

PRESS RELEASE

HONOURABLE MINISTER OF MINES AND STEEL DEVELOPMENT UNDERSCORES ROLE OF MINE AND STEEL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA

The Honourable Minister of Mines and Steel Development Arc. Musa Mohammed Sada has identified the role of Mines and Steel in the development and transformation of Nigeria.

2. Speaking during a courtesy call to the High Commissioner Dr. Dalhatu Sarki Tafida (CFR) in London on Tuesday 6th December, 2011, Arc. Musa Mohammed Sada stated that they were in the UK for two days to attend the International Exhibition in Mines and Steel and also to pay a courtesy call to the Nigeria High Commissioner for the important role Nigeria Diplomatic Missions have played in the Mining Industry. He added that the aim of the exhibition was to sensitize the public on their operations, to attract both local and foreign investors by ensuring the sustenance and security of mining and mineral rights.

3. The Minister noted, however that in order to contribute appreciably to the transformation agenda of the Federal Government, it has indicated interest to collaborate with relevant professional bodies in the sector by establishing mineral Investment Promotion Unit in the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development that would improve investments whereby both local and foreign investors would be attracted to the Sector. The Minister stressed the intension of the Federal Government to diversify the economy from oil and to focus on the Solid Mineral Sector hence the ongoing plans to develop Mining as a prime Mover of the economy.

4. In his response, Dr. Tafida while thanking the Honourable Minister of Mines and Steel Development for his visit, noted that he did not receive any

advance information on the Minister's visit, including the International mining exhibition. He however commended the good work of the Mining and Steel Ministry, and expressed the confidence that with the pedigree of the Honourable Minister as an architect, the Ministry would deliver on its mandate.

Information Section
Nigeria High Commission
London.

9th December, 2011