



TRANSPORT SECTOR ROUND-UP FOR Q3 2025:

Consolidation and
Setting the Pace for
Q4

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The third quarter of 2025 marked a defining period for Nigeria's transportation sector, characterised by decisive *policy action*, bold *infrastructure strides*, and the slow but steady *implementation of reforms* with real impact.



The Senate's advancement of the Electric Vehicle Transition and Green Mobility Bill set the stage for a cleaner, locally driven transport future. At the same time, the launch of Nigeria's first indigenous container vessel by Clarion Shipping signalled growing self-reliance in maritime logistics. In parallel, partnerships in aviation and marine transport gained traction, reemphasising Nigeria's rising influence in regional mobility.

Lagos, in particular, emerged as a beacon of sustainability, as it hosted Africa's first E1 Electric Boat Racing Championship and equally expanded its electric ride-hailing ecosystem. Together with ongoing rail rehabilitation and the nationwide push for CNG adoption, these initiatives reflect a sector aligning with global standards. As Q3 built on the momentum of earlier reforms, it set the tone for a fourth quarter focused on execution.

Major Areas of Development

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1 *Regulatory* **and Policy Development**

Senate Advances *Electric Vehicle Bill* to Boost Local Manufacturing and Job Creation

In July 2025, the Nigerian Senate passed the first reading of the Electric Vehicle Transition and Green Mobility Bill. The legislation aims to establish a comprehensive framework for Nigeria's shift to electric vehicles (EVs), emphasising local manufacturing, job creation, and environmental sustainability. Key provisions include mandatory local content requirements for foreign automakers, incentives for EV adoption, and the development of charging

infrastructure networks. The bill mandates that foreign companies partner with licensed Nigerian assemblers and attain 30% local sourcing of components by 2030, with penalties for non-compliance. This bill is a positive step forward as it positions Nigeria as a proactive state preparing for the full adoption of EVs by the public, rather than the 'repair after damage' approach, where EVs would be adopted without legal frameworks in place to regulate the transition.

Outlook

1. If enacted, the bill is expected to attract investments in EV assembly plants, creating thousands of jobs in manufacturing and related sectors by Q4 2025. It positions Nigeria as a regional leader in green mobility, potentially reducing reliance on imported vehicles.
2. If passed into law, the legislation will attract investments in EV assembly plants, position Nigeria as a regional leader in clean energy transportation and create jobs for the Nigerian populace. The bill's focus on local content development aligns with broader industrialisation objectives and initiatives of the National Automotive Design and Development Council.

Nigeria Intensifies Bid for *IMO Category C Seat* at Global Maritime Symposium

Throughout Q2 and Q3 2025, Nigeria intensified its campaign for election to the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Council under Category C for the 2026–2027 biennium. The campaign was officially launched during the 110th Session of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC 110).

These efforts highlight Nigeria's increasing influence in international maritime affairs and support broader goals to enhance the country's blue economy sector. The campaign has gained backing from regional maritime stakeholders and showcases Nigeria's readiness to contribute to global maritime policy development.

Outlook

1. Securing the IMO Category C seat would elevate Nigeria's role in international maritime policy-making and standard-setting, potentially attracting increased international investment and partnerships in the maritime sector.
2. Enhanced global standing would reinforce Nigeria's leadership position in West Africa's maritime affairs and blue economy development, providing additional leverage for future international maritime collaborations and infrastructure development projects.

Lagos State Moves to Establish **Railway Corporation** to Strengthen Urban Mobility Framework

In October 2025, the Lagos State House of Assembly held a public hearing on the Lagos State Railway Corporation Bill, 2025, marking a major step toward institutionalising the state's urban rail operations. The proposed law aims to establish the Lagos State Railway Corporation (LSRC) as a dedicated body responsible for operating, maintaining, and expanding intra-state rail services, thereby complementing the work of the Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority (LAMATA) within the state's multimodal transport system.

