



Database Project

Our General Assembly constituted the Database Project Committee at its General Meeting in March 2015. The goal is to create a database for Nigerians in diaspora in Belgium and Luxembourg. The project has been planned to capture data of all Nigerians (not only NIDO members) living in Belgium and Luxembourg. That means that it will serve as a platform for dialogue and communication across our various organisations and associations. Doubtless, it is intended to promote harmony, peace and unity amongst Nigerians in our communities. This project is in line with NIDO mandate to organise/harness the skills and talent of Nigerians in diaspora for the development of our Motherland.

A databank of residents and citizens of a country is a major tool for economic development purposes, and serves as a means of dialogue and planning. The private sector will be able to tap into the database to meet its need for human resources from the diaspora, where a huge number of Nigerian competence and capacity reside. It will also serve the Embassy as well as our government, which regularly call for data on Nigerians in our communities.

Our Database Project Committee has consulted and worked extensively during the past several months on the project. It has given professional considerations and attention to data capture, data security, and data protection and privacy. The summary of their proposal is as follows:-

1. **Objectives & scope:** To develop and deploy a responsive user-friendly platform. The application will be capable of supporting data collection phase for multiple concurrent users online. The project has been planned to capture data of all Nigerians living in Belgium and



Luxembourg. The database is proposed to be scalable in that it can be adapted and adopted by other NIDO country units beyond Belgium and Luxembourg.

2. **Project endorsement:** To be widely accepted and credible, we have consulted with the Embassy of Nigeria, Brussels. The embassy has endorsed the project, and she is collaborating with NIDO BeLux in realising it. In fact, it will be a joint project between the Embassy and our Organisation.
3. **Project Awareness and Promotion:** The databank shall be promoted through the Embassy of Nigeria, Brussels, other Nigerian community associations, churches, etc. Leaflets introducing / promoting the online database URL shall be on display at the Embassy and other places frequented by Nigerians.
4. **Data Capture:** The data shall be captured via a user friendly responsive web interface. Regular and custom validation techniques will be utilized to guide users to enter the correct data format in required fields. Upon submission, email notice will be sent to the submitter and admin email of NiDO BeLux.
5. **Reliability:** In terms of accountability, Microsoft is one of the best engines. Therefore, we have chosen the Microsoft SQL Server database-driven application using ASP.Net C#, SQL database and jquery. Hosting will be by a reputable and reliable hosting company that guarantees 24/7 services.
6. **Data security:** The database will be secured under the best protocol in the field. Data entry from individual browser to the webserver/database will be protected by SSL (2048 bit strong encryption). This is exactly the same protocol that banks and first class corporations adopt.
7. **Data protection:** The data in the database will be extracted fortnightly and transferred to an external hard drive. This is to further protect the data from hackers. It means our data will



always be offline and cannot be accessed by cyber terrorists.

8. **Data privacy:** The information submitted will in no circumstances be divulged or given to a third party without prior consultation and permission. Not even the name of subscribers will be displayed or shared without express authorization. The database will only display statistical information.
9. **Sustainability:** We have planned that before proceeding to implementation and commissioning, adequate provision should be made to cover all known and anticipated resources that will be required to run the database (mainly data collation) for a minimum period of two (2) years. We have already made provision for the human (expert and professional) capacity. We have attached the financial budget (appendix 1) to cover 3-year period services by the web server, security and protection providers.