WimBiz
WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT, BUSINESS & PUBLIC SERVICE

Inspire Me 2

Images of Nigerian Working Women

Publisher

WIMBIZ
WOMEN IN MANAGEMENT, BUSINESS & PUBLIC SERVICE

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Foreword



"Don't look at her and feel intimidated. Approach her with decision and tell her 'You are the type of woman I want to see myself with, someday'."

- Efrat Cybulkiewicz

About 17 years ago, a mere discussion between like minds in a kitchen became the beginning of a passionate, resilient and consistent journey. It is ironic that this discussion was stirred up by a man, who is now the proud father of 5 young girls, who bared his mind without the realisation that his path had already been set for him in a divine way to be a man truly blessed amongst women. It is a journey that has exceeded the expectations of many amidst uncertainties and limitations, a journey that 13 women and 1 man started in 2001. It is often said in Africa that the journey of a thousand miles begins with a step and that of Women in Management, Business & Public Service (WIMBIZ) has been no different.

The role of women in nature and nurture is also best summarised by the first female president and vice president of Malawi, Joyce Banda when she stated thus 'The seeds of success in every nation on earth are best planted in women and children.' In the 10th year of the sojourn of WIMBIZ, some remarkable women who have contributed to nation building were celebrated in the in the 1st edition of the Inspire Me coffee table book. When you think of women who are accomplished, who do you think of? Inspire Me Book 1 helps bring them all to mind. It is a book that features accomplished women such as the first female Senior Advocate of Nigeria, Chief Folake Solanke, SAN, OFR, Professor Jadesola Akande, Chief Oluwatoyin Olakunri, that doyen of the accounting industry, Professor Ibironke Akinsete, FMC (Path), FWACP, Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala CFR, Nigeria's first female Minister of Finance, Mrs Francesca Emmanuel, CON, Mrs Hariat Ade-Balogun, OON, Professor Bolanle Awe, OFR.

Inspire Me 1 is a book I still use as a reference point when life happens and I need that gentle nudge towards taking the next step. What many African women do best albeit oftentimes unknowingly, is to support other women and I recall the words of the author, Nichole McElhaney (A Sisterhood of Smoke and Ash) "These bones I carry were borrowed from women much stronger than I. Know that when you need them you can borrow mine" Part of the story of my life's journey has been written because I borrowed from other women stronger than I. Since Inspire Me Book 1 was published I, as well as many women who have testified so, have continued to draw strength from the women featured. They have taught me that ruminating over things that did not work is very debilitating; they taught me that I cannot let geography define my success, which inspired me to open a second law chambers in Lagos, more than 250 kilometres away from my home and also helped me get through the mindless twitters of the unaccomplished gossips who would want me to cohort with them; they taught me that dwelling on the failed past keeps me from seeing the successes of the future, more like pulling myself up with my own shoes strings and falling all over again; they

always help me to recall that one of the greatest actresses and humanitarians of all time, Audrey Hepburn, turned impossible to possible when she said: 'Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, I'm possible'.

It is now time to publish Inspire Me Book 2, for the world stage continues to be populated by women who have taken courageous decisions which has led to success in their businesses and professions. This 2nd volume is set to inject in its readers the possibilities that lie ahead through the inspirational stories of the women projected within. Nigeria has continued to raise women of strength and purpose. Women who are challenging the status quo and beating all odds to ensure that history records the essence of their purpose as they contribute their significance to nation building. Most of these women are ordinary people doing extraordinary things to serve and distinguish themselves in many sectors of the nation. Some of them are well known to many, others are quiet achievers but ultimately their collective mantra can be summarized as impacting with their innate and learned gifts.

Their stories are awe-inspiring and would feed you with the energy, the grit and determination to exert your influence on the world, in whatever way possible. Inspire Me Book 2 celebrates Nigerian women who have created value for others in their roles as leaders in many sectors transcending into layers of grace amidst the negativism often associated with developing economies.

As I conclude, I remind you of the significance you can achieve in changing the destinies of men and women around the world by giving of yourself and leaving an enduring legacy for others to celebrate in their minds. You can make a difference that transcends into unimagined impact across borders in many nations of the world. Your story may not be captured in books like this one, but it will be captured in the lives you touch and ingrained in the hearts you transform. I advise you never to forget the African proverb which reminds us that a woman's polite devotion is her greatest beauty.

I celebrate all the women featured in this book and thank them for their service to humanity.

My last words to the reader is to admonish you that if and when you meet some of the women featured herein and in Inspire Me 1, remember the words of a delightful poet, Efrat Cybulkiewicz: "Don't look at her and feel intimidated. Approach her with decision and tell her 'You are the type of woman I want to see myself with, someday'.

Be prepared to be inspired as you turn the pages of this great book.

Funmi Roberts LL.M, FCIArb.
Chairman, Board of Trustees, WIMBIZ
& Principal Partner, Funmi Roberts & Co.



The History of Women In Management, Business and Public Service, WIMBIZ

This short history of Women in Management, Business and Public Service, WIMBIZ, is not merely a narrative, neither is it chronological; rather it traces the journey WIMBIZ has taken to develop its initiatives, now anchored on five pillars. The underpinning for its growth and programme development, is its vision 'to be the catalyst that elevates the profile and influence of women, and their contribution to nation building", and its motto 'to inspire and empower', which derives from this vision.

The irony of the WIMBIZ story is that the idea for WIMBIZ came from a man, the gender with whom women seek parity and equal opportunity! The second irony is that WIMBIZ was birthed in a kitchen, that very place where tradition and culture seek to confine women! Chichi Okonjo, on returning from a trip to South Africa where he 'encountered' a women's Conference, did not see why Nigeria could not have a similar rallying point for women. He shared this idea with his boss at the time, Omobola Johnson, who invited Yewande Zaccheaus and Morin Desalu in 2001 to discuss the possibility, and identify and invite women who would form the nucleus of this initiative. Seated in Morin Desalu's kitchen, they drew up a list of women, some of whom became the founding Trustees - Adeola Azeez, Bola Adesola, Ibukun Awosika, Mairo Bashir, Morin Desalu, Omobola Johnson, Ifeoma Idigbe, Ifeyinwa Ighodalo, Julia Oku Jacks, Toyin Olawoye, Funmi Roberts, Yewande Zaccheaus, and one man, Chichi Okonjo.

The first WIMBIZ event was in November 2002, an Annual Conference which has remained the flagship event and still holds in November each year. WIMBIZ was the first organisation to clearly envision a professional network for career women, whether in employment or entrepreneurs … a meeting place to connect with, inspire and empower women. This first Conference exceeded

WIMBIZ'S expectations and the learnings from it facilitated the identification and classification of what became five pillars on which to build its vision. These pillars were classified through an organic process of recognising issues, and introducing initiatives to address them.

Mentoring was an immediate imperative. In the first quarter of 2003 a mentoring workshop was organised in response to the feedback from the first November Conference, for a focus on mentoring. The workshop was fully subscribed and validated mentoring as a necessary pillar. A pre - Conference dinner was introduced in 2005 and the dinner talk was on mentoring, as was the talk at the first networking lunch in 2006. It became evident that a more formalised mentoring framework was needed. In 2010, WIMBIZ introduced a formal, structured mentoring programme, teaching the rudiments for mentoring relationships to participants, after which they were assigned to experienced female mentors for six months. Graduation at a dinner introduced the Mentoring dinner as an integral part of the mentoring programme. In 2015 WIMBIZ introduced a Graduate internship programme which invites shortlisted post-National Youth Service Corps graduates to undergo a week long mentoring induction programme, before being attached to companies for 3 - 6 month mentoring internships.

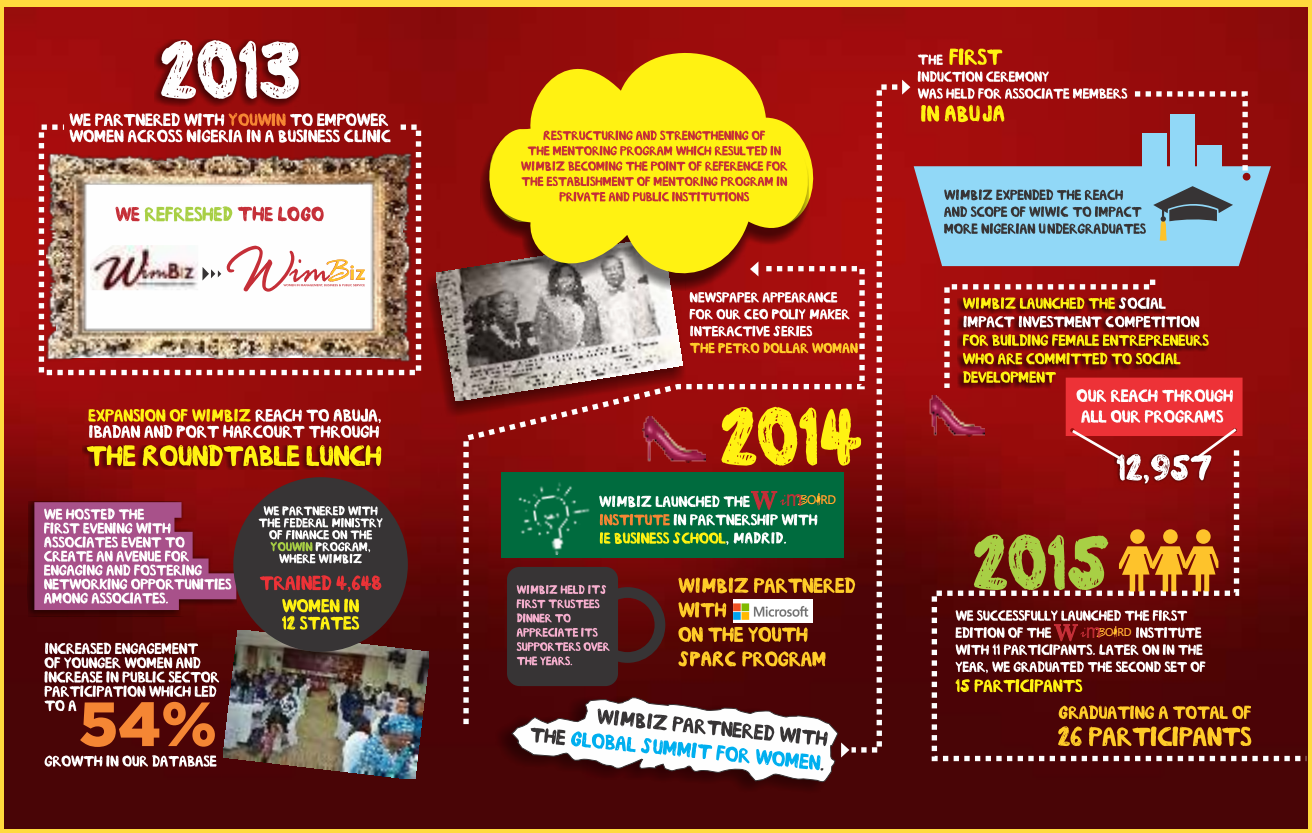
Networking facilitates business relationships and transactions. To create regular opportunities for networking, the monthly WIMBIZ Roundtable Lunch was introduced in Lagos in 2006, and has now expanded to include Roundtable Lunches in Abuja, Ibadan and Port Harcourt. In 2006, WIMBIZ also commenced the admittance of associate members to strengthen the WIMBIZ platform through the inclusion of women

"The WIMBIZ story is one of inspiring, motivating and empowering women through a wide range of programmes and initiatives, to go out and achieve their full potential with the support of other women. Significant numbers of women have been impacted through these activities … And there will be more initiatives and even broader impact"

who share the WIMBIZ vision … thus the Associates' Induction Ceremony was also introduced in 2006. In 2017, WIMBIZ went international with a mini International Conference in Accra, Ghana … reaching out to establish relationships across national borders. More recently, this year 2018, a periodic WIMBIZ Conversations lunch has been introduced, to allow top female executives, particularly those coming to the tail end of their careers or wanting to transition into new careers, to share concerns and opportunities, and discuss possible options. Not only do these events provide networking opportunities, but the conversations also allow women to share the challenges they face at work or in their businesses. The obvious question was how to address and resolve these gender challenges … and the answer? Primarily through attitude and policy changes. But how could that be achieved? It was clear to WIMBIZ that Advocacy was necessary for achieving long term change, a route to achieving some parity between men and women in the workplace, and also to change the business environment for female entrepreneurs. Creating awareness is the first step in advocacy, and to highlight issues that affect women, WIMBIZ introduced the Annual Lecture Series in 2004. The Trustees recognised that the next step was to connect with policy makers so as to influence them to adopt policies which would change the narrative. In 2005 therefore, the Breakfast and Policy Maker Dialogue Series was introduced to create a platform for high level corporate executives and entrepreneurs to present and discuss these issues, and to investigate policies and actions that would make a difference. On this platform WIMBIZ engages with male and female executives from the public and private sectors, to seek their perspectives and explore ways to



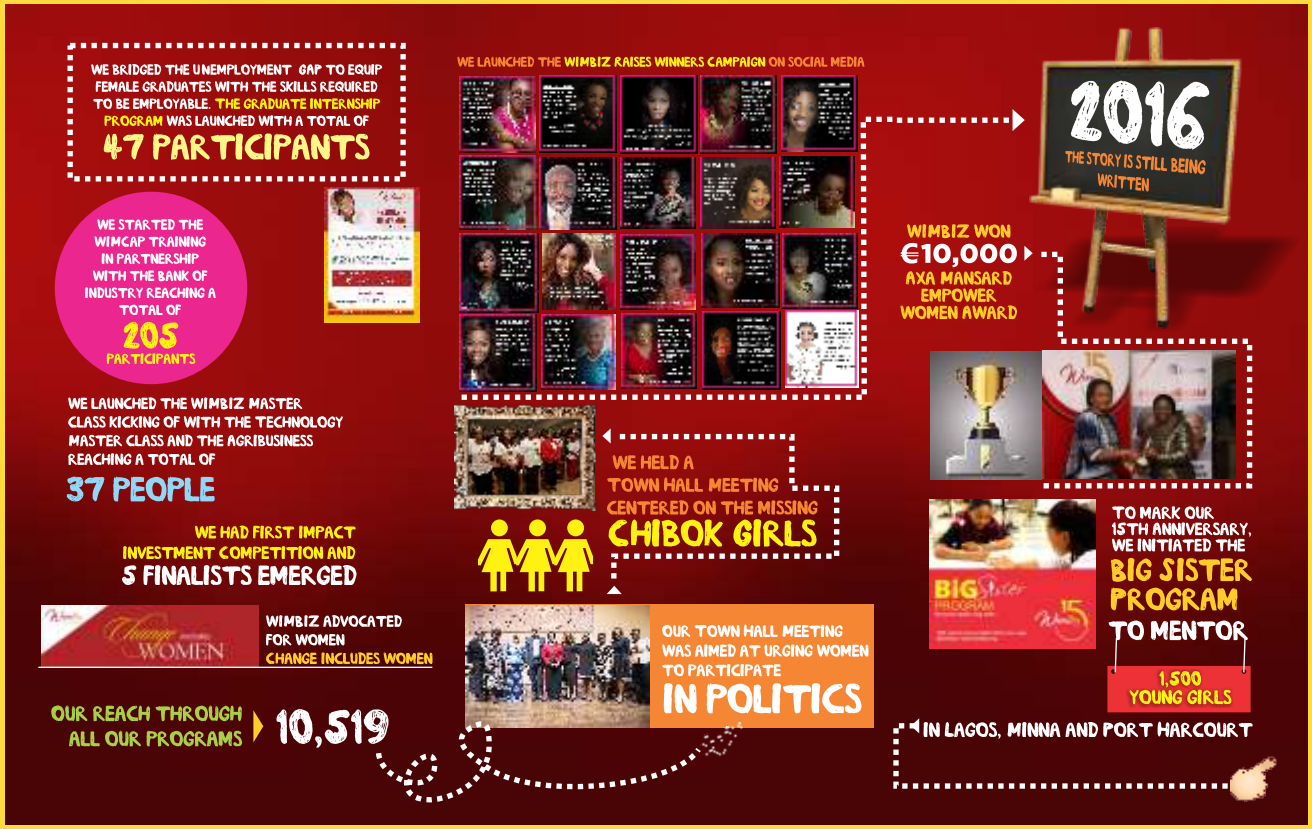




resolve the issues under consideration. These advocacy dialogues are beginning to yield fruit. The national recognition of WIMBIZ as Gender advocates was validated by their nomination as delegates to the 2014 National Conference in Abuja, convened by the Jonathan Administration to chart a new direction for Nigeria. In 2016 WIMBIZ also supported the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, making a presentation to the Senate President. Furthermore, a direct result of WIMBIZ advocacy interventions was the expansion of the Board of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in 2017 to include women. To support its advocacy efforts, WIMBIZ introduced WIMBIZ Ambassadors at its 2014 Conference, and invited high level Nigerians across industries to be its WIMBIZ Ambassadors, to champion its causes and policy change efforts in their various spheres of influence.

To further its advocacy efforts, WIMBIZ introduced WIMBoard (Women on Boards) in 2012 to ensure more women get on corporate Boards where they can directly advocate policy and other changes that affect women. Identifying qualified women led to the creation of a Database of Board ready women as well as a new initiative to support and prepare women for executive and Board positions through training.

General and Executive Training has become an important WIMBIZ pillar. Progress cannot be sustained without new knowledge and skills through continuous learning and development. In 2011, two training programmes were launched - Corporate Governance and Entrepreneurs in Handicraft training programmes. WIMBIZ introduced the WIMBoard Institute in 2015, which in collaboration with IE Businesss School, Madrid and Lagos Business School provides Board Directorship training for women. Also in 2015, WIMBIZ introduced





the WIMBIZ Masterclass Series with master classes on Entrepreneurship, Finance and Leadership.

The continuing growth of WIMBIZ emphasised the imperative for female succession planning. To ensure that other women, younger women, take the place of those already in the workplace, and that some start and run their own businesses, WIMBIZ took steps to introduce initiatives that would inspire young females. This became the fifth pillar.

Creating a Pipeline of younger women with the right values became a major goal. This led to the introduction in 2011 of Winning Without Compromise, WIWIC, a campus outreach programme targeted at female undergraduates in universities across the country. In 2016 the Big Sister Programme was conceived to extend the starting point of the pipeline to include secondary school girls around the country … a catch and motivate them young programme.

