XPOSURE

Credible News. Clearer Perspective.

THURSDAY

AUGUST 13, 2026

www.newsxposure.com

Delta State ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT Summit 2026

Harnessing Our Strengths, Unlocking Our Potentials

Delta Investment Summit Charts New Course for Economic Transformation

■ **Oborevwori, Shettima, Okonjo Iweala, Lumumba, Avuru and other leaders outline pathways to industrial growth, trade expansion and private sector led prosperity**

INSIDE THIS SPECIAL PUBLICATION

FOR three days, Asaba became the center of a far reaching conversation about Delta State's economic future, as political leaders, development experts, investors, industrialists and entrepreneurs converged on the state capital for the Delta State Economic and Investment Summit 2026. Held from August 3 to 5 at the Dome Event Centre under the theme "Harnessing Our Strengths, Unlocking Our Potential," the summit was designed to move Delta beyond expressions of interest toward practical partnerships, financing agreements, industrial projects and jobs.

The three day programme opened with keynote presentations, continued with sector focused deal room engagements, and closed with commitments and a renewed declaration that Delta State is ready for business.

Agriculture, energy, manufacturing, solid minerals, transportation, infrastructure, the blue economy, tourism, technology and human capital sat at the center of the state's investment strategy.

Official summit data positioned Delta as one of Nigeria's five largest subnational economies, with an estimated 2024 GDP of □16.97 trillion, a population of roughly 6.2 million that skews young, a non oil sector accounting for more than 71% of economic activity, a 163 kilometer coastline, and substantial oil and gas reserves.

INSIDE THIS SPECIAL PUBLICATION

- **$100 million investment support fund**
  New fund to de-risk investments and attract capital into priority sectors.
- **Thousands of hectares for agriculture**
  Prepared land bank to drive food production, agro-processing and export growth.
- **Infrastructure & industrial push**
  Major projects and industrial zones to lower business costs and boost competitiveness.
- **Global stakeholders in attendance**
  Top government officials, investors, development partners and business leaders in Asaba.

XPOSURE
Credible News. Clearer Perspective.
THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2026
www.newsxposure.com

DAY ONE: DELTA DECLARES ITSELF OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Oborevwori Unveils Delta's Economic Transformation Agenda

GOVERNOR Sheriff Oborevwori presented the summit as a key stage in his administration's economic development programme, arguing that Delta can no longer rely principally on crude oil revenue and statutory allocations. The state must deliberately build a diversified economy anchored in value added agriculture, manufacturing, technology, logistics, tourism and private investment.

He pointed to continuing government investment in roads, bridges, urban renewal, electricity, schools and healthcare as evidence that communities across Delta are being prepared for greater commercial activity, and described his M.O.R.E. Agenda as designed to spread prosperity beyond government institutions and major urban centers to young people, women, entrepreneurs, farmers and communities.

Oborevwori pledged an enabling environment, regulatory support, improved security, faster permitting and stronger inter agency cooperation, and said the administration wants the summit to produce factories, commercial farms, processing centers, technology businesses, tourism facilities and thousands of sustainable jobs. He also urged indigenous business owners to participate actively rather than cede major sectors to foreign investors, noting that local investors bring valuable knowledge of Delta's communities, markets and culture. His central message: Delta isn't just inviting investors to a conference, it is presenting itself as a serious destination for long term capital.

Shettima Backs Stronger Subnational Economies

VICE President Kashim Shettima framed Delta's investment programme within the Federal Government's broader economic agenda, arguing that Nigeria cannot achieve sustainable development unless states become stronger centers of production, enterprise and innovation, mobilizing private capital and building economies that don't depend solely on monthly federal allocations.

He described Delta as strategically vital because of its energy resources, agricultural potential, coastline and human capital, and urged the state to convert these advantages into competitive industries rather than remain a producer of unprocessed commodities. He highlighted agro processing as a route to both food security and rural employment, and pledged continued federal support for state led initiatives that promote industrialization, exports, energy development and jobs, alongside better alignment between federal and state policy so investors face fewer regulatory obstacles.

Okonjo Iweala Urges Delta to Build a Globally Competitive Economy

WTO Director General Dr Ngozi Okonjo Iweala warned that natural resources alone don't guarantee prosperity, competitive institutions, lower production costs, better logistics and higher quality standards do. She urged Delta to move beyond exporting raw agricultural, mineral, oil, gas and marine resources and instead process them into higher value products, pointing to the African Continental Free Trade Area as an expanding market for states that can produce competitively, provided businesses meet standards on packaging, quality, traceability, food safety and delivery.

She also pointed to the digital economy as a way for Delta based businesses to serve customers well beyond the state's borders, urging investment in broadband, digital skills and technology hubs. Above all, she stressed that investors watch policy consistency, transparency, security, land access and dispute resolution, Delta's government must ensure commitments made to investors are actually implemented.

Lumumba Calls for Leadership, Integrity and Strong Institutions

KENYAN lawyer and Pan African scholar Professor Patrick Lumumba argued that Africa's underperformance stems not from a lack of resources but from weak institutions, poor governance and a failure to convert natural wealth into productive industries. Investment summits, he said, mean little without follow through.

He challenged Delta to process its agricultural produce, use its gas resources productively, expand manufacturing and grow indigenous businesses into major African companies, noting that investors commit capital more readily where contracts are respected and officials are held accountable. He also urged young Africans to become innovators and entrepreneurs rather than rely solely on government employment, framing the continent's youthful population as its greatest potential asset given quality education, practical skills and access to finance.

