



Speech by Dr Adesola Adeduntan, CEO, First Bank of Nigeria Limited at the Launch of Lagos State Employment Trust Fund-FirstEdu Partnership at Governor's Conference Room, Lagos House, Alausa, Ikeja on Wednesday, 23 September 2020

PROTOCOL:

- It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Board and Management of First Bank of Nigeria Limited, the nation's foremost and leading financial inclusion services provider, to the launch of Lagos State Employment Trust Fund-FirstEdu partnership for low cost private schools.
- I am especially grateful to His Excellency for sparing the time to personally attend this launch. This is an eloquent approval and commitment to yet another laudable initiative to foster educational development for the good people of Lagos State.
- I am particularly delighted over this partnership between FirstBank and the Lagos State Government to cushion the burdensome effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on education in the state.
- A couple of months ago, we partnered with the Lagos State Government and Roducate, an edu-tech company to provide the much-needed e-learning devices for schools in Lagos State to enable our students stay on course with their educational development.
- In the heat of the pandemic, under the CACOVID (Coalition Against Covid-19) platform, we also supported the health sector, setting up structures for treatment and isolation centres and providing medical kits to assist our medical personnel in their treatment of Covid-19 patients in various parts of the country, as well as sundry palliatives to the citizenry nationwide.
- Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, may I seize this opportunity to once again appreciate His Excellency, Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, our courageous and admirable Incident Commander, for his exceptional leadership in this unprecedented pandemic era.

- We have been in the business of providing excellent financial inclusion services and supporting the society for 126 years. It is gratifying that we have such an excellent working relationship with our number one host state, Lagos State.
- This new partnership could not have come at a better time. This is because educational institutions have suffered untold challenges as a result of the rampaging pandemic.
- With this partnership, we are sure that registered educational institutions in Lagos State will have access to funds at subsidised interest rates to meet their needs as they reopen at this auspicious time.
- To enjoy this funding opportunity, applications should be submitted via the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund portal. Successful applicants will be passed on to FirstBank for the seamless loan appraisal and disbursement.
- May I enjoin practitioners in the education sector to also take advantage of the various products and services available at FirstBank. It simply starts with opening a corporate or individual account, which opens the door to the best financial services possible, from FirstBank, a financial partner that has been through two world wars, two centuries and two pandemics; a financial partner that is proven to be beyond comparison.
- I am grateful to my colleagues, the LSETF and Lagos State Government for the enormous work that has made this partnership possible in the interest of our educational institutions, which must rebound effectively at this time.
- Your Excellency, ladies and gentlemen, I thank you for joining us to flag off the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund-FirstEdu Fund partnership with FirstBank.
- As schools reopen, I urge everyone to observe all necessary measures to stay safe and keep our families, our dear State and the country Covid-19-free.

Thank you.

**Dr. Adesola Adeduntan, FCA, FCIB**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**First Bank of Nigeria Limited**