The story of WIMBIZ continues. It is a never ending story. WIMBIZ has a programme to support women in business and promote an investment culture, WIMBIZ Capital, WIMCAP. It also has an initiative focused on encouraging and supporting women to venture into politics, Women in Politics, WIMPOL. WIMBIZ organises a sales platform for female owned businesses, the WIMBIZ Market Place.

WIMBIZ has collaborated with many organisations including McKinsey, UN Women, The United States Consulate, the Australian High Commission, Vital Voices, Kudirat Initiative for Democracy (KIND), Axa Mansard, Microsoft, IE Business School,



Lagos Business School, IFC … It knows it cannot go it alone. Developing relationships through collaborations are key to achieving sustained, long term success, and this organisation, WIMBIZ, is here to stay.

The WIMBIZ story is one of inspiring, motivating and empowering women through a wide range of programmes and initiatives, to go out and achieve their full potential with the support of other women. Significant numbers of women have been impacted through these activities … And there will be more initiatives and even broader impact …

WIMBIZ has become a phenomenal organisation with associate members, some of whom form the second level of its governance structure as the Executive Council of WIMBIZ. The Executive Director who runs the third layer of the structure, the WIMBIZ Secretariat, also sits on the Executive Council. The Board of Trustees, presently comprised of only the founding Trustees, is naturally the top level, the holders and keepers of the WIMBIZ vision.

Ladies, start where you are, dream and excel! Your success is the WIMBIZ story!



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Conference Chairperson, 2014



Lady Maiden Alex Ibru

Conference Chairperson, 2015



Prof. Joy Ogwu

Conference Chairperson, 2016



Dr. (Mrs.) Nike Akande

Conference Chairperson, 2017



Abayomi **Olarinmoye**

Consultant, Entrepreneur

"Excellence is a habit, not an act; we are what we repeatedly do."

- Aristotle

Abayomi is a business consultant and strategist who worked with two multinational organizations, consulting across the oil & gas, manufacturing, public sector and utilities sectors in Nigeria for 25 years. Until recently, she led Accenture's energy (upstream, downstream and gas) and utilities business in Nigeria managing client relationships and growing the business portfolio.

Abayomi has a B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Biological Sciences from the University of Ife and Ilorin respectively. She led teams that developed a Nigerian Content framework and operational guidelines for the oil and gas industry; setting up a Capacity development system for select disciplines; crafting sustainable development programmes for several oil and gas companies in the Niger Delta and helped the Ministerial Special Taskforce to review governance and controls in the O&G industry.

She has recently set up a seafood wholesale, retail & processing business and is set to transform the fishery products value chain in Nigeria.

Abayomi is married with children.



Abimbola **Fashola**

Founder, Lagos Empowerment and Resource Network (LEARN)

"Be yourself"

- Abimbola

Abimbola was born into the Ojo Ibadan family of Ibadan. She is a Secretary and an Administrator by profession. She worked at the British Council for 19 years, before she resigned in 2006 to support her husband.

During her time as the wife of the former Governor of Lagos State, she built 4 recreation centres for children in the less privileged communities and the first retirement centre in Lagos.

She advocates on issues such as education, HIV/AIDS discrimination, poverty alleviation, vocation and skills acquisition and cancer awareness. For her modest contribution to humanity, she was honoured by the Pope with a papal medal award.

Her NGO Leadership Empowerment and Resource Network (LEARN), grooms the youth to acquire leadership skills and develop a passion for vocational and entrepreneurial skills in colleges. Her parenting seminars are geared towards enhancing family values.

Abimbola is a devoted wife and mother.



Abisola **Longe**

CEO, Human Capacity Development Consultants (HCDC) Limited

"I firmly believe the power of the decision far outweighs that of any damage in the past. Decide to create your Dream Life!"

- Abisola

Abisola is a highly experienced headhunter, consultant, inspirational counselor, motivational speaker and mentor. The founder of HCDC, a world-class human capital development firm whose clientele include some of the best and fastest growing companies in Nigeria. Her professional experience of 30 years commenced with working in two of the "top six" international audit firms.

Abisola is a London School of Economics graduate, a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountant, England and Wales and the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management in Nigeria. An alumnus of the Lagos Business School AMP, she worked with Arthur Anderson Nigeria and was highly instrumental to the development of the training business of Agusto & Co, a leading financial consulting company also in Nigeria.

Abisola is extremely passionate about developing the immense potential of the Nigerian. She created "Productivity Plus", an initiative towards making Nigeria a more productive nation by providing tools to help people design purposeful and productive lives, careers and businesses. She hosts free "Cake & Coffee" sessions where she provides a platform for individuals of all age brackets to encounter a paradigm shift towards result-oriented living and peak productivity.

She is a Fate Foundation

facilitator and mentor, a Tony Elumelu Foundation mentor and a member of the Revive Nigeria Group, whose mission is to promote good governance, support economic empowerment and advocate social justice, equity and national unity.





Achenyo **Idachaba-Obaro**

CEO, Mitimeth

"The talent of success is nothing more than doing what you can do well, and doing well whatever you do without thought of fame. If it comes at all it will come because it is deserved, not because it is sought after."

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Achenyo is a Computer Scientist turned Social Entrepreneur. She has a B.Sc. in Computer Science and Economics from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, an M.S. in Applied Computer Science from Illinois State University and an M.B.A from Cornell University. Prior to founding MitiMeth and Greennovative Chain Consulting, she spent 11 years with ExxonMobil where she held a variety of Regional and Global positions.

Achenyo founded MitiMeth an award winning Social Enterprise based in Nigeria, with the mission to improve the environment and empower communities through craft skills training and enterprise development. MitiMeth creates handcrafted products from natural fibres considered environmental menaces or waste. These natural fibres include invasive aquatic weeds (e.g. water hyacinth, typha grass), and agricultural waste forms (banana bark, coconut shells, bamboo colms). MitiMeth designs and manufactures home accent furniture, stationery, baskets, kitchen and dining-ware from these recovered resources.

In addition, MitiMeth facilitates Craft Innovation Workshops in rural communities empowering women and youth to generate income earning opportunities utilizing locally available resources. To date, Achenyo through MitiMeth has trained over 300 women and youth,

farmers from 18 communities. MitiMeth's vision is to become Nigeria's #1 choice in eco-friendly handcrafted products and to become a key non-oil exporter of artisan products.

Achenyo has won several awards for her work in converting waste to useful materials.



Adedotun **Akande**

Director, Pure Souls Learning Foundation and Patrick Speech and Languages Centre

"A word of encouragement from a teacher to a child can change a life. A word of encouragement from a spouse can save a marriage. A word of encouragement from a leader can inspire a person to reach her potential."

- John C. Maxwell

Adedotun journeyed into the autism space starting with her son. Her experience with the non-availability of educational resources prompted her to establish the Patrick Speech & Languages Centre–Patricks in 2006. Patricks is a pioneer special needs centre for the education of children with Autism in Nigeria. The centre offers full therapy with educational, vocational and training services.

Adedotun is a mother of 3 and holds a BSc in Economics from University of Ado Ekiti. She had a few years banking experience before her switch into the developmental disability field. She has attended numerous trainings on autism and related developmental disorders at various international institutions namely, National Autistic Society UK, Geneva Centre for Autism Canada, Western Psychological Services, USA & other institutions. She holds a diploma in Applied Behavior Analysis from Florida Institute of Tech. She is an Advanced Certified Autism Specialist (ACAS).

She regularly gives lectures on Autism and is a strong advocate for Autism awareness in Nigeria.





Adedoyin **Odunfa**

MD/CEO, Digital Jewels Ltd

"God is my strength and power, And He makes my way perfect."

- II Samuel 22:33

Adedoyin is the MD/CEO of Digital Jewels Ltd, a leading IT Governance Risk & Compliance Firm with a footprint in 9 African countries and an enviable track record of consistent high value delivery. Digital Jewels is currently the only professional services firm in Africa to be certified to the ISO27001 global Information Security standard and the ISO9001, global Quality Management Standard.

Prior to founding Digital Jewels, Adedoyin was the Executive Director of the Information Systems & e-business practice at Phillips Consulting and had held consulting portfolios before that in addition to a research position at the Lagos Business School.

Adedoyin plays leadership roles in several ministry and community initiatives, many around children and youth for whom she has a passion. They include God's Children Great Talent (GCGT) - a godly destiny defining platform to identify and develop talents in children and youth and the Young Business Leaders Network (YBLN), amongst others. She also serves as a Mara mentor and sits on the Boards of CWG Plc and Fuel Communications. To give back to society, Digital Jewels Cares [DJ Cares] – a CSR initiative gives scholarships to brilliant indigent students and partners with NACOSS (National Association of Computer Science Students) quarterly to provide career guidance seminars.





Adekunbiola **Banjo**

Professor of Anatomic Pathology, College of Medicine, University of Lagos

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value"

- Albert Einstein

Adekunbiola is a Professor of Anatomic Pathology at the College of Medicine, University of Lagos and a Consultant Pathologist to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital, (LUTH). Over the past three decades, she has helped to develop the departments of pathology at LUTH as well as the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital Sagamu. At the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital, she was instrumental to the upgrading of the department of Morbid Anatomy and Histopathology as well as developing the histopathology and cytopathology services in the hospital. She also established an onsite Fine Needle Aspiration Cytology Clinic in the Hospital. She has successfully trained/mentored over 30 pathologists, some professors, currently working within and outside the country.

As an accomplished academician, she has over 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals in collaboration with researchers in various faculties in the university as well as outside the university, within and outside Nigeria. She is a focused, dedicated, and amiable leader who is constantly seeking new frontiers of impact.

To this end she has been involved in the diagnosis screening and prevention of cervical cancer using advanced molecular techniques in collaboration with both local and international researchers. She is a member of many professional bodies including

the International Gynaecologic Cancer Society, (IGCS), West African Division of International Academy of Pathology (WADIAP), and Association of Pathologists of Nigeria.

She also currently serves in the capacity of the Chairman of the Medical Committee of the Diocese of Lagos West, Methodist Church Nigeria.

Adekunbiola's hobbies include gardening and urban farming where she grows organic vegetables and herbs. She also maintains a small snail farm. She is blessed with four lovely children.





Adepeju **Adebajo**

Commissioner for Agriculture, Ogun State

"Let's ensure Nigeria achieves her potential one person, one business, one enterprise, one system at a time"

- Adepeju

Adepeju is currently the Ogun State Commissioner for Agriculture. Her previous career roles include MD Project Management Office & Geocycle at Lafarge Africa Plc, CEO-Cement for Nigeria, MD Wapco and managing Public Affairs and Communication Strategy; MD/CEO Mouka Limited; MD/CEO UTC Nigeria, she also at one time headed strategic planning, brand management and product development at UBA. She was on the Board of Lafarge Africa Plc, Ashaka Cement PLC and on the Advisory Board of Lagos Business School.

In the UK, she was a qualified case leader at Boston Consulting Group and a financial analyst at Citibank. She supported the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning in development of the 2017 – 2020 National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan.

Adepeju holds a Bachelor and Master of Engineering (Chemical Engineering) from the Imperial College of Science & Technology, London; and an MBA from Harvard University. She is an alumna of INSEAD.



Adetokunbo **Awogboro**

Founder, The Nail Studio

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they make the best of everything"

- Zig Ziglar

Adetokunbo was born in Ibadan on May 24, 1959. She spent her early educational years in Ibadan before proceeding to Fiwasaiye Girls Grammar School, Akure. She gained admission into University of Ife where she majored in Agricultural Economics graduating in 1980. Her career took a back burner after she completed her NYSC year, quickly getting married and having children.

After 5 years as a home-maker, The Nail Studio was born in October 1986 from her passion for nail care and beauty. It was started with two members of staff in one room (a converted kitchen) in a tiny shopping mall on Awolowo Road. The business grew steadily to where it is today. The Nail Studio is now a "one stop" beauty business comprised of several different divisions, including skin care, men's grooming and retail. The Nail Studio is franchise owner for Clinique, Estee Lauder, Smashbox cosmetics, Tom Ford, Carolina Herrera brands to name a few.

Tokunbo's daughter Irene Syrimis joined the business in 1999 as executive director and has been the modern drive force transforming Nail Studio into the Nail Studio Beauty Centre.

Tokunbo is a proud wife, mother, and grandmother of four and regularly volunteers at St George's Boy's School, Falomo and Magidu Home for the destitute.





Aishah **Ahmad**

Executive Director, Retail, Diamond Bank Plc

"You have power over your mind, not outside events. Realize this and you will find strength"

- Marcus Aurelius.

Aishah is a corporate executive and finance expert with over two decades professional experience primarily in financial services. Her banking and investment management career spans several global financial institutions such as Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC (member of Standard Bank Group), Zenith Bank PLC, NAL Bank PLC and more recently Diamond Bank PLC, where she was responsible for driving the bank's retail strategy across products, channels and a client base of over 7 million.

A member of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) Associations, Aishah holds an M.Sc. in Finance and Management from the Cranfield School of Management in the United Kingdom, an MBA with a specialization in Finance from the University of Lagos, Nigeria and a graduate degree in Accounting from the University of Abuja, Nigeria.

Aishah is passionate about global investing, gender diversity, and youth empowerment; she regularly speaks on these topics and advises on the board of several companies. She is a board member at SOS Children's Villages, Nigeria and erstwhile Chairperson of the Executive Council of Women in Management, Business & Public Service, WIMBIZ. She also served on the steering committee on Cherie Blair Foundation's Technology for



Growth project; a groundbreaking learning intervention programme for female entrepreneurs in Nigeria and was an alternate director at Friesland Campina WAMCO (2010 – 2014), a leading international dairy company.

In October 2017, she was nominated as a Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria by President Muhammadu Buhari. The appointment is subject to the confirmation of the Nigerian Senate.



Ajibola **Ponnle**

Registrar / CEO, Chartered Institute of Personnel Management

"If you believe you can or you can't, you're right"

- Henry Ford

Ajibola is an accomplished Consultant, Executive Coach and Organisational Psychologist. She has a B.Sc. in Economics from the University of Ibadan and a M.Sc. in Organisational Psychology from the University of London. She has over 23 years' experience, starting her career as a Chartered Accountant with Arthur Andersen and thereafter British American Tobacco, where became one of the youngest senior management staff at the age of 28 years. She left paid employment in 2003 and founded, Stencil Craft, a social stationery company and thereafter Stencil Events, an event management consultancy in 2004. In 2007, she established TeamBuilding Africa 'TBA' Consultancy, an experiential team development firm and the regional representative of Team Building USA.

Ajibola is the pioneer Nigeria Chapter President of International Coach Federation 'ICF' and the first Nigerian to earn the internationally recognised Professional Certified Coach 'PCC' ICF accreditation and the first Core Energy Coach in Nigeria. In recognition of her contribution to the development of professional coaching in the region, she was selected as one of five founding members of the Executive Coaching Advisory Board for Africa.

She is also the Founder of the Centre for Core Coaching, having developed the first

integrated professional coach training program aligned to meet ICF standards in West Africa.

In July 2017, Ajibola was appointed Registrar/CEO of Chartered Institute of Personnel Management 'CIPM', seamlessly transitioning from self-employment to paid employment with her business running effectively on the structures and processes established. She is fully committed to pursuing the 'Human Agenda' in the workplace.





Alero **Onosede**

GM, Human Resources, Seplat Petroleum Development Company

"You can have the best strategy and the best building in the world, but if you don't have the hearts and minds of the people who work with you, none of it comes to life"

- Renee West

Alero is a seasoned Human Resources Executive with global experience in Leadership and Human Capital Development. She has had a varied HR career with an almost equal split between generalist and specialist roles covering Industrial Relations, HR Services, Policy Development and Organization Effectiveness. She is currently the General Manager, Human Resources in Seplat Petroleum Development Company Plc.

Alero holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and an MBA from the London Business School. As an expert in Human Capital Development, Alero has the responsibility for leading, defining and managing the Seplat Human Resources Strategy and the delivery of Seplat's Strategic business objectives through a highly skilled and well-motivated workforce.

Alero is an outstanding professional with over 27 years in the Oil & Gas industry; her brilliance has earned her several academic recognitions and awards. She is a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPM) and a subject matter expert. In addition, she is a profound speaker at different HR fora.

She is happily married and has two lovely children.





Amina **Sambo-Magaji**

National Coordinator, Office for ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIIE), NITDA

"Determination, Persistence, Prayers and Grit make you stand out anywhere anytime."

- Amina

Amina holds a first-class degree in Computer Science from the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU), a Masters with Distinction in Information Engineering with special focus on Network Management from the Robert Gordon University (RGU), Aberdeen, Scotland and later in 2015, a Doctorate Degree in Artificial Intelligence also from RGU, Aberdeen. Her research was on designing algorithms that combining search strategies for Distributed Constraint Problems. She is also interested in block chain technologies use cases for smart city solutions. Amina has published and presented her work in several international journals and conferences. She started her career as a graduate assistant at ATBU, she later moved to the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) as a pioneer ICT staff in 2004.

She is the Acting National Coordinator, Office for ICT Innovation and Entrepreneurship, NITDA and is an active member of the Nigerian Computer Society (NCS) and British Computer Society (BCS).





Audrey **Joe-Ezigbo**

Executive Director, Falcon Corporation Limited

"I am like a tree planted and tended by streams of water. I bring forth my fruit in my season. My leaf does not fade or wither, and everything I do prospers and comes to maturity"

- Psalm 1 v 3 AMP

Audrey is a cofounder of Falcon Corporation Limited, an oil and gas services company. She is an active member of Women in Management, Business & Public Service (WIMBIZ). She is also a member of the International Women's Society (IWS).

An encourager by nature, Audrey is particularly passionate about building up early-stage and growth-phase entrepreneurs and serves as a mentor on various mentoring platforms including WIMBIZ, Apostles in the Marketplace AIMP, Lagos Business School, and the FGN YouWin program.

Audrey is a prolific writer and author with four published books - "Double Impact", "Uniquely Woman", "Ruach" and "Uniquely Woman 2" to her credit. She runs an inspirational, self-development, faith-based blog "Uniquely Woman" which is designed to guide women to attain a deeper understanding of self, gain clarity and intentionality of purpose, and thus live more fulfilled lives.

Audrey is the Convener of the Double Impact Platform and the Double Impact Conferences, both of which are platforms for delivering business and relationship-building training for entrepreneurial couples who are in business together, thereby

helping them create highly successful businesses institutions while maintaining happy and prosperous homes.

An active minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Audrey believes that she is a conduit – via her businesses, writings, speaking, and other platforms in and out of the marketplace, through which people will experience the manifest love of God.

Audrey is happily married to Joe Ezigbo and blessed with 4 children.