Avuru Demands Investment Ready Projects

SUMMIT chairman and energy industry leader Engr. Austin Avuru focused on the gap between economic potential and commercially viable opportunity. Investors, he said, want projects with clear ownership structures, credible feasibility studies, realistic financial models and transparent regulatory frameworks, and Delta must ensure the projects presented at the summit are developed enough to attract serious capital.

Drawing on his energy sector background, Avuru argued Delta could lead Nigeria's energy future by expanding gas utilization, power generation, petrochemicals and industrial manufacturing, treating gas not just as an export commodity but as a feedstock for electricity, fertilizer and domestic industry. He also called for stronger government investor community partnerships, noting that major projects are more sustainable when host communities understand and share in the benefits.

Emu Presents the Delta Investment Proposition

Secretary to the State Government Dr Kingsley Emu, who chaired the main organizing committee, gave a detailed rundown of investment opportunities across agriculture, aquaculture, energy, manufacturing, solid minerals, infrastructure, transportation, tourism, technology and the blue economy, with the Delta Special Economic Zone, including the Koko and Kwale trade zones, central to the state's industrialization strategy.

The summit, he said, was structured around specific projects and investor interests rather than general discussion, connecting prospective investors with government agencies, local partners and development finance institutions. Ahead of the summit, Emu had disclosed that 25 prospective investors from Brazil, plus others from China, had expressed interest, and he encouraged Delta entrepreneurs to form consortia and special purpose vehicles to pool capital and expertise as credible local partners.

DAY TWO: SECTOR DISCUSSIONS MOVE FROM POTENTIAL TO PROJECTS

Day Two: Sector Discussions Move from Potential to Projects

THE second day shifted from broad declarations to sector specific deal room sessions bringing together officials, investors, financial institutions, project promoters and technical experts, organized around six areas: the Delta Special Economic Zone, agriculture and livestock, the energy ecosystem, solid minerals and mining, the blue economy and transportation, and the digital economy.

Agriculture and Agro Processing. Speakers pointed to Delta's fertile land, climate and water resources as major advantages, and identified opportunities in palm oil, cassava, rice, vegetables, poultry, ranching, fisheries and food processing. Agriculture, participants argued, should be treated as a full value chain, improved seedlings, mechanization, irrigation, cold storage, rural roads, processing and affordable finance, not just cultivation.

Energy and Gas Based Industrialization. Discussions centered on transitioning from crude extraction to gas based industrialization: power generation, gas processing, LPG, CNG, petrochemicals, fertilizer and renewable energy. Speakers argued that improved electricity supply would meaningfully cut business costs, while also recognizing the need to balance continued hydrocarbon development with cleaner energy investment.

Blue Economy and Transportation. Delta's coastline, rivers and potential port locations featured heavily, with opportunities identified in ports, inland waterways, marine transport, ship repair, logistics, fishing, aquaculture and coastal tourism. Modern ports, navigable waterways and reliable road connections were repeatedly flagged as prerequisites.

Solid Minerals and Mining. Industrial clay, kaolin, lignite and coal were identified as resources capable of supporting new businesses, provided they come with proper geological data, transparent licensing, environmental safeguards and local processing, rather than being shipped out unprocessed.

Digital Economy and Innovation. Speakers called for broadband access, reliable electricity, innovation hubs, technology training, startup financing and stronger university industry collaboration, highlighting opportunities in fintech, e commerce, business process outsourcing, software and digital entertainment.

XPOSURE
Credible News. Clearer Perspective.
THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2026
www.newsxposure.com

DAY TWO: DELTA DECLARES ITSELF OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Tourism, Culture and the Creative Economy. Sites such as Mungo Park House, McCarthy Beach and the Maryam Babangida Leisure Park and Film Village were identified as assets needing better management, marketing, transportation and private sector participation.

Private Sector Challenges Government on Implementation. Business leaders welcomed the investment drive but pressed for easier land access, faster approvals, stable policies, reliable electricity, improved security, transparent taxation and a clear system for tracking summit commitments. Commissioner for Works, Rural Roads and Public Information Charles Aniagwu urged indigenous entrepreneurs to move beyond attending meetings and become active investors, forming partnerships and pooling resources through special purpose vehicles, since local businesses have the greatest long term stake in the state's stability.

DAY THREE: COMMITMENTS, PARTNERSHIPS AND THE ROAD AHEAD

Day Three: Commitments, Partnerships and the Road Ahead

The closing day focused on consolidating discussions and defining a framework for implementation. Speakers agreed the summit's real measure would not be attendance or speeches but projects implemented, capital attracted and jobs created, with government officials pledging continued engagement with investors and coordination across agencies handling land, permits, infrastructure and taxation.

The Delta State Investment Development Agency is expected to guide investors and monitor projects, with participants calling for periodic public reporting on commitments.

The Major Consensus

Across the diverse speakers and sectors, several positions recurred: Delta must reduce dependence on crude oil revenue by expanding agriculture, manufacturing, technology, tourism, logistics and services; infrastructure, electricity, security and policy consistency are prerequisites for sustainable investment; the state must process its resources locally and climb higher in national and international value chains; indigenous entrepreneurs must become active partners rather than spectators; young people need practical skills and real opportunities; and government must build a disciplined implementation framework so the summit doesn't become another round of unfulfilled promises.

From Summit Declarations to Measurable Results

The summit succeeded in presenting Delta's economic opportunities to a broad community of investors, policymakers and development partners, and gave the Oborevwori administration a platform to declare the state ready for a more diversified, private sector driven economy.

