

# RECyclERS VOICE NEWS LETTER

November Edition:  
**Innovation &  
National  
Impact**



## The New Chapter of RAN's Board of Trustees

### Industry Watch: Policy & Market Shifts

Lagos Bans Cart  
Pushing of Recyclables,

Navigating Market  
Volatility: Analysis &  
Path Forward.

### Impact & Recognition

RAN Members  
Sweep PRISA  
Awards,

Oyo State Honors  
RAN with  
Sustainability Award

### Driving Local Value:

Chanja Datti Closes  
the Loop with 100%  
Recycled Plastic  
Product Line.

The Recycler's  
Playbook





## FROM THE EDITORIAL DESK

In an era when climate ambition is being tested and the circular economy is accelerating globally, Nigerian recyclers are showing resilience, ingenuity, and leadership. This November, we spotlight innovations redefining waste recovery, policy shifts shaping our sector, and milestones that signal a new frontier for sustainable development in Nigeria.

The Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) continues to convene, collaborate, and champion the ecosystem, mobilizing stakeholders, empowering innovators, and ensuring the voices of recyclers shape national and regional policy direction. From pioneering community buyback programs to driving capacity-building and celebrating catalytic partnerships, this edition captures the momentum that strengthens our collective mission: building a cleaner, more dignified, and economically empowered Nigeria through the principles of the circular economy.

This is our story. Our impact. Our rise.

## EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

- **Partnership Momentum:** New national projects were launched in collaboration with UNIDO, the Federal Ministry of Youth, and Seven-Up Bottling Company.
- **Member Excellence:** RAN members are making significant strides in the plastic recycling industry, with over 70% recognised at the PRISA Award.
- **Policy Influence:** RAN joined the national conversation on the End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) policy and advanced circular packaging advocacy.

## Special Announcement:

# A NEW CHAPTER OF STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE

To steer the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) into its next phase of growth, we are proud to introduce the newly inaugurated members of our Board of Trustees, entrusted with guiding RAN's long-term strategic vision and governance. This esteemed group of leaders brings a wealth of experience in sustainability, policy, and business development that will be invaluable in guiding our strategic direction. Their leadership marks a pivotal step in shaping Nigeria's recycling future with stronger representation, structure, and sector influence.

As RAN pushes forward with renewed focus and ambition, the Board of Trustees stands as the compass for the next phase of growth, ensuring that the recycling sector becomes stronger, more inclusive, and more influential in Nigeria's sustainability journey.