Ayodeji **Megbope**

CEO, No Left Overs Nig Ltd

"When we do the best we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another"

- Helen Keller

Ayodeji is the Founder/CEO of No Left Overs Nig Ltd, a full scale catering outfit which started with a takeoff capital of N1,000 in 2007, with the sale of moin-moin but has grown into a thriving business with branches in Lagos and Abuja. She is one of the first women worldwide to benefit from the 10,000 Women Initiative sponsored by Goldman Sachs- a programme set up to empower 10,000 underserved women worldwide with formal business skills and education.

Today she is an ambassador of the 10,000 Women Initiative; she has graced numerous local and international platforms and thus become an inspiration to many. She was a speaker at the Clinton Global Initiative in New York with world leaders in attendance and has also addressed the Annual General Meeting of Goldman Sachs in New York both in 2009.
In December 2011, Ayo was invited by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey to speak at Second Global Summit on Entrepreneurship. In April 2013, she was one of the three women nominated to represent Nigeria in the Fortune/U.S. State Department Global Women's Mentoring Programme.

In March 2014, Ayo was invited to speak at the White House in celebration of International Women's Day. In June 2016, Ayo was invited as a Panelist at the United State of Women Conference Summit where she spoke alongside Mr Warren Buffet on her journey as an

Entrepreneur. She was also privileged to deliver an address at a State House Dinner in Washington DC where she welcomed the First Lady of the US Michelle Obama. All this from the sale of moin-moin! Ayo is a graduate of the Enterprise for Development Centre (EDC) where she completed her Certificate in Entrepreneurial Management program. She is also a graduate of the Manchester Business School where she earned a Diploma in Business Administration. She is committed to spreading and sharing the importance of women empowerment and inspire others on the possibilities and advantages of starting small and growing big.

Ayo is happily married with 2 children.





Ayotomi **Rotimi**

Creative Director, Xclamations

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose. So trust God his timing and his process."

- Ecc 3:1 AMP

Ayotomi is a graduate of Business Administration from University of Lagos. After a three-year stint in banking she began to explore the business of fashion by establishing Xclamations in 2002. The humble beginning of the brand started as a home business making bespoke pieces for women with its signature linen fabrics. As demand for its designs grew Xclamations opened its first factory in 2005; which led to the opening of its showroom in 2007 in Anthony Village Lagos.

Since then Xclamations has established itself as a leading brand in the fashion retail space in Nigeria, pioneering "ready to wear" for indigenous fashion. The brand currently boasts of two outlets in Lagos, its own factory, a thriving online store and a vibrant social media presence. Ayotomi has won several awards including the MTN/British Council Fashion Entrepreneur Award in 2011.

In 2014 Ayotomi co-founded L.A.X Nigeria a brand positioned to be Nigeria's first fashion high street brand with affordable price points and varied product lines. The brand now has two outlets in Lagos and an Online store with a rapidly expanding customer base.

Ayotomi is married to Bayo Rotimi and they are blessed with two children.



Banke **Meshida-Lawal**

Founder, BMPro

"Passion, Hard Work, Talent and Consistency are key factors to Success."

- Banke

Banke is a professional makeup artist by default, she took fine art lessons from the age of eight after showing a keen interest in the arts. Banke studied English at the University of Lagos and graduated in 2000. The first BMPro professional makeup studio was formally opened in 2002 in Ikoyi.

BMPRO Nigeria's first makeup line for women of colour created by a makeup artist was birthed in 2006 with 14 makeup products in the line. A feat she achieved due to the inability of international brands to provide the colours and make up Nigerian women need. Selling out completely within weeks of its launch, BMPro makeup was widely accepted by Nigerian women.

Today, BMPro makeup has 65 products in the Nigerian market as well as distributors all over Nigeria, the UK, USA, Ghana and Canada. BMPro has a training school which continues to produce top notch makeup artists in Nigeria. Her mentorship programme is second to none often citing herself as an example of the success possible with hard work & perseverance.

Banke is an exceptionally talented make-up artist and has won many accolades and awards. More recently BMPro has opened 3 more branches in Lagos and Abuja respectively, making the total number of studios 4 in number within the Nigerian terrain. She continues to be present personally at these studios, often running a

busy schedule as she divides her time between this and attending to clients and brides alike.

She is married to Lanre Lawal and is blessed with 2 daughters. Banke enjoys playing the violin and is dedicated to supporting her children's passion for swimming.





Binta **Max-Gbinije**

CEO, Stanbic IBTC Trustees Limited

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"

- Phil 4:13

Binta, the Chief Executive of Stanbic IBTC Trustees Limited, has over 25 years work experience most of which was in banking. She holds a first Degree in English Language, a Masters in International Law and Diplomacy, an MBA in Management, is a HCIB of the Chartered Institute of Bankers as well as an Associate of the Women in Management, Business & Public Service (WIMBIZ). She is also a Fellow of the Association of Investment Advisers & Portfolio Managers (IAPM).

Binta was at various times, Head of Export Banking in Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, Head of Private Banking in Stanbic Bank Nigeria, the Pioneer Head of Wealth Management in FBN Capital Limited, and Head of Treasury Marketing in then MBC International Bank Limited.

She has attended executive courses in leading Business Schools such as the Harvard Business School, INSEAD, Wharton, Yale School of Management and Kellogg's. Binta is an active member or in the leadership of different professional associations and community –oriented organizations which are passionate about the empowerment of women and the girl-child and sits on the board of some Non-Governmental organizations that in particular look out for the disadvantaged in society, orphans and widows especially. She is also the Vice-President of the Association of Corporate Trustees (ACT) in Nigeria.

An avid reader, Binta's taste is eclectic and an indication of her multi-talented personality. She also collects stamps and is a lover of all things gospel.

Binta is the current chairperson of the Blue Women Network of Stanbic IBTC Nigeria - an initiative focused on building up young women in the workforce by coaching and mentoring them into excellence. She is also on the board of advisors of the VWEEP 2017, a joint initiative of the Yale School of Management & Career Nation, USA where she volunteers and assists with curriculum selection and advice on the global program for women in leadership. She continues to inspire those in her sphere of influence.



Bisi
Adeleye-Fayemi

Co-Founder, Africa Women's Development Fund (AWDF)

"Women should not have to live their lives whispering. We need to be able to speak well above a whisper"

- Bisi

Bisi is a Gender Specialist, Social Entrepreneur, Policy Advocate, Writer and Social Change Philanthropy Practitioner. She has a BA (1984) and MA (1988) in History from the University of Ife, Nigeria (now Obafemi Awolowo University). She also received an MA in Gender and Society (1992) from Middlesex University, UK. She is currently a UN Women Nigeria Senior Advisor, and was recently appointed a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at King's College, London.

She served as the Director of Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMwA), an international development organisation for African women based in London, UK, from 1991-2001, where she established the African Women's Leadership Institute which has produced over 6,000 women leaders across Africa. She co-founded the African Women's Development Fund, (AWDF) - the first Africa-wide grant-making foundation, and served as the first Executive Director from 2001-2010.

In April 2009, she was named by New African Magazine as one of the 20 most influential African women on the continent, and she is also the recipient of the 2011 David Rockefeller Bridging Leadership Award, one of the most prestigious awards in the field of philanthropy. When her husband Dr Kayode Fayemi was Governor of Ekiti State, Nigeria, 2010-2014, Bisi initiated and led campaigns to enact a Gender Based Violence Prohibition Law (2011) an Equal Opportunities Law (2013) and a HIV Anti-Stigma Law (2014).

She is currently on the boards of African Women's Development

Fund, Global Fund for Women (USA) where she chairs the Programs Committee, as well as Chair of the Advisory Board of the Nigerian Women's Trust Fund. She also serves on the Elizade University Governing Council and is a member of the Advisory Board of the HID Awolowo Foundation.

Bisi is the author of *'Speaking for Myself'*: Perspectives on Social, Political and Feminist Activism in Africa (2013), *'Speaking above a Whisper'*, (2013) an autobiography and *'Loud Whispers'* (2017)





Bisi **Alabi-Williams**

CEO, Lighthouse Options

"Be the Game Changer!"

- Bisi

Bisi is an Entrepreneur, Media Consultant, Public Speaker, Trainer and CEO of Lighthouse Options. Lighthouse is an interior décor company that specializes in interior designs and space managing business. She is an alumna of the Chief Executive Programme of Lagos Business School (LBS) and an alumna of the Chief Executive Programme of FATE Business School respectively. She is an associate member of Women in Management, Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ).

Bisi was the FATE Foundation SME Journalist of the year 2012 and a graduate of Sociology from the University of Jos. She also holds a Masters in Sociology from the University of Lagos. This veteran writer, author and enthusiastic speaker has been tutored in the art of putting her right foot forward. Bisi adds to her credit three certificates in Etiquette including a Masters in Etiquette and Poise from GSK Consortium, the prestigious etiquette school, Lagos, Nigeria.

She started her journalistic career as a cub reporter (NYSC) with The Guardian Newspapers in 1995. This veritable platform and the flagship of the Nigerian print industry sharpened her 21 years journalistic experience, as she churned out thousands of her engaging, witty and informative articles. As a FATE Ambassador, and Bloomberg fellow, Bisi has used her numerous networking platforms as rare opportunities to add value to her spheres of influence and contribute her quota to nation building.

Bisi is pragmatic, energetic, passionate, value-driven and focused; indeed, a result oriented woman with great penchant for hard work and excellence at all times.



Catherine **Bickersteth**

Director: Strategic Educational Advisory Services Ltd

"It takes a village to raise a child"

- African Proverb

After careers with Citibank and the Department for International Development (DFID) Catherine established and is a Director of Strategic Educational Advisory Services Ltd (SEAS).

SEAS holistically prepares and places students in top educational institutions in Nigeria, UK and USA.

Catherine holds a B.Sc. Economics; MSc. Management Science; PGD in Teaching English as a Foreign Language as well as other certificates. Catherine is a British Council qualified educational consultant and has participated in the Learning Journey to Finland; Harvard Think Tank on 21st Century Education and the World Economic Forum among education-focused initiatives.

Passionate about having broad impact, Catherine is a WIMBOARD certified board director of Children's International School; Development Africa (formerly FamilyCare Nigeria); Cycology Riding Club and Velocare Bike Shop. Catherine also actively supports Bethesda Child Support Agency and Teach for Nigeria.

She is married with two daughters.





Chioma
Afe

Divisional Head, Corporate Communications,
Diamond Bank

"Perfection is achieved a day at a time"

- Chioma

Chioma is currently the Divisional Head, Corporate Communications at Diamond Bank; a Leading retail bank in Nigeria. She oversees a diverse team of creative and content managers, Brand, PR, Media relations & CSR team to deliver on the corporate organization's image & customer perception objective, while also supporting the Retail function utilizing various marketing communication tools to deliver on awareness, acquisition and retention goals for the business.

A successful marketing communications professional with a total of 19 years' experience spanning FMCG, Consulting (Andersen), Direct Marketing, Telecommunications, broadcast Media and Financial services, Chioma has worked on various global brands including; Rothmans, Benson & Hedges, Coca-Cola and Airtel.

She has attended several leadership and professional courses in the course of her career at various institutions including the Metropolitan Business School London, Wharton Business School-Pennsylvania and Lagos Business School. She is a member of Advertisers Practitioners of Nigeria (APCON) and National Institute of Marketing of Nigeria (NIMN).

Chioma volunteers for linking hands foundation, an NGO that provides education support for internally displaced children in the Northern part of Nigeria. She also is an active fund raiser for United for kids foundation to supply books and educational materials for disadvantaged kids in Lagos.





Chizor
Malize

Managing Partner/CEO Brandzone Consulting Plc

"'Make your life a masterpiece; imagine no limitations on what you can be, have or do!"

- Brian Tracy

Chizor is the Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Brandzone Consulting LLC, a globally inspired multi-disciplinary brand consulting firm. She has over 18 years' experience in branding and communication. As the Chief Executive Officer of Brandzone, she has managed several international brands in the local market while managing and creating indigenous new brands of repute.

Chizor holds a Bachelor's degree in Communications and a Master's degree in Business Administration (MBA) with specialization in Marketing. She is a professional member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (CIM), London and an Executive Education Alumni of the London Business School and Columbia University, New York.
She was recently nominated by REBRAND™ USA, as a Jury Board member on the REBRAND 100® Global Awards Board, the only member from out of Africa. She won the award for Marketing and Brand Personality in Nigeria Award 2016.

Chizor is a member of the WIMBIZ Executive Council, Network for The Youth and Women in Business and Career, and also the Nation Building (National Branding/Iambrandnigeriacampaign)

Chizor is a prolific and reputable international speaker. She also facilitates Marketing, Branding and Leadership courses at respected institutions in the world. She is passionate about enterprise, impact and family.

Chizor is the convener of the National Branding Conference and a multi-tasking mother of 3 lovely young adults.



Chukwunonso
Onny-Ezeh

CEO, Assist-2-Sell Properties Limited

"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did but people will never forget how you made them feel"

- Maya Angelou

Chukwunonso, an attorney, is the Chief Executive Officer of Assist-2-Sell Properties Limited. Nonso is a law graduate of University of Nigeria and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1999 after graduating with a 2nd Class Upper from the Nigerian Law School. Her career path spans from law, banking, non-profit and real estate.

Under her watch, Assist-2-Sell Properties Limited, with core expertise in property sales, property leases, property management, and real estate advisory services has emerged to become one of the best real estate broker firms winning several awards.

Nonso founded & convened The Lady Realtors Training Series, as a pay it forward/CSR initiative where over 1500 women were trained on real estate and carving out a career as lady realtors.

Nonso, a WIMBIZ Mentee turned mentor, attributes her continued self-development to her great belief in mentorship and continuing education. She has a distinction of being not only a Cherie Blair Foundation for Women Mentee, but she was also a Fortune 500 U.S. State Department Global Mentee for 2014 and was mentored by Karen Peetz, President of the Bank of New York Mellon and Joanna Shapiro also of BNY Mellon. Nonso also serves as a Youth Enterprise with Innovation in Nigeria (YouWin) mentor.

Nonso is an alumni of the prestigious Lagos Business School and has also attended

several executive programmes from leading business schools world over, including IESE Business School, Barcelona, Spain and Nanyang Business School, Singapore.

Nonso loves to read and travel and she is fascinated by books and stationery. Her favourite authors remain John Grisham, Sophie Kinsella and Chimamanda Adichie.





Dolapo **Osinbajo**

Executive Director, The Women's Helping Hands Initiative

"If we each do a little together, we can do a lot!"

- Dolapo

Dolapo is a lawyer and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1990. She is the Executive Director of the Women's Helping Hands Initiative (TWHHI), a nonprofit organization which was incorporated in2010. TWHHI presently operates two shelters for women and children in Lagos (one on Lagos Mainland and one on Lagos Island). The shelters, with 150 and 100 bed capacities respectively cater specially for victims of domestic and sexual abuse.

Each shelter has a clinic with 24 hour nursing care and a skill acquisition room where residents can learn skills that will enable them be financially independent when they leave the shelter. The centre also provides legal representation for residents when required.

TWHHI also runs two empowerment programmes 'Project Ayodele' established in memory of Dolapo's mother and 'Step Up'. The skills acquisition programmes are run over two weeks period at the end of which participants are able to set up their business and start earning immediately. The most popular of these courses is the bag making course. Eight thousand women across the country have benefitted from these empowerment programmes over the past 3 years.

TWHHI also anchors the Concerned Mothers Group. A group of women who act as social workers in the community and counsel and support vulnerable members of society suffering from abuse and neglect.

For many years Dolapo worked with street children and men popularly known as 'area boys' in Lagos Island. Hope and succor was brought to many who turned from a life of crime and are living productive and

successful lives today. Her activities and interactions in this area are documented in her book 'They Call Me Mama' which was published in 2014. Dolapo also writes a daily devotional on Facebook called Let Us Pray.

She is happily married to His Excellency the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Prof Yemi Osinbajo SAN and they are blessed with three children.





"With God, all things are possible"

- Matt 19:26

Dupe **Olusola**

Head Embassies, Multilateral and Development Organisations, United Bank for Africa.

Dupe Olusola is Head responsible for managing relationships with multilateral and international development organisations across the 20 African countries at UBA. Until recently, she was the CEO of Teragro Commodities Limited, the agribusiness subsidiary of Transnational Corporation of Nigeria Plc ("Transcorp"), a diversified conglomerate with strategic investments in the Power, Hospitality Oil and Gas and Agriculture sectors of the Nigerian economy.

Initially recruited as the Director of Resources, her key role was to join a team dedicated to reinventing the group and setting up processes and procedures for upcoming businesses within the group. In her 4 years, Transcorp has transitioned from an ailing group to the largest conglomerate listed on the Nigerian Stock Exchange.
Her distinguished 18+ year career has been built by working in various sectors of the economy both in Nigeria and the UK. These sectors include Power, Oil & Gas, Hospitality, Agric, Banking, Private Equity, Non-Governmental, Entrepreneurship, Micro & SME Development.
Dupe has a degree in Economics and a Masters Degree in Development Economics from the University of Leicester and University of Kent, Canterbury respectively. She is also a certified PMP and Prince 2 Project Manager and qualified and certified Investor Relations Manager.

She sits on various boards including Nature Fresh, Fay Nigeria, OLCA/IMC, as well as

Aviator Travels & Tours. She pioneered a charity organization, Forty for Good with a focus on raising funds and impacting the disabled, those experiencing fertility challenges, children in need and Widows.

Dupe is a dedicated wife and mother of 2. She brings the same enthusiasm, diligence and discipline to her home. She was recently named on a list of Nigeria's Most Influential CEOs of 2015 by Ventures and Africa.





Eme **Akenzua**

World Class Milliner and Hat Designer

> ***"If there's a cause worth fighting for, it's this: Children belong in families."***
>
> *- Nicole Skellenger*

Eme Akenzua is a wife, mother, social reformer, author and fashion designer.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria from where she proceeded to study millinery under the private tutelage of Rose Cory, the late Queen Mother's milliner, in the U.K. between 1989 and 1992.

After gaining practical experience at the Hatters, Herbert Johnson of New Bond street, Eme returned to Nigeria to set up John 3v3 Hats in 1993.

Eme's works have featured on CNN, BBC, ITV and several glossy national and international print media. She has participated in exhibitions in the U.K., USA, Dubai and Nigeria. Her handcrafted masterpieces adorn the heads of celebrities and women of influence within and outside Nigeria.

Side by side her thriving fashion business, Eme is actively and passionately involved in the welfare of Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) .

