

The African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and AfCFTA Secretariat have rolled out of the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), a revolutionary Financial Market Infrastructure to enable instant, cross-border payments in local currencies between African markets. By simplifying cross-border transactions and reducing the dependency on hard currencies for these transactions, PAPSS is set to boost intra-African trade significantly and underpin the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

settlement agents. To accelerate expansion and ensure settlement finality, Afreximbank has approved US\$500 million to support the clearing and settlement in West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) countries. It is estimated that a further US\$3 billion will be made available to support the systems continent-wide implementation.

Professor Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank and Chairman of PAPSS Management Board, holds that, with the implementation of PAPSS, Africa can expect to begin to reap the fruits of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. Afreximbank is proud to have contributed in the realization of the multi-decade dream that seemed unachievable just a few years ago.

PAPSS is not positioned to replace existing regional and national payment systems but to collaborate and work with them in better integrating African economies for the benefit of all. We thank the African Union, the AfCFTA Secretariat, the West African Monetary

Institute and African Central banks for a remarkable outcome.

According to Wamkele Mene, Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area, the implementation of the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA will improve intra-Africa trade, necessitating in this regard, the establishment of a payment system to facilitate affordable and efficient cross border trade transactions. It is on this basis that the AfCFTA Secretariat strongly supports the development of a Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) that will usher in a new phase in the African economic trajectory.

The introduction of PAPSS provides Africa with greater capacity to conduct cross-border transactions and expand the scale of both active and latent opportunities for enhanced intra-African trade.

Godwin Emefiele, Governor Nigerian Central Bank, reiterates that, PAPSS has been brought about by our collective desire to facilitate and accelerate the growth of intra-African trade. With central banks working actively together alongside the Afreximbank, we are ushering in a new phase in Africa's economic trajectory, in keeping with the ideals of the African Continental Free Trade Area.

And that the introduction of PAPSS provides central banks with greater transparency and control as we now have a single window into all cross-border transactions emanating from our various jurisdictions and across the continent.



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