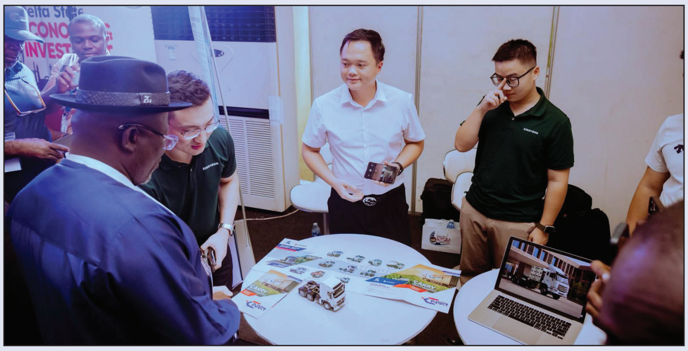
But its success now depends on what happens after delegates leave Asaba: investors expect regulatory certainty, timely approvals, land access and protection of legitimate investments; communities expect jobs, skills development and environmental responsibility; entrepreneurs expect access to finance and partnership opportunities; and residents expect it all to translate into higher incomes and broader prosperity.

The vision from Asaba was clear, a Delta State that processes what it produces, invests in its people, develops its maritime and energy assets, and welcomes responsible private capital. The task now is implementation.


Zenith Diaspora
Banking


Luxury Living.
Lasting Value.


TANTITA SECURITY SERVICES NIG. LTD.
COMMAND AND CONTROL CENTRES
WITH "TOCCA" IN USE




CAPITAL
DEVELOPMENT


#InvestInDelta


ECONOMIC &
INVESTMENT


Delta State
ECONOMIC &
INVESTMENT
Summit 2026


Gas4All-
Delta State Renewed Hope Ward to Ward
Development Programme
Distribution Center for

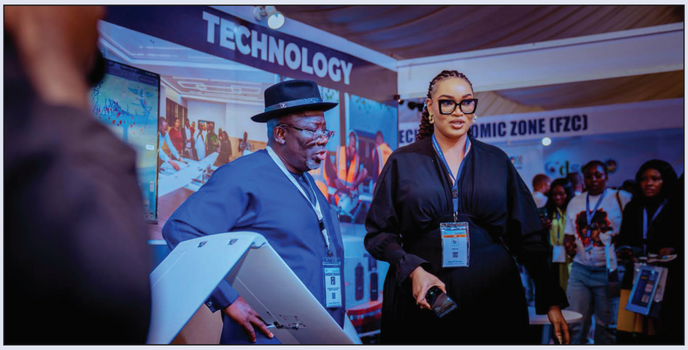

Turbo Mechanical Equipment Nig.Ltd


CORE VALUES
Resourcefulness


DEAL ROOM
2
Delta State
ECONOMIC &
INVESTMENT
NATIONAL BRAND DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT MADE IN DELTA STATE


MANROY
LIVESTOCK FARMS
ORGANICALLY PRODUCED


ARISE NEWS


TECHNOLOGY


TECHNOLOGY

Oborevwori Unveils Bold Plan to Transform Delta into Major Investment Destination

Governor announces investment support fund, commercial agricultural land, infrastructure expansion and reforms to strengthen private sector growth

GOVERNOR Sheriff Oborevwori used his summit address to present an ambitious vision for moving Delta State from oil dependence toward a diversified, private sector driven economy, describing the summit not as a showcase of resources but as a practical platform connecting serious investors with viable projects, institutions, local businesses and communities.

At the center of his presentation was a reported $100 million Investment Support Fund, designed to reduce the risk of investing in selected sectors and to signal that government is prepared to share responsibility for building a stable business environment. Government, he argued, can no longer act merely as regulator and revenue collector, it must become a facilitator that removes obstacles, coordinates institutions and helps investors build sustainable enterprises.

Agriculture as a Major Economic Pillar. Oborevwori disclosed that thousands of hectares had been identified or prepared for large scale commercial agriculture, crop cultivation, livestock, aquaculture, processing, storage and export, and said the administration wants to move agriculture beyond subsistence farming by connecting farmers to processors, storage and markets. He appealed to investors to locate processing facilities close to farming communities so raw produce doesn't leave Delta only to return as costly finished goods.

Infrastructure to Support Investment. He identified roads, bridges, electricity, water and secure industrial locations as core to the investment strategy, saying infrastructure planning would increasingly track productive economic corridors, industrial clusters and agricultural zones, including through public private partnerships.

Improving the Business Environment. Investors, he acknowledged, need predictable policies, transparent procedures, land access, timely approvals and confidence that agreements will be honored. He said relevant agencies had been directed toward a more responsive, investor friendly posture, noting Delta must compete not just with other Nigerian states but with destinations across Africa and the world.

Opportunities in Energy and Manufacturing. Beyond crude extraction, Oborevwori invited investment in gas processing, power generation, petrochemicals, fertilizer, CNG, manufacturing and energy services, arguing that Delta's gas resources could power industrial areas and reduce dependence on imported goods.

Youth Employment and Human Capital. The governor called Delta's young population one of its greatest assets and pledged continued investment in technical education, vocational training, entrepreneurship and digital skills, urging investors to build training and local employment into their project plans.

Indigenous Investors Must Participate. He appealed to Delta business leaders not to leave emerging opportunities entirely to foreign companies, urging them to pool resources and build partnerships, welcoming foreign investment but seeking arrangements that build local capacity and leave lasting benefit within the state.

He closed with a commitment to follow through: officials will keep engaging investors and moving credible proposals from expressions of interest to agreements and actual projects. Delta, he said, is open for business.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Investment support:**
Proposed $100 million fund to de risk qualified projects.
- **Commercial agriculture:**
Thousands of hectares earmarked for farming and agro processing.
- **Industrialization:**
Greater emphasis on manufacturing, gas utilization and local processing.
- **Infrastructure:**
Roads, transport and industrial corridors to support investment.
- **Youth employment:**
Projects expected to create jobs and transfer skills.
- **Implementation:**
Government commits to tracking discussions through to operational projects.

