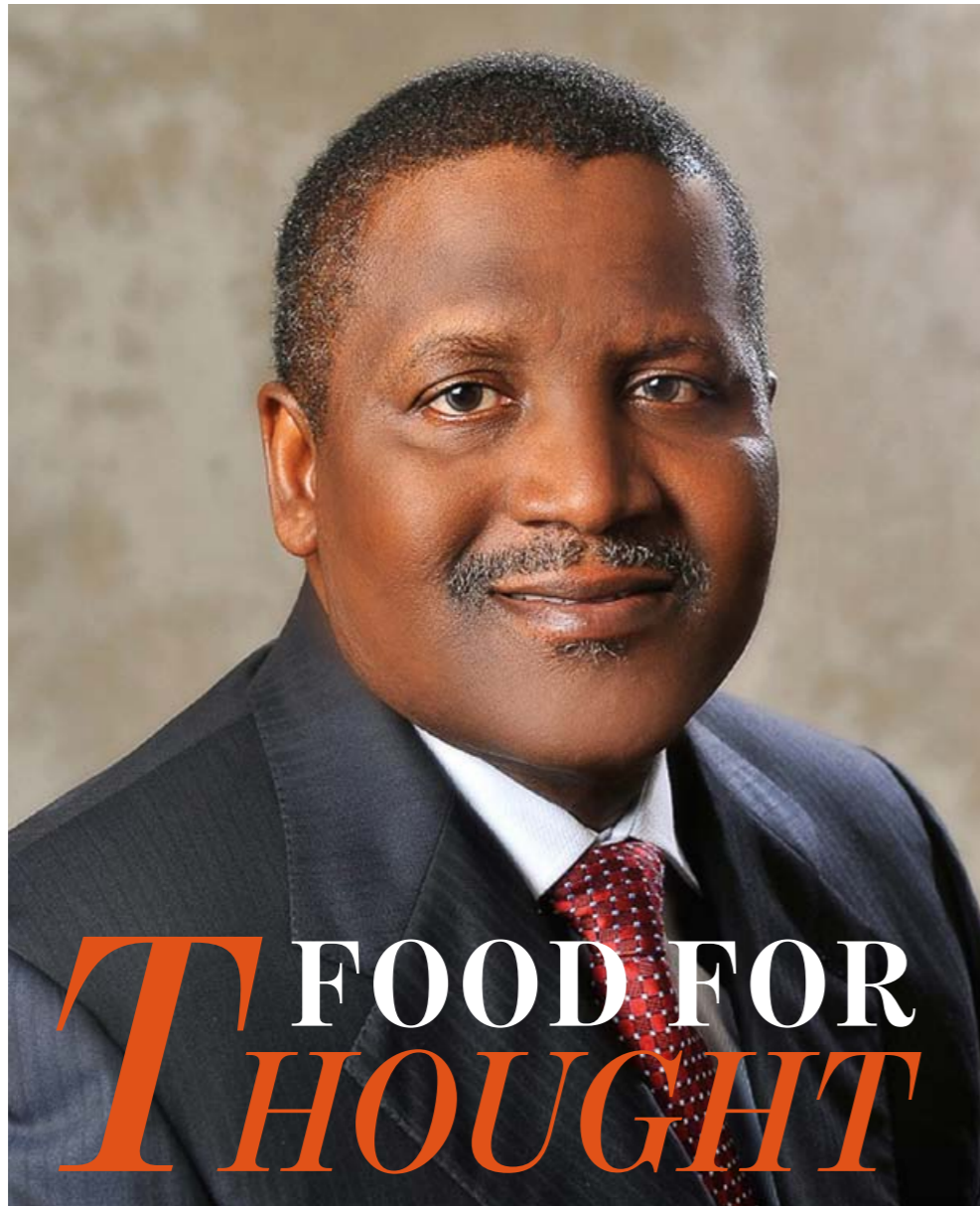




**ALIKO DANGOTE**  
Dangote Group



*Founder and Chief Executive of the Dangote Group  
Aliko Dangote plans to make Nigeria a self-sufficient  
food producer. Can it be done?*

**A**t Dangote Foods' 2018 Customers Celebration and Distributors Awards Night in Lagos the real winner was Nigeria itself. Why? Aliko Dangote is planning to make Nigeria a self-sufficient food producer.

Dangote Group is the largest industrial conglomerate in West Africa and one of the biggest in the continent so one can only assume that Dangote means business. Ranked by Forbes as the richest person of African descent in the world, Dangote has always believed in the potential of Nigeria. In an interview with the Nigerian Observer in 2014, he said: "Let me tell you this and I want to really emphasise it ... nothing is going to help Nigeria like Nigerians bringing back their money. If you give me \$5 billion today, I will invest everything here in Nigeria. Let us put our heads together and work".

**THE MAN FOR THE JOB**

Getting busy is exactly what Dangote has been doing since he established a small trading firm some 43 years ago, with the proceeds of \$3000 loan from an uncle. Within three months the loan was repaid and Dangote was on his way to financial superstardom.

With a company that employs in excess of 11,000 people and already controls much of the food production in Nigeria, Dangote is perfectly placed to lead the country towards self-sufficiency. His group dominates the sugar market and currently supplies almost three quarters of production to Nigerian breweries, soft drink industries, and confectioners. Dangote's company also owns flour mills and factories that produce salt, and exports foodstuffs such as rice, flour, pasta, fish, ginger, cashew nuts, sesame seeds, and cocoa.



Dangote knows that self-sufficiency for Nigeria is an ambitious aim – the country has a population of nearly 184 million people, accounting for almost half of all people in West Africa. That's a lot of mouths to feed. "It's like education", he told Channels TV. "You don't see it in one day, you see it as time goes by."

**GIVING BACK**

There is no doubt that Dangote is a savvy businessman, but the mogul is also a pioneering philanthropist. In a recent Channels TV interview he said: "My group is intervening in a lot of areas, but the intervention has to do with uplifting humanity from extreme poverty. We are making sure that we improve the living standards of people."

Dangote's plan for Nigerian self-sufficiency is a move that, if successful, will change the face of the continent. "Africa is full of opportunity," he told Aljazeera, a statement he knows only too well.

**DANGOTE**  
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