

AUGUST, 2025



Federal Government Launches NPSSI to Solarize Public Institutions and Cut Governance Costs

In a landmark move that marks a major milestone in Nigeria's energy transition journey, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) has officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Budget Office of the Federation, Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria (InfraCorp), and the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI), marking the official launch of the National Public Sector Solarization Initiative (NPSSI), a flagship, government-led programme designed to accelerate the deployment of

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UNDP and REA Forge Strategic Partnership to Accelerate Nigeria's Clean Energy Transition and Innovation Agenda



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) today announced a landmark partnership aimed at accelerating Nigeria's clean energy transition, fostering innovation, and building a future-ready workforce. This strategic collaboration will focus on key areas, including education, skills development, policy reform, and innovative financing to deliver sustainable and inclusive development.

The signing ceremony, held in Abuja, highlighted a shared commitment to leveraging clean energy as a catalyst for economic growth and human development across Nigeria. The partnership will unlock synergies between UNDP's global development expertise and REA's mandate to electrify unserved and underserved communities.

Mr. Abba Abubakar Aliyu, the MD/CEO of REA noted that "as long-term partners, the strategic collaboration between the REA and the UNDP is a game-changer, deliberately designed for Nigeria's clean energy future, especially with the ongoing renewable energy scale-up efforts being driven by the Federal Government". Abba added that "the REA-UNDP partnership pillars are specifically targeted at advancing ongoing efforts in the clean energy space in Nigeria, catalyzing opportunities across critical ecosystems and unlocking the full potentials in innovation, R&D, local expertise and sustainable investment". Abba emphasized the value of turning Nigeria into the renewable energy hub of Nigeria, leveraging the huge energy market in Nigeria and exploring practical strategies on local content, local manufacturing and innovative finance. This, he said, will cut cost of governance and advance sustainability.

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REA Managing Director Visits Chief of Defence Staff to Strengthen Collaboration on National Public Sector Solarization (NPSSI) Initiative

Abuja, Nigeria. – The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Dr. Abba Abubakar Aliyu, held a project initiation and planning meeting with the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Christopher Musa, at the Defense Headquarters in Abuja. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the National Public Sector Solarization Initiative (NPSSI) and explore potential collaboration between the REA and the

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Labour Minister Visits REA, Commends Agency on Gender Initiatives



In the month of August, Abba Abubakar Aliyu, the MD/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), received the Honourable Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Nkeiruka Onyejeocha, at the REA Headquarters. During her visit, the Honourable Minister was briefed on the REA's youth-focused and gender initiatives, all of which are targeted at upskilling the nation's energy workforce while nurturing a new generation of professionals needed to sustain the ever-growing clean energy ecosystem in Nigeria.

Hon. Nkeiruka, while commending the REA, noted that the Agency's line of programs aligns with the Labour, Employment, and Empowerment Program (LEEP) being facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment. Abba Aliyu emphasized the nexus between energy access and human capital development, vital recipes to achieving a just and inclusive energy transition.



The REA and the Ministry of Labour and Employment further explored ways through which both institutions can partner to improve access to skills, expertise, and employment in the sector. Over the years, the REA has sustained its skill development efforts through initiatives such as the Energizing Education Programme (EEP) STEM Internship, a programme that has aided the training and certification of over 300 female students, as well as the ongoing NEXTGen RESCO program, through which 131 young Nigerians are receiving quality classroom and field training on renewable energy.





As part of the Agency's strategic organizational realignment, Abba Abubakar Aliyu, the MD/CEO of the REA, and other members of the Agency's management, recently welcomed 70 young Nigerians, all trained and ready to contribute their quota to the nation's ever-growing clean energy ecosystem.



Now, more than ever, the REA has become central to multifaceted strategic engagements, programmes and strategic initiatives in the nation's renewable energy space. As the Federal Government advances renewable energy scale-up interventions across the country, there is a need to match this momentum with a young pool of professionals with the requisite skills and expertise.

Following a rigorous application and interview process, which was promptly follow up with a 5-week onboarding training, the new intakes officially resumed at their respective units at the REA, starting a new journey of service and impact.



Nigerian Armed Forces in the deployment of solar power to Military formations.

Speaking during the meeting, Dr. Aliyu explained that

“the NPSSI is a Federal Government–approved programme with an initial funding of N100 billion, designed to replace diesel generators in public institutions with sustainable solar power systems. Target beneficiaries include schools, hospitals, government offices, and other critical facilities.”

“The NPSSI is a collaborative effort led by the REA in partnership with the Budget Office of the Federation, Infrastructure Corporation of Nigeria (InfraCorp), and the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MOFI),” Dr. Aliyu stated. “Our goal is to cut energy costs, improve reliability, and advance Nigeria’s clean energy transition.”