XPOSURE
Credible News. Clearer Perspective.
THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2026
www.newsxposure.com

Shettima Calls for Stronger State Led Economies

Vice President says Nigeria's transformation depends on productive states, private capital and stronger federal state collaboration

VICE President Kashim Shettima argued that national economic transformation cannot be achieved through policy designed solely in Abuja, Nigeria's states, closest to the people and the land, must become active centers of production, innovation and employment. He challenged state governments to identify their comparative advantages and convert them into viable projects, and for Delta specifically pointed to energy resources, agriculture, maritime opportunities, population and location as assets capable of driving substantial growth.

Stronger Partnerships Between Government and Business. Shettima called for government to treat businesses as development partners rather than mere sources of tax revenue, since private companies create jobs, bring technology and expand the tax base. He named policy consistency, regulatory efficiency, security, land access and infrastructure as the key factors shaping investment decisions, states offering that certainty will draw more business.

Delta's Role in Nigeria's Energy Economy. He argued Delta's future must go beyond crude production, calling for greater investment in gas utilization, electricity generation, petrochemicals, fertilizer and cleaner energy solutions that could anchor industrial clusters and logistics, while ensuring host communities see tangible local benefits.

Agriculture and Food Security. With its fertile land and water resources, Delta could become a major producer of food, fish, livestock and processed agricultural goods. Shettima called for investment across the full value chain and for partnerships pairing large investors with smallholder farmers to provide inputs, guaranteed markets, training and finance.

Developing Human Capital. Infrastructure and investment, he said, have limited impact without skilled people to run them, urging closer collaboration between government, schools and industry on technical education, digital skills, engineering and entrepreneurship, so a large youthful population becomes an economic advantage rather than a source of instability.

Federal Government Support. He pledged continued federal backing for state led programmes tied to food security, energy, exports, industrialization and jobs, along with closer federal state collaboration on regulatory and infrastructure bottlenecks, since a state's economic gains ripple outward through trade, taxes and broader activity.

A Challenge to Investors. Shettima urged investors to look beyond traditional sectors toward technology, renewable energy, maritime services, tourism and the creative economy, while reminding officials that investors will judge the summit by the quality of follow up: commitments honored, approvals delivered on time, and continued communication.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Subnational leadership:**
States must actively drive production and industrial growth.
- **Private capital:**
Government must partner with business to finance infrastructure and enterprise.
- **Federal support:**
National institutions should back credible state led investment.
- **Energy transformation:**
Delta must shift from raw extraction toward gas based industrialization.
- **Agriculture:**
Commercial farming and processing can improve food security and rural jobs.
- **Human capital:**
Young people need practical skills for the emerging economy.

Okonjo-Iweala Challenges Delta to Build a Globally Competitive Economy

WTO chief urges investment in productivity, value addition, digital trade, infrastructure and export ready businesses

WTO Director General Dr Ngozi Okonjo Iweala warned that oil, gas, agricultural land and minerals alone will not produce prosperity, the most successful economies are those that convert resources into competitive products and services. For Delta, that means processing agricultural produce, minerals, oil, gas and marine resources locally instead of exporting them raw, since value addition is what separates poor resource producing economies from prosperous industrial ones.

Competing Beyond the Nigerian Market. She pointed to the African Continental Free Trade Area as an opening for businesses that can produce competitively, but access to a larger market only pays off if Delta companies meet standards on packaging, labelling, traceability, food safety and environmental sustainability, supported by stronger certification systems, laboratories and export promotion institutions.

Infrastructure and the Cost of Production. Unreliable electricity, poor transportation, multiple taxation and administrative delay all inflate the cost of local production relative to imports. She urged the government to prioritize infrastructure that directly supports productive activity, industrial zones, reliable power, efficient ports, good roads and digital connectivity, alongside simpler regulation that encourages more businesses to formalize.

The Digital Economy. States no longer need to depend solely on physical goods: technology lets young people sell software, financial, creative and professional services globally. She encouraged investment in broadband, innovation centers, digital education and partnerships between government, universities, tech companies and financial institutions.

Women and Small Businesses. Many entrepreneurs have viable ideas but struggle to access finance, markets and formal business networks; she called for instruments that make capital more accessible to credible small enterprises, alongside training, mentoring and supply chain access.

Strong Institutions and Investor Confidence. Serious investors assess whether policies are stable, contracts enforceable and regulations transparent, confidence should rest on institutions, not personal relationships with individual officeholders. She called for transparent procurement, efficient approvals and consistent follow through on commitments.

Environmental Sustainability. Businesses that ignore climate and environmental standards risk losing access to global markets; she urged development that protects Delta's waterways and agricultural land, since the coastal and riverine environment is itself an economic asset requiring careful management.

She closed by challenging Delta to measure success by the number of competitive businesses it builds, not the resources it holds, placing responsibility on both government, to provide infrastructure and consistent policy, and entrepreneurs, to raise productivity and meet market standards.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Value addition:**
Process resources locally rather than exporting them raw.
- **Global competitiveness:**
Meet international quality, packaging and delivery standards.
- **African market:**
AfCFTA offers opportunity for export ready companies.
- **Digital trade:**
Technology can connect Delta's youth and businesses to global customers.
- **Inclusive enterprise:**
Women, youth and small businesses need better access to finance and markets.
- **Institutional credibility:**
Predictable policy and strong institutions underpin investor confidence.

