

ChangeMakers: 100

Nigerians
Leading
Change
2025



Edited by: Kammonke Abam & Steve Ogah



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Preface

Changemakers : 100 Nigerians Leading Change honors everyday Nigerians doing extraordinary things in their communities.

These are individuals each with a personal mission to facilitate processes that will lead to change for the collective good of their different communities

As an organisation, we embarked on this journey of recognising and acknowledging the ingenuity of purpose of these outstanding Nigerians whose commitment to their dreams has resulted in uplifting and transforming lives around the country because we believe that, together, we will build a brighter and better Nigeria .

As God wills, we will continue to search for and celebrate the inspirational lives and stories of these extraordinary men and women every year. With these Changemakers, the future of Nigeria is assured.

Kammonke Abam

2025

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Abubakar,
Abba Aliyu

Abba Aliyu Abubakar Abba Aliyu Abubakar is the Managing Director of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) in Nigeria. He was appointed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and his term is for an initial four-year period, effective from January 23, 2025. Aliyu had been serving as the agency's acting managing director since March 2024. Within this period, he has transformed the agency into a performing national agency that is commitment to local content in the renewable energy sector, proving what's possible when innovation, investment, and policy align. His agency is supporting investments in Local solar PV manufacturing which he sees as key to Nigeria's energy future—cutting costs, creating jobs, and powering rural communities.

of experience in the energy sector, both in the public and private sectors. Before his current role, he held positions at the Nigeria Electrification Project and Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading PLC (NBET). He is expected to leverage his expertise to advance the REA's mission of providing reliable electricity to rural areas. He had previously served as Managing Director/Chief Executive, Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading Plc and as Special Assistant to Honourable Minister of Power, Federal Ministry of Power, between 2019 and 2021. His education spans Columbia University and The Wharton School where he underwent executive leadership and personal development programmes.

Abba Aliyu Abubakar has over 20 years



Abunu,
Kofi

Mr. Kofi Abunu is the Managing Director of Food Concepts Plc. He has over 28 years of experience in the food and hospitality industry and a diploma in Hotel Management. He also has a BA (Hon) International Business and Marketing from the University of London and CIMA UK. He previously worked at McDonald's (UK), Nando's and Innscor/Famous Brands (Steers and Debonairs). Established in 2001, Food Concepts is the leading Quick Service Restaurant (QSR) operator in West Africa. The business is focused on the mass market and operates three of Nigeria's best known, most loved and fastest-growing brands, Chicken Republic, PieXpress and Chop Box, across 25 Nigerian states, as well as in Ghana, complimented with an online delivery business growing at over 140% year on year. Credit: Food Concepts Plc.



Adewale **Ajao**

Since assuming office earlier this year, Commissioner of Police (CP) Ajao Saka Adewale, psc, mnips, as the 33rd Commissioner of Police in charge of the Command has quietly been combing the book and crannies of Abuja, breaking into networks of criminal gangs, rounding them up, and prosecuting them. All without television klieglights. He's a smooth operator with marvelous results. He is keeping to his promise of "intelligence-driven policing." The mantra for Commissioner of Police Ajao Adewale, is "intelligence-driven and proactive policing". And that's what he has been doing. The numbers are showing: there's been a significant decline in criminality in the FCT. He has also improved police-civil relations as well

as opened more channels of communication, including adopting social media platforms like X. CP Ajao S. Adewale officially took over the leadership of the Command from AIG Olatunji Disu, psc, on March 26, 2025, following AIG Disu's elevation and redeployment. CP Ajao, an astute law enforcement officer with an illustrious career spanning over 30 years, brings a wealth of experience, professionalism, and dedication to his new role. He enlisted into the Nigeria Police Force on June 10, 1994, after obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography Education from the University of Ilorin. Upon his enlistment, CP Ajao underwent training at the prestigious Nigeria Police Academy, now in Wudil, Kano, before beginning

his policing career at 'D' Divisional Headquarters, Oyo State Command. Since then, he has served in various capacities across different formations, including: COMPOL, Surveillance Squad, Akwa Ibom State Police Command, 2iC Commander, defunct Special Anti-Robbery Squad, Akwa Ibom, DPO, Ikeja, Oworonshoki, Owode Onirin, Alausa (Lagos), Tarka (Benue), and Yemetu (Oyo), ACP, Basic Training Wing, Police College Ikeja; ACP, Rapid Response Squad, Lagos State, ACP, Special Fraud Unit, Force CID, Abuja; DCP, Airport Command, Lagos State; DCP, Zonal CID, Zone 2, Lagos.

He is described in some quarters as the Tax Czar. How did he earned this epithet? What has he been doing differently as Executive Chairman of FIRS? According to Dare Adekanmbi, the Special Adviser on Media to the executive chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), writing in financialnigeria.com, “The impressive revenue collection posted by FIRS is not a product of happenstance. It is the outcome of a well-thought-out strategy and process re-engineering that formed the bedrock of a cocktail of administrative and process reforms embarked upon by the agency under Adedeji.

The FIRS chairman summarised the restructuring and re-orientation that powered the huge revenue collection and turned the agency into a customer-centric institution thus: “We restructured our operations at FIRS in such a way that we are now effectively carrying out our duty of assessing, collecting, and accounting for taxes. We used to have functional types of taxes, but we have since identified that the only customers we have are the taxpayers. We have, therefore, improved the way we relate with our customers by rearranging our operations based on our customers, using their turnover as the basis to categorise them into large, medium, and emerging tax groups. “We did this to develop expertise in what we do. Secondly, to provide them with a one-stop shop for their activities. If you are in a large tax group, you only need to go to one office to pay all forms of taxes, including conducting audit and other activities. You do not need to move from one office to another again. “We are here to serve the taxpayers. The taxpayers are not armed robbers or criminals that we will be chasing about. FIRS is also not a law enforcement organisation. We are partners in progress. The taxpayers are the trees in our vineyard. The only thing we can do is to ensure they are well watered and well pruned so they



Adedeji
Zacch PhD

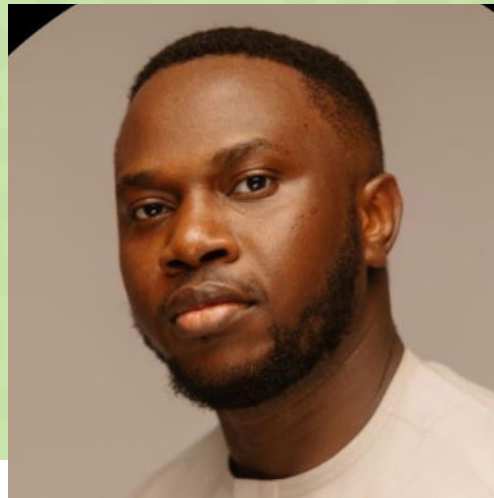
can bear good fruits for us to have big harvest.” Because of the streamlining of tax processes, the removal of hurdles in the way of tax payment as well placing a high premium on transparency and accountability, a total number of 182,724 new taxpayers, representing 25.3 percent increase, voluntarily enrolled on the agency’s tax administration platform called Tax Pro-Max in 2024. It is the single biggest annual leap in the number of firms in the tax net in recent history of the tax agency. This not only underscores the level of trust reposed in the new processes emplaced at the agency. It also lends credence to Adedeji’s vision of making the agency one of the world’s most efficient and trusted revenue authorities.

Despite the laudable achievements of the agency since his assumption of office in September 2023, Adedeji is not resting on his oars. He believes the success recorded so far is just a beginning, with his key fiscal focus being on growing Nigeria’s tax-to-GDP ratio from 18% in the next three years. This, he believes, is achievable without putting additional burden on the taxpayers but by making the pie

bigger to collect more revenue for government at all levels to be able to meet their obligations to the citizenry.

For him, there is irreducible minimum if the upward tax revenue trajectory must continue. “We can play with everything, but what we cannot afford to play with, if we are going to succeed, are data and merit,” he had said. It should be pointed out that prior to Adedeji’s leadership, FIRS’ contribution to FAAC had been growing. However, the coming of Adedeji has moved the quantum increase significantly higher through a potpourri of internal administrative and process reforms he introduced, leading to simplifying of tax payment. For 2025, FIRS is targeting to collect N25.2 trillion in tax revenue and this means more money for the three tiers of government to meet their needs. For many observers,

President Tinubu deserves to be hailed for the huge jump in shareable FAAC allocations which has continued an upward swing since his assumption of office. All the states now collect almost three times of what they used to get as FAAC allocation prior to the coming of the Tinubu administration. Every month, managers of the three tiers smile to the banks, thanks to the President’s courageous leadership. Adedeji was honoured with the Award for Fiscal Reforms and Innovation at the Nigeria Excellence Awards in Public Service (NEAPS) in 2024 for his leadership in driving transformative initiatives at FIRS. The annual recognition programme, organized in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF), celebrates top officials who have made exceptional contributions to public service over the past year.



Adeleke,
David

Backed by a prestigious certificate in Storytelling for Modern Media and a degree in Mass Communication from Covenant University, David I. Adeleke is the founder of Communique, the knowledge bank for Africa's creative economy. David is a man of many tall parts who works as a writer, journalist, and media entrepreneur with over a decade of experience covering the continent's business, technology, and the creative economy space. In 2020, the young Nigerian founded Communique, a media and technology newsletter with thousands of subscribers across Substack and LinkedIn. Communique is now a full fledged media organization

with its lens on Africa's creative economy. A Media and Journalism Fellow with the Charles Koch Institute, David was the Africa Editor at the tech publication, Rest of the World. His previous roles in media include stints at Business Insider Africa and editorial roles at TechCabal and Ventures Africa. David Adeleke is a widely published journalist with publication credits in The Continent, Al Jazeera, and Guardian Life.



Afolabi,
Olamide

Olamide Afolabi is the CEO of Touch And Pay Technologies (TAP), a company he co-founded in 2019 alongside Michael Oluwole. TAP is an IT service company renowned for Cowry Card. An entry at tekedia.com note: Founded in 2019 by Olamide Afolabi and Michael Oluwole, TAP was the first payment company in Nigeria to provide payment infrastructure for contactless payment cards to be used on buses and ferries and now trains. The company is helping to advance financial inclusion among Nigeria's mostly unbanked population with its processing of micro-transactions ranging from 10 cents to \$10. Its flagship product which simplifies transport payments, Cowry Card, has continued to surge in usage, with over five million users and

N20 billion in transaction volume processed in 2024, solidifying TAP's profitability and shifting its focus from fundraising to new revenue sources. The tech startup created the Cowry card to solve the problem of 64 million adults in Nigeria who don't have access to banks, which limits their ability to withdraw cash for use on public transportation. With plans of expanding into the rest of the African continent, the company's services have ventured into all systems that can benefit from cashless infrastructure, such as transport, utility payments, and grocery shopping, among others. TAP is changing the African narrative by processing micro-transactions for revenue assurance.

Apostle (Mrs) Bipiminafeye Opuaya Agha (fondly called Pastor O), is a Nigerian Minister of the Gospel and the President and Founder Of When Women Pray International (a.k.a WWPIntl), a non-denominational Christian Women Ministry where ordinary women are turned into praying women with headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. A teacher of the Word, she conducts over a dozen domestic and international conferences every year. Pastor O deliberately and intentionally lives by the tenets of 2 Corinthians 4:5, by constantly showing thousands of women the need and utmost importance of knowing God for themselves. Pastor O's teachings covers a wide range of topics with particular focus on the family, personal spiritual growth, prayers and character building.

She is a recipient of many awards. She is married to Engr Ike Agha, and are both Pastors in their home church, His Treasure House, Abuja. They are blessed with four grown



Agha,
**Apostle (Mrs)
Bipiminafeye Opuaya**

children. WWP is dedicated to glorifying God by bringing Women into a more intimate relationship with Jesus as The Lord and Saviour using gifts of the Holy Spirit, Prayer, Praise and Worship, thought-provoking messages, the study of the scriptures, outreaches, and loving fellowship. This women's prayer ministry came into being in 2010 as a result of a revelation from God while praying and a hunger to pray with other women. As women, we are faced with challenges and through them all, God's word assures that the woman who fears the Lord smiles at her future. In WWP, we use the truth to encourage one another into a bright future, striving to know Him more for ourselves and our families. The ministry kicked off in Lagos in February

2010. It started with eight women and grew to about thirty women. When the visionary, Pst. Opuaya Agha moved to Abuja in August 2010, the spirit of God spoke to her through a woman saying, "There is a woman whose marriage is in trouble and she is waiting for you to start".

The Abuja Chapter started on the 24th of August, 2010. Over the years WWP has evolved into 3 zones and has grown in numerical strength in its various centers nationwide and international centers in America and Britain. Branches are fast spreading in other states in Nigeria and beyond.

Spiritually, WWP as a body keeps growing from glory to glory. We are greatly awed each week by the testimonies of the Mighty miracles God keeps working in our midst. Most humbling is the fact that under our watch, lives, families, marriages, and children are being transformed to the glory of God which translates to be a better society in the long run.

Itam Tammy Akhidenor is a passionate thoughtpreneur, educator, and storyteller redefining what it means to teach, learn, and thrive in Africa. With over a decade of experience building learner-centered, future-facing systems through the lens of Multiple Intelligences (MI), Itam believes education must be a liberating force not just a formal process.

She is the founder of Sugar Hill, an education brand committed to reshaping learning for African children through technology, storytelling, and the power of identity. Her work fuses creative insight with intellectual depth, rooted in the understanding that Africa's children do not need to be remade, they need to be remembered.

Itam is especially known for her vision to make the concept of Multiple Intelligence accessible and relevant to underserved communities, crafting content that speaks to the heart, educates the mind, and moves the spirit. Her writing and work aim to spark conversations around purpose, creativity, and how education can transform not only individuals, but systems and societies.

She is also the co-author of the acclaimed biography "Okoi Arikpo: A Life," a



Akhidenor,
Itam Tammy

deeply researched work that captures the legacy of Nigeria's first foreign affairs minister and an overlooked intellectual architect of modern Nigeria. The book reflects her commitment to preserving African history and spotlighting stories that matter. With a PhD in Education, Itam's lens is equal parts scholarly and soulful. Her column in Lives Online invites readers to think, question, unlearn, and imagine better because for her, education is not about conformity. It's about becoming.

Akinsete, Dr. Annette Ofunne
MBBS, DTM&H, MPH,
FMCPh

Dr. Annette Ofunne Akinsete
has been the CEO/National

Director of Sickle Cell Foundation Nigeria since 2013, where she continues to propel successful innovative strategies for the prevention, management, care and support of sickle cell disorder through-inter alia-public private partnerships, arts in medicine and family support systems. Annette Akinsete is a woman of many parts; she is -inter alia- a consultant public health physician, an astute administrator, a teacher and a broadcaster. A distinguished fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, she was Director in the Public Health Department of the Federal Ministry of Health for many years, where she was known as "the leader of leaders," and has represented the Federal Government of Nigeria at several multi-lateral and bilateral engagements all over the world. As a Public Health Physician, Akinsete has worked in every level of government in Nigeria.- from local to state and to federal levels. At the global level, she has contributed to World Health Organization (WHO) publications on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), served as a WHO fellow in Geneva and as UN Cares Facilitator at the United Nations HQ in New York. Credit: Sickle Cell Foundation Nigeria.

Beatrice Akpala falls into the distinctive class of young and brilliantly talented go-getters, who always makes a positive difference in whatever capacity she finds herself. As a young graduate of Theatre Arts from the University of Calabar, she stormed the media profession with a bang and has contributed significantly to its development in Cross River State and far beyond the realms of the South South region and beyond. What she has is indeed, a tremendous legacy of hard work, honesty and integrity.

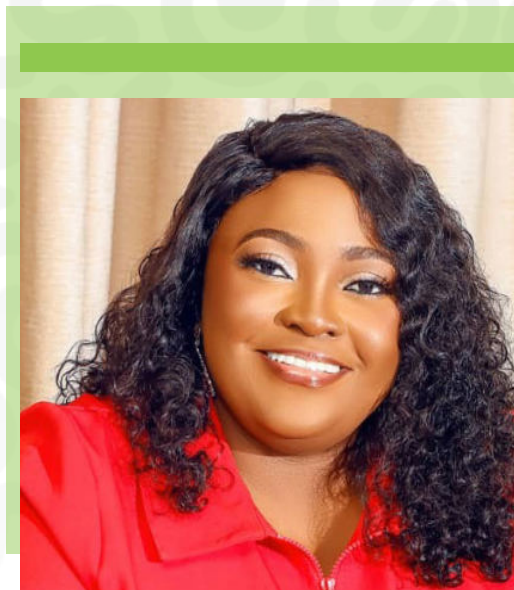
What has evidently stood her out over the years is her tremendous grassroots reportage while she anchored the famous *CRBC Programme, Country Side* Among many other positives, the programme projected the rich cultural heritage of every community in every Local Government Area, their unique way of life, what distinguishes them as a people, their cuisines and every other gesture that configures them with a distinct identity.

Through this remarkable and pioneering television programme, she drew attention to the plight of the rural populace and the need to provide the much needed social amenities to guarantee better lifestyles and making life much more meaningful to them. True to her vision and intent, the programme fearlessly hit at the very heart of successive government neglect of the rural areas and before long, the rural areas began to experience government presence hitherto unknown and unseen.

An On Air Personality, Tv host, social advocate, Brand Consultant and a Media Strategist, she is the MD/CEO TRICE COMMUNICATIONS, a media management and promotions outfit domiciled in Calabar, Cross River State which she has successfully run over the years.

Beatrice Akpala is a bold statement in the fourth estate of the realm, who has ably proven her mettle as an intellectually inclined thoroughbred and trustworthy media professional. She remains a veritable media idol and widely acclaimed broadcast sensation, whose image and finesse on television speak volumes of her professional callings. Fearless and daring, her remarkable candor has over the years defined her work ethics which she is prepared to defend even in the face of seeming intimidation and intended censorship. Among her peers, she stands out in a class of her own, strong, vibrant and ethically upright.

She has therefore had a phenomenal grip on her beat and equally been instrumental in turning the tide against media professional charlatans and halfbakes. She remains a



Akpala,
Beatrice

young shining star to watch and admire. As a matter of fact, she was nominated among 50 Young People To Watch and was also nominated and awarded The Most Resourceful and Sacrificial Broadcaster in Cross River State by Profiles and Biographies during the Cross River at 50 celebrations. With such spectacular successes in her chosen profession, Beatrice Akpala's inevitable emergence on the political scene was far beyond conjecture. Recognized as a media professional and young talent, she was immediately appointed the pioneer Special Assistant on Electronic Media in 2015 by His Excellency, the erstwhile Governor of Cross River State, Senator (Prof.) Ben Ayade and her sterling performance in that capacity was greatly acknowledged in the second tenure, she was rewarded with an even higher position as Senior Special Assistant on Communication and Advocacy by the same administration. She boldly carried out her functions and was greatly responsible for the huge media visibility that administration enjoyed while it lasted.

With her interactions with highly placed persons in the corridors of power, coupled with her close knowledge of the inner workings of the intricacies of government, she easily transformed into an articulate political figure herself with a huge grassroots support and acceptability. She has empowered many and her support base swelled many times over.

Recognized as a great grassroots mobilizer and huge opinion molder, Beatrice Akpala was appointed as the Media Consultant to the incumbent Governor Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, all through the electioneering campaigns that eventually led to the coupling of the present administration in Cross River State.

It is worthy of note that she was equally appointed by the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC) in Nigeria as the Assistant Director New Media of the Tinubu/Shettima Grassroots Independent Campaign Council (ICC), during the 2023 general elections. Her success in that assignment paved the way for another critical appointment, this time, as Chairman of the Cross River State Publicity Committee by the Presidential Campaign Council (PCC) Media and Publicity Directorate. A letter to that effect was signed by Bayo Onanuga, one of the presidential spokesmen today. She ably mobilized her colleagues in the media and an effective grassroots electronic and social media consultations were carried out. Beatrice Akpala has remained a constant political figure in her ward and Local Government Area and she works vigorously for the ruling APC. She was a key figure in the days of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Cross River State before following her boss, the former Governor Senator Prof. Ben Ayade to socket to the center by decamping to the All Progressives Congress in 2021.

In the run up to the 2024 Local Government elections in Cross River State, she defied all the odds of gender stereotypes and masculine biases by throwing in her hat to contest in the elections for the highest political office in Yala Local Government Area.

There is every indication this shining political Amazon, social crusader, advocate of gender sensibilities and media guru would in the coming years, emerge as a strong force to reckon with. Her exposure is incredibly wide, effective and readily appealing to everyone. She is an undeniable link between the old and the younger breed of political players and a firm and permanent mark on youth participation in politics. Beatrice Akpala fits perfectly into the dynamics of today's political order. It is therefore not difficult to discern where she is headed. Her personality confronts one with the grandeur of professional elegance, intellect, fearlessness and hard work and she remains a shining example to the younger generations.

Natasha Hadiza Akpoti-Uduagham is the Senator representing Kogi Central in the Nigerian Senate. She is a highly cerebral lawyer, social entrepreneur and reformer who has become the symbol of feminine energy in the Nigeria political landscape.

Her recent public outcry against alleged sexual harassment has triggered a social movement and awareness campaign against sexual abuse, and sexual harassment culture in Nigeria.

