

Synopsis of the “Nigeria First” Policy

The "**Nigeria First**" procurement concept, officially known as the **Renewed Hope Nigeria First Policy**, is a strategic framework approved by the Federal Executive Council in May 2025 to prioritise indigenous businesses and locally manufactured goods in all government spending.

Core Concept & Mandate

The policy shifts public procurement from a purely administrative process to a strategic tool for industrial development. It mandates that all federal Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) prioritise Nigerian companies for contract awards.

- **Mandatory Local Content:** MDAs must buy Nigerian-made products whenever they are available locally.
- **Waiver Requirement:** Any procurement of foreign goods or services must be backed by a strong justification and a written waiver from the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).
- **Technology Transfer:** When foreign contracts are unavoidable, they must include clauses for technology transfer, local production partnerships, or skills development for Nigerians.

Six-Point Implementation Plan

The federal government outlined a specific plan to drive this policy, focusing on several key pillars:

1. **Prioritisation:** Putting Nigerian-made products first in all government purchasing.
2. **Monitoring:** Launching a public **quarterly compliance dashboard** (scheduled for early 2026) to track adherence.
3. **Quality Assurance:** Strengthening the Standards Organisation of Nigeria and NAFDAC to ensure local products meet global standards.
4. **Financing:** Providing manufacturers with better access to long-term, low-interest funding.
5. **Infrastructure:** Resolving energy and logistics bottlenecks specifically for industrial clusters.
6. **Human Capital:** Strengthening vocational skills and workplace safety across industries.

Priority Sectors

Energy, IT, furniture, automobile, textiles, healthcare, agriculture

Strategic Objectives

- **Economic Rejuvenation:** Aims to add an estimated **₦3 trillion** to the Nigerian economy.
- **Job Creation:** Targets the creation of over **500,000 jobs** by boosting the manufacturing sector.
- **Reducing Import Dependency:** Seeks a 30% reduction in reliance on foreign imports by empowering local intermediaries.
- **Sanctions:** Failure to comply can result in the **cancellation of contracts** and disciplinary action against responsible government officials.

The policy is currently being formalised through an **Executive Order** to provide it with full legal backing, requiring the BPP to maintain a register of high-quality Nigerian manufacturers for MDAs to consult.

Specific Provisions for Women-Led SMEs and Community Actors

While the core of the policy is broad industrialisation, it includes specific mechanisms to empower underserved groups:

- **Affirmative Procurement for Women-Led Businesses:** The Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) has introduced "Affirmative Procurement" guidelines that explicitly capture **women-owned businesses** to ensure gender sensitivity in government spending.
- **Community-Based Procurement:** The policy promotes **grassroots procurement**, where contracts are directed to local actors within their own localities to ensure economic benefits stay within the community.
- **SME Support & Mentorship:** The policy mandates the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) to partner with SMEDAN to **mentor MSME suppliers**, specifically targeting youth and women-owned enterprises for integration into larger supply chains.
- **Access to Patient Capital:** A key pillar includes providing **long-term, low-interest financing** through the Bank of Industry to help small and medium enterprises scale their production capacity.
- **Rural Economic Inclusion:** It aims to enhance **rural economic inclusion** by strengthening backward linkages in agricultural value chains where community-based actors are most active.

Implementation Roadmap

The government has outlined a **six-point implementation plan**:

1. **Prioritising local products** in all public buying.

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2. **Public compliance dashboard** (launching early 2026) to track MDA adherence.
3. **Quality improvement** to build trust in "Made-in-Nigeria" brands.
4. **Long-term funding** access for manufacturers.
5. **Reliable infrastructure**, including steady power for industrial clusters.
6. **Logistics efficiency** to reduce the cost of moving goods locally.

Would you like to know the **eligibility criteria** for a women-led SME to register on the national database for these procurement opportunities?

AI responses may include mistakes. Information may vary depending on location or individual circumstances.