XPOSURE
Credible News. Clearer Perspective.
THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2026
www.newsxposure.com

Lumumba: Strong Institutions Are Africa's Greatest Investment Asset

Pan African scholar warns that resources cannot produce prosperity without accountable leadership, disciplined implementation and long term planning

PROFESSOR Patrick Lumumba argued that Africa's poverty is not a resource problem, the continent has abundant land, minerals, energy, waterways and a young population, but an institutional one. Investment conferences generate momentum, he said, but achieve little without governments following through with monitored agreements, identified responsible officials, and public reporting on progress.

Institutions Must Be Stronger Than Individuals. Investors prefer environments where rules hold even after a change of administration; where institutions are weak, programmes depend on individual goodwill and can collapse when leaders leave office. He urged Delta to build professional institutions with clear procedures for land allocation, taxation, permits and dispute resolution, institutional strength, he argued, is itself an investment incentive, capable of attracting capital even without generous incentives.

Africa Must End Its Dependence on Raw Exports. Africa exports crude oil, cocoa, minerals, timber and produce but imports refined fuel, chocolate, machinery and processed food, a pattern that exports jobs and wealth while entrenching dependence. He urged Delta to reject that model: oil and gas should support petrochemicals and manufacturing, agricultural produce should feed local processing, and minerals should become industrial inputs rather than raw exports.

Education for Production. African education, he argued, often produces certificate holders without practical skills. He called for stronger technical colleges, vocational centers and university industry collaboration aligned with the needs of agriculture, technology, energy, construction and maritime industries, plus business investment in training and apprenticeships.

Youth as the Centre of Development. A well educated, economically active young generation can drive growth; one excluded from opportunity becomes vulnerable to crime, migration and manipulation. He urged that investment projects be judged partly on their ability to build local skills, and challenged young people to see beyond government employment toward technology, agriculture, manufacturing, culture and trade.

Leadership and Accountability. Leadership should be measured by results, not promises, corruption, waste and poor planning discourage investors and cost communities. He called for transparency around summit agreements and continuity across administrations, since development requires patience beyond electoral cycles.

Regional Economic Cooperation. He encouraged Delta to see itself as part of Nigeria, West Africa and the continent, using its infrastructure, ports, agriculture and manufacturing to serve wider markets and reduce reliance on external trade.

Lumumba closed on a moral note: government cannot build prosperity alone. Entrepreneurs must conduct business honestly, workers must deliver value, communities must support legitimate investment, and investors in turn must respect local people and the environment.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Strong institutions:**
Systems must outlast individual political leaders.
- **Implementation:**
Declarations must be followed by monitored, measurable projects.
- **Local processing:**
Convert raw resources into finished, higher value products.
- **Practical education:**
Training should respond to industry's actual needs.
- **Youth participation:**
Young people must become producers and business owners.
- **Accountability:**
Transparent government and responsible investors sustain development.

Avuru Urges Delta to Present Bankable Projects, Not Just Investment Potential

■ Summit chairman calls for credible feasibility studies, gas based industrialization and stronger partnerships with investors and host communities

SUMMIT chairman Engr. Austin Avuru argued that possessing natural resources doesn't automatically make a location attractive to investors, potential must be translated into properly structured, bankable projects, supported by credible data on land, ownership, infrastructure, markets, revenue projections and regulatory approvals rather than broad resource descriptions.

The Importance of Bankable Projects. A bankable project has a defined business model, competent management, realistic financials and an identified market. Government agencies should work with financial and technical advisers to prepare projects properly before presenting them to investors, and Avuru cautioned against signing MOUs that generate headlines but lack the technical or financial preparation to actually deliver factories, power plants or farms.

Gas as a Foundation for Industrialization. He identified gas utilization as one of Delta's strongest opportunities, a foundation for electricity generation, manufacturing, petrochemicals, fertilizer and transportation rather than simply an export commodity. Identifying industrial locations with reliable gas and power, he said, would make manufacturers more willing to establish factories and create jobs, alongside partnerships with experienced companies capable of financing and operating energy infrastructure.

Government as Facilitator. Government should focus on the enabling environment, land, approvals, infrastructure, security, policy consistency, while competent investors manage commercial projects under transparent, performance linked agreements.

Partnerships with Local Businesses. International companies entering a new market typically want credible local partners; Delta entrepreneurs, in turn, need strong corporate governance and transparent accounts to be attractive. He encouraged consortia and special purpose companies where individual businesses lack sufficient capital.

Host Communities and Sustainable Projects. Projects succeed more often when communities understand their benefits and are involved from the outset; ignoring host communities creates disputes, delays and added costs.

Continuity and Policy Stability. Long term projects can span several administrations, so investors need confidence that agreements won't be cancelled or altered for political reasons, requiring strong legal and institutional frameworks protecting both investors and the state.

Avuru said the summit's success should ultimately be measured by projects reaching financial close and commencing operations, attendance and expressions of interest are only a first step, and urged a post summit implementation team for investor engagement and project tracking, with regular progress reports.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Bankable projects:**
  Opportunities need feasibility studies and credible financial structures.
- **Gas based industry:**
  Delta can use gas to power manufacturing and industrial clusters.
- **Private sector leadership:**
  Government facilitates; competent businesses operate.
- **Local partnerships:**
  Indigenous companies should form consortia and strengthen governance.
- **Community engagement:**
  Host communities need clear benefits and early involvement.
- **Project tracking:**
  Commitments should be monitored until investments become operational.

