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BICCON COMMENDS SEC NIGERIA FOR MAIDEN ACCELERATED REGULATORY INCUBATION PROGRAM (ARIP) APPROVALS: DESCRIBES IT AS A PROMISING STEP TOWARDS A ROBUST DIGITAL ASSET MARKET IN NIGERIA

The Blockchain Industry Coordinating Committee of Nigeria (BICCON) applauds the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for its recent groundbreaking decision to grant "Approval-in-Principle" to seven blockchain related firm out of which two are Digital Asset Exchanges, under the Accelerated Regulatory Incubation Program (ARIP). This landmark move marks a watershed moment for Nigeria's burgeoning digital asset industry, signaling a new era of regulatory support and innovation.

The ARIP, conceived as a controlled testing environment for digital asset firms, has already demonstrated its potential as a viable initiative by this singular act. By providing a clear pathway for Digital Assets Service Providers to offer their services and products to the Nigerian market, the SEC has reignited faith in the country's ecosystem. This forward-thinking approach is expected to catalyze a surge of confidence among digital asset service providers, encouraging them to enter the market with the assurance of a supportive regulatory environment.

Under the leadership of Mr. Timi Agama, as DG of SEC, the SEC is setting a commendable precedent that balances innovation with prudent oversight as BICCoN has always advocated. The ARIP, in conjunction with the broader Regulatory Incubation (RI) Program, exemplifies a nuanced approach to fostering technological advancement while maintaining robust consumer protections. This equilibrium is crucial for nurturing a thriving, sustainable digital asset industry in Nigeria.

BICCON extends its commendation to the SEC for its proactive stance and urges other regulatory bodies, particularly the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), to follow suit with this progressive approach. We advocate for increased collaboration among regulatory entities to create a harmonized environment that promotes industry growth while ensuring adherence to legal and ethical standards.

The SEC's initiative serves a dual purpose: protecting both the industry and its stakeholders. By establishing rigorous standards for operational transparency and compliance, the Commission has raised the bar for market integrity. This move is instrumental in curtailing the activities of unauthorized operators who pose significant risks to the market. BICCON strongly encourages all existing digital asset firms to pursue approval for participation in the ARIP program, ensuring their operations are



legally recognized and contribute positively to the development of the Nigerian market.

As the ARIP gains traction, it heralds promising prospects for Nigeria's digital asset market. The anticipated influx of approved firms entering the market is expected to drive innovation, attract investment, and boost participation in the digital economy. The SEC's proactive approach lays a solid foundation for industry growth, positioning Nigeria as a competitive player in the global digital asset ecosystem.

Looking ahead, BICCON envisions the success of the ARIP as a catalyst for broader economic development. The program has the potential to unlock new opportunities across various sectors, fostering job creation, technological advancement, and financial inclusion. As more companies receive approvals and enter the market, we anticipate a ripple effect of positive outcomes throughout the Nigerian economy.

Finally, BICCON reiterates its strong support for the SEC's initiatives and looks forward to continued collaboration between regulators and industry stakeholders. Together, we can further strengthen the market, enhance investor protections, and unlock the full potential of digital assets in Nigeria. This partnership between the public and private sectors will be instrumental in cementing Nigeria's position as a leading hub for blockchain and digital asset innovation in Africa and beyond.



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