Natasha obtained her Bachelor of Laws from the University of Abuja. In 2004, Natasha proceeded to the Nigerian Law School, Bwari, Abuja and was called to the Nigerian Bar by the Body of Benchers on the 8th November 2005.

In 2008, while employed as a Legal Counsel at Brass LNG, an international gas liquefaction company, Natasha participated in and completed resource development courses – International Gas Business Management Certificate program offered by the prestigious International Human Resources Development Corporation (IHRDC) in Boston, Massachusetts USA.



Akpoti-Uduagham,
Natasha Hadiza

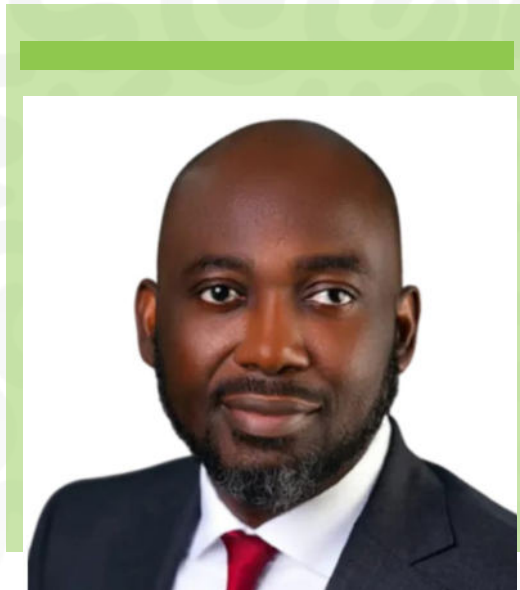
Natasha's appetite for knowledge led her to acquire two professional certifications in the energy sector namely:

1. Contracts Used in International Petroleum Development, and
2. Monitoring and Regulation of the Upstream Petroleum Sector (Exploration and Production)

Natasha's decision to become a social entrepreneur and reformer in 2015 was born out of innate passion to position Nigeria at the fore of industrialization and judiciously harness the vast natural and human resources all in a bid to create employment and eradicate poverty in Nigeria.

Natasha knew most of her works would be useful in solving perennial challenges amongst neglected local communities and so in 2016, she applied for the INSEAD Social Entrepreneurship Program in Singapore where she acquired applicable knowledge on smart innovative sustainable solutions for tackling neglected problems at all levels of the society.

Understanding the importance of innovating indigenous technology and building inclusive resilient economies, Natasha's heart also rests with Start-Ups. This interest birthed a partnership between the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Small, Medium Enterprise Development Agency (SMEDAN) of Nigeria and Natasha's Builders Hub Impact Investment Program (BHiiP) to establish Nigeria's first integrated technology development and business growth hub situated in the city of Uyo, in the coastal, oil producing part of Nigeria.



Alade-Akinyemi,
Lolu

Lolu Alade-Akinyemi is the innovative GMD/CEO of Lafarge Africa Plc. In October 2024, the company introduced electric truck in its supply chain fleet, emphasizing a commitment to sustainable environmental initiatives. The trucks are the outcome of a significant partnership with Tolaram, further underlining Lolu Alade-Akinyemi's commitment to a greener and healthier environment. Lafarge's Heavy Goods Electric Vehicle (EV) truck is the first-ever in Nigeria. Formerly, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Supply Chain Director, Lolu Alade-Akinyemi became the GMD/CEO of Larfarge Africa Plc on July 1, 2023. A certified Accountant, Mr. Lolu Alade-Akinyemi is backed by a Bachelor's degree in Economics obtained from the University of Essex. He also holds an MBA from Edinburgh Business School (UK).



Akinyemi.
Samuel Olalekan

Samuel Olalekan Akinyemi is a Nigerian-born doctor who once worked as a labourer on construction sites before traveling abroad to further his studies. His recent involvement in the discovery of a groundbreaking cancer vaccine in Russia marks a milestone in his career and in the global fight against cancer. Dr. Samuel Olalekan Akinyemi (born in 1994) is a 30-year-old oncologist at the Ufa Clinic of the Bashkir State Medical University. His journey is a testament to determination, resilience, and dedication to education. From the streets of Lagos to global medical achievements, Dr. Akinyemi's life story is one of remarkable transformation. Dr. Akinyemi was born in Lagos, Nigeria (unverified). He attended United Methodist/Anglican Grammar School for his secondary education and completed

his National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Nigeria in 2012. He initially pursued his undergraduate studies in civil engineering inspired by his father's profession. However, he was always drawn to medicine. He completed his National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in Nigeria in 2012 before moving to Russia in 2015 to study medicine at Bashkir State Medical University in Ufa. During his tenure at the university, Dr. Akinyemi demonstrated a keen interest in urology and oncology, which later became the focal points of his research and professional career. His commitment to these specialties is evident through his numerous publications and contributions to the medical field. In 2021, Samuel received Russian citizenship.



Alakija
Dr. Ayoade

Dr. Ayoade Alakija is a visionary leader, strategic thinker and vocal advocate for equity and justice with a global presence and ability to inspire and catalyse action at scale. As a medical doctor with over two decades' experience working across Asia, the Americas, the Pacific region, Europe and Africa, she is expert in global health, development and integrated humanitarian systems coordination. She brings unique insights from working at every level of the health and development architecture-local, national, regional and global. Dr. Alakija, Chair of the Board of FIND, the leading voice in diagnostics, holds a Doctor of Science (DSc) of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine Honoris Causa and currently serves as World Health Organization (WHO) Special Envoy for the Access to COVID19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, Co-Chair of the G7 Impact Investment Initiative for Global Health (Triple I) and the Chair of the African Vaccine Delivery Alliance (AVDA). Credit: finddx.org.

Babafemi Aluko is an accomplished technology entrepreneur and software engineer, best known as the Co-Founder of Chowdeck, one of Nigeria's fastest-growing food delivery platforms. Before founding Chowdeck in October 2021, Babafemi was a key player at Paystack, one of Africa's most successful fintech startups. Joining in 2017 as a Senior Software Engineer, he quickly rose to the role of Principal Engineer, where he led the critical migration of Paystack's payment platform from a monolithic system to a microservices architecture. This transformation enhanced the platform's efficiency, scalability, and resilience, positioning Paystack for its rapid growth and eventual acquisition by Stripe. Babafemi also pioneered the use of Test-Driven Development (TDD) at Paystack, which significantly improved the quality and reliability of the company's software. His leadership extended to managing backend development teams, where he played a central role in shaping Paystack's technical strategy and engineering culture. Prior to Paystack, he served as Team Lead at Shopping Internet Services (2016-2017), where he led the development of e-commerce solutions that enhanced the customer experience and streamlined



Aluko
Babafemi

operations. At Hutbay (2015-2016), he developed predictive pricing systems, leveraging data analytics to drive intelligent pricing strategies for the real estate platform. His early career includes technical roles at Softblue Nigeria Limited (2013-2015), where he contributed to developing enterprise software solutions, and an internship at Toptech Engineering Ltd (2013-2014), where he specialized in security systems for banking institutions. These experiences helped him build a strong foundation in software development, systems architecture, and security—skills that have been integral to his success as a leader in the tech space. In October 2021, Babafemi co-founded Chowdeck, a food delivery platform based in Lagos, with

a vision to revolutionize the food service industry by connecting customers with a wide range of local and international restaurants. In just six months, Chowdeck has delivered over 80,000 meals in Lagos, demonstrating the platform's rapid adoption and the high demand for its services. Babafemi's leadership has been crucial in building Chowdeck's tech infrastructure, ensuring seamless operations and an outstanding customer experience. Babafemi's entrepreneurial spirit, combined with his deep technical expertise, continues to drive

Chowdeck's growth as it expands its footprint across Nigeria. His ability to blend strategic vision with hands-on engineering experience has positioned him as a thought leader in the Nigerian tech ecosystem, particularly in the areas of fintech, foodtech, and e-commerce. With a passion for solving real-world problems through technology, Babafemi is committed to using innovation to make a lasting impact on industries and communities across Africa.

Courtesy: nairametrics.com

Mfreke Anakan Ayan-Asigbe is a distinguished Public Health Specialist with over a decade of experience dedicated to enhancing community wellness and addressing critical health issues. She is the CEO of Cypress Global Health and the founder of the Women Riding on Waves Initiative, reflecting her commitment to improving the quality of life for individuals, families, organizations, and communities. Mfreke's academic journey is marked by excellence. She earned a Master's in Public Health from the University of Calabar, where she was recognized as the best graduating student and received the Award of Excellent Leadership from the Student Union Government. Her pursuit of knowledge led her to participate in international fellowships, including the Emerging Political Leadership Fellowship and the African Civic Engagement Academy at the University of Georgia, underscoring her dedication to continuous learning and leadership development. In her professional career, Mfreke has led numerous initiatives aimed at combating gender-based violence and promoting health education. As the Research and Program Manager for Gender and Development Action, she spearheaded the Reducing Gender-Based Violence Project using Social Behaviour Change Communication in eight local government areas in Cross River State, Nigeria. This role involved extensive data collection, analysis, and engagement with key stakeholders, including



Ayan-Asigbe
Mfreke Anakan

government officials and media partners, to foster social change and reduce violence.

Through Cypress Global Health, Mfreke has demonstrated her passion for health and wellness by providing coaching and education on stress management, sexual and reproductive health, and counseling for survivors of gender-based violence. Her efforts have extended to empowering women and girls living with disabilities, equipping them with the knowledge and tools to prevent and respond to violence. Her recent research project, "Empowering Health: Integrated Approaches to Sexual and Reproductive Health, Substance Abuse Prevention, and Response in Cross River State," addressed critical issues related to adolescents' health, further showcasing her commitment to community well-being.

Mfreke's leadership extends beyond health initiatives. She serves as the Secretary for the Young Women in Politics Forum, Cross River State Chapter, and the Deputy Coordinator for the Women's Leadership Institute Network in the same region. Her involvement in these organizations highlights her dedication to fostering women's participation in leadership and political processes. Recognized for her expertise and leadership, Mfreke was selected as a Fellow in the Emerging Political Leaders Fellowship, where she expanded her knowledge in visionary leadership, strategic alliances, and campaign planning. This fellowship enhanced her visibility and allowed her to collaborate with like-minded professionals on impactful projects. In summary, Mfreke Anakan Ayan-Asigbe stands as a preeminent consultant, academic, and thought leader in public health. Her robust academic foundation, illustrious career, and portfolio of successful projects make her an ideal collaborator for advancing research, programs, and projects aimed at improving public health and empowering communities.



Ayatse

His Royal Majesty, Prof. James Ortese Iorzua

His Royal Majesty, Prof. James Ortese Iorzua Ayatse – The Tor Tiv V and the supreme traditional ruler / King / Monarch of the Tiv people, has stolen the hearts of millions of Nigerians for being courageous to tell the truth to President Bola Tinubu on his visit to Benue State in the aftermath of the wanton killings in his kingdom.

The Tor Tiv V told President Bola Tinubu that the killings in Benue State are not clashes between herders and farmers, but a planned attack aimed at taking over land.

Speaking at a meeting with Tinubu and stakeholders in Benue on Wednesday, June 17, 2025, the traditional ruler said many people had misunderstood the crisis and wrongly advised Benue citizens to stay calm and live peacefully with their neighbours.

Ayatse said, “We do have grave concerns about the misinformation and misrepresentation of the security crisis in Benue State. “Your Excellency, it’s not herders-farmers clashes, it’s not communal clashes, it’s not reprisal attacks or

skirmishes.”

“It is a calculated, well-planned, full-scale genocidal invasion and land-grabbing campaign by herder terrorists and bandits that has lasted for decades”.

He added, “Wrong diagnosis will always lead to wrong treatment... We are dealing with something far more sinister than we think. It’s not about learning to live with your neighbours; it is dealing with a war.”

Born in 1956, HRM James Ayatse is a distinguished academic, administrator, and traditional ruler who currently serves as the Tor Tiv V, the paramount ruler of the Tiv Nation in Benue State, Nigeria.

He holds a First Class Degree in Biochemistry from University of Ibadan. He went on to obtain his Master of Science at the University

of Calabar before moving to the University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom as a Commonwealth student for further studies that culminated in a doctorate in biochemistry.

He returned to one of his alma maters, the University of Calabar for his MBA and rose to become a professor of biochemistry, making him the first Tiv man to achieve this

Before ascending the throne, he built a remarkable academic career, serving as Vice Chancellor of the University of Mkar and later the Federal University, Dutsin-Ma, Katsina State. He was also the pioneer Dean of the College of Science at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi.

In 2017, he was crowned Tor Tiv V, becoming the traditional head of the Tiv people. Known for his wisdom, integrity, and passion for justice, he has remained a powerful advocate for peace, unity, and development in the Middle Belt and beyond.

He is the current Chancellor of the University of Benin (UNIBEN) and also serves as Chairman of the Benue State Council of Chiefs.



Ayeni,
Nonye

Nonye Ayeni is the ED/CEO of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) where she is playing a pivotal role in reshaping Nigeria's non-oil export landscape, steering the country toward global competitiveness in non-oil commodities and reducing dependence on oil. She was before her appointment, the pioneer Managing Director/CEO of Signature Bank, Plc. Nonye was Deputy Managing Director of Funds and Electronic Transfer Solutions Limited (FETS) and until September 2022, served as an Independent Non-Executive Director at the FMDQ Exchange. Prior to joining FETS, Nonye was a General Manager at Zenith Bank PLC, where she was responsible for the strategic management

of multiple divisions cutting across Treasury and Financial Services, Correspondent Banking, Business Development, E-Business, Human Resources & Human Capital management, amongst others. She served as Group Treasurer at Zenith Bank for over twelve (12) years and had direct oversight for setting up the Fixed Income and Currency Desk of Zenith Bank and pioneered a lot of initiatives and projects while at the bank. A stickler for excellence and creativity, Nonye is passionate about success and is unequivocal about striving for superior performance and excellence. Credit: [linkedin](#).



Ayilara, Wale

In an era where real estate development is crucial to economic expansion, Olawale Ayilara stands out not just for his business prowess but for his remarkable net worth of \$350 million. As the chief executive officer and mastermind behind one of the fastest-growing real estate firms in Nigeria, LandWey Investment Limited, Ayilara has consistently been at the forefront of transforming urban landscapes into thriving community hubs. Ayilara's strategy hinges on innovation and sustainability, focusing on projects that incorporate green technologies and community-friendly designs. This approach has not only elevated his company's portfolio but also significantly boosted his personal net worth as his ventures attract both local and international investors.

In recent discussions, Ayilara highlighted his philosophy, stating, "Real estate is more than land and bricks; it's about creating environments where people can live, work, and prosper. We aim to build spaces that are environmentally and socially sustainable, which in today's market is not just good ethics—it's good business." His firm's impressive track record includes several mixed-use developments that combine residential, commercial, and leisure spaces, all designed with an eye towards reducing environmental impact. These projects often exceed industry standards for sustainability and have set new benchmarks in eco-friendly development. With a net worth of \$350 million, Ayilara's achievements reflect his ability to balance aggressive

growth with thoughtful development. As he looks to expand his operations internationally, industry analysts and investors alike are keen to see how his innovative practices will translate across different markets. Olawale Ayilara's journey in real estate is not just a story of accumulating wealth; it's about setting a precedent for responsible and sustainable growth in one of the most dynamic sectors of the economy. His vision, now valued at \$350 million, continues to inspire and reshape the way urban environments are developed. Courtesy: nairametrics.com.



Azodoh,
Chinedu

Chinedu Azodoh is co-founder and CGO at MAX, a technology company building the infrastructure for last-mile mobility in Africa. Along with his fellow cofounders, Chinedu established Metro Africa Xpress, a motorbike ride-hailing and delivery service popularly known as MAX.ng. The smartphone and web-based platform is much like Uber, Lyft, and other ride-sharing companies. “Most cycle taxi drivers made about \$80 a month when we started MAX.ng. Within two and a half years, every driver on our platform was making \$600 a month. That’s what we’re doing in Nigeria—developing social systems and social infrastructure. Azodoh explains how they set goals with an aim to create an affordable, accessible, and more secure mobility infrastructure for the African continent. Courtesy: peoplehum.com



Bago,
Mohammed Umar

Governor Mohammed Umar Bago was sworn in as Governor of Niger State on May 29, 2003. He was a member of the House of Representative Chanchaga Federal Constituency. Born in 1974, Hon. Umar Bago attended Marafa primary school, Minna and Federal Government College, Jos. Backed by his West Africa School Certificate he earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto. Hon. Umar Bago has several postgraduate diplomas including a postgraduate diploma in Management from the Federal University of Technology Minna, a Master of Business Administration in Economics from the Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma and

a Master's degree in Finance from the University of Calabar. Bago worked with the United Bank for Africa(UBA0, First City Monument Bank (FCMB) and AfriBank Plc. He joined politics in 2007. Governor Bago has supported education in his constituency through the purchase of JAMB forms for indigent students and he also distributed palliatives during the Covid-19 pandemic. Credit: Wikipedia.



Balogun. **Olagoke**

Olagoke Balogun is a visionary leader and resilient entrepreneur with a track record of success, launching and scaling the innovative and pioneer indigenous Healthy Food Restaurant Chain in Nigeria - So Fresh Neighbourhood Market Ltd.

He pioneered the Healthy Food Restaurant Category in 2010 in Nigeria. Today, he has inspired Nigerians to think more about the food they eat and how it impacts the quality of life, created hundreds of jobs, inspiring a new set of entrepreneurs in the Healthy Food category, and the elevated discourse around eating healthy has also led to healthier versions of our

traditional meals becoming mainstream.

He has strong planning, organizational, team building, and leadership skills and he is passionate about building sustainable organizations on sound business principles that will outlive generations. His focus is on strategic thinking, continuous learning, and application of creativity to business implementation and execution.

He is committed to creating impact in his community by using his skills and competencies to create value as a business owner, mentor, and coach.



Bangwell.
Kingsley

Kingsley Bangwell is the enterprising co-founder of the Abuja-based KNOWledge and SKills Schools (KNOSK) for indigent students from low-income households. Motivated by a humanistic desire and a burning interest in educational development, Kingsley Bangwell is making remarkable impact in the lives of parents and their children. Kids pay a paltry sum N100 daily as school fees to acquire standard education in a conducive environment. Additionally, students of KNOSK are entitled to uniforms, recommended school texts, lunch offers, sportswear, and female sanitary towels at no cost. KNOSK relies heavily on charitable support from the private sector, corporate bodies, and concerned donor groups to carry out its activities.



Bassey, **Archibong Etim**

Archibong Etim Bassey recently made news when she emerged the first woman Chairman of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, Cross River State Council, the first in the history of the Union in the State. She is an Assistant Manager News And Current Affairs with the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) Calabar. She is a graduate of Theatre Arts from the prestigious University of Calabar. A very dedicated and organized individual, an excellent team worker who is keen and very willing to learn and develop new skills. She has a very dynamic approach to work and getting things done.

Her work takes her to difficult to reach communities to produce reports, thereby beaming light into the plight of rural communities, and drawing attention of the world, especially those in positions of leadership to act and provide relief. One of such assignments was during the 2023 general elections which took her to one of the hard to reach communities in Odukpani Local

Government Area called Ukwa Eburutu with no access road. The journey to Ukwa was by sea, through Biase LGA, crossing the Calabar River using a speed boat with no provision for life jackets. A frightening experience for her, on getting to the other side of the river, she had to mount a motor bike that took her through farm lands for more than an hour or thereabout.

After the elections, which was her main assignment in Ukwa Eburutu, she decided to highlight what life in this beautiful community with so much economic values, but with no form of government presence was like, hoping that the new administration would extend the dividends of democracy to the people of Ukwa Eburutu. Although she has not been to Ukwa after the elections, but hearing that efforts are being made to provide access road to the community gives her a sense of fulfillment.

Archibong Etim Bassey is a very

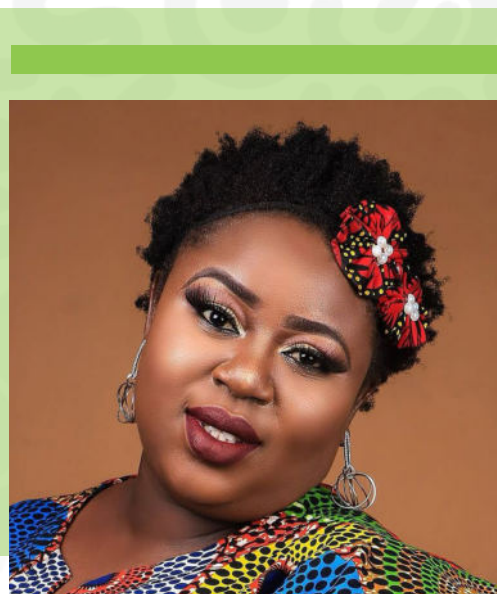
determined and decisive person who identifies and develops opportunities. And so her ascension to the leadership of NUJ Cross River State Council as the First Female Chairman after 65 years following the appointment of Mr. Nsa Gill as the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Bassey Otu was another opportunity for her to create more impacts. By the grace of God, in just one year in office, she has been able to make an indelible mark in NUJ Cross River State Council with renovations of the Chairman's office, unveiling the NUJ Hall of Fame to celebrate the legacies of past and present leaders, the 2025 Media Week which highlighted Domesticating The National Sports Policy In Cross River State, celebrating the 2025 World Press Freedom Day with a Freedom Walk and outreach to the Afokang Correctional Center and the Mother Elizabeth Orphanage Home and several welfare interventions to her members.