Highlighting the relevance to the Armed Forces, Dr. Aliyu noted that “several military formations had already expressed interest in solar interventions. REA therefore emphasized the importance of adopting a unified and strategic approach to ensure widespread benefits across the military formations”, hence the visit to the Chief of Defense Staff.

He further explained that “for military formations to participate, an MOU with the military leadership would be required, stressing that the initiative is a pay-for-service model to ensure long-term sustainability. Similar agreements have already been signed with the Police Trust Fund, Nigeria Immigration Service, and Nigerian Correctional Service”.

In response, General Musa welcomed the

proposal and expressed appreciation for the REA’s outreach.

“This is a timely and much-needed intervention. Several critical formations are in dire need of reliable power supply,” the CDS remarked. “I will set up a military team to work closely with the REA to identify priority locations and develop a clear implementation plan.”

Both parties also discussed leveraging the Nigerian Army Engineers and Logistics Unit to support deployment, installation, and maintenance of the solar systems. This proposal will be further reviewed by a joint REA–Military Solar Committee to be established following the meeting.



The visit underscored the Federal Government’s commitment to sustainable energy solutions, as well as the REA’s drive to expand renewable energy access to critical public infrastructure across Nigeria.



Delta State Governor Commits to Catalyzing Clean Energy Investments at the REA Strategic Roundtable



On the 20th of August 2025, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) convened the REA – Delta State Strategic Roundtable in Abuja, themed “Unlocking Distributed Energy Investments for Industrial Growth and Inclusive Access in Delta State”. This pivotal event kick started a synergy between the Renewable Energy Service Companies (RESOs) and His Excellency, Governor Sherriff Oborevwoiri, who expressly assured private sector players in the nation’s clean energy sector of the State’s commitment to ensuring ease of doing businesses.



Speaking at the Roundtable, Gov. Sheriff Oborevwoiri expressed his administration’s willingness to optimize the REA’s data-driven programmes and initiatives. He added that

“we view these programmes not only as energy access initiatives, but as powerful tools for inclusive economic growth, enterprise development, and rural transformation”.



While reflecting on the nation’s efforts on Poised for energy access scale-up development, the Governor explained that opportunities, the REA – Delta State “access to renewable energy is a cornerstone Roundtable signals the State’s readiness for for unlocking productivity, attracting innovation, ease of doing business, public-investments, and enhancing the livelihoods of private-partnerships and people-focused our people, particularly in communities that energy interventions. Activated by the MD/ have long been upset and underserved. We CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency, Abba believe that the outcomes of these initiatives Abubakar Aliyu, the REA Strategic Roundtable will drive meaningful improvements in continues to aid strategic partnerships healthcare delivery, education, local industries, between State Governments, Renewable energy Service Companies (RESOs) and other frontline stakeholders in the clean energy ecosystem, while aiding the exploration to leveraging the 2023 Electricity Act as of data-driven strategies, business models passed into Law by His Excellency, President and investment opportunities targeted at Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Delta State improving the States’ electricity market.

In a demonstration of the State’s commitment energy ecosystem, while aiding the exploration to leveraging the 2023 Electricity Act as of data-driven strategies, business models passed into Law by His Excellency, President and investment opportunities targeted at Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Delta State improving the States’ electricity market. Governor recently took a bold step, as approved by the State Executive Council, Abba Abubakar Aliyu, the MD/CEO of the REA with the formation of its electricity market and the convener of the REA State-by-State to catalyze clean energy investments while Strategic Roundtable, while reiterating the advancing electricity generation, distribution transformative impact of clean energy access and regulation. in Nigeria, expressed his satisfaction in the

growth trajectory of the Delta State Electricity Market. He added that the renewable energy scale-up efforts of the Federal Government would significantly boost the country's GDP, with a projected annual increase of 2.9 billion dollars and create 31, 220 new jobs in Delta. Through verified data, Abba highlighted 471 potential mini-grid sites in Delta, with a potential to power more than 386, 046 people and 120, 000 buildings across the state.

While aligning with the tenets of the Act, the State has effected a structured systems designed to develop the state electricity market, including the Delta State Electricity Commission, tasked with overseeing licensing, regulation, and mediation between consumers and service providers as well as the Delta State Rural Electrification Agency, an Agency designed to manage the State electricity market, exploit a range of energy sources, including renewable energy, gas and hydro, and optimize data-driven decision-making for the equitable deployment of energy access to the people of Delta State.



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distributed solar energy solutions across Nigeria's public sector institutions, including schools, hospitals, security posts, government offices, and more.

