MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

PRESS RELEASE

NO: MFA/PR/2026/286

AMBASSADOR FEMI FANI-KAYODE PRESENTS COPIES OF LETTERS OF CREDENCE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S DIRCO, OFFICIALLY ASSUMES REPRESENTATIONAL DUTIES

His Excellency Ambassador Femi Fani-Kayode, High Commissioner of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Republic of South Africa, presented copies of his Letters of Credence to Mr Clayson Monyela, Deputy Director-General, Public Diplomacy, and Acting Chief of State Protocol, at the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) on Friday, 30 October 2026.

In accordance with South Africa's diplomatic tradition, the presentation signifies the formal accreditation of H.E. Fani-Kayode to the Republic of South Africa, conferring upon him full diplomatic authority to discharge his representational responsibilities in the country on behalf of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR. Nigeria adopted the same practice two years ago, allowing Ambassadors-designate to function once copies of their Letters of Credence have been deposited with the Chief of Protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, rather than waiting till they present them formally to the President.

Following the presentation, Ambassador Fani-Kayode met with Ambassador Seboga, Deputy Director-General of DIRCO, in his office, as part of his initial diplomatic engagements with senior South African government officials. In their discussions, H.E. Fani-Kayode expressed confidence in the prospect of renewed momentum in bilateral cooperation, collaboration, and strategic partnerships between Nigeria and South Africa.

The presentation of copies of Letters of Credence at DIRCO by Ambassador Fani-Kayode precedes the official presentation of his Letters of Credence to His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, President of the Republic of South Africa, which has been scheduled to take place in a few days.

Signed:
Oluwafemi Adeniyi
Spokesperson
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Abuja
Saturday, 31 October 2026