**Habib  
Ahmed**

Board Chair



**Rita  
Idehai**

Board Vice Chair



**Funto  
Boroffice**



**Mazi  
Alison  
Ukonu**



**Muhammed  
Nazeeph**



**Professor  
Innocent  
Nnorom**

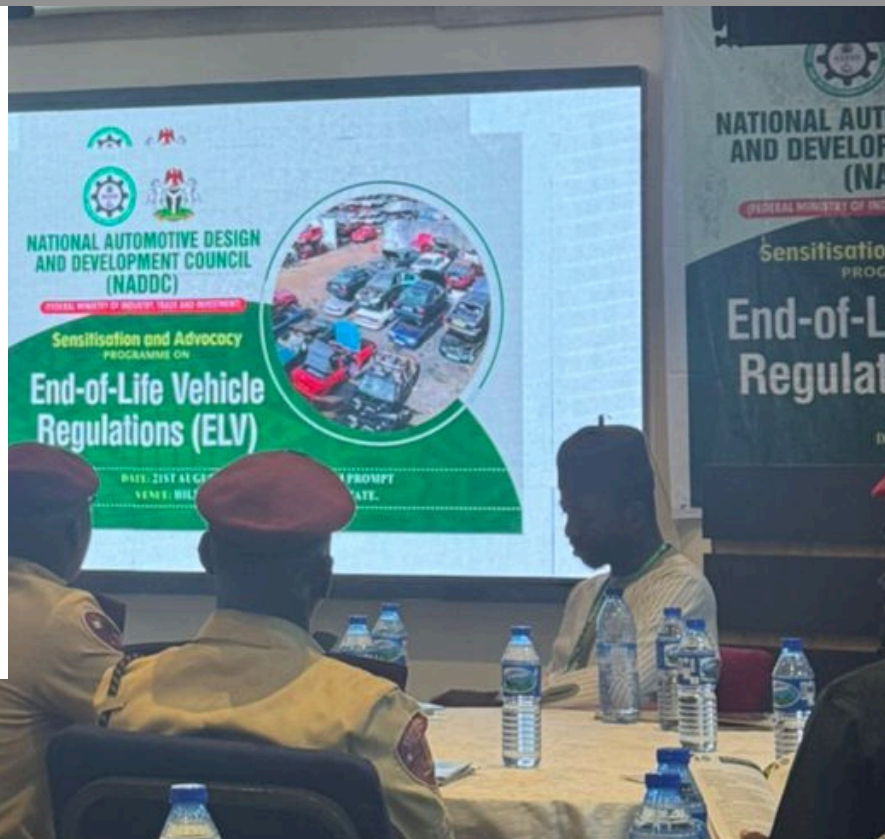


**Bankole  
Oloruntoba**



## Driving Circularity in Auto Scrap: RAN at ELV Policy Forum

The President of RAN attended the Sensitization & Advocacy Programme on the End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) Regulation, hosted by the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) in Kano. This marks a critical step in integrating formal recycling into national automotive policy, ensuring recyclers' voices are heard in this new regulatory framework.



## RAN Promotes Circular Solutions at PROPAK West Africa

The President of RAN shared insights on scaling flexible packaging solutions for West African markets at the 2025 Propak West Africa Conference, positioning the association at the forefront of regional packaging innovation.

It was a valuable platform for engagement with manufacturers, waste management companies, and technology providers across the packaging value chain. The association used the opportunity to highlight the critical role of recyclers in enabling Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) compliance, improving material recovery, and driving circular innovation.



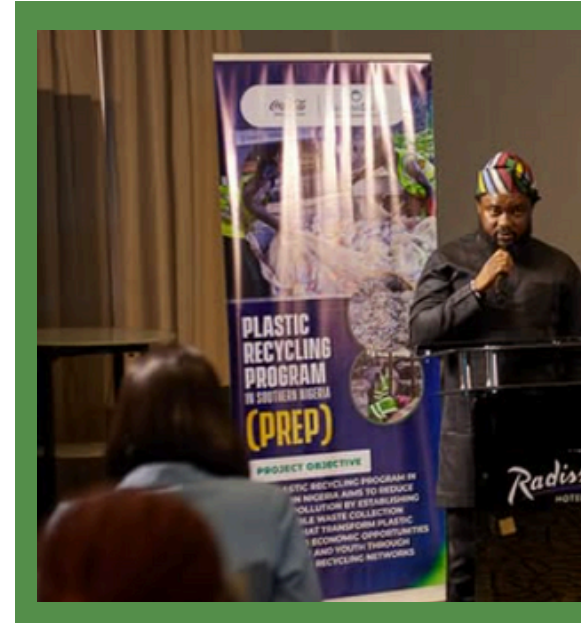


# IMPACT & RECOGNITION

## RAN Members Sweep PRISA Awards

At the 2025 PRISA Awards ceremony, organized by TechnoServe and funded by the Coca-Cola Foundation, 70% of the award-winning recyclers were esteemed members of RAN, a powerful testament to the quality and impact of our network.

This noteworthy participation underscores RAN's commitment to fostering sustainable recycling practices and recognizes the pivotal role of collaborative initiatives like the PReP project in driving economic empowerment and environmental stewardship within Nigeria's recycling sector.



## Oyo State Honors RAN with Sustainability Award

At the Oyo Waste Summit 2.0, RAN was recognized with an Award of Recognition for its remarkable efforts in promoting environmental sustainability and driving climate action.

The Assistant General Secretary (AGS), Oluwatobi Williams, representing the President, delivered a paper titled "Recycling & Beyond: Charting a Path to a Zero Waste Oyo State." The presentation highlighted how recycling extends beyond mere waste diversion, it serves as a catalyst for job creation, enterprise development, pollution reduction, and the growth of a circular economy in Oyo State and across Nigeria.



## INDUSTRY WATCH:

# POLICY & MARKET SHIFTS

Lagos State Waste Management Authority, similar to several other States, is increasingly clamping down on informal collectors, commonly known as “cart pushers” or “Scavengers.” Recent bans and enforcement drives have been reported in Lagos, Enugu, the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), Delta, and Anambra. These actions reflect growing concerns about sanitation, security, and unregulated waste handling, marking a potential turning point in how collection activities are governed.