XPOSURE
Credible News. Clearer Perspective.
THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2026
www.newsxposure.com

Kingsley Emu Presents Delta's Investment Proposition to Global and Local Investors

SSG highlights special economic zones, affordable power, maritime assets, agriculture, solid minerals and skilled manpower as foundations of the state's new economy

SECRETARY to the Delta State Government Dr Kingsley Emu delivered the summit's most detailed investment presentation, positioning Delta as a diversified destination with opportunities across manufacturing, agriculture, energy, mining, transportation, technology, tourism and the blue economy, a deliberate move beyond its traditional identity as an oil producing territory.

A Large, Diversifying Economy. Emu cited the state's estimated ₦16.97 trillion 2024 GDP, placing it among Nigeria's five largest subnational economies, with more than 71% of activity now non oil, a population of 6.2 million, and a predominantly young, trainable workforce representing both a consumer market and a labor pool.

Delta Special Economic Zone. The zone, anchored around the Koko and Kwale trade areas, is designed to give investors coordinated access to land, electricity, roads, water, security and regulatory approvals rather than requiring them to source each separately. Emu highlighted proximity to major gas infrastructure, including the OB 3 pipeline, as a competitive advantage for reliable, competitively priced power.

Power and Industrial Development. Beyond the zone, Emu identified power as an investment opportunity in itself, decentralized solutions including mini grids, captive generation and dedicated industrial power systems. The state's independent system currently generates roughly 8.5 megawatts for government offices, with the longer term goal of extending reliable electricity to industry and communities through private partnerships, benefiting food processing, cold storage, technology, healthcare and hospitality alike.

Agriculture, Livestock and Agro Processing. With extensive arable land, rainfall, rivers and a large consumer market, Delta offers opportunities in palm oil, cassava, rice, vegetables, poultry, livestock, fisheries and food processing, with the government's objective being development of the full value chain, from inputs and mechanization through storage, processing and marketing.

Aquaculture and the Blue Economy. Delta's 163 kilometer coastline, four seaports, two airports and extensive waterways support commercial fishing, aquaculture, seafood processing, cold chain logistics, marine transport and tourism. Emu pointed to existing fish farming clusters in Ekpan and Ugborikoko, among West Africa's largest concentrations of fish ponds, as proof the sector is already commercially viable, with room to expand feed production, hatcheries and processing.

Solid Minerals and Mining. Coal, lignite, kaolin, clay and silica exist in commercially relevant quantities, some Delta coal already supplies cement producers, with the state seeking responsible investors for mining, power generation and local processing rather than raw extraction alone.

Roads, Bridges and Economic Connectivity. More than 2,600 kilometers of roads and over 20 bridges have been built or rehabilitated, cutting the cost of moving raw materials and finished goods and improving access to rural agricultural, tourism and mineral resources.

Skilled and Trainable Workforce. Delta's universities, polytechnics and technical colleges give investors access to trainable labor, and Emu encouraged partnerships between companies and schools to prepare workers ahead of operational needs.

Local Partners for Foreign Investors. With 25 prospective Brazilian investors and several Chinese companies already showing interest, Emu challenged Delta entrepreneurs to organize into investment groups and special purpose vehicles, positioning themselves not as competitors to foreign capital but as suppliers, equity partners, contractors and distributors.

He closed by describing the summit's deal rooms as the start of an ongoing pipeline, with engagement continuing through site visits, technical discussions and regulatory assistance after delegates leave Asaba.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Large economy:**
Delta ranks among Nigeria's five largest state economies.
- **Diversification:**
Non oil activity accounts for over 71% of the economy.
- **Special Economic Zone:**
Koko and Kwale anchor the industrialization programme.
- **Competitive power:**
Gas resources can support mini grids and dedicated industrial electricity.
- **Maritime advantage:**
Coastline, waterways and ports create transport and aquaculture opportunities.
- **Mineral resources:**
Coal, lignite, kaolin, clay and silica support mining and manufacturing.
- **Human capital:**
Educational institutions can train workers for new industries.
- **Local partnerships:**
Delta businesses are expected to partner foreign investors via consortia and SPVs.

XPOSURE
Credible News. Clearer Perspective.
THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2026
www.newsxposure.com

Aniagwu Challenges Delta Entrepreneurs to Become Investors, Not Spectators

Commissioner urges local businesses to pool capital, form investment consortia and take ownership of the opportunities created by the summit

COMMISSIONER for Works, Rural Roads and Public Information Charles Aniagwu delivered a direct challenge to Delta's private sector: stop attending meetings and applauding foreign investors, and start becoming active participants in the projects and partnerships the summit is expected to produce.

Foreign investors bring capital and technology, he argued, but Delta business owners hold a deeper, more permanent stake, their families, employees and investments are tied to the state's long term stability, and that stake should translate into ownership of opportunities in agriculture, energy, transportation, manufacturing and real estate, not spectatorship.

Local Businesses as the State's Greatest Strength. Indigenous companies understand local markets, community structures and operating realities, making them valuable partners for market entry, supply networks, distribution and community relations, and a way to keep more of the value generated by major projects inside Delta.

Forming Special Purpose Vehicles. Since many entrepreneurs lack the capital for large scale projects individually, Aniagwu recommended pooling resources through SPVs across agriculture, oil and gas, energy, logistics, housing, tourism and manufacturing, with different partners contributing finance, technical knowledge, land or distribution capacity. He urged entrepreneurs to move past the instinct that every investment must be individually owned and controlled.

Preparing for International Partnerships. Forming a company isn't enough, foreign investors and financial institutions will scrutinize governance, accounting, legal documentation and operational capacity. He urged local businesses to become investment ready: developing business plans, commissioning feasibility studies and identifying the specific value, technical competence, market access, relevant assets, they bring to a partnership.

