

Project Summary: Kaduna-Abuja Highway

The Kaduna-Abuja Highway is a crucial 200-kilometer route in Nigeria, connecting the nation's capital, Abuja, to the city of Kaduna. It serves as a vital artery for transportation, commerce, and regional integration.

Overview:

In December 2017, the Nigerian government initiated a comprehensive reconstruction of the Abuja-Kaduna-Zaria-Kano Road, encompassing the Kaduna-Abuja segment. The project aimed to rehabilitate and expand the dual carriageway to enhance safety and support economic activities. Julius Berger Nigeria Plc was awarded the contract, with an initial budget of ₦155.7 billion, later revised to ₦797.2 billion, and subsequently increased to ₦1.5 trillion.

Current Developments:

In November 2024, the Federal Government terminated Julius Berger's contract over non-compliance with revised cost, scope, and terms, as well as the company's refusal to remobilize to the site.

Historical Challenges:

The project faced significant delays due to funding issues, security concerns, and scope changes. In June 2020, the scope was expanded to include full reconstruction of the entire 375.9 km stretch, leading to further delays. By the first quarter of 2024, the project had achieved 59% completion across its three sections.

Project Status:

Following the contract termination, the government is exploring alternative strategies to complete the project. This includes potential re-awarding of the contract to new contractors and implementing enhanced monitoring mechanisms to ensure accountability and timely delivery.

Alignment with Project Health Control (PHC) Service:

The PHC Service, provided by Order Efficiency Ltd, can play a critical role in ensuring the effective implementation and sustainable operation of this project. Through systematic project monitoring, governance, and the application of PHC methodologies, the service will oversee risk management, compliance, and the seamless execution of project phases to achieve timely and efficient results.

Conclusion:

The completion of the Kaduna-Abuja Highway is expected to boost economic activities, improve regional connectivity, and enhance safety for commuters. It is also anticipated to create numerous direct and indirect job opportunities, contributing to Nigeria's economic growth and development.

The government's recent actions underscore its commitment to transparency and efficiency in public infrastructure projects, aiming to set a precedent for future initiatives.