Under the Bill, the Corporation will be empowered to develop and maintain state-owned rail lines, manage passenger and freight services, and enter public-private partnerships (PPPs) for new projects such as the ongoing Purple, Green, and Orange Lines. It also provides for the appointment of a Managing Director and a Board of Directors, as well as the establishment of an Office of the Inspector of Railways to ensure safety compliance, operational integrity, and adherence to infrastructure standards.

Outlook

1. When passed into law, the Lagos State Railway Corporation Bill will formalise the state's control over urban rail operations, providing a clearer governance structure for rail development and management.
2. The new Corporation is expected to accelerate the implementation of Lagos' rail expansion projects and attract private sector investment in rail infrastructure under PPP models.
3. Successful coordination between the new Corporation, LAMATA, and the Federal Government's Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) will be crucial to avoid regulatory overlaps and ensure seamless connectivity across state and national routes.

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² *Maritime*
and Port Infrastructure



70%

Of the Nigeria's first indigenous container vessel are Nigerian crew members.

1,789^{TEU}

Clarion Shipping Q4 2025 Fleet expansion target

\$1 billion

Port modernisation initiative aimed at transforming Lagos ports

Nigeria's maritime sector is undergoing rapid transformation through new export, port, and shipping investments driving trade growth and sustainability.

SIFAX Group Launches **Direct UK Export Service** to Promote SME Trade Opportunities

In July 2025, SIFAX Shipping Company Limited launched direct Less-than-Container Load (LCL) export services to the United Kingdom in July 2025 through a partnership with Netcargo UK Limited. The initiative enables Nigerian exporters, particularly SMEs, to ship goods directly to the UK without consolidation through transshipment points.

The company explained that the service results in faster turnaround times, lower costs, reduced risks, and more predictable delivery schedules. Trial shipments commenced in June 2025, with full operations ramping up through July. The company also secured import partnerships with WSC Logistics and Shotto Logistics Limited for goods from India and China.

Outlook

1. The direct export service is expected to boost Nigeria's non-oil export volumes while reducing logistics costs for SMEs seeking to access UK markets. The elimination of transshipment delays will improve Nigerian exporters' competitiveness in the international markets.
2. SIFAX's integrated approach to both export and import logistics will create opportunities for increased trade volumes while supporting the diversification of Nigeria's export base under the federal government's economic diversification agenda.
3. By easing logistics barriers, it will encourage more indigenous participation in global trade, aligning with Nigeria's diversification agenda.

Dangote Advances *Nigeria's Largest Seaport* Development

Aliko Dangote submitted formal documentation in late June 2025 to commence construction of what he described as "the biggest, deepest port in Nigeria" at the Olokola Free Trade Zone in Ogun State. The project represents a strategic return to a site originally considered for his refinery complex before relocation to Lagos.

The proposed Atlantic seaport, located 100 kilometres from Dangote's existing fertiliser and petrochemical facilities, will enable the export of liquefied natural gas (LNG), fertilisers, and petrochemicals, while also serving as a logistics hub for the Dangote Group. Plans include pipelines from the Niger Delta for large-scale LNG exports.

Outlook

1. Construction is anticipated to begin in the fourth quarter of 2025, pending regulatory approvals. The first phase of the project could generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs. This initiative will position Nigeria to compete more effectively with existing infrastructure, such as the Chinese-funded Lekki Deep Sea Port.
2. The seaport's integration with Dangote's cement production facilities is projected to create a comprehensive industrial and logistics hub, potentially attracting additional private sector investment and establishing new trade corridors across West Africa.

Clarion Shipping Launches *Nigeria's First Indigenous Container Vessel*

In July 2025, Clarion Shipping West Africa Limited marked a historic milestone by launching Nigeria's first fully indigenous container shipping line with the arrival of MV Ocean Dragon at Tin Can Island Port, Lagos

The vessel, built in 2014 and flying under the Panamanian flag, operates with 70% Nigerian crew members. The company emphasised the strategic importance of leveraging Nigeria's Cabotage Law to promote indigenous shipping capacity and reduce dependence on foreign carriers.