Every life is a tapestry of experiences, woven together by threads of passion, perseverance, and creativity. Queensley Bassey's journey is a testament to this, a story of transformation, innovation, and the pursuit of excellence. Born with a natural flair for the culinary arts, Queensley's love affair with food began early, influenced by the rich flavors and traditions of Nigerian cuisine.

Queensley's educational journey was marked by distinction and determination. She attended the prestigious Edgerley Memorial Girls Secondary School, where she laid the foundation for her future success. Her academic pursuits continued at the University of Calabar, where she earned a degree in Environmental Protection Management. Her thirst for knowledge led her to further her education, acquiring a Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) and presently pursuing her Master's degree in Educational Administration.

The culinary world, however, remained Queensley's true calling. With over a decade of experience in the industry, she decided to embark on her most ambitious venture yet – Queenieez Kitchen. This brainchild of hers is a testament to her innovative spirit and culinary expertise. Every dish crafted at Queenieez Kitchen is infused with a dash of magic, combining the richness of Nigerian flavors with a modern twist.

Queensley's passion for creating



Bassey,
Queensley

memorable dining experiences knows no bounds. She specializes in crafting recipes that evoke emotions, spark connections, and leave a lasting impression on every guest. Her dedication to her craft has earned her a reputation as a culinary artist, capable of transforming every meal into a masterpiece.

Beyond the walls of her kitchen, Queensley offers outdoor catering services, bringing her signature flavors and exceptional service to events and special occasions. Her commitment to excellence has made Queenieez Kitchen a go-to destination for those seeking unforgettable culinary experiences.

In Queensley Bassey's story, we find a testament to the power of passion, creativity, and hard work. Her journey serves as a reminder that with dedication and perseverance, our dreams

can become a reality, leaving a lasting impact on the lives of others.

Political Offices held
Chief Press Secretary to
Calabar South LGC Chairman
2014 - 2016

Member Representing Calabar
South LGA
Cross River State Food Bank
Commission 2016 - 2018

Senior Special Assistant To The
Governor of Cross State on
Youth Development (South)
2018-2019

Events Featured:
Beyond Bounds Cooking
Competition 2021 (Chief
Judge)

Beyond Bounds Cooking
Competition 2023 (Food Critic/
Judge)

Speaker at the Cross River State
Week in Celebration of Global
Entrepreneurship Week, 2024

Kulturama Cooking Competition
2025 (Judge)

A list vendor; National Home
Grown School Feeding
Programme - 2017 - 2022

Mariann Bassey-Orovwuje is one of the loudest voices to come from the African continent vehemently fighting against GMO. A Lawyer, environmental crusader, and human and food rights advocate, she has consistently been in the frontlines against the onslaught of biotech companies and their local agents on the seeds and food systems in Africa from her Nigerian base. Activism runs in her blood. She started out as an activist for Students' Rights at the University and she was eventually elected the Attorney- General of the Students' Union Government. Through 2001 -2002, during her Service Year (National Youth Service Corps) she was made the Chairperson of the Litigation and Prison Decongestion, Legal Aid Community Development, Group. She and others initiated a women and children detainee program in conjunction with Legal Aid Council, which caused the release and rehabilitation of five juveniles from the Suleja Prison in December 2001. Mariann also worked in the public sector, with the Nigerian Law Reform Commission, an agency under the Nigerian Ministry of Justice, before moving on to work full time as a campaigner to support communities to resist and expose industrial corporate-led agriculture and promote food sovereignty and environmental justice. She is a crucial advocate of a dedicated team pushing for immediate, transformative reforms in our agricultural sector and food systems, calling for

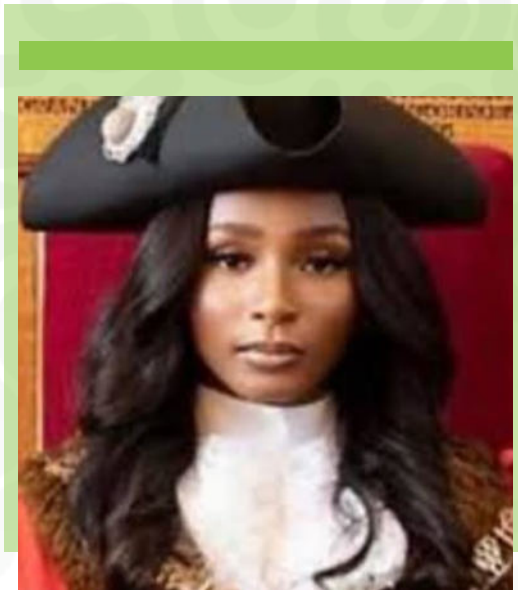


Bassey-Orovwuje
Mariann

an outright ban on GMOs and all unhealthy food throughout Nigeria and Africa.

Recently, On November 19th, 2024, she was invited by the House of Representatives Committee on Agricultural Production and Services to testify in an investigative hearing. To submit a comprehensive memorandum and to present herself as a vital and critical stakeholder, expert, and concerned citizen. In this pivotal role, she emphasized the pressing and serious concerns regarding the introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) into Nigeria and outlined the serious potential health and environmental risks associated with their introduction and deployment. In 2023, Mariann received the prestigious honor of being named one of the 100 Leading Women in Nigeria, a testament to her invaluable contributions to both the

nation and the world. That edition is highly regarded as a comprehensive profile of Nigeria's most inspiring and influential women, whose work will help shape the nation's collective history. She is currently the Deputy Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth, Nigeria, the foremost Nigerian advocacy non-governmental organization. She is also the Coordinator of Friends of the Earth Africa's Food Sovereignty Program. In addition, she is on Friends of the Earth International Steering Committee Food Sovereignty Program. She served as Chair of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA) between 2016 and 2019 and was the first and only woman till date to hold this position. AFSA is a Pan African platform comprising networks and farmer organisations working in Africa. Presently, she coordinates the Agroecology and Land Working of the alliance. She was also named the Voice AFSA. AFSA is a Pan African platform comprising Networks and Farmers organisations working in Africa. AFSA has representatives from 50 African countries out of the 54 countries in Africa; and over 30 million smallholder farmers, pastoralists, hunter/gatherers, indigenous peoples, faith-based institutions, women and youth networks, consumer networks and civil society from across Africa. They reach over 200 Million people on the continent.



Bright.
Princess Opeyemi

Westminster Accounting and Business Management BA Honours graduate Councillor Princess Opeyemi Bright is the youngest ever Civic Mayor of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham at 29 years of age. After winning the mayoral election in March, an official inauguration ceremony took place on May 16. Princess was elected as Mayor after seven years of service on the council, following another history-making election in 2018 as the Borough's youngest-ever Labour councilor at the age of 22. A year after her election as councilor, Princess was appointed Chair of the Borough's Audit and Standards Committee. In this role, she used

her accounting skills and private sector audit expertise to advocate for strong financial management and governance across the board. Outside politics, Princess is a Chartered Accountant who began her career in investment banking after graduating from Westminster in 2017. She transitioned into the technology industry in 2021 and worked as a Senior Operations Manager for Uber UK before leaving to focus on her duties as Mayor. Credit: University of Westminster.



Chinyere,
Dr.Chibuzor

In March 2024, Dr. Chibuzor Chinyere was crowned the Ihie 1 of Ikwuorie autonomous community, Abia State. He is one of the country's best known preachers and humanitarian. His support for education has remained consistent over the years, the beneficiaries of his educational support spread across various communities. The Founder/ General Overseer of Omega Power Ministries (OPM), Dr. Chibuzor Chinyere, has several students on scholarship at ESM University, Benin Republic, Cyprus, and elsewhere. Funded by tithes and offering, his philanthropy has been praised by beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. The apostle has over 650 students under his scholarship at ESM University, over 8,000 students

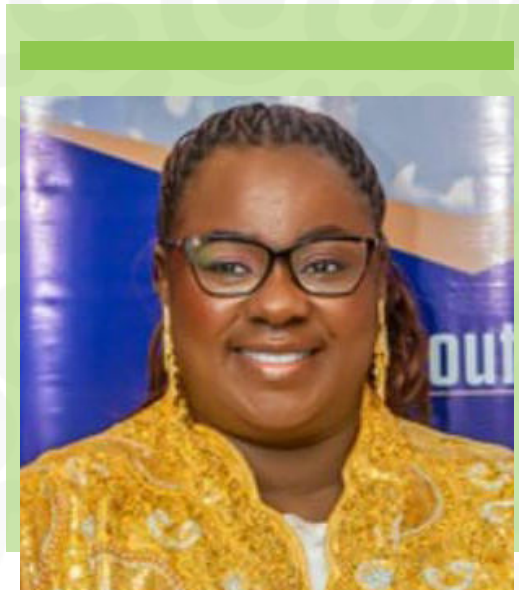
have benefited from his scholarship in the United States of America, Poland, Turkey, Cyprus, and elsewhere. Dr. Chinyere's free restaurant at ESM University Benin Republic caters to the needs of recipients of his scholarship. Dr. Chinyere has a large free school for Autism and Down syndrome children in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. His other school for Autism and Down syndrome children is under construction in Umuahia, Abia State. The dedicated man of God is the founder of 33 free schools for the less-privileged and two free specialist hospitals for indigent pregnant women. His other humanitarian efforts include the construction of 18 free estates and one of the largest free skills acquisition centers in the country, training

over 40,000 Nigerians in different vocational areas. Dr. Chibuzor Chinyere remains a hugely popular man of God and a vital voice in the country's quest to provide affordable opportunities for underprivileged individuals and communities, intervening in key areas often out of reach to many.



Chukwu.
Dr.Ejike(MON,FCIA)

Dr. Ejike Chukwu (MON, FCIA) is a renowned business man, philanthropist, and the founder of Ejike Chukwu Foundation, a non-profit body touching lives of the needy in more ways than one. In early 2024, Dr. Ejike Chukwu celebrated his 50th birthday and gladdened the hearts of several people in Imo state, where he impacted the lives of over 500 widows identified across the 27 local government areas of the state. He gave out food items and cash awards to the disadvantaged. Again, he awarded scholarships to indigent students across various higher institutions of learning, further emphasizing his commitment to education and academic pursuits. Dr. Ejike Chukwu, an indigene of Ohaji/Egbema in Imo state, is an accountant and the Chairman, Megadrill Nigeria Limited, a major player in the country's oil and gas sector. His commitment to charity and selfless service to humanity has earned him praise in Imo state and further afield.



Chukwuma-Ezike
V, Abang

Martina Abang Chukwuma-Ezike is the first black woman elected Lord Rector of the University of Aberdeen in its 500-year history. The Cross River-born CEO of the Asthma and Allergy Foundation in Scotland was recently installed at a ceremony held in the university's Kings College Chapel. Martina, who completed her MBA at the University of Aberdeen in 2009, has a longstanding relationship with the institution, mentoring students and offering them work placement opportunities through her foundation. With a wealth of experience in the oil and gas sector and leading a charity with national reach,

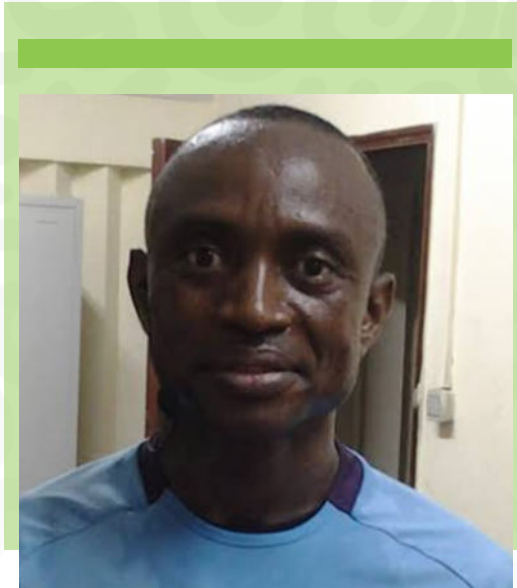
her election has sparked widespread celebrations in Nigeria. In her remarks, Martina encouraged young people to believe in themselves and pursue their dreams, emphasizing that Nigerians possess immense talent and potential. "I want every young girl to know that being a girl doesn't stop you from achieving great things. If I can do it, they can too," she said. The event highlighted Martina's groundbreaking achievements and her role as a beacon of hope and inspiration for Nigerians at home and abroad.



Dare-Johnson,
Ifeoluwa

Ifeoluwa Dare-Johnson is a Nigerian health tech entrepreneur paving the way for a healthier and brighter future for all. She is the Founder and CEO of Healthtracka, a health tech company making medical diagnostics accessible and affordable with at-home lab testing in Africa. Founded in 2021, Healthtracka offers API infrastructure for tele-health service providers, hospitals, and pharmacies, empowering them to provide at-home blood testing for their patients. Through Healthtracka, Ifeoluwa Dare-Johnson is championing a new era of healthcare management by providing accessible tools and resources, all at the touch of a button.

Her expertise and over a decade experience are in Strategy, Product and Growth. She speaks at global conferences and write articles periodically to inspire others to get their dreams started. She believes strongly that women already have all it takes to create, sustain, and scale profitable businesses. Courtesy: empowerafrica.com



Edibi
Peter

Peter Edibi is a notable Nigerian referee who has taken part in a number of the Confederation of African Football tournaments. Notably, he was the only Nigerian referee invited by CAF to participate at the 2015 African Cup of Nations that took place in Equatorial Guinea. Nigeria failed to qualify for the continental football feast, but referee Edibi was able to fly Nigeria's flag as an assistant referee. Peter Edibi, a native of Ikom in Cross River State, has taken part in prestigious CAF tournaments in Sudan, Angola and South Africa, and Cote d'Ivoire. Peter Edibi began refereeing at the tender age of 13, progressed through the ranks, and became a Grade 1 referee at the age of 22. The ambitious Nigerian referee hopes to be at FIFA's World Cup in the years ahead.



Edimek,
Dr. Yibala Akpama

Edimek, Dr. Yibala Akpama is an exceptional Consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist, widely recognized for her ingenuity in medical practice and for her contributions to maternal and reproductive health in Nigeria and beyond. Born on April 8, 1989, in Cross River State, she has demonstrated unwavering dedication, resilience, and brilliance throughout her career. She began her education at Auntie Margaret International School, Calabar, and continued to Akim Akim Model High School, Odukpani. Her medical journey commenced at the University of Calabar, where she earned her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (M.B.B.Ch) in 2011. Driven by a passion for excellence and lifelong learning, she furthered her education by obtaining a Fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynecology

from the West African College of Surgeons in April 2024. Her stellar performance earned her the Professor Bello Osagie Prize for Overall Best Candidate and the Prof. Oladipo Prize for Best Female Candidate—prestigious accolades that reflect her deep clinical insight and academic excellence. Impressively, she passed all her exams on the first attempt. Dr. Yibala also holds a Master's degree in Public Health from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration, equipping her with a unique blend of medical and public health expertise. Her clinical experience is extensive and diverse. She completed her housemanship at the State House Medical Centre, Abuja, followed by her National Youth Service at the Federal Ministry of Works Clinic. She has served in various capacities as a Medical Officer at Life Point Medical Centre,

Cedar Crest Hospital, and Nisa Premier Hospital. Her specialist training as Registrar and Senior Registrar at Maitama and Asokoro District Hospitals prepared her for her current role as a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist at Wuse District Hospital, FCTA, Abuja. Beyond clinical care, Dr. Yibala is a passionate advocate for women's health. She has led multidisciplinary teams, mentored junior doctors, and contributed to impactful research. She actively participates in community outreach programs, offering free cervical cancer screenings and reproductive health education. Dr. Yibala Akpama Edimek is a beacon of excellence and an inspirational figure in medicine—empowering communities, advancing women's health, and setting new standards of excellence in healthcare delivery.



Professor Bojor Enamhe is a distinguished scholar and leader in the fields of Art History and Art Management at the University of Cross River State, Calabar, Nigeria. With over two decades of academic and professional excellence, she has dedicated her career to the advancement of Visual Arts education, cultural preservation, and creative empowerment in Nigeria and beyond. Known for her innovative research, strategic vision, and unwavering commitment to the arts, she has significantly influenced both academic discourse and community engagement in the cultural sector. A dynamic advocate for the arts, she has spearheaded numerous initiatives to promote artistic expression and education. Since 2017, she has curated exhibitions under Art Incubator, providing a vital platform for emerging artists.

Enamhe **Professor Bojor**

Her passion for nurturing young talent extends to school art workshops, where she inspires the next generation of creatives, as well as community-based art projects that bring together children, youths, and the elderly in collaborative cultural expression.

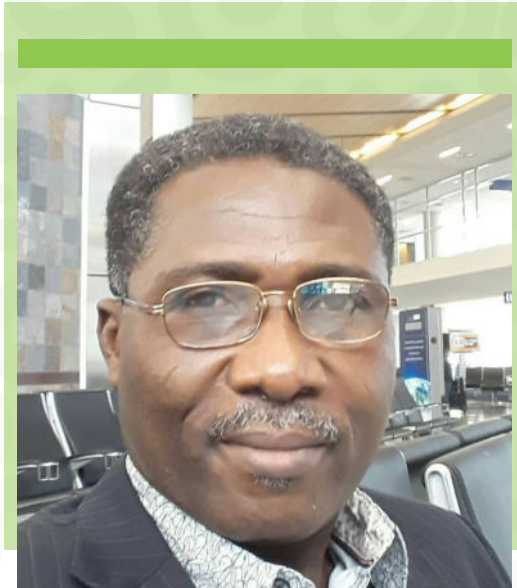
Beyond her teaching and mentorship, she has held key leadership roles in academia, including serving as Director of Quality Assurance, Director of Academic Planning, and Director of the Centre for Educational Services. She also contributes her expertise as a Non-Executive Director of CRUTECH Microfinance Bank and as an External Examiner for multiple Nigerian universities, ensuring academic rigor and excellence.

A globally minded scholar, she has travelled widely, engaging in cross-cultural academic exchanges that enrich her perspective on the evolving role of Visual Arts in history and contemporary society. Her scholarly contributions include academic publications and creative writing, further cementing her reputation as a thought leader in her field. As a mentor, she has guided countless graduate students, many of whom now occupy influential academic and policy-making positions worldwide. Through her leadership, research, and community-driven initiatives, Prof. Enamhe continues to shape the future of Visual Arts, ensuring its relevance and vitality in an ever-changing world.



Ezegbulam,
Philip

Philip Ezegbulam is a public servant of great repute. He is currently the Chief Confidential Secretary at the Police Service Commission in Abuja. His steadfastness in the face of numerous challenges, threats and dismissals he received as a result of his honesty in service led to him winning the Integrity Icon Nigeria Award in 2020. He believes that “Integrity cannot be measured in a few years but in countless years of uncompromising contributions.



Ebri
Engr. Fabian

Engr Fabian Ebri is Senior Consultant to Sumedha Energy Ltd(SEL), a subsidiary of Sterling Oil Exploration and Energy Production Company Ltd(SEPCO). He is consulting for the joint venture partnership between NNPC and SEPCO in the OML13 conventional oilfield in Akwa Ibom State. Ebri and his team are driving growth and development in Nigeria's oil and gas sector, and have successfully ramped up production for Nigeria with the Utapate crude oil blend, achieving a positive response in the international market.

The OML13 field holds some significance as it contributes to Nigeria's efforts at increasing its oil production, crucial for meeting domestic energy needs, and driving economic growth.

Engr Ebri is an accomplished

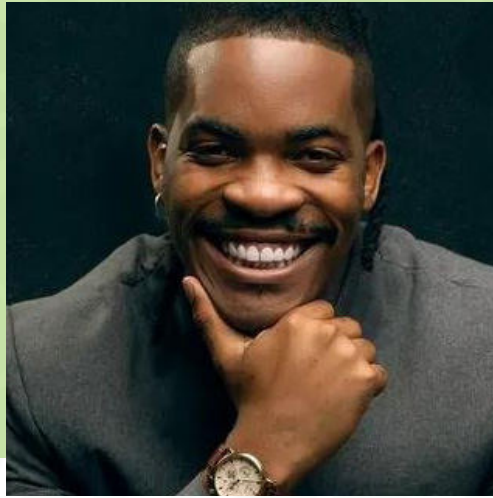
security professional with 35 years working experience at the Department of State Services(DSS) where he rose to the position of a Director.

He is an alumnus of the Federal University of Technology Akure(FUTA) where he obtained a degree in Civil Engineering. He is also an alumnus of the Institute for Security Studies(ISS), Abuja. With this background, he uses engineering models in a unique blend with security trade craft to resolve complex community-security issues in the oil and gas industry of Nigeria. With his team, he has been able to stabilise the operations of Utapate oil field, leading to a new era of economic empowerment and development opportunities for Akwa Ibom State host communities.

He has passion for youths

empowerment, leveraging the CSR(Corporate Social Responsibility) tool to mentor youths. He is working hard to cause youths to go beyond theoretical knowledge to gaining practical skills that will enable them to fit into the oil and gas industry and compete favourably at the global stage.

Engr Ebri has undertaken courses at home and abroad and participated in security and engineering conferences. He was a participant at the African Security Conference of 2012 organised by ASIS International, and attended the 2018 National Engineering Conference organised by Nigerian Society of Engineers. He has been awarded certificate of meritorious service by the State Security Service(SSS). He is a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers and member of the Security Institute(msi), Abuja.