The Joint Agreement signing took place on Thursday 7th August, 2025, at Budget office the Federation.

At its core, this initiative was birthed from a strategic national priority: the urgent need to power critical infrastructure with clean, reliable energy, while moving away from diesel dependence and reducing the public sector's carbon footprint.

The signing ceremony for the National Public Sector Solarization Initiative (NPSSI), Ministry of Finance in Abuja, not only strengthens the alliance and collaboration between the government and the private sector in the energy sector but also aims to advance the nation's drive for localized renewable energy infrastructure and reverse unsustainable energy financing mechanisms.

Abba Abubakar Aliyu, the Managing Director/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency, noted that the NPSSI is part of a broader strategy to position Nigeria as the renewable energy hub of Africa, while promoting innovation, local manufacturing, and sustainability in energy infrastructure financing in Nigeria. What makes this truly remarkable, he said

“

is the collaborative spirit behind it. We are witnessing a new era of inter-agency synergy, driven by creativity, fiscal responsibility, and a shared determination to reduce the cost of governance while meeting our national energy transition goals

While providing an overview of the initiative, Abba Aliyu explained that “the NPSSI is a flagship, government-led programme designed to accelerate the deployment of distributed solar energy solutions across Nigeria's public sector institutions: schools, hospitals, security posts, government offices, and more. At its core, this initiative was birthed from a strategic national priority: the urgent need to power critical infrastructure with clean, reliable energy, while moving away from diesel dependence and reducing the public sector's carbon footprint”.

MD REA further explained that “at its core, this initiative was birthed from a strategic national priority: the urgent need to power critical infrastructure with clean, reliable energy, while moving away from diesel dependence and reducing the public sector's carbon footprint”. Phase 0 of the NPSSI is fully funded by the Federal Government of Nigeria to the tune of N100 billion. Subsequent phases will harness innovative and blended financing models, leveraging private capital from both local and international long-term funders, all under structures that eliminate sovereign guarantees and contingent liabilities.

Similarly, speaking at the event, Dr. Tanimu Yakubu, the Director-General of the Budget Office of the Federation, emphasized the significance of the initiative in addressing Nigeria's long-standing energy gap and strengthening the fiscal efficiency of public sector operations. He explained that “solarization has come of age as a necessity” and NPSSI will provide an added opportunity to optimize “the demonstrated ability of public institutions to pay for clean, sustainable energy, which is what the capital market needs to ensure bankability”.

Dr. Lazarus Angbazo, MD/CEO of InfraCorp, hailed the initiative as a model for the future of infrastructure financing in Nigeria. He explained that “for decades, the sector has relied solely on public financing”

and “while government is indispensable, government is not enough to solve the energy challenge”, hence the need to optimize the Federal Government's NPSSI as a pathway to drive localization of energy capability and supply chain integration.

Dr. Armstrong Takang, MD of MOFI, who was represented by Dr. Femi Ogunseinde, MOFI's Chief Investment Officer added a strategic perspective on the need for evolving funding models for Nigeria's energy sector. He explained that

“our energy mix has historically been unfairly weighted on fossil fuel, which is expensive to sustain. We must not underestimate the importance of creating business models that drive down the cost of power while expanding access. We must now chart a new course, one that deemphasizes the use of sovereign guarantees, domestically anchored and investment-ready”

– Dr. Armstrong Takang, MD of MOFI

With far-reaching objectives, the NPSSI is aimed at sustainably eliminated dependence on diesel generators and high electricity bills, while advancing energy access, sustainability culture and local job creation.





California Delegation Visits REA's 3MW Renewable Energy Project at the Yakubu Gowon University, Abuja

The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) on the 15th of August hosted a high-level delegation from the State of California, United States, at the University of Abuja renewable energy project site under the Energizing Education Programme Phase II (EEP II), implemented through the Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP) with funding support from the World Bank.

The visit was a key part of the California-Africa Climate and Economic Partnership's multi-country mission, designed to strengthen trade and climate collaboration between Nigeria and California. Central to the mission is a focus on clean transportation, renewable energy, and sustainable economic growth, underscoring ongoing efforts to build long-term partnerships that drive climate action and economic cooperation.

The delegation, led by Dr. Adetokunbo Omishakin, California's Secretary of Transportation, comprised senior government officials, business leaders, and academics. During the site tour, the visitors explored the 3MW solar hybrid

power plant, the advanced battery storage system, the control and monitoring centre, and the workshop and training facility where students are being equipped with hands-on knowledge of renewable energy technologies. During the visit, the delegation toured the University of Abuja's 3MW solar hybrid power plant. These



installations are part of REA's broader strategy to integrate renewable energy solutions into Nigeria's providing tertiary reliable, institutions, sustainable electricity while enabling innovation in e-mobility and productive use of energy (PUE).