Outlook

1. MV Ocean Dragon is expected to enhance short-sea shipping across West African trade corridors, with planned routes covering Nigeria, Benin Republic, Togo, Ghana, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, and the Ivory Coast.
2. Clarion Shipping plans fleet expansion with a second vessel of 1,789 TEU capacity targeted for acquisition by Q4 2025. This expansion will strengthen Nigeria's position in the AfCFTA market while providing cost-effective alternatives to road transport for container cargo movements.
3. The vessel will improve efficiency in coastal trade, reducing road congestion and costs, with expansion to West African routes by Q4 2025.

Federal Government Approves **\$1 Billion Lagos Ports Modernisation** Project

The Federal Government approved a \$1 billion port modernisation initiative aimed at transforming operations at the Lagos ports through upgraded infrastructure, enhanced cargo-handling capacity, and the adoption of digital, paperless systems. Announced by the Minister of Marine and Blue Economy, Adegboyega Oyetola.

The modernisation programme is expected to overhaul outdated facilities, expand Nigeria's port capacity, and introduce management systems designed to cut turnaround times and improve transparency.

Outlook

1. The Lagos Ports Modernisation Project is expected to significantly improve cargo throughput efficiency, potentially reducing vessel turnaround time by up to 40% once completed.
2. The project will open new opportunities for public-private partnerships, concession reviews, and technology integration across Nigeria's maritime value chain.
3. In the medium term, the reforms are projected to boost Nigeria's trade volumes and strengthen the country's position as West Africa's leading logistics hub.

APM Terminals Commits **\$60 Million to Develop** Nigeria's First **Green Port**

APM Terminals announced a \$60 million investment to transform the Onne Port Complex in Rivers State into Nigeria's first green port. The project will focus on deploying renewable energy solutions, electrifying cargo-handling equipment, and implementing sustainable waste and water management systems.

According to the company, the initiative is designed to align port operations with global environmental standards while enhancing competition. It also supports the Federal Government's broader blue economy and decarbonisation agenda, which aims to modernise Nigeria's maritime infrastructure and reduce emissions across the logistics chain.

Outlook

1. The investment is expected to improve operational efficiency and reduce Onne's carbon footprint and attract further private capital into Nigeria's maritime sector, especially in renewable energy integration and eco-friendly infrastructure.
2. In the long term, the project could influence regulatory reforms on environmental standards for port operations and promote broader adoption of green logistics practices.

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3 *Aviation Sector
Reforms* **and Port Investments**



**Enugu Air
commenced
operations with
three Embraer 170
aircraft**

CTICC

**Nigeria's Cape Town
Convention (CTC)
compliance score
increased by 26.5%**

NCAA Grants Approval for Enugu Air to Operate via **XEJet** Pending AOC Completion

In July 2025, the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) granted Enugu Air an interim authorisation to commence domestic flight operations through a strategic wet-lease partnership with XEJet, pending the finalisation of its Air Operator Certificate (AOC). This interim arrangement allows Enugu Air, a state-backed carrier established to enhance regional connectivity in the South-East, to operate scheduled flights under XEJet's AOC, leveraging its operations, crew, and maintenance systems.

The airline commenced operations with three Embraer 170 aircraft, each configured for 76 passengers, serving key routes between Enugu, Abuja, and Lagos. Ticketing and reservations are processed through XEJet's digital platform, ensuring seamless integration into Nigeria's domestic air travel network.

Outlook

1. The partnership aligns with the Aviation Ministry's 5-Point Agenda to promote indigenous airlines and improve the ease of doing business. Enugu Air's successful launch demonstrates the viability of state-government airline initiatives when properly structured with experienced operational partners.
2. Once Enugu Air secures its standalone AOC, the carrier is expected to expand into additional domestic and regional routes, positioning Enugu as a viable aviation hub in the South-East.
3. The model could also serve as a blueprint for other states exploring hybrid partnerships to accelerate the launch of regional carriers within Nigeria's liberalised airspace.

