

NIGERIA Women ANNUAL 100 LEADING WOMEN 2026



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Preface

Although women make up half of the world's population, they are grossly underrepresented in nearly every sphere of decision making processes. This has created huge inequalities on all fronts. Women, being half of the world's population, are half of the heart and soul of the world. That's how crucial women are.

This project, by sharing the inspirational stories of women leaders, seeks to interrogate reasons for women's low representation in leadership positions when there is an avalanche of eminently qualified women all over. This project is a testament to the fact that the society has more than enough women to occupy different leadership positions whether in the political, economic, traditional frontiers, and even in the faith space. Nigerian women have constantly shown by their pedigree and in the successes they have recorded in the public office assignments both locally and globally that they have come of age to occupy any public office including the presidency of this country.

The question on our minds every year as we seek to document the inspirational stories of these women is would Nigeria women be able to change the society that has altered the social order against them? Can they change Nigeria for good? Can they change the world?

That is why we look for such shining lights across different horizons who have broken barriers of gender limitations to rise to the top.

Nigeria Women Annual: 100 Leading Women is rooted in the fact that Nigerian women have achieved much more than is credited to them. They dominate different spaces where they find themselves.

The International Women's Day provides an opportunity to reflect and celebrate iconic women leading in their spheres of influence.

Apart from being a compendium of inspirational stories, the book is designed to be a memento and so is the accompanying certificate of listing. They are keepsakes that trigger memories and help in preserving the legacy of accomplishments of listees.

Kammonke Abam & Chioma Oti

March, 2026

NIGERIA Women ANNUAL

100 LEADING
WOMEN
2026

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Abacha,

Hudayya Fadoul

Hudayya Fadoul Abacha is the visionary founder and CEO of Hudayya Couture Limited and Hudayya Bridal Emporium. Launching her first intimate fashion house in Abuja in 2012, she has transformed humble origins into a beacon of bespoke luxury, adorning the wardrobes of Nigeria's elite and now poised to captivate global audiences. With her non-conformist spirit, unyielding passion for innovation, and unwavering commitment to exquisite craftsmanship, Hudayya embodies empowering couture that fuses vibrant Nigerian heritage with timeless global elegance. Today, she ignites the next generation of fashion trailblazers through the Hudayya Academy of Fashion, inspiring a worldwide movement of cultural opulence and sustainable splendor.

Glory Abuking is a seasoned caterer and entrepreneur, and the CEO of Gloking Catering Services, a trusted catering and food services company known for delivering quality meals and professional service to both corporate and private clients.

Glory's journey into the world of food began long before it became a profession. As a child, she found herself drawn to the kitchen, watching her mother cook and learning quietly and naturally through observation. Those early moments planted a love for cooking that would later define her life.

Beyond formal training, Her culinary foundation was shaped by lived experience. Cooking and baking were already a natural part of her everyday life long before they became professional pursuits. She grew up in an environment where food preparation extended beyond regular meals to baking and snack production, as her parents owned a bakery and were actively involved in making baked goods and snacks. This early exposure meant that working with dough, cakes, and pastries came as instinctively to her as cooking full meals. Over time, these skills evolved naturally.

Interestingly, Glory's academic studied Public Administration but life had other plans. While living



Abuking, **Glory**

in Port Harcourt, Glory found herself catering daily to a large household. Preparing meals for many people, three times a day, soon became second nature. It was then that a thought began to take shape: if she could consistently feed a household of that size with care and excellence, perhaps cooking could become more than just a responsibility, it could become a calling.

That idea followed her when her family relocated from Port Harcourt to Abuja. In the stillness of prayer and reflection, she sought clarity on her next step. The answer came simply and firmly: if she had successfully cooked for people daily in Port Harcourt, she could transform that same dedication into a business. Abuja, with its growing opportunities, provided the perfect setting for that leap.

Committed to excellence, Glory invested deeply in developing her craft. She undertook several trainings, continually refining her skills and broadening her perspective. Over the years, her work has served high-profile and exclusive clients, as well as large-scale events including weddings, birthdays, seminars, and major church programs.

Her career has also included managing institutional catering services. She ran the canteen of the former Central Bank, the World Bank canteen and also the United Nations canteen for several years, a role that speaks to her consistency, discipline, and trusted expertise.

Life in the culinary world is demanding. The work requires complete dedication of mind, body, soul, and time. Only those within the field truly understand both the weight of the work and the love that sustains it.

For Glory, her most fulfilling moments are when food and service come together to create something transformative; when a meal becomes more than nourishment, and when clients leave with a deep sense of satisfaction. In those moments, she knows she has done more than cook; she has created an experience



Adebule,
Sen. Idiat Oluranti

Sen. Idiat Oluranti Adebule represents Lagos West, under the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), served as Lagos Deputy Governor from 2015 to 2019. Adebule, an educationist, holds a Doctorate degree from Lagos State University in Curriculum Studies. Early in her career, she had worked as a junior lecturer at the Michael Otedola College of Primary Education in Lagos and Lagos State University. She also served as a Commissioner in the Lagos State Post Primary Teaching Service Commission (PP-TESCOM), now Teachers' Establishment and Pensions Office. She was appointed and sworn in as Secretary to the State Government under former Governor Raji Fashola in July, 2011.



Ade-Abolade,
Mrs. Khadijah

Mrs. Khadijah Ade-Abolade is a Pharmacist and Fellow of the West African Postgraduate College of Pharmacists with over twenty years of experience working with the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) across the Enforcement, Medicines Registration, and Establishment Inspection functions of the Agency.

Mrs. Khadijah Ade-Abolade is a public health professional being a Consultant Public Health Pharmacist. She is a Lead Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) Inspector and has led numerous GMP Inspection Teams to assess GMP compliance of domestic and foreign facilities informing regulatory decisions on the facilities and the manufactured products.

She participated in the development of some NAFDAC

Regulations and Guidelines including the NAFDAC GMP Regulations and Guidelines, Clinical Trial Regulations and Good Clinical Practice Guidelines as well as ongoing review of these regulatory tools for continued adequacy. She is a Quality Management Systems (QMS) Implementation expert and a member of the NAFDAC Quality Management System Steering Committee being a certified Lead Auditor and Lead Implementer for Quality Management Systems as well as a certified Risk Management Professional.

Khadijah Ade-Abolade is the focal person for NAFDAC in the ongoing efforts in preparation for effective regulation of locally manufactured vaccines in

Nigeria. She is a member of the National Technical Working Group for Local Vaccine Manufacturing and lead of the Regulatory Sub-Team in the TWG. She has represented the Agency at several local and international meetings

and trainings geared towards preparedness for sustainable local vaccine manufacturing in Nigeria. She also represents the Agency on the International Council for Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH) Q1/Q5C Expert Working Group.

She is the pioneer Director of the recently created Vaccines, Biologics & Medical Devices Registration & Regulatory Affairs Directorate of NAFDAC.



Aimuan,
Prof. Ruth

Prof. Ruth Aimuan stands as a formidable and leading voice in Nigeria's educational landscape. With over 28 years of experience as the founder of Grace Garden International School and College, she has dedicated her career to shaping young minds and championing quality education. Her life's work is driven by a profound passion to equip the younger generation with skills that create tangible career opportunities.

In 2021, alongside her husband, Barr. Collins Aimuan, she transformed this vision on a grander scale by co-founding Philomath University, Abuja. Now one of Nigeria's fastest-growing universities, it represents their shared

commitment to accessible, career-advancing higher education.

Her advocacy, however, extends beyond the classroom. Understanding that a child's future is built on a foundation of well-being, Ruth founded the NGO Happy Feet Child Care Initiative in 2022. The organization focuses on child welfare and empowering women with essential maternal, newborn, and child health information.

Ruth's expertise is rooted in a robust academic background, holding a BA (Ed) in English, an MSc in Management, and currently pursuing a PhD in Public Governance and Leadership.

As an Educational Consultant and a Board Member of Philomath University, she provides strategic direction in administration and planning. A lifelong learner with hobbies in traveling, reading, and singing, Ruth Aimuan continues to be a passionate force for educational and societal development in Africa.



Akpabio,
Usoro

Usoro Offiong Akpabio is the Managing Director, South-South Development Commission (SSDC). She is a public administrator, energy executive, and humanitarian leader with a proven track record in corporate leadership, regional development, and strategic governance.

She pursued her early and secondary education in Uyo, where she excelled academically and later earned a degree in Political Science, followed by executive certifications in Public Policy and Energy Strategy from leading institutions in Nigeria and the UK. Her academic excellence and early leadership roles prepared her for a future in governance and strategic

administration.

Usoro began her professional journey in the energy sector, where she held senior roles at Century Energy and Taleveras Group. Over the span of 18+ years, she developed a strong reputation for effective stakeholder engagement, corporate policy formulation, and leadership in high-impact projects across West Africa.

Her leadership of the SSDC signals a new era of strategic planning and inclusive growth, as she works to foster synergy between federal initiatives, state governments, and local communities in the oil-rich region.

Beyond her executive portfolio, Usoro Akpabio is a vocal advocate for youth

empowerment, women in leadership, and sustainable development. She has championed initiatives to improve healthcare access, education, and entrepreneurship in rural and underserved areas.

Her contributions to nation-building have earned her multiple recognitions, including Fellowships with the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA) and the Council of Energy Executives (FCE).



Akintola,
Bolaji

Bolaji Akintola is the Executive Director, Medium and Emerging Taxpayers (M&ET)

Professional Profile:

Revenue administration and finance leader with 30+ years' experience and strong institutional depth

Prior Leadership Experience:

- * Coordinating Director, Corporate Services, FIRS
- * Former Director of Audit, Lagos State Internal Revenue Service,

Education & Professional Affiliations:

- * B.Sc. Mathematics, University of Lagos
- * Associate Member, Association

of National Accountants of Nigeria;

* Associate Member, Chartered Institute of Management Accountants;

* Fellow, Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria



Akinyemi-Obe,
Hon. Medinat Omobolanle

Hon. Medinat Omobolanle Akinyemi-Obe is the Director-General, National Senior Citizens Centre, Abuja.

She has pledged to lead a renaissance in the care and inclusion of Nigeria's senior citizens. She has also promised a future where Nigeria's elders are not only cared for but celebrated as vital contributors to the nation's ongoing story. She is also poised to initiate strategic reforms that will significantly improve the quality of life of elderly citizens across the country.

Hon. Akinyemi has distinguished herself as a passionate champion of aged people's welfare, consistently advocating for the dignity, care, and inclusion

of senior citizens through thoughtful policies and impactful initiatives, such as healthcare, social protection, and sustainable support systems, for senior citizens advocating for their wellbeing.

A trailblazer and virtuous leader, whose life is defined by selfless service, visionary leadership, and commitment to people's welfare, she is the former Executive Chairman of Coker-Aguda LCDA.



Akpedeye,
Ms. Nnoli

Nnoli is an Independent Non-Executive Director at Aradel Holdings PLC. Nnoli is an engineer and the CEO of Contego Servo Limited. She has over three decades of oil and gas experience. Like me, she is a founding member of the Women In Energy Network (WIEN).

Ms. Nnoli Akpedeye has over thirty-six years of experience in oil and gas, engineering, legal and arbitration services, and management consulting. She has gained both local and international exposure, developing expertise in management and strategy, business process engineering, organisational development and change, and entrepreneurship development.

Her skills also include executive coaching and mentoring, as well as fostering international partnerships.

Until 2014, Ms. Akpedeye served as Technical Planning Manager for Shell Exploration and Production Companies in Nigeria, where she was responsible for executing high-impact, mission-critical projects. Her career at Shell spanned civil engineering design, planning and construction, project management, facility management, technical audit, and business planning and strategy.

In addition to her professional work, Ms. Akpedeye runs Contego Servo Limited and Perfectus Laundi Limited.

In 2013, she launched the “Introduce a Girl to Engineering” program for secondary school girls in Nigeria, reflecting her passion for STEM education. She is a COREN-registered engineer, a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (FNSE), and a past President of the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN). Ms. Akpedeye is also a founding member of the Women in Energy Network (WIEN), serves as Chief Operating Officer of Compos Mentis Legal Practitioners, and is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Compos Mentis Foundation.



Akume,
Hon. Regina

Hon. Regina is a first-term Member of the House of Representatives in the 10th National Assembly, representing the Gboko/Tarka Federal Constituency of Benue State on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). Akume served in different political capacities at the grassroots level in the past. She is a woman leader in her constituency and across Benue State. She is the wife of George Akume, who was Benue State governor between 1999 and 2007 and is now the Secretary General of the Federation (SGF) in the current administration headed by Bola Tinubu.



Amangi-Edomo,
Mrs. Andabi Benita

Mrs. Andabi Benita Amangi-Edomo is the first female substantive Registrar of Federal University Otuoke. She holds a degree in Mathematics and Computer Science from the University of Port Harcourt, Choba, Rivers State. Her journey as a university administrator began with her employment as an Administrative Assistant at Niger Delta University, before transitioning to the Federal University Otuoke.

Prior to her appointment as Registrar, Mrs. Amangi-Edomo rose to the position of Deputy Registrar and had the distinction of serving as Special Assistant to two consecutive Vice-Chancellors. Her career is marked by dedicated and selfless

service in various capacities, earning her admiration and respect in the University community.

Mrs. Amangi-Edomo is a Fellow of the Institute of Policy Management Development (IPMD) and a member of both the Association of Nigerian Universities Professional Administrators (ANUPA) and the Chartered Institute of Administration (CIA). Her unwavering commitment to her profession serves as a model of excellence.

Courtesy: fuotoke.edu.ng



Agwuna,
Princess Adaobi

Princess Adaobi Agwuna is the founder and CEO of Imata Studios, a ready-to-wear and custom clothing brand that celebrates bold self-expression through vibrant colors, statement-making designs, and inclusive sizing.

Adaobi Agwuna's years in Asia inspired the brand's establishment, and it infuses rich cultural influences into its pieces, creating garments that are both striking and globally relevant. Sustainability is a core pillar, with a strong focus on upcycling and collaboration with local artisans.

Worn by global supermodel Alaato Jayzper (Chanel, Gucci, Fenty, Tom Ford, Valentino, Saint Laurent) and Nigerian actress/TV host Osas Ighodaro on

major stages. Accepted into the Fashionomics Africa Incubator Program 2024, a prestigious accelerator for emerging fashion entrepreneurs.

The fast-growing brand that has garnered attention for its commitment to inclusivity, promoting the hashtag #curvyconfidence to celebrate all body types. With celebrity endorsements, a strong brand identity, and a commitment to sustainability and inclusivity, Imata Studios is not just creating fashion—it's shaping a movement.



Ahmad,
Dr Suwaiba Said

Dr Suwaiba Said Ahmad, the Minister of State for Education, was born on February 13, 1981, in Jigawa State, Nigeria. She pursued her primary and secondary education at Bayero University Staff Primary and Secondary Schools.

After secondary school, Ahmad obtained a Bachelor of Science Education in Chemistry from Bayero University, Kano in 2003 and in 2009, Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Curriculum Studies from the same university.

She then proceeded to the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria where she bagged a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Science Education in 2014.

Dr. Ahmad has been a faculty member at Bayero University, Kano, since 2004, where she currently serves as an Associate Professor of Chemistry

Education. Dr. Ahmad also serves as the Provost of the Jigawa State College of Education, where she is responsible for overseeing the training of future educators and implementing policies to enhance teacher education.

With over 18 years of experience, Ahmed is a trained educationist, a gender advocate, and distinguished academic who has spent her career focusing on improving educational standards, particularly in the areas of girl-child education, science education, and curriculum development.

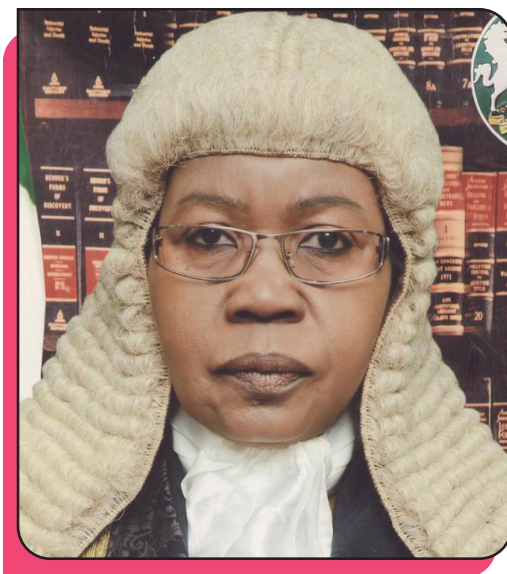
Dr. Suwaiba Said Ahmad is also an author, with several published works that contribute to the understanding of education in Nigeria.

Hon. Justice Uwani Musa Abba Aji's remarkable journey in the Nigerian judiciary is a testament to her dedication, competence, and trailblazing achievements as one of the foremost women in the nation's legal profession.

Her Lordship attended the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, earning a Diploma in Law in 1976 and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B Hons) degree in 1980. Her academic excellence culminated in her Call to the Nigerian Bar in 1981.

Hon. Justice Abba Aji's judicial career began as early as 1973, where she served in various capacities within the judiciary, including Clerical Assistant (Area Courts Division), Assistant Registrar, Acting Registrar, Higher Registrar (1973–1982). Following her Call to Bar in 1981, she commenced her professional legal career as State Counsel in 1982. From there, she steadily rose through the ranks, holding the following positions: Acting Senior State Counsel (1984); Senior Magistrate II (1986); Senior Magistrate I (1987); Chief Magistrate II (1989); Chief Magistrate I (1991); and Chief Registrar (November 1991). In December 1991, Hon. Justice Abba Aji was appointed a High Court Judge in the Yobe State Judiciary, making her the first female judge in the history of the state.