Opportunities in Agriculture. Indigenous investors could establish commercial farms, processing plants, storage and transport businesses, or work with farmers through out grower arrangements, with benefits spreading through rural communities via employment in transportation, packaging and maintenance.

Energy and Oil and Gas Services. Delta based businesses could serve power companies, gas processors and oil and gas operators through maintenance, fabrication, transportation, construction and professional services, provided they meet safety, quality and delivery standards rather than relying on local content preference alone.

Government Must Listen to Business. Aniagwu acknowledged government's own responsibilities, inviting business associations to flag practical obstacles, multiple taxation, land access, regulatory delays, inadequate power, so the summit produces genuine dialogue rather than one way appeals.

He closed by framing local ownership as key to ensuring investment produces lasting benefit: profits are more likely to be reinvested in Delta, and locally owned operations are more likely to persist through difficult periods. Every entrepreneur, he said, should leave the summit with a concrete plan, joining a consortium, seeking a technical partner, or developing a project proposal.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Active participation:**
Local entrepreneurs must become investors, not spectators.
- **Business collaboration:**
SPVs can help entrepreneurs undertake larger projects.
- **Investment readiness:**
Companies need transparent accounts and credible management.
- **Foreign partnerships:**
International investors need capable local partners and suppliers.
- **Local ownership:**
Indigenous participation keeps more profit and expertise within Delta.
- **Government private dialogue:**
Business leaders should push practical reforms to the investment climate.

XPOSURE
Credible News. Clearer Perspective.
THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2026
www.newsxposure.com

Beyond the Speeches: Major Takeaways and Benefits of Delta Investment Summit 2026

■ Three day gathering strengthens investor confidence, expands economic opportunities and provides a roadmap for jobs, industrial growth and shared prosperity

THE Delta State Economic and Investment Summit 2026 closed in Asaba with a clear message: the state has the resources, population, location and human capital to build one of Nigeria's most diversified, competitive subnational economies, moving the conversation well beyond its traditional identity as an oil producing state toward one with fertile land, extensive waterways, gas and mineral resources, and a young population.

Diversification is no longer optional. Petroleum will keep playing an important role, but long term prosperity depends on agriculture, agro processing, manufacturing, mining, tourism, logistics, digital services and maritime business, and on extracting more value from energy resources through downstream gas processing, power generation and petrochemicals rather than raw extraction alone.

Infrastructure must be connected to production. Roads and electricity should link farms to markets, industries to ports, and communities to jobs, meaning future infrastructure spending should track identified economic corridors and industrial zones rather than stand as isolated achievements.

Government must become an investment facilitator. Government can't finance or operate every project; its job is clear regulation, timely approvals, land access, security, transparent taxation and efficient dispute resolution, with institutions like the Delta State Investment Development Agency, the Ease of Doing Business Council and small claims courts central to giving investors a coordinated point of contact and predictable rules.

Local entrepreneurs must take ownership. Indigenous companies bring knowledge of markets and communities that foreign capital lacks; forming consortia and SPVs lets smaller businesses participate in large projects and helps retain profits, skills and jobs within Delta.

Human capital is Delta's most valuable resource. A young population only pays off with relevant skills, meaning renewed emphasis on technical education, vocational training and closer ties between schools and employers, alongside investor commitments to local employment and apprenticeships.

Agriculture can transform rural communities. A single processing plant can support hundreds of farmers while creating jobs in packaging, maintenance and logistics, positioning agriculture as commercial industry rather than social support programme.

Delta's waterways can become economic assets. Rivers, creeks and coastline, long viewed mainly through the lens of geography and access, were repositioned as platforms for marine transport, aquaculture, port services, logistics and tourism, capable of opening riverine communities to greater commercial activity.

Benefits to the state government include attracting capital government can't provide alone, expanding the tax base, easing pressure on public finances through regulated partnerships, raising Delta's visibility to investors and development institutions, and generating expert recommendations to guide future policy.

Benefits to citizens center on job creation across farms, factories, energy projects and processing centers, plus business opportunities for local contractors, transporters and suppliers, better market access for farmers, and improved infrastructure around investment sites.

Environmental and community responsibilities. Delta's history with oil production is a reminder of the cost of projects that ignore communities and ecosystems, new investments need proper environmental assessment, community consultation and clearly defined social obligations, since development loses public support if communities bear the costs without sharing the benefits.

Success will be measured by results, not speeches, delegate counts or business cards exchanged, but investments reaching financial close, projects commencing, jobs created and communities seeing tangible improvement. The summit set a direction; sustaining momentum is the next task.

SUMMIT TAKEAWAYS AT A GLANCE

- **Diversification:**
Delta must expand beyond oil revenue dependence.
- **Value addition:**
Process agricultural, mineral and energy resources locally.
- **Private capital:**
Government must partner with investors to finance projects.
- **Infrastructure:**
Roads, electricity and transport must support commercial activity.
- **Local ownership:**
Indigenous businesses should participate as investors and partners.
- **Youth development:**
Education and training must match industry's skill needs.
- **Blue economy:**
Waterways, ports and aquaculture can drive riverine growth.
- **Inclusive prosperity:**
Investment must create jobs and community benefit, not just output.
- **Environmental responsibility:**
Development must protect communities and natural resources.
- **Implementation:**
Real success depends on completed projects and measurable outcomes.