Nigeria to Receive **First Dry-Lease** Aircraft in October 2025

Nigeria is poised to take delivery of its first dry-lease aircraft in Q4 of 2025, a milestone that ends a two-decade restriction period on such financing arrangements. The breakthrough follows Nigeria's removal from the Aviation Working Group (AWG) watchlist in late 2024, after the country improved its compliance score under the Cape Town Convention from 49% to 75.5%. This development underscores strengthened regulatory credibility and renewed international confidence in Nigeria's aviation sector.

According to the Minister of Aviation and Aerospace Development, a personal guarantee was issued to facilitate Air Peace's access to the lease, which is up to three times more cost-efficient than wet-lease options. The announcement coincides with the groundbreaking of Air Peace's ₦32 billion Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, a strategic project developed in partnership with Brazilian manufacturer, Embraer.

Outlook

1. The reintroduction of dry-leasing is expected to drastically reduce operating costs for Nigerian airlines while boosting their fleet capacity and competitiveness. Combined with the upcoming MRO facility, projected to create about 50,000 jobs and serve as a regional maintenance hub.
2. Access to affordable aircraft financing and local maintenance capabilities will also enable carriers to expand route networks and increase Nigeria's modest 5% share of international passenger traffic. Most importantly, the move restores international confidence in Nigeria's aviation compliance and opens the door to more sustainable leasing and investment opportunities across the sector.

Nigeria Explores **Partnership with COMAC** to Strengthen Domestic Aviation Capacity

In October 2025, the Federal Government, through the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), confirmed that advanced discussions are underway with the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) to support the renewal and expansion of Nigeria's domestic airline fleet. The collaboration aims to enhance local carriers' access to modern, cost-efficient aircraft while reducing dependence on expensive foreign leasing arrangements.

The airline commenced operations with three Embraer 170 aircraft, each configured for 76 passengers, serving key routes between Enugu, Abuja, and Lagos. Ticketing and reservations are processed through XEJet's digital platform, ensuring seamless integration into Nigeria's domestic air travel network.

Outlook

1. Beyond fleet renewal, it opens new opportunities for financing, leasing, and Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) collaboration, key pillars for building a sustainable domestic aviation ecosystem.
2. Over time, such cooperation could also facilitate technology transfer, workforce training, and stronger regulatory alignment to accommodate next-generation aircraft technologies.
3. If successfully executed, the partnership would not only strengthen local airline competitiveness but also deepen Nigeria's integration into the global aviation manufacturing and maintenance value chain.

FAAN Targets **Full ISO Certification** for All Nigerian Airports by December 2025

In October 2025, the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) reaffirmed its commitment to achieving full International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) certification across all airports under its management by December 2025. The initiative integrates ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) and ISO 14001:2015 (Environmental Management System) standards, reflecting FAAN's drive to institutionalise service excellence, operational safety, and environmental sustainability within Nigeria's aviation ecosystem.

FAAN disclosed that approximately 70% of the certification process has been completed, with external compliance audits scheduled for November 2025. The remaining phase focuses on harmonising airport operations, safety audits, and environmental compliance documentation. This milestone forms a key part of FAAN's broader modernisation reforms aimed at aligning Nigerian airports with global operational benchmarks and enhancing passenger experience across major terminals.

Outlook

1. Attaining full ISO certification would mark a transformative step for Nigeria's airport management framework, boosting investor confidence, improving safety oversight, and elevating Nigeria's standing in international aviation rankings.
2. Beyond compliance, it signals a shift toward data-driven, performance-based management that could shape a new culture of efficiency and accountability across the country's airport system.

Nigeria and the United Kingdom Move to **Amend Bilateral Air Services Agreement** (BASA) to Strengthen Aviation Cooperation

In October 2025, Nigeria and the United Kingdom reached an agreement in principle to amend their long-standing Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA), aligning it with current market realities and operational developments in global aviation. The decision followed high-level discussions between both countries' aviation authorities aimed at expanding route access, strengthening regulatory cooperation, and ensuring greater reciprocity for carriers under the bilateral framework.