Her Lordship's commitment to justice and public service was evident in her roles as Secretary and later Chairman of the Magistrates Association of Nigeria



Aji,
**Hon. Justice Uwani Musa
 Abba**

(Borno State Branch). She also served as Senior Magistrate in charge of the Mobile Traffic Court in Borno State and chaired Judicial Commissions of Inquiry into notable disturbances, including those in Potiskum and Damaturu/Potiskum.

A deeply religious and civic-minded individual, Hon. Justice Abba Aji held leadership roles within the Federation of Muslim Women Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN), serving as Ameerah and National Legal Adviser. She was also President of the National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN), highlighting her dedication to advancing gender equity within the judiciary. Her exceptional service continued with her elevation to the Court of Appeal in July 2004, where she served with distinction across several divisions. As Chairperson of the Justices Welfare Committee at the Court

of Appeal and a designated ICPC Anti-Corruption Judge from 2001 to 2004, she demonstrated unwavering integrity. Her expertise was further recognized in her pivotal roles on Election Petition Tribunals, where she adjudicated complex electoral disputes with fairness. Before her elevation to the Supreme Court on January 8, 2019, she served as a Justice of the Court of Appeal in Benin and Abuja Division before she subsequently served as the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Ekiti, Owerri and Kaduna Division. In recognition of her outstanding service to the judiciary and national development, she was honoured with the prestigious National Honour of Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR) and became a Life Bencher in the Nigeria Body of Benchers in 2018.

Throughout her career, Hon. Justice Abba Aji has attended numerous seminars and conferences, presenting scholarly papers on legal and judicial reforms at both national and international workshops. Hon. Justice Abba Aji is happily married with three children. She enjoys reading, writing, gardening, and traveling, having visited nearly all continents of the world.

For Mrs. Lois Andrew (known as Lola Andy), the passion for culinary excellence was so strong that she had to quit a well-paying and secure civil service job for the business of helping others to build and equip their kitchens to taste.

She founded Deeutensils to provide high-quality kitchen utensils that meet global standards, transforming kitchens into modern, unique, and simple environments. In addition to its product offerings, the company provides training for private and government kitchen custodians on maintaining an ideal kitchen environment. The risk Lola Andy took is paying off because the company has experienced substantial growth over the past 13 years, expanding to five branches in Abuja, Nigeria. It is renowned for its luxurious kitchenware, maintaining strict quality control mechanisms in collaboration with international partners. Through Deeutensils, Lola Andy has demonstrated that world-class kitchen utensils can be obtained locally, establishing a strong presence in the luxury kitchenware market. Deeutensils is highly regarded by Nigerian celebrities and is celebrated as a leading luxury kitchen utensil provider in Nigeria. Deeutensils boasts of hundreds of thousands of followers globally, reflecting the brand's extensive impact and popularity. The company's success story highlights Lola Andy's commitment to quality and

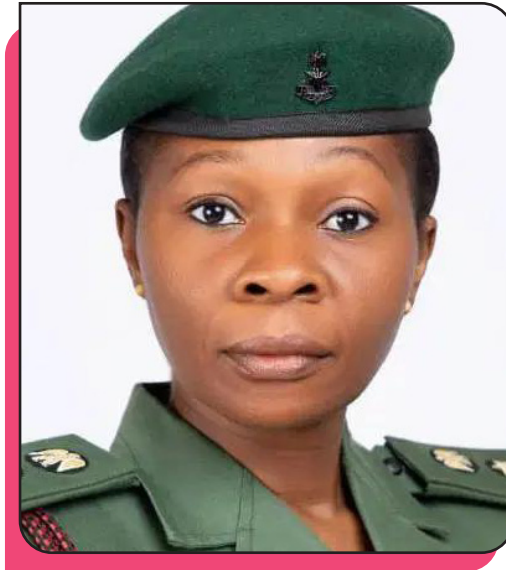


Andrew,
Mrs. Lois

customer satisfaction. Deeutensils is deeply involved in activities covering staff development and welfare, customer satisfaction, civic responsibilities and corporate social responsibility for different groups in the society. On December 21, 2024, Mrs. Lola Andy launched DEE SCENT GLOBAL as a proud subsidiary of DEE UTENSILS, which promises to embody the same exceptional standards and commitment to quality. The new outfit specializes in premium fragrances for homes, hotels, offices, cars, and restaurants, and will transform any space with captivating and luxurious scents. With a dedicated team of five professionals, DEE SCENT GLOBAL takes pride in offering products that enhance the ambiance of any environment. The new outfit doors are open daily, ensuring an unparalleled

experience for its valued customers. Born on 7th November 1982, Lola Andy has a strong educational background that has significantly influenced her business acumen. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, a Diploma in Computer Science, and a Diploma in French. These diverse educational qualifications have equipped her with the skills necessary for modern business management that meets international standards. Before venturing into entrepreneurship, Lola Andy spent over 11 years working with the Federal Ministry of Environment under the Forestry Research Institute of Nigeria. As an entrepreneur she has received numerous awards locally and internationally, recognizing her contributions to the kitchenware industry.

Mrs. Lola Andy has been selected as the Top 10 Magazine's Abuja Female Entrepreneur of the Year 2024 in recognition her numerous accomplishments, expanding the frontiers of her company, Deeutensils, as a leading game changer in the luxury kitchenware market in Nigeria. Courtesy: thetop10magazine.com.ng



Anele,

**Lieutenant Colonel (Mrs)
Onyechi Appolonia FSS anipr**

Lieutenant Colonel Onyechi Appolonia Anele is the Acting Director of the Directorate of Army Public Relations (Ag DAPR). She is a seasoned, versatile and highly accomplished public relations, crisis and strategic communication expert with a steadfast commitment to excellence, discipline and service. She is widely recognised for her exceptional leadership acumen, deep professional insight and strategic foresight in advancing military public communication.

A firm believer in hard work and dedication, she brings to her new role a wealth of experience cultivated through years of impactful service in diverse command, instructional and public engagement capacities within the Nigerian Army and international peacekeeping missions. Destined for greater heights in career and life, she was born to the family of late Warrant Officer Cyraicus Anele and Mrs Appolonia Anele (now late) and hails from Ehime-Mbano

Local Government Area of Imo State.

Appolonia attended the University of Jos where she obtained a Diploma and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mass Communication respectively. Upon her graduation, she attended the mandatory National Youth Service Corp and thereafter was commissioned Lieutenant into the Nigerian Army Directorate of Army Public Relations as a member of Direct Regular Course 15 on 8 December 2007.

She attended the Joint Information Operations Course and the Gender in Peace Support Operations Course at the Royal Airforce Halton, United Kingdom in July 2015 and at the École de Maintien

de la Paix, Bamako Mali in June 2015, respectively.

In 2017, Mrs Anele attended the Gender Training of Trainers Course at SwedInt, Sweden. In her quest to acquire more knowledge, she obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Gender Peace and Security, from the Kofi Annan

International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Accra, Ghana in 2013. She also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Leadership and Strategic Studies from the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna in 2024.

Lieutenant Colonel Anele's appointment as army spokesperson is historic. She is the first female officer to be appointed spokesperson for any arm of the Nigerian military – army, navy and air force



Anammah, **Juliet**

Juliet Anammah, Chairperson of Jumia Nigeria, is a visionary in Nigeria's e-commerce industry. She is helping businesses scale, offering solutions to the challenges and opportunities faced by women in business Nigeria.

She joined Jumia in 2015 as Chief Executive Officer of Jumia Nigeria. She serves on the Board of CGAP, a not-for-profit agency funded by IFC/ World Bank and other DFIs and focused on improving Financial Inclusion in the developing world. In 2018, she became a member of the Industrial Council - a group of private and public sector professionals appointed by the President of Nigeria to define policies supporting Industrial development of the country.

Juliet has over 27 years of professional

experience covering Consulting, Consumer Goods, Sales and Marketing and eCommerce and has served on several local Boards in a non-executive capacity.

She began her career in Sanofi Aventis, a French Pharmaceutical company and held various roles in Sales, Marketing and Product Management between 1991 and 1999. She joined Accenture in 1999 rising to be the Partner / Managing Director in charge of Accenture's Manufacturing and Consumer Goods Practice covering West Africa.

Juliet has a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree, an MBA in Finance and is an alumnus of Wharton Advanced Management Program.



Anosike,
Mrs. Chinenye Chinedu

Mrs. Chinenye Chinedu Anosike is an accomplished banking professional, with about 23 years' experience. She started her banking career with the erstwhile Standard Trust Bank in the year 2001, as a green horn in teller operations. Chinenye rose through the ranks to the position of Branch Manager at the United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc, before her appointment as Executive Director, Business Development and Portfolio Management, Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN).

As a Cash Officer, Chinenye was saddled with the responsibility of handling cash transaction entries, posting deposits, paying salaries/instruments and other sensitive

duties specific to cash tellers. While handling these tasks, Chinenye simultaneously served as the Customer Service Officer between June 2001 and November 2006.

Following her excellent delivery on tasks and her display of integrity, she was promoted to the position of Branch Operations Manager in November 2006, with the core responsibilities of supervising and training Operations staff and ensuring the smooth running of all units under Operations.

She subsequently took on the role of Profit Centre Manager and then Branch Manager in November 2012, to manage the brand and ambience of the Bank, market the Bank

and ensure effective customer service delivery for the growth of the Branch and the Bank. Her outstanding performance was a gateway to her promotion to the position of Acting Area Manager, with the responsibility of providing leadership and strategic management to the marketing operations of the Bank. She also effectively managed Business Managers in the Area and deepened valued relationships with senior level business clients.

Her Excellency, Ambassador Dr. (Mrs.) Zainab Daniel Akpan is a distinguished humanitarian, visionary leader, and advocate for peace whose life and work continue to inspire many across Nigeria and beyond. She has built a reputation defined by compassion, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to service.



Akpan,
Dr. (Mrs.) Zainab Daniel

she was also certified as an International Peace Practitioner and Consultant.

In recognition of her advocacy for peace and humanitarian leadership, she received the United Nations Global Leadership Award in 2024 and was recognized as an Ambassador for Peace during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

She began her early education at Army Children School, New Cantonment, Kaduna, before proceeding to Government Girls Secondary School, Rigachukwu, and later Clara Senior Secondary School, Kaduna, where her leadership qualities first became evident. Driven by a strong passion for knowledge and excellence, she went on to study Business Administration at Ahmadu Bello University, laying a strong academic foundation for her future career in leadership and community development.

Ambassador Akpan served as the Former National President of the Naval Officers' Wives Association (NOWA), where she championed initiatives that improved the welfare of naval families and empowered

women and vulnerable communities across Nigeria. Through her leadership, the association expanded its outreach in education, healthcare support, and empowerment programmes for widows and families within naval communities.

An accomplished entrepreneur and humanitarian, she has also undertaken advanced leadership and management training at the Summit School of Leadership and Management in the United Kingdom. Her commitment to global peace and humanitarian service has earned her international recognition, including an Honorary Doctorate from the Institute of Public Policy and Diplomacy Research, New York, in 2025, where

A devoted wife and mother, she is married to Rear Admiral Joseph Daniel Akpan, Chief of Defence Administration at Defence Headquarters, Abuja. Together, they are blessed with three children.

Her Excellency continues to embody leadership rooted in humility, service, and a deep commitment to building a more compassionate and peaceful world.



Alson,
Rose Kandi

Her name evokes discipline. She becomes the “Chief Whip” in all the spaces she finds herself: home, church, and the workplace, the triangle of her life. She is orderly, prim and proper, and expects everyone around her to be so. Strict as she is, you would think that her environment would be a desert, yet she has this natural magnetic personality that pulls people to her. There are always a sea of people around her. She is a strict disciplinarian with a heart of gold.

Mummy Alson as she is popularly known holds a B.Sc in Health Education and M.Sc in Environmental Health from the University of Lagos. She spent all her career life

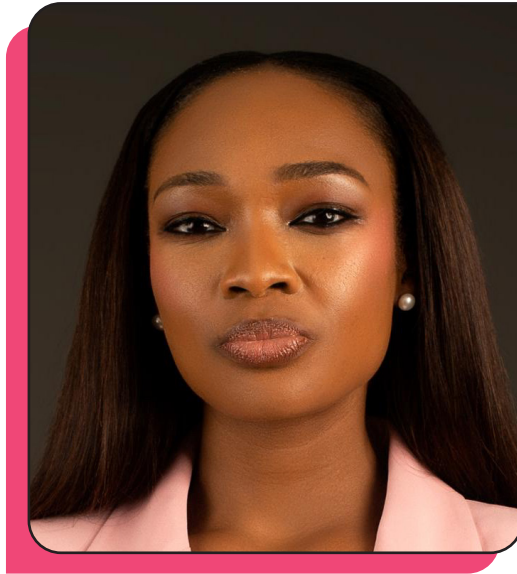
in NPA and retired in 2006 as a Pollution Control/ Oil Monitoring Manager. She blazed the trail as the first female oil Monitoring Officer in NPA, mostly on off shore assignments, a duty hitherto seen as the exclusive preserve of men.

After retirement she relocated to Adamawa, her home state in 2018 and has been undertaking community development projects as well as facilitating empowerment programmes for widows. Leadership Award in 2024 and was recognized as an Ambassador for Peace during the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

A devoted wife and mother, she is married to Rear Admiral

Joseph Daniel Akpan, Chief of Defence Administration at Defence Headquarters, Abuja. Together, they are blessed with three children.

Her Excellency continues to embody leadership rooted in humility, service, and a deep commitment to building a more compassionate and peaceful world.



Arowolo, **Nneka**

Nneka Arowolo is the Group Managing Director of Levene Energies Limited (Levene), an integrated Energy conglomerate with operations in the Upstream, Downstream, Midstream, and Renewable Energy sub-sectors of the energy industry. With offices in Abuja, Lagos, London, and Mauritius, Nneka leads an organization that is well positioned to attain its vision of becoming a global leader in energy solutions.

Nneka Arowolo is a seasoned business leader with over two decades of global experience across the finance and energy sectors. Prior to her role as Group Managing Director of Levene, Nneka spent nearly 17 years with the Nigeria affiliates of ExxonMobil Corporation, building deep expertise in commercial negotiations, procurement/supply chain, asset valuations and development, stakeholder engagement,

and the delivery of multi-billion dollar projects.

Throughout her career, Nneka has been widely regarded for her commitment to advancing inclusion and diversity, including serving on the Executive Committee of ExxonMobil's (Nigeria) Women's Interest Network, as well as President of the Inclusion and Diversity Committee - championing initiatives and programs that promoted an inclusive work environment and fostered mentorship within the organization.

Nneka holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics (Honors) from the University of Chicago and an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, with concentrations in Strategy, Finance, and Entrepreneurship.



Awatt,
**Deborah-Grace Eme-
Ekanem**

Deborah-Grace Eme-Ekanem Awatt, fondly known as Eme Awatt, is a seasoned information management and communications professional with multidisciplinary expertise spanning librarianship, public relations, editing, security and forensics, education, theatre arts, and Christian ministry.

Her career reflects a rare blend of intellectual depth, leadership capacity, creative insight, and service-driven commitment. A certified professional librarian and trained educator, she possesses a strong academic foundation complemented by extensive hands-on experience in knowledge management, institutional development, research support, and public information services.

Her work in librarianship is driven by a passion for literacy promotion, equitable access to information, and the strategic use of knowledge as a tool for societal advancement.

As a public relations executive, Deborah-Grace has demonstrated competence in strategic communication, reputation management, stakeholder engagement, and ethical messaging across public and institutional platforms.

Her editorial expertise further enhances her ability to shape clear, persuasive, and impactful narratives.

Her professional scope also includes security and forensics, where she applies analytical rigor, investigative skills, and structured problem-solving to organizational and societal issues.

In addition, she is a trained minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, dedicated to faith-

based leadership, moral guidance, and community transformation through teaching and service.

A trained theatre practitioner, Eme Awatt made a notable mark in the creative sector as the Pioneer Vice Chairman of the Actors Guild of Nigeria (AGN), Cross River State Chapter, contributing to its early organization, advocacy, and growth.

She currently serves as the Chairman of the Cross River State Library Board and the State Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), Cross River State Chapter, where she provides strategic leadership in advancing professional standards, ethical communication, literacy development, and access to information across the state.



Ayeni,
Nonye

Nonye Ayeni is the Executive Director/CEO, NEPC. When Nonye assumed office as the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) two years ago, she inherited an institution at a crossroads, challenged by global trade disruptions, domestic economic headwinds, and the urgent need to diversify Nigeria’s export base beyond crude oil.

In the past two years, Ayeni has not only steadied the ship but redefined the Council’s strategic direction. This development was confirmed by the Presidency, which declared recently that the nation is witnessing a historic shift in its public finances, with non-oil revenues driving the country’s

strongest fiscal performance in decades, with non-oil exports among the big wins.

Under her watch, the NEPC has undergone a transformation that goes beyond policy pronouncements. From boosting value addition in priority sectors such as agriculture, solid minerals, and creative industries, to strengthening trade facilitation and capacity-building initiatives for exporters, Ayeni has driven a results-oriented agenda. Her emphasis on product quality, market intelligence, and export readiness has begun to yield tangible outcomes—expanding Nigeria’s footprint in emerging markets and attracting renewed investor confidence in the non-oil sector.

Equally remarkable is her focus on inclusivity and empowerment. Through women- and youth-focused programmes, Ayeni has opened new pathways for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access international markets. Initiatives such as the “Export4Survival” campaign have not only reawakened national consciousness about the urgency of export diversification but have also inspired a new generation of entrepreneurs to think globally. Her tenure has blended technical competence with empathy—building bridges between policy, people, and performance.



Azura,
Princess Edna Didi

Princess Edna Didi Azura (Kwatam Mutaku) is the 16th National President of the National Council of Women Societies (NCWS) Nigeria, inaugurated in January 2025 to lead the organization.