Ekezie
Kennedy

Kennedy Ekezie was a speaker and one of six from Nigeria at the renowned Forbes Magazine 30 Under 30 Africa in May in Botswana. Backed by schooling at the University of Calabar, Kennedy is 26-years-old and a recipient of the prestigious Chinese Yenching Scholarship for his inspiring talent and promise. Kennedy also has experience in the technology ecosystem, having worked at the social media site, Tiktok, where he spearheaded the company's expansion to Africa. Kennedy Ekezie's work in the development sector is inspiring having founded Calabar Youths Council at the tender age of 16, an organization with

a focus on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and access to education for women. Some of Kennedy's awards include the Queen Elizabeth II's Young Leader Award and President Obama's Young African Leaders Fellowship. He is an alumnus of the prestigious University of Cambridge, holding the institution's Diploma in Leading Change. The Imo State indigene is the enterprising founder and Chief Executive Officer of Kippa, a company with a focus on payments and accounting for Nigeria's small business owners.



Eniolorunda,
Tosin

Tosin Eniolorunda is the enterprising founder and group CEO at Moniepoint Incorporated. Backed by schooling at the prestigious Obafemi Awolowo University Ile-Ife, Tosin Eniolorunda is an renowned voice in Nigeria's and Africa's tech and finance ecosystem. With Tosin working with Felix, his partner, the vision for Moniepoint began in 2015. With \$110 million raised from venture capitalists, the company has achieved a milestone in mission to provide millions of Africans with financial freedom and happiness. Moniepoint is focused on ensuring Africans everywhere have financial empowerment and access to reliable financial services. The company is also reckoned

as Nigeria's largest merchant acquirer, impacting 2 in 3 Nigerian adults. Moniepoint has an array of investment partners including Development Partners International (DPI), Google's Africa Investment Fund, Verod Capital Management, and Lightrock. Moniepoint has a Pan-African vision to be a leading financial services provider on the continent. Tosin Eniolorunda's Moniepoint is seen as a unicorn and is valued at \$1 billion.



Enueshike
Peter, Ph.D.

Dr. Peter Enueshike JP, Ph.D., FCNA, FCPA, ACIMA, is an accomplished professional in the field of finance with a Ph.D. in Finance from Nasarawa State University and a Masters in Financial Management from Ladoke Akintola University of Technology. He is a Fellow of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), a Fellow of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Nigeria (ICPAN), and an Associate Member of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Nigeria (ICMA).

Dr. Enueshike has published several research papers on Nigeria's economic development, foreign policy, educational sector, insecurity

issues, banking sector, social values and other contemporary issues with peer review in both foreign and local journals. A book on financial innovations and governance in the digital era (co-published) has been listed on Amazon by CARI Journals. In recognition of his contribution to research work, he was appointed as editorial review board member of the Institute of Social Journal, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. Dr. Enueshike is the current Finance Attaché to the Nigeria High Commission in Singapore City, Singapore and a former Finance Attaché to the Nigeria High Commission in Dar es Salaam. This demonstrates his exceptional abilities in carrying-out his diplomatic duties and ensuring proper utilization of available funds for

development.

He joined the Federal Civil Service in 1994 and currently holds the position of Assistant Director (Accounts). He worked in different ministries, departments and agencies and formerly worked as Personal Assistant to the former Accountant General of the Federation and heads of various sections with great success. Dr. Enueshike is a confident and committed individual, married to Mrs. Deborah Enueshike with four children. His hobbies include reading, lecturing, and driving.

John Ezeobi is the Chief Executive officer of John Zobis Group of Companies. He is a proud owner of one of the largest manufacturing companies in Anambra. His factory is a bustling hub of activity, where skilled artisans and technicians work together to produce high-quality electrical wires and cables that meet international standards. His parent company, John Zobis Group, comprises Zobis Electrical Nigeria Ltd, John Zobis Oil and Gas Nigeria Ltd, JZ Bulbs Company Nigeria Ltd, Zobis Cable Nigeria Ltd and John Zobis Company Nigeria Ltd. These companies are big players in manufacturing, Oil and gas, supplies of genuine electrical products and construction. John Zobis Electrical Wires and Cable Ltd alone sits on over 400 plots at Okoti-Odekpe in Anambra State. It is one of the largest companies owned by a single individual in the State. Some of the facilities inside the company include a corporate office, warehouses, factories, staff apartments and the ongoing infirmary. Zobis Electrical Wires and Cable Ltd is among the 20 most successful and visible companies in Anambra today in size, staff strength, capitalization, output and CSR. At 40, Ezeobi is arguably the youngest most successful Industrialist in Anambra State



Ezeobi
John

now and among the top three youngest Industrialists of Igbo extraction. This is amazing considering the fact that he is self-made. His wealth and success as an industrialist did not in any way stem from his background. By its performance and expansion drive, the company is expected to be rated among the largest in the country in couple of years at its pace now. Apart from its base in Onitsha, the company has offices in Abuja, Aba Rivers State and a semi corporate office in Lagos. It is also investing in malls that will serve as one stop shops for all his products and other products. These projects, twelve floors each, are estimated to gulp several hundreds of Millions of naira. Today, John Zobis has become synonymous

with the production of high quality cables for residential and industrial uses. Apart from servicing the open market, the company equally maintain a powerful clientele that cut across the military, oil companies, real estate firms, higher institutions etc. Zobis products are well sought after in the country and in far away Ghana, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Liberia and other West African countries. Ezeobi has carved a niche for himself as a force to be reckoned with in manufacturing. His journey from a humble trader to a manufacturing

mogul is most inspiring. His success in the manufacturing sector has not only elevated his status as an industrialist but has also inspired a new generation of entrepreneurs in Anambra. At the core of his company's objectives is CSR. Through various initiatives, he gives supports to aspiring entrepreneurs, build houses for the indigents, and even go as far as constructing roads to his host environment. He is equally giving a facelift to one the schools in his host community. John Ezeobi's journey from a trader to one of Anambra's most successful industrialists is a remarkable tale of ambition, resilience, and innovation. Courtesy: Home of History



Godson,

Professor John Abraham

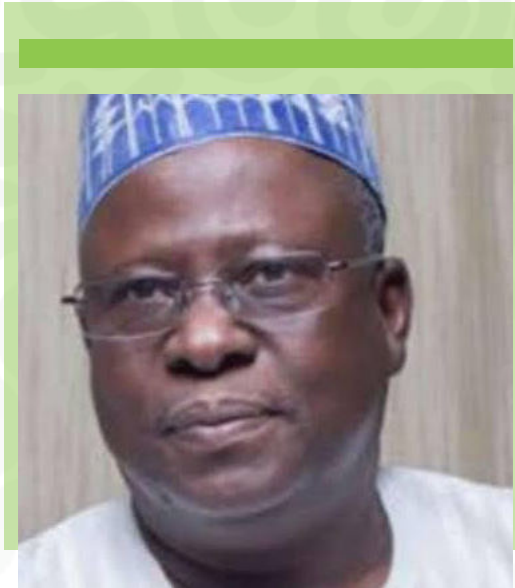
A man of many tall parts, John Godson Abraham is a professor, social entrepreneur, investor, author, mentor, farmer, and chef. He is the first African and first black member of the Parliament of Poland. His public profile at LinkedIn notes: Professor John Abraham Godson is the first black member of the Parliament of Poland. He served two terms in the VI and VII Parliament tenure. He is a professor of Management and lectures international management, intercultural communication, and managerial communication at the University of Communication and Management in Poznan, Poland. Originally from Nigeria, he has lived and served in Poland for more than 30 years. He is not only an entrepreneur, he is

also a social change agent. He has founded 4 foundations and given out over 700 scholarships to intelligent students from poor homes. He is also the founder of 5 companies and 2 ministries all under the conglomerate, Godson Group. His passion has been to connect Poland and Polish entrepreneurs with Africa, which he has been doing successfully through the African Institute. He was named among the 100 most influential Africans in 2015 by the New African Magazine. He was recently awarded the prestigious Crans Montana gold medal award and the Future Leaders award. His hobbies include cooking, gardening, and travelling. In 2023, he aspired to become a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Hadejia,
Fatima Yusuf

Backed by early schooling at Government Girls Unity Secondary School, Gwaram and Girls Science Secondary School Jahun, Fatima Yusuf Hadejia holds a B.Agric, Agricultural Economics and Extension from Aliko Dangote University of Science and Technology. Fatima Yusuf is a Rice Value Chain coordinator at Bunkasa Agritech, Jigawa State. Formerly a Youth Corps Member at the Kano State ministry of Agriculture, and facilitator at Transforming Irrigation Management in Nigeria (TRIMING), she has been celebrated for her commitment to rice farming in Nigeria despite financial constraints and environmental challenges. Fatima Yusuf manages a hectare of rice farm and also has expertise in Irish potatoes and wheat farming. Her work experience includes time at TRIMING project, M&A Greenery Limited and LINKS Nigeria. Fatima Yusuf is the Deputy Coordinator and Acting Geopolitical Zonal Leader, Platform for African Women in Smart Climate Agriculture (PAWISCA).



Ibrahim,
Architect Kabir

Architect Kabir Ibrahim is playing crucial roles in the country's agricultural and food sector. He is the President of the Nigerian AgriBusiness Group (NABG) and also doubles as the President of All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN). In recognitions of his expertise and commitment to food security in the country, the Minister of Agriculture, Senator Abubakar Kyari recently appointed him, Member National Working Committee in charge of monitoring the performance of the National Agricultural Growth Scheme-Agro Pocket (NAGS-AP). Architect Kabir Ibrahim continues to contribute to initiatives that will ensure food security and sufficiency in the country through robust engagements with relevant stakeholders in the nation's

agricultural sector. He is the Chairman, Board of Trustees of the National Agricultural Foundation of Nigeria (NAFN), an organization whose annual events showcase Nigeria's capacities in Agricultural production and food systems. Architect Kabir Ibrahim is committed to bringing innovations and measurable changes to the nation's food production systems, thereby contributing to food security for citizens.



Ibuoye,
Akinade (“Gaise Baba”)

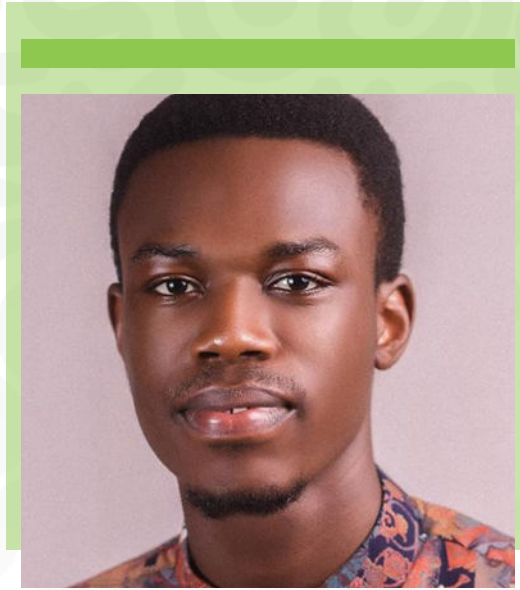
“Gaise Baba” – Akinade Ibuoye – is a polymath, an entrepreneur and an award-winning Afro-fusion artist who performs in Yoruba, English and the West African Lingo, Pidgin. He has a first degree in Economics and holds a diploma in Music Business from Berklee College of Music.

Beyond writing, recording and performing music, he is the founder of social impact platforms that serve youth audiences & communities, and the nation at large. Some of these include LightOut – an Initiative that tours High Schools, leveraging Music & Art to engage and support students in their educational, social and personal development, and has reached over 29,000 teenage and

pre-teen students. He is also the founder of ARAMANDA – an Afro-Urban Music and Arts Festival that connects young Africans to alternative Christian sounds, genres and expressions. In December 2020, Gaise Baba founded Lounge464, a residency for his music, art and essence with his growing audience and community.

Widely referred to as Culture Architect, Gaise Baba travels the country and beyond, delivering outstanding musical performances and building a groundbreaking movement around his brand.

Courtesy: gaisebaba.com



Idoko,
Ifeanyi Miracle

Ifeanyi Miracle Idoko is an alumnus of the University of Nigeria College of Medicine. As a first generation student growing up in an underserved community, Ifeanyi does not take educational opportunities for granted-and has long planned on a career in medicine to help address the disparities he's experienced. In addition to completing his medical school curriculum and volunteering in medical missions, he proactively seeks out ways to further his knowledge online. With the help of a partial tuition waiver, he learned immunology and genetics with HMX to solidify his grasp of key concepts and lay the foundation for his future career as a surgeon-scientist. Credit: Harvard Medical School.

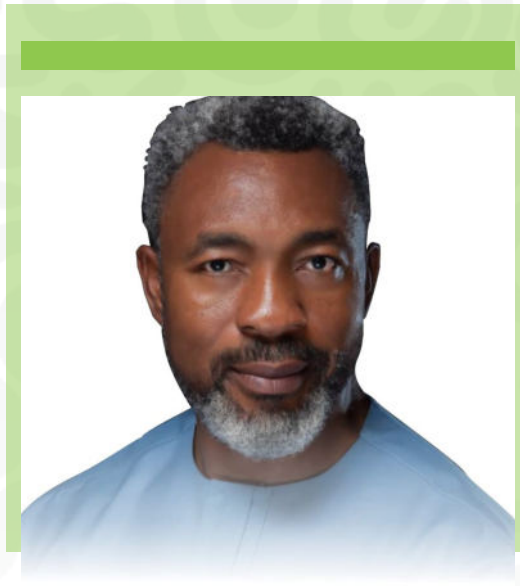


Idris,
Mohammed

Mohammed Idris is the Minister of Information and National Orientation. Entrepreneur, publisher, and politician, he is a former General Secretary of Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria. Under his watch, the ministry of information has seen remarkable changes. Notably, Mohammed Idris launched the National Value Charter, rebranding the country's brand identity and enhancing national values. A consummate public relations and media professional, Mohammed Idris has been accessible to the press and public through regular press engagements and briefings. Again, the minister has been vigorous in publicizing the President's agenda through his interactions with the press and public while spearheading the National Communication

Team which comprises strategic media and information experts in the Presidency and government information establishments.

Backed by schooling at GSS Rijau, Mohammed Idris holds a Bachelor's degree in English Studies from Usman Danfodio University Sokoto and a Master's degree in the same area from Bayero University Kano. Born on May 2, 1966 Mohammed Idris is the founder of Blueprint Newspaper and was formerly Director of Strategic Communication for the Tinubu-Shettima Presidential campaign. He holds the traditional title of Kakaaki Nupe.



Ike,
Dr. Neliaku

Dr. Ike Neliaku is President of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR). Under his distinguished leadership, NIPR received nomination in the Global Public Relations Association of the Year category at the Global Alliance World Public Relations & Communication Award. The NIPR website notes that: “Under the leadership of Dr. Ike Naliaku, NIPR has achieved notable milestones within a year, including governmental endorsements, mainstreaming the PR cadre within civil and public services, and certifying PR professionals as spokespersons for top organizations. Additionally, the

NIPR has inducted over 2,040 new members, including military generals, lawyers, and editors, while advancing professionalism through digital transformation and capacity-building programmes. In a strategic move toward elevating PR education, NIPR has partnered internationally to establish the Public Relations and Leadership University of Nigeria.”



Ike.
Grace

Grace Ike is currently the first female Chairman of the Nigerian Union of Journalists NUJ FCT after 41 years of its existence. She is an unwavering journalist, fervent advocate for inclusive reporting and beacon of professionalism. She has successfully navigated various beats and remains poised to emerge as a prominent voice in the media industry. She is regarded as an authority in legislative reporting with over 10 years of her sixteen years of media practice in the coverage of the House of Representatives. She is a seasoned correspondent at ADBN TV (Advocate Broadcasting TV) and served as the first female Chairperson of the House of Representatives Press Corps from 2020-2024 and first female Vice Chairman of the NUJ FCT Correspondents Chapel.

From her tenure at Independent Television Abuja and Silverbird TV to her current role at ABDN TV, Grace has fearlessly traversed the realm of journalism

with integrity and tenacity. She exemplifies leadership and commitment within the media community and her roles as chair of the Press Corps and Vice Chair of the Correspondents' Chapel underscore her commitment to the principles of press freedom and ethical reporting. As a gender advocate and leader within the industry, she champions fairness and equity. In addition to her role as a correspondent, Grace showcases her versatility as a producer and newscaster, further enhancing her contribution to the media landscape. Grace is a proud member of NAWOJ and the NUJ, and continues to inspire and drive positive change within the media landscape. Beyond her professional

endeavors, she channels her passion for humanitarian causes by actively engaging with charity organizations to support the less privileged in the society.

Grace Ike is recognized for her leadership, commitment to members' welfare, capacity building, and infrastructure development within the union.

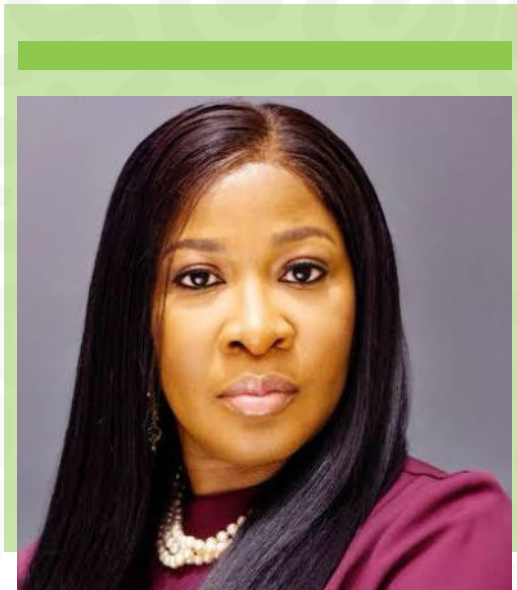
She has received several awards, including being named Nigeria's Media Personality of the Year 2024 and being honored with the Excellence in Journalism and Leadership Award during International Women's Day celebrations in 2025. She is celebrated for her professionalism, dedication, and advocacy for transparency, justice, and public enlightenment in journalism.

While championing press freedom she is of the opinion that press freedom comes with responsibility as a journalist



Itimi,
Peace

Pease Itimi is the co-founder of Rene Digital and is renowned in the country's digital space. In May, she was one of six speakers from Nigeria at Forbes Magazine's 30 Under 30 Africa Summit in Botswana. A Business Day article reports that "the 29-year-old indigene of Benin City has spent 8 years leading growth and digital marketing initiatives for companies building for Africa and emerging markets." The report adds that the young Nigerian has "excelled as a Google student ambassador, Adwords certified Digital Marketer, and social media strategist working with brands like Korapay, Webcouper, and others." A Youtuber, mentor for startups, trainer, and blogger, Peace Itimi is the author of the e-book, Adwords And Adsense For Bloggers.



Ikenna-Emeka
Oyinye

Onyinye Ikenna-Emeka is the Chief Marketing Officer at MTN Nigeria. She holds an MBA in General Management from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom, with a bachelor's degree in Geology from the University of Calabar, Cross River State. She is a business leader with over 23 years' experience in the telecommunications, logistics, and most recently education sectors. Over the course of her career, Onyinye has established a reputation for developing and driving winning commercial and business strategies especially in the areas of business planning and operations, market development and expansion as well as talent capacity development. She is known for establishing new market and business

streams especially within the telecommunications industry. She has also been involved in the development and management of profitable business models for high-end enterprise and digital initiatives within the MTN Enterprise Business serving the SME, large and multinational organizations. Oyinye is valued international speaker on women in leadership, commercial models and technology, presenting regularly across various platforms. She is also a guest faculty at the Tekedia Institute and the PearlMutual Academy. Credit: LinkedIn.

With over 20 years of experience managing and delivering complex projects, Agathachristie is a highly respected architect and project management expert. Her expertise spans architecture, and leadership, with a focus on sustainable development and eco-friendly designs. Her career has been marked by leadership roles in prominent organizations, including Chief Operating Officer/Lead Architect at Neelds Realty LTD and CEO/Founder at Beseh Planning and Developers LTD. She has also served as a consultant architect to the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria, Nile University, Caritas, Nigeria, and Catholic Secretariat of Nigeria. She has been a member of the Social Habitat Work Group of the International Union of Architects UIA and Ambassador at the London Build Expo Women in Construction since 2021. She has a proven track record of managing large-scale projects, including housing developments, educational institutions, and infrastructure projects, with strong leadership skills and experience in leading cross-functional teams and stakeholders. Notable Projects-



Irabor,

Agathachristie Banku Ndifon

- 82 units Verde Residence.
 - 77 units for Aka-care Multi-Purpose Cooperative.
 - Law Faculty Complex: Nile University Nigeria.
 - Terraced Duplex Staff Housing: Caritas Foundation of Nigeria.
 - Mega Service Station: BG Oil and Gas.
- She holds a Master's of Science in Architecture from the prestigious University of Jos. A Certified Mediator Advisor from the School of Alternative Dispute Resolutions, and various certifications in Project Management, Humanitarian Shelter, Procurement, and Logistics. Agathachristie is a member of the American Institute of Architects. She has served her professional

Institute as Secretary of the Female Architects of Nigeria 2016-2021, member of the Admission Committee from 2017-2023, currently serving as a member of the International Affairs Committee since 2021, and Chair of Practice in the FCT. She is the Vice Chair of the Building Collapse Guild in the FCT, Senior Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Diplomacy and Management, Pioneer Steering Committee member of the Association of Professional Women in the Built Environment in Nigeria, Accreditor for the National Board of Technical Education from the private sector since 2018. Publications and Presentations:

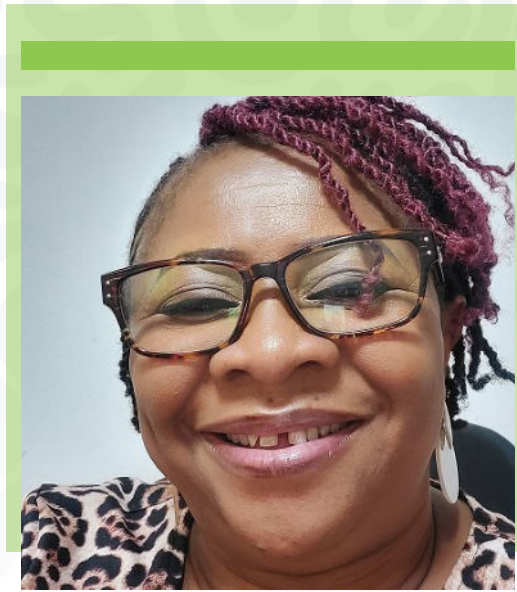
- Housing and Spatial Justice: World Urban Forum 12, Cairo.
- History, Current and Future of Social Housing in Nigeria: World Architects Congress, Copenhagen.
- Manifesto of Social Habitat Habitat: Commonwealth Association of Architects, Kigali.