She is driven by the need to ensure every OVC in Nigeria has access to life's basic necessities including being in the care of loving parents through adoption where the need arises.

Eme is at the forefront of pioneering the work on educating people on the benefits of adoption in Nigeria through her Joy of Adoption platform and books.

She has been Managing Trustee and project co-ordinator of Heritage Homes Orphanage Lagos since its inception in 2004

and Heritage Adoption Support And Advocacy Group (HASAAG) since 2016. Heritage Homes has affected the lives of thousands of OVC and HASAAG is involved in demystifying adoption, and advocating for better adoption laws and procedures in Nigeria.

All in all, Eme feels privileged to be able to work in the two diverse worlds of glamour and poverty effectively. She sees herself as lending a helping hand in both. In one she helps people look more beautiful and in the other, she helps restore life and dignity.

Eme is married to Prince Niyi Akenzua and they have two children.





Enase **Okonedo**

Dean, Lagos Business School

"Dance like nobody's watching, love like you have never been hurt, sing like nobody's listening, Live like it's heaven on earth"

- Enase

Enase is the Dean of Lagos Business School, Nigeria has the responsibility for setting strategic direction for the School, as well as overseeing all academic and administrative matters.

She has a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Benin, Nigeria; an MBA from IESE Business School, Barcelona and a Doctorate in Business Administration from International School of Management (ISM), Paris.

She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (FCA) as well as a Fellow of the International Academy of Management (IAM). In November 2015, she was conferred as a Fellow of the Society of Corporate Governance Nigeria (SCGN) in recognition of her exemplary leadership and contributions to good governance in the Nigerian Education sector.

Enase is the President, AIFA Reading Society, Nigeria - a not for profit organization, committed to the promotion of a reading culture and the attainment of sustainable educational development across Africa.

Enase is an accomplished professional with more than 30 years' experience in the financial services and management education sectors; she serves on the board of several indigenous and international companies and global organisations.

She firmly believes that to be the change you want to see reflected in society, you must live the values that promote the overall good of the society.



Folake
Adeniyi-Adeleye

Regional HR Director, Oracle

"...I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean; Whenever one door closes, I hope one more opens; Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance; And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance, I hope you dance..."

- Lee Ann Womack

Folake holds a Biological Science degree from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and a Master of Science degree in International Human Resources Management from the prestigious Cranfield University, UK. Her career started in Management Consulting & HR Advisory at Phillips Consulting, a strategy & management consulting firm where she developed a flair for the HR profession.

She was recruited after six years by the Oando Group – the largest indigenous integrated oil and gas company with operations across 4 West African countries – as its Manpower Development Manager and was later appointed as the HR Manager in charge of the Downstream Marketing business. She later joined Celtel (which became Zain and now Airtel) as the Senior HR Business Partner to the Sales, Marketing and Call centre divisions.

In 2009, she was approached by Microsoft to be its Regional HR Manager for their West and Central Africa business. In her current role as Regional HR Director at a IT global multinational, Folake is responsible for partnering with business executives to review and implement of people strategies to meet business objectives and in line with the company's growth and expansion in sub-Saharan Africa's emerging markets.

She is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria – CIPMN and a certified Global Professional in Human

Resources (GPHR) of the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM), the global body for the HR practice. She enjoys coaching young professionals on improved self-image and building skills for today's workplace, which is at the heart of Employability, one of her passions. She currently sits on the Executive Council of WIMBIZ (Women in Management, Business and Public Service). Folake is a certified Executive Coach helping professionals develop more self-awareness, personal leadership and clarity in managing transitions.





Folasade **Ogunsola**

Deputy Vice Chancellor Development Services, University of Lagos, Akoka

"Believing in our country Nigeria and doing our bit to build strong systems is not an option. History does not remember the pessimists, the cynics and those who tear down. It remembers those who build. We must as a people take our eyes of the inkblot on the white paper but instead speak to our virtues and inspire others"

- Sade

Sade has been a clinical Microbiologist for the last 27 years and is currently the First Deputy Vice Chancellor Development Services of the University of Lagos. in charge of Internationalization, Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Quality Assurance and Strategic Development. She was the first female Provost of the College of Medicine, University of Lagos, during which she was elected as the Chairman of the Association of Provosts of Colleges of Medicine in Nigeria. She holds an MB.CHB from the University of Ife, 1982 MSc Medical Microbiology with distinction (University of Lagos, 1990), Diploma in Biomedical Techniques and a PhD in Medical Microbiology from the University of Wales, College of Medicine, Cardiff (1998). She is a fellow (by examination) of both the National Postgraduate Medical College in Pathology and West African College of Physicians. In 2017 she became a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Sciences.

Sade has always believed in working with the underprivileged and in 2003 with money obtained as a sub award of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation she built a clinic in Kuramo village on the Bar Beach to study HIV and provide primary care, prevent and treat HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. This evolved into an NGO called Karale which she founded in 2010 to work in slums and hard to reach places.

She initiated and developed the HIV clinic and laboratories in Mushin General Hospital and Onikan Comprehensive

Healthcare Centre with Funds from the American Government in 2007. She has worked as a consultant with the World Health Organization on Infection and has been deployed to Uganda for Infection control in Ebola outbreaks and was therefore the infection control lead during the Nigerian Ebola Outbreak in 2014.

Sade loves to travel, read books and sing. She is happily married to Segun, a Chartered Accountant and they have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

Sade has received many awards and recognitions and was recently elected as the Medical Woman of the year 2017 by the Medical Women Association of Nigeria.



WIMBIZ Initiatives



Annual Conference

The Annual Conference is WIMBIZ's flagship event and holds annually in November. It is attended by over 1400 women from around the world to discuss a broad range of issues centered around a cutting edge theme that is topical and relevant to women in the business, corporate, public and development sectors.



Annual Lecture

The WIMBIZ Annual Lecture series is a public forum that attracts over 700 women every year. It is designed to discuss topical issues that affect women, their role in nation building and their personal, business or organisational development.



BSP – Big Sister Program

Initiated in 2016, the Big Sister Program (BSP) is WIMBIZ's girl mentoring impact program for public secondary school students. It aims to equip and empower young girls between the ages of 14 – 18 years with the life skills required to boost their confidence and build their leadership capacity.



WIWIC – Winning Without Compromise

Winning Without Compromise is a campus outreach targeted at young female undergraduates in Nigeria. The intent of this program is to expose participants to workplace and business issues. The WIWIC program features a seminar, a business plan competition and a mentoring component.



GIP – Graduate Internship Program

The WIMBIZ Graduate Internship Program is a 3-6 month internship and mentoring program for female unemployed university graduates. This program allows them to gain valuable and on-the-job experience while developing employability skills.



Impact Investment Competition

The Impact Investment Competition was launched in 2014 to recognize and support start-up female-owned businesses designed to solve social problems and make a profit. It is a nationwide business plan competition for young Nigerian women running start-up businesses in the impact investment niche.



Masterclass

WIMBIZ masterclasses were introduced in 2015 as a development forum and tool for women in senior leadership positions.



WIMCAP – WIMBIZ Capital

The WIMBIZ Capital, WIMCAP is the investment arm of WIMBIZ created to facilitate women's access to finance by advocacy, training and direct business finance. It consists of a 2 day training and a personalised business clinic for participants.



WIMBIZ Mentoring Program

The WIMBIZ mentoring program has been structured to meet the needs of the growing number of women seeking development and growth in every aspect of their lives. The program is targeted at young women with the drive and passion to find relevance and create their marks in their industry. It is the most basic path to becoming a member of the WIMBIZ community.



CEO Interactive Series

In furtherance of the WIMBIZ vision, annual meetings are held with Chief Executive Officers, members of executive management and other policy makers to discuss and proffer solutions to the challenges that women face in the workplace.

WIMBoard

WIMBoard is a development-focused program operating through 4 platforms namely: The WIMBoard Institute; WIMBoard Executive Mentoring Program; WIMBIZ Executive Database and WIMBoard Advocacy. WIMBIZ, through its WIMBoard Program seeks to promote Board diversity.



WIMPol

WIMPol was introduced as a platform to bridge the gap in the low representation of women in politics by training existing and intending female politicians on the required skills for attaining leadership positions.



Roundtable Lunch

WIMBIZ holds the Roundtable Lunches in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt and Ibadan. The monthly lunches serve as a platform for female professionals to network, share their knowledge and experiences, ideas and opinions on several issues concerning women in their career and business pursuits.



WIMBIZ App

The WIMBIZ App was introduced in 2017 as another connecting platform for women. Rich with content, it provides valuable information for women in all careers and in different phases of their lives. The app is also a great way to keep up-to-date with WIMBIZ activities.



International Conference

After 16 years of inspiring and empowering women primarily in Nigeria, WIMBIZ decided to extend our activities internationally. WIMBIZ's international outreach began with a maiden conference in Ghana. The conference was aimed at inspiring and challenging women to raise their aspirations on their journey to reaching their full potential.



WIMBIZ Marketplace

The WIMBIZ Market Place is an initiative borne out of the need to bridge the gap between producers and consumers. This two-day event creates awareness about female own businesses, bringing together over 60 female entrepreneurs from a broad range of sectors including education, health, finance, fashion, interior design amongst others to a large audience of buyers.



Foluke **Aboderin**

Managing Consultant, Irene Wright Credit & Investment Ltd.

"It is possible to climb to the top without stepping on other people"

- Taylor Swift

Foluke is a Chartered Accountant and holds a first degree in Economics. She is currently the Managing Consultant, Irene Wright Credit & Investment Services Limited. She was formerly the Deputy Managing Director, Corporate & Investment Banking (AG) at Ecobank Nigeria Limited.

A seasoned banker, her banking experience spans 32years, managing a balance sheet of N1 trillion made up of Multinationals, Financial Institutions and Top-tier Local Corporates operating in key sectors of the economies of Nigeria and other African countries.

Prior to joining Ecobank, Foluke was Vice President at Citibank Nigeria where she worked and honed her skills for 11 years.

Foluke started her banking career in 1985 at First City Merchant Bank (now First City Monument Bank) where she worked in the Corporate Banking Departments of the bank for over ten years. Foluke has won several International and Local Awards which include, African Female Banker Award (2012), Outstanding Women Leadership Achievement Award- World Women Leadership Congress (2015).

Foluke enjoys mentoring women, SME companies, especially female owned ones, on "what a Banker wants".



Funke
Bucknor-Obruthe

CEO, Zapphaire Events Group

"Train people well enough so they can leave, treat them well enough so they don't want to"

- Richard Branson

Funke is the founder and CEO of the Zapphaire Events Group (comprising of Zapphaire Events ltd, Décor by Furtullah, and Zapphaire Events Training School). She is the MD/CEO of Zapphaire Events, one of the pioneer Events Planning Company in Nigeria. She is the Executive Director of Décor by Furtullah and Executive Director of the Zapphaire Training School, which offers training and internship program for aspiring Event Planners.

Funke has been featured in several publications both locally and internationally such as Forbes Woman Africa, BBC 100 inspirational women in the world (2016), and she was also featured on CNN (Inside Africa)–Weddings in Nigeria among many others.

Funke is a highly regarded speaker who seeks to impacts and influence the lives of people. She has spoken at various seminars, workshops and conferences within Africa and globally. Funke published and launched a first of its kind book called 'The Essential Bridal Handbook' for the African market, with emphasis on Nigeria. She recently began her own You tube series "Funke Says", the series is designed and tailored in such a way to teach people every aspect of the events planning process.

Funke holds an LLB degree in Law from the University of Lagos and a BL from the Abuja Law School. She has won several awards and distinctions for her work. She is a founding member of APPOEMN (Association of Professional Party Organizers and Events Managers of

Nigeria), an associate member of WIMBIZ (Women in Management and Business) and an Alumnus of Enterprise Development Centre of the Pan African University (now Pan Atlantic University).

Funke is married to Onome Obruthe and they are blessed with two beautiful daughters.





Gbemi **Shasore**

CEO, Quramo Publishing

"Our future is greater than our past"

- Ben Okri

Gbemi Shasore is the Executive Publisher, Quramo Publishing Ltd. She attended the prestigious Holy Child College Lagos, Ahmadu Bello University, New York Institute of Technology and a publishing course at the London College of Communications, University of Arts London.

Gbemi is a social developmental entrepreneur, women and children's rights advocate, author and volunteer. She has served on the boards of several non-governmental organisation's holding leading positions, such as International Women's Society (IWS) where she was the 50th year President and later Chairperson Widows Trust Fund Committee. Gbemi now serves as a Member Board of Trustees of IWS and Zonta International.

Gbemi was a pioneer in event productions, hosting annual children's events in 1993 and establishing 'The Green Park', an event venue in Victoria Island in 2000. She has 3 stage productions to her credit namely 'Ajai, the boy slave', "A past came calling' and 'Adjai - the right (write) to freedom'. In 2017 she founded the Quramo Writers Prize for unpublished writers and encouragement of literary talent in Africa supported by Quramo Publishing where she is the Executive Publisher and CEO.

Gbemi is the Author of 'In her own Right' a book on the paths to success of successful leading women breaking social barriers and home engineering at the same time while supporting men in their own careers. She recently started a new publishing imprint 'Qed' to produce educational books in Nigeria.





Geraldine
Oku

Principal Consultant, The Lotus Firm

"In your chosen occupation, business or vocation....as in life.... a clear vision, humility to learn at every step, sheer doggedness to overcome failures and win at the end are your critical success factors"

- Dr. Daisaku Ikeda

After qualifying as a Lawyer, armed with a Master's degree in Corporate & Commercial Law, Geraldine lectured in in Faculty of Law in the Universities of Maiduguri and Calabar. Geraldine was a banker in Lagos for 16 years [Company Secretary - Guaranty Trust Bank Plc, Societe Bancaire Merchant Bank, Diamond Bank, Bank PHB]. She was thereafter headhunted by Governor Liyel Imoke in 2007 to join his cabinet in Cross River State to set up the first sub-national Investment Promotion Agency.

Post-government, for eight years Geraldine successfully project-managed GEMS3, a UK-DFID funded program supporting improvements in the business environment of Cross River, Edo, Delta and Ebonyi States in turn to dynamise economic growth and inclusion of the active poor especially women. Geraldine takes great pride in her consulting work in economic development & legal and financial capacity building support.

As a result of her work in economic development in Cross River State, the amalgamated market union in Calabar graciously gave her an award for, as they put it "enabling us to gain respect and stop government people from taxing us illegally".

Geraldine works on a voluntary basis with various youth groups, mainly in enterprise and aspirational leadership, in Cross River State now as a mentor. The Bridge Leadership Foundation, set up by the immediate past Governor of Cross River State - Governor Liyel Imoke, is one such vehicle.





Grace **Olugbodi**

Founder, BeGenio – Easy Maths Skills

"Whatever is worth doing is worth doing well"

- Lord Chesterfield

Grace is a successful business woman and mother of two. She has been very active in the Educational Games sector for almost 20 years. She holds a First Class Honours in BSc Computing and an MSc in Financial Markets. A Java Software Programmer by trade, she worked in various Investment Banks, before her dream of creating a game took over. She is currently the Vice Chair of the Board of Governors at her local primary school, the Chair of the Finance Committee and the Governor in charge of the Creative Curriculum. Grace has been in business for over 12 years and pioneered a major brand in Nigeria which is still very successful till date

Grace has an incredible passion to help children fall in love with math. She has identified a major problem in education simply that too many children hate math, do not believe they can get good at math, find it a boring chore and cannot relate it to real life. They simply do not have enough fun, creative ways of practicing math both at school and at home, leading to high level of math phobia. Worse still, too many teachers and parents are afraid of Mathematics themselves and do not know effective methods to help the children.

Grace invented Race to Infinity a solution to this problem in schools and at home, to help children, parents and teachers fall in love with maths, enjoy maths, reduce maths phobia, make maths fun, increase grades and help children increase their

opportunities for a successful future. Her maths game is now making waves in Nigeria and all over the world, and she and her team train teachers on how to effectively help children master maths in a fun and practical way.





Habiba **Garba**

Founder, A'l-Saleh Development Foundation

"Freely You Have Received Freely Give"

- Matt. 10:8

Habiba had the privilege to serve her country in the Nigerian Air Force as a registered nurse. She was further appointed as the first female commandant of the first military girls school in Nigeria and Africa. She was also privileged to attend the most prestigious Command and Staff College Jaji and was awarded PSC after meritorious years of service with good conduct, she was promoted to the rank of Air Commodore - being also the first female to be promoted to that rank, before her retirement in April 1999.

She started A'l -Saleh development foundation thereafter, a non-governmental organisation, to qualitatively improve the lives of the orphans and vulnerable children and provide a qualitative education for them.

She was awarded & inducted into the Nigeria Women Hall of Fame on November 3, 2007 by the National Centre for Women Development Abuja. The Evangelical Church winning conferred on her the doctor of divinity for her humanitarian activities in the village in 2010, for building the only private primary school for children in her village. She was also awarded with a Karis award in 2013 by the Household of God Church Lagos.

Habiba is the first female general in the Nigerian Air Force.



Hadiza
Bala Usman

Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority

"If someone suffers and keeps silent, it can be a good silence. If someone suffers and I keep silent, then it is a destructive silence"

- Elie Wiesel

Hadiza is the Managing Director of the Nigerian Port Authority (NPA), an appointment she received in 2016. She started her career with the Centre for Democratic Development and Research Training, (CEDDERT) a Zaria based Non-Governmental Organization in 1999 as a Research Assistant. From 2000 to 2004, she worked at the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) as an Enterprise Officer. She also served as a Special Assistant to the minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) on Project Implementation and as the Director of Strategy for the Good Governance Group. In 2015, Hadiza was appointed the Chief of Staff to the governor of Kaduna State.

Upon the kidnap of Nigerian schoolgirls at Chibok by Boko Haram in 2014, Hadiza co-founded the global movement, #BringBackOurGirls (BBOG) and helped coordinate several meetings with the parents of the kidnapped girls and members of the Nigerian government. In her current role at the Nigerian Port Authority, Hadiza continues to identify with the campaign, spotting her BBOG badge on every occasion.

Hadiza has received local and international acclaim for her work including being named one of the most influential women, 2014 by Financial Times, the most inspiring woman of 2014 by CNN and one of the 100 most influential black women in the world, 2014 by Ebony Magazine.

She holds a BSC in Business Administration from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and an MA in Development Studies from the University of Leeds, UK.


