Nigeria fully funded the return of 1,388 nationals.

The Federal Government reiterates its unequivocal condemnation of all forms of Xenophobic and Afrophobic hostilities directed at foreign nationals, including Nigerians, in South Africa. It further calls on the relevant South African authorities to take decisive measures to protect all persons, irrespective of nationality, and ensure that perpetrators of violence against foreign nationals are held accountable.

While sustaining engagement with relevant stakeholders, including South African authorities, to address Xenophobia and Afrophobia, and promote the safety and welfare of Nigerians residing in South Africa, the Federal Government advises Nigerians in the country to abide by local laws, remain vigilant and prioritise personal safety. They are also urged to maintain regular contact with the Nigerian High Commission in Pretoria and the Consulate General in Johannesburg for consular assistance whenever necessary.

The Federal Government reaffirms its unwavering commitment to safeguarding the well-being of Nigerians in the diaspora and providing timely consular assistance as the need arises.

**Signed:**

**Oluwafemi Adeniyi  
Spokesperson  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja**

**Friday, 23 October 2026**