She is dedicated to humanitarian works through volunteering; currently sits on the board of two humanitarian organizations with footprints nationally and internationally. Agathachristie Irabor is married, and blessed with four children.



Jackson,
Jason

Councillor Jason Jackson is the Mayor of Islington, UK for 2025-2026. A passionate community activist, Councilor Jackson led Islington's pioneering Young Black Men and Mental Health initiative and is also a vocal advocate for youth employment and innovation. Upon being elected as the new Mayor, Cllr Jackson said: "It's an honor to serve as Mayor of the borough that helped shape me, a place that is home to incredible people, bold idea, and strong communities. This year, I'll focus on celebrating our diversity, backing local businesses, and helping every neighborhood thrive because when we work together, we all thrive." Born in Nigeria and raised in Hackney, Cllr Jackson studied at City and Islington College and London Metropolitan University, both based in the borough, before completing a Master's degree in Big Data in Culture and Society at King's College London. There, he developed a strong interest in artificial intelligence and its potential to benefit all communities. Credit: Islington Media.



Jean
Ozumba Petronilla

Ozumba Petronilla Jean is a seasoned Medical Laboratory Scientist with over 17 years of experience in molecular diagnostics, laboratory systems strengthening, and biobanking, with a specialization in hematology and chemical pathology. She has a strong background in establishing laboratory infrastructure, capacity building, and managing complex public health laboratory programs across Nigeria and several African countries. She served for over a decade as the Manager of the H3Africa West African Regional Biorepository (I-HAB) at the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN), where she played a key role in advancing biobanking practices in the

region. She now leads the Clinical Laboratory Services (CLS) department at IHVN as Deputy Director and Head of Department, overseeing the laboratory program implementation, quality improvement, and strategic coordination across HIV, TB, and other priority disease, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration with Government of Nigeria agencies (NACA, NASCP, NCDC, MLSCN) areas under IHVN's ASPIRE project (The ACTION to Sustain Precision and Integrated HIV Response towards Epidemic Control). Petronilla also serves as Project Director for the ENHANCE project (Enhanced and Sustainable Integrated Laboratory Services for HIV, TB, and Other Pathogens in

Nigeria). and driving laboratory biosafety, biosecurity, and Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) initiatives. She is well-versed in project management, budgeting, leadership, and an IPC intermediate Professional. She has contributed to international benchmarking and mentorship efforts, including: Member, Nigeria Biosafety and Security Association Member, Expert Team for the Benchmarking Mission of the WAHO Regional Biobank, Abidjan (CeReB Biobanque Pasteur), March 2018 Mentee, International Federation of Biosafety Associations (IFBA) Global Mentorship Program, 2023



Josephine
Effah-Chukwum

Dr. Josephine Effah-Chukwuma is a feminist, social justice advocate, gender and development specialist, human rights activist; and a serial entrepreneur. She is the Founder/Executive Director of Project Alert on Violence Against Women; and the Executive Chair of Innocent Chukwuemeka Chukwuma Empowerment Foundation, ICCEF.

Born 59 years ago to Efik parents from Odukpani and Akpabuyo local government areas of the state, Josephine had her early education in Lagos before proceeding to University of Calabar for her undergraduate studies in English and Literary Studies.

She graduated in 1988, served in Kaduna State and thereafter, worked as a journalist with the now defunct Democrat Newspaper, rising to become the Acting Woman Editor within two years. In 1992 she won a scholarship to proceed to the Institute of Social Studies, ISS, the Hague, The Netherlands for Masters Degree study in Development Studies, specialising in Women & Development.

Committed to practising what she studied in her country, Josephine returned to Nigeria after her

Masters degree to work in one of the two foremost human rights organizations in Nigeria, known as Constitutional Rights Project, CRP in 1995. She disengaged from CRP in December 1998 to found Project Alert in January 1999.

Project Alert under Josephine in May 2001, set up the very first battered women's shelter in the country known as Sophia's Place. Josephine a pioneering voice and advocate for zero tolerance for violence against women and girls, has led/co-led various networks and coalitions in the country that have advocated for various laws and policies that promote and protect the rights of women and girls. One of such being the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Act at the federal level; and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition (VAPP) Law of Cross River State.

She also advocated for and ensured the passage of the Disability Law of Cross River State.

Josephine has won several awards nationally and internationally for her relentless efforts in promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls. These awards include the Ashoka Award for Social Entrepreneurship (for setting up the very first shelter for abused women in Nigeria); Doctor of Human Letters (Honorary Doctorate) by the International Circle of Faith University, USA; Rare Gems Award; Excellence in Advocacy for Women's Rights Award; Cross-River State Amazon Award; Outstanding Award for contribution to the fight to end sexual and gender-based violence by Lagos State Government etc.

Josephine's Project Alert is known for its numerous publications on violence against women and girls in Nigeria. Publications that have been used for advocacy purposes. She was married for twenty-three (23) years to a fellow social justice advocate, justice sector reform specialist, good governance advocate and philanthropist, the late Innocent Chukwuemeka Chukwuma, who passed on in April 2021. They have three beautiful daughters.



Lookman,
Ademola

Ademola Lookman achieved broad success for England's youth team, winning the FIFA U-20 World Cup in 2017. He built his playing style across teams in England and Germany. Notably, he was at Everton, Fulham, Leicester, and RB Leipzig. He won silver with the Super Eagles of Nigeria at the 2023 CAF African Cup of Nations, scoring three goals and proving a dependable forward for the national team.

Born October 20, 1997, Lookman made the right decision by ditching England for Nigeria despite playing for the former across U-19, U-20, and U-21 levels. Ademola Lookman was nominated for the prestigious 2024 Ballon d'Or and placed 14th in the overall ranking. He the first player to score a hat-trick in the UEFA Europa League final. Ademola Lookman is the 2024 CAF African footballer of the year and currently plays professional football for Italy's Atalanta in the Serie A.



Maduekwe,
Dr. Nkiruka

Dr. Nkiruka Maduekwe is the Director General/CEO of the National Council on Climate Change. She was formerly a Senior Research Fellow at country's Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, where she was also a Research Fellow. A climate advocate, in 2022, Dr. Nkiruka Maduekwe was the Climate Parliament National Coordinator, where she raised awareness on pressing climate issues affecting the country. A graduate of Law from the University of Abuja, Dr. Nkiruka Maduekwe is backed by an LLM in Environmental Law and Policy from the University of Dundee and an MSc in International Oil and Gas Management from the same institution. She also holds a Ph.D. in Law from the University of Hull and a Postgraduate Diploma in Research Training from the same University.



Malaka,

Mrs. Thelma Onakome

Mrs. Thelma Onakome Malaka, a thoroughbred professional teacher and a seasoned educationist is another distinguished honoree to be conferred with the Distinguished Personality Award by Anchor University. The veteran educationist served meritoriously in various capacities for twenty-three years with the Lagos State Ministry of Education. She retired from Government service as an Assistant Director of Education in 2004. She is an alumna of Adeyemi College of Education, University of Lagos and University of Ife, where she obtained her first and second degrees in Education, respectively. Mrs Malaka is a recipient of several awards and the pioneering Education Secretary of Deeper Life High School (DLHS), established in 2010. Credit: independent.ng.

Joshua Selman Nimmak is a gospel preacher, televangelist, a deep teacher of God's word, and the founder of Koinonia (Eternity Network International). He is a chemical engineering with bachelor's degree in from ABU. It was in ABU that he had the opportunity to begin his work as a minister of God, preaching and sharing the gospel to fellow students in school with the help of his friends. Apostle Joshua Selman was heavily used by God during his university days in prophetic, in healing the sick and performing miracles. In the light of his discovery of the powerful anointing upon him and following the leading of the Holy Spirit, he founded the Eternity Network International (ENI) in March 2011. The ministry which currently meets every Friday at the Christ Gospel Church, Samaru, Zaria, Kaduna State, organized a program named KOINONIA in the same year. The term Koinonia is a Greek word which literally translates to "communion or intimacy".

Apostle Joshua Selman has been mentored and influenced by many heavily anointed men of God. He describes himself as a product of many graces, anointings and divine impartations. This is seen when



Nimmak
Joshua Selman

he talks about the different men of God that have at one time or the other imparted his life including Benny Hinn, Bishop David O. Oyedepo, Pastor E.A.Adeboye, Professor Daniel Olukoya, T. L. Osbourne and Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke, among others.

Koinonia was established with the sole aim of serving as a medium of reaching out to God with worship, love, miracles, sharing, listening to the word of God and experiencing the true intimacy with the Holy Spirit. It is a weekly program slated for 5:00pm every Sunday of the week and is hosted by Apostle Joshua Selman.

Koinonia's cardinal mission sets it to, seek and save the lost. It was launched to help in the salvation of human souls,

through messages and sermons. It aims to equip and perfect the saints by the revelation of God's word and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is also targeted at demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit through signs, wonders and miracles to confirm that Jesus is alive. This is conveyed when his presence is made manifest in worship. Additionally, it aims to reveal the wealth of the kingdom and finance God's end-time agenda: through the messages, there will be increase in the wealth of the kingdom and it will help to finance God's end-time agenda.

Also the core values of the program are faith, anointing, evangelism, character, intimacy and fellowship, purpose and kingdom, love, and prosperity amongst other spiritual and Bible guided principles.

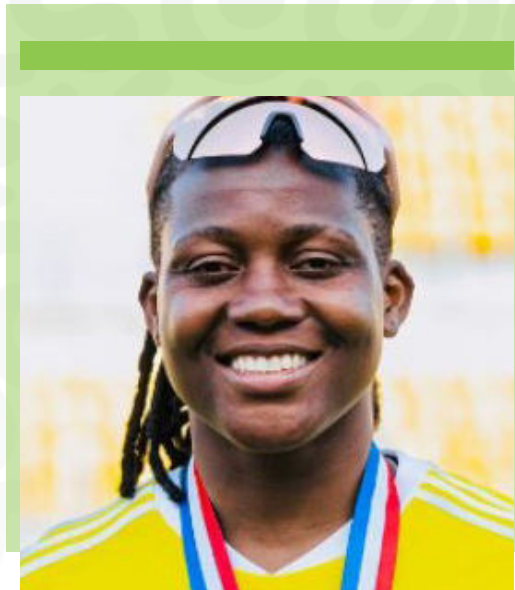
He currently leads the Eternity Network International, Abuja and regularly visits the Zaria assembly. He is also the Principal of the Koinonia School of Ministry (KSOM). The Koinonia School of Ministry is God's training ground for individuals who sense the call of God upon their lives. Courtesy: thenewman.org.ng.



Nkom,
Mercy Peter

In a remarkable break from traditional career paths, a young woman from Kaduna State is gaining national attention for her skill and dedication in an industry largely dominated by men. Mercy Peter Nkom, a proud member of the Atyap ethnic group, has gone viral for her exceptional craftsmanship in producing high-quality men's shoes. Defying societal expectations, Mercy has carved a niche for herself in shoemaking, showcasing both creativity and resilience. Her designs, marked by their precision and aesthetic appeal, are earning praise not only for their quality but also for the empowering story behind them. Social media users across Nigeria have lauded Mercy's determination to succeed in a non-traditional field, highlighting her as a role model for young women seeking to forge their own paths. More than just a viral sensation, Mercy represents a growing wave of female entrepreneurs reshaping perceptions and redefining success through hard work, integrity, and passion.

The triumph of Chiamaka Nnadozie's Paris FC over PSG this year's final of the Coupe de France Feminie catapulted the Nigerian international goalkeeper into the club's history cabinets, her sufficient place as a goalkeeping legend immaculately proven. It was an exceptional victory via penalties for Nnadozie, just five months after she won the 2024 CAF African Women's Soccer Goalkeeper of the Year award, a replication of her 2023 win of the same prize, and a remarkable strike from glory to glory. The player's spiritual character is the guiding principle behind her professional engagements and aspirations, serving as her illuminating guide during dark and trying moments. Nnadozie's unflinching faith in God continues to inspire her fans and supporters, her admirers recognizing the place of the supernatural in soccer and life in general. The Nigerian international goalkeeper has carved a noble path for herself as a symbol of success and inspiring achievements for young girls and women in



Nnadozie,
Chiamaka

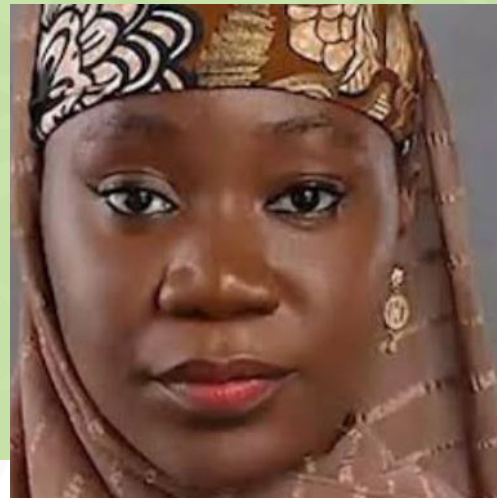
sports.

Nnadozie's calm character is an asset, and her commanding presence in goal has long been praised by fans and analysts. Notably, in 2023, Nnadozie had a superwoman's performance at the FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, earning individual recognition during the tournament. A 2024 Arkema Goalkeeper of the Year winner in French female soccer, Nnadozie is also a 2025 Arkema team of the season member, her talents, experience, and promise

playing crucial roles in her professional odyssey and global recognition.

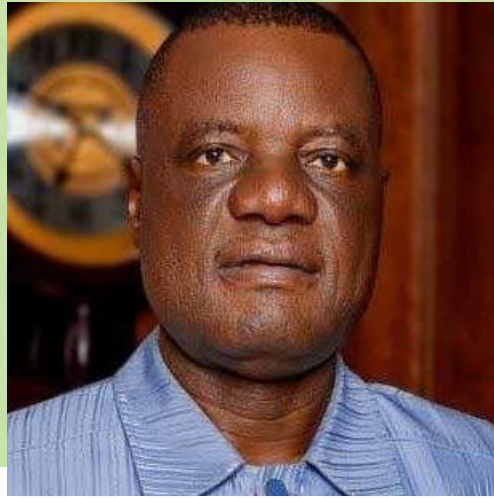
Born on December 8, 2000, Chiamaka Nnadozie is a highly motivated athlete, her childhood dreams and a passionate commitment to Nigeria serving as twin lights of influence in her quest for sporting merits for club and country. It is remarkable that Nnadozie's FA Cup win is a repeat of her earlier success in Nigeria, where she won the Women's FA Cup with Rivers Angels of Port Harcourt, her victory

reinforcing the solidity of her talents, work ethic, and passion for great things. Her achievements in women's soccer emphasize her admirable place in Nigeria's soccer history, placing her among star characters of the nation's local and international soccer culture. It will remain tough not to reckon with Chiamaka Nnadozie as one of the finest goalkeepers on the African continent, and one of the most dependable hands in French female



Nuhu,
Hauwa Shaffii

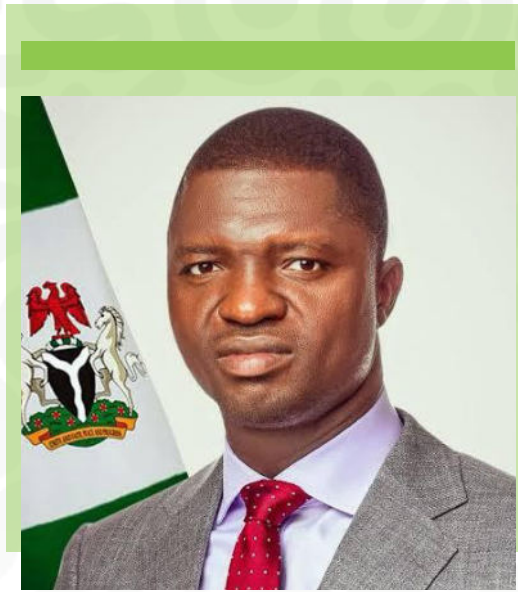
Hauwa Shaffii Nuhu is the innovative Managing Editor at HumAngle. She researches and investigates terrorism and insurgency and its human cost and aftermath, particularly how they affect transitional justice issues, displacement, migration, and women. She is a 2023 Pulitzer Center grantee, a 2023 International Women Media Fund awardee, and a 2022 Storify Africa fellow, among several others. Credit: Humananglemedic.com.



Nwaora,
Chief (Dr.) Fabian

A native of Akabu, Osumenyi in Nnewi South, Anambra state, Chief Fabian Nwaora is a titan in Nigeria's real estate investments sector where he has massive investments that have changed lives and impacted his hometown and further afield. Chief Fabian is backed by over two decades of experience in real estate and has spent close to fifty in trade, business, and management. He founded Efab Properties in 1997 and the company is currently headquartered on Lugard Street, Asokoro, Abuja. Efab is single-minded about solving housing needs, committing itself to investing in citizens and communities. Efab's properties are spread across commercial

complexes, luxury homes, and rentals. The company also has stakes in construction and is guided by the motto, "A Family, A Roof." Efab Properties Limited also partners with First Generation Mortgage Bank Limited, a financial institution incorporated in October 1992, where Lolo Evelyn Nwaora (Mrs.) sits as Chairman. From his modest beginnings in trade, which saw him traversing Kano, Sokoto, and Idu, Chief Fabian Nwaora has decades of experience in property development under his belt. Chief Fabian Nwaora is renowned in his immediate community and holds the traditional chieftaincy title of "Chikeluba," God created wealth. He also has the prestigious national honor of OON.



Nwifuru,
Francis

Francis Nwifuru is the transformative governor of Ebonyi State. Sworn in on May 29, 2023 Nwifuru set out to positively shape the destiny of Ebonyi State and the work ethics of the state's civil service. His proactive involvements in projects under his administration has yielded results. In November 2024, he made news headlines when his team intercepted civil servants diverting health ministry's documents for commercial purposes. According to the governor, he was stunned to see the vehicle stocking up for sale, materials meant for the state's primary healthcare centers and general hospitals. Despite bureaucratic challenges, Francis Nwifuru is committed to making "sincere efforts" to meeting the needs of his people. A former speaker of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly, Francis Nwifuru was born on February 25, 1975.



Odii.
Charles

Charles Odii is an author, entrepreneurship development expert and small business advocate. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer/Director General of the small and medium enterprises development agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) and was awarded the Sun Newspaper award for public service. His role involves stimulating, monitoring, and coordinating the development of the SME sector in Nigeria which approximately amounts to forty million SMEs as well as initiating and articulating Policy Ideas for small and medium enterprises growth and

development. In his first few months in office, Charles O. Odii has led impactful initiatives resulting in the creation of 15,000 jobs and the facilitation of over 10 billion naira in funding for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) while driving rural industrialization, poverty alleviation and livelihood enhancement in Nigeria. Charles is an alumnus of the US State Department, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) on global business.

Development. He is a member of the

Nigerian institute of Management, Advertising Practitioners council of Nigeria. Charles is a certified Business Development Service Provider, a mentor for the United States Young African Leaders' Initiative and an entrepreneurial Coach. Charles is passionate about women entrepreneurship development and was listed in the 2024 Exquisite Magazine 50 power people who embody resilience, leadership & advocate for women empowerment and inclusion in Africa. He bagged a Master's degree from the Pan Atlantic university and a Bachelor's degree Management and information systems from Covenant University.



Odinkalu,
Chidi

Chidi Odinkalu is a Nigerian lawyer and human rights activist based in Abuja, Nigeria. He is also the senior team manager for the Africa Program of the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) and was, until recently, the chair of the Governing Council of Nigeria's National Human Rights Commission. Chidi received his Ph.D. in law from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Prior to joining OSJI, Chidi was senior legal officer responsible for Africa and Middle East at the International Centre for the Legal Protection of

Human Rights in London, Human Rights Advisor to the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone, and Brandeis International Fellow at the Centre for Ethics, Justice and Public Life of the Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts.