#BringBack
Our Girls



Henrietta **Onwuegbuzie**

Academic Director OMP, Senior Lecturer, Entrepreneurship, Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University

"Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is a protection of a fundamental human right. The right to dignity and a decent life"

- Nelson Mandela

Henrietta leads sessions in Entrepreneurship on the Executive and (E) MBA programmes at the Lagos Business School (LBS). She has an MSc (with honours), in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Navarre, Spain, an MBA from LBS and a PhD in Entrepreneurship, from Lancaster University, UK. Henrietta is also a globally certified management consultant and is a Fellow of the Institute of Management Consultants in Nigeria. Henrietta is a member of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), and for 3 consecutive years, played an active role in organizing the annual national economic summit, as a member of the technical committee.

Henrietta is passionate about economic development and social transformation in Nigeria and Africa, and has initiated the creation of over 100 profitable, social impact businesses through the MBA and Executive programmes at LBS. On a voluntary basis, mentors aspiring and established entrepreneurs and has participated in several speaking engagements to help youth engaged in entrepreneurship to succeed. Her passion is to develop impact-driven driven entrepreneurs, whose businesses transform society, while remaining profitable and sustainable. She has presented a number of award winning papers on entrepreneurship and sustainable development at international conferences, and in 2015, she was conferred a certificate of recognition in New York by LEAP (a UN working

group under the Principles of Responsible Management Education sector). The certificate was in recognition of her ground-breaking work in developing change accelerators.

Henrietta recently set up an Entrepreneurship Impact Centre, aimed at providing a systematic way of transforming society, through profitable business initiatives that will empower people in such a way that they can create jobs or become easily employable while creating wealth at the same time.





Ibilola **Amao**

Principal Consultant, Lonadek Inc.

"A good name is more valuable than all the money in the world"

- Prov. 22:1

Ibilola is the Principal Consultant of Lonadek with a B.Sc. (First Class Honours), in Civil and Structural Engineering from the University of London, and a Ph.D. in Structural Engineering from the University of Bradford. She is an Alumni of Manchester Business School, UK. Her company Lonadek, is a multi-award winning ISO 9001: 2008 certified Asset Sustainability Consulting Company focused on delivering value through STEM focused community, supplier and human capital development initiatives.

Established in 1991, with operations in Africa, Europe and the Middle East, Lonadek is the preferred firm of local content consultants that provides world-class services in energy, power, infrastructure, oil and gas.

She is a passionate about raising strategic thinkers and planners who would create value in resource rich emerging economies through sustainable development initiatives that creates value for all stakeholders. Ibilola derives joy from empowering youth and women STEMpreneurs and Techpreneurs.

Ifeoma **Fafunwa**

Founder and Creative Director, iOpenEye Ltd

"Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can"

- Arthur Ashe

Ifeoma is the founder and creative director of iOpenEye Ltd, a Nigerian production company driving social change through performance art. She produced the popular stage play HEAR WORD! Naija Women Talk True – a collection of monologues based on true-life stories of Nigerian women, aimed at challenging social, cultural and political norms that limit the potential and contribution of women.

Ifeoma's professional experience includes creative collaborations in theatre, architecture, film and fine art in the US and Nigeria. In 2012, she directed one of Nigeria's cultural submissions for the London Olympics and in 2014 her work was featured in the London International Festival of Theatre (LIFT) and showcased the Tate Modern. In 2016, HEAR WORD! had its international debut at Harvard University in Cambridge and in 2017 the same show opened at the American Repertory Theatre.

Ifeoma is a fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network and was also awarded a Radcliffe Institute Fellowship at Harvard University. She teaches a pro-bono performance art workshop building capacity for young female performers and university students in Nigeria. She lives in Lagos, is married and has four children.







Ijeoma
Ubosi

Founder, Kontessa

"Identify your passion and pursue it wholeheartedly. Doing what you love will give you the confidence to overcome any challenges and pitfalls that may arise"

- Ijeoma

Ijeoma is an accomplished serial entrepreneur in the fashion and lifestyle business. She started from humble beginnings in 1997 selling goods from her car trunk. Ijeoma decided to pursue her passion in this industry even though she graduated with a high honors degree in pharmacy from the University of Bath.

Ijeoma gave up her MBA program at Imperial College London to move back to Nigeria to get married and establish her business and she has never regretted her decision.

She is the founder/CEO of the following companies: Kontessa catering to the fashion discerning man, woman and child. The first Kontessa store was opened in Victoria Island in 2000 and there are now 6 branches in Lagos and other states which includes: Nara camicie (Italian fashion franchise), Motivo Ltd (FMCG distributorship, corporate gifts, exquisite hampers), Arsenal Ventures (jewelry retail).

Ijeoma has attended several executive courses including the OMP program at the Lagos Business School.

She is passionate about motivating and inspiring people especially other women to strive and succeed in their chosen fields, even in areas where they may seem to be in competition.

Ijeoma is an inspirational/motivational speaker at several women's forum and is adept at galvanising people for fund raising for community development projects.





Isioma **Aihie**

CEO, Grey Velvet

"Having my creator is all the success I'll ever need"

- Isioma

Isioma is a serial entrepreneur, married, dedicated mother of 4. She has a B.Sc. in Zoology (UNIBEN) and an M.Sc in Information Systems Design (University of Westminster, London).

Isioma worked as a Systems Analyst for top Fortune 50 companies, Microsoft and Merck & Co. and as Head of IT, at premier downstream oil company, OANDO.

Dissatisfied with the lack of "edutainment" for children and teens in Lagos, she founded FUNTOPIA, a state-of-the-art entertainment park; JUICE, a bi-monthly magazine for teens; A VOICE FOR ELLA, the stage play, a modern day musical adaptation of Cinderella and STYLE ME, a TV makeover show aired across the continent, UK and Europe. She also served as consultant executive producer at HiTV, TVC & Bloomberg Africa.

Isioma created GREY VELVET first fashion retail chain and online store purveying ONLY "Made in Nigeria" apparel and accessories, aimed again, at improving "our own" by buying "our own".





"Dream Big and Dare to Fail"

- Norman Vaughan

Iyabo **Sofoluwe-Sadare**

Principal Dentist, SS Dental Clinic Ltd.

Iyabo is a veteran Dentist with over three decades of practice experience. Her specialties are in: Children's Dentistry, General Dentistry, Implantology, and Cosmetic Orthodontics. She is the Co-founder and Principal Dentist of SS Dental Clinic Lekki, a 14-year-old practice.

The Clinic was set-up to provide dental care at International standards in Nigeria and convert the dental-phobics through its unique service experience. Prior to setting up SS Dental, Iyabo pioneered the Dental Clinic at Eko Hospital in 1989 and managed it for 14 years.

Iyabo graduated from the University of Ibadan in 1983. After a Stint at the Nigerian Railway Corporation, she proceeded to the prestigious Eastman Dental Institute, University College London (UCL) in 1987 to obtain a MSc. in Children's Dentistry.

Iyabo set up the "Be Aware Initiative" – a Dental Educational Platform that leverages Social Media and other channels to promote dental education among millennials. The SS Workplace Enlightenment Programme – focused on taking Dentistry to the Workplace with a flagship campaign on the subject of Halitosis at the Workplace.

She is a member of executive team of Dentex – An Association of Private Dentists National Executive Member, Nigerian Dental Association: 1995–1997 Secretary General University of Ibadan Dental Students' Association: 1981–1982.

Iyabo is the mother of two lovely daughters.





Josephine **Effah-Chukwuma**

Executive Director, Project Alert on Violence against Women

"You can only be treated in a way you permit someone to treat you"

- Josephine

Josephine is a Gender & Development Specialist, an advocate for the rights of girls and women in Nigeria, especially the rights to live a life free of violence and discrimination. She had her secondary School education at Our Lady of Apostles Secondary School, Yaba-Lagos. She studied English & Literary Studies at the University of Calabar and attended the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, The Netherlands for her masters, where she studied Development Studies, specializing in Women and Development. Josephine is a member of ARNOVA - Association for Research on Non-profit Organizations & Voluntary Action and is also a Founding Member of AROCSA - Association for Research on Civil Society in Africa.

Josephine founded Project Alert the very first NGO in Nigeria to focus specifically on violence against women and girls. She also set up the very first shelter for abused women in Nigeria in May 2001, known as Sophia's Place, this won her an international award and an Ashoka Fellowship. Ashoka is a global association of Social Entrepreneurs.

As the Executive Director of Project Alert, Josephine's work as an activist at the national, communal and individual levels, is all about rendering service to women and girls who are physically and sexually abused.





Juliet **Ehimuan-Chiazor**

Country Director, Google

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen"

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Juliet, named by Forbes as one of the top 20 power women in Africa, is Country Director of Google leading Google's strategy and business growth in Nigeria. Under her leadership, the company has made significant impact on local content development, infrastructure deployment, and digital capacity building; receiving an award for most outstanding contribution to local content development from NIMES and NCC.

Juliet has over 20 years' experience across EMEA including Shell, Microsoft, and Entrepreneurship as Founder of SI Consulting. Juliet holds an Executive MBA (London Business School), Postgraduate degree in Computer Science (University of Cambridge), and B.Sc (1st class honours) in Computer Engineering (Obafemi Awolowo University).

She was featured in 2016 BBC Africa Power Women series; and awarded Digital Personality of the year (2016), Titans of Technology award (2015), IT Personality of the Year (2012), London Business School Global Women's Scholarship, and Cambridge University Selwyn College Scholar.

Juliet was a member of the committees that developed the national broadband plan, and ICT incubation strategy. She is currently member of the Private Sector Advisory Group on the SDGs and serves on the board of Nigeria Economic Summit Group, and LEAP Africa.

Juliet founded Beyond Limits (a self-leadership movement), through which she coaches people on personal effectiveness and invites them to break barriers, and achieve positive results in their lives.





"The best way to predict the future is to create it"

- Peter Drucker

Jumoke **Oduwole**

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Industry, Trade and Investment

Jumoke is Senior Special Assistant to the President on Industry, Trade and Investment in the Office of the Vice President. She currently coordinates the Secretariat of the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) which was set up by HE President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, with a vision to make Nigeria a progressively easier place in which to do business. Prior to this, she was a Senior lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and an elected member of the University Senate. She was appointed the 2013-2015 Prince Clause Chair holder, a visiting professorship in development and equity at ISS in The Hague, by the Curatorium chaired by H.R.H. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands. She holds an LL.M. degree from Cambridge University, England, as well as a second Master's degree and a doctorate degree in international trade and development from Stanford Law School, USA.

Jumoke is the co-founder of "No Limits," a platform for inspiring and instilling leadership values in Nigerian youths. She is also the Founding Executive Director of The Kuramo Foundation Ltd, a law and development non-profit organization closely affiliated with the Lagos State Government.

Jumoke volunteers her time for the advancement of several social causes and has mentored Nigerian youth in various capacities for over 15 years. She loves to spend time with her family, is passionate about development issues in Africa, and an avid photographer who seeks to tell human stories through images.

Jumoke is the vice-president, representing West Africa, Executive Board, Africa Association of International Law, she is also an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Fellow, African Leadership Institute and a 2012-2013 Fellow, Inaugural Private Investors for Africa (West Africa).





Kate **Henshaw**

Actor & Social Activist

"Stand for what you believe in even if the crowd is on the other side"

- Kate

Kate attended St Mary's private school, Broad Street, Ajele, Lagos and had her secondary school education at Federal Government Girls Calabar. She graduated from The School of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Luth, Idi-Araba in Medical Microbiology after one year of remedial studies in the University of Calabar. She started her acting career in 1993 with her first movie, "When the Sun Sets" and she won her first award in 1996 for the best upcoming actress in the same movie. Kate has taken part in several stage productions including the world famous "Vagina Monologues", starred in several soap operas on television such as "Candlelight" and "Dogood". She is the first Nollywood female actress that would be invited to be part of the panel at the 2008 Berlin Film Festival along with Bollywood star, Shah Rukh Khan. Kate is a strong advocate for the girl child and women. She believes in speaking out against injustice, supporting Causes she is passionate about.

Kate has won several awards as an accomplished actor on stage, TV and film, received many humanitarian awards and she has a teenage daughter whom she encourages to live her dreams and believe in herself.

Kate is an ambassador for Project Alert on Violence against Women and Children advocating zero tolerance on domestic violence, Women at Risk International Foundation advocating against rape of girls and women, she supports and creates awareness on cervical cancer with Optimal Cancer Care Foundation.

Kate has helped raise funds for Oando Foundation to build a school at Itori Ewekoro Ogun State, she also supported and advocated on gender based violence in conjunction with S.T.E.R [Stand to End Rape] and is a polio ambassador for Nigeria.





Kavita **Chellaram**

Founder, Arthouse Contemporary Limited

"Love what you do, it will always be a success as your heart and soul will be in it always"

- Kavita

Kavita is the founder and director of Arthouse Contemporary, an international auction house based in Lagos, Nigeria that focuses on modern and contemporary art from West Africa.

Kavita, born in India, studied at Heathfield and Bedford College, University of London before moving to Nigeria. An avid art collector, with private collections in Mumbai, London and Lagos, she was inspired to open an auction platform in Nigeria to provide a base for the transparency in price and structure of the art market. Since its inaugural auction in 2008, Arthouse Contemporary has successfully held auctions twice a year in Lagos, setting record-breaking prices for contemporary African art.

Arthouse has recently expanded to include local and international exhibitions and a non-profit residency foundation.

Kavita is a Trustee of the Prince's School of Traditional Arts and a member of the African Acquisition Committee of the Tate Modern.



Kehinde **Daniel**

CEO, Kots Catering Nig Ltd

"Don't be afraid to speak up for yourself, keep fighting for your dreams"

- Gabby Douglas

Kehinde is a Fellow of the Institute of Hospitality UK and was appointed as the Chairperson of the Institute (Nigeria branch) whose purpose is to promote the highest professional standards of management and education in International Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism Industries.

Kehinde's passion for catering started at an early age. Little wonder that she was naturally drawn to catering and hospitality as a career. She is presently the Managing Director of Kots Catering Nigeria Limited. She will be celebrating 30 years in business as a leading brand employing over two hundred staff.

Kehinde is also the chief promoter of Hospitality Institute, set up to develop skilled, independent, successful and well-prepared professionals for the Hospitality Industry. She is an avid believer that hospitality industry can address the youth unemployment challenges in Nigeria if an enabling environment is provided to develop the skills and harness the natural attributes in young adults. She is working fervently in the campaign to create awareness in career opportunities in the Hospitality Industry.

Kehinde is a member of the National Mirror Committee on Tourism and Related Services (Nigeria) and a Fellow of Institute for Tourism Professionals. She is presently working with local and international organisations in developing standards in the Hospitality Industry.





Kehinde **Nwani**

GMD/CEO, Meadow Hall Group

"In this seemingly boring routine of life, you have to carve out your own destiny."

- Kehinde

Kehinde is a social entrepreneur and an educationist who has a passion for national transformation and believes that education can be used as a viable tool for societal development. She began her career as a lawyer obtaining her Bachelor of Law degree from the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) 30 years ago and was called to the Nigerian bar thereafter. She practiced law for about 14years before finally deciding to pursue her lifelong passion-education.
To adequately equip her for this, she obtained a Montessori diploma, a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (International) PGCEi and subsequently a Masters degree in Education from the University of Nottingham in the United Kingdom. She is currently studying for a PhD at the University of Leicester.

She has successfully grown Meadow Hall which started as a summer school in 2002 to an education group with 6 sub-brands: Meadow Hall Education, Meadow Hall Consult, Meadow Hall Foundation, Spring Meadow Edutainment and Meadow Hall Franchise and Meadow Hall Resources.

Meadow Hall Foundation is the non-profit arm of Meadow Hall Group and partners with individuals, public and private organisations to implement sustainable initiatives, projects and programmes that support students, teachers, schools, and communities.

Kehinde has received several awards and distinctions for her work in education. She is happily married to Andrew Nwani, and they are blessed with 3 children.





Kemi **Dasilva-Ibru**

Women At Risk International Foundation;WARIF

"I believe that the rights of women and girls is the unfinished business of the 21st century"

- Hilary Clinton

Kemi is a specialist Obstetrician and Gynecologist with a medical background that extends to Public Health from the Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, USA. A qualified and experienced specialist since 2002, she has worked in Lagos for over 10 years in private practice, where she has dedicated her time to working closely with non-government organisations in addressing the prevailing issues of sexual violence, rape and trafficking of young girls and women in communities throughout Lagos, by offering free medical support and counselling.

She has also expanded her expertise in the field of medicine with various post-graduate medical courses and is an alumnus of the Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos. A member of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, Medical Women Association of Nigeria and the American Medical Association; she also serves on the board on non-government organisations.

Kemi is the founder of the WARIF - a non - profit organization that addresses the high incidence of rape, sexual violence and trafficking of young girls and women in communities across Nigeria. This is achieved through the implementation of target oriented, community based interventions which all have the hallmark of the Foundation's initiatives being impactful, measurable and sustainable.





Kofo **Akinkugbe**

CEO, SecureID Limited

> ***"Begin with the end in mind"***
>
> *- Dr Stephen R. Covey*

Kofo is, a prize-winning graduate of Mathematics of the University of Lagos. She spent 12 years in banking, first at International Merchant Bank (local affiliate of the First National Bank of Chicago) and then as a pioneer staff member of Chartered Bank. During this time, she received the British Government Chevening Scholarship to study for an MBA at the Strathclyde Graduate Business School, Scotland, UK.

Kofo is the founder of Interface Technologies (1998), SecureID Limited (2005) and SecureCard Manufacturing (2012). She currently serves as the Managing Director/CEO of SecureID Group (comprising of SecureID and SecureCard Manufacturing). SecureID is a MasterCard, VISA and Verve Certified Smartcard Personalization bureau and digital technology company whilst SecureCard Manufacturing is the first polycarbonate Smartcard manufacturing plant producing high security identity cards and documents for the banks, telecoms and public sectors. Kofo is a passionate and bold entrepreneur as both companies are the first of its kind in Africa.

As a passionate and innovative real sector entrepreneur, Kofo has taken both companies through several strategic partnerships into the international market by attaining the pre-requisite international certifications.

Kofo possesses a rare combination of entrepreneurial, manufacturing, personalization and technology acumen and sits on the boards of several local and multinational corporate, philanthropic and humanitarian organizations.

She is married with two grown up children.





Maureen **Onigbanjo**

CEO, House of Maufechi

"Style is a way to say who you are without having to speak"

- Rachel Zoe

Maureen is one of the leading fashion designers in Lagos, Nigeria and Africa. She attended American College University, London where she studied Fashion Design.