## LAGOS BANS CART PUSHING OF RECYCLABLES: COULD THIS BE A MOVE TOWARD FORMALIZING THE SECTOR?

**Our Perspective:** This wave of bans is a signal: regulation is coming, whether the sector is ready or not. RAN welcomes efforts to improve city cleanliness and public safety, but bans without transition plans risk deepening precarity among thousands of informal collectors who feed the recycling value chain. The way forward must be deliberate and collaborative. Operators, aggregators, recyclers, and government agencies must design a managed transition that formalizes roles, sets minimum operational standards, and creates clear pathways for inclusion, for example, through licensing, health and safety training, designated collection corridors, and accredited aggregation points.



At the same time, regulatory institutions must demonstrate intentional leadership: by convening stakeholders, publishing time-bound transition roadmaps, and pairing enforcement with incentives and capacity support for downstream processors. Only coordinated, predictable action will stabilize the sector and turn enforcement into opportunity rather than displacement.

### We Want to Hear From You:

How are these bans affecting your collection routes, earnings, or partnerships? What practical steps would help transition informal collectors into formal roles?

→ Reply to [newsletter@recyclersassociation.org](mailto:newsletter@recyclersassociation.org) with your insights.

Your frontline insight will shape RAN’s advocacy and the sector’s next steps.



# Navigating Market Volatility: **ANALYSIS & PATH FORWARD**



The global RPET market is experiencing significant volatility, with a sharp decline in prices. While this presents an immediate challenge to profitability, it also underscores the critical need for the strategic shifts RAN has long advocated for.

Our Perspective: This price crash is more than a market cycle; it is a wake-up call for the entire value chain. It exposes the vulnerabilities created by fragmented sector coordination and the absence of a unified industry voice. To build resilience, operators across the recycling ecosystem must come together to regulate activities, establish minimum standards, and collectively shape the market on which we all depend. It also signals the urgent need for government institutions to step up with intentional leadership. Regulators must bring all stakeholders to the table to co-create a clear, long-term framework that supports recycling activities, particularly downstream players who are most exposed to market shocks. A structured policy direction, backed by enforcement and predictable incentives, will help stabilize prices, strengthen local demand, and create an environment that enables recyclers to scale sustainably.

## We Want to Hear From You:

How is this price shift impacting your operations? What strategies are you using to adapt to the changes?

→ Reply to [newsletter@recycle rsassociation.org](mailto:newsletter@recycle rsassociation.org) with your insights. Your on-the-ground experience is crucial as we shape our collective response and advocacy.

# A NATIONWIDE EFFORT: RAN'S IMPACT ON WORLD CLEANUP DAY

On September 20th and 27th, the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN) showed its national strength by activating chapters across all six geopolitical zones for a coordinated World Cleanup Day effort. The activities went far beyond routine clean-ups. RAN combined corporate action with community sensitization to the inhabitants of the host communities. This nationwide push highlights RAN's ability to unify the sector and turn a global event into real action that cleans communities, protects workers, and builds public awareness around responsible waste management.

Taking the Message to the Airwaves in Abia: Beyond the nationwide cleanups, RAN amplified World Cleanup Day in Abia State through a radio show hosted by its General Secretary, Mr. Cajetan, which kept the conversation alive and reinforced the campaign as part of a continuous public awareness drive.

WCD  
20  
25







# NATIONAL OVERVIEW

## STATES COVERED:

Abuja, Edo, Lagos, Kano, Oyo, Anambra, Kaduna, Kwara, Ogun, Rivers, Abia, Enugu

## TRACTION

- Total Volunteers Mobilized: 502
  - Youth: 303
  - Recyclers: 121
  - Others/Children: 78
- Total Waste Collected: 5,401 kg
  - Recyclables: 1,779 kg
  - Non-Recyclables: 3,622 kg

These numbers represent not just waste diverted, but communities reached, awareness raised, and stronger linkages built between RAN and local stakeholders.

# Partnership Frontlines



## ***RAN & FBRA Partner to Strengthen Recycler Support Nationwide***

Following a needs assessment conducted earlier this year among members of the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN), FBRA identified key operational gaps limiting recovery efficiency at the grassroots level, the Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance (FBRA) provided equipment support exceeding 15 million Naira to selected recyclers nationwide. These practical tools strengthen collection logistics and improve recovery outcomes.