XPOSURE
Credible News. Clearer Perspective.
THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2026
www.newsxposure.com

From Commitments to Projects: The Roadmap for Implementing Delta Summit Outcomes

Government must establish a transparent delivery framework to convert investor interest, deal room discussions and prospective partnerships into functioning enterprises

THE summit's close marks the start of a harder phase: converting investor interest and deal room discussions, across the Delta Special Economic Zone, agriculture, livestock, energy, solid minerals, transportation, the blue economy, tourism and digital innovation, into completed projects. Before any proposed investment begins operating, parties still need technical assessments, confirmed financing, resolved land and regulatory matters, and negotiated commercial terms.

Understanding the status of summit agreements. Outcomes range from general expressions of interest, to Memoranda of Understanding outlining intent without binding commitment, to concession agreements, joint ventures and financing arrangements. The government should publish a verified schedule showing each proposed investment's actual stage, so speculative figures aren't mistaken for completed deals.

A post summit delivery office. A dedicated implementation office, drawing on the Delta State Investment Development Agency, the SSG's office, relevant ministries and legal/financial advisers, should coordinate credible proposals, serve as investors' single point of contact rather than requiring them to navigate multiple ministries, and maintain a database of proposals, approvals, timelines and open issues, with each project assigned a relationship manager.

Classifying projects by readiness. Proposals should be grouped from preliminary opportunities through feasibility, negotiation, financing and construction ready stages, based on business model strength, technical feasibility, financing capacity and promoter experience, directing government attention toward proposals most likely to succeed.

Due diligence on investors. Before granting land, guarantees or tax concessions, government should verify an investor's ownership, financial position, technical experience and track record on similar projects, including the actual source of proposed financing, protecting against speculative land acquisition and abandoned projects.

Bankable project documentation. Feasibility studies, financial models, environmental assessments and implementation schedules need further development for many proposals, covering, for infrastructure, projected demand and revenue; for agriculture, land, water and processing capacity; for energy, feedstock, permits and tariffs, so investors and lenders can assess opportunities with confidence.

Transparent land allocation. Land should be tied to development milestones, not simply awarded on the strength of a presentation, with recovery rights if a project doesn't commence within an agreed period, and community consultation and compensation resolved before allocation.

Balanced agreements. Every contract should define government commitments (land, infrastructure, approvals, incentives) and investor obligations (capital, timelines, jobs, local procurement, environmental standards) alongside clear provisions for delay, non performance and dispute resolution, with incentives tied to measurable performance.

Financing and development institutions. Larger projects will need engagement with commercial banks, development finance institutions and pension funds, with well prepared proposals improving access to long term financing and credit guarantees; public private partnerships should undergo rigorous financial and legal review to avoid exposing the state to excessive risk.

Integrating indigenous businesses. Foreign investors should be encouraged toward local partners as equity holders, suppliers, distributors and contractors, with realistic local content expectations, a database of credible local companies, and supplier development programmes to help smaller businesses meet industry standards.

Protecting host communities. Community engagement should happen before construction, not after disputes arise, with clear, realistic agreements on employment, training, environmental protection and compensation, plus a permanent grievance resolution mechanism for major projects.

Environmental and social safeguards. Environmental impact assessments should precede approvals, with investors required to plan for waste management, pollution control and land restoration, with particular care in coastal and riverine areas where communities depend on fishing and farming, and monitoring that continues after operations begin, not just at the approval stage.

Public accountability. Regular government reports should track projects under negotiation, agreements concluded, verified investment values, locations, expected jobs and timelines, including honest explanation of delays, building confidence and helping citizens distinguish active discussions from completed investments. An annual review should assess progress rather than repeat the original promotional pitch.

Proposed implementation timeline:

- First 30 days: Compile a verified register of investors and proposals; assign implementation officers; hold initial meetings to confirm investor interest and capacity.
- Within 60 days: Conduct preliminary due diligence and technical assessment on priority projects; flag land, regulatory, infrastructure and community issues; identify projects needing feasibility studies or transaction advisers.
- Within 90 days: Move the most advanced projects into detailed negotiation, site inspection and agreement preparation; require evidence of financing; issue the first public progress report.
- Within six months: Advance completed negotiations toward financial close, land handover, approvals and mobilization; begin informing local suppliers and prospective employees of opportunities.
- Within one year: Conduct a comprehensive review of outcomes, investments commenced, jobs created, capital deployed, remaining obstacles, and reassess projects showing no credible progress.

The summit should mark the beginning of a permanent investment culture rather than a one off event, with ministries treating investor facilitation as an ongoing responsibility, and government maintaining relationships with investors who don't commit immediately, since large industrial and infrastructure decisions can take months or years.

THE IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

- **Verified outcomes register:** Publish a clear list of expressions of interest, agreements and projects.
- **Delivery office:** A central team coordinating investors and government agencies.
- **Project classification:** Group proposals by investment readiness.
- **Investor due diligence:** Confirm financial capacity, competence and ownership.
- **Bankable documentation:** Feasibility studies, financial models, environmental assessments.
- **Transparent land process:** Tie allocation to development milestones.
- **Balanced contracts:** Define investment, job, local content and environmental obligations.
- **Financing strategy:** Engage banks, development institutions and private capital.
- **Local participation:** Integrate credible Delta businesses into supply chains.
- **Community safeguards:** Consultation and grievance resolution mechanisms.
- **Public reporting:** Regular progress reports with verified figures and timelines.
- **Performance review:** Assess every project at six months and one year.

The final test. The summit's success won't be decided at the closing ceremony, citizens will judge it by factories that begin production and farms that expand; investors by the speed and stability of government decisions; the state by improved revenue and economic resilience. The summit opened the door. The implementation framework must now make sure investors, viable projects and the people of Delta State can walk through it together.