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MEDIA INFORMATION

Lagos, 28 July 2026

New VFS Global Joint Visa Application Centre in Lekki enhances capacity amid sustained outbound travel demand from Nigeria

- **The newly opened Joint Visa Application Centre at Purple Mall provides visa processing services for 15 countries from a centralised location.**
- **Operational since 2 March 2026, this spacious centre offers greater capacity, adhering to our world-class standards.**

To effectively cater to the growing outbound travel from Nigeria, customers can submit their visa applications in an even more convenient and comfortable environment at the VFS Global Joint Visa Application Centre at 2 Purple Way, off Freedom Way, Lekki Phase 1, Lagos for the following destinations:

- Australia
- Angola
- Austria
- Canada
- China
- Denmark
- Dubai (DVPC)
- Germany*
- Ireland
- Japan
- Malta (long stay)
- Norway
- Portugal
- Saudi Arabia
- South Africa
- Sweden

* For students and language courses of more than 3 months

The relocation comes at a time when outbound travel demand from Nigeria remains strong. Visa application volumes processed by VFS Global in Nigeria during the first half of 2026 remained at the same level as the corresponding period in 2025, following a robust 51% increase in visa application volumes in 2025 compared to 2024. Popular destinations including the UK, Canada and China continue to witness positive application trends from Nigerian travellers, while destinations such as Australia, Ireland and Schengen countries, including Sweden and Portugal, are also recording healthy demand.

The sustained growth is being driven by increasing demand for international travel across tourism, business and visiting friends and relatives (VFR) segments, alongside continued interest in overseas education and greater forward planning by travellers. The new Joint Visa Application Centre in Lekki has been designed to support this growing demand by providing greater capacity, enhanced applicant comfort and improved accessibility, while maintaining VFS Global's high standards of security, service excellence and operational efficiency.

Commenting on the relocation of the application centres in Nigeria, **Mr. Prashant Kansara, Regional Head for Central & West Africa at VFS Global,** said *"The relocation of our Joint Visa Application Centre to a more spacious and convenient location in Lekki, Lagos is a testament to our ability to cater effectively to the growing demand for outbound travel and visa services from Nigeria in recent years. The new centre offers enhanced capacity and a superior customer experience, enabling us to support travellers more*

efficiently while maintaining the highest standards of service and security.

With international travel demand remaining strong, we encourage applicants to plan and submit their visa applications well in advance of their intended travel dates, particularly during peak holiday periods and student intake seasons. Applying early helps travellers better prepare for their journeys and contributes to a smoother application experience."

With high security controls and ample parking space, the centre is managed by professional staff trained to provide secure and time-efficient processing of entry permit requirements in a friendly ambience to ensure the best customer experience. For applicants seeking a personalised application experience, the centre houses five Premium Lounge facilities, including dedicated units for Canada, China, South Africa, Japan, Saudi Arabia and select Schengen locations.

To further safeguard applicants, VFS Global has implemented a range of fraud-prevention measures, including appointment verification processes, anti-fraud messaging across applicant touchpoints and controlled access to Visa Application Centres. As part of its applicant-awareness initiatives designed to help travellers identify and avoid fraudulent practices, Mr. Prashant added, "*Appointment slots are released online based on demand forecasts and in coordination with the respective client governments' capacity planning. Once an appointment has been scheduled, applicants are advised to arrive at the centre at least 15 minutes before their allotted time.*

We strongly urge applicants to use only official VFS Global channels for visa information and appointment bookings. No agent, intermediary, employee or third party can guarantee an earlier appointment, faster processing or a positive visa outcome in exchange for payment. Applicants should be cautious of fraudulent entities that misuse company names, logos, websites, social media pages or contact numbers to mislead customers. We encourage applicants to report any suspicious activity through the official VFS Global contact channels."

VFS Global is a trusted partner for 22 governments in Nigeria for visa, passport, and consular services since commencing operations in 2007. Since then, the company has grown its presence to an extensive network of 39 Application Centres across 6 cities across Nigeria with a strong workforce of over 220 Nigerian nationals who are an integral part of our operations.

Notes to Editors

- Visa application volumes processed by VFS Global in Nigeria during H1 2026 remained at the same level as H1 2025.
- Visa application volumes in 2025 increased by 51% compared to 2024.
- The UK, Canada and China continue to record strong outbound demand from Nigerian travellers.
- Australia, Ireland and Schengen destinations, including Sweden and Portugal, are also witnessing growth trends.
- Premium Application Centres operated for UK in Port Harcourt- operating four days a week (Tuesday to Friday), Enugu- operating two days a week (Tuesday and Wednesday), Ibadan- operating once a week (Thursday only) and Kano- once a week (Wednesday only) seeing increased demand. Volumes in H12026 already at 2025 levels and expected to be 2X of 2025 total volumes.

- Two more centres expected to open in Benin and Kaduna.

ADVISORY

- Applicants are encouraged to apply well in advance, particularly during peak holiday and student travel periods.
- Visa appointments should only be booked through official VFS Global channels.
- No third party can guarantee an earlier appointment, faster processing or visa approval.

About VFS Global

As the global leader in trusted technology services, empowering secure mobility for governments and citizens, VFS Global embraces technological innovation, including Generative AI, to support governments and diplomatic missions worldwide. The company manages non-judgmental and administrative tasks related to applications for visa, passport, and consular services for its client governments, increasing productivity and enabling them to focus entirely on the critical task of assessment.

With a responsible approach to technology development, adoption and integration, the company prioritises ethical practices and sustainability while serving as the trusted partner to 71 client governments. Operating over 4,200 Application Centres in 169 countries, VFS Global has efficiently processed more than 557 million transactions* since 2001.

Headquartered in Zurich and Dubai, VFS Global is majority owned by Blackstone, the world's largest alternative asset manager, along with minority shareholders including Swiss-based Kuoni and Hugentobler Foundation, Singapore based Temasek and UAE based Dubai Holdings.

** Comprising 344.15 million transactions by VFS Global and 212.94 million transactions by CiX Citizen Experience*

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