These tools, provided by the Alliance, include four tricycles, 15 jumbo bags, and seven giant bins, which are distributed to selected recyclers nationwide. This intervention reflects FBRA's hands-on approach to supporting those driving the circular economy on the ground. Beyond equipment, it reaffirms the Alliance's ongoing collaboration with RAN to promote sustainable

waste management practices and enhance local recycling capacity. Together, both organizations continue to enable a more inclusive and resilient recycling ecosystem, one that values the contributions of recyclers and pushes Nigeria closer to a cleaner, circular future.





# NEW PROJECTS LAUNCHED WITH FEDERAL MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DEVELOPMENT



## Waste to Wealth Youth Empowerment Program (FMYD):

The Federal Ministry of Youth Development's flagship Waste-to-Wealth initiative sits at the heart of the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, designed to empower 1,000 young people across all 36 states and the FCT with practical circular-economy skills and enterprise support. Officially launched on August 19, 2025, as the Circular Economy Youth Empowerment Initiative for Climate Action (CEYEI), the program opens a pathway for youth to turn waste challenges into sustainable livelihoods and climate solutions.

In the words of Comrade Ayodele Olawande, the initiative aims not only to create jobs, but also to “nurture a generation of innovators who can turn environmental challenges into opportunities.” As a key implementation partner, RAN will support training delivery, enterprise development guidance, and market linkages, ensuring that beneficiaries gain real capabilities, tools, and connections to buyers and recycling networks.

The program will commence with its pilot phase in Abuja and Lagos, before scaling across all 36 states and the FCT by 2026, building a national pipeline of green entrepreneurs ready to drive Nigeria's circular economy.





## PARTNERSHIP FUELING GROWTH IN 2025

Our mission is powered by strategic collaboration. This year, the unwavering support of key partners has been fundamental to our national impact and the direct success of our members.

### TECHNOSERVE

We extend our deepest gratitude to TechnoServe for its foundational role in driving progress within Nigeria's recycling sector. Throughout 2025, their expertise and dedicated partnership have empowered recyclers with tailored resources, operational tools, and strategic insights that elevate the entire value chain.

### FBRA

The Food and Beverage Recycling Alliance (FBRA) has consistently demonstrated its commitment through direct, grassroots support. The recent provision of tricycles, jumbo bags, and giant bins to our members is a testament to FBRA's hands-on approach to enhancing collection logistics and operational efficiency nationwide.





# OPERATIONAL CAPACITY

## NESTLE HEALTH & SAFETY CERTIFICATION FOR RAN MEMBERS

As part of its commitment to improving safety standards in Nigeria's recycling sector, Nestlé Nigeria organized a comprehensive Safety, Health & Environment (SHE) Training. The sessions took place in Abuja on 14th July and in Lagos on 19th July 2025.

Across both locations, over 60 RAN members, WAPAN waste pickers, and partner waste workers were trained. The events also recorded the presence of key stakeholders, including representatives from the Federal Ministry of Environment, NESREA, LAWMA, WAPAN, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Circular Economy & Climate Change,

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE TRAINING:

The sessions focused on the most essential safety skills waste workers need daily, including:

- Identifying hazards and preventing common workplace injuries
- Proper use of PPE and safe waste-handling techniques
- Basic fire prevention, fire types, and practical fire-fighting exercises

At the end of the program, participants received SHE Certificates and were equipped with PPE kits to support safer operations.



## Driving Local Value: Chanja Datti Closes the Loop with 100% Recycled Plastic Product Line.

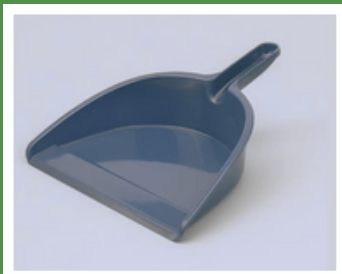
### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Chanja Datti has expanded its impact footprint with the launch of a new household product line manufactured entirely from recycled plastics. This shift from recycler to producer marks a significant step in closing the circular loop while capturing value locally. The new products strengthen domestic manufacturing, reduce dependence on imports, and create new income opportunities across the plastic value chain.