Maureen started House of Maufechi in 1984, and has since then kept her reputation of being one of the most original designers in Africa. Maufechi is a fashion visionary with a unique approach to her designs that has endeared her to fans and clients worldwide.

She uses embroidery, ornaments and a lot of mixed media to create extraordinary pieces. House of Maufechi aims to work with different types of fabrics and prints, that bring about creativity in design, especially here in Lagos Nigeria. Maureen established an art and design school, Maufechi Academy of Art and Design in 2013. The school offers courses such as: fashion design, fashion textiles, hair dressing, beauty therapy, millinery, footwear design, bag making and modeling. It is a vocational school open to people of all ages. Maufechi has been honored over the years with numerous awards and accolades. Her fan base and clientele continues to grow and wherever in the world her designs are seen, they are very much appreciated.

Maureen has been in business for over three decades which is no mean feat considering the demands and stress of the fashion industry. Indeed, she is a designer to be celebrated.





Mavi **Isibor**

Executive Vice Chairman, Poise Nigeria

"Stars can only be stars when others lend their lights to their shine"

- Mavi Isibor

Mavi is the founder and current Executive Vice Chairman of Poise Nigeria Limited, and Author of Nigeria's first and only Etiquette Handbook, The Art of Refinement. She has since grown the company into four thriving subsidiaries; Poise Graduate Finishing Academy, Poise School of Communication, Poise Business Image Consultancy, and EkoBits ICT Academy.

Mavi Isibor possesses a top-rated Post-Graduate Diploma and a Masters' Degree in Business Administration (MBA), she is an alumnus of The Protocol School of Washington, USA, and a certified etiquette trainer.
She is the initiator and visionary of the African Female Professionals Breakfast Meeting organized in collaboration with the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria for the 2017 World Conference of Banking Institutes hosted in Lagos, Nigeria. She is also the visionary of the Poise Women Mentoring Women Initiative which is a network for mentorship for Female Professionals across Africa. Mavi is a highly regarded and acclaimed conference speaker on the subject of etiquette and personal branding.

From pioneering a non-existent industry and founding Africa's premier and most respected Personality and Image Consulting organisation seventeen years ago and growing it into a successful and thriving company, to authoring a groundbreaking book on Etiquette in Nigeria and Africa, Mavi has not only succeeded in career, but has written her name

in the sands of time. She recently just retired after over 30 years of meritorious service. She has also succeeded in family, raising children who are breaking new grounds and achieving in their various fields.



Maymunah **Kadiri**

Psychiatrist-In-Chief / CEO, Pinnacle Medical Services Limited

"In life, find out what makes YOU happy for a healthier, wealthier and happier YOU"

- Maymunah

Maymunah is the founder of Pinnacle Medicals Speakout Initiative which is a non-profit organization that is geared towards creating the much-needed awareness on mental health. The goal is to prevent, educate, advocate, rehabilitate and empower the society with information and skills on their mental wellness.

Maymunah popularly referred to as "the celebrity shrink" is a multiple award winning Mental Health Physician and a Fellow of the National Post-Graduate Medical College of Nigeria (FMCPsych) as a Consultant Neuro-Psychiatrist with over 10 years' experience in practice. She is the Psychiatrist-In-Chief and Medical Director of Pinnacle Medical Services, Nigeria's leading health and wellness center dealing on psychological, emotional, behavioural, and mental health related issues. A Goldman Sachs Scholar on Entrepreneurial Management, with the Enterprise Development Centre (EDC) of Pan Atlantic University. Also, a graduate of the China European International Business School, CEIBS on Entrepreneurial Management.

As a Mental Health Physician and advocate, Maymunah's drive and passion has led to the development of Africa's first online health radio, which delivers real time health solutions to individuals all over the world. Also, the development of a mental health app, HOWBODI that is free for download which is helping to save lives by helping people to assess their mental health on the go. The aim is to reduce suicide rate with time and create a mentally healthy society. Maymunah has also being

involved in the production of award nominated movies, "Peppersoup" and "Little drops of happy" which are life changing movies for mental health advocacy in Nigeria and beyond.

Maymunah is a trained and certified Rational Emotive and Cognitive Behavioural Therapist from Albert Ellis Institute, New York, and Beck's Institute for Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, Philadelphia, USA. She is also a certified Trauma Counsellor, sexual and reproductive health expert, occupational health and safety Physician and Neurofeedback Practitioner. A motivational speaker, life coach, author, executive movie producer, mentor, wife and a mother of 3 lovely children.





Mobola **Sagoe**

Founder, Shea Origin Limited

"We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

- Maya Angelou

Mobola is a qualified professional aesthetician, with a degree in Bio-Esthetics from Pivot Point International Beauty School in Chicago, Illinois. She worked with a variety of prestigious beauty brands such as Christy Valmay and Fashion Fair Cosmetics before returning to Nigeria in 1989 to establish her own beauty clinic and spa; La Feminic Beauty Clinic, the first of its like in Ikeja, Lagos. Mobola is the CEO of Shea Origin Limited, a skin care company that manufactures wholly natural products made from their own authentic locally produced Shea Butter.

Shea Origin as a company has invested in and manages the Shea Butter Centre in Saki, Oyo State. To date Shea Origin has empowered over 1000 women by employing them in the production of unrefined shea butter; while simultaneously providing them with various skills training and capacity building programmes increasing their production capabilities from the primitive mode of processing to more modern sanitary methods that improve the quality and yield of shea butter.

Shea Origin is endorsed by many organizations including USAID, The Nigerian Export Promotion Council NEPC. Mobola currently serves as the Vice President of The National Shea Producers Association of Nigeria (NASPAN) and is also a Sustainability Partner with the Global Shea Alliance (GSA).



Modupe **Adefeso-Olateju**

MD, The Education Partnership Centre

"The welfare and future of the child should be at the heart of everything we do in the education sector."

- Modupe

Modupe is Managing Director of The Education Partnership Centre (TEP) Centre and a policy expert specialising in public-private partnerships in education. She leads workstreams on a range of education sector support initiatives funded or assisted by international donors and corporate funders. She is coordinating the implementation of LEARNigeria; Nigeria's citizen-led household assessment and advocacy programme which is assessing the foundational literacy and numeracy competencies of 5-15 year olds and supporting policy advocacy and the implementation of remedial programmes for communities.

Modupe also leads the team which plans and hosts the annual Education Innovation Summit (NEDIS).

She previously worked with DfID's ESSPIN Programme, Accenture and Junior Achievement. As a Centenary Scholar (Africa), she earned a PhD. in Education and International Development from the Institute of Education (IOE), University College London, and a Masters with Distinction from the same institution.

Modupe currently serves on the advisory committees of the Brookings Institution Center for Universal Education (CUE) Millions Learning 2.0 programme and the DfID-EDOREN programme. She was a Trustee of the Commonwealth Youth Exchange Council, UK and currently serves on the boards of Slum2School Nigeria and development Research and Projects Centre (dRPC) Nigeria.





Mojisola **Olateru-Olagbegi**

Co-Founder / Partner Technology & Entrepreneurship, Workplace Centre Limited

"Life is a journey, enjoy it - Believe in yourself, always seek to make a difference no matter how small, be thankful and don't give up"

- Mojisola

Moji is a Co-founder and Partner, Technology at The Workplace Centre(TWPC), an ICT and HR Consulting firm.

With over twenty-five years of ICT Industry experience, she started her career with DPMS and Costain (W.A.) Plc. As an entrepreneur, she ran computer clubs for children and schools. She worked in the U.S. as an Infrastructure Technical Specialist with Dow Chemical, and a Project Manager at General Motors and Chrysler (Compuware Ltd.)

Moji was the National Consultant for the World Bank Microworks Naija Cloud and the Rockefeller Foundation Digital jobs initiatives, both in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Communications.

She is the Chairman of Workplace Youth Initiatives, a Non-Profit organisation focused on youth skills development, innovation and job creation. A certified Project Manager, she holds a B.Sc. Electrical Engineering, University of Lagos, M.Sc. Electronics, King's College London and a Ph.D. in Strategy, Project and Programme Management, SKEMA Business School, Lille France.

Moji is privileged to pastor at the Floodgate Christian Centre along with her husband, Bowo Olateru-Olagbegi the founding pastor.





Morenike **Okupe**

CEO, Malas Foods

"Be diligent in all that you do."

- Morenike

Morenike Okupe attended Sacred Heart Private School, Ibadan for her primary education, Federal Government Girls College, Onitsha for her secondary education & University of Lagos from where she obtained a BSc, Industrial Relations & Personnel Management in 1991.

She founded MALAS Foods in 1992 as a fully-fledged catering outfit, to offer cutting edge catering services to highly discerning individuals and corporate entities all over the country. Malas Foods is one of the leading catering businesses in Nigeria, known for providing excellent culinary services.

She has a Certificate in Entrepreneurship Management from Entrepreneurship Development Centre of the Lagos Business School in 2007.

She recently obtained a Certificate in Business Management, from the Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership for Africa (WELA) Program organized by the China European International Business School (CEIBS) in 2015/2016 set.

Morenike regularly attends training programs, fairs, exhibitions locally and internationally to continually upgrade her knowledge and keep abreast of trends in the industry.





Ngozi **Nzegwu**

Founder / CEO Dugo Ltd

"In the confrontation between the river and the rock, the river always wins, not through strength but by perseverance"

- Jackson Brown

Ngozi is a promotional solutions specialist, she holds a B.Sc. in sociology and MBA from University of Lagos, and she passionate about capacity building.

She is a banker turned entrepreneur with combined experience of almost 30 years. Prior to setting up Dugo ltd in 1998 she worked in the banking industry for over 12 years. She was part of the management team that set up Oceanic bank as the pioneer Treasurer. Over the years Dugo has evolved to become an industry leader with a vision to be a world class company that provides total creative solutions in the management and service of promotional, recognition and personalized products. In Nigeria, she is a life member of edc, Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industries, a proud associate of WIMBIZ, and founder of Kingdom Investors NGO.

Based on the challenges Ngozi faced and still faces as an entrepreneur, in 2006 she set up Kingdom Investors, an NGO that empowers women to succeed through free capacity building programmes with over 100 women as beneficiaries. She has used this platform to sponsor women to obtain the certificate in entrepreneurship from EDC, as well as business coaching and networking.

Ngozi is the pioneer and founding President of the Association of Promotional Product Specialist of Nigeria, APPSON's vision is to enhance the membership value and elevate the profile of the industry. She is passionate about imparting knowledge and write quarterly publication called 'go world class" which is a publication from Dugo Ltd. Ngozi was recently appointed to the Board of Financial Derivatives Ltd as a non executive director.

Milestones for women



1911
First ever International Women's Day celebrated.

1915
Women from the U.S. and Europe gather in The Hague in the Netherlands for the first International Congress of Women - later known as the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

1946
UN Commission on the Status of Women established with mandate to set standards of women's rights, encourage governments to bring their laws into line with international convention and to encourage global awareness of women's rights

1948
Adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which forms the basis for action for promoting equal rights and freedoms

1952
Covenant on Political Rights of Women enacted by the United Nations, calling for women's right to vote and right to stand for elections.



1963
Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to fly to space

1975
First International Women's Year, first global United Nations' Women's Conference held in Mexico City and beginning of the UN Decade for Women

1979
The UN General Assembly adopts the Convention on the Eliminations of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. It defines what counts as discrimination again women and creates an agenda for nations to adopt.

1993
Adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women; women successfully promote the message that women's rights are human rights at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna

1994
Women secure another major step forward for women's and girl's right to control their own lives and bodies at International Conference on Population & Development in Cairo

1995
The 4th World Conference on Women is held in Beijing, China and results in a global Platform for Action for women's equality, empowerment and justice.

2000

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are developed and include a goal to promote gender equality.



2000

Groundbreaking UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security adopted, recognising the impact of conflict on women and girls and calling for UN member states to involve women in peacebuilding.

2007

The first all-female UN Peacekeeping unit is deployed. It is made up of over 100 policewomen from India and it is sent to Liberia.



2008

UN Security Council Resolution 1820 adopted, recognizing that sexual violence can be categorized as a war crime; calling for protection from violence in refugee and displaced person camps; and affirming the need for women's full participation in peace-building processes.

2011

UN Women is formed out of a number of existing UN organizations to further the empowerment of women and girls and to advocate for gender equality.

2012

United Nations passes a historic resolution outlawing Female Genital Mutilation.

2015

Sustainable Development Goals launched, including a gender equality goal and targets about ending violence against women and ensuring equal participation.



2017

Women's March on Washington, DC, became the largest international mass demonstration in support of women's rights.

2017

Hillary Clinton became the first female presidential candidate nominated by a major party, and the first woman to win the popular vote in a United States presidential election





Ngozi **Onyia**

Founder / MD, Paelon Hospital

"Whatever you can dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now"

-WH Murray

Ngozi qualified as a medical doctor from the University of Ibadan College of Medicine in 1982, She is a fellow of the West African College of Physicians (Paediatrics) with a certificate in Travel Health from the International Society of Travel Medicine. She also has an MBA from Lagos Business School.

These qualifications laid the foundation for the establishment of Paelon Memorial Clinic in 2010 after a successful medical career at NITEL and Nigerian Breweries PLC. Paelon is an excellent medical establishment with one of the few well equipped Intensive Care Units in Nigeria. Paelon grew quickly from a day clinic to a 20-bed hospital with an Ikeja branch with the distinguishing feature of passion for excellence and personalised patient care.

Paelon's reputation brought Queen Maxima of the Netherlands to visit the clinic during her recent visit to Nigeria. Paelon is the preferred hospital for many expatriates and those seeking excellent medical service, as well as larger hospitals who want to replicate their model of excellent medical care.

Ngozi has received several distinctions and awards in her career, including the Heineken Medical Award off 2005/2006, she however considers her greatest achievement to be mothering a special needs child after whom her hospital is named.





Ngozi

Princewill Utchay

Founder & CEO, Artelier Lifestyle Consultants

"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader"

- Dolly Parton

Ngozi is an Etiquette and Image Consultant, and multiple certified Personal Branding Strategist who founded Artelier Lifestyle Consultants five years ago, as a vehicle to help executives, entrepreneurs, rising professionals and women "polish, project and optimise their corporate or social image and impressions."

An alumna of the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, she holds certifications from foremost institutions in the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates as well as Switzerland (the Institute Villa Pierrefeu, which is described as Switzerland's "last traditional finishing school").

With courses ranging from Business Etiquette to Dining Etiquette, Deportment and other Social Graces, Ngozi, through Artelier, has trained over two thousand people, using global best standards. She also hosts the "Future First Ladies Annual Finishing School".

Ngozi regularly writes on social image and impressions - previously for Genevieve Magazine and currently for ThisDay Style; presents several seminars and workshops every year (including the "21st Century Etiquette series), and is privileged to speak at various conferences including in 2013, the WIMBIZ Annual Conference.

She hosts a highly subsidised annual Finishing School for young ladies called "Future First Ladies" and in 2016, she partnered with both the WIMBIZ "Big Sister Mentorship Programme" and Titi the Dynamite (of Inspiration 92.3FM) to donate free places to ten attendees drawn from public schools etc., who would otherwise not have had the opportunity.





Nkoyo
Rapu

Founder, Bethesda Child Support Agency

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children"

- Nelson Mandela

Nkoyo is a lawyer, an author, a pastor and a woman of diverse interests and skills. A passion for education and a desire to support the less privileged led to her establish the Bethesda Child Support Agency in 2001. The primary focus of the agency is to address generational poverty by providing free education through the Bethesda Nursery and Primary schools that were set up in places such as Ikota, Ijaiye-Ojokoro, Bariga and Matogun in Lagos and Ogun states.

In 16 years of existence, Bethesda has been able to offer free Educational Support to over 5000 indigent children mainly through the 4 schools that the agency had set up in poor communities. The scholarship program at both the secondary school and university levels ensures the continuity of the education of these children.

Bethesda is part of the Freedom Foundation, an umbrella organization of four non-governmental agencies involved in social reformation and rehabilitation. Nkoyo sits on the board of Freedom Foundation and the House of Freedom, an evangelical movement made up of distinct churches such as This Present House, the Waterbrook Church and the Holy Trinity Church.

Nkoyo is also involved with the strategic planning and decision making of the Springfield International School, a 33 year old school founded in Port Harcourt by her family. She is an Executive member of the Justice P.O.E Bassey Foundation established for the purpose of promoting the advancement of legal studies and education in honour of her late father who was the first indigenous judge of the then south eastern state of Nigeria in 1968.

Nkoyo was the visionary and founder of the notable Redeemer's International Primary School and Redeemer's International Secondary School. She is also the author of three inspirational books. She has received several local and international awards for her work in social reformation.

Nkoyo lives in Lagos with her husband Dr Tony Rapu and their 3 children.





Obafemi **Olayebi**

Chief Creative Director, FemiHandBags

"It's never too early or never too late to make a success of your life. The key is to find your own path, push for excellence at every turn, dare to be different and trust your struggle. And while you're at it, don't ever stop dreaming."

- Obafemi

Following a first degree in French from the University of Ibadan and a Masters in Translation from L'Institut de Traducteurs et d'Interprètes in Strasbourg, France, and working as a freelance translator at ECOWAS, Femi attempted to make a baby bag for her first baby when she couldn't find one she liked. She soon registered her bag company, and set to work from her garage. In 2008, she became one of the first recipients of the Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women scholarship, and was twice invited to the United States, where she job-shadowed some famous handbag designers. She was selected by the Bank of Industry to attend the Brazil-Nigeria Business Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 2013. Her business became a case study for MBA students at the Pan-Atlantic University, Lagos and in 2016, she attended her first ever course in Handbag Design in Milan. Her handbags are currently being sold in Lagos, Paris and New York.

In June 2017, Femi organised and hosted the Lagos Leather Fair, a purely private initiative and business project designed to promote Nigerian leather designers, create awareness of the need for value addition along the leather value chain in the country, create a solution-based networking platform for all the stakeholders in this niche sector, facilitate collaborations and business linkages, as well as provide incentives which would gradually bring out commercial level production.

Femi currently runs quarterly intensive bag making courses in partnership with the Nigerian Export. Promotion Council (NEPC) gradually bringing about commercial-level production, attracting investment and ultimately become a major part of the Made in Nigeria and Zero-Oil initiatives.