Chidi has extensive networks across Africa built up over several years of working for human rights and social justice on the continent. He is associated with several non-governmental and academic institutions within and outside Africa. As well as acting as the

chair of IRRI's Board, Chidi also serves on the Board of the Fund for Global Human Rights. He is also the founder of the Section on Public Interest and Development Law (SPIDEL) at the Nigerian Bar and member of the Executive Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association. Courtesy: refugee-rights.org



Ogabor,
Joseph Odey

Joseph Odey Ogabor boasts of a prestigious FIFA referring badge and is a lecturer at the Federal University of Calabar, Cross River State. He cut his referring teeth locally before catching the attention of the global footballing world. On October 11, 2024, Joseph Ogabor was at the center in the African Cup of Nations (AFCON) qualifying match between host Tunisia and Comoros at the 60,000 capacity Hammadi Agrebi Olympic Stadium in Tunisia. A referee with lots of promise, Joseph Odey Ogabor's profile is growing steadily, with close to ten FIFA grade-A matches under his belt. Referee

Ogabor has handled some key matches. Notably, he was the man in charge during AFCON qualifying game between South Sudan and past Nations Cup winner, South Africa. He also has experience handling continental club football, having officiated the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Champions League game between Association Sportive Maniema Union of Kindu, DR Congo and Petro De Luanda of Angola.



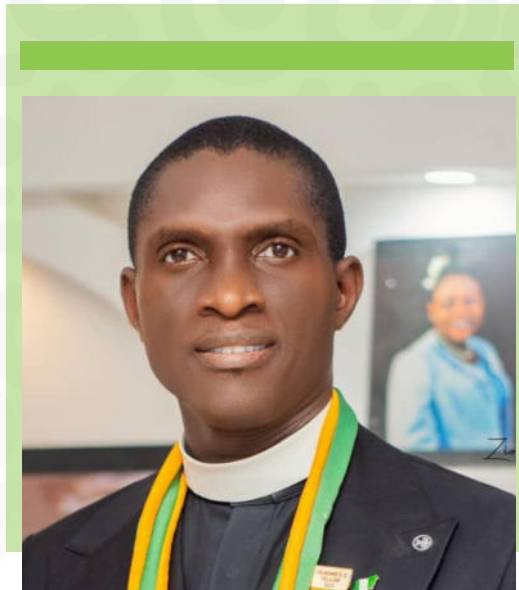
Ogbonna,
Nkechi Onyinyechi

With over ten years of experience in broadcast journalism, Nkechi is passionate about telling stories that amplify African voices. Currently, as the West Africa Correspondent for BBC, she reports breaking news and offer in-depth analysis from across the continent, covering everything from personal finance and intra-Africa trade to climate change and technology.

Previously, she worked as a Senior Journalist Reporter, producing content across radio, TV, podcasts, and digital platforms,

delivering stories that matter to Africans, by Africans. She also had the privilege of working as an Interactive Journalist, creating data-driven stories for BBC's World Service languages across West and East Africa. Beyond traditional journalism, Nkechi leveraged her digital skills to lead advocacy campaigns, like the Buy-Made-In-Nigeria movement, and has worked with organisations such as the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria to drive stakeholder engagement. From anchoring news bulletins to producing short

documentaries on SMEs and reporting for CNBC Africa, her journey has been shaped by a love for storytelling and connecting with diverse audiences. Outside of work, she enjoys moderating panels, compering events, watching movies, cooking, and cycling long distances.



Ogundare,
**Engr. Samuel Oluwafemi FNSE,
FNIProcE, FNICE, MNISafetyE**

Engr. Samuel Oluwafemi Ogundare is a distinguished Civil Engineer, Procurement Expert, and Ordained Priest, renowned for his exceptional leadership, technical expertise, and commitment to excellence. He graduated with a B.Eng (Hons) in Civil Engineering from the University of Ado-Ekiti (2006) and also holds a Master's degree in Geotechnics, Civil Engineering (2024). Engr. Ogundare has worked extensively in various capacities, including: Director, Road and Civil Engineering Procurement Department, Bureau of Public Procurement, Governor's Office, Ado-Ekiti; Chief Civil Engineer, Ministry of Works and Transportation, Ado-Ekiti. He has successfully managed numerous high-

profile projects, including: Procurement of Ekiti Knowledge Zone (\$80,000,000); Procurement and Supervision of the Construction of Ekiti State Domestic and Cargo Airfield Runway and Domestic Terminal (\$39,268,003.30); Procurement and Supervision of the Construction of Ado-Iyin Road (\$12,608,344.80). He has received notable awards, including: Integrity ICON Award by Accountability Lab, Nigeria (2023), Best Officer of the Year (2019, 2020), Senior Staff category, Ekiti State Bureau of Public Procurement, Special Award of Excellent Leadership, and All Saints Anglican Church, Opopogbooro, Ado-Ekiti (2008). He is a member of the following professional bodies: Fellow, Nigerian

Society of Engineers (FNSE); Fellow, Nigerian Institution of Procurement Engineer (FNIProcE); Fellow, Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineer (MNICE); Member, Nigerian Institution of Safety Engineers (MNISafetyE); Registered Member, Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN); Member, Ekiti State Technical Committee on Engineering Regulation Monitoring (ERM), COREN; Member, Association of Public Procurement Practitioners in Nigeria (APPON)

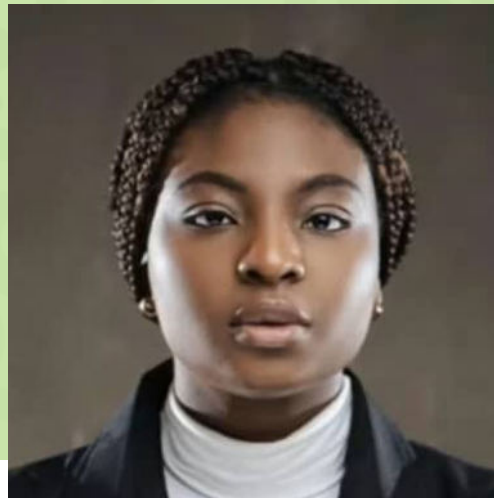
He is an ordained Priest of the Ekiti Anglican Diocese, Ado-Ekiti and also preferred an Archdeacon.



Ogunyemi,
Dr. Bolu

Dr. Ogunyemi, a Nigerian clinical associate professor of medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland, has been elected as the president-elect of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA). According to a statement from the Association's website, Dr. Ogunyemi, a practicing medical dermatologist in St. John's, Newfoundland, and a visiting specialist in Labrador City since 2018, won the election in a vote that took place from Nov. 20 to Dec. 4. The election saw eligible CMA members in Newfoundland and Labrador decide between Dr. Ogunyemi and Dr. Susan

MacDonald, a renowned champion of palliative care. Speaking after his victory, Dr. Ogunyemi stated, "My 15 years of experience in medical leadership have equipped me with valuable insights into the pressing issues our healthcare system faces, and as CMA president-elect, I will advocate for a unified profession, a strong healthcare system, and healthier communities." Pending approval at the CMA's Annual General Meeting in May 2025, Dr. Ogunyemi will assume the role of president-elect before becoming president for a one-year term in May 2026. Credit: reubenabati.com.ng.



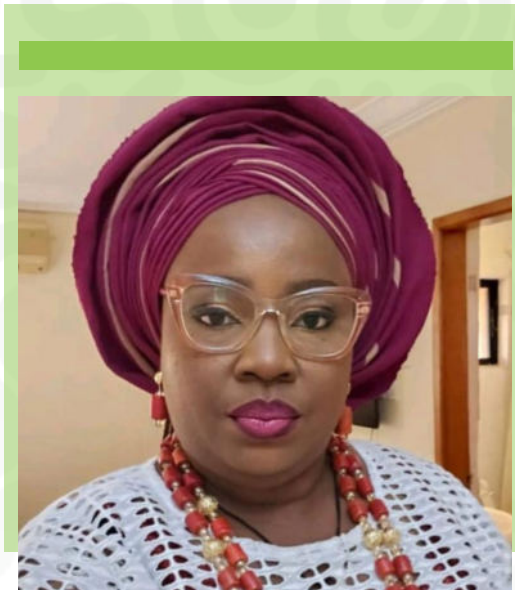
Ojengbede
Deborah

A former banker at Union Bank of Nigeria, Deborah Ojengbede is the CEO at AFEN Blockchain Group and the 2022 winner of women in Web3. Her public profile at LinkedIn notes: Deborah was instrumental in the creation of Union Bank's Elite and Royalty Subsidiary, a cutting-edge business initiative targeted at high-end clients. Her skillful negotiating abilities and strategic vision were crucial in improving the value proposition for high-end banking clients, which raised client satisfaction and loyalty. Deborah made a bold

move into the field of women banking, where she began to support initiatives that were centered around gender. Her ability to lead sub-segmentation and develop concrete value propositions for women won her a lot of praise from her colleagues. Not content with conventional boundaries, Deborah ventured into the burgeoning field of Blockchain technology, recognizing its transformative potential in addressing socio-economic challenges in Africa. In 2021, she founded Afen Blockchain Network, a groundbreaking

platform dedicated to raising awareness and understanding of Blockchain technology's diverse applications. Under her guidance, Afen evolved into a world-class Launchpad for groundbreaking innovation, positioning itself as a trailblazer in the world of web3.

Backed by a BSc in Accounting from Babcock University, Deborah is also the Chief Operating Officer at DigiCask. She is also an Advisory Council Member at Harvard Business Review.



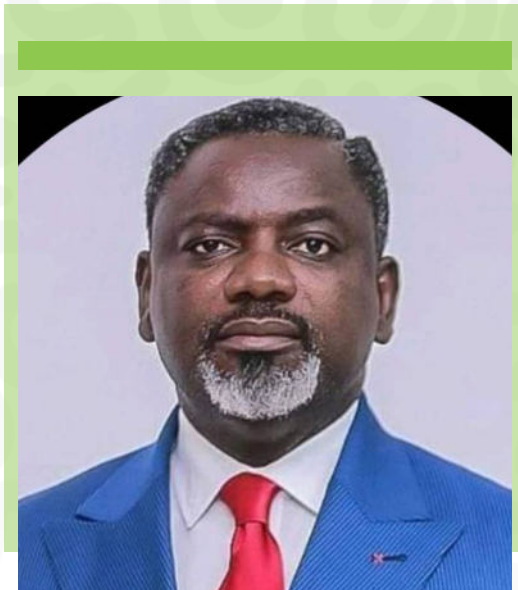
Dr. (Mrs.) Ime Okon is a medical doctor with almost 25 years of experience practicing medicine in Nigeria. She is a public servant with the Lagos State government, President-Elect MWAN Lagos, currently MD/CEO, Ibeju-Lekki General Hospital, a transformational leader who within a very short period (less than one year, has brought many significant changes in the hospital including establishment of a new dental and eye clinic, and a lot of community-engagement leading to an increase in the demand for already existing services especially in Obstetrics, Gynecology and Pediatrics. She is an astute Public Health Physician with special interest in Infectious diseases. With postgraduate degrees and diplomas in Public Health. Dr Okon is an Epidemiologist (graduate of the Field Epid program of

Okon
Dr. (Mrs.) Ime

Nigeria-NFELTP). She worked at Mainland Hospital (formerly Infectious Diseases Hospital) for 5 years 2011-2015, including the period of Ebola response. She played an active role in Active Case Finding in the Epid/Surveillance Pillar of the EOC Response for COVID 19 especially during the first wave of the pandemic. As a very service-oriented individual, she's currently Secretary of the Lagos State STOP TB Partnership, Vice President-Elect of Rotary Club of Ojodu. She has been a two-time National Chief of Protocol of the Nigerian Medical Association, National Coordinator of Outreaches of MWAN, National Young Doctors Coordinator of MWAN, National Auditor, Association of Public Health

Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) amongst many others.

Dr Okon happens to be the first female Secretary of NMA Lagos since Inception in 1960 and the only female to have held such a role till date. She's a welfarist to the core, always fighting for people's rights, both known & unknown, with the dictum of "an injury to one is an injury to all." Dr. Ime Okon always gives sound & objective analysis to issues, very resourceful, eloquent, visualize impactful projects with her intellectual virtues, which stands her out as an international material. She is a source of pride and a God-gifted rare asset, a vocal voice and a resourceful God-given gift, whose achievements can complement the good efforts of the Cross River State government. As a dedicated Rotarian and Catholic, she is married with 3 lovely children.



Okorie,
Linus

Linus Okorie is the founder and President of Guardians of the Nation International (GOTNI), a leadership development non-profit organization. Founded in January 1998, GOTNI is a renowned leadership training institute that has impacted leaders in Nigeria and elsewhere. Celebrated speaker, mentor, and coach, Linus Okorie is also the best-selling author of *Footprints: Leading Beyond Today*. The Linus Okorie mentorship project has mentored several emerging leaders and his Leadership Masterclass is also

celebrated by participants. He is greatly respected in Africa and around the world where he has spoken at a number of important conferences. His long years of experience in leadership and mentorship has placed him as a highly regarded body of knowledge in public speaking and human capital development. Linus Okorie is backed by a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership obtained from Regent University, Virginia Beach, USA. He also holds a Gregory University (Nigeria) honorary Doctorate degree in Leadership Studies.



Olupitan,
Dr. Olayemi

Dr. Olayemi Olupitan serves as the Project Director at the Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria, for the Global Fund Grant Cycle-7 TB & HIV grant, known as the TB-HIV Reach, Integration & Impact Project (N-THRIP). This initiative focuses on the combined efforts to combat TB and HIV and plays a crucial role in transforming related programs under the leadership of the National AIDS and STDs Control Programme (NASCP), the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Control Programme (NTBLCP), and the National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA).

Within the Institute, Dr. Olupitan has held various positions, including Program Associate at the National

Tuberculosis and Leprosy Training Centre (NTBLTC), Program Officer for TB/HIV, Regional Medical Officer/Senior Program Officer, Acting Regional Manager at the Lagos Regional Office, and Regional Manager at the FCT Regional Office. She also served as the Project Director of the ACHIEVE Rivers State ART Surge Project and, most recently, as Assistant Director at the PEPFAR Program Coordinating Unit. In this role, she led the coordination of states supported by PEPFAR-IHVN and their sub-partners, ensuring seamless program implementation for the Action to Sustain Precision and Integrated HIV Response towards Epidemic Control (ASPIRE) grant.

Dr. Olupitan's leadership in significant health projects has consistently yielded positive outcomes, demonstrating her effectiveness and underscoring the vital role she plays in building, expanding, and improving project outcomes that deliver life-saving interventions to beneficiaries in Nigeria.



Oluwemimo, **Joseph**

Joseph Oluwemimo Osanipin is the head of the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDCC). He was formerly the CFO/ Head of Strategy and Project at JET Motors. Oluwemimo Joseph Osanipin educational journey includes a Bachelor of Science in Accounting (BSC Accounting) from Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University of Benin (Uniben). For professional qualifications, Oluwemimo Joseph Osanipin holds the distinguished title of Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (FCA – ICAN) and is also a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA). His career trajectory commenced with a role as a Senior Internal

Auditor at Ibru Organisation, a position he held from 1996 to 2000. During this formative stage, he honed his skills and gained invaluable experience in the field of internal audit. In 2000, he joined Zenith Bank as an auditor and progressively ascended the organizational ladder. His roles included that of an IT Auditor and responsibilities in Internal Control and Audit. Throughout his 12-year tenure, his contributions played a pivotal role in enhancing the bank's internal control and audit functions. Following his tenure at Zenith Bank, in 2013, he joined the GIG Group, where he made significant contributions in various capacities. His roles included Head of Internal Control and Audit and later, Group Head of Finance and Accounts. His

proficient leadership and expertise in the domains of finance and audit significantly contributed to the success of the GIG Group during his tenure from 2013 to 2019. Prior to his appointment as the new head of the National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDCC), Oluwemimo Joseph Osanipin served as the CFO/ Head of Strategy and Projects at Jet System Auto Industries Ltd. His appointment to this role commenced in 2019. In this capacity, he oversees the financial aspects of the company while also spearheading strategic projects at the JET Motor Company Electric Vehicles. Source: Techcabal.

Chris Ogbechie is a Professor of Strategic Management and the Dean at Lagos Business School (LBS), Pan-Atlantic University. He is also a visiting professor at Strathmore Business School, Nairobi, Kenya. Professor Ogbechie has a first-class honours degree in Mechanical Engineering from Manchester University, an MBA from Manchester Business School, and a PhD in Business Administration from Brunel Business School in the UK. On January 1, 2021, he became the fourth dean of Lagos Business School, in which capacity he is responsible for setting the school's strategic direction and overseeing all academic and administrative matters. He has vast experience in marketing, strategy, and corporate governance from his work as Head of Marketing/Sales at Nestle Nigeria and consulting with Nigerian, Ghanaian and Kenyan firms over the years. While at Nestle, he held international positions in Malaysia, Singapore and Switzerland.

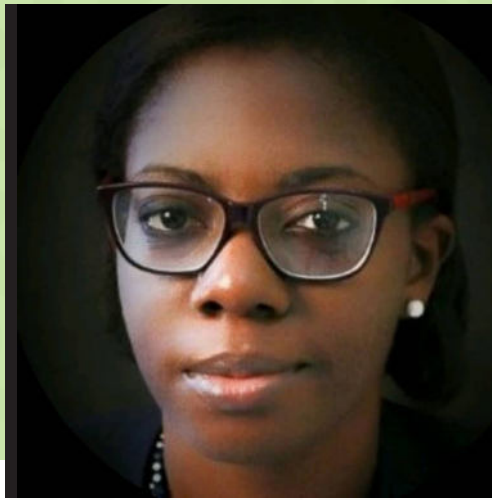
Professor Ogbechie teaches strategy, sustainability and corporate governance at Lagos Business School and Strathmore Business School in Nairobi, Kenya; he is also the founding Director of the LBS Sustainability Centre. His research interests are strategy in turbulent environments, strategic leadership, board effectiveness, and corporate



Ogbechie,
Professor Chris

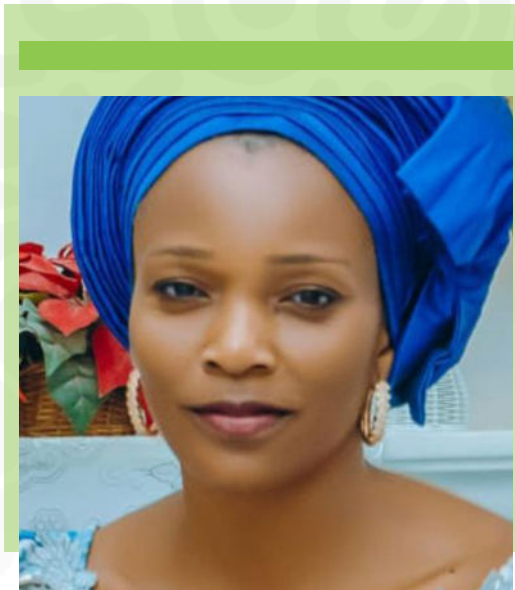
sustainability. Professor Ogbechie has been involved with several start-ups. He was Chairman of the board of Directors of Diamond Bank Plc and is on the board of several private and public companies, including Red Star Express Plc (FedEx) and National Salt Company of Nigeria Plc. (NASCON), Health Partners and Palton Morgan Holdings. He has several publications in financial services marketing, strategic planning, corporate social responsibility and corporate governance. His first book, "Strategic Marketing of Financial Services in Nigeria" (2011), provides essential information for marketing practitioners, especially in the financial services sector, to improve their marketing effectiveness. His second book, "Re-engineering the

Nigerian Society through Social Marketing" (2012), is his contribution towards positively changing societal values. Professor Ogbechie has also authored several journal papers on corporate governance and sustainability, notably: 'How Large is Too Large and How Small is Too Small? Exploring Kuznets Inverted-U Relationship and Optimal Board Size in Nigeria Company Boards,' International Journal of Business and General Management, 'Corporate Social Responsibility in SMEs: A Shift from Philanthropy to Institutional Works?' Journal of Business Ethics and 'Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in Nigeria: Western Mimicry or Indigenous Practices?' Journal of Corporate Citizenship. He has also presented various papers on corporate governance at international conferences. His paper "Corporate Governance Practices of Publicly Quoted Companies in Nigeria" is published in the International Journal of Business Governance and Ethics. His journal article "Board Characteristics and Involvement in Strategic Decision Making: The Nigerian Perspective" is included in Emerald's peer-reviewed reading list of quality journal articles and book chapters. Besides teaching and researching, he is involved in community service and philanthropy. Credit: Lagos Business School.



Ogo,
Dr. Ify

Dr. Ify Ogo is a celebrated Legal Economist and expert on Trade who has worked for organizations including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). An entry at Tekedia.com notes: Dr. Ogo's experience includes working as the UNDP Regional Coordination Specialist on the AfCFTA, as well as Trade Policy Expert at the African Trade Policy Centre, UN Economic Commission for Africa, where she led the trade in services work stream, and was a focal point for trade diversification covering the digital economy, blue economy and green economy portfolios. Ify has also supported the AfCFTA negotiations, as well as country-level implementation processes. Other roles have included investment advisory within the private and public sectors.



