



# **African Reinsurance Corporation**



**31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ORDINARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009, ABUJA – NIGERIA**

# CONTENTS

PAGE

PROGRAMME.....

## GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Geographical Features .....

2. Date and Venue of Meeting.....

3. Immigration Formalities .....

4. Reception and Transportation of Participants .....

5. Health Care.....

6. Currency and Foreign Exchange.....

7. Accommodation .....

8. Registration and Documentation .....

9. Air-links.....

NOTES.....



## **PROGRAMME OF EVENTS OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ORDINARY MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

---

**Date:** 25 June 2009  
**Venue:** Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja

**Sunday 21 - Monday 22 June 2009** Arrival of Directors, Africa Re's Management and Staff members

**Tuesday 23 June 2009** Meeting of the Board of Directors, arrival and registration of Delegates

**Wednesday 24 June 2009** Registration of Delegates

**Thursday 25 June 2009** **31<sup>st</sup> Annual Ordinary Meeting of the General Assembly**

- 8am : Delegates and Guests arrive and take their seats
- 8.30am: VIPs arrive and take their seats
- 8.45am: Arrival of His Excellency the President/Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

He is received and led to a lounge for brief discussions by the following persons:

- The Honourable Minister of Finance the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the General Assembly
- The Managing Director of Africa Re
- The Chairman of the Local Organising Committee
- The Conference Officer
- 8.55am: His Excellency, the President / Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria takes his seat at the high table
- 9.00am: Opening Ceremony begins
  - Welcome speech by the Chairman of the Local Organising Committee / Regional Director
  - Speech by the Chairman of the General Assembly and Board of Directors of Africa Re
  - Speech by His Excellency, the President / Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- 10.00am: - Opening ceremony ends
  - Coffee break
- 10.30am: Plenary Session
- 1.30pm: Session breaks for lunch
- 2.30pm: Resolution Committee meets
- 4.30pm: Resumption of Deliberations
- 5.30pm: Adoption of Resolutions
- 6.00pm: Closing Ceremony under the chairmanship of the Minister of Finance
- 8.00pm Gala Dinner offered by Africa Re

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### 1. GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a West African country on the Atlantic coast with a surface area of 963,768.00 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of about 140 million, which placed it as number 10 among the 193 nations of the world. It is the most populated country in Africa. It is bound by the Republic of Benin to the West, the Republic of Niger to the North and the Republic of Cameroon to the East. On the North East border is Lake Chad while coast-line is bathed by the Atlantic Ocean to the South.

The major rivers are the Niger and Benue. The outlets of these rivers and their tributaries are masked by the walls of the mangrove. At the Delta where they break up into a network of creeks and water ways, they provide valuable means of navigation through this marshy part of the country. Apart from Abuja and Lagos which are the country's political and commercial capitals respectively, other major cities in Nigeria are Port Harcourt, Enugu, Calabar, Ibadan, Kano, Kaduna, Jos, etc all of which harbour breathtaking tourist attraction and reflect the rich history and culture of the people.

The conspicuous feature of the northern part of the country is the great Plateau which rises as a steep escapement from the riverine plains of the Niger/Benue rivers to an average height of 606 metres with ranges of hills between 1,515 and 1,818 metres in the Shery Hills around Jos.

Although Nigeria is wholly within the tropics, its climate varies from the tropical at the coast to sub-tropical further inland. There are two marked seasons: The rainy season lasting from April to October and the dry season from November to March. Absolute maximum temperature in the coastal areas of the south is 37°C while the absolute minimum temperature is 10°. The climate is drier further north where extremes of temperature range from 45° to 06° are common.

#### Language

English is the official language of the country. The three major indigenous languages are Igbo, Yoruba and Hausa but Pidgin English is widely spoken, especially in the urban centres.

#### Tourism

Nigeria offers a wide variety of tourist attractions such as extended and roomy river and ocean beaches ideal for swimming and other water sports, unique wildlife, vast tracts of unspoiled nature ranging from tropical forest, magnificent waterfalls, some new rapidly growing cities and climatic conditions in some parts particularly conducive to holidaying. Other attractions include traditional ways of life preserved in local customs; rich and varied handicrafts and other colourful products depicting or illustrative of native arts and lifestyle, and the authentic unsophisticated but friendly attitude of many Nigerians.