An Adamawa-born leader, she focuses on empowering women through education, economic inclusion, and policy advocacy to address systemic barriers

Princess Edna is a renowned thought leader, women's empowerment advocate, and agricultural development expert, who has vowed to use her voice and leadership to prioritize women's rights and ensure inclusive leadership focused on unity and growth.

She has also pledged her

unwavering commitment to promoting education, skills development, economic empowerment, and tackling pressing concerns such as gender-based violence and inequality.

Until her election as the President Princess Edna D D Azura was the first Assistant National Secretary of the NCWS.

Dr. Asabe Vilita Bashir is a celebrated academic, a woman of substance and of course, a mother to many, with the passion and burning desire to enlarge the frontiers of women development, inclusion in social affairs and amplifying their voices on issues did not suddenly emanate from the blues.

Growing up late 60s from a humble background, like millions of other Nigerian girls in her Limankara community, Gwoza local government area of Borno state, her innocuous mind was directed to the fact that women deserve much more than they got in her immediate environment in terms of education, equal opportunity at workplace and indeed in the table of decision-making. Determined to make a difference, shatter the glass ceiling and bring succour to the helpless and vulnerable in the society, after her primary and secondary education in 1979 and 1984 respectively, with the necessary assistance and support from her family, she proceeded to the University of Maiduguri where she obtained her First Degree in Chemistry and Mathematics in 1988. A kindhearted soul, a woman of candor and unpretentious humility, she knew a tree cannot make a forest. This may have influenced her decision to mentor others when in 1989 she decided to take up a career as a lecturer in the Department of Education of her alma mater, a fulfilling experience that lasted till 2003. The dream of obtaining a PhD in Educational Philosophy came to a satisfactory fruition in the



Bashir,
Dr. Asabe Vilita

year 2002 shortly before she left the classroom. Understanding that the political space will be a more virile platform to positively impact a larger number people and of course bring to bear her years of experience in the nation's developmental discourse, Dr. Bashir was in 1997 elected into Borno State House of Assembly. And this feat was repeated in 2003. Her outstanding performance which hinged on the welfare, growth and development of her people while in the Legislative House did not go unnoticed as she was penciled down for near a decade assignment in the Executive when she was in 2005 appointed a member of Borno State Executive Council. Her administrative dexterity saw her traverse across various ministries as Commissioner in various Ministries. After the catalogue milestone she recorded in these Ministries, she could not

but heed her people's call to represent them at the centre as she was elected in 2015 to represent the people of Gwoza, Damboa and Chibok Federal Constituency of Borno state.

While in the National Assembly between 2015-2019, she was the Deputy Chairman, Women in Parliament. As a lawmaker, she sponsored a Bill to ensure that all girl children are taken from street to school in the North, particularly her North East zone where insurgency has further exacerbated the challenge of out-of-school children.

Aside numerous intervention projects she initiated and completed, she made numerous cash donations to cushion the effects of hardship on her people of Gwoza, Damboa and Chibok Federal Constituency. With her Vilita Bashir Foundation which was officially launched

in 2000 with the cardinal aim of touching lives, Dr. (Hon.) Bashir has over 100 students and widows on monthly stipends to assist them in their studies and cushion the effects of economic downturn. It is therefore not surprising that the President, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari deemed her fit for appointment as the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the National Centre for Women Development.



Bashir,
Hajara

Hajara Bashir Umar celebrated as the first woman from Northern Nigeria to reach the rank of Wing Commander in the Nigeria Air force. She got her support and motivation from her father who was a veteran military officer. Hajara was encouraged to join the force despite her mother's objection to the idea. She is perhaps one of the most influential women in Nigeria because of her rare courage. Hajara is dedicated mother, patriotic Nigerian and has a truly inspiring story.



Balarabe,
Dr. Samira

Dr. Samira Balarabe, the Registrar of Kaduna State University (KASU), is dedicated to fostering administrative excellence and promoting inclusivity within the university. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Master of Laws from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and a Master's in Conflict, Peace, and Strategic Studies from KASU. Dr. Balarabe's leadership journey at KASU began in 2006 as an Administrative Officer I in the Registry Department's Legal Unit.

Over the years, she has held various critical positions, including Faculty Officer, Secretary of the Postgraduate School, and Deputy Registrar.

In March 2023, Dr. Balarabe was appointed as KASU's first female Registrar, marking a milestone in the university's history. Her leadership is characterized by professionalism, collaboration, and a commitment to merit-based decisions.

Dr. Balarabe is focused on creating an efficient administrative structure that supports academic excellence, research, and the university's growth. Her vision continues to elevate KASU's reputation as a center of learning and innovation.

Courtesy: Kasu.edu.ng



Banigo,
Senator Ipalibo

Sen. Ipalibo Banigo represents Rivers West on the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). She served as the first female Rivers Deputy Governor from 2015-2023, in the administration of Nyesom Wike. She studied at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Oyo State where she got her MBBS degree (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery). She obtained a Masters (M.Sc.) degree from Harvard University School of Public Health.

She had earlier held various important offices at the Rivers State Ministry of Health, during her service; she assumed the position of director of public health service, acting commissioner, director and permanent secretary.



Bature,
Rev. Christie

Rev. Christie Bature is the Founder & Lead Mentor of Rev. Christie Bature Mentoring. She has been helping people for the past 30 years to find balance in their lives. With extensive training under EU/UNODC, she's a certified mentor and life coach, a licensed polygrapher, a member of the American Association of Christian Counsellors and holds a postgraduate diploma in Crisis and Trauma Management. She's also a member of the American Association of Sexual Addictions Therapists.

She is also the CEO of 180 Degrees Rehabilitation Centre in Port Harcourt. She is from Kaduna state, Bajju by tribe, while her husband is from Edo state. She grew up in Kano and attended SIM primary school, Kano, Federal Government Girls' college Yola, and Federal Polytechnic Bida.

Christie has a background in Electrical/ Electronics Engineering. There are several things she does to give back

to the society which includes among others:

1. Campus outreach (reaching youths in schools with strong messages of self-esteem and positive choices through music)
2. Couples outreach (aimed at helping build strong families)
3. ChristieBature concerts
4. PACT Network (outreach to the addicted)

Christie is a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors, a certified Life Coach, and a member of the American Association of Sexual Addictions Therapists. PACT Network – runs leadership training for churches and

individuals on addictions and recovery. It also runs seminars for corporate organizations on the effects of Addictions on Polity and Productivity.

In January 2015, she opened probably, the first proper drug and other addictions rehabilitation centre in the South-South zone of Nigeria, in Port Harcourt. In January 2017,

she qualified as a certified and licensed Polygrapher and is a member of the South African Polygraphers Association (SAPAVSA)

In November 2021, she opened 'Sarah's House' a safe place for battered women. She has written thirteen books and also has six albums.



Bello,
Ms. Lami Binta Adamu
OON

Binta L. Adamu Bello, OON, is the Director-General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP). She was appointed on August 6, 2024. A seasoned technocrat, she previously served as a Federal Permanent Secretary in the Ministries of Health, Aviation, and Women Affairs.

She obtained a grade II certificate from W.T.C Bajoga, Gombe state in 1988, a Diploma in Public Administration from the University of Jos in 1995. Binta L. Adamu Bello obtained her Bachelor of Education Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. She holds a master's degree in public administration from Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma and has served as the Secretary-General of Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON).



Braide,
Professor Ekanem Ikpi

Professor Ekanem Ikpi Braide is a renowned professor of Parasitology/Epidemiology. She is the first female president of the Nigerian Academy of Science in 44 years of existence. She was a member of the national committee that achieved the laudable feat of guinea worm eradication in Nigeria. She led the Academy, for four years, in achieving an improved quality of life for the Nigerian society through the promotion and application of science and technology; as well as strengthening the nation's ability to deliver the fruits of science to society by the acquisition, growth, and dissemination of sound scientific knowledge and facilitation of its use in the solution of major national problems. She has a rich professional experience as a researcher and an administrator.

In July 2010, Professor Braide was honoured by the President of Nigeria with the award of Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR) for her contribution to disease control in Nigeria. She was nominated by the Minister of Health to serve in the Ministerial Expert Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Health Sector Response (MEACoC-HSR).

She also served as Vice Chancellor, Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) Calabar, Nigeria (2004 to 2009) and as Pioneer Vice Chancellor, Federal University, Lafia, Nigeria (2011 to 2016). She is currently the Pro-Chancellor of Arthur Jarvis University, Akpabuyo, Nigeria.



Chindah,
Dr. Gloria Obiageri

Lady Dr. Gloria Obiageri Chindah hails from Rumuolobo now called Choba to the family of late Sir, Chief Njika Wali (a retired Local Government Treasurer) and Lady, Irene C. Wali (a retired Teacher and the First Ikwerre Gospel Singer).

She attended State School Choba, and had her first School Leaving Certificate in 1977. Thereafter she proceeded to Government Secondary School Eberi-Omuma, Etche (Pioneer Student), had her West African School Certificate Exam in 1982 and 1986 respectively.

She proceeded to Rivers State College of Education where she obtained her National Certificate of Education (NCE) and B.Ed in

Educational Psychology Guidance & Counselling in 1989 & 1993 respectively. Had her M.Ed and Ph.D in Educational Psychology Guidance & Counselling in 2011 & 2019 respectively.

She joined the service of the University of Port Harcourt in the year 1994 after she was done with her NYSC at the University Demonstration Secondary School (UDSS).

She rose through the ranks to the Position of Deputy Registrar in the 2018 and subsequently appointed substantive Registrar of the University of Port Harcourt



Clark,
Timi

Timi Clark is a hotelier, and CEO of Exclusif Abuja, a luxury restaurant and hospitality firm known for its high-end clientele, including top socialites. She is recognized for her, philanthropic efforts, and for organizing, notable, high-profile events in, the city.

Exclusif Abuja, a fine dining establishment in the heart of the nation's capital, has quickly become the talk of the town. The exclusive restaurant, owned by entrepreneur Timi Clark, is drawing attention for its over-the-top culinary experience and luxurious ambiance.

The restaurant boasts top-notch furnishings, elegant decor, and

a menu that promises a unique dining adventure. The well-trained staff add to the exclusivity of the establishment, making it a favorite among Abuja's ultra-rich and high society.

Exclusif Abuja offers a range of facilities, including a restaurant, cafe, lounge, and a membership-only whiskey lounge. The establishment is also known for its flawless event coordination and visionary contracting solutions, making it a hub for fine dining and A-grade event planning in the city.

Amb. Dr. Kema Chikwe is the Founder and Chairperson of The Women Leadership Institute, an international leadership development organization that provides a professional and non-partisan platform for women in Nigeria and across Africa to develop their leadership capacity.

Dr. Chikwe is also a dynamic politician, distinguished public administrator, educationist, gender and social engineer and activist, writer and diplomat. What is however constant is that with all her positions or roles she has held, she has not failed to display the sterling qualities of dynamism, commitment and purposeful leadership with which she has become associated with over the years.

Dr. Chikwe's dynamism especially came to the fore when she was appointed as the Minister of Transport in the cabinet of the former President Olusegun Obasanjo following Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, becoming the first woman to be appointed as the head of a major infrastructure ministry. She was later moved to the Ministry of Aviation as the first female Minister of Aviation.



Chikwe,
Amb. Dr. Kema

Between 2005 and 2006, Dr. Chikwe was Chairman of the Joint Admission and Matriculations Board, JAMB. A very versatile and resourceful politician, Dr. Chikwe was in 2008 appointed Nigeria's Ambassador to Ireland and Iceland.

Dr. Chikwe had earlier served as Imo State representative in ECOWAS First Ladies Meeting on Peace Mission in Africa in 1996. She was also nominated by UNIFEM and National Council of Women's Societies to join the Nigeria's delegation to the 1995 Beijing International Women Conference in China. Dr. Chikwe also represented Imo State in the National Political Reform Conference in 2005. She served on the NPRC Committee on Power Sharing.

As the PDP National Woman Leader, she embarked on effective mobilization of PDP women. She initiated the E-Women Program for young women in politics, also the disaggregated gender audit of PDP women. For the first time, she also launched the PDP Women in Power calendar for 2013. She also organized series of empowerment workshops and seminars including re-orientation/strategizing workshop themed "Be the Change you want to see" for PDP Women and Youth leaders.

Dr. Chikwe started primary school in Aba. She then attended Queen's College, Lagos for her secondary education and Advanced Teachers Training College, Owerri before she proceeded to Queens College, City University of New York where she obtained Bachelors and Masters degrees in French. She bagged her Doctorate Degree in Curriculum Education in 1995 from University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Mrs. Nwando S. Chukwurah is a highly accomplished business leader with over 26 years of experience in the Real Estate and Facilities Management industry.

As the Managing Director/CEO of Total Facilities Management Limited, she has led the organization with strategic clarity, strong governance, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, transforming it into a premium and resilient brand.

She is a graduate of the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus and holds a B.Sc. in Estate Management, a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management, and an MBA. Her professional development has been strengthened through executive trainings and programs at Lagos Business School Nig. (LBS), the CIoD Centre for Corporate Governance, China Europe International Business School (CEIBS), Royal Institute of

Chartered Surveyors UK (RICS), and IWFM UK. Her leadership approach is grounded in discipline,



Chukwurah,
Mrs. Nwando S.

integrity, continuous learning, and a strong commitment to problem-solving, value creation, and sustainable organizational growth.

She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Directors (FCIoD), a member of globally respected professional bodies including Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors UK (MRICS) and Certified Member of the Institute of Workplace and Facilities Management (CIWFM).

She combines deep technical expertise with disciplined, values-driven leadership. Under her stewardship, TFML achieved a historic milestone in 2024 as the first facilities management company in Africa to attain triple ISO certification (ISO 9001, ISO

45001, and ISO 41001), reinforcing its credibility, safety culture, and service quality.

Beyond corporate success, Mrs. Chukwurah has made significant contributions to the Facilities Management profession in Africa and ethical leadership through her roles in the Chartered Institute of Directors (CIoD) as the Chairman of the Abuja Zone, promoting corporate governance initiatives.

Her NGO, Agathos for the Widows Foundation (AWF) remains a passionate advocate for widow empowerment, mentorship, and girl-child education. She has won many awards including Human Empowerment & Community Services Award from Coal City FM, Enugu, Distinguished Human Capital Development Award from Rotary Club, District 9127 Abuja, and others.

Her career reflects integrity, resilience, continuous learning, and a lasting commitment to sustainable impact.



Daniel,
Uduak

Her name is Uduak, meaning “Resolve.” An epitome of versatility, energy, creativity and excellence, Uduak hails from Ikot Ataku, Okon-Eket, Eket LGA, Akwa Ibom State in Nigeria and lives her life driven by her mantra – live fulfilled, die emptied. She’s a firm believer in the fact that her roles and capabilities are God’s blessing and should be optimised, so she frequently describes herself as Jack of all her trades and master of all. She diligently and professionally gives her all to her roles as a family member, minister of the gospel, singer/songwriter, performer, human geneticist, development practitioner and public health expert. Her versatility and

sense of commitment stems from her principled, loving and supportive background. An example is her music; call her an enigmatic song writer and a mesmerizing performer. Call her a psalmist. Call her a prophetic singer. Call her many things-in-one. She deliberately and artfully weaves the word (gospel) into her music. And what you see is a creative blend of the pulsating African rhythm and the classic flavour of soul: a marriage of inter-continental tangs of tunes.

Uduak has always been a firm believer in the role of family as a stabilising factor in life. She’s forever grateful to her parents, family, village and friends for being safety nets in good and bad times. She’s been a strong

believer of Christ since she was 16 and has remained grateful to God for using her to make family members believers. Lately she has made it a point of duty to be in touch with her two grandchildren and transfer family values even though highly itinerant, Uduak loves to travel, has visited 30 countries and hopes to visit more in the future.



Dozie,
Adesua

Adesua is a senior Legal Advisor with over 25 years of experience as a trusted leader for multinational companies across Africa in a diverse range of industries. She was appointed as General Counsel & Company Secretary of NNPC Limited in April, 2025.

Prior to joining NNPC, she worked with Exxon Mobil in various capacities, serving as Vice Chairman, ExxonMobil Companies in Nigeria and also as Regional General Counsel for Africa (Upstream). From 2013 to 2019, Adesua served as General Counsel of GE Africa where she was also Co-Chair of the GE Women's Network in Africa. Prior to that, Adesua worked in senior legal roles

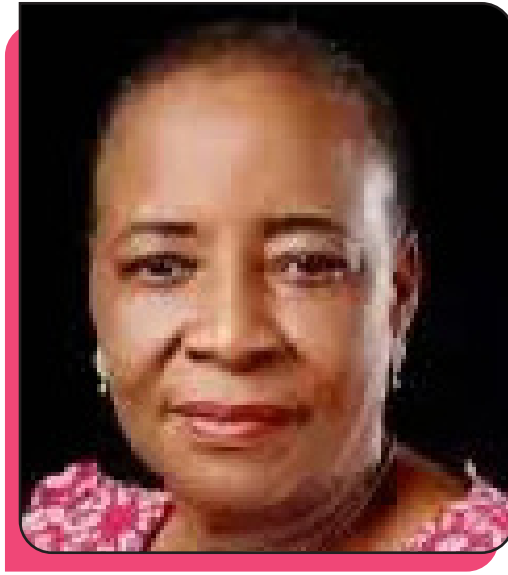
for the Coca-Cola Company culminating in her last role as the Marketing and Customer and Commercial Counsel for the Eurasia and Africa Group.

