

Diaspora CHAMPION

NO. 1 | DECEMBER, 2024 | N5,000, €5



The Global Diaspora CHAMPIONS AWARD

Porto, Portugal
Dec. 5 - 7, 2024



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12 The Global Diaspora CHAMPIONS AWARD



DiasporaChampionsMagazine is a premier platform honoring the accomplishments of diaspora leaders, entrepreneurs, artists, and innovators. We share inspiring stories, promote cultural exchange, and inspire a new generation of global champions.

07

Emigration: It's Impact on Nigeria and Possible Mitigating Remedies



17

Wesley Watende Omari Moore: The Governor Who's Redefining Leadership



19

Back Cover Synopsis: Fine Wine



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WELCOME THE DIASPORA CHAMPIONS!

Celebrating Excellence, Unity, and Heritage

Welcome to the maiden edition of *Diaspora Champion Magazine*, a premier platform dedicated to showcasing the achievements and contributions of exceptional individuals and organizations within the global diasporans.

As we launch this magazine, we are proud to celebrate the 2nd edition of the *Global Diaspora Champions Award*, taking place in Portugal from December 5th to 7th. This prestigious event follows the successful maiden edition held in Las Palmas, Spain, in 2023. The *Global Diaspora Champions Award* recognizes and honors outstanding diasporans who have made significant impacts in their respective fields, fostering global connections and inspiring a new generation of leaders.

This magazine is more than just a publication — it's a movement. We aim to bridge cultural divides, promote unity, and empower the diaspora community to reach new heights. Our mission is to provide a platform for sharing stories, experiences, and

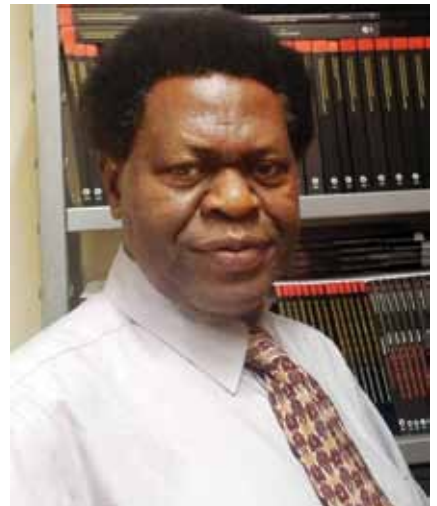
expertise, ultimately strengthening the bonds among global diasporans.

In this inaugural issue, we highlight the remarkable achievements of diasporan champions, innovators, and change-makers. We also feature a brief story on the historic September 10 Declaration of African Heritage Month in the State of Maryland, a testament to the growing recognition of African diasporic contributions to American society.

This magazine is part of a broader effort to celebrate excellence and Foster global connections, building bridges and promoting collaboration and cooperation.

As we embark on this journey, we invite you to join us in celebrating the richness and diversity of the diaspora.

Together, let's- Inspire the future generations to foster global unity.



Prince Akinwale Ojomo
Ceo *Diaspora Innovation institute*.

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Emigration: It's Impact on Nigeria and Possible Mitigating Remedies



Sir Demola Aladekomo

Watching a video on how emigration impoverishes and decimates developing economies necessitated these thoughts and possible remedies for us in Nigeria and possibly other African nations.

Emigration, particularly of skilled professionals, is a significant issue for Nigeria. The ongoing "brain drain," or JAPA, involves the departure of some of the country's most talented and educated individuals, including doctors, engineers, academics, and financial experts. This exodus has several detrimental effects:

- 1. Economic Decline:** The departure of skilled professionals negatively impacts Nigeria's economy. These individuals contribute significantly to their sectors, driving innovation, efficiency, and growth. When they leave, the sectors they represent, such as healthcare, banking, and education, suffers from reduced capacity and quality. For instance, the health sector has seen a sharp decline in the availability of qualified doctors and nurses, leading to increased pressure on those remaining and a decline in patient care standards.
- 2. Leadership Vacuum:** Many of those leaving Nigeria are the very

people who would have been expected to assume leadership roles in various sectors. Their departure creates a vacuum that is often filled by less qualified individuals, exacerbating issues of poor governance and ineffective management. The result is a worsening of the leadership challenges that many Nigerians already complain about, as the pool of capable leaders diminishes.

- 3. Wasted Investment in Education:** Nigeria invests significant resources in training its professionals. However, when these individuals emigrate, the benefits of this investment are reaped by other countries. Nations like Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom gain from Nigeria's trained workforce without having to bear the cost of their education. This dynamic represents a net loss for Nigeria, where the resources spent on education do not translate into domestic economic growth or development.
- 4. Remittances vs. Brain Drain/JAPA:** While remittances from the Nigerian diaspora do provide some economic relief, they are not a sufficient compensation for the loss of human capital. The funds sent home are often used for consumption rather

than investment, doing little to address the underlying economic challenges that drive emigration. Moreover, reliance on remittances can create a dependency syndrome, where the domestic economy stagnates rather than develops.