Obiageli **Ezekwesili**

Founder, Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative (AEDPI)

"Everyone has a moral compass. Yours is unique to your life values, choices and vision. Learn to diligently safeguard it"

- Oby

Oby is a quintessential professional, a distinguished policy expert and public servant as well as an irrepressible advocate at local, national and international levels. She is a co-founder of Transparency International- TI- as well as numerous other local, national and international bodies with mandates of promoting transparency, accountability and good governance. She is an acclaimed advocate for the empowerment of girls and women and a co-convener of #BringBackOurGirls Movement.

Oby was decorated with the third highest national honor – Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic (CFR) in 2007. Time Magazine named her one of 2015 Time 100 Most Influential People. The New York Times honored her as one of their 25 Women of Impact for 2015. The Albert Einstein Foundation named her one of the 100 Visionary Thinkers of our time amongst other included.

Oby is an impatient optimist who believes that the world of disruptive technologies offers Africa the opportunity to claim the 21st Century. That conviction makes her a champion of human development based economic strategy for African countries. A natural mentor and friend of young people; a lover of God and Humanity, she is widely celebrated for her commitment to upholding core values in society. She is a strong proponent of informed, engaged and active citizenship using the Office of The Citizen as a platform to promote Citizens' voice in Democracy.

Oby is a chartered accountant, former Nigerian Minister of Education, former Minister Of Solid Minerals Development, former Senior Special Adviser to the President of Nigeria on Budget monitoring and former

Vice President for the World Bank. She served as Vice-President for the World Bank's program in Africa. She currently runs the Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative (AEDPI), which provides policy expertise and advisory support to African Heads of Government and their cabinets.

Oby holds a Master's degree in International Law and Diplomacy from the University of Lagos, and a Masters in Public Policy and Administration from the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. The University of Agriculture in Abeokuta awarded her an honorary Doctor of Science degree in 2012. In 2016 the University of Essex Business School also awarded her an honorary Doctorate Degree in Business in recognition of her role in promoting economic and social justice in African countries.

Oby is married to Pastor Chinedu Ezekwesili and they have three sons.





Oke **Maduewesi**

MD / CEO, Zaron Cosmetics Limited

"Step out of your comfort zone, you just might surprise yourself!"

- Oke

Oke is the founder, chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director of Zaron Group of Companies. Oke was educated at the University of Leeds, United Kingdom where she obtained a Masters' in Business Administration (MBA) and Edo State University, Ekpoma where she obtained a Bachelors' degree in Economics.

Through vision, perseverance and hard work, she has been able to build the Zaron brand into one of the strongest and fastest growing cosmetic brands in Africa with thirty outlets, thousands of distributors across Nigeria and several African countries including Ghana, Cameroun, Kenya, Mauritius and Zimbabwe.

Oke and her team focus on delivering quality products at affordable prices to enhance the lifestyle needs of African women, whilst also contributing to the socio-economic development of Nigeria through job creation, enterprise development, strong corporate social responsibility and a business ethos anchored on integrity.





Olubunmi **George**

Chief Design Officer, Emisara

"To yourself be true always"

- Olubunmi

Olubunmi George graduated from the University of Lagos with a degree in Sociology. She subsequently gained a Master's degree in International Studies from Morgan State University, Maryland, USA.

With over 20 years of professional experience, she has a solid strong background in the non-profit and human resource sectors, having worked with notable companies both in Nigeria and the diaspora.

Her love for fashion and accessories began with an early exposure to the process of garment production through her father's textile factory.

Over the years she developed a keen interest in the production of accessories and jewellery, culminating in her decision seven years ago, to start Emisara, a fashion accessories line that produces and retails a wide range of exquisite handmade costume jewellery designs.

Her dedication to the art of jewellery design and craft led her to Dubai, where she was trained in the fundamental techniques of jewellery making.

Combining her background as a modern African woman with a global perspective, her designs can best be described as 'glocal glamour' - a delicate fusion of the rich diversity of Nigerian culture, with the prevailing trends of the modern international fashion scene. The result of this fusion are the uniquely beautiful pieces that have come to denote the Emisara brand.

With Emisara, Olubunmi is on a mission to build a strong African brand that can compete favourably on an international stage, featuring stunning pieces

that are accessible and budget-friendly, hence their slogan, 'affordable luxury'.

Working with some of the best artisans both in Nigeria and abroad, Olubunmi remains committed to creating memorable uniquely 'glocal' pieces that help women make a beautiful statement with their accessories.

Outside of her business, Olubunmi is also passionate about helping people walk in their God-given purpose. She is married to Lemuel George and they are blessed with two beautiful girls.





Olufunke **Agbor**

Partner, Adepetun Caxton-Martins, Agbor & Segun (ACAS-Law)

"You have only one life! Live it to the full and helping others along the way"

- Olufunke

Olufunke is a legal practitioner, called to the bar in 1982 and since 1993 a partner in the commercial law firm of Adepetun Caxton-Martins Agbor & Segun (ACAS-Law) where she leads the shipping and litigation practice. Her areas of specialization include Shipping and International Trade Law, Marine Insurance Law, Ship Finance & Securitisation and International Trade Law, Commercial Litigation and Arbitration.

With over 30years experience, she is an integral part of the admiralty and dispute resolution practice of the firm, representing clients on a broad range of commercial transactions before trial and appellate courts as well as in international arbitration.

Olufunke began her primary school education at St Mary's Private School in Lagos and went on to Queen's College Yaba for her secondary school education. She studied law at University of Lagos and has an LLM from the University College, London. She is a member of a number of professional bodies the Nigerian Bar Association, the International Bar Association, member of the Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria, Vice President, Nigerian Maritime Law Association and member of the Women's International Shipping and Trading Association-Nigeria). She is also a CEDR Accredited Mediator and member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitration.

She was conferred with the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2016.

Olufunke is an avid reader of books, loves the theatre and the arts generally. Funke sang soprano with the Steve Rhodes Voices in the distant past. She loves to dance but lately her back

has been letting her down but she is not giving up!

Olufunke believes that everyone is God's representative on earth to help his fellowman and that even a smile is a gift that will light up someone's day. She is still working on herself! Funke is married to Dan and they are blessed with two children.



Onyeche **Tifase**

MD / CEO, Siemens Ltd. Nigeria

"What you do today will stand for you tomorrow; It's important to make impact through hard work, a positive mindset, exhibiting integrity and caring for others"

- Onyeche

Onyeche is an engineering professional with extensive experience in the power and consulting industries. She graduated with a degree in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from the University of Nottingham and completed her Masters degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Cambridge.

She started her career with Siemens in 2001 as an Electrical Engineer in the Power Distribution Division of Siemens Plc UK and thereafter progressed up the ranks taking up other key roles in Siemens Germany and Siemens USA. Onyeche worked with Accenture Nigeria from 2006 in the area of management consulting and in 2009 returned to Siemens as Deputy General Manager Medium Voltage and Transformers for Siemens Ltd. Nigeria.

Onyeche's career path and achievements over the years led her to become the first Nigerian Managing Director, Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Nigeria effective November 1, 2014.

Onyeche is actively involved in the Mara Mentor program, The Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Program, The Lagos State Ready Set Work Initiative and the LCCI Be the Best Initiative, all in support of the development of the Nigerian youth, an area she is very passionate about. She is also a senior member of the Foundation for Culture Youth and Women Empowerment (FCYWE) which aims to engender self sufficiency and financial independence of women and youth through various adult education programs.

Onyeche is happily married with three children. She is an avid supporter of local content development initiatives and participates actively in key programs focused on the mentoring and development of the Nigerian youth.





Osaretin **Demuren**

Chairman, GTBank

"In character, in manner, in style, in all things, the supreme excellence is simplicity"

- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Osaretin served 33 years at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) where she held several significant roles in Research, Exchange Control and Trade & Exchange Departments. In 1999, she made history as the first female to be appointed a Departmental Director of the Apex Bank as the Director of Trade & Exchange. She has served on the boards of several public institutions including the National Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), and Nigeria Export Processing Zone Authority (NEPZA). She then ended her career at the CBN as the Director of Human Resources from October 2004 to December 2009.

Osaretin serves on the boards of several leading institutions in Nigeria. She is an Independent Non-Executive Director at TrustFund Pensions Plc., a leading Pension Fund Administrator in Nigeria since February 2011 and a Non-Executive Director of LAPO Microfinance Bank Ltd, also a leading and highly rated MfB.

In April 2013, Osaretin was appointed to the Board of Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB) Plc., a leading Banking institution in Africa as a Non-Executive Director, she was appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank in 2015

Osaretin is a fellow of the Nigerian Statistical Association (NSA), Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN), Society for Human Resource Management of America (SHRM), Institute of Directors (IoD), and Bank Directors Association of Nigeria (BDAN), among others.

She holds a Master of Science Degree in Economics and

Statistics from the Moscow Institute of Economics and Statistics, Moscow, and a Diploma in Russian Language and Preliminary Studies from the Kiev State University, Kiev. She has attended several executive programs at leading worldwide institutions including Harvard Business School (HBS), Columbia Business School, IMD (Switzerland), UPenn Wharton Business School, Northwestern Kellogg School of Management, Michigan Ross Business School, INSEAD Business School (France) and Cranfield School of Management (UK).

She is widely travelled and happily married.





Oyeyimika **Adeboye**

Finance Director West Africa,
Cadbury Mondelez International West Africa

"He has made everything beautiful in its time"

- Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NKJV)

Oyeyimika joined the Board of Cadbury Nigeria Plc. as Finance and Strategy Director in November 2008. Prior to joining the Board, She was the Chief Financial Officer and Director of Finance of Nigerian Bottling Company Plc, a company that she served for 13 years. She had previously worked for the Nigeria Accounting Practice of Arthur Andersen & Co and the United Kingdom Accounting Practice of Midgley Snelling & Co, Chartered Accountants where she trained as an articled clerk.

Oyeyimika has an impressive track record in finance, strategy and business administration both in Nigeria and the United Kingdom. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and a Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Nigeria. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Accounting from the University College, Cardiff in Wales.

Oyeyimika is member of the Board of Trustees of the Timothy Adeola Odutola Foundation, a family owned philanthropic foundation set up for the purpose of providing educational, industrial and technological development of Nigerian youths who may be unable to gain admission into higher education. She had also worked with Freedom Foundation an NGO created to carry out the mandate of pioneering social reformation within our communities in Nigeria. As part of her philanthropic work she was chairperson of the Advisory Board of Genesis House until June 2015. Genesis House provides residential rehabilitation facility for abused, disadvantaged adolescent girls.

Oyeyimika is married with 3 children.





Polly **Alakija**

Chairman, Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture

"Live whilst you are alive. Learn the ways of silence and wisdom. Learn to act, learn a new speech. Learn to be what you are in the seed of your spirit. Learn to free yourself from all things that have moulded you. And which limit your secret and undiscovered road."

- Ben Okri

Polly moved to Nigeria from the UK in 1989. Between 2005 and 2011 she was based in South Africa. She now works from "The Studio" her workspace and showroom in Lagos. Polly has exhibited in solo and group exhibitions in the UK, France, Nigeria and South Africa, where her work can be found in numerous private and corporate collections. Polly is a trained teacher and has been continuously involved in educational programs for all ages. She also has written and illustrated children's books for publishers in the UK, EU, USA and Nigeria.

In April 2017, His Excellency Akinwunmi Ambode appointed Polly as Chairman of Lagos State Council for Arts and Culture.

As an Artist Polly took her foundation course in Art and Design at Oxford Polytechnic.

Her large-scale works lend themselves to the public space. With the support of Lagosian architects, Polly develops urban regeneration projects that aim to regenerate and bring dignity to local communities through creating engaging and enabling platforms in under used spaces.

She has always involved herself in voluntary programs particularly in the area of education, from setting up a school to promoting educational programs, to hands on activities focusing on creative arts with children, youths and adults of all ages.

Polly considers that her greatest achievement is being a mother to her three daughters and her son. Being a single mother of four remains her greatest challenge and her greatest achievement.



Reni **Folawiyo**

Founder & CEO, Alara

"My mission in life is not merely to survive but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humour and some style"

- Maya Angelou

Reni is the founder and CEO of Alara, a contemporary African design concept in Victoria Island, Lagos, Nigeria.

Born to academic parents, Reni had her childhood and early education in Ibadan and Lagos before moving to further her education at the University of Warwick, England, where she graduated as a lawyer in 1986. After being called to the Nigerian bar in 1987, she practiced law for 10 years before pursuing her passion for creative expression.

Prior to founding Alara, Reni had expressed her bias for art and lifestyle with RFH Limited, a furniture, woodworking and leather company which produced both artisanal and commercial products. RFH Ltd is a leader in the interior design industry, known for its unique products from collaborations with artisans and excellent finishing.

Reni founded Alara in February 2015. Alara, the Yoruba word for "a wondrous performer" and "one who thrills endlessly" is a lifestyle project that is dedicated to contemporary art, fashion, design, cuisine and culture. A luxury destination from an African perspective, Alara is located in Victoria Island and was designed by David Adjaye, a world-renowned Architect. In the same year, Nok by Alara was launched, a contemporary African restaurant which specializes in reconstructed versions of classic African dishes.

Reni is widely traveled, with specific interest in art, culture and lifestyle. Hence her thirst to constantly redefine culture and art to suit a contemporary lifestyle.

Reni sits on the boards of several private sector establishments that have impacted the Nigerian economy especially in the

creative industry as well as telecommunications. She has delivered several inspirational talks at different fora within the creative and art industry and has constantly positioned herself as an exemplary motivator especially for the millennial generation.

She is happily married to Tunde Folawiyo and they are blessed with two children.





Ronke
Onadeko

Principal Consultant, DRNL Consult Ltd.

"Dare to be different, blossom and be bold just because you can"

- Ronke

Ronke is a seasoned professional with cognizant experience in both the public and private sector as well as a businesswoman in the entrepreneurial space with over 28 years' experience. She has been active in the beverage manufacturing and marketing business, in agriculture and agribusiness ventures, in oil and gas as well as power related projects.

In the area of oil and gas her skills span operations, trading and marketing and management. She is considered as one of the go-to persons in the Nigerian oil and gas sector and is a sought after international speaker on Nigeria energy related topics. She is a regular commentator and guest on oil and gas discussions on radio, social media and television.

Ronke acts as an energy and power consultant to His Excellency Senator Ibikunle Amosun, the Governor of Ogun State, She is rolling out a 1000MW plan for the state before 2019. In the current government she has acted in the capacity of the supervising commissioner for the Agriculture ministry of the state. She also consults for several international financial and development institutions.

Ronke managed BNP Paribas' formal entry into Nigeria covering corporate and investment banking, asset management and private banking. She was the first appointed country director and in-country representative for BNP Paribas and upon BNP Paribas exit from the continent

she took on an identical role for Natixis in 2016. She advises and represents the bank's entire service offering including but not limited to business development and client management services.

Ronke is also the principal consultant at DRNL Consult Limited, UK and Delt-R Company Limited, Nigeria. She is on the board of several companies with interests in agriculture, food and beverage manufacturing, telecommunications, education and human capacity development and oil and gas sector.



Sarah **Boulous**

Founder, Society for the Performing Arts (SPAN)

"An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backward. When life is dragging you back with difficulties, it means it's going to launch you into something great. So just focus and keep smiling"

- Unknown

Sarah was born in 1970 in Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou to the Fadoul family. She had her education at schools in France, Lebanon and the USA graduating with a major in Biology in 1994.

In September 1996, she moved to Lagos with her husband Massad Boulos and worked as Trading Director and Logistic Manager in SCOA Nigeria Plc until 2003 when she opened a successful delicatessen store in Victoria Island, Lagos called "La Pointe".

Sadly, tragedy struck in December 2003 when she lost seven members of her family on Christmas day. This tragic accident and traumatic experience it brought on Sarah became the determining factor of the launching of the Society for the Performing Arts in Nigeria (SPAN) in December 2004 with a resolve to dedicate her life to children in need, families, and artistes that could be educated in the process.

Since 2005, SPAN has been officially registered as an NGO, transforming lives and has since been recognized and celebrated with numerous awards from the National Association of Nigerian Theatre Arts Practitioners (Lagos State Chapter) the Centre for Black & African Arts and Civilization (CBAAC) of the Federal Ministry of Tourism, the Orvie Youth Centre, the Dance Guild of Nigeria, the Faculty of Arts of the Lagos State University, the Feetprint Africa Folklore Festival amongst others.

SPAN has also been associated with successful TV dance programs in Nigeria such as Celebrity Takes Two and Maltina Dance All Show. The Society has trained several successful dancers in various styles of dances including Ballet, Latin Dances, Ballroom, Modern Dance, Hip-

Hop, Salsa, African Dance, Argentine Tango, Naija Urban and Jazz; this is apart from providing sustainability to these dancers by providing venues for them to teach others these various styles of dance.

Sarah is the American Women's Club president for 2017-2018, a director in SCOA Nigeria Plc, La Pointe Grocery store and a director and co-owner of Noir Restaurant.





Sefi **Atta**

Author and Playwright

"Fate whispers to the warrior, "You are not strong enough to stand the storm." The warrior whispers back, "I am the storm."

- Unknown

Sefi, a prize winning author and playwright was born in Lagos, Nigeria, in 1964 and currently divides her time between Nigeria, England and the United States. A former chartered accountant and certified public auditor, she is the author of Everything Good Will Come, Swallow, News from Home and a Bit of Difference. Sefi was a juror for the 2010 Neustadt International Prize for Literature, and has received several literary awards, including the 2006 Wole Soyinka prize for literature in Africa and the 2009 Noma Award for Publishing in Africa.

In 2015, a critical study of her novels and short stories, Writing Contemporary Nigeria: How Sefi Atta Illuminates African Culture and Tradition, was published by Cambria Press. She is also a playwright; her radio plays have been broadcast by the BBC and her stage plays have been performed and published internationally. Her first collection of plays, Sefi Atta: Selected Plays, was published in 2017.

Sefi founded Care to Read, a program to earn funds for legitimate charities through staged readings.

She is married to Dr. Gboyega Ransome-Kuti and they have a daughter, Temi.





Sinmidele **Adesanya**

Director, Mydrim Gallery

"I tell you the more I think, the more I feel that there is nothing truly more artistic than to love people"

- Vincent Van Gogh

Sinmidele graduated from the University of Lagos with a Masters degree in Law in 1982. She went into private legal practice and then moved on to the legal department of Food Specialities Nigeria Limited now Nestle Nigeria Plc. She developed an interest in the visual arts being impressed by the incredible talent of Nigerian artists but was saddened by the poor regard for the profession as well as the inadequate remuneration. This led her to establish Mydrim Gallery in 1992 to create a platform to showcase the works of emerging, established and master artists. Since then her gallery has fully sponsored over fifty five exhibitions and showcased the works of over two hundred artists.