Adesua also supported the growth of the Coca-Cola Africa Foundation as Legal Adviser and Secretary to the Board of The Foundation. Adesua also previously served as Legal Counsel to Elf Petroleum Nigeria (now Total Energies), and Associate Counsel for the Nigerian law firm, Ajumogobia & Okeke. She holds a law degree from the University of Buckingham, an LL.M from Cornell Law School, is admitted to the New York bar and qualified as a barrister and solicitor in Nigeria.

Adesua has advised on various

large-scale transactions across the African continent drawing on a deep knowledge of the legal and regulatory framework, and in turn facilitating regional growth, strengthening corporate governance and compliance cultures across diverse business communities. Adesua is a passionate advocate for empowering diverse talent and is committed to building and strengthening inclusive working environments, She prides herself on serving as a guardian of the complex dynamics between purpose, profit and risk.

Adesua is married to Uzoma Dozie and the union is blessed with three children.



Ebikake,
Hon. Marie Enenimiete

Hon. Marie Enenimiete Ebikake served in the government of then governor Seirake Dickson as Commissioner for Transportation from 2012 to 2015. Ebikake had previously run for the Nembe/Brass Federal Constituency in 9th House of Representatives in 2019 on the ticket of PDP but lost to the candidate of All Progressives Congress, APC Israel Sunny-Goli. She challenged the result of the election at the election petitions tribunal up to the appeal court but failed to reclaim the mandate as her petition was dismissed for lack of documentary evidence. She ran again in 2023 on same party (PDP) ticket and defeated Hon. Israel Sunny-Goli who defeated her in 2019. Ebikake was a teacher before she ventured into politics.



Egbuna,
Prof. Ngozi

Ngozi Egbuna is the Director at Professor Ngozi Egbuna International Centre for Regional Integration and Trade Research at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Nigeria and a visiting Professor at the African University of Science and Technology, Abuja.

She retired as Director General of the West African Monetary Institute where she was on Secondment from the Central Bank of Nigeria. An astute economist with over three decades of strategic and focused leadership in central banking, economic research, monetary policy formulation and financial/economic integration in the West African sub region, she has vast knowledge of the economies of West Africa.

She also has a with a track record of implementing innovative solutions

that yielded sustainable economic growth and development across the sub-region. Her accomplishments include the facilitation of the Afrieximbank sponsored “Linkage of the Pan African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS) infrastructure in the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ), which enables trade within the member states to quote and trade within the region in their local currencies.

She is an author of several books and academic papers as well as a life member of the Nigerian Economic Society and fellow of the Nigerian Statistical Association amongst others.



Efosa-Zuwa, **Ololade**

Ololade Efosa-Zuwa is an entrepreneur, co-founder and CEO of NatalBond, a unified maternal wellness platform that brings together a suite of tools to support women throughout pregnancy, postpartum recovery, and early childcare. Ololade began her career rooted in science, but her perspective shifted after her first pregnancy. The experience highlighted for her the lack of readily available, trustworthy information for first-time pregnant women and new mothers. That insight became the foundation for building NatalBond which launched in 2022. She holds a degree in Botany from Obafemi Awolowo University and is currently pursuing an MBA in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Miva University. With a solid foundation in science and business, she combines analytical thinking with

strategic leadership to address real-world health challenges, particularly those affecting women in underserved communities. NatalBond was born out of the belief that no woman, especially first-time pregnant women and new mums, should go through the motherhood journey without trusted, accessible support. The platform offers 24/7 access to verified medical professionals, live group support sessions, evidence-based educational content, and community engagement, all in one place. Tailored specifically for the realities of African and emerging-market contexts, NatalBond empowers women with the knowledge, care, and companionship they need to navigate motherhood with confidence. Since its launch,

NatalBond has made significant strides in transforming maternal support across Africa and beyond. The platform has answered over 1 million questions from pregnant and postpartum women, supported more than 3,000 births, and reached over 20,000 women across all 36 states in Nigeria and more than 25 countries worldwide. With 24+ months of continuous, round-the-clock support provided by medical experts, coaches, and a growing community, NatalBond continues to expand its impact through a fast-growing mobile app and digital infrastructure designed to serve mothers in real time.



Garba,
Aisha

Aisha Garba is the Executive Secretary, Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC). A Senior Education Specialist with the World Bank, Aisha brings more than 24 years of experience driving impactful programmes in education for human and economic development, working in Nigeria, Ghana, Somalia, Kenya, the USA, and the United Kingdom.

With over 15 years of hands-on experience at the World Bank, Garba has consistently led end-to-end design and management of education programmes and reforms, from conceptualisation to completion and impact assessment.

Besides being actively interested in and involved in human development issues, the development specialist will share her rich network with governments, development partners,

and communities, as well as the skills she acquired working in fragile, conflict, and violent settings to deliver sustainable solutions in basic education.

Garba had previously worked on the team that met the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) targets in Nigeria and consulted for the World Bank, Department for International Development, BOND-UK, Regent Foundation, and Muslim Aid Organization.

She is an alumna of Petra American University in Jordan, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts combined degree in English and Computer Studies in 2000. She later got a Master's in International Development at the University of Birmingham in the UK in 2007.



Giwa-Tubosun,
Temie

Founder of LifeBank, Temie is an award-winning entrepreneur disrupting Nigeria's healthcare supply chain. She represents business leadership in Nigeria by solving real-world problems. Her startup offers lessons on managing capital, logistics, and regulatory compliance in new markets.

LifeBank uses data and technology to improve access to blood, oxygen, and vaccines. LifeBank streamlines the supply chain for critical medical supplies across Nigeria, Kenya, and Ethiopia, focusing on saving lives by connecting hospitals with blood banks.

LifeBank tackles postpartum hemorrhage and other medical

emergencies by ensuring the availability of critical supplies. As of 2022, LifeBank has transported over 155,000 units of blood and medical products to over 1,200 hospitals, saving more than 40,000 lives.

She previously worked with the WHO, UNDP, and the UK Department for International Development before launching her own, {"Link": "LifeBank", "url": "https://lifebankcares.com/"}. She is recognized for her work in revolutionizing the medical supply chain in Africa.



Gumus,
Engr. Prof. Rhoda Habor

Engr. Prof. Rhoda Habor Gumus is a National Commissioner and Chair of the Election Project Plan Committee (EPPC) for the 2027 general elections. She is a professor of Chemical Engineering and has been a prominent voice in strengthening Nigeria's electoral process through early planning.

She holds an H.N.D. degree in Chemical Engineering from College of Science and Technology (1980), Master's of Technology (M.Tech) in Chemical Engineering from Rivers State University of Science and Technology (now Rivers State University), Port Harcourt (1988) and a PhD in Chemical Engineering from Loughborough University, Loughborough, U.K. (2005). Engr. Prof. Rhoda Gumus has published widely in leading journals in the field

of Chemical engineering

Engr. Prof. Rhoda Gumus has supervised over 40 undergraduate students and over 20 postgraduate students, both Master's and PhD in River State University of Science and Technology, Niger Delta University and University of Uyo.

Engr. Prof. Gumus is affiliated with several professional bodies; namely:

Nigerian Society of Engineers; Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers; Society of Petroleum Engineers; Registered Engineer, Council for the Registration of Engineering.

Engr. Prof. Gumus is a Pastor with Greater Evangelism World Crusade, Ministry and she is blessed with wonderful Children.



Hakama,
Mrs. Sidi Ali

Hakama Sidi-Ali is the Coordinator, Corporate Communications and Investor, thus becoming CBN's First Female Spokesperson since its existence in 1958. Mrs. Sidi Ali came into the office fully prepared. She served as Deputy Director in the same Department at the Bank before her latest appointment.

The new CBN spokesperson is a 1992 graduate of the Bayero University, Kano, where she bagged a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communication.

Mrs Hakama Sidi-Ali not only shattered the glass ceiling by becoming the first woman to be appointed CBN spokesperson and a member of the Nigeria Institute of Public Relations (NIPR), but her appointment also fulfilled all professional and legal requirements.



Harry,
**Mrs. Ibimonia Biobele
Sotonye**

Mrs. Ibimonia Biobele Sotonye Harry (Nee Bob-Manuel), the Acting Registrar, Rivers State University, Nkpolu-Oroworukwo, Port Harcourt was appointed on 8th March, 2024. Prior to her appointment, she had risen through the ranks in the Administrative Cadre in the University. She hails from Abonnema in Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State.

She attended the following Educational Institutions:

1. Township School, Moscow Road, Port Harcourt (1968 – 1972)
2. Archdeacon Crowther Memorial Girls' School, Elelenwo (1972 – 1977)
3. Federal School of Arts and Science, Sokoto (1977 – 1979)
4. University of Ibadan, Ibadan (1979 – 1982)
5. Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt.

She has the following qualifications: B.A. (Honours) History; PGDE; MA Law and Diplomacy.

She has occupied several administrative positions in different capacities in the University before her appointment. Some of the positions are as follows:

1. Administrative Officer 1, Personnel Division (18 Jan. – 5 Dec., 1990)
2. Senate Officer II, Senate Division (6th – 25th Nov, 1990)
3. Personnel Officer (Non-Acad.) Personnel Div. (1990 – 1995)
4. Personnel Officer (Academic) Estab. Div. (1996 – 2004)

5. Asst. Reg. (Admin.) Registrar's Office (Jan. 2004)

6. Deputy Registrar (Admin.) Registrar's Office (2004 – 2014)

7. Deputy Registrar/Sec., Postgraduate School (2014 – 2016)

8. Director, Establishment (16th June – Nov, 2017)

9. Director/Secretary, Postgraduate School (2017 – 2018)

10. Director, Council Affairs (2018 – 2024)

She is a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Loans and Risk Management of Nigeria, an active member of the Nigerian Institute of Management (Chartered), Association of Nigerian Universities Professional Administrators (ANUPA) and other charity organisations like the Girl Guides Association of Nigeria, Young Women Christian Association, etc



Horgan,
Maya

Maya Horgan Famodu is a Nigerian-American entrepreneur, founder of Ingressive, a firm that provides services for firms and businesses expanding into Africa. She also founded Ingressive Capital, a venture capital fund investing in Africa-based technology companies.

Horgan also established a non-profit setup for her firm – Ingressive for Good, which provides micro-scholarships, tech training and talent placement for African youth.

In conversation with Guardian, she speaks about nothing being more important than one’s “ability to do through numbers, experience, expertise (and) intelligence.” She

further advices on developing the entrepreneurship value and adds, “Always lead with numbers and the tangible value you offer.”

She co-founded the High Growth Africa Summit, a conference on launching a successful business in Africa, and founded Tech Meets Entertainment Summit, for African celebrities and tech companies to build revenue-generating partnerships.



Ibori-Suenu,
Hon. Erhiatake

Hon. Erhiatake Ibori-Suenu represents Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency in Delta State in the 10th House of Representatives. She chairs the House Committee on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and defected from the PDP to the APC in December 2024.

Daughter of former Delta Governor James Ibori, she holds a law degree and an MSc. Previously, she was a member of the Delta State House of Assembly. Her recent work includes oversight of the NDDC's N1.75 trillion budget, proposing a Customs Training College and a Federal Paramedics College, and leading community programs like free JAMB registration and large-scale medical outreaches through her Starlite Hopes Initiative..



Idele,
Dr. Mary Alile

Dr. Mary Alile Idele, the dynamic APC National Woman Leader, has continued to play a decisive role in pushing the Reserved Seat Bill for Women through the House of Representatives. Her vision is clear: a Nigeria where women have equal legislative authority and representation.

Through consistent lobbying, media engagement, and grassroots mobilization, she has made the case for women's participation as central to national development. Her advocacy resonates with both the educated elite and rural women, creating a united front for gender equality.

Dr. Idele's approach is both

pragmatic and inspiring. She connects the Bill to Nigeria's democratic ideals, stressing that inclusion strengthens governance and fosters peace. Her partnership with female lawmakers has ensured that the issue remains active in legislative discussions.

As part of the Renewed Hope Agenda, Dr. Idele's efforts signify a major step toward fulfilling Nigeria's obligations under global gender equality frameworks. Her leadership continues to spark optimism among Nigerian women who now believe that their voices will soon echo in every chamber of decision-making.



Ilori,
Dr. Temitope

Dr. Temitope Ilori, PhD, MBBS is the Director-General of National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA). Dr. Ilori brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to NACA. Prior to her appointment, she served as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Community Medicine at the University of Ibadan and a Consultant Family Physician at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. Her impressive academic background includes an MBBS degree from the University of Ibadan, residency training at the University College Hospital, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) fellowship focused on Family Medicine and Primary Care. Dr. Ilori's research interests perfectly align with NACA's mission, encompassing areas like

Primary Care, Immunization, Public Health Nutrition, Non-Communicable Diseases, and Women's and Child's Health. Her dedication to research is further evidenced by her co-authorship of over 30 publications in esteemed scientific journals.

Dr. Ilori's expertise extends beyond academia. She possesses a strong track record in policy formulation and strategic development. Her previous role as Commissioner for Health in Osun State, Nigeria, from 2011 to 2014, demonstrates her commitment to public health leadership. During this time, she also served as Chairperson of the Osun State Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS (O-SACA) and the Osun

State Technical Working Group on Immunization, showcasing her dedication to combating HIV/AIDS and other critical public health issues.

NACA is confident that Dr. Ilori's exceptional qualifications, experience, and leadership skills will be instrumental in guiding the agency towards even greater success in the fight against HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. We look forward to her valuable contributions and continued progress in achieving a healthier future for all Nigerians.



Iweze,
Ogwa

Ogwa Iweze is a fashion entrepreneur based in Abuja, Nigeria and she joins me on this episode to talk about her mission of self-discovery, her life goals and the business side of things. We talked about making our first millions, evolving our worldviews, and our ideals in our personal and professional lives. Ogwa really opens up in a way that allows us to find common ground.

Ogwa is the creative director of DZYN and founder of Runway Abuja. Based in Abuja, she has over 16 years of experience in fashion design, manufacturing, and retail, focusing on versatile "Made in Nigeria" women's wear. She is also a mentor and author.

As Creative Director, she has led the brand for over 15 years, showcasing at major events like Lagos Fashion Week. She created the Fashion for Profit initiative to support Nigerian brands and authored books on starting fashion lines. She produces the Fashion in the City web series, blending fashion with lifestyle.



Jaiyeola,
Bukola

Bukola Jaiyeola is a dedicated entrepreneur and business development coach passionate about empowering individuals to turn their skills and talents into profitable businesses. With a BSc from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, and a Master's degree from Teesside University, UK, she has honed her expertise through years of hands-on experience and collaboration with thriving entrepreneurs.

As the founder of Next Big Deal Global and author of "Wake Up! Crush it! Building a Profitable Business with a Global Vision," she is committed to helping her clients navigate the

entrepreneurial landscape with strategic foresight and planning. She is recognized as one of the 50 inspirational women in social development on the TEDx list and an ECOWAS Ambassador.



Mbakwe,
Sophia

Sophia Innih-Mbakwe is a renowned Nigerian Oil and Gas executive with over 30 years of experience spanning upstream operations, law, government relations, and corporate strategy. She has led several transformative initiatives within the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Ltd (NNPC Ltd.), serving as the pioneer Managing Director of NNPC Energy Services Ltd, the first female Managing Director of Antan Producing Ltd, and currently as Executive Vice President for Business Services.

Career Highlights

* **Strategic Leadership in Upstream Operations:** As the Senior Business advisor to the Executive Vice President Upstream, Sophia enhanced operational performance and stakeholder engagement while spearheading community development initiatives aligned with the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021

* She successfully led and implemented the Host

community development initiatives that strengthened corporate social responsibility and supported the operationalization of the 2024 Production War Room, achieving a national oil production level of 2 million barrels per day by December 2024. Contributions as Managing Director: From 2022 to 2024, Sophia led NNPC Energy Services Ltd (EnServ), driving operational excellence and strategic growth.

* She oversaw multiple exploration, drilling, and engineering teams, managing campaigns in the Middle Benue Trough and Chad Basin aimed at boosting national reserves and daily production

* **Supply Chain Management Reforms:** During her tenure as

Group General Manager from 2021 to 2022, Sophia reformed procurement processes, rehabilitated major refineries, and played a pivotal role in the NNPC Rebranding Initiative, culminating in the unveiling of NNPC Limited in July 2022

* She managed the entire Supply Chain Management Division and served as Secretary to the highest decision-making body on procurement matters

* **Legal and Humanitarian Engagement:** In addition to her corporate achievements, Sophia is actively involved in humanitarian work, serving on the Board of Trustees for SCORE Charity and advising civil rights organizations



Indimi-Fodio,
Amina

Amina Indimi-Fodio is the owner and director of Tots Academy Abuja, one of Abuja's prominent Early Years and Junior School (TAPS) Montessori and EYFS (4–5 years old) British Curriculum (5–11 years old) education centres of international standards. The highly rated Tots Academy Abuja is known for its excellent educational facilities and friendly environment. According to Tots Academy Abuja, "Our Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum, enriched with a Montessori approach, sets the foundation for lifelong learning. As the children progress into their primary years, they seamlessly transition into the British

curriculum while ensuring world-class facilities support their growth and development. In addition to our 3-term academic year, we provide various language classes, such as Mandarin, French, and Arabic. We also offer several after-school clubs such as chess, Bible study, Islamiya, rollerblading, karate, swimming, and more." Amina holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Buckingham, UK.

courtesy: cpjanews.com



Isa,
Talatu Mairo

Talatu is the trailblazing First Female Deputy-Comptroller General of Customs (Trade & Tariff)

From LEA Primary School, Minna, to Government Girls' College, Mairo's brilliance was never in doubt. She was the kind of student who asked questions, sought clarity, and stood out not by noise, but by intellect. By the time she proceeded to ABU Zaria for her Basic Studies, and later to the University of Sokoto, where she earned a degree in English Language, she had already shaped a strong foundation for leadership.