The review seeks to modernise key provisions that have become outdated since the original accord, particularly those relating to route designation, safety oversight, and fleet capacity. Under the proposed amendments, Nigerian airlines will gain access to a broader range of UK airports beyond London Heathrow, while British carriers will benefit from clearer and more streamlined operating rights within Nigeria. The reform forms part of Nigeria's broader strategy to enhance its international aviation footprint, promote competitiveness among local airlines, and attract private investment into the sector.

Outlook

1. The amended BASA is expected to unlock new commercial opportunities for Nigerian carriers, expand passenger and cargo connectivity, and stimulate tourism and trade flows between both countries.
2. It also lays the groundwork for strategic alliances and code-sharing partnerships that could strengthen Nigeria's emergence as a regional aviation hub. Swift ratification and implementation will be critical to ensuring that airlines capitalise on the new operational rights by early 2026, positioning the agreement as a cornerstone of Nigeria's next phase of international aviation cooperation

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4 *Urban Transport
and Waterways*

Lagos Prepares to Host *Africa's First E1 Electric Boat Racing* Championship

In October 2025, Lagos made history as the first African city to host the prestigious E1 Electric Boat Racing Championship, held from October 3 – 5 at the Marina waterfront, Victoria Island. The global event drew elite racers, international investors, and sustainability advocates, spotlighting Lagos as a rising hub for clean-marine innovation and event tourism. Over the three-day championship, spectators witnessed high-speed, zero-emission “RaceBird” hydrofoil boats competing on Lagos waters, an impressive showcase of technology, precision, and environmental consciousness.

The event also demonstrated Lagos State’s growing capability to host world-class sustainable events. The government, in partnership with the E1 Series organisers and private sponsors, ensured efficient coordination of marine safety, berthing logistics, charging infrastructure, and crowd management. It further complemented Lagos’ broader clean-mobility agenda under the Omi Eko Electric Boat Project, which aims to deploy 72 electric ferries across the city’s waterways.

Outlook

1. Hosting the E1 Championship has positioned Lagos as Africa’s epicentre for sustainable marine transport and innovation. The event’s success not only enhanced the city’s global visibility but also strengthened investor confidence in Lagos’ maritime infrastructure and green-technology ecosystem.
2. Beyond its economic and tourism impact, the championship validated Lagos’ vision to integrate electric water transport into its urban mobility framework, a step that could attract more international sporting, innovation, and sustainability collaborations in 2026 and beyond.

The **Omi Eko Electric Boat Project**: Pioneering Nigeria's Clean-Marine Future

The Lagos State Government officially launched the Omi Eko Project on October 17, 2025, marking a historic step toward transforming water transportation across the state. Implemented through the Lagos State Waterways Authority (LASWA), the €410 million initiative is funded under the European Union's Global Gateway Programme, with additional support from the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). Structured as a public-private partnership, the project underscores Lagos' commitment to sustainable mobility and green infrastructure development.

Over the next six years, Omi Eko is expected to deliver a complete overhaul of Lagos' inland-waterway system. The project includes the deployment of 78 high-capacity electric ferries, each accommodating between 50 and 200

passengers, alongside the construction and rehabilitation of 25 modern ferry terminals and floating jetties. The programme also provides for dredging, channel marking, and the development of smart ticketing and control systems to enhance safety, efficiency, and user experience.

Beyond its infrastructure goals, the Omi Eko Project represents a major economic and environmental milestone for Lagos. By integrating clean, reliable marine transport into the city's mobility network, it aims to ease road congestion, reduce carbon emissions, and create thousands of jobs in marine engineering, construction, logistics, technology, and operations. The initiative ranks among the largest urban transport reforms in West Africa, positioning Lagos as a regional model for sustainable, multimodal urban mobility.