- 5. Sectoral Damage:** Specific sectors, such as healthcare and banking, have been particularly hard hit. The healthcare sector, for instance, is experiencing significant shortages of doctors, nurses and specialists. Recent glitches in hospitals can be attributed to the lack of experienced professionals who have left the country. Similarly, the banking sector has seen disruptions, partly due to the loss of skilled personnel who have migrated to countries offering better working conditions and remuneration. Zenith and GT Banks recently had to confront embarrassing issues arising from shortage of skilled personnel.

Possible Remedies

Given the weakness of political and governmental institutions in Nigeria, it is crucial to emphasize the roles that the government, private sector, families, and individuals can play in addressing the challenges posed by emigration.

Read full story on Digital copy



Delegates at UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics Feb. 7-9, 2024 in Paris, France



Delegates representing Nigeria during the UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics Feb 7-9, 2024 in Paris, France



Delegates at UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics Feb 7-9, 2024 in Paris, France



Prince Akinwale Ojomo CEO Diaspora Innovation Institute and Consultant to Adeyemi University of Education Nigeria and Alpha Bah from Gambia during the UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics Feb. 7-9, 2024 in Paris



Diaspora Innovation Institute...the beginning in 2012



Prince Akinwale Ojomo CEO Diaspora Innovation Institute and Consultant to Adeyemi University of Education NIGERIA and Minister for Education in Columbia during the UNESCO Conference on Education Data and Statistics Feb. 7-9, 2024 in Paris, France



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Abiodun Oyebanji
Governor, Ekiti State, Nigeria

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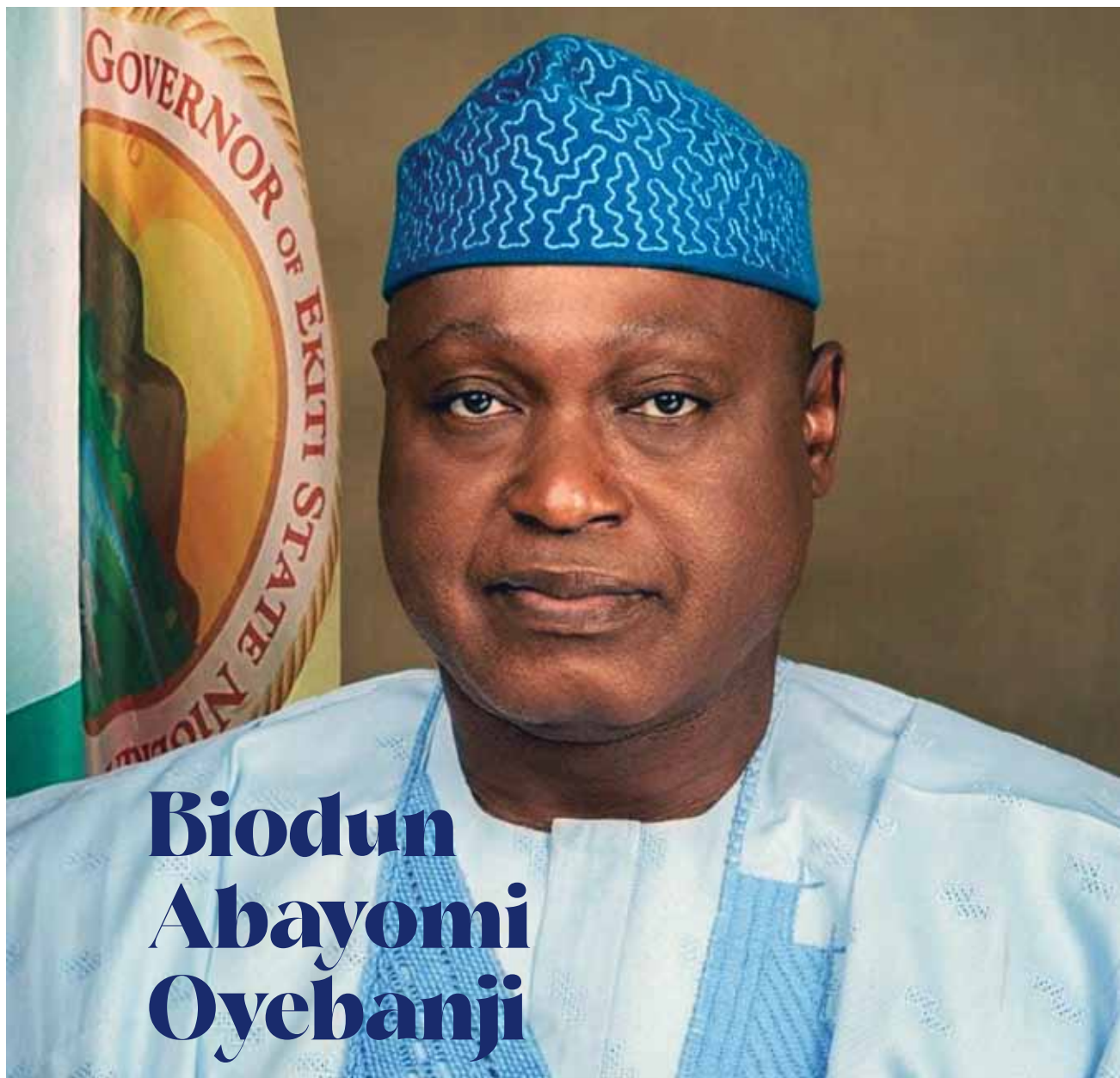
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Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji

'Biodun Abayomi Oyebanji was born on December 21, 1967, in Ikogosi-Ekiti. He is a former lecturer, farmer, public servant, and Secretary to the Government of Ekiti State. Currently, he serves as the Governor of Ekiti State.

