

Why the Nigerian Drone King, Nathan Nwachukwu chose Ghana over Nigeria.

Here's Why You Should Be Terrified, and Thrilled. Let me tell you something that should keep every Nigerian leader awake at night. A 24-year-old founder from Nigeria just broke ground on Africa's largest drone factory. 34,000 square feet. 50,000 units a year. 120 engineering jobs. He built his first factory in Abuja. His second, bigger, better, faster, is going up in Accra. Not Lagos. Not Port Harcourt. Not the special economic zone in Lekki that took ten years to approve. Accra. The name is Terra Industries. The founder is Nathan Nwachuku. And he is quietly building the most important defence company you have never heard of, right under our noses. Here is what is actually happening. The Sahel is burning. Al-Qaeda and Islamic State affiliates conducted at least 89 drone operations between 2023 and 2025. In January 2026, suicide drones hit Niamey International Airport. Not a military base. A commercial airport.

African militaries have spent billions on Turkish drones, Bayraktars, Akincis, beautiful machines, to hit back. But here is the dirty secret no one tells you, they have almost no counter-drone defence. You can buy a \$500 commercial drone, attach an explosive, and fly it into a hydropower dam. Nigeria has dams.

Ghana has dams. The entire continent is sitting on critical infrastructure that is basically naked. Nathan looked at this problem and decided to build the solution himself. The Archer VTOL. Long-range surveillance and strike. The Iroko UAV. Rapid tactical deployment. And then the Kama, the interceptor drone that does 300 kilometers per hour, designed specifically to hunt and kill other drones. He raised \$34 million in 2026. Two rounds. From 8VC. From Lux Capital. From Flutterwave's own CEO. The most-funded defence-tech startup in African history. And then he did something that should embarrass every Nigerian policymaker. He went to Ghana. Because Ghana had the talent pool. Ghana had the political will to become a serious defence exporter. Those are his words, not mine.

Nigeria has the biggest economy in Africa. Nigeria has the most brilliant hackers, engineers, and tinkerers on the continent. Nigeria has a founder who wanted to build here. But he is building his flagship factory in Accra. Think about that. A Nigerian company. Nigerian technology. Nigerian ownership.

Manufacturing in Ghana. Not because the capital left. Not because the engineers left. Because the enabling environment left. The factory will create 120 engineering jobs. In Accra. The assembly lines will roll 50,000 drones by 2028. In Accra. The export hub for African defence, the continent's answer to Anduril and Palantir, will be in Accra. And we will be here, in Lagos, waiting for the next fuel subsidy debate.

Here is the part that should scare you. Terra already protects roughly \$11 billion in assets across eight African countries.

Hydropower plants. Lithium mines. Oil facilities. They are not a startup; they are a sovereign defence partner. They signed a deal with DICON, Nigeria's defence corporation, to set up a joint venture. They appointed a counter-insurgency specialist as VP of Military Relations. They are doing everything right. But their biggest factory is in Ghana.

Because Ghana made it easy. Because Ghana wanted it. Because Ghana understands that the 21st-century arms race is not about tanks and fighter jets. It is about software-defined drones, autonomous interceptors, and who can manufacture at scale. Ghana wants to be a defence exporter. Nigeria is still debating whether to let Flutterwave list on the NGX.



The gap is not technology. The gap is imagination. Nathan Nwachuku is 24 years old. He has raised \$34 million. He has built a drone that can intercept another drone at 300 kilometers per hour. He is protecting \$11 billion in assets. And he is building his biggest factory in Accra.

Not because he loves Ghana more. Because Ghana loved him first. The question is not whether Terra will succeed. They already are. The question is whether Nigeria will wake up before the next Nathan chooses Rwanda, Kenya, or Côte d'Ivoire. Because they are watching. And they are taking notes. The Sahel is burning. The drones are coming. The engineers are ready. The capital is waiting. The only thing missing is the will. And Accra just proved it has it. Nigeria, the ball is in your court. The factory is in Accra. The clock is ticking. Terrified yet? You should be. Thrilled? Also yes. Because somewhere in Lagos, a 24-year-old is sketching the next great African defence company. The question is whether he will build it here or somewhere else. That is not a threat. That is a forecast.