

- and Lagos' higher education systems;
- i) Commitment to expanding STEM education, vocational training, and lifelong learning to build the human capital need for sustained economic and social development;
 - j) Operation of international seaports that serve as critical gateways for international trade; and
 - k) Commitment to urban innovation, infrastructure development, smart city technologies, and metropolitan planning.
- 3) States the benefits of a formal sister-state relationship with Lagos, including:
- a) Collaboration in agriculture, food security, agritech innovation, and sustainable farming practices can strengthen food systems, support rural development, and advance climate-adapted agriculture;
 - b) Shared public health challenges can benefit from collaborative research, technology exchange, and joint initiatives aimed at enhancing health systems, building workforce capacity, and supporting healthier populations;
 - c) Expanded opportunities for entrepreneurship, leadership development, and cross-regional collaboration among young innovators;
 - d) Strengthened transnational bonds while creating business networks, investment channels, and trade opportunities;
 - e) Expanded collaboration in financial services and investment can support economic development and broaden opportunities for shared prosperity in both states; and efforts to strengthen workforce development, skills training, and professional pathways can help address labor market needs and promote economic mobility;
 - f) Economic development, inclusive cultural exchange, and long-term peace building by strengthening people-to-people diplomacy, cultural understanding, and collaborative problem solving across diverse communities; and
 - g) Embodying the State of California's commitment to international engagement, diaspora diplomacy, and building bridges that advance shared prosperity, sustainability, and human dignity.
- 4) Establishes a formal sister state relationship between the State of California and Lagos State, Nigeria, to promote collaboration across key strategic areas, including technology and digital innovation; creative and cultural industries; climate, energy, and environmental stewardship; education, research, and innovation; trade, infrastructure, and urban development; health and biotechnology; entrepreneurship and economic empowerment; and sustainable agriculture and food systems.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown. This resolution is not keyed fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

1. **Purpose.** This resolution is Author sponsored. The Author states, “Nigeria, and Lagos in particular, is a global center for creative industries, technology, and maritime trade, with world-leading growth in film, music, digital media, innovation, and port activity. California shares these strengths and is home to one of the largest and most engaged Nigerian diaspora communities in the United States, contributing to our state’s cultural vibrancy, economy, and workforce. Strengthening our ties through a sister-state relationship builds on these shared strengths, supports existing collaboration in arts, ports, education, climate, and technology, and ensures that a rapidly growing and mutually beneficial partnership receives the visibility and recognition it deserves.”
2. **Background.** Nigeria is Africa’s most populous country with an estimated population of more than 232 million people. California is home to a significant Nigerian population, estimated at between 53,000 – 60,000, and engages with Nigeria through trade, climate cooperation, education, healthcare, technology, and the creative economy.

California has begun building partnerships with Nigeria, including cohosting a multi-sector delegation across Kenya and Nigeria in the fall of 2025. The administration, UC Davis, Bay Area Council co-led a delegation to bring together representatives from California, business leaders, researchers, and investors to discuss opportunities that focus on clean energy, digital transformation, and sustainable development. Additionally, during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belem, Brazil, in November 2025, California executed a memorandum of understanding with Nigeria and Kenya to advance California’s goals to achieve clean energy, climate resilience, and sustainable transportation.

Opportunities for collaboration in areas such as economic development, workforce pathways, climate innovation, ports and logistics, and creative industries are important to memorialize. This resolution formalizes California’s commitment to continued collaboration with Nigeria across key areas, “including technology and digital innovation; creative and cultural industries; climate, energy, and environmental stewardship; education, research, and innovation; trade, infrastructure, and urban development; health and biotechnology; entrepreneurship and economic empowerment; and sustainable agriculture and food systems,” as identified by the Legislature.

3. **Arguments in Support.** The Bay Area Council writes, “Last year, the Bay Area Council joined the State of California and the University of California, Davis to lead a powerful, multi-sector delegation across Kenya and Nigeria, building a bridge of innovation, investment, and shared climate action. In Lagos, Nigeria, delegates focused on infrastructure and industry, touring the Port of Apapa to explore port collaboration, meeting with electric vehicle firms like MAX Drive and Saglev, and visiting Semicolon Africa, a venture hub training the next generation of African software engineers. The Bay Area Council is proud to have co-led this delegation along with the state and sees ACR 129 as a continuation of California’s global engagement work with Nigeria.”

The California Airports Council writes, “Lagos is planning a major modernization of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport and California airports stand ready to share our expertise and best practices. We welcome the opportunity to serve as resources to other jurisdictions on how best to create sustainable commercial aviation activities and to do so under a sister state relationship with the State of Lagos. We look forward to working with you to achieve passage of ACR 129.”

SUPPORT AND OPPOSITION:

Support:

Bay Area Council
California Airports Council

Opposition:

None received

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