



# News Release

# Communiqué

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## WARNING ISSUED TO CANADIANS PLANNING BUSINESS IN NIGERIA

The Honourable Michael Wilson, Minister of Industry, Science and Technology and Minister for International Trade, today issued a warning to Canadian businesses planning to explore export opportunities in Nigeria.

A wide range of frauds and scams has been reported in recent times. The criminal activity has already affected Nigeria's efforts to expand legitimate commercial links, and the Nigerian government is working to control the situation.

"While there are clear export opportunities in the Nigerian market, we are recommending caution by Canadian business until the illegal activity is stopped," Mr. Wilson said.

The illegal schemes range from demands for unnecessary registration costs to scams involving visas, commercial samples and other financial documents. Some schemes have gone so far as to involve proposing the illegal transfer of significant sums of money out of Nigeria. Such suggestions have been taken up by numerous foreign business people.

"We are telling Canadian exporters to practise caution in carrying out business in Nigeria," Mr. Wilson said. "We are recommending that when Canadians are contemplating entering into a new business relationship there, any travel be deferred until Canada's High Commission in Lagos can verify the credentials of contracting parties."

Mr. Wilson added that the High Commission is fully prepared to investigate opportunities and urged that Canadian businesses avail themselves of the service. External Affairs and International Trade Canada is working closely with the Nigerian High Commission in Ottawa to screen business enquiries.

Canada is a significant trading partner with Nigeria, having imported more than \$500 million of crude oil over the past two years. Exports have averaged about \$30 million for the same time, for a wide range of manufactured products.

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