Omuh,
Helen

Dr Helen Omuh is the Director/head of the Prevention Care and Treatment (PCT) department of the Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHVN) based in Abuja, Nigeria. Dr Omuh coordinates and leads the department in line with both national and international standards and ensures quality, evidence-based client-centered program implementation. The department has the core technical staff responsible for the implementation of programs across HIV, Tuberculosis, Malaria, Nutrition, Sexual and reproductive health, Food security, Immunization, and is also involved in implementation science and grants writing.

Since joining the institute in 2006 as a program officer, Dr Omuh has held various positions, including the Northcentral Regional Manager

in Jos, Plateau State, Assistant Director of PCT, and Acting Head of Department, until she became the Director/Head of Department working across various grant portfolios.

Her leadership role has contributed to expanding access to life-saving prevention, care, and treatment services through the rapid scale-up of programs and service decentralization; strengthening health systems through capacity building; and sustainable, resilient services through stakeholder engagement and an innovative client-centered model of services for better client outcomes that have been nationally adopted. The department has received 2 awards for service excellence.

Sir Gabe Onah PhD, is one of Nigeria's biggest tourism exponents. He is a TEDx Speaker/ Publisher, and a certified participant of the Tourism Product Development Company of Jamaica, Tpdco(Tour Guiding Skills & Train the Trainer), Certified UNWTO Destination Manager, and Tourism Digital Marketer, holding a PhD in Media & Theatre Arts Management.



Onah,

Sir Gabe PhD

With a rich background in tourism and cultural initiatives, Dr Onah served as the Pioneer Tourism Advisor for the Cross River State Tourism Initiative from 2001 to 2012. He is seasoned consultant in Tourism and Visual Culture, Carnival Arts, policy formulation and intergovernmental liaison who currently serves as Chairman, of Cross River State Carnival Commission, overseeing the organization of Africa's Biggest Street Party, the International Carnival Calabar, and festivals since 2005.

It is upon Dr Onah's efforts that Carnival Calabar has been recognized by a 2021 CNN survey on the official global list as one of the five largest carnivals organized by The Most Influential People of African Descent Worldwide (MIPAD) alongside Rio Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Nottingham and Toronto carnivals.

In addition to his advisory roles, Dr Onah's expertise extends to

life coaching where he guides individuals towards personal and professional growth. He has extensively researched the creative economy as a strategy for job creation and economic development, contributing significantly to the field.

Listed in the Contemporary Who is Who in Cross River State 2019, some of his seminal and published works include among others:

1) Repackaging the Ikom Monoliths for Tourism- Gabe Onah, 2012. 2) Beyond Carnival Calabar & Festivals – Harnessing the Lucrative Opportunities in Creative Economy 2015. 3) WORLDWIDE & TOURISM HOSPITALITY THEMES (The Role of Government in Driving Human Capital Development

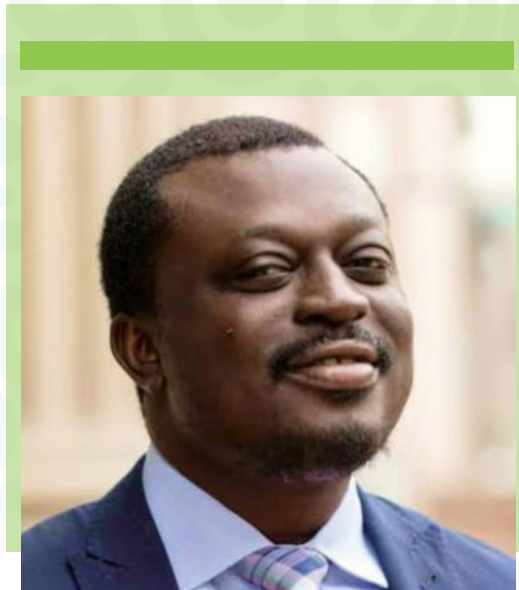
in the Tourism Industry in Nigeria) Belinda Nwosu & Gabe Onah Vol. 8 nos. 2, 2016. 4) Carnival Calabar management for growth and sustainability: Implications for cultural Diplomacy, MA Thesis 2017. 5) How Carnival Calabar is shaping the Tourism Economy, Gabe Onah- Tedx Calabar Talk, 2018. 6) Carnival Calabar- A Chronicle of Themes, 15 years and counting... General Editor, 2019 7. Carnival Calabar as a Strategy for Economic Dev of CRS (PhD Thesis 2023) 8. Towards the Effective Resuscitation and Privatization of Tinapa Film Studio for Economic Sustainability in Cross River State Nigeria (Adora Charles & Onah Gabe 2024) 9. Developing a Tourism Model for Africa: Lessons from CRS (in view)

His excellent service delivery qualities can be seen in the manner with which he drove the Miss World Event 2002 as Cross River State Desk Officer, the development and formulation of the soar away Cross River State frameworks for the 32-day Calabar Festival and Cultural Carnival as a vehicle for Tourism Development and Job Creation.



Oni
Dr. Julius

Dr. Julius Oni an Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and formerly worked at John Hopkins University in the United States of America. He moved to Nigeria in 2024 after spending 25 years in America. Dr. Oni is “a man full of conviction and believes that Nigerian patients deserve great care too.” His organization, DOC Medical Nigeria, offers “high-quality musculoskeletal care to the population, providing access to care so that people do not have to travel to access high-quality orthopedic surgery care.” His commitment to excellent healthcare delivery has richly transformed the country’s healthcare sector.



Onigbinde,
Oluseun

Oluseun Onigbinde is the co-founder and Director of BudgIT. BudgIT is Nigeria's leading fiscal transparency group that uses creative design and technology to improve access to public budgets and related fiscal data. Oluseun Onigbinde is a recipient of the Ashoka Fellowship, Future Africa Awards, Quartz Africa 30 Innovators Award, Aspen New Voices Fellowship, Archbishop Tutu Fellowship, Melvin Jones Fellowship and Stanford Draper Hill Summer Fellowship. As a Knight Innovation Fellow, he worked with

the International Center for Journalists/Gates Foundation on rethinking health journalism in Nigeria. He also sits on ONE Africa Policy Advisory Board and was named as one of the 100 most influential Africans by The Africa Report Magazine. Oluseun Onigbinde has made presentation at Chatham House, Open Government Partnerships Meetings, Covenant Christian Center and so on. He is a member of the Open Government Partnership Global Steering Committee.

Oluseun Onigbinde,

a pioneer Obama Foundation Scholar at Columbia University, is a graduate of Engineering at University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. He also had Executive Education at Stanford University Graduate School of Business on Social Entrepreneurship.

Courtesy:
opengovpartnership.org



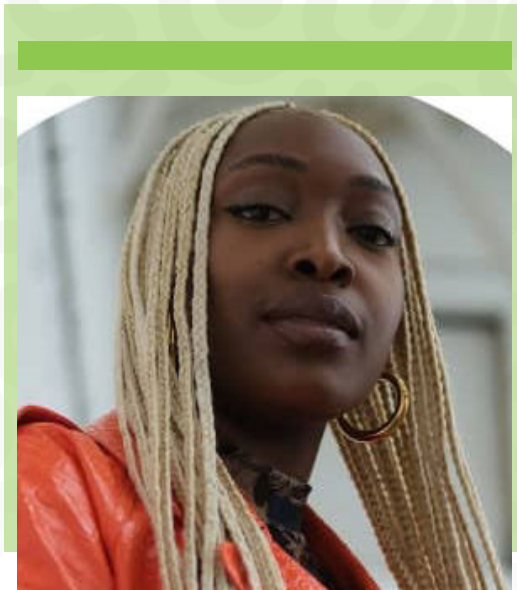
Onyemelukwe,
Cheluchi

Prof. Cheluchi Onyemelukwe is a lawyer and an international consultant with expertise in migration law and policy and international human rights law. She is a Professor of Law at Babcock University, Nigeria, and founder of the non-profit, Centre for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD). A leading migration and human rights expert, she has been involved in the development of national policies on migration in Nigeria such as the Action Plan for Nigeria's Migration Policy, National Diaspora Policy, etc. She has supported the development of human rights and survivor-centred approaches across various work in the migration space, including in irregular migration and forced migration. She has worked to build the capacities of actors in migration including prosecutors, law enforcement, judges and other criminal justice sector operators as

well as border management officials. She has also led the identification of current human rights gaps in migration management, and victims-centred approaches training for civil society organisations providing support to victims of trafficking (VOTs), addressed the intersections of migration, health, climate change, gender-based violence and impacts on migrants' rights, and facilitated high level workshops on migration, amongst other work. She regularly works on migration governance and international human rights matters for international organisations, including the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), GIZ, etc.

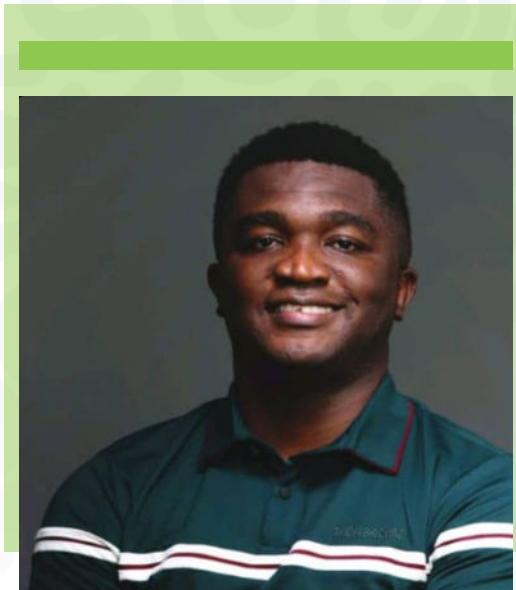
She leads CHELD's activities as a think-tank working at the

intersections of migration, human rights, gender and health. Most recently, CHELD has supported the African Union Commission on building capacities of Member States on improving universal health coverage of migrants and supporting understanding of the intersections between migration and health. It is currently working with IOM to support service providers in the delivery of human rights based and survivor-centred support to victims of trafficking in Nigeria. It also provides support for internally displaced persons in Nigeria. She holds a doctorate degree in law from Dalhousie University, Canada. She has a First Class degree in law from the University of Nigeria. She is the recipient of several awards, scholarships and fellowships. Credit: International Organization for Migration.



Oshin.
Peju

After Pájú Oshin left the London Metropolitan University with a bachelor's in Interior Design and Technology after first studying Architecture at the University of Kent, she tried working in interior design. She didn't love it, so when an opportunity came to work at a specialist museum, she grabbed it with both hands. Years later, she became an Associate Lecturer at Central Saint Martins, University of The Arts London and Assistant Curator at Tate within months of each other and later published her book, *Between Words & Space*. In 2022, she was named associate director at the Gagosian, one of the biggest art galleries in the world. The seasoned curator behind the revolutionary exhibition *Rites of Passage* has become one of the most influential voices in contemporary art. She has worked with everyone from Tunji Adeniyi-Jones, Àsìkò, Victor Ehikhamenor, Yinka Shonibare to Nengi Omuku. Courtesy: Zikoko.



Oluwole,
Micheal

Michael Oluwole is the innovative co-founder of Touch and Pay Technologies Limited. He has a demonstrated history of working in the financial information technology and services industry. He is skilled in project management, strategic planning, and business development and analysis. He is a sales professional with a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Obafemi Awolowo University. Formerly the Director of Strategy and Operations at Sanwo Touch2Pay Technology Services, Michael Oluwole previously worked as a Project Manager at TeQSavy and as an Enterprise Architect at FuelTech.



Olufadeji,
Dr. Ayobami

Dr. Ayobami Olufadeji's story is a testament to what dreams, belief, and tenacity can achieve. He arrived in the United States of America as a 16-year-old boy in August of 2007. After a 12-year-academic journey, he qualified as a medical doctor despite the daunting odds he initially faced. Ayobami Olufadeji grew up in Agege, Lagos State and attended Jephthah Comprehensive Secondary School, Port Harcourt, Rivers State. He studied Medicine and Surgery at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, a Harvard Affiliated Emergency Medicine Residency Program. He is also backed by an MBA degree. Dr. Ayobami Olufadeji is passionate about seeing remarkable changes in the country's healthcare system, particularly in emergency medical practices. He is a co-founder of Digital Health Nigeria, an innovative idea that supports the country's health technology ecosystem.

Mr. Olanipekun Olukoyede is the fifth Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. He was confirmed by the Nigerian Senate on October 18, 2023. He took over from Mr. Abdulkarim Chukkol who served as Acting Chairman of the Commission following the suspension of Abdulrasheed Bawa on June 14, 2023. Before Olukoyede's appointment, he had previously served as Chief of Staff to a former Acting Executive Chairman, Mr. Ibrahim Magu and was confirmed as Secretary to the Commission on November 28, 2018. A legal practitioner and Certified Fraud Examiner, (CFE), Olukoyede is a regulatory compliance consultant with specialty in compliance management, corporate intelligence and fraud management. He has considerable insight and experience in the investigation and civil litigation of fraud and financial crimes. The EFCC Chairman is also a consultant on manpower development. He has undertaken several anti-corruption surveys and reviews for a number of



Olukoyede
Olanipekun

law enforcement agencies, government institutions and corporate organizations both locally and internationally. His forte also include anti-corruption research and analysis, corporate and business intelligence.

Olukoyede is an urbane attorney who honed his skills in some of the best institutions locally and abroad. He had his education at Lagos State University; University of Lagos; Institute of Arbitration ICC – Paris, France and Harvard's Kennedy School (Executive Education). He also attended the Public Corruption Management programme at the prestigious University of Oxford. In the course of his career, the new EFCC Chair has had the privilege to

participate in very important national and international committees, including membership of the Fraud Advisory Panel (UK) and the Federal Government Technical Committee on the Repositioning of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, NFIU.

A prolific scholar, his publications include Anti-corruption and Fraud Systems Study and Review in Organizations; Nigerian Banking and Insurance

Law Reports; Corporate Law Review; Contract and Procurement Fraud Analysis, 2007; Fraud Risk Analysis & Management; Corporate Fraud Investigation Management; Employment & Employee's Fraud and Managing Fraud Investigation. Olukoyede is a member of several professional associations locally and internationally. He is Member, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners – USA; Member, Fraud Advisory Panel – UK; Member, Nigerian Bar Association; Member, Fraud Awareness Working Group and Member, Society of Corporate Compliance & Ethics – USA. He was born in Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, on October 14, 1969. Credit:efcc.gov.ng.



Orogbu.
Hon. Lilian Obiageli

Hon. Lilian Obiageli Orogbu (Anambra Reps: Awka North/Awka South, LP). Orogbu is an academic and a professor of Business Administration at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka. She has a Doctorate degree in Business Administration and Management from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. In 2022, Orogbu was named to be the running mate to the governorship candidate of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) Chukwuma Umeoji, in the Anambra state gubernatorial election.



Oyinlola
Oluwatobi

Cambridge, Massachusetts – On April 27, 2025, Oluwatobi Oyinlola, a Nigerian tech genius and researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), made history by unveiling the world's smallest GPS tracking device prototype. Measuring an astonishing 22.93 mm x 11.92 mm—smaller than a standard SIM card—the device earned Oyinlola a prestigious Guinness World Record, spotlighting his groundbreaking contribution to global technology.

The prototype, developed in Cambridge, showcases the potential to revolutionize industries, from wildlife monitoring to medical applications, due to its compact size. Oyinlola's innovation has sparked widespread celebration, with social media platforms like X buzzing with praise for his achievement. "This is the kind of innovation we should celebrate on the continent," wrote user @Timeless414, echoing sentiments of national pride.

Oyinlola's success underscores the rising influence of Nigerian innovators on the global stage, despite challenges like limited local resources. Tech hubs in Nigeria, continue to nurture talents like Oyinlola, positioning the country as a growing force in tech innovation. His story is an inspiration for aspiring African inventors aiming to make a global impact.

Courtesy: Njenje Media



Popoola,
Dotun

DOTUN POPOOLA is a synergetic metal sculptor who has carved a niche for himself with his monumental metal sculptures, he rose from a state hopelessness to becoming a dealer in hope; giving himself to service of humanity through his artistic practice and community services. He is passionate about touching lives through his artistic and leadership skills; turning trash to treasures, rubbish to rubies and waste to wealth.

Dotun Popoola was featured in 2018 at the West Africa International Art Fair “ARTX Lagos” he recently represented Nigeria at the maiden scrap art exhibition in Souq Waqif Qatar 2019 and Global Art Festival in Gujarat India 2020 and Coexistence in Tukey 2021. His hybrid sculpture took center stage in the Nigerian pavilion at the recent Expo2020 Dubai, leaving world leaders speechless. Credit: dotunpopo.com

In the dynamic landscape of Nigerian academia, a few figures have etched their legacy as profoundly as Engr. Prof. Akpofure Rim-Rukeh. From his humble beginnings in Ovu Inland, Delta State, to steering the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun (FUPRE) to international acclaim, Prof. Rim-Rukeh's journey epitomizes dedication, innovation, and transformative leadership.

Prof. Rim-Rukeh's academic odyssey commenced with a B.Sc. in Biochemistry from the University of Port Harcourt in 1986. His quest for knowledge led him to acquire a Postgraduate Diploma in Chemical Engineering from the University of Benin in 1993, followed by an M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Port Harcourt in 1998. Recognizing the importance of pedagogy, he obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Education from Delta State University, Abraka, in 2004, culminating in a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Rivers State University of Science and Technology in 2008. Appointed as the fourth substantive Vice Chancellor of FUPRE in 2020, Prof. Rim-Rukeh embarked on a mission to redefine the institution's trajectory. His tenure is marked by:

Strategic Vision: Implementation of a comprehensive five-year strategic action plan focusing on academic excellence, infrastructural development, and global partnerships.

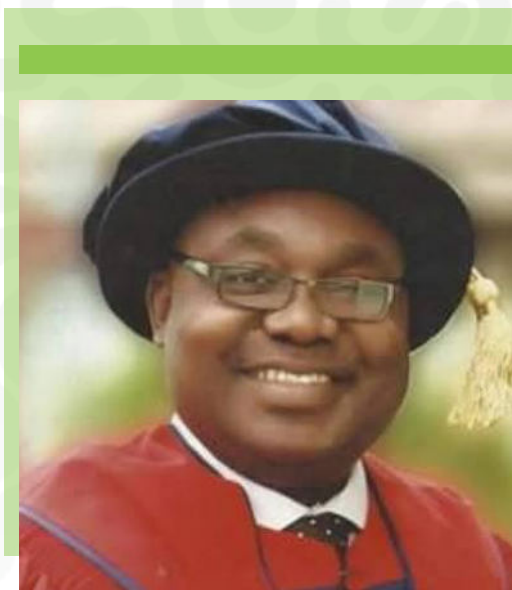
Academic Expansion: Introduction of new faculties and departments, including

Petrochemical Engineering, Computer Engineering, and programs in Health, Environment, Safety, Petroleum Economics, Industrial Fishing, and Security, aligning the curriculum with industry demands.

Research and Innovation: Under his stewardship, FUPRE has become a hub for research, particularly in energy and environmental sectors. The university has secured patents for technological innovations and established state-of-the-art laboratories.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP): Leveraging the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model, Prof. Rim-Rukeh attracted private investments to enhance infrastructural facilities, including hostels, academic buildings, and a world-class business school.

Prof. Rim-Rukeh's visionary



Rim-Rukeh
Akpofure

leadership has garnered accolades, notably:

Best Vice Chancellor of the Year: Honored by Time Africa for his exceptional leadership in transforming higher education and advancing FUPRE's mission.

Episcopal Award: Recognized by the Anglican Communion for his relentless service to humanity and contributions to societal growth.

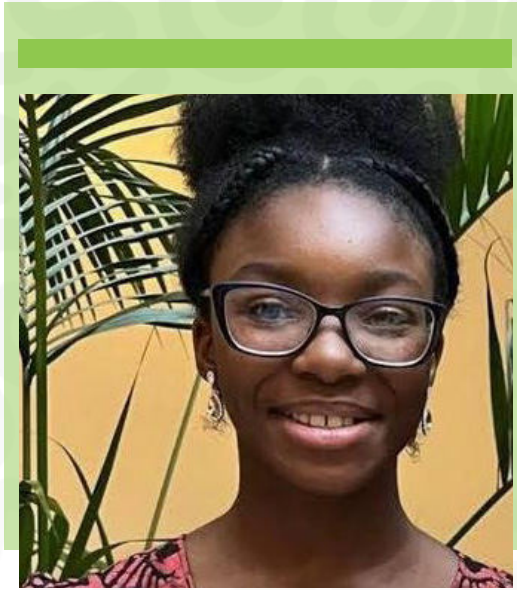
His efforts have positioned FUPRE as a global institution, fostering collaborations with international universities and aligning research initiatives with global energy trends. Beyond academia, Prof. Rim-Rukeh is deeply rooted in community development:

Ovu Foundations: As President, he champions educational empowerment for primary school children, organizing reading competitions and providing scholarships.

Infrastructure Development: He has facilitated the reconstruction of school blocks, provision of uniforms, and distribution of educational materials in his hometown.

Peacebuilding Initiatives: Addressing initial frictions between FUPRE and host communities, he appointed a Community Liaison Officer, fostering harmony and mutual respect.

