



Stories that Matter | June 2026

Africa

AfCFTA Targets USD 250 Billion Intra-African Trade, Lauds LASG on Digital Transformation

The Secretary-General of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Wamkele Mene, disclosed that the continental trade bloc is on course to achieve an annual intra-African trade volume of USD 250 billion in the current year.

Speaking at the 'Invest Lagos Conference, Mene disclosed that Intra-African trade is projected to reach USD 250 billion in 2026, up from USD 220 billion recorded in 2025, reflecting growing implementation of the AfCFTA agreement across the continent. He noted that 50 African countries are currently implementing the agreement and that all the protocols underpinning the trade pact have been concluded, creating a stronger foundation for economic integration and regional commerce.

According to him, Africa must accelerate efforts to deepen trade among its countries as global economic challenges continue to limit access to traditional export markets.

"Many African countries have lost market share in key international markets and face increasing trade barriers. We have to build a strong domestic market within Africa because our future growth lies here on the continent," he said.

Mene highlighted how external shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, exposed Africa's vulnerability to global supply chain disruptions and import dependence.

He stressed that strengthening intra-African trade would help the continent become more resilient to future economic shocks.

Source: This Day