In 1988, Mairo Isa made a bold decision: to join the Nigeria Customs Service — a field traditionally dominated

by men, and one where women were rarely seen in commanding roles. But Mairo was not intimidated. She entered Customs with the confidence of someone who understood her purpose.

Colleagues quickly noticed her discipline, clarity of thought, and ability to manage complex issues with grace. Her expertise grew, her voice became respected, and her work ethic became legendary.

Year after year, posting after posting, Mairo Isa rose steadily. She mastered the complexities of revenue systems, import-export policies, and the ever-changing dynamics of global trade. Her commitment to fairness, accuracy, and reform earned her both respect and

responsibility.

Then came the historic moment. She became the first woman to rise to the position of Deputy-Comptroller General (DCG) in charge of Trade & Tariff, one of the most sensitive and powerful departments in the entire Nigeria Customs Service.

It was a breakthrough not only for her — but for thousands of women watching her journey.

courtesy: Northern Magazine



Isa-Olatinwo,
Dr. Aisha A.

Dr. Aisha A. Isa-Olatinwo is the Director, Consumer Protection and Financial Inclusion. Prior to her appointment, she served as the acting director of Branch Operations at the CBN, where she stressed the bank's commitment to intensifying oversight of Deposit Money Banks (DMB) operations to ensure compliance with regulatory standards.

Isa-Olatinwo has also been an active participant in industry

discussions, highlighting the CBN's dedication to national interests and regulatory compliance.

Her appointment reflects the CBN's commitment to strengthening its operations across various regulatory, supervisory, and policy-driven functions.



Jafiya,
Lydia Shehu mni,

L ydia Shehu Jafiya, mni, is currently the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Finance. She has rich experience in the public service, spanning over three decades, and was elevated Permanent Secretary in August 2022. Before joining Ministry of Finance, she had served at Federal Ministry of Information & Culture as well as Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation respectively.

During her career, she has served on various Committees including the 2023 Presidential Transition Council and Chaired the Media and Publicity Sub-Committee.

Mrs. Jafiya, mni, joined the Federal Civil Service as Finance Officer II on 12th December 1990. She rose through the ranks and was

at different times was at a time Director of Finance and Accounts at the Pensions Transitional Arrangement Directorate (PTAD).

Lydia Shehu Jafiya, mni, holds a Masters and Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, with specialization in Banking and Finance, from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria. She belongs to several professional bodies and associations among which include being an Alumnus of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and Fellow, Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), among others.



Jibunoh,
Edith

Edith Jibunoh is the Director of External Affairs at The World Bank. From advising Nigeria’s Minister of Finance and shaping multilateral strategy at The ONE Campaign to leading stakeholder engagement across continents at the World Bank, Edith’s career has spanned continents and institutions, and is marked by impact, integrity, and innovation.

She returns to this new leadership role after years of leading partnerships, managing reputation risks, and crafting narratives that reflect not just institutional priorities, but the real-world challenges and hopes of communities around the globe.

According to her: “This elevation means a great deal to me—not just professionally, but personally. It’s the culmination of years of learning, stretching, leading, and listening.”

In her new role, she’ll be advising the Bank’s Senior Leasing across regions—building trust, shaping narratives, and making sure the voice of one of the world’s most powerful institutions is as inclusive and impactful as the people it serves.

Courtesy: Leading Ladies Africa



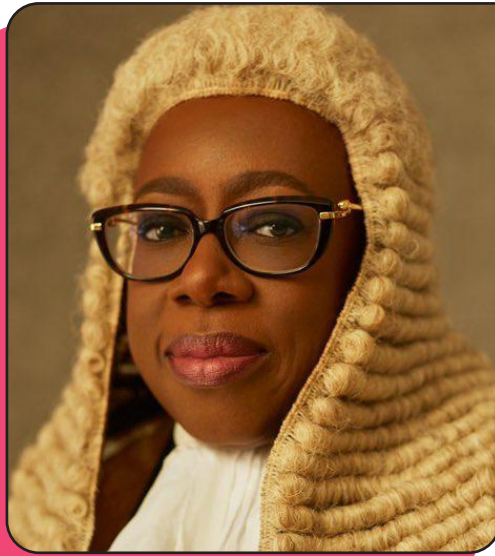
Kalesanwo,
Mrs Patricia

Mrs Patricia Kalesanwo is the first female Registrar of the Nigerian Institute of Journalism (NIJ), since its establishment in 1971.

Mrs Kalesanwo who holds a Masters Degree in Adult Education (Communication Arts), from the University of Ibadan, was the Students' Affairs Officer of the Institute for more than a decade.

She worked at the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) before joining the NIJ. Mrs Kalesanwo has attended many courses on journalism within and outside the country. She is married with children

Honourable Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun was born to the family of Senator Hassan Adisa Babatunde Fasinro, OFR, LL.D, a renowned legal practitioner, politician, author and devout Muslim; and Chief Mrs. Winifred Layiwola Ogundimu (née Savage), a distinguished public health practitioner and current head of the Savage Family, a large and prominent Lagos family.



Kekere-Ekun,
Hon. Justice Kudirat
Motonmori Olatokunbo GCON

Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun earned her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from the University of Lagos in 1980 and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1981. She later obtained her Master of Laws (LL.M) from the London School of Economics and Political Science, University of London in 1983.

After practicing as an associate at M.O. Oseni & Co. (1985-1989), Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun transitioned into public service, starting as a Magistrate Grade II in 1989 and rising to Chief Magistrate Grade II by 1993. In 1996, she was appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Lagos State, where she contributed significantly to judicial reforms. In 2004, Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun was elevated to the Court of Appeal, where she served in the Kaduna, Port Harcourt, Ibadan, Makurdi and Akure Divisions and presided over key appellate decisions. She was the

pioneer Presiding Justice of the Makurdi Division. Her ascent to the Supreme Court on July 8, 2013, as the 5th female to be elevated to that Court marked her entry into the highest court in Nigeria. Her work at the Supreme Court has shaped important legal precedents and Constitutional interpretations.

Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun is a prominent advocate for gender equality, through her membership of the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) and as the current President of the National Association of Women Judges Nigeria (NAWJN). She is also a Life Bencher, a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), National Judicial Institute (NJI) and the International Dispute Resolution Institute (IDRI).

Before her appointment as the Chief Justice of Nigeria, she acted

as Deputy Chairman of the National Judicial Council (NJC) and Chair of various NJC and NJI committees. Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun has also been instrumental in overseeing judicial appointments, promotions and the general administration of justice in Nigeria. Her leadership extends to the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee, responsible for conferring the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). Sworn in as Acting Chief Justice of Nigeria on August 23, 2024, and subsequently, as the substantive Chief Justice of Nigeria on September 30, 2024, Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun now leads the nation's judiciary, bringing her decades of experience and a forward-thinking vision to the role.

A well-rounded individual, Honourable Justice Kekere-Ekun has a passion for Information Technology and enjoys music, traveling, and reading novels. She is a devoted wife of a very supportive husband, Mr. Akin Kekere-Ekun, OFR and proud mother of children who are all excelling in their chosen fields. Courtesy: Supreme Court of Nigeria



Komolafe, **Yewande**

Yewande is a Nigerian food writer, author, and food stylist. She is best known for her work introducing Nigerian food to audiences in the US. Komolafe joined The New York Times as a cooking editor in February 2021.

Komolafe is also a food stylist and her work has appeared in the New York Times, Food52, and Munchies. In 2018, she advised Alabama Chanin on menu development for her restaurant. Mark Bittman invited Komolafe to cook for a 2018 fundraiser at the James Beard House, and Komolafe interviewed him for the release of the 20th anniversary edition of his book, *How to Cook Everything*. She has also contributed recipes to *The Rise*,

Marcus Samuelsson's cookbook that was released in 2020.

Komolafe joined The New York Times as a cooking editor in February 2021. Prior to joining the staff, her Ten Essential Nigerian recipes was published in the New York Times in 2019. In August 2021, Tejal Rao launched NYT Cooking's vegetarian newsletter, "The Veggie", which Rao and Komolafe discussed on WNYC's All Of It show with Alison Stewart.[20]

Her 2023 cookbook, *My Everyday Lagos Kitchen*, was nominated for a 2024 James Beard Award in the International category



Kuku,
Mrs. Olubunmi

Mrs. Olubunmi Kuku is the Managing Director/Chief Executive of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).

Known for her impeccable leadership skills and dedication, she has always been at the forefront of innovation and efficiency, setting new standards in airport management and operations. Kuku's achievements extend beyond her professional capabilities.

Her appointment as the Managing Director of FAAN is a significant milestone in breaking gender barriers in a traditionally male-dominated field. She has not only paved the way for future female leaders in aviation but also left an indelible mark on the history of the Federal Airports Authority of

Nigeria.

In her role at FAAN, Olubunmi Oluwaseun Kuku is tasked with spearheading initiatives towards creating a safer, more consumer-centric aviation landscape in Nigeria.

Kuku's professional affiliations and certifications further underscore her commitment to excellence. Her participation in the Executive Leadership Program, IGNITE,



Monguno,
Rashida Jumoke

Mrs. Rashida J. Monguno is a distinguished Nigerian banker, legal expert, and administrator with over three decades of experience in Corporate Governance, Policy Formulation, and Institutional Reform.

As the Secretary to the Board and Director of the Corporate Secretariat at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), she has been at the forefront of strengthening governance structures, ensuring regulatory compliance, and enhancing transparency within Nigeria's apex financial institution.

Since joining the CBN in 1993, Mrs. Monguno has held key positions in the Trade & Exchange and Foreign Operations Departments before transitioning to the Corporate Secretariat in 2002. Her expertise in financial regulation and governance led to her appointment as Head of the Board Affairs Division, where she oversaw executive board management, regulatory oversight, and stakeholder

engagement. Additionally, she led the Information Management Division, where she played a pivotal role in the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act, 2011, and the management of the Public Complaints Office—reinforcing institutional accountability and public trust.

A recognized authority in corporate governance, she has served as Secretary to multiple Board and Management Standing Committees at the CBN. She was instrumental in the Implementation Committee for the Code of Business Ethics and Conduct (COBEC) and played a leading role in the deployment of digital governance tools such as the Diligent Board Book, a platform designed to optimize

high-level decision-making.

Her dedication to financial inclusion and consumer protection was evident with her appointment as Director of the Consumer Protection Department (CPD) at the CBN in 2021. Under her visionary leadership, she spearheaded the launch of the SabiMONI e-learning platform, a groundbreaking initiative that promotes financial literacy and expands access to financial services across Nigeria and recognised the need for the review of the Consumer Protection Regulation and the National Financial Literacy Framework to bring it in line with current realities. She remains a vocal advocate for financial education, recognizing it as a key driver of economic empowerment, sustainable development, and financial stability.



Niagwan,
Caroline Kemen

A seasoned expert in customs and trade policy with over 30 years of experience, specializing in Harmonised System classification, customs reforms, and international trade facilitation. She currently leads initiatives focused on trade facilitation transformation and ensures revenue integrity within the Nigeria Customs Service.

With three decades of hands-on experience in post-clearance audit, tariff classification and end-to-end trade facilitation, Caroline has steered modernisation projects that boosted revenue and won plaudits from WCO partners worldwide. She is equally celebrated for championing gender inclusion across the Service, mentoring the next generation of customs professionals with trademark integrity and foresight.

Prior Leadership Experience:

- * Deputy Comptroller General, Tariff and Trade
- * Assistant Comptroller General, Tariff and Trade
- * Assistant Comptroller General, Finance and Technical Services
- * Comptroller, Post-Clearance Audit

Education & Professional Affiliations:

- * B.Sc. in Biology, University of Jos
- * MPA in Public Administration, University of Lagos
- * Fellow, Security Institute
- * Fellow, Institute of Professional Managers and Administration



Ndukwe-Anyanwu,
Honourable Justice
Uzoamaka I.

The Honourable Justice Uzoamaka I. is at the peak of Nigerian Bench and has made a mark as a fearless and honest Judge of the Abuja Judiciary High Court of Justice. She is held in high esteem as a Judge without bias and fear in the discharge of justice.

She was educated at W.T.C Practising School Enugu 1959 1965; Queen's School Enugu: Queen's College Lagos. 1973-1974 (I.I.S.C. A/Levels); University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, 1974-1978 LLB Hons; Nigerian Law School 1979, BL.

She started her career as State Counsel, Ministry of Justice, Lagos, August 1979 July 1980 (N.Y.S.C.); Solicitor to Federal Mortgage Bank Area Offices of both Enugu and Port Harcourt September 1980 February 1983 Senior State Counsel; Ministry of Justice . Directorate of Public

Prosecution (D.P.P.)Aba. 1983 1987; Assistant Director 1991 1992; Deputy Chief Registrar, Court of Appeal, Enugu 1993 1997; Chief Registrar and now moved to Abuja also Court of Appeal, High Court Judge, High Court of Justice, Abuja 1998 2006; appointed as the new Court of Appeal Judge, and was sworn in on Thursday 8th June. 2006 Other Assignments. She was once a Legal Adviser, Management Audit Inquiry with the Revenue Accounts of Aba L.G.A 1984; Member, Administrative Board of Inquiry into the Disturbance in the Aba L.G.A. 1989.

Justice Uzoamaka I. is happily married and is blessed with three children, two boys and a girl.



Nworgu,
Ifeyinwa Angela

Ms. Nworgu was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1984 and thereafter practiced for four years before joining the Nigerian Foreign Service. In that capacity, she represented Nigeria in many countries. As Legal Coordinator at the Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations (UN), she represented Nigeria and projected her interests in all the issues contained in the Agenda of the 6th Committee of the UN.

Subsequently, as Senior Adviser (Legal) to the President of the 64th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), she held meetings with all regional Chairmen and coordinated regional positions for projection at the UNGA. She successfully organized an international/ intergovernmental UNGA High-Level Meeting on

International Maritime Piracy.

Within a two-year stint as Director of the Nigerian Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering (SCUML) in 2011, she excelled in the development and implementation of an effective culture of compliance with extant laws and regulations on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/ CFT) amongst Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs).

As Consul at the Embassy of Nigeria, Rome, Italy, she was directly confronted with the challenges of Human Trafficking, Drugs Trafficking and Prostitution especially as they affect Nigerian migrants in Europe, as well as the deceitful and vicious strategies of the

perpetrators and their collaborators located in Nigeria and Europe.

From 2019 – 2020, she was the Team leader/ Senior Adviser on

Peace and Security, to the President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York. She holds a certificate in Corruption Studies from the University of Hong Kong, and a certificate on the Law of the Sea from the Rhodes Academy on the Law of The Sea. She is also a UNODC certified Corruption Risk Assessor

A distinguished jurist with an illustrious career spanning decades of meritorious service in the Nigerian judiciary, Her Lordship, Hon. Justice Chioma Egondu Nwosu-Iheme is a native of Nkwerre Local Government Area in Imo State, she was born on February 2, 1959 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Her Lordship began her early education at Methodist Primary School, Ogui, Enugu, and St. Paul's Primary School, Nkwerre, from 1964 to 1970. She proceeded to St. Catherine's Girls Secondary School, Benin, Edo State (1970–1974), and later attended Idia College, Benin (1976–1977). Her pursuit of legal excellence led her to the University of Lagos, where she obtained her LL.B. in 1981, followed by her call to the Nigerian Bar in 1982 after completing studies at the Nigerian Law School. Her Lordship further advanced her academic credentials with a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, in 1991, and later earned a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Law from the same university between 1993 and 1998. Hon. Justice Nwosu-Iheme commenced her legal career in private practice at the firm



Nwosu-Iheme, **Hon. Justice Chioma Egondu**

of S.N. Nwala & Co., Aba, Abia State (1982–1983), before transitioning into public service. She was appointed State Counsel in the old Imo State Ministry of Justice in 1983, rising to the position of Senior State Counsel in 1986. In the same year, she joined the Magisterial Bench, where she steadily rose to become Chief Magistrate in 1993. Her exceptional performance led to her appointment as a Judge of the High Court of Imo State in 1995, marking the beginning of an outstanding judicial career. On February 15, 2008, Her Lordship was elevated to the Court of Appeal, where she served with distinction across various judicial divisions. She notably held the esteemed position of Presiding Justice of the Awka, Ekiti, and Ibadan Divisions of the Court of Appeal from 2019 to 2023. Beyond her judicial responsibilities, Hon. Justice

Nwosu-Iheme has contributed significantly to various national and international legal assignments. She has served as a member of the National Assembly, Governorship, and Legislative Houses Election Petition Tribunals. Additionally, she was a designated Judge of the Corrupt Practices Court for Imo State from 2001 to 2008, as appointed by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission

(ICPC). Her international standing was further solidified when she was elected by the United Nations General Assembly in New York as an ad litem Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal (ICC) at The Hague, Netherlands.

Her Lordship is a respected member of numerous professional bodies and has received several prestigious awards and recognitions for her contributions to the legal profession and the administration of justice. In recognition of her unwavering commitment to justice, judicial excellence, and service to the nation, Hon. Justice Chioma Egondu Nwosu-Iheme was elevated to the Supreme Court of Nigeria on February 26, 2024.



Nzewi,
Dr. Nneka Evelyn

Dr. Nneka Evelyn Nzewi is a highly accomplished professional with a robust educational background, boasting degrees from esteemed institutions:

- University of Nigeria, Nsukka (BA Mass Communication)
- University of Abuja (MSc in Public Administration)
- Brunel University, West London (BSc in Human Resources Management and Employee Relations)
- Honorary

Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership & Humanitarian Service (Honoris Causa) at Pacesetters Christian University, Texas, USA.

She is the Co-Founder of Innobiomedsupply, Innoscienz, and Innobiomed Shipping, Nneka excels in health systems research analysis and SAP writing at Health and Human Services, as well as research

coordination at the University of Houston.