Oyebanji's educational background includes attending Baptist Primary School, Ikogosi-Ekiti, Awo Community High School, and the University of Ado Ekiti, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. He also holds a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Ibadan [2].

His career spans academia, finance, and politics. He lectured at the University of Ado Ekiti, worked as Manager, Treasury, and Financial Services at Omega Bank Plc, and served in various capacities in the Government of Ekiti State, including Special Assistant, Special Adviser, Chief of Staff, and Commissioner.

Lady Marième Jamme

Lady Marième Jamme, a distinguished technology innovator and pioneer, is celebrated worldwide for her commitment to advancing digital literacy among young women and girls in some of the world's most challenging environments, including refugee camps, detention centres, and slums across Africa and Asia. Identifying herself as a 'concerned

African,' she brings an impressive background with over two decades of business-to-business (B2B) experience to her pioneering efforts. Among her significant contributions is creating the first-ever platform dedicated to teaching coding to young women and girls, an endeavour made possible through partnerships with leading global technology firms. Her expertise and dedication are also acknowledged through her role as a council member on the World Economic Forum's Reskilling Platform, where she continues to influence global education and empowerment initiatives. She opened the first-ever



coding academy in a Refugee camp in Kenya dedicated to teaching young girls digital skills.

Femi Awoniyi



Femi Awoniyi is a journalist, publisher and communications consultant. He has been reporting on the issues of migration and flight as well as African community life in Germany and Europe for about 25 years

He's the proprietor of African Courier Media and publisher of The African Courier magazine, whose first edition appeared in February 1998.

Website: <https://www.theafricancourier.de/>

As communications consultant, Femi has worked for many organisations and Germany's Foreign Ministry in communicating its policy on migration and development.

He is also actively engaged in many diaspora organisations, including The African Network of Germany, the Central Council of African Communities in Germany and the

Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Germany.

Femi Awoniyi is also the founder and director of the German-African Initiative for Development and Integration (GAIDI) gUG, which started work as a nonprofit social organisation in January 2023 to support new comers, including refugees, asylum-seekers, students and others, from Africa as they settle down in Germany.

Website: <https://gaidi.de/en>

Femi established GAIDI to pool his experiences and knowledge for the development and implementation of integration support programmes to assist refugees, asylum-seekers, students and other new comers in the country.

Femi believes that successful integration is true empowerment as it enables migrants to develop themselves optimally and fulfil their dreams. They are therefore able to contribute to the development of the country.

Another focus of GAIDI is the promotion of a culture of volunteering in the African community in Germany, encouraging self-help of one helping the other.

GAIDI also promotes a greater engagement of the diaspora in the development of African countries and better German-African relations.

A conference rapporteur, he has covered many prestigious events

including the First Conference of People of African Descent in Germany, Berlin, November 2019.

Femi Awoniyi has received numerous awards over the past twenty years for his work promoting integration and supporting the African diaspora in Germany, including:

- 2005: "Adler Award" from the African Youth Foundation e.V.
- 2006: "Shujaa Award" from the Kenyan Community Germany e.V.
- 2008: "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Union of Ghanaian Associations in Germany e.V. (Umbrella organization of Ghanaian associations in Germany)
- 2015: "Certificate of Appreciation" from the Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan in Germany
- 2016: "Leadership Service Award" from Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Germany e.V. (Umbrella organization of Nigerian associations in Germany)
- 2018: Induction into the "1st Nigerian Diaspora Global Hall of Fame" by Nigerians in Diaspora Organisation Europe
- 2023: "African Community Excellence Award" from The African Network of Germany e.V. (Umbrella organization of over 900 African associations in Germany).

Kelechi Lawrence, Ph.D, MBA

Dr. Kelechi Lawrence is a seasoned pharmaceutical professional with over 15 years of experience in global project management, business operations, and pharmaceutical study management. Based in Wilmington, Delaware, he has held leadership positions in business development, clinical trial management, project management, and medical affairs at global pharmaceutical companies including Endo Pharmaceuticals, KPS Life, and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

At Endo Pharmaceuticals, Dr. Lawrence developed and executed strategic plans to enhance brand visibility and stakeholder engagement. At KPS Life, he facilitated alliance governance milestones and drove strategic partnerships. His tenure at Sunrise Systems was marked by implementing Lean Six Sigma methodologies, reducing cycle times, and managing change initiatives. At