Courtesy: Vanguard newspaper



Shokunbi,
Eniola

Eniola Shokunbi is dedicated to improving indoor air quality in classrooms and homes, promoting the use of simple Corsi-Rosenthal air filters. She is committed to protecting children and schools from poor indoor air quality. The Connecticut-based young Nigerian “played a pivotal role in securing an \$11.5 million grant to fund the construction and installation of DIY air filters in schools throughout Connecticut.” A young woman of passion and talent, Eniola Shokunbi aims to expand her “efforts to ensure that every classroom nationwide and around the world benefits from cleaner air.” She has also partnered with scientists at the University of Connecticut to launch filter installations across the state of Connecticut.



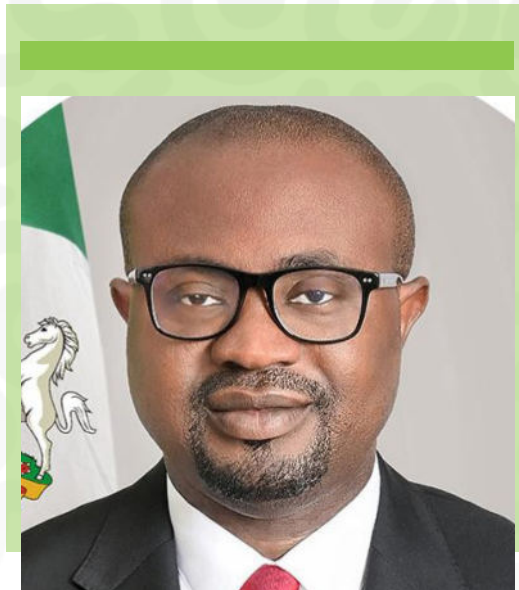
Tijani
Bosun

Bosun Tijani is the Minister of Communications, Innovation, and Digital Economy. He is regarded by many observers as one of star ministers of the current administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu. Notably, he spearheaded Nigeria's National Digital Strategy, a policy that leverages the many advantages of the digital economy for transformative growth in the economy. A consummate tech and digital professional, Bosun Tijani initiated the Digital Innovation Fund,

supporting innovators and digital startups in the country. A public profile at his LinkedIn page stresses that Bosun Tijani is "currently leading the process of re-imagining Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Communications, Innovation & Digital Economy as the public sector ecosystem that enables Nigeria's economic growth enhanced productivity, facilitated by technological innovation."

Backed by a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of Jos and a Computer

Science Diploma from the University of Lagos, Bosun Tijani holds an MSc in Information Systems and Management from the University of Warwick. Born on July 20, 1977, Bosun Tijani is the Co-founder of CcHUB, Africa's foremost technology innovation center with offices in Nigeria, Rwanda, and Kenya. Bosun holds a Ph.D. in Innovation & Economic Development from the University of Leicester.



Tunji-Ojo,
Hon. (Dr.) Olubunmi

He is the man with the golden touch. Within two years on the saddle of the Internal Affairs Ministry, he has led massive transformation never heard in the nation's history. Among the many accomplishments of this transformational leader are: totally digitising passport acquisition to the point where you get your passport delivered to you in the comfort of your home, commissioning new firefighting trucks, which significantly improved the quality of the work of the Federal Fire Service, leading to considerably shorter response time; decongesting the nation's correctional centres, among others. Helped by his IT background, the minister initiated a system for the harmonization of the

country's identity data. He actively coordinated with international communities and multinational companies to enhance internal security. He has inspired an ongoing review of the country's visa policy. Hon. (Dr) Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo is a distinguished business management and consulting executive with over seventeen years of remarkable experience in both the public and private sectors, specializing in project and strategic management. With a thriving consultancy career, he became the Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria's leading indigenous consulting firm, Matrix IT Solutions Limited, at the remarkably young age of 24. Dr. Tunji-Ojo's expertise encompasses diverse sectors of the economy, prominently including Oil and

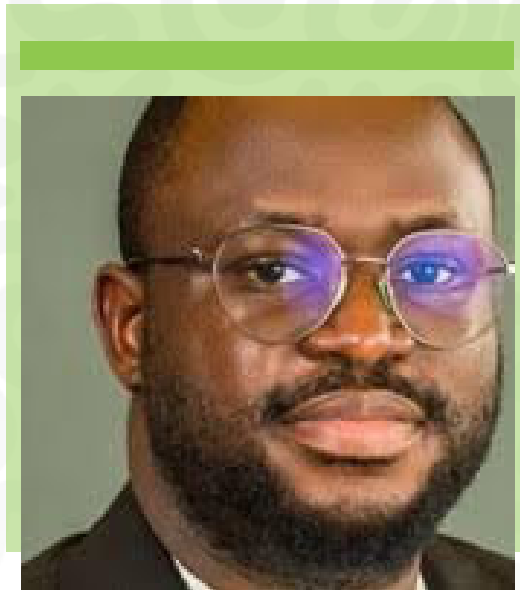
Gas, Information Technology, Agriculture, Research, Finance, Management Consultancy, and Manufacturing industries. His exceptional knowledge extends to policy-making and development, further enhancing his impact and influence in shaping critical sectors. Educationally, Dr. Tunji-Ojo pursued academic excellence at renowned institutions. He embarked on his journey at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, where he studied Electrical and Electronics Engineering.



Ugochinyere,
Hon. Ikenga Imo

A foremost lawmaker in the country, Honorable Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere is the Chairman House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream). He represents Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency of Imo State. He has been praised for his innovative contributions to legislative politics in the country. Notably, at the end of the 2023 legislative activities, Order Paper ranked his July 19, 2023 motion, “Arbitrary Increase in Petroleum Price” as the highest human interest motion of the 10th House of Representatives. Ugochinyere is renowned for his people-centered

motions in the House and he has carved a place for himself in the hearts of his constituents. Notably, the lawmaker has sponsored over 11 important bills since he assumed representation for Ideato North/Ideato South Federal Constituency. A former president of the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Ugochinyere was born on August 3, 1982 and is a former Special Assistant to Bukola Saraki, the former Senate President. A Lawyer, Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere is an alumnus of Imo State University.



Ukanwoke,
Gossy

Gossy Ukanwoke is the founder of Beni American University, the first digital university of Nigeria. An education-driven entrepreneur, he founded an online forum named as Students Circle Network which has wide database of academic resources, allowing interaction over educational resources for young learners. “Education is about teaching people how to make a living, and teaching people how to live; how to interact with others, how to lead their lives and make something out of themselves. With education

comes discipline and we need a lot of discipline in Nigeria as well.” Ukanwoke has further worked with African governments on strategic developments to assist in creating better access, quality and relevance of learning in higher education institutions.

Courtesy: peoplehum.com

Mrs. Olubukola A. Verheijen is currently the Special Adviser to the President of Nigeria on Energy. In this cabinet level role, she formulates and coordinates investment enabling policies across her portfolio which covers oil, gas and power. Prior to this role, Ms. Verheijen was the founding Managing Director of Latimer Energy, an advisory firm specializing in business strategy, market development, and commercial negotiations for capital projects and investments in the energy sector. Ms. Verheijen was also a Partner and Chair of the Investment Committee at Persistent, a climate-focused investment firm, where she invested in and managed a pan-African portfolio of distributed renewables companies. Ms. Verheijen previously held various commercial, finance, and governance roles at Shell, where she negotiated transactions valued at over \$5 billion and advised on government policies to attract investment to the gas sector and enhance liquidity in the power sector. Ms. Verheijen is a member of Advisory Board of Energy for Growth, a Washington D.C. based organization focused on research and advocacy to end energy poverty in Africa. She also serves on the Advisory Council of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a US agency that has invested over \$14 billion in developing

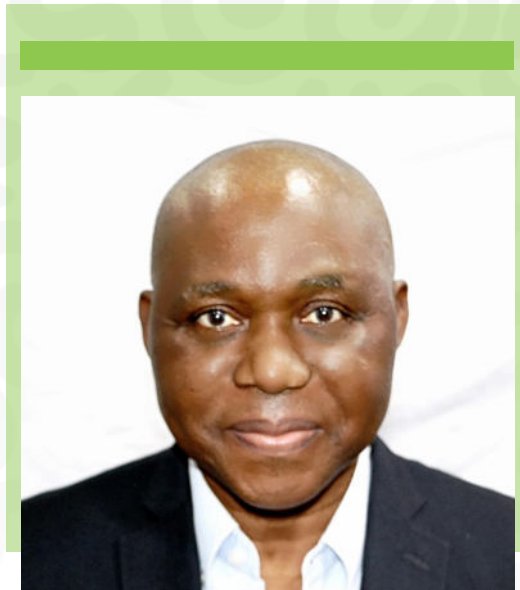


Verheijen
Mrs. Olubukola A.

countries worldwide. Ms. Verheijen is a member of Advisory Board of Energy for Growth, a Washington D.C. based organization focused on research and advocacy to end energy poverty in Africa. She also serves on the Advisory Council of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a US agency that has invested over \$14 billion in developing countries worldwide.

With over 20 years of general management, investment and public policy experience in the oil, gas, and renewables sectors across Sub-Saharan Africa, Ms. Verheijen writes and speaks on issues relating to the intersection of energy and economic growth on the continent. She is also the Founder of BFA Foundation,

which funds scholarships for women and other disadvantaged groups to expand their career advancement opportunities in high-growth sectors, including the energy sector. Ms. Verheijen has a BA (Magna Cum Laude) from Long Island University and Master's degree in Public Policy from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. She worked on and achieved in the Office of the Special Adviser to the President on Energy (OSEA), across oil, gas and power, in 2024:—Clarified and affirmed our Strategic Direction, in alignment with the Renewed Hope Agenda, —Five landmark Presidential Directives and Incentives issued by President Tinubu, —Nigeria regained the top spot in upstream oil and gas investment in Africa in 2024, —Five strategic oil and gas asset acquisitions approved in 2024, —In power, she was in the team that launched, among other interventions, the new Presidential Metering Initiative (PMI) with the goal of working with all industry stakeholders across public and private sectors to improve the availability, affordability and reliability of on-grid power,. Her inputs were vital to the US\$ 6.7 billion in total investment recorded in 2024 (\$5.5 billion in oil and gas FIDs; \$400m in Federation investment in Presidential Metering Initiative, and \$700m in investment prospects across clean mobility and clean cooking.



Wada,

Dr. Ibrahim OON, FRCOG, FWACS

Dr. Wada is the CEO of Nisa Medical Group. He was born in Ayangba, Nigeria and is a renowned Gynecologist and fertility expert who has transformed healthcare delivery in Nigeria over a career spanning four decades. After completing his MBBS at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in 1980, he gained further medical training in the UK, passing the MRCOG exams and becoming a Clinical Fellow in Assisted Conception in Manchester. He became a Consultant Gynaecologist at the prestigious Bourn Hall Clinic, Cambridge (1992 – 1994). Upon his return to Nigeria in 1994, Dr. Wada pioneered the first government-verified In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) live birth in Abuja (Baby Hanatu). He has also overseen more than 5,000 IVF births in Nigeria,

offering hope to families facing infertility challenges. In the public sector, Dr. Wada led the team responsible for Nigeria's first IVF birth at the National Hospital, Abuja and has supported the development of IVF centres in Port Harcourt, Bauchi, and Maiduguri – Nigeria. In 2018, Dr. Wada led the team that achieved Nigeria's first sickle cell-free birth using preimplantation genetic testing (PGT) - a first for West Africa. More than 100 carrier couples have benefited from this life-changing technology. Beyond fertility care, Dr. Wada has made remarkable strides in hospital management, steering the successful public-private partnership (PPP) that has transformed Garki Hospital Abuja into a model

healthcare facility. Under his guidance, Nisa Premier and Garki Hospitals have become leading centres for Residency Training Programs, producing more than 60 specialists in various fields. This has been extended to the establishment of the first certified IVF training for gynaecologists, ensuring the next generation of specialists can continue to advance reproductive healthcare in West Africa. Committed to community health, Dr. Wada has championed regular outreach programs providing

free medical care to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and victims of other disasters. Through the Baby Hanatu Foundation, his team also offers free healthcare services to the childless and indigent.



Wike
Nyseom

Nyesom Wike is the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and previously served as the governor of Rivers State from 2015 to 2023. His other notable public roles include serving as Chairman of Obio-Akpor Local Government in Rivers from 1999-2007 and serving as the Minister State for Education from 2011-2014. Under his watch, as Minister of the FCT, Nyesom Wike has initiated developmental changes in the nation's capital. Notably, he has emphasized the need to stick to the city's master plan in the construction of projects. Commendably, he has seen to the completion of the Abuja-Keffi Expressway and the Inner Southern Expressway. His other projects are the Outer Southern Expressway, public transport systems in the FCT, and a number

of healthcare infrastructures. Wike has also commenced the rehabilitation of the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway. His tenure as minister has been marked by mixed reactions from critics and admirers, nonetheless Nyesom Wike is still regarded by several observers as one of President's Bola Tinubu's star ministers. Born on December 13, 1964, Nyesom Wike holds an LL.B from Rivers State University of Science and Technology. He also has a Master's degree in Political and Administrative Studies from the same institution and is a recipient of the prestigious national honor of Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON).



Yakubu,
Balaraba Ramat

Balaraba Ramat Yakubu (born 1959) is the first female Hausa-language Nigerian author to have her works translated into English. She stands as a formidable and pioneering figure in the genre of littattafan soyayya, popularly known as romance (love) literature.

Her writing career has not been easy. After she published her first novel in 1987, religious leaders would preach against her, and she would receive threatening letters denouncing her and her children. However, as of 2016, she had written and published nine (9) novels.

Her stories, steeped in social realism, confront issues such as forced marriage and the fight for women's education, earning her a revered place in Northern Nigeria's literary landscape.

Yakubu is among the very few Hausa-language writers whose works have crossed linguistic borders through English translation. Beyond the written word, she has also made her mark in the Hausa-language film industry, Kannywood, as a screenwriter, producer, and director.

At the age of 12-13, Yakubu was withdrawn from school and forced into an early marriage to a man in his 40s, and writing in Hausa became both an act of accessibility and resistance, giving voice to the silenced

struggles of many Northern Nigerian women.

The only reason Yakubu attended primary school at all was because her mother had sent her there in secret. At the time, she was the only girl among her grandfather's 80 female grandchildren who went to primary school. When her father discovered it, his response was an arranged marriage.

She used this traumatic experience in her 1990 novel, "Wa Zai Auri Jahila? (Who Would Marry an Ignorant Woman?)," in which 13-year-old Abu gets pulled out of school to be married off to a big-bellied man more than three times her age.

Yakubu is also the younger sister of the late General Murtala Ramat Muhammed, Nigeria's Head of State from July 29, 1975, until his assassination on February 13, 1976.

In recognition of her influence, the Balaraba Ramat Yakubu Literature Prize for Hausa Drama, a literary prize, is named after her. An honour that cements her role in promoting indigenous language literature and inspiring a new generation of Hausa writers, especially women. Courtesy: HistoryVille

Umar Yakubu specializes in the areas of national security, the criminal justice system, organized crime and data science. During his tour of duty at Nigeria's Economic & Financial Crimes Commission between 2007 and 2017, he was directly involved in articulating and driving policy related to the legal and institutional frameworks of anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT). Again, he creditably served on the Presidential Committee on Financial Action Task Force (PCFATF), and on the technical committee that canvassed for solutions which addressed the FATF's strategic deficiencies. The work by this committee resulted in Nigeria being delisted as a country of high risk.



Yakubu,
Umar PhD

At the national level, he has been a member of the National Risk Assessment Secretariat on Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing. He is one of eight (8) members that developed the National Anti-Corruption Strategy for implementation by the Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation from 2017-2021.

At the international level, he has consulted and researched for the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering (GIABA), the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), and for the European Union (EU). At the 67th United Nations General Assembly, he worked on the Sixth Committee (Legal Committee) to assess Nigeria's implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) measures, and on several other global and regional Instruments to combat corruption.

Umar Yakubu is a continuous learner and has received training on policy and strategies aimed at reducing financial crimes by attending over fifty courses in Nigeria and abroad. Some of these include, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), Nigeria; Nigeria Police Staff College, Nigeria; Royal Canadian Metropolitan Police (RCMP), Canada; Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), United States; United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC); and

Umar obtained degrees and certificates from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria; Nasarawa State University, Keffi; University of Chester, University of Leicester, and the University of Portsmouth, all in the UK; the University of Leiden in the Netherlands; and from the SDG Academy & Harvard Business School in the US. He successfully bagged a Ph.D. in Defence & Security Studies from the Nigerian Defence Academy, Nigeria.

He is a member of the Nigerian Economic Society (NES), Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM), Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS), Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) and Centre for Counter Fraud Studies (CCFS), UK. He has served on the Board of the United Nations Convention against Corruption Coalition.

His primary interests include the promotion of national security and advocating for good governance and social justice. He also has a keen interest in global economics, philosophy, innovation and a wide range of sports.

Umar Yakubu is an ardent reader, and he regularly writes opinion articles and commentaries in major newspapers in Nigeria, especially on good governance practices. He is currently penning down his thoughts in a forthcoming book titled "Public Sector Corruption in Nigeria: Causes, Consequences and Reform."

He is the CEO of Counter Fraud Center LLC, a due diligence company (www.counterfraudcenter.org), CEO of Intelligensys & Strategies Ltd (www.intelligensys.org), a Data Science firm; and Founder and Executive Director of a civil society organization, the Center for Fiscal Transparency & Public Integrity (www.fiscaltransparency.org).

The Central Office for the fight against crime related to information and communications technology (OCLCTIC), French Police.

As a consummate resource person, he has presented many erudite papers and has conducted capacity development programmes for various institutional beneficiaries, including judicial officers, public servants, the organized private sector, non-organized private sector, student groups and civil society organizations. A bona fide civil society activist in his own right, he led the development of the pioneer civil society mechanism for monitoring the implementation of UNCAC Articles across several countries. He also developed the pioneer Transparency & Integrity Index in 2021 – a bold mechanism for the continual assessment of all federal, states and local government institutions' compliance with international and domestic laws, policies on Open Governance, Budget Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability; Human Resources; Public Procurement, Civil Engagement and Combatting Corruption. These tools are now available and are being used as veritable instruments for tracking, measuring and preventing corruption in the public sector.



Yeye
Dr. Olufemi FCA

Dr. Olufemi Yeye, FCA is an accomplished scholar. His remarkable career journey commenced at the National Universities Commission (NUC) on 16th October 1989 as a Clerical Officer, shortly after completing his secondary education. Dr. Yeye demonstrated an unwavering commitment to academic and professional growth, leveraging opportunities provided by the NUC's Staff Development Programme to attain significant milestones.

Dr. Yeye earned a B.Sc. in Accounting from the University of Jos in 1998, followed by an M.Sc. in Accounting from the University of Lagos in 2012, and a Ph.D. in Accountancy, specialising in Taxation from Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka in 2022. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) as well and an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), Dr. Yeye exemplifies professionalism,

scholarship, and leadership in his field. Meanwhile, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the development of Anchor University, Lagos, and his exemplary service in academia and governance, the institution will confer upon Dr. Olufemi Yeye the Prestigious Merit Award. Credit:independent.ng.

Governor Babagana Zulum of Borno State has faced governance with courage, selflessness, and commitment. Despite the security challenges faced in the state, Governor Babagana has continued to make giant strides in the affairs of the state. Notably, he recently initiated the construction of a new public water facility in Bama Local Government, a town hard-hit by the Boko Haram insurgency. Additionally, his administration has completed nine other water projects across different towns including Chibok, which has faced security challenges in the past. Other areas the governor has recently addressed include roads and public infrastructure, as well as the resettlement of internally displaced persons. He has also been praised for his approval of N8 billion for the settlement of outstanding pensions and gratuities owed state civil servants. An entry at bornostate.gov.ng notes: Babagana Umara Zulum combined farming with his primary school education in Mafa and Secondary School in Monguno from 1975 to 1980 and 1980 to 1985, respectively. After his secondary education, he recalled, he gained admission into Ramat Polytechnic in Maiduguri, owned by the state government, to study for National Diploma in Irrigation Engineering.



Zulum
Babagana

From there, he proceeded to the University of Maiduguri to Study Agricultural Engineering between 1990 and 1994. Afterwards, he proceeded to the University of Ibadan from 1997 to 1998 where he obtained a Masters' Degree in Soil and Water Engineering. He came back to University of Maiduguri where he started from to undertake a doctoral degree which was successfully completed in 2009 in Agric and Environmental Engineering. After obtaining a Master's Degree, he joined the University of Maiduguri in 1998 as an assistant lecturer. From 2005 to 2009, he obtained PhD in Soil and Water Engineering from University of Maiduguri, rising through the ranks, at some point Deputy Dean and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural

Engineering. Though he was appointed the Rector of Ramat Polytechnic in 2011 by Governor Shettima, he preferred to retain his job as a lecturer with the University as a result he continue teaching students in UNIMAID during his lecture hours.

As the Rector of Ramat Polytechnic, he is credited with expansions and erection of many capital infrastructure using internally-generated revenue and attracting interventions from federal agencies.

In 2015, Prof was appointed pioneer Commissioner for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement by Governor Shettima, who was quoted as saying "one of my attractions to Zulum was the fact that: despite being in control of billions of naira for reconstruction of thousands of homes, schools and hospitals, "[He] neither bought a personal house nor a personal car for himself. He also came under attack from Boko Haram twice, but that didn't stop him in his efforts to rebuild substantial parts of Borno." Zulum himself confirmed that his appointment as Commissioner for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement was one of his biggest challenges in life.

Courtesy: bornostate.gov.ng

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Profiles & Biographies

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