Outlook

1. The next phase of the Omi Eko Project will focus on deploying the first batch of electric ferries and completing shore-power infrastructure across priority routes such as Ikorodu - Marina and Lekki - CMS. These early operations are expected to transport over 20 million passengers annually once fully scaled.
2. The project is projected to reduce carbon emissions by approximately 41,000 tonnes per year, ease road congestion, and expand waterway transport's share of daily commuting from below 1 per cent to about 5 per cent.
3. As implementation progresses in Q4 2025, emphasis will shift to integrating the ferry network with road and rail systems through digital ticketing, while engaging private operators under a vessel transition and maintenance partnership programme to ensure long-term sustainability.

Sustaining The Momentum:

Policy and *Project* Priorities for Q4 2025

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As Nigeria navigates through the final quarter of 2025, the transport sector is poised to translate the momentum of Q3 into measurable outcomes through decisive policy execution, infrastructure delivery, and sustainability-focused reforms.



The months ahead are expected to feature deeper collaboration between federal and subnational agencies, stronger private sector involvement, and the first wave of operational rollouts under newly enacted frameworks. Together, these initiatives will define the next phase of Nigeria's transport modernisation agenda, one focused on results, resilience, and long-term competitiveness.

Regulatory and *Policy* Priorities



The Electric Vehicle Transition and Green Mobility Bill remains a central legislative priority, with stakeholders anticipating accelerated passage of the Bill and preparatory steps for implementation in Q4 2025.

Attention will shift to designing fiscal and regulatory incentives for EV assembly, developing nationwide charging networks, and establishing compliance benchmarks to promote local content and private participation.

In Lagos, the Railway Corporation Bill is expected to advance toward enactment, giving legal backing to a dedicated state railway authority and clarifying governance structures for urban rail operations.

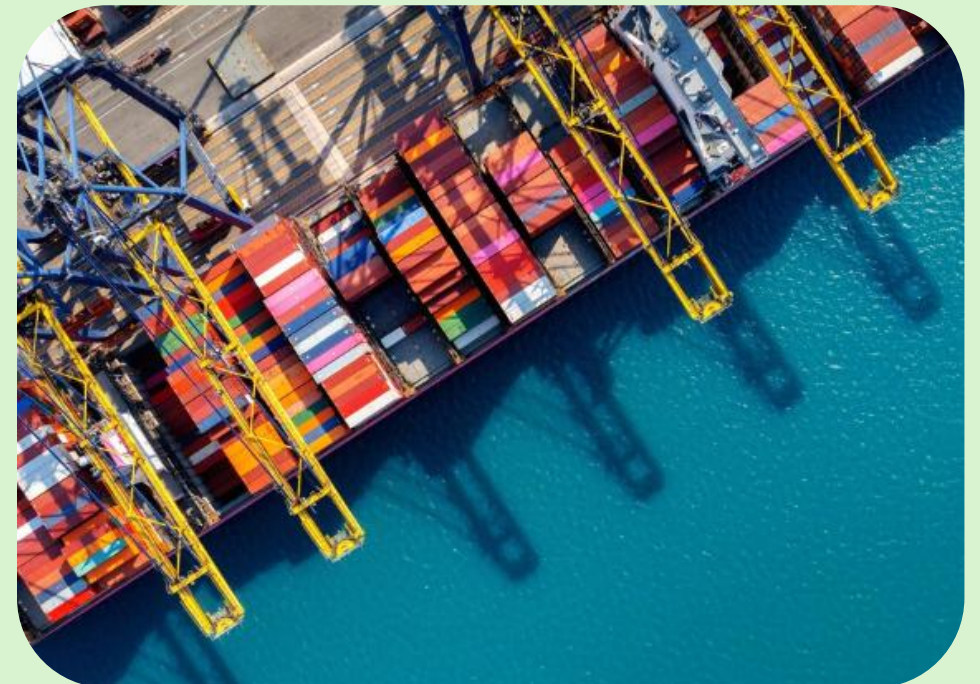
The Bill's passage will also unlock broader opportunities for public-private partnerships

within Lagos' expanding multimodal transport framework, reinforcing the city's role as a model for subnational transport reform in Nigeria.

