



Immigration Regulatory Updates

November 2025

This edition highlights key immigration developments affecting Nigerian travellers and regional mobility across West Africa. The updates include the Nigeria Immigration Service's ("NIS") introduction of the Single Travel Emergency Passport (STEP) and the Federal Government's launch of the ECOWAS National Biometric Identity Card (ENBIC). These reforms reflect ongoing efforts to strengthen identity management, enhance border security, and promote safe and efficient movement across borders.

Nigeria Introduces the STEP

The NIS announced the introduction of the Single Travel Emergency Passport (STEP), this is a new biometric-enabled travel document designed for Nigerians abroad who need to return home due to lost, stolen, or expired passports. It is valid for single entry into Nigeria and will be available at designated Nigerian embassies and consulates.

The introduction of STEP replaces the current Emergency Travel Certificate (ETC) and forms part of the NIS's broader reforms aimed at improving service delivery and aligning Nigeria's migration processes with international best practices.

Official launch of the ENBIC

On 28 November 2025, the Federal Government formally launched the ECOWAS National Biometric Identity Card (ENBIC), the ENBIC is a biometric identity card embedded with secure electronic chips, containing both biographical and biometric data. It also serves as an alternative to an international passport for eligible Nigerians travelling within the ECOWAS region.

Some benefits of ENBIC are as follows:

- Enhances identity security and reduces fraud.
- Facilitates seamless travel for citizens, especially traders, frequent travellers, and migrant workers.
- Assists in combating irregular migration, human trafficking, and cross-border crimes.
- Supports regional border control and intelligence-sharing mechanisms.

Although the ENBIC has officially been launched, full compliance measures, including enrolment centres, issuance timelines, and rollout procedures, are still awaiting finalisation.

Should you require further assistance or clarification on any of the above, please feel free to contact pamilerin.akabunwa@moroomafrica.com.

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KEY CONTACTS



Oluwapamilerin Akabunwa

Partner

pamilerin.akabunwa@moroomafrica.com



Uzochukwu Kpaduwa

Associate

Uzochukwu.kpaduwa@moroomafrica.com