How a Malaysian Can Register/Incorporate a Company in Nigeria from Malaysia (2026 Cost & Requirements)

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Description

Introduction

Nigeria; a nation of more than 220 million people and one of Africa's largest and most dynamic economies, has become an increasingly strategic destination for international investors seeking expansion across West Africa. With a rapidly modernising digital infrastructure, diversified industrial growth, major urban development, and seamless access to the 400 million consumer ECOWAS regional market, Nigeria now stands as a preferred entry hub for Asian businesses.

Malaysia and Nigeria share long-standing diplomatic and commercial ties, strengthened through cooperation in:

- palm oil and agricultural technology
- construction, EPC and infrastructure
- oil & gas servicing and petrochemicals
- telecommunications and digital economy

- halal food production and export systems
- maritime logistics, shipping and port operations
- manufacturing, automotive, and machinery supply

Reports from Malaysia's Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI), MATRADE, and Afreximbank indicate rising Malaysia–Nigeria commercial engagement, especially among Malaysian investors seeking expansion into Africa's rapidly growing consumer markets.

Malaysian companies; from Kuala Lumpur's engineering firms to Penang's electronics manufacturers, Johor and Selangor agribusiness producers, Sabah and Sarawak palm-oil processors, and Malaysia's increasingly global fintech players, are now identifying Nigeria as a high-growth platform for West African operations.

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This guide explains **exactly how a Malaysian citizen, company, family office or investor group can remotely register a Nigerian company from Malaysia** without traveling to Nigeria.
It includes full requirements, documentation, timelines, banking activation rules, and immigration steps such as **Expatriate Quota, STR Visa, and CERPAC**, which are mandatory for obtaining BVN/NIN and full operational authority.

1. Nigeria's Fully Digital & AI-Assisted Company Registration System

Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) operates a fully digital, AI-supported Company Registration Portal that allows full incorporation from overseas.

Why this benefits Malaysian investors

Feature	Benefit
Fully online process	Register from Kuala Lumpur, Selangor, Penang, Johor, Sabah, Sarawak with no travel required

Feature	Benefit
Digital certificates only	QR-coded, instantly verifiable documents
AI-driven compliance review	Faster approvals and fewer errors
Uploads accepted as scans	Passport scans and digital signatures are valid
Global access	Complete the registration from any location

The workflow feels familiar to Malaysian investors accustomed to **SSM's MyCOID portal**, making navigation intuitive.

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2. Why Nigeria Attracts Malaysian Investors

Nigeria and Malaysia share strong complementarities across agriculture, digital technology, construction, energy services, and logistics. Major Malaysian expertise aligns directly with Nigeria's high-demand sectors.

a. Agriculture, Palm Oil & Food Processing

Malaysia is a global leader in:

- palm oil production & processing
- agro-machinery & agri-tech
- plantation management
- food processing systems

Nigeria’s massive food demand, expanding agricultural zones, and government incentives create major opportunities for Malaysian companies.

b. Oil, Gas & Petrochemical Services

Malaysia’s global oil & gas ecosystem; PETRONAS, MPRC, service contractors, offshore support specialists, aligns with Nigeria’s huge hydrocarbon sector.

Opportunities include:

- FPSO & offshore support
- pipeline & refinery services
- gas monetisation technologies
- petrochemical machinery supply

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c. ICT, Digital Services & Fintech

Nigeria hosts Africa’s largest fintech market.
Malaysia’s fast-growing digital landscape; payments, cybersecurity, cloud solutions, software development, can integrate seamlessly into the Nigerian ecosystem.

d. EPC, Construction & Industrial Development

Malaysian firms have delivered major regional infrastructure projects.
Nigeria continues to invest heavily in housing, roads, bridges, ports, renewable energy sites and industrial estates.

Key Advantages to Malaysians

Advantage	Impact
100% foreign ownership	No mandatory Nigerian partner

Advantage	Impact
Remote incorporation	Entire process done from Malaysia
Full profit repatriation	Legally allowed through approved banks
Access to ECOWAS	400M consumer regional expansion
Strong investment protection	Under CAMA & NIPC frameworks

3. Requirements to Register a Nigerian Company from Malaysia

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Foreign investors generally register a **Private Limited Liability Company (LLC)** in Nigeria, similar to Malaysia's Sdn. Bhd. structure.

A. Reserve Your Company Name

Submit options via the CAC portal.