Beyond her analytical role, Nneka serves as:

- Co-Partner and Director of InnoSciencz Corporation, a pioneering Houston-based biotechnology company developing innovative, organic biomedical products from natural sources.

- Founder and President General of Women of Glory Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing lives globally.

- Farmer and entrepreneur, importing snails to Houston and exporting African ground fried fruits.

- CEO of Inno-Grow, producing natural face, hair,

and body wash products made from African best natural ingredients.

Under her visionary leadership, InnoSciencz Corporation has established a reputation for manufacturing premium quality organic products.

Nneka hails from Awka, Anambra State. She is married and together they have five children. Driven by her passion for spreading joy and love, Nneka is committed to helping others and bringing smiles to people's faces.



Odumegwu-Ojukwu, **Bianca**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, is a prominent Nigerian politician, diplomat, lawyer, and business woman. Born on the 5th of August 1968, to the former Anambra State Governor Christian Onoh and his wife Carol, Bianca, the sixth child of seven children was married to the late Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu in 1994. Their union is blessed with three children; Chineme, Afamefunna and Nwachukwu.

With a rich educational background, Bianca is been said to have studied law from the University of Nigeria Nsukka, after which she proceeded to the Nigerian Law school, and was afterwards called to bar. As a beauty queen, Bianca is a multiple international pageant

titleholder, having won Most Beautiful Girl in Nigeria, Miss Africa and Miss Intercontinental. Bianca represented Nigeria at the Miss World in Hong Kong and Miss Universe in Mexico following her win.

In 2011, she was appointed Senior Special Assistant on Diaspora Affairs by former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. Bianca is reportedly Nigeria's permanent representative to the United Nations World Tourism Organization. Odumegwu-Ojukwu, was also Nigeria's Ambassador to Ghana, and ambassador of Nigeria to the Kingdom of Spain



Oduwusi,
Abiola Osareimen

Abiola Osareimen Oduwusi is an Educationist and Entrepreneur. As a passionate edupreneur, she drives innovation in education through cutting-edge solutions, strategic partnerships, and community engagement. With over twenty years' experience in educational leadership, instructional design, and entrepreneurship, she fosters collaborative learning environments that spark creativity and curiosity.

Mrs Oduwusi, holds a B.Sc. in Mathematics & Economics (combined honours) from the University of Benin, a Postgraduate Diploma in Education and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership (MAOL).

A Scholar of the Goldman Sachs Women's Enterprise & Leadership Program that culminated into a Certificate in Entrepreneurial Management from the Lagos Business School (Entrepreneurial Development Centre) a faculty of the Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos. She

is also a proud pioneer awardee of the Federal Government YouWin programme in 2011/2012.

Prior to starting her school, Mrs Oduwusi was a sought-after Mathematics and English teacher in reputable schools in Abuja.

She founded Lela Blossom Schools from the scratch, that is, from crèche and gradually grew it up to Senior Secondary school. Today, Lela Blossom Schools has government accreditation to conduct SS3 National exams in the school. No doubt, she is a teacher, an administrator, a visionary leader, a consultant, a mentor, a counsellor, a prayer warrior, a mother and a believer of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

She has undergone several training programmes in education management in Nigeria, South Africa, Dubai and United States of America.

Mrs Oduwusi is a philanthropist; especially in the area of educating boy child and supporting wellbeing of families. I-Heed Nations, her NGO, is currently leading other partners on a project to provide free medical services to over a 1,000 people in a densely populated community called Dakibiyu in the FCT, Abuja.

She is highly skilled and widely sought-after speaker, across various religious and non-religious platforms.

Mrs Oduwusi, is a well-committed Christian woman, married to Dr Oyewole Oduwusi and blessed with three sons.



Olotu,
Funmilayo

Life is on the upward curve for Ms. Funmilayo Olotu. Described as an epitome of beauty and brain, the Lagos politician has stepped up her political game. A few days ago, President Bola Tinubu made some new appointments to fast-track his Renewed Hope Agenda. One of those appointed by President Tinubu to help drive his humanitarian goals included one of Nigeria's finest brains, Ms. Funmilayo Olotu, who was announced as the project manager of National Social Safety-Net Coordinating Office under the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development.

A woman of intellect, Ms. Olotu has paid her dues in the

Nigerian political landscape, particularly in Lagos, where she has spent most of her life adding value to the prosperity of Lagos and humanity. Since her entry into the political space at age 19, she has learned the ropes and honed her skills in the game of politics. Her perseverance has finally paid off. Before her appointment, Ms. Olotu served as Senior Special Assistant to the Lagos State Governor on State Lotteries. A paragon of beauty, Ms. Olotu covered herself in glory during her time as one of Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's top aides. She holds a master's degree in Business Administration. Not only that, but she's also a loyal party member who has contributed significantly to the growth of

her party, the All Progressives Congress, APC in Lagos. Ms. Olotu is expected to bring her wealth of experience to bear on her current national assignment.



Ogbara,
Hon. Kafilat

Hon. Kafilat Ogbara represents Kosofe federal constituency in the House of Representatives. She studied at the University of Lagos, where she got a B.Sc. in English Language and Literature.

She also acquired her M.Sc. degree in International Law and Diplomacy and another in Public Administration, both from the University of Lagos.

She started her career in Property and Facility Management in the Family Business. She had a background in the prints and Electronic Media as a Television Presenter on NTA on the programme 'Faces and Events.'

She is the Publisher of Today's

Prime newspaper, and the former Managing Director/ CEO of National Mirror Newspaper in the print media.

She also worked at the Nigeria Television Authority Abuja, National Centre for Women Development Abuja, and National Horticultural Research Institute.

Hon. Justice Helen Moronkeji Ogunwumiju pursued her legal education at the University of Lagos, graduating with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) in 1977, and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1978. Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju completed her National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in the Old Gongola State between 1978 and 1979, marking the beginning of a distinguished career in law and public service. Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju briefly worked with the Ondo State Government from 1979 to 1981. She married Otunba Festus Kokumo Ogunwumiju in 1980, and they are blessed with children.

From 1981 to 1990, she served with the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria, rising to the rank of Assistant Director. During her tenure, she made significant contributions to establishing Legal Aid Offices and programs in several states, including Oyo, Osun, Lagos, Sokoto, and others, thereby improving access to justice for the underprivileged. In 1991, she was appointed Chief Magistrate Grade 1 in Oyo State, where she served in various magisterial districts, including Ibadan, Ile-Ife, Eruwa, Igboora, and Oyo. She became the Secretary of the Judicial Service Committee of Oyo State in 1996, and subsequently the Probate Registrar, State Sheriff, and ultimately the Chief Registrar of Oyo State Judiciary in 1997. As Chief Registrar, she established the Records Unit of the High Court to archive court records, enhancing judicial record-keeping and administrative efficiency. In November 1998, she was appointed a Judge of the High Court of Ondo State, where she presided over civil and criminal cases. During her tenure, she chaired the Investigative Board of Enquiry into the Produce Department in 2000 and was a member of the Election Petition Tribunal, Taraba State in 2003. She also served on the Presidential Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice in 2003, contributing to the drafting

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Ogunwumiju, **Hon. Justice Helen Moronkeji**

of what would later become the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA).

Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju was elevated to the Court of Appeal in November 2005, where she served with distinction in divisions across the country, including Ilorin, Benin, Owerri, Lagos, and Enugu. She also took on ad hoc judicial assignments in other divisions. As Presiding Justice of the Benin Division in 2013, she pioneered the introduction of the Communications (Front) Desk to improve public engagement with the Court of Appeal. She later served as Presiding Justice of the Enugu Division and chaired several key committees, including the Information Technology Committee of the Court of Appeal and the Media Committee. Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju also served as Vice-Chair of the Information Technology Committee of the National Judicial Council (NJC), where she played a vital role in promoting the digitization of court processes.

In recognition of her judicial excellence, Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju was elevated to the Supreme Court of

Nigeria on November 6, 2020. As a Justice of the Supreme Court, she has continued to demonstrate unwavering commitment to justice and the rule of law.

Beyond her judicial duties, Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju is the Chair of the Governing Council of the West African Regional Centre for Law and Religion Studies, facilitating roundtable conferences across the sub-region. She is also a Fellow of the Salzburg Seminar (Session 390); Member of the Commonwealth Magistrates' and Judges' Association and Member of the National Association of Women Judges, Nigeria (NAWJN). As President of NAWJN between 2014 and 2016, she spearheaded the Global Leadership of Women (GLOW) program, focusing on public enlightenment and capacity building for law enforcement and judicial officers in handling cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

In 2014, she worked with the Nigeria Police to establish the Special Victims Desk (now Gender Desk) at all divisional police stations nationwide. This initiative

ensured that cases of domestic and sexual violence were handled with professionalism and sensitivity by specially trained officers. She has also served as Board Member for West and Central Africa at the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) from 2016 to 2018.

Since 2005, Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju has served as Lord Chancellor of the Ibadan Diocese, Anglican Communion, a role she continues to hold with distinction. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to law and public service, Hon. Justice Ogunwumiju was conferred with the Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR), one of Nigeria's highest national honours.



Okeke,
Frances Uchenna

Frances Uchenna Okeke is an international development professional, women's rights defender, and passionate advocate for sustainable environments and agriculture as pathways to community resilience. She recently completed my MA in International Development at the University of Edinburgh.

With over 8 years of experience in the development sector, she has designed and implemented programs that directly impacted more than 5,000 youths and community members across Nigeria. Her work has helped to advanced gender equality, education, sustainable livelihoods, and social justice. As Executive

Director of the SCAAD Initiative and an Education Champion with the Malala Fund, she has led initiatives that empower young people to turn local resources into opportunities, especially in agriculture and environmental conservation.

At the heart of everything she does is a commitment to amplifying youth voices, promoting environmental sustainability and ensuring sustainable food systems that transforms communities.



Onyechi,
Mrs. Nonyem

Mrs. Nonyem Onyechi is the Coordinating Director, Planning and Business Development in NASENI

Nonyem Onyechi was the Director of Planning and Policy Analysis (PPA) at NASENI Headquarters and occupied this position for seven (7) years. She is a seasoned and astute civil servant with professional experience of thirty-one (31) years having worked at the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology (FMST) for two (2) years and subsequently in NASENI for Twenty-Nine (29) years. She is well grounded in the development of science, technology and innovation policies and has demonstrated

satisfactory skills and best practices in its formulation and implementation of the mandate of NASENI. Mrs. Onyechi is also of proven integrity, transparency and accountability which earned her the highly coveted NASENI Merit Award as the Best

Performing Director in 2018

Abimbola Oladunjoye was joined the services of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in September 1999 as a Systems Analyst and was posted to serve at the Commission's State office in Ilorin, Kwara State as the pioneer ICT staff. During this period, she administered and managed the Local Area Network of the office, organized ICT staff training, amongst others. In July 2002, she was redeployed to the ICT department at the Commission's Headquarters in Abuja.

At INEC HQ, 'Bimbo, as she is fondly called, grew through the ranks to become the Deputy Director, Management Information Systems (MIS), a position she held from 2019 till 2024. During her stay at the headquarters, she took special interest in the register of voters, as that was the first technological innovation of the Commission. She was privileged to Head the Data Management Unit of the ICT department, both in acting capacity as well as a full-fledged Head of Unit. As the Head of the Data Management Unit, she administered the voter registration database, the voter accreditation database as well as the 2019 Election Results database, amongst others.

She was pivotal to the design and implementation of the INEC Continuous Voter Registration Portal (CVR Portal), the digitization of the Polling Unit (PU) delimitation database and its integration with the register of voters, the implementation and management of the Voting Points (VPs) and Voting Points Settlements (VPS) and its integration with the voter registration database, the administration of the voter migration process and its integration with the



Oladunjoye,
Abimbola I.

voter access to PUs, etc. She was also involved in the management and coordination of the National, Zonal and State Data Centres, and the co-ordination of the Commission's Data warehousing & disaster recovery (business continuity) projects.

Her passion for the register built in her the zeal to ensure that the register of voters kept improving from one election circle to another. This quality was what earned her the opportunity of being part of the 3-man team from INEC deployed by ECOWAS and the UNDP on a mission to assist the Republic of Liberia with its register of voters in 2017 and in 2019, an assignment which earned the team a letter of commendation from the ECOWAS Commission. She also got an award as a Most Outstanding Staff in INEC (HQ category) during the Commission's maiden Awards Ceremony in 2018.

During her years in the ICT department, she was part of the development team for INEC 2003 Election Result Software using Visual Basic front end and

Oracle 8 backend; Member, Project Implementation Committee – Electoral Logistic Management System and Portal using Oracle 9i; Member, Project Implementation Committee – HR, Payroll and Oracle Financials; System Administrator, Oracle Financials Application, amongst others.

'Bimbo was also privileged to serve on adhoc committees; as Secretary, Panel to Investigate allegations of wrong entries in the Register of Voters for some LGAs in Anambra State – November 2009; Secretary, Action Plan Implementation Committee (APIC) for the 2011 General Election; Secretary, Election Project Plan (EPP) for the 2015 General Election; head of the secretariat of the Electronic Voting Implementation Committee (EVIC) – 2020; as well as part

of the technical support teams for the Presidential Collation from 2003 to 2019. She represented the Commission as a member of the Technical Working Group of the Digital Identity Ecosystem and the Commission's Desk Officer for the Nigeria Digital ID4D Project. She also served as the Data Protection Officer (DPO) of the Commission. She rose to the position of a Director in 2024 and was posted to the Commission's FCT Office as the Administrative Secretary.



Olaye,
**Deputy Corps Marshal
(DCM) Pauline**

Deputy Corps Marshal (DCM) Pauline Olaye serves as the DCM in charge of the Special Duties and External Relations Department at the National Headquarters. By her new appointment, the most senior female officer in the Corps.

Deputy Corps Marshal (DCM) Pauline P. Olaye was born in Warri, Delta State, into the family of late Chief and Mrs Toby Okoro of Sagbama, Sagbama Local Government Area, Bayelsa State.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Linguistics from the University of Calabar in 1992, a Diploma in Road Traffic and Safety Management from Lund University, Sweden; and also completed a course in Strategic Thinking at the Nigerian Army Resource Centre in 2020.

Her career with the FRSC began on January 20, 1994, following her NYSC service

year at the FRSC Headquarters, Abuja, in 1992. Over the decades, she has held several key command and administrative positions.

Rising through the ranks from Assistant Route Commander to her current position, DCM Olaye has demonstrated excellence in service and has undertaken numerous professional development programs locally and internationally.

Her key achievements among others include:

- * Supervised the construction and commissioning of a roadside clinic along the Kaduna-Zaria Expressway, donated by Matrix Fertilizer.
- * Led impactful public safety campaigns across Northern

Nigeria, significantly reducing road traffic crashes.

- * Initiated the redesign of senior officers' gorget to meet national paramilitary standards.

- * Revived the FRSC pre-retirement workshop, preparing officers for post-service life.

DCM Pauline Olaye has received numerous awards and commendations for her service, notably the prestigious Road Safety Service Star Award in 2018.



Omidiran,
Hon. Hulayat Motunrayo

Hon. Hulayat Motunrayo Omidiran is the Executive Chairman of the Federal Character Commission (FCC). Hon. Omidiran, a former federal lawmaker representing Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan federal constituency in Osun State, is a native of Ikire in the Irewole local government area of Osun State. She holds bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

She contested for the Federal House of Representatives for Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan federal constituency in 2011 and was elected. She ran for re-election in 2015 and was re-elected under the umbrella of the APC. She has held various positions in the house including deputy chairman, House Committee on Sports; member House Committee on Judiciary, Communications, Interior, Solid Minerals, Women Affairs and Women in Parliament

In 2002, she became a member

of the Nigerian Football Association Board and remained there till 2005. Since 2006, she has been a member of the FIFA Women Committee. She became the proprietor of Omidiran Babe, a female football club in Osogbo, Osun State in 1997. In 2017, she was appointed the head of Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Women Football Committee.

She is a fan of football. She sponsored the Ayedaade-Irewole-Isokan Federal Constituency Football Competition in early 2018 which climaxed with the finals at the Ayedaade High School, Ikire, Osun State

Onuoha, Hon. Mariam

Hon. Mariam Onuoha is represents Isiala Mbanjo/Okigwe/Onuimo federal constituency in the House of Representatives.

She holds a B.Sc. in Estate Management from the University of Lagos and an M.Sc. in Environmental Planning and Protection from the University of Abuja.

Onuoha served as a Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Bayelsa State on International Development Cooperation before her election into the House of Representatives.

Onuoha, a returning legislator, won the 2019 elections for the House of Representatives after the election petition tribunal sacked Obinna Onwubuariri, who was earlier declared winner.



Onuoha
Hon. Mariam

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the election petition tribunal sacked Obinna Onwubuariri, who was earlier declared winner.



Onwughalu,
Amaka

Mrs. Amaka Onwughalu is the Chairman of the Board, Fidelity Bank Plc. Amaka is the Managing Partner at Blueshield Financial Services Ltd and has over three decades of banking experience. She has previously held board director roles at a number of other Nigerian Banks.

Amaka is also a Director at Aquila Capital Ltd., a Member of the Nigerian Institute of Management, and a Member of the Institute of Directors.

Former roles include Chief Executive Officer & Group Managing Director at Mainstreet Bank Ltd., Deputy Managing Director at Skye Bank Plc from 2008 to 2016, Executive Director at SFS

Real Estate Investment Trust, and Director at Mainstreet Microfinance Bank Ltd. Education includes graduation from Leeds Beckett University, an undergraduate degree from the University of Buckingham in 1983, and an MBA from the University of Port-Harcourt in 2000.