Maritime and Port Infrastructure

Focus in Q4 2025 will shift toward the execution and early implementation of landmark maritime projects announced during the year, notably the \$1 billion Lagos Ports Modernisation Project, Dangote's Olokola Deep Seaport, and APM Terminals' Green Port Initiative at Onne. Regulatory clearances, environmental approvals, and financing arrangements will dominate the quarter as stakeholders work to translate project commitments into tangible progress.

At the operational level, the expansion of SIFAX Group's direct UK export service and the continued deployment of Clarion Shipping's indigenous coastal vessel fleet are expected to enhance regional trade connectivity, reduce logistics bottlenecks, and deepen Nigeria's participation in non-oil exports. Together, these developments will mark a shift from planning to performance, positioning Nigeria's maritime sector as a key driver of diversification and sustainable blue-economy growth.



Aviation

Q4 2025 will serve as a defining phase for Nigeria's evolving aviation landscape, as key reforms begin to deliver measurable outcomes.

The arrival of the first dry-lease aircraft and the operational launch of Air Peace's ₦32 billion Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility will provide visible proof of progress in aircraft financing, maintenance capacity, and cost efficiency, areas that have long constrained domestic carriers.

In parallel, the amendment of the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) with the United Kingdom and advancing partnership discussions with COMAC are expected to expand route access, attract foreign technical investment, and promote technology transfer across the aviation value chain.

Collectively, these developments will test the strength of Nigeria's regulatory reforms and its readiness to emerge as a competitive regional hub for fleet maintenance, pilot training, and international connectivity

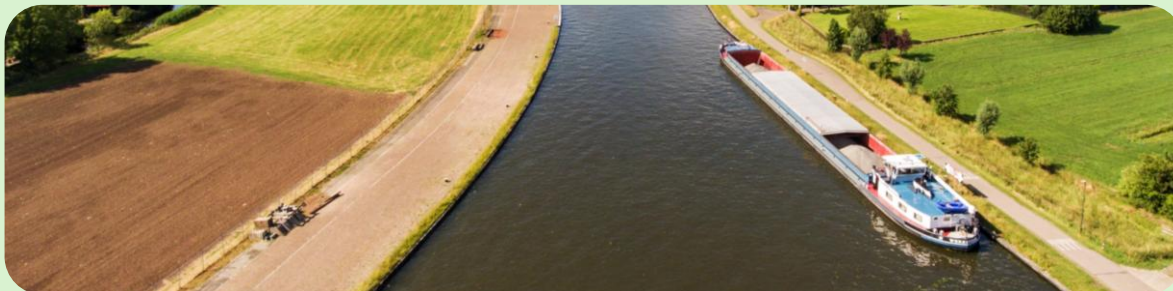


Urban Transport and Waterways

Building on the successful hosting of Africa's first E1 Electric Boat Racing Championship, Lagos State is poised to consolidate its position as a pioneer in clean urban mobility. The visibility and technical experience gained from the event will be leveraged to attract further investment into the Omi Eko Electric Boat Initiative, which targets the large-scale deployment of 72 electric ferries across the state's waterways.

Q4 2025 will focus on strengthening integration between water and road transport systems through digital ticketing, unified scheduling platforms, and enhanced marine safety oversight. Concurrently, the expansion of CNG-powered mass transit services in Lagos, Abuja, and Port Harcourt will underscore Nigeria's commitment to green and cost-efficient mobility.

Together, these efforts reflect a growing shift toward sustainable multimodal transport solutions, positioning Lagos as a benchmark for urban transport innovation across Africa.





Conclusion

With Q3 2025 now concluded, Nigeria's transportation sector is in the final quarter of the year with clear momentum and a sharpened focus on delivery.

The progress recorded, from legislative advances in green mobility to indigenous maritime capacity and urban transport innovation, has laid a ***solid foundation for accelerated execution in Q4.***

The sector now transitions from reform planning to tangible implementation, where coordination, investment, and sustainability will define outcomes. As Nigeria deepens its multimodal integration and attracts private participation, it is steadily positioning itself as a continental leader in transport modernisation, green infrastructure, and logistics.

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