However, many of these attractions are still largely untapped and even at their raw states, they are still being enjoyed by few outsiders, either very rich visitors in quest of exoticism or adventurous people in search of new challenges and experiences.

In Abuja, the major attraction for visitors is **Zuma Rock** which is a large monolith located North of Abuja along the main road from Abuja to Kaduna, and is sometimes referred to as "Gateway to Abuja." It is most recognized because of the face of a person on the monolith, and is depicted on the 100 Naira bill. It has been called Nigeria's answer to Australia's Uluru (Ayers

Rock). Although only one-third as wide as Uluru, Zuma Rock is more than twice as high from its base, rising 725 meters above its surroundings.

### **What souvenirs to bring back from Nigeria?**

There is a wide range of traditional art works in Nigeria. The most famous art works are from the Bini Kingdom (located west of the lower Niger River), known for its fine ivories and especially for its bronzes in the form of plaques and hollow-cast human heads. Most Bini "bronzes", as they are known, are in fact brass. Leather works from the Northern parts of the country and the beautifully coloured traditional clothing 'adire' from the south west are souvenir items that may interest a visitor to Nigeria.

## **2. DATE AND VENUE OF MEETING**

The Annual Ordinary Meeting will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009 in the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja. The opening ceremony shall be chaired by the President / Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

## **3. IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES**

A valid passport is mandatory for entry into Nigeria. Visas are required for all visitors, except for nationals of ECOWAS countries. Thus, delegates should obtain a Nigerian visa before travelling. Delegates are requested to inquire from the relevant authorities in their respective countries if they require entry visas into Nigeria. Delegates from countries where there is no Nigerian diplomatic representation should contact Africa Re Corporate Secretariat for assistance.

**Customs:** Personal effects, not meant for sale, are exempted from customs duties on arrival, and also all other personal items such as tobacco and pharmaceutical products in reasonable quantities.

## **4. RECEPTION AND TRANSPORTATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

On arrival and departure from the airport, a protocol service shall be available to assist delegates complete their immigration formalities.

## **5. HEALTH CARE**

Immunizations recommended by the World Health Organisation may be required. 24 hour medical services are available and if the need arises, delegates should contact the Secretariat of the General Assembly.

## **6. FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS**

The currency used is the Naira, the approximate rate of exchange as at 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 is as follows:

- 1 US\$ = 148.00 Naira
- 1 Euro = 192.00 Naira

Visitors may bring any amount of foreign currency but are required to make customs declaration for amounts exceeding US\$ 5,000. The U.S dollar is the most preferred foreign currency. Travellers' cheques and internationally known credit cards are generally accepted in most hotels, restaurants and shops.

## 7. ACCOMMODATION

Meetings shall be held at Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja, while accommodation at preferential rates has been obtained at nearby hotels. Please find below the rates offered by the hotels selected for accommodation:

| HOTEL   | TARIF                               |                   |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
|   | Accommodation Description           | Price             |
| Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja<br>(about 5 minutes drive) | • <b>Twin Hilton/Guest Room</b>     | <b>NGN39,900</b>  |
|   | • <b>Hilton/Guest Room</b>          | <b>NGN44,900</b>  |
| Sheraton Hotel (beside Shehu<br>Musa Yar'Adua Centre)   | • <b>Standard/Classic King Room</b> | <b>NGN39,500</b>  |
|   | • <b>Superior Room</b>              | <b>NGN50,000</b>  |
| Chelsea Hotel (Breakfast inclusive)                     | • <b>Royal and Executive Rooms</b>  | <b>NGN16,597</b>  |
| Sharon Hotel  | • <b>Royal and Executive Rooms</b>  | <b>NGN 11,000</b> |

## 8. REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION

Registration of Delegates shall begin on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja where they shall also receive the conference documents and their identification badges.

## 9. AIR LINKS

Most major European airlines fly into Lagos and Abuja. However, Virgin Nigeria, Aero contractors, Dana Air, Arik and Bellview airlines provide regular connecting flights from Lagos to Abuja.

## 10. WORKING HOURS FOR BANKS AND BUSINESSES

Most banks, shops and offices are open from 8am to 5pm during the week, including a lunch break observed between 12noon and 1pm.

## 11. OTHER INFORMATION

- **Time Zone:** GMT+1
- **Electricity:** 220 volts at 50Hz.

## NOTES

A series of 25 horizontal dotted lines for writing notes.