



## LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT

### GOOD WILL MESSAGE ON THE LAUNCH OF 400-MINUTES INITIATIVE ON FRANKFURT AND LAGOS

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very delighted to be able to address this august gathering today. While I am unable to personally attend, I have asked no less personality than the Nigerian Ambassador to Germany, His Excellency Yusuf Maitama Tuggar to kindly express my good will message to you. I am certain this will convey to you the seriousness I attach to this occasion.

Today's event, I am told, marks the launch of "400 minutes" initiative by our two business communities to bring the two cities of Lagos and Frankfurt together in order to explore a possible official twinning of the cities. I am delighted to also inform you that my government has received an official invitation from the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt and the Council to send a working delegation to the City of Frankfurt to explore ways in which our two cities can cooperate.

Lagos and Frankfurt share many similarities which make it enormously desirable for both cities to explore credible, effective and sustainable ways of cooperating. Frankfurt is the fifth largest city (and hence one of the largest cities in Germany), Lagos is Nigeria's largest city with a population of 23 million. Both cities are global cities, and while Frankfurt is the largest financial center in continental Europe, housing the Central Bank of Europe, Lagos is the largest financial center in West Africa, and indeed the fifth largest economy in Africa as a whole. And for those of you who are football lovers, you will recall that our own J.J. Okocha Okocha played for a club in this great city for many years.

Interaction between Lagos and Frankfurt especially in the area of economy dates back to much earlier. Indeed, Deutbank is not one of the three partners to the Nigeria's central bank, it indeed is Nigeria's gateway to the Eurozone.

The future of global and mega cities lies in the ability to collaborate in economic, financial, and technological endeavours. Lagos is more than ready for this sort of partnership with Frankfurt and I am certain that a twinning of Lagos and Frankfurt will lead to great economic prosperity for both States as it will increase the interactions of their people.

Once again, I thank and congratulate you for this initiative.

**His Excellency, Mr. Akinwunmi Ambode,**

**Governor of Lagos State.**

OFFICE OF OVERSEAS AFFAIRS AND INVESTMENT  
(LAGOS GLOBAL)