

Nigeria, Poland sign MoU to enhance food security

Nigeria and Poland, on Tuesday, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Agriculture, pledging their willingness to enlarge the fields of economic cooperation in the energy and manufacturing sectors. The signing was held during the State Visit of the President of Poland, Andrezej Duda, the first by a Polish leader to Nigeria since the establishment of diplomatic relations between both countries in 1961. Addressing a joint press conference with the visiting President, Buhari said Nigeria is gratified by the existing fruitful cooperation with Poland in the fields of maritime, education, and defence. On agriculture, President Buhari said cooperation in this area will be a win-win for the two countries, especially in the context of global food insecurity occasioned by the conflict in Ukraine.

According to a statement issued by the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Femi Adesina, Buhari noted that in view of the numerous global challenges, Nigeria would like to develop new mechanisms for cooperation including regular strategic dialogues and political consultations to cover not only bilateral relations but also to address regional and international issues. “Our cooperation in education has a long history and we wish to encourage the extension of that cooperation to the sharing of knowledge and experience between our educational institutions in areas such as science and technology as well as Information and Communication Technology, in order to help drive innovation in our countries in this competitive global knowledge economy,” President Buhari said. Buhari, who described the two-day visit of the Polish President as significant, underscoring the cordial relations that exist

between both countries, commended the efforts of the Government of Poland in providing assistance to the large number of refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine, including a significant number of Nigerians.

“I also wish to express our sincere gratitude for the kind and generous support extended during our government's evacuation of our fleeing nationals. We also appreciate greatly the opportunity given to some of our nationals to remain in Poland to continue with their studies. As regards trade relations, we would like to see an increase in the level of trade, as it remains relatively low in spite of the long period of relations between our two countries,” he said.

President Buhari further expressed his readiness to host a dialogue that will bring together various members of the business sectors of Nigeria and Poland, during the State Visit, adding that it is an excellent initiative to increase the level of trade between both countries. On his part, Duda said Nigeria was the only African country Poland has signed an agreement of strategic dialogue with, which includes the MoU on agriculture cooperation. “What was pivotal in our conversation today both in our *tete-a-tete* as well as the plenary session was how to provide food and energy security. It is important to us to strengthen the relations between Poland and Nigeria and the MOU we have signed is very important for the future of both nations on food security,” the Polish president said.

On energy security, he lauded the delivery of liquefied natural gas to Poland from Nigeria, as well as shipments of crude oil. “We want to further this cooperation and we want to increase the supplies from Nigeria to Poland and by this way, we want to contribute to the development of

e c o n o m i c cooperation between the two countries,” he said. President Duda noted that Nigeria and Poland have enjoyed excellent bilateral relations in the last 60 years, buoyed at the people-to-people level with the presence of many Nigerians at Polish higher institutions of learning as well as the input of Polish engineers and scientists in the building of infrastructure in Nigeria.