Following the site tour, REA-NEP technical leads presentations delivered on the Nigeria Distributed Renewable Access Energy through Scale-Up (DARES) project, detailing its role in expanding energy access to



underserved and unserved.

The University of Abuja visit is one of several engagements during the delegation's Abuja programme, which includes meetings with senior Nigerian government officials to discuss cooperation on clean transportation, renewable energy development, and trade.

By hosting the California delegation at one of its flagship renewable energy sites, REA continues to position Nigeria as a leader in Africa's clean energy transition demonstrating that with the right partnerships, sustainable infrastructure can deliver both climate impact and economic growth.

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Speaking during the signing ceremony, Ms. Elsie G. Attafua, UNDP Resident Representative in Nigeria stated that, "This collaboration with the Rural Electrification Agency is a bold step toward a more sustainable and prosperous Nigeria. Our partnership will not only provide access to clean energy but also serve as a powerful engine for innovation, youth empowerment, and job creation. We are moving beyond simply powering communities to igniting their full potential."

Ms. Elsie emphasized how important it is for the nation to transform its natural resources, such as lithium, into impactful renewable products like the lithium battery systems. She explained that innovation, research and development must continue to form a central part of learning institutions to catalyze the creation of green jobs in Nigeria.

NEXTGEN initiative, a critical program designed to train a new generation of clean energy professionals. This collaboration will create a national pipeline of talent, address youth unemployment and equipping young Nigerians with the skills needed to thrive in the growing clean energy sector.

3. State-Level Policy and Technical Support: The partnership will provide crucial support for the effective implementation of the new Electricity Act. Through state-to-state engagements, UNDP and REA will offer technical assistance and policy guidance to help subnational governments navigate the new regulatory framework and develop harmonized energy policies.
4. Mobilizing Innovative Financing: Recognizing the need for sustainable funding, the partners will explore innovative solutions to unlock development financing, private capital, and business partnerships. UNDP's expertise in blended finance will be leveraged to de-risk projects, attract investment, and ensure the long-term sustainability of clean energy projects, including institutional strengthening and capitalizing the



5. Strategic Research and Communication: The collaboration will advance joint research, knowledge generation, and communication efforts to inform policy decisions and build public awareness. Producing regular robust data and evidence on sustainable energy progress, will ensure that interventions are targeted and impactful, while also showcasing successes to build public support for the clean energy access and transition in Nigeria.

This strategic partnership reflects UNDP's ongoing commitment to supporting state-level development that is inclusive, resilient, and driven by local leadership. By joining forces, UNDP and REA are poised to accelerate progress toward Nigeria's energy and development goals, creating a brighter, more sustainable future for all.

REA-UNDP Five-Pillar Partnership for Transformative Impact

The agreement outlines five key areas of collaboration:

1. Energizing Education and Innovation: The partnership will integrate UNDP's University Innovation Pods (UNIPODS) and Maker Spaces into REA's Energizing Education Programme (EEP). This will transform federal universities and teaching hospitals into hubs of innovation, providing students with the resources to develop practical skills and build solutions for local and national challenges.
2. Scaling the NEXTGEN Initiative: UNDP will support the expansion of REA's





REA, NSCDC Explore Partnership Opportunities on Security and Development

On the 21st of August, 2025 the MD/CEO of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), Abba Abubakar Aliyu recieved the Commandant General of the Nigeria Security & Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Dr. Ahmed Abubakar Audi, at the REA Headquarters in Abuja.

The engagement between both institutions centered on building a strategic partnership, leveraging renewable energy technologies between the REA and the NSCDC, one that enhances security operations for security across Nigeria. Abba Aliyu explained that “the NSCDC plays a critical role in safeguarding national



assets and infrastructure. Without power, essential functions like surveillance, data analysis, and intelligence for national security are impossible. This makes our partnership not just timely, but crucial.

The NSCDC leadership touch points, the “3Cs” — Collaboration, Cooperation, and Coordination, align with the REA

Mandate and growth strategy, a key path to advancing security and development in Nigeria.

In recognition of this synergy, both institutions are now working towards the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).



On the 28th of August, 2025, the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) featured prominently at the Digital Africa Summit in Abuja, Nigeria where the conversation was centered on the nexus between energy access and digitalisation. The team was led by Engr. Umar Abdullahi Umar, FNSE, the Executive Director, Technical Services and Olufemi Akinyelure, Head Nigeria Electrification Programme (NEP).

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