Beyond contributing to environmental sustainability, the product line boosts off-take for collected plastics, increasing earnings for waste collectors and supporting job creation. Chanja Datti continues to demonstrate what scalable, locally driven circular innovation looks like in Nigeria.

### Product Line:



**Dust Pan**



**Bowls**



**Bowls**



# THE RECYCLER'S PLAYBOOK

Thinking of joining the circular economy? Welcome. It's a sector full of opportunity and purpose. To help you start strong, here are some truths every seasoned recycler wishes they'd known on day one.

## YOUR REAL BUSINESS PLAN IS YOUR LOGISTICS LEDGER.

It's often unclear who makes more money, you or the driver moving your materials. To find out, you must break down every trip: the cost to pick up from around your community and the cost to deliver to the off-taker. Your buying price is not just what you pay the collector/waste picker; it's that price plus the cost to move it. "If you cannot quote your cost per kilogram to move material, you are not running a business; you are funding a logistics experiment. **Master this math first.**"



## BEFRIEND YOUR SCALE (CHECK IT REGULARLY).

This humble device is the keeper of your truth, and it has a sneaky sense of humor. A scale, irrespective of its size or make, will occasionally give a false reading, quietly turning your kilograms into confetti. A regular check is the easiest way to avoid the costly comedy of **"what I weighed"** versus **"what the company recorded."**

## PAY ON DELIVERY: THE GOLDEN RULE OF SUPPLY.

We understand the ambition to scale quickly to 100 tons per month. However, at any stage, resist the urge to advance money for promised supplies. The golden rule is non-negotiable: **only pay for what you can see, weigh, and record at that moment.**

Consider this a kindness to your future self. It ensures you never have to wonder why the supplier you advanced ₦20,000 to in Abuja has reappeared as a PET picker on a Lagos street. You can choose to reward consistent, verified delivery with financial support, but any advance remains solely at the owner's risk.

## START SMART. BUILD WITH CONFIDENCE. THE ECOSYSTEM NEEDS YOU.

Found this insight valuable?

- **Follow and subscribe** for more practical guides and industry updates.
- **Veteran recyclers, we want to hear from you:** Share the one lesson **you** learned the hard way

## AFRICA TEXTILE CIRCULARITY: REFAB AFRICA'S CIRCULAR VISION.

REFAB Africa is tackling Nigeria's overlooked textile waste problem with the country's first Mobile Cloth Bank, launched on August 9th. This system collects used clothing and connects it to upcyclers and international markets.

## INNOVATION SPOTLIGHT

Backed by the Federal Ministry of Environment, the project is building a structure in a neglected space while proving that environmental action can also unlock new economic value. As founder Tunmise Johnson says, "Every piece of clothing we rescue is a statement against waste and a chance for someone to regain dignity."



## IN CASE YOU MISSED:

### RAN AT LAGOS BUSINESS SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CLOSING:



RAN represented the recycling community at the Lagos Business School Sustainability Leadership Program closing-out session, reinforcing its commitment to stronger sector leadership and practical strategies that drive real environmental and social impact nationwide.





# UPCOMING

# ENGAGEMENTS

## LAGOS TO HOST RAN ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE 2026.

RAN's annual conference is back and heading to Lagos in 2026. Expect influential voices, strategic dialogues, and conversations that will chart a new course in the recycling and circular economy space. The conference theme, agenda, and venue details will be announced in our upcoming editions

**STAY TUNED**

## LOOKING AHEAD: NEXT EDITION FEATURE

**NORTHERN REGION  
WORKSHOP (NOV  
25TH) – BUILDING  
UNITY AND  
CAPACITY IN THE  
NORTH.**

**RAN AT COP30  
WITH THE OFFICE  
OF CLIMATE  
CHANGE –  
SHOWCASING  
NIGERIA'S  
PROGRESS TO THE  
WORLD.**

**NIGERIA'S  
UPCOMING BAN ON  
SINGLE-USE  
PLASTICS, WHAT IT  
MEANS FOR  
RECYCLERS,  
PRODUCERS, AND  
CONSUMERS,**

# RECYCLERS VOICE NEWSLETTER

November Edition:

# Thank You

## For more Information



+234 907 981 9777  
+234 809 900 0207



[www.recyclersassociation.org](http://www.recyclersassociation.org)



[ran@recyclersassociation.org](mailto:ran@recyclersassociation.org)



[recyclersinnigeria](#)