Osime,
Ifeyinwa

Mrs. Ifeyinwa Osime was appointed to Access Bank's Board in November 2019 as an Independent Non-Executive Director. Prior to her recent appointment, she served as Chairman of the Board Human Resources and Sustainability Committee, as well as the Board Governance Nomination and Remuneration Committee, making significant contributions to governance, leadership development, and sustainability. She also served on several other board committees. In addition, she is a Director at Ebudo Trust Limited and a Partner at McPherson Legal Practitioners, where she advises on corporate and commercial legal matters, and contributes to the firm's leadership and strategic direction. Her previous board experience includes serving as an Independent Non-Executive Director of Coronation Insurance Plc, Board Chairman of Coronation Life Insurance

Company Ltd and Non-Executive Director, Bank PHB (now Keystone Bank Limited).

Mrs. Osime began her career at Nigeria Reinsurance Corporation and later joined African Development Insurance Company Limited (ADIC, now NSIA Insurance) as Company Secretary/ Assistant General Manager, Administration & Legal.

She is a law graduate of the University of Benin, Benin City and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1987. She holds a Master of Laws in Commercial and Corporate Law from the London School of Economics and has attended executive education programmes at INSEAD, IMD, Harvard Business School, MIT, and Stanford, among others,

reflecting her commitment to continuous professional development and global best practices.

Mrs. Osime is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association, Women Corporate Directors

Nigeria Chapter, and Chartered Institute of Directors Nigeria, where she serves on the Executive Committee of the Women Sectoral Group.

Beyond her professional responsibilities, she is committed to mentoring young people and is actively involved in the Autism and Developmental Delays Support Community, reflecting her dedication to inclusion and social impact.



Osofisan,
Adenike

In 1989, Adenike Osofisan became the first Nigerian woman to earn a PhD in Computer Science. Seventeen years later, in 2006, she achieved another historic milestone—becoming the first woman in Africa to be appointed a full professor in the discipline at the University of Ibadan.

Osofisan received her secondary education at Fiwasaiye Girls' Grammar School, Akure, and later at Comprehensive High School, Ayetoro. Between 1971 and 1976, she pursued her undergraduate studies at the University of Ile-Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University), where she was awarded a federal government scholarship for most of her academic years.

In 1978, she furthered her studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology, earning a master's degree in Information and Computer Science in 1979. She later completed her PhD at Obafemi Awolowo University in 1989, with a thesis titled Data Processing Model for a Multi-Access Computer Communication Network, under the supervision of Adebayo Akinde.

Expanding her expertise beyond Computer Science, Osofisan obtained a Master of Business Administration (MBA) in Accounts and Finance from the University of Ibadan in 1993. Her dissertation, An Asset Portfolio Management Model for Nigerian Commercial Banks: A Case Study, earned her the

distinction of being the best MBA student of the year.

Her academic career began in 1979 at The Polytechnic, Ibadan, where she steadily rose through the ranks, eventually becoming the Dean of the Faculty of Science. In 1999, she transitioned to the University of Ibadan, where she was later conferred with a full professorship in 2006.

Credit: HistoryVille

Photo Credit: Adewumi Idowu Paul



Osuji,
Mrs. Emily Chidinma

Mrs. Osuji is the Executive Director, Corporate Services, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC). She began her career as a pioneer staff of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation as Management Assistant in 1989 and rose through the ranks to become the Director Asset Management Department.

At different times throughout her career she has been in charge of implementing the effective supervision of insured financial institutions covered by the NDIC. She was responsible for Premium Examination and Collection for 25 Deposit Money Banks, 950 Microfinance Banks, and 42 Primary Mortgage Institutions.

As a Deputy Director of the Special Insured Institutions Department, she has managed the largest teams in the Corporation which included two zonal offices.

Her commitment to duty was applied to the interaction between operators and the Corporation, resulting in higher premium collections and general industry harmony. She aided the microfinance and mortgage banking industries with development assistance, which had provided positive impact on the financial institutions.

She graduated from the University of Maiduguri with a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) in Sociology and an MBA in Finance from the University of

Lagos. Mrs. Osuji is a Fellow of the Association of Enterprise Risk Management Professionals and a member of the Nigerian Institute of Management.

She is also a member of the Ikoyi Club 1938, she loves swimming and is happily married with children.

Dr. Obal Adiaha Otu is a medical doctor, administrator; and community leader. She holds MBBS, D.C.H., FWACP, FRCP (Glasg.). Born December 27, 1943, Ibadan, Oyo State, she is married to Professor Otu, 4 children. Education: University of Ibadan, 1965-1970; Queens College, Enugu, 1961-1963; Convent of the Holy Child Jesus, Afikpo; St. Bartholomew's School, Enugu. Career: Proprietor and Medical Director, Adi's Specialist Clinic, Calabar, 1982 till date; Commissioner for Health and Social Services, 1992-1993, Physician, Government House Clinic, 1979-1983; Head, Department of Medicine, St. Margaret's Hospital, 1978-1982; Senior Consultant Physician, St Margaret's Hospital, 1979; Senior Registrar in Medicine, St. Margaret's Hospital, 1977; attached to Dr. T. J. Thompson's Gastro-enterology Unit in Stobhill General Hospital for 6 years, 1976; Edinburgh Post-Graduate medicine Course, 1975; Registrar in Medicine, St. Luke's Hospital, Anua, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, 1973-1974; attached to the paediatrics department, Stobhill General Hospital, Glasgow, 1971-1972; Housemanship in Medicine, Surgery and Paediatrics,



Otu,
Dr. Obal Adiaha

Lagos University Teaching Hospital, Lagos, 1970-1971. Professional Associations: President, Medical Women's Association, Cross River State Chapter, 1986-1989; member, Nigerian Medical Association. Achievements/Awards/Honours: Cross River State Honours Award, 2000; elevated Fellow, West African College of Physicians, FWACP; recipient of Mother's Pride Award by the Duke Town Presbyterian Church, 1989; Nigerian Medical Association Honours Award by the Cross River State branch, 1989; Merit Award by Queen's School, Enugu Old Girls' Association, 1992; Distinguished Medical Practitioner's Award by Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria, 1993; Dr. Irene

Ighodare Prize for contributing to the growth and progress of Medical Women's Association, 1993; certificate of commendation for painting Eastern Nigeria Festival of Arts, 1960; First Prize Certificate and Silver Medal for painting in Eastern Nigeria Festival of Arts, 1961; Practical Pharmacology Book Prize, University of Ibadan, 1968, Lady Manuwa Gold Medal for the best Graduate of the Year in the combined subjects of Child Health, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, 1970; Listed in a book, Cross River Amazons: A Profile on 100 Top Women in Cross River. Published works: APOC Impact Assessment Study: Onchocercal skin disease in Sudan and Nigeria; Age and Related Differences in Primary and Secondary Infections; Monographs (i. Understanding Hypertension, 2. Living with diabetes; 3. Weight Reducers' Diet Sheet). Motto: service above self. Hobbies: painting, designing and sewing, golfing. Official Address: 7A Otop Abasi Street, Calabar.

Mrs. Oyanbo Peace Owei (often referred to as Barrister Peace Oyanbo) is a Nigerian lawyer, civil rights advocate, and policy maker recognized for her work in philanthropy, women's empowerment, and the Niger Delta region. She has served as a Technical Assistant to the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources.

Representative, Ministry of Petroleum Resources on the board of the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB)

Barrister Peace Oyanbo Owei is also the Founder She-4-She Initiative, an NGO that has consistently given women and the girl-child opportunities to build a career and create shared value for the society.

Given her audacious quest to empower them, her initiative has become as a thriving platform that restores hope to the hopeless, while giving them a lifeline. Barrister Peace Oyanbo Owei is a selfless leader who has invested so much in empowering women through capacity building to help create an enabling environment where they can have access to health care, build their self-confidence and be able to compete anywhere in the world for various opportunities.

This she has achieved through the She4She Initiative. Over time, She4She has emerged as a thriving platform restoring hopes



Owei, **Barrister Peace Oyanbo**

to the hopeless with their many strategic reach out programmes that provides food for thousands, skills for yet another hundreds of young ladies and medical lifelines to those who cannot afford basic healthcare facilities.

Its objective is to be an advocacy group that fights for the right of women, to be placed in strategic positions of power and board rooms where policy decisions are made.

For Owei, she believes that empowerment is a process, not a product. Her words: "There has been immense progress to uplift women financially, politically and socially, but it is still an open-ended process. In the light of many ongoing, a clear vision emerges, a vision of the empowerment of each deserving one.

She is also of the belief that "empowering a woman today will lead to a progressive society

for tomorrow and this silver lining is her motivation in analyzing any gender equality discussion and offering practical assistance to them.

Oyouwa, Gloria
Chinwe Gloria Oyouwa is an entrepreneur, autism awareness advocate, and founder of 'Crown and Calm' a sensory-friendly brand that is focused on providing products that support unique sensory needs. She is also a sensory specialist and a marketing graduate from Ladoke Akintola University. She grew up with an autistic uncle and wants to create an environment in which Nigerians and Africans with invisible disabilities can thrive and succeed, by creating something meaningful that addresses their unique needs.

In a conversation with PM News, she discloses how "Crown and Calm" was inspired by her personal experience growing up with an autistic uncle and her desire to create an inclusive environment for individuals with invisible disabilities.

With a passion for making sensory tools accessible, Gloria's Crown & Calm offers carefully designed products that bring ease and support to daily life. Her mission is to ensure every child can thrive with tools crafted to bring calm and confidence.

Queency Patrick, 48, is a Lawyer and a Communicator with a foundation in development practice. She has over Eighteenyears' experience and core competencies in Advocacy, Content Creation/Development, Media Materials development, Capacity Building Program Development, Public Health Program Management, Safe-Guarding, Organizational Structure Development and Research.



Patrick,
Queency

Queency started her career in the non-profit as Program officer for Development Options International Center for Women and Youth Advancement- an organization working on issues of HIV/AIDS, other Public Health and advancement interests. She further served as Executive Director (Programs) for James Jephthah Foundation - an organization that supports Youth Leadership Development and Empowerment for vulnerable groups in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. She was also the Nigerian Desk officer for Hugh 'O Brian Nigeria Youth Foundation [HOBY NIGERIA] and ALBERT Schweitzer LEADERSHIP for Life Foundation [ASLFL] both

non-profit organizations that actively promotes leadership and educational opportunities for young adults across the globe and she has worked as a Program Officer for Women in Politics Forum, Nigeria.

Queency has consulted and co-consulted for the following organizations: the Enterprise Development Center of Pan-Atlantic University, Women Radio, Society for Family Health [SFH], Communication for Change, Cross River State Ministry of Women Affaires, Federal Ministry of Health, National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission [NIPC], African Children Talent Discovery Foundation and other

organizations.

Queency is the founder of REBECCA NKANU FOUNDATION [RNF], an FBO working to enable children, girls and women access holistic development through education, information and communication.

Aside her corporate Law Practice, Queency has interest in Politics and in 2019, she contested in the Nigeria General Election for the AMAC/BWARI Federal Constituency seat at the House of Representatives on the platform of the Change Advocacy Party. Queency sits on the Board of many non-profit organization currently works as Head of Corporate Affairs for Oceanwave Group Ltd., a privately held Oil & Gas conglomerate. She is also the Administrator of the Abuja Children's Home, Karu FCT – a home for OVCs. Her hobbies include writing, cooking and travelling, she lives in Abuja, Nigeria with her family.

When Akwa Ibom State Governor, Pastor Umo Eno, appointed Mrs. Elsie Anietie Peters as the 7th Head of the Akwa Ibom State Civil Service, it was more than a routine transition. It was a significant moment that placed a highly accomplished, thoroughly prepared, and deeply experienced civil servant at the helm of one of the State's most strategic institutions.

With a career spanning over two decades — rooted in discipline, intelligence management, administrative excellence, and strategic leadership — Mrs. Peters represents the ideal blend of knowledge, experience, and integrity.

Born on May 2, 1971, in Ebute-Metta, Lagos State, and hailing from Ikot Akpandem in Eket Local Government Area, Mrs. Peters began shaping her path early. Her academic journey is both impressive and versatile, reflecting her commitment to personal and professional development.

She holds multiple advanced degrees, including:

- * M.Sc. in Public Order & Information Management (University of Uyo, 2021)
- * Master's in Public Administration (2006)
- * Post Graduate Diploma in Sociology & Anthropology



Peters,
Mrs. Elsie

(2017)

- * Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Communication Arts (1997)
- * Certificate in Data Processing/Computer Application (1995)

Her academic strength is complemented by certifications from reputable international organizations, including ISO-SEC Switzerland, and elite security training programs in China.

A Distinguished Career in Public Service

Mrs. Elsie Peters is an award-winning administrative officer and security intelligence expert, whose work has shaped both state and national systems.

Until her appointment, she was the

Permanent Secretary, Special Services Department, Governor's Office
From intelligence gathering to personnel management, from policy drafting to supervising Departmental Security Officers, her work has been central to the security architecture, administrative planning, and government protocols of Akwa Ibom State.

One of the most outstanding dimensions of Mrs. Peters' profile is her deep expertise in security intelligence and surveillance, developed through years of frontline work and international training.

Beyond her administrative duties, Mrs. Peters has served as a faculty member, trainer, and resource person for numerous workshops and institutions:

Her leadership represents a new chapter — one built on loyalty, professionalism, discipline, and the ARISE Agenda.

Her story is that of diligence meeting destiny, and Akwa Ibom State stands poised to benefit immensely from her decades of preparation.

Courtesy: AKSTRENDING



Rotimi,
Mrs. Ebum Favour Aribisala

Ebun Favour Aribisala Rotimi is a chartered accountant. She notched up this professional accomplishment about two years ago. A Fellow of ANAN, Mrs. Rotimi has worked majorly in the private sector for some years before she joined the Federal Judiciary Court of Appeal in 1999. She has worked in various units of the court like Central Pay Office, Advances, Funds, Variation, Other Charges etc. She is the head of Variation, Advances and Other Charges of the Court. She has served at different times as an Assistant coordinator and also as the Treasurer of the Appeal Court Christian Fellowship.

An indigene of Orin-Odo in

Ikole local government area of Ekiti state, she was born on the 14th of June 1965. She obtained her primary school certificate in Methodist primary school, Owo in 1978. She attended the St. Louis Girls' Grammar School in Owo, Ondo state and then finished in Akure Secondary Commercial school, Akure where she obtained WAEC in 1984. She moved to Oyo State College of Education between 1985 and 1988 and obtained National Certificate in Education, NCE. She then proceeded to University of Abuja in 1999 and got B.SC Public Administration in 2007 and then School of Accountancy, Jos for conversion in 2009. She was inducted as full Certified National Accountant in

2011 and became a Fellow of Certified National Accountant (FCNA) few years ago.

She is happily married and blessed with wonderful and glorious children. She is an Assistant Pastor in the Redeemed Christian Church of God.

A distinguished jurist with a stellar career spanning over four decades in the Nigerian judiciary, Hon. Justice Jummai Hannatu Sankey's education began at Latimer Nursery School, London (1963-1964), followed by St. Anne's Primary Boarding School, Kaduna (1965-1969). She proceeded to Queen Amina College, Kaduna (1970-1974) and St. Louis College, Jos (1974-1976) for her secondary education. She later earned her Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, in 1979, before being called to the Nigerian Bar in 1980 after completing her studies at the Nigerian Law School, Lagos.

Hon. Justice Sankey commenced her legal career as a Legal Aid Counsel in Zaria under the National Youth Service Scheme (1980-1981). She then joined the Kaduna State Ministry of Justice, where she served as State Counsel Grade II and later rose to Senior State Counsel (1981-1989).

In 1989, she transitioned to the Plateau State Judiciary as a Senior Magistrate and subsequently held several key judicial positions, including: Chief Magistrate Grade II (1989-1992); Chief Magistrate Grade I (1992-1993); and Deputy Chief Registrar/ Director of Personnel



Sankey,
Hon. Justice Jummai Hannatu

Management, Plateau State Judiciary (1992-1993)

Her Lordship's exceptional legal acumen led to her appointment as a Judge of the Plateau State High Court in 1993. She served diligently and was later appointed Chairman of the Robbery and Firearms Tribunal, Plateau State (1997-1999).

In recognition of her judicial excellence, she was elevated to the Court of Appeal in 2006. Over the years, she served as Presiding Justice in several appellate divisions, including Yola, Akure, Makurdi, Gombe, Awka, and Owerri, where she contributed immensely to the development of legal jurisprudence. She also played a pivotal role in Nigeria's electoral adjudication system,

serving as Presiding Justice and Member of various Governorship, National, and State Assemblies Election Appeal Panels.

Beyond her judicial duties, Hon. Justice Sankey has been actively involved in legal and judicial reforms. She chaired several Judicial Commissions of Inquiry into communal disturbances in Plateau State and has been an advocate for gender justice and judicial excellence. Her professional affiliations include: President, National Association of Women Judges of Nigeria (NAWJN) (2021-2023); Member, Body of Benchers (2018 – Present); Member, International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ); and Member, Commonwealth Association of Magistrates & Judges

In recognition of her service to the nation, she was conferred with the national honour of Officer of the Order of the Federal Republic (OFR). On February 26, 2024, Hon. Justice Sankey was sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, bringing with her a wealth of judicial experience, unwavering integrity, and a commitment to upholding the rule of law.



Shonekan,
Aderinola

Aderinola Shonekan joined the Central Bank in 1994 and is currently the Director of Research Department. She started her career with the Financial Sector Stability Directorate, working in the Department of Banking Supervision and Other Financial Institution Supervision. She last worked at the Financial Markets Department of the Economic Policy Directorate.

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance, Masters of Science in Accounting and Management Science. She also attended the programme for Management Development at the Harvard Business School.