Sinmidele under the auspices of the' Institute of Visual Arts and Culture' organized lectures with international speakers all over Nigeria. In 2007, she organised the Living Masters art exhibition which featured the works of nine Nigerian master artists. This was the first of its kind in Nigeria. In 2010 she organized the 'Nigeria At Fifty' photo exhibition for the Lagos State Government. In 2015, Mydrim Gallery was selected to represent Africa in the modern art section of the Art Dubai Fair, UAE.

She recently curated the ' Lagos At Fifty' art expo for the Lagos State Government and now collaborates with international auction houses to source unique artworks by Nigerian artists for auctions abroad. Mydrim Gallery and Terra Kulture collaborate as TKMG to organize an annual auction of interesting art.

Sinmidele is a pioneer in the visual arts sector and she is

proud that over the last twenty five years she has seen the works of Nigerian artists become highly regarded and sought after all over the world.



Sonye **Allanah**

DGM Government Relations, Total E&P Nigeria Ltd.

"Comparison is the thief of joy"

- Theodore Roosevelt

A former career diplomat of over twenty-four years, Sonye has served in Nigerian Embassies in Paris, Dakar, Bonn and Berlin. She has vast experience in Protocol practice at the highest level, having served as the first female Director of Protocol to former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo. She has closely assisted in the organization of State and Official visits, including that of Queen Elizabeth II, the King and Queen of Spain, Margaret Thatcher and President Bush, to mention but a few.

Sonye has organised numerous Protocol and Etiquette Training Programmes/Retreats all over Nigeria and at the Presidency. She speaks fluent French, German and English. She is a certified Etiquette/Image Consultant and serves on several Boards, including the prestigious CONSIMA Protocol and Finishing School of Abuja, and Guardians of the Nation (GOTNI). She is currently the Deputy General Manager, Government Relations and Public Affairs, at Total E&P Nigeria Ltd.





Taba **Peterside**

CEO, Waveline Growth Partners

"Just start; the conditions will never be perfect for a grand opening"

- Gbolahan Fagbure

Taba is an accomplished financial services professional with multi country experience spanning commercial and investment banking, development finance, financial sector regulation and research. She is the CEO of Waveline Growth Partners, a micro lender committed to empowering female businesses. As Head of Listings at The Nigerian Stock Exchange, Taba oversaw the first dual listing of a company's shares on The Nigerian and London Stock Exchanges, and the creation of the Alternative Securities Market (ASeM).

Earlier in her career, Taba headed Corporate Finance at IBTC (now Stanbic IBTC), where she closed many landmark transactions and consolidated the bank's leadership in investment banking. At the International Finance Corporation, she led leasing technical assistance programs in Ghana, Tanzania and Rwanda. The Ghana Leasing Program was subsequently awarded a best practice benchmark in IFC. Taba holds a first degree in Development Studies (Economics) from University of Kent, UK and a Masters in Development Economics from Dalhousie University, Canada. She has also attended several business and leadership training programmes from leading institutions including Harvard, Columbia and Tuck Business schools.

Taba is an Executive Council Member WIMBIZ; Governing Council Member, West Africa Theological Seminary as well as a member of the platform to implement UN's Women Empowerment Principles in Nigeria's private sector.





Tiyan **Alile**

President, The Culinary Arts Practitioners Association in Nigeria

"Knowledge would forever govern ignorance and people who wish to be their own government must arm themselves with the power that knowledge gives"

- James Madison

Tiyan is the current President of The Culinary Arts Practitioners Association in Nigeria, the founder and promoter of Culinary Academy the first school with culinary art based curriculum in Nigeria and the Chef Patron of Tarragon Lagos, a restaurant in Ikoyi Lagos.

Tiyan attained a law degree from the premier University of Ibadan, she practiced commercial law for 10 years prior to changing careers to culinary education. She attended the prestigious L'Academie de Cuisine in the US, where she honed her culinary skills. She founded the Culinary Academy, where she teaches Diploma Students in Culinary and Pastry Arts.

Tiyan is the convener of The African Young Chefs' Competition, a Pan African annual event giving Young African Chefs a platform to express their skills and creativity and a platform of learning, mentoring and capacity building.

She is a past president of Rotary Club of Victoria Island East, one of the world's largest humanitarian organizations. During her tenure, she set up vocational trainings for young children and donated a modern maternity Delivery Room for a community clinic.

Tiyan recently published her cookbook and bestseller, "Tale in a Pie". When Tiyan is not stirring a pot or penning her thoughts she can be found in silence practicing yoga, tapping her feet to jazz, doing humanitarian work with the Rotary Club or scoring a hole in one on the golf course.



Tokunboh **Ishmael**

Director, Alitheia Capital

"Meaning and purpose are two words that I constantly ponder. We all owe it to ourselves to discover that which gives us meaning and purpose. Feel the fear and take the necessary leap - it is worth it!"

- Tokunboh

Tokunboh is an experienced private equity investor, and banker having worked on over $5.6bn transactions across the US, Europe and Africa. She has a focus on the energy, technology and financial services; financing SMEs; and proactively funding female entrepreneurs across Africa. Her clients include organisations and corporates looking for a mix of superior returns, responsible investing, economic impact and social responsibility. She is a Fellow of Yale University and the Aspen Institute, and a CFA Charterholder.

Tokunboh is co-founder of Alitheia, a private equity firm investing to transform businesses where funding gaps create unique opportunities. She is also a principal at Alitheia Identity, a fund focused on funding businesses that leverage gender diversity to achieve superior returns.

It was the search to solve real problems with as sense of meaning, rather than just money in the bank that gave her the push to leave a high paid job to start an investment firm which combines meaning and money, purpose and profit.





Tope
Omage

CEO, Tomag Consulting (TOMAG Nig Ltd)

"Put on your thinking cap, and you'll find a way"

- Tope

Tope started her early education at St. Anne's School, Ibadan where she obtained her WASC O'levels certificate. She received an HND in Accounting and was awarded an MBA in 2000. Professionally, she is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Management (2011), Member of the Institute of Directors and Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria. She is also a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, a Member of the prestigious Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (2012) and a certified mediator.

Tope commenced her working career in 1977 with Pius Momodu and Company Chartered Accountants, Benin. Her reputation as a thoroughbred accountant saw her excel at the Benin Owena River Basin Development Authority, where she rose to Assistant Chief Accountant. Her illustrious career at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) started in 1993 as a Bank Examiner. She served meritoriously in various departments including operations and banking services and made history by becoming the first ever, Female Director of Finance.

Tope has served in various committees of ICAN, was a former governing council member of NASB (FRCN), member of Advisory Board of three secondary schools, board member SmartWoman Nigeria and NSITF.

She is an author, a motivational speaker and currently the Coordinator of the Women in Management, Business and Public service (WIMBIZ) Abuja. In 2011, she published a book titled, "Enjoying Family Life, God's Recipe".

Tope retired from the Central Bank of Nigeria in December 2015 after 35 years of meritorious service. She is currently the CEO of TOMAG Consulting, a multifaceted company providing financial and business advisory services.





Toyin **Adeniji**

Executive Director, Bank of Industry

"Every moment wasted looking back keeps us from moving forward"

- Hillary Clinton

Toyin is an Executive Director at Bank of Industry (BoI). She leads the Micro Enterprise and Financial Inclusion program at BoI to strategically focus on providing integrated financial services to small businesses at the bottom of the pyramid.

Toyin is a development finance expert with over 23 years' experience in Development Finance for MSMEs gained from The World Bank Group both from the investment and advisory side. Prior to joining BOI; and until 2014: she was in charge of IFC's Global Women in Business Program (WIN) in the Sustainable Business Advisory Department, charged with creating opportunities for women in business in the developing world. She later led several of IFC's programs in SME development focusing on access to finance and capacity building. Prior to leading the WIN program, Toyin conceived and promoted Susu Microfinance Bank Ltd in Nigeria.

Toyin is a qualified Civil Engineer; a Chartered Accountant and has an MBA from Harvard Business School.





Toyin **Sanni**

Group Chief Executive Officer, United Capital Plc

"I didn't get there by wishing for it or hoping for it, but by working for it."

- Estée Lauder

Toyin is the Group CEO of United Capital Plc, a leading African investment banking group providing capital and financing solutions to African governments, companies, and individuals. The Group comprises of the following business divisions: Investment Banking, Asset Management, Securities Trading, and Trustee Services.

Prior to her appointment as the Group CEO of United Capital, Toyin Sanni was CEO, United Capital Trustees Limited (formerly known as UBA Trustees Limited). Her career accomplishments, past and present, include establishment of UBA Global Investor Services, President Association of Investment Advisers and Portfolio Managers, Chairperson, Technical Committee on Financial Literacy, President, Association of Corporate Trustees amongst others.

A Lawyer, Chartered Secretary, Stockbroker, and Author with over thirty years' experience in Corporate Finance, Law and Investor Services, Toyin achieved her first Degree from the University of Ife, Ile-Ife in 1984 (at the age of 18 years), and a Master's Degree, LLM (Hons), from the University of Lagos in 1998. She was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1985 and holds the professional qualification of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (I.C.S.A.) UK. She is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers (C.I.S.) Nigeria and also graduated from the CEO Program of the Lagos Business School in 2017. Toyin has participated in executive education programs such as the Harvard Business School Disruptive Innovation program, Global Strategic Leadership at the Wharton Business School, Global CEP-AMP at IESE Business School, Portfolio

Management Academy of the New York Institute of Finance and the Peter Drucker Management Program at Robert Kennedy College, Switzerland. She is the author of 'Yes You Too Can' and 'Get to the Top', inspirational books aimed at empowering the next generation of women leaders.

Toyin has won multiple awards in the course of her career including the prestigious All Africa Business Woman of the Year, 2017 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

She is happily married with children and also Pastors an Area in the Redeemed Christian Church of God.





Udo **Okonjo**

West Africa Representative, Fine & Country

"The Future belongs to the 'Excellent', those who dare to stand out from the mediocre majority. Dare to stand out"

- Udo

Udo has had extensive experience negotiating and advising on multi-million-dollar real estate and legal transactions on behalf of clients. Under her leadership, the West African office of Fine and Country has won multiple local and international awards.

Udo was admitted to the Nigerian Bar Association and New York Bar in 1991 and 1994 respectively, she pursued a successful legal career for more than a decade. She served in the public sector in 2003-2005 as Senior Special Adviser on Legal and Constitutional Matters to the President of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. She was also Partner at Templars Barristers & Solicitors, while also starting her legal career at Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie, both leading Nigerian commercial law firms.

She was awarded the prestigious British Chevening Scholarship to study at the University of London, Kings College School of Law, where she graduated with a Masters degree in Law (LLM) specializing in Corporate and Commercial Law. Udo is also an alumni of the SAID Business School, Oxford University, Judge Business School, Cambridge University and Lagos Business School executive programs.

Udo actively founded IWOW (Inspired Women of Worth) whose core mission is to accomplish a world of good through inspired, connected and empowered women.

Udo dedicates her spare time to writing a private bi monthly championship newsletter, and teaching success principles on life and business daily through her online platforms.





Vivien **Shobo**

CEO, Agusto & Co. Ltd

"Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower"

- Steve Jobs

Vivien is the Chief Executive Officer of Agusto & Co. Nigeria's foremost Credit Rating Agency. She oversees the Credit Ratings of Nigerian banks, insurance companies, real sector companies and state governments, thereby enabling these institutions raise funds in the Nigeria Debt Capital Market and providing investors with credible information to aid decision making.

Vivien has led Agusto & Co's African expansion initiatives into East Africa and is a frequent speaker at domestic and Global African capital market conferences.

She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, holds an MBA (Finance) from the Manchester Business School and has attended several executive programmes at esteemed institutions including Harvard Business School, Wharton Business School and the Lagos Business School.

As part of her contribution to the development of the Nigerian financial market, Vivien has served on various committees including: The Securities & Exchange Commission's Financial Literacy Master Plan Committee, Fixed Income sub Committee, and the Capital Market Literacy / Investor Confidence Sub-Committee, where she was the Chairperson. She is also the Chairperson of the SEC registered Credit Rating Agencies Association.



Yetunde **Babaeko**

CEO, Camara Studios

"If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change."

-Wayne Dyer

Yetunde was born in Enugu in 1978 and moved with her family to Germany in 1983 where she did all of her schooling. After her A Levels, she undertook a photography apprenticeship majoring in advertising photography at Studio Be in Greven, Germany.

On completing her apprenticeship, Yetunde returned to Nigeria and joined Ess-Ay studio for a one-year program. In 2004, she decided to retool by enrolling at Macromedia, a school for art and design in Osnabrveck, Germany.

Yetunde returned to Nigeria finally in 2005 and continued in the art of photography. Owing to her increasing workload, in 2007 she decided to set up Camara Studios, a fully professionally equipped photo studio located in Ikeja, Lagos.

Apart from the commercial work in her studio, Yetunde has presented her fine art work in various exhibitions. The latest were "Wanderlust" at the Wheatbaker Hotel in July 2017 and "Eko Moves" in Lagos in 2015.



Yinka **Ogunde**

CEO, Edumark Consult

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Yinka Ogunde is an entrepreneur who began her career in the Marketing Communications Industry prior to moving into the Education sector to pioneer various initiatives. Yinka graduated from the University of Lagos with an M.Sc in Mass communication and she has attended several trainings both at home and abroad and she is also a certified Coach and Trainer with the John Maxwell Team.

She served on the Board of the Association of Advertising (AAAN) practitioners for years and also represented the association as a Trustee at APCON. Yinka is a member of several committees in AAAN and is described as a skilled organizer and a visionary with the capacity to drive innovative projects. She has worked on several projects with various state governments including the Oyo state Education Summit, Lagos State Support our schools and Adopt our schools.





Zainab **Shinkafi-Bagudu**

Medicaid Cancer Foundation

"How will your story be written? A story of faith, human triumph and happy endings or a tale of self-imposed ignorance and denial ending with tear filled eyes. In the end, it's your choice not the cancers!"

- Zainab

Zainab obtained her MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine) from the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University Zaria followed by a specialist training in Paediatrics and Neonatology in the United Kingdom. Amongst other academic qualifications, she has a Masters in Paediatrics, a Diploma in Tropical Child Health and membership of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

After her specialist training upon return to Nigeria in 2002, she set up and headed the Paediatric Unit of Garki Hospital under a pioneering Public Private Partnership (PPP) scheme with the Federal Capital Territory, FCT. By 2009, she branched into private service with an innovative Diagnostic Centre, Medicaid Radio-diagnostics. The center bridged the healthcare gap created by paucity of diagnostic tools in the region. As well as being the Chief Executive of Medicaid, Zainab is the founder of Medicaid Cancer Foundation, which creates awareness and funds diagnosis, and treatment of the common cancers in Nigeria.

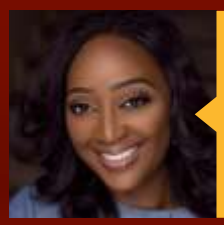
She currently serves on a Ministerial Committee to build world-class diagnostic centers in 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria. Zainab is also a mentor on the Cherie Blair Foundation and the Nigerian You Win project, an Ambassador for Civil Society for Nutrition, Fistula Care Nigeria, International Cancer Week and Nigerian Olympic Society.

Her advocacy for women, children and youth in Kebbi state and Northern Nigeria is exemplary and cuts across health, education and empowerment sectors exemplified by an NCWS meritorious award for her

contribution towards women empowerment and children's welfare, and a Nigerian Medical Association (Kebbi Chapter) merit award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to development of Healthcare Delivery system in Kebbi State.



Executive Council



Olubunmi
Aboderin-Talabi

Chairperson, Executive Council & OA Foundation



Aishah
Ahmad

ED, Retail Banking, Diamond Bank Plc



Bimbola
Wright

Group Head Coverage & Corporate Banking, FBN Merchant Bank



Bukky
George

CEO, Healthplus Ltd. & Casabella Int'l Ltd.



Chizor
Malize

Managing Partner & CEO, Brandzone Consulting LLC



Ebisan
Akisanya

Senior Analyst, Chevron Nigeria Ltd.



Folake
Adeniyi-Adeleye

Regional HR Director, Oracle



Hansatu
Adegbite

Executive Director, WIMBIZ



Ifeyinwa
Ighodalo

Founder/CEO, DO.II Designs



Julia
Oku Jacks

CEO, TreeWater Limited



Ngover
Ihyembe-Nwankwo

Executive Principal, Standard Chartered Bank



Ronke
Onadeko

Principal Consultant, DRNL Consult Ltd.



Taba
Peterside

Director, Keyside Resources & Investment Ltd.



Tope
Omage

CEO, Tomag Consulting



Zaynab
Mu'azu

CEO, Piped Desserts

The WIMBIZ Team

Past Executive Council Members



Bunmi
Oke

CEO/Lead Consultant, Ladybird Ltd



Nimi
Akinkugbe

Founder & CEO, Bestman Games Ltd.



Osayi
Alile

CEO, ACT Foundation



Bolanle
Austen-Peters

CEO, BAP Productions & Terrakulture



Yemisi
Ayeni

Chairman, NASCON Allied Industries Plc.



May
Agbamuche-Mbu

INEC National Commissioner & Head of Legal



Ifueko
Omoigui-Okauru

Chairman, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund

The WIMBIZ Team

Executive Secretaries / Directors



Yemisi
Ikuomola

Executive Secretary
2005 – 2008



Ini
Onuk

Executive Secretary
2009 – 2011



Bolaji
Fati

Executive Secretary
2012 – 2012



Mosunmola
Layode

Executive Director
2013 – 2017



Hansatu
Adegbite

Executive Director
2017 – Till Date

WIMBIZ Secretariat



Hansatu
Adegbite
Executive Director



Ayomide
Olajide
Program Manager



Elsie
Akpabio
Research/Communications Manager



Abiodun
Adeoba
Accountant



Adedoyin
Adejumo
ICT officer



Ayomiposi
Ogunti
Research Analyst



Daniel
Imuzeghe
Office Assistant



Farida
Olawoyin
Front Desk Officer



Jane
Uweh
Communications/Grants Officer



Jocelyn
Asemota
Accounts Assistant



Jumoke
Deniyi-Balogun
Program Officer



Mayowa
Hassan
Program Officer



Melody
Nuhu
Programs Assistant



Munirah
Ameh
Program Officer



Sylvia
Omenukwa
Program Officer



Tosin
Sanyaolu
Admin. Officer