Examples:

- Malaysia Gulf Energy Nigeria Ltd
- ASEAN Logistics Nigeria Ltd

Approval: **Minutes after submission**

B. Director & Shareholder Information

You must provide:

- Full Name
- Gender

- Nationality (Malaysian)
- Date of Birth
- Email and Mobile Number
- Residential Address
- Occupation

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Minimum: **1 director**
Maximum: **Unlimited**

C. Required Share Capital

Foreign owned Nigerian companies must have:

₦100,000,000 share capital

Ownership models:

- **100% Malaysian-owned**, or
- Joint venture (e.g., **90% Malaysian, 10% Nigerian**)

D. Define Business Activities

Examples:

- EPC / engineering & construction
- Oil & gas servicing

- ICT & fintech solutions
- Agriculture & agro-processing
- Maritime logistics
- Real estate & infrastructure

E. Upload Digital Documents

- Malaysian passport (clear scan)
- Signature on a blank sheet

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F. Registered Nigerian Office Address

Mandatory.
You may use a professional registered office provider initially.

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4. Can a Malaysian Be Sole Director & Shareholder?

Yes, Malaysian investors may own **100%** of the Nigerian company and serve as the sole director.

However, to **operate** the company, especially for **banking**, the director must obtain:

BVN: Bank Verification Number

NIN: National Identity Number

These require **physical presence and Nigerian residency**, which are only granted after:

1. **Expatriate Quota (EQ)**
2. **STR Visa (Subject to Regularisation)**
3. **CERPAC Residency Card**

Temporary Workaround

Because Malaysians cannot obtain BVN/NIN from abroad:

- **Appoint a temporary Nigerian director** who will act as the bank signatory.

Once the Malaysian director receives CERPAC → BVN → NIN:

- Temporary director can be removed
- Full control transfers to the Malaysian owner

This is standard foreign investor practice in Nigeria.

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5. Step-by-Step Incorporation Process

Step	Description	Timeline
1	Reserve company name	Minutes after submission
2	Enter company, director & shareholder information	Same day
3	Upload passport, signature, proof of address	Same day
4	CAC AI + human review	5–7 working days
5	Receive incorporation documents	Immediately after approval

Documents issued:

- **Certificate of Incorporation**
- **CAC Status Report**

- **Memorandum & Articles of Association**

All are **digital, QR-coded, and globally verifiable**.

6. Post-Incorporation Compliance (Mandatory)

Requirement	Purpose	Timeline
TIN	Tax & banking activation	3–5 days
SCUML Certificate	AML/KYC compliance	5–7 days
Tax Clearance Certificate	Annual compliance	3–5 weeks
Director Verification	Identity confirmation	Same day

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7. How Malaysians Can Open a Nigerian Corporate Bank Account

Required:

- CAC Incorporation Certificate
- TIN
- SCUML
- Passport ID
- Nigerian office address

Bank Signatory Requirements

- BVN

- NIN

- Nigeria registered mobile number

Since these cannot be issued outside Nigeria:

- A temporary Nigerian director is used until the Malaysian investor obtains residency.

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8. Cost Breakdown (Standard 2026 Fees)

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Service	Duration	Cost (USD)
LLC Incorporation (₦100M capital)	7–14 days	$2,775
SCUML Certificate	5–7 days	$60
TIN & Tax Registration	3–5 weeks	$275
Director Verification	Same day	$150
Bank Account Support	After TIN	$80
Registered Office (12 months)	1 year	$250
Director Change (optional)	2–4 days	$60

- **Total Estimated Cost: $3,650**
- **Overall Timeline: 30–35 working days**

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9. Immigration Requirements for Malaysians

To gain operational control of the company, the Malaysian director must obtain:

Expatriate Quota (EQ)

Authorises the Nigerian company to employ foreign nationals.

STR Visa (Subject to Regularisation)

Issued by the Nigerian Embassy in Malaysia.

CERPAC Residency Card

Required for:

- BVN issuance
- NIN issuance
- Legal authority to manage the company
- Corporate bank signatory rights

Without CERPAC, you may **own** the company but **cannot operate** it.

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10. Malaysia–Nigeria Trade & Investment Snapshot

Malaysia → Nigeria (Key exports/investments)

- Palm-oil derivatives
- Machinery & industrial equipment
- ICT & fintech platforms
- Construction/EPC services
- Agricultural technology
- Logistics & warehousing systems

Nigeria → Malaysia (Exports)

- Agricultural commodities
- Energy services & exploration support
- Minerals & metals
- FMCG products

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High-Growth Sectors for Malaysian Investors

- Energy services & petrochemicals
- Agribusiness, palm-oil processing, food chains
- ICT, digital payments & cybersecurity
- Construction & EPC
- Maritime logistics & port operations
- Real estate & industrial estates

Conclusion

Registering a Nigerian company from Malaysia is now straightforward and fully digital. Through CAC's modern online system, Malaysian investors can incorporate from abroad with minimal documentation and no travel requirement.

Once the investor completes:

- Expatriate Quota
- STR Visa
- CERPAC Residency

they gain **BVN**, **NIN**, and full authority to manage Nigerian banking, operations, and directorship duties.

From Kuala Lumpur to Lagos, Penang to Abuja, and Johor to Port Harcourt, Malaysian investors now have a clear, legally compliant, and commercially powerful pathway into West Africa’s largest economy.

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