Sike,
Mrs. Rita Ijeoma

Rita Ijeoma Sike (PhD) currently serves as the Director of the Financial Policy and Regulation Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). With over two decades of experience in banking supervision, regulatory policy formulation, banking and accounting practice.

She holds a B. Sc. in Accounting from the University of Calabar, as well as M. Sc and Ph.D. in Management from Nile University of Nigeria. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and has participated in numerous training programs both domestically and internationally.

Dr. Sike began her career at

the Central Bank of Nigeria in August 2003 and has steadily risen through the ranks. Her work spanned both off site supervision and on-site supervision of banks, and leading role of the supervisory division responsible for monitoring and reporting on the state of the banking system in Nigeria as well as the implementation of key policy decisions of the CBN. She has served as a member of several committees and participated in inter agency assignments that developed policies which helped to strengthen the stability of the Nigerian Financial System.

As a strong advocate for knowledge sharing and professional development, she also served as a Facilitator

at the CBN Bank Examiners courses. Her commitment to mentoring, ethics and analytical rigour continues to shape her leadership approach.

In her role as Director of Financial Policy and Regulation she is responsible for formulation of development of policies and guidelines, licensing procedures while also managing systemic financial risks to ensure stability within the financial system in Nigeria. She is passionate about creating structures that uphold transparency, build institutional trust and enhance the resilience and safety of the financial system.



Songden,
Dr Rejoice

Dr Rejoice Songden is the first female to be appointed as Registrar of the University of Jos, was a Deputy Registrar in the Senior Staff Establishment Division of the University of Jos before she took a Leave of Absence to serve as Registrar of Karl Kumm University, Vom.

Dr Songden obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the University of Jos in 2002 and later a Master of Arts Degree in English also from the University of Jos in 2012. She later enrolled in the same institution for a PhD programme in English which she successfully completed in 2018. Dr Songden also possesses a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE).

She joined the services of the University of Jos in 2005 as an Administrative Officer II from where he steadily rose through the ranks to the

position of Deputy Registrar in 2020 before being appointed Registrar in Karl Kumm University in 2021. Dr Songden has served in various Units in the University of Jos including Senior Staff Establishment Division, Faculty Officer, Faculties of Environmental Sciences, Education and Arts as well as in the Information and Publications Division.

The new Registrar has held many responsibilities and carried out many ad-hoc assignments in the University including Ad-hoc member, Committee on the Review of the Scheme of Service and Conditions/Regulations of Service for the University of Jos Press Limited, Member, Unijos Public Procurement Committee and Secretary

Complex 'D' Appraisal Committee. Others are Secretary Committee for the establishment of a Counselling Unit for the University of Jos and Secretary, Committee to Screen Students

Credentials in the Faculty of Arts.

Dr Songden is a seasoned Administrator and member of several professional bodies and associations among which are Fellow, Institute of Professional Managers and Administrators of Nigeria (IPMA), Member, Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRC), Member, Association of Registrars of Nigerian Universities (ARNU) and Member, Association of Nigerian University Professional Administrators (ANUPA).

courtesy: Unijos.edu.ng



Suleiman,
Hajiya Nafisa Barau

Hajiya Nafisa Barau Suleiman is the first female registrar of the Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State, in its 12-year-old history. She holds an MA in English Language from the Usmanu Danfodiyo University (UDUS), Sokoto.

Prior to the appointment, she had acted as registrar, following the completion of the tenure of the former registrar, Malam Yakubu Anivbassa, on February 4, 2025.

She was also the Deputy Registrar in the office of the Vice Chancellor and served as the Faculty Officer, at the Faculty of Humanities and Education.



Udoh,
Professor Mojisola

Professor Mojisola Udoh is the Acting Dean, School of Basic Clinical Sciences, Federal University of Technology FUTA. Professor Udoh is a distinguished academic, clinician, and leader in the field of Anatomic Pathology, with specialized expertise in Neuropathology and Gastrointestinal Pathology.

A Professor at the University of Benin and an Honorary Consultant at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital, she embodies a powerful synergy of advanced clinical service, rigorous academic teaching, and impactful research.

Her academic journey,

anchored by MBBS from the prestigious College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, and a fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria and Membership of the West African College of Physicians of Nigeria, has been marked by a commitment to excellence. This foundation was further strengthened by specialized training at institutions such as University College London and continuous professional development through numerous inter

Patricia Eyamba is a transformational community leader, social impact strategist, and advocate for inclusive development whose work bridges cultural identity, leadership empowerment, and community wellbeing. Her career spans settlement services, trauma-informed practice, leadership development, nonprofit innovation, and community engagement. She is dedicated to strengthening systems that support newcomer families, BIPOC communities, youth, and other equity-deserving populations.

As Founder and Executive Director of El-Ubuntu Pathways Inc., Patricia leads initiatives rooted in the African philosophy of Ubuntu— “I am because we are.” Through culturally responsive programming, youth mentorship, parent engagement, and institutional capacity building, she advances integration as meaningful participation, representation, and shared responsibility—not merely access to services.

Grounded in trauma-informed practice, Patricia integrates trauma-responsive frameworks into community and organizational environments. She facilitates professional development sessions on vicarious trauma, staff resilience, psychological safety, bias awareness, and culturally responsive engagement. Her work equips frontline professionals and leaders with practical tools



Ukpoka-Eyamba,
Patricia

to prevent burnout, sustain compassionate practice, and build inclusive service systems. She is known for translating complex trauma concepts into clear, actionable strategies that strengthen teams and improve outcomes.

With a proven record in program development, Patricia designs and implements scalable, impact-driven initiatives aligned with measurable results. She has developed mentorship models, community dialogue platforms, leadership training curricula, and culturally responsive engagement frameworks grounded in research, lived experience, and community voice. Her leadership reflects strong governance, accountability, strategic planning, and long-term sustainability.

In addition to her nonprofit leadership, Patricia serves in senior leadership roles within complex service environments,

providing strategic oversight, team development, and systems coordination. She champions equity, anti-racism, bias-conscious leadership, and inclusive workplace cultures.

An accomplished author and community writer, Patricia amplifies underrepresented voices and promotes cultural identity and empowerment. Her contributions have earned her the Exemplars Award, recognition among the 100 Most Outstanding Nigerians in the Diaspora (2023 Edition), and the 2024 International Excellence Award in the category of Female Writers. She also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Coalition of Manitoba Cultural Communities for Families, and she is listed in Who Is Who in Cross River State, Nigeria.

Patricia’s impact is defined by her commitment

to empowering women, strengthening families, and building collaborative bridges between institutions and communities. She leads with courage, cultural consciousness, and a deep commitment to transformative change—believing that when women lead with purpose and integrity, communities transform and collective progress becomes possible.

Senator Nenadi Esther Usman is a distinguished leader known for her unwavering commitment to public service. She holds a Doctorate in Geography from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and a Master's Degree in Strategy and Security Management.

Sen. Usman began her career as a classroom teacher, demonstrating her commitment to education. She later served as an Executive Advisor for Youths and Sports in the Kaduna State government, advocating for policies that empowered young people. She also held the position of Executive Advisor on Information, Home Affairs, and Culture before being appointed to consecutive roles as Hon. Commissioner for Women Affairs, Environment, and Health, where she led initiatives focused on community development and public welfare.

Sen. Usman's dedication to humanitarian causes has been evident in her impactful leadership as the Honorable Minister of Finance under President Olusegun Obasanjo and in her advocacy for human rights during her tenure as a Senator representing Kaduna South in the seventh National Assembly. Her commitment to empowering marginalized groups, particularly women and children, remains at the

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Usman,
Nenadi Esther PhD

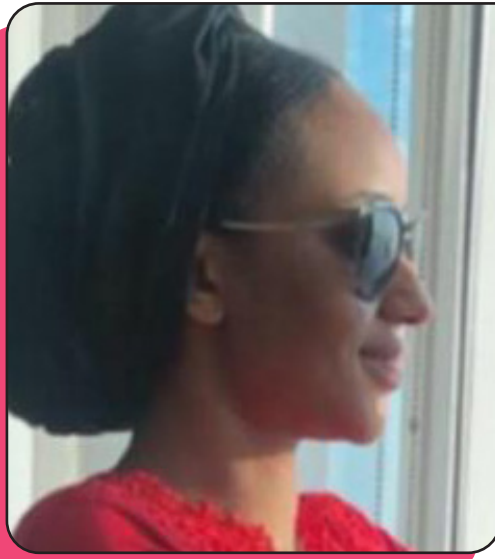
heart of her work. She currently serves as the National Chairman of the Labour Party, further demonstrating her ongoing commitment to national development and democratic leadership.

Through her non-profit organization, the Education and Empowerment Centre for Women (EECW), established in 2005, Sen. Usman has transformed the lives of many women. EECW's economic empowerment programs provide vocational training that equips women with tools for financial independence. Also, its reproductive health initiatives, with a special focus on epilepsy awareness and support, have benefited over 1,000 individuals.

Currently, EECW is implementing a STEM Educational Program for Girls in Rural Schools of Kaduna State, Nigeria. This initiative promotes diversity and inclusivity in STEM, offering opportunities to girls from underrepresented backgrounds.

Sen. Usman has extensive corporate experience. She has served as Chairman of Thomas Wyatt Northern Nigeria Ltd and is currently a Non-Executive Director at Thomas Wyatt Plc, Nigeria Breweries Plc, and Premium Pension Ltd. She also serves as Chairman of Bunkasa Micro Finance Bank and Plumstead Investments Limited.

Sen. Nenadi Usman's participation in leadership programs at Oxford University, the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania underscores her commitment to continuous personal growth and impactful humanitarian work. Her legacy is marked by a pursuit of equality and community development.



Usman,
Bilkisu

Gorgeous Bilquis is the owner of Nosh Temple, one of the big brands in the Abuja dining world. Nosh Temple, located in Wuse 2, an upmarket area of Abuja, is one of Abuja's most beloved dining spots. Formerly known as L'italiano, an Italian restaurant, Nosh Temple has transformed into a high-end restaurant serving a variety of Continental and African delicacies. Nosh Temple offers a long list of menu items, including pasta such as carbonara, bolognese, Alfredo, and marinara. The cosy restaurant is known for its grills, such as T Bone Steak, Lamb Chops, Chicken Fillet, and slow-roasted chilli-glazed chicken. She is an alumnus of the prestigious University of Brighton, where she earned her M.Sc. in Biomedical Science.

Her Lordship's distinguished academic journey began at Westlands Primary School, Nairobi, Kenya, where she obtained the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE) in 1972. She proceeded to Alliance Girls High School, Kikuyu, Kenya (1973–1978), before studying law at the University of Nairobi (1979–1980) and the University of Buckingham, England (1980–1982). She was subsequently called to the Nigerian Bar in 1983 after completing her legal training at the Nigerian Law School, Lagos.

Furthering her academic pursuit, Her Lordship obtained a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from King's College London, United Kingdom (1984–1985).

Her Lordship commenced her legal career in 1983 with the National Assembly, Lagos, where she served under the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

Upon completing her service, she transitioned into private legal practice with A. Njemanze & Associates (1986–1988). Her judicial career began in 1988, when she was appointed a Senior Magistrate Grade II in Imo State, later rising to Senior



Uwa,
**Hon. Justice Chidiebere
Nwaoma**

Magistrate Grade I (1989–1991).

Following the creation of Abia State, she continued to serve in various magisterial capacities, including as Chairperson of the Juvenile Court (1991–1998), Chief Magistrate Grade II (1993–1996), and Chief Magistrate Grade I (1996–1998).

In recognition of her exemplary service and judicial acumen, Hon. Justice Uwa was appointed a Judge of the High Court of Abia State in 1998, a position she held until 2006, when she was elevated to the Court of Appeal.

Over the years, she served in several divisions of the Court of Appeal, including Abuja, Ibadan, Ekiti, Ilorin,

Lagos, Yola, and Kaduna Divisions.

Her Lordship has also held several significant roles within and outside the judiciary. She has served as Chairman and Member of various Gubernatorial and Legislative House Election Tribunals, contributing to the adjudication of electoral disputes in Nigeria.

She was the Deputy Chairperson of the Magistrate Association of Nigeria, Abia State (1992–1995), Chairperson of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA),

Abia State (2001–2006), and a member of the National Association of Women Judges and the International Association of Women Judges (IAWJ) from 1998 to date.

In recognition of her distinguished judicial service and unwavering commitment to justice, Hon. Justice Uwa was appointed to the Supreme Court of Nigeria on February 26, 2024.



Vincent,
Mrs. Monsurat Modesola

Monsurat is a graduate of Accounting, a versatile Professional Accountant and a Chartered Banker with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Lagos. After her stint at UBA and Telecoms, she joined the employment of CBN over two decades ago with footprints in the Banking Supervision and Other Financial Institutions Department (OFSID) where she left as Divisional Head, Finance Companies Subsector.

Monsurat is currently the Director, Strategy and Innovation Management Department, where she has the responsibility to drive the Bank's overall strategy, performance management, and enterprise innovation.

Credit: CBN



Waziri-Adamu,
Hajia Rabi'ah

Hajia Rabi'ah Umar Waziri-Adamu is the General Manager of the Education and Training Department at the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF). She leads key initiatives in capacity building for Nigeria's oil and gas sector, serving as a lead speaker at industry summits and facilitating partnerships for training and scholarships, including roles at the Galaxy Backbone Board. She is a prominent figure in the PTDF, often representing the organization in, and managing, initiatives aimed at fostering, talent, and, leadership, in, the, energy sector.

Rakiya Opemi Yusuf currently serves as the Director of Payments System Supervision Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria. She is a seasoned financial sector professional and regulator with over three decades of extensive experience in development financing, commercial banking, regulatory policy formulation and supervision, and accounting practices.

A strategic thinker and result-oriented leader that contributed significantly to improving regulatory standards, risk-based supervision, with a strong emphasis on governance, compliance, data-driven decision-making, fostering innovation, and supporting national economic development goals, Dr. Rakiya began her career at the Central Bank of Nigeria in January 2011 as a Senior Manager and steadily rose through the ranks. Her work spanned both off-site surveillance and on-site supervision of development finance institutions, primary mortgage banks, microfinance banks, finance companies, payments service banks and payments service providers. She coordinated the development and implementation of payments system vision 2025 strategy document to deepen digital financial inclusion and enhance financial intermediation to support inclusive growth. She led the payments data management office responsible for monitoring and reporting on the state of the payments system in Nigeria. She has served as a member of several interdepartmental committees and participated in inter agency assignments that developed policies to strengthen the stability of the

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Yusuf,
Dr. Rakiya Opemi

Nigerian Financial System. She is the immediate past Chairman, Financial Inclusion Channels Working Group and currently serves as Chairman, Nigerian e-Fraud Forum (NeFF). Prior to joining the Central Bank of Nigeria, Dr. Rakiya had a cumulative 17 years' work experience at Bank of Agriculture (formally Nigeria Agriculture and Cooperative Bank), Unity Bank Plc and UHYMaaji & Co. Chartered Accountants. Dr. Rakiya holds a PhD. in Accounting & Finance (2021) and M.Sc. Accounting and Finance (2014) from Nassarawa State University. She obtained her MBA (2002) from University of Calabar and B.Sc. Accounting (1990) from Ahmadu Bello University. Professionally certified across a range of financial disciplines; accounting, taxation, forensics, corporate governance, banking, and management, Dr. Rakiya is

a Fellow of multiple bodies including the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) and Chartered Institute of Forensics and Certified Fraud Investigators of Nigeria (CIFCFIN). She is an Associate of Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers of Nigeria (CIS), Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria (ACIS), Society for Corporate Governance of Nigeria (SCGN) and Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM). She is also a Senior Honorary member of Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN). She had served as chairman of various committees including CIFCFIN Audit committee (2023-2024), ANAN Anti-Corruption Compliance Committee (2019-2021), ANAN Abuja Branch, (2011-2013). She is currently the Chairman of Professional Women Accountants in Nigeria. Dr. Rakiya carved a niche for herself in impacting knowledge and upholding ethical conduct. As a Director of Payments System Supervision with responsibility of ensuring soundness and safety of the payments ecosystem through enforcement of rules and regulations, she desires to build a robust, resilient and efficient payments system in Nigeria.

About the Editors



Kammonke,

Abam

Kammonke Abam is a curator of history and an enthusiast of indigenous art and culture archives. He is a strong advocate of the collection, preservation, and management of historical and cultural records, making them accessible to researchers and the public.

He is also a journalist. As a storyteller and media strategist, Kammonke understands how to navigate the media environment effortlessly. He is the Publisher/Editor-in-Chief of livesonline.ng.

As the CEO of Storyline Ltd, he has partnered with Profiles & Biographies, a sister firm to publish numerous biographies including that of Nigeria's longest serving Foreign Minister and nationalist, Dr. Okoi Arikpo, the iconic female political activist and women's rights icon, Margaret Ekpo, and the former Inspector General of Police, M. D. Yusuf. He has also co-edited several biographical compendia. He can be reached on 08037265719 or kammonkea@gmail.com



Chioma,

Adaobi Oti

Chioma Adaobi Oti is a seasoned Communications Specialist, an Editor, a Public Relations Practitioner, an Administrator and a Serial Entrepreneur, whose life and work continues to inspire many across Nigeria and beyond.

A graduate of Mass Communication at the Enugu State University of Science and Technology, she has a strong passion for knowledge, excellence and dissemination of true, clear and concise information to the public. She also has an MBA in Marketing, from the Rivers State University of Science and Technology.

Chioma, who is the Immediate Past Public Relations Officer of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Cross River State Chapter, has edited and curated various literary works.

She is currently the Executive Director of the Women Leadership Institute, a leading organization empowering women in Nigeria through leadership development and advocacy. She is a daughter, a wife and a mother. She can be reached via: +2347035670042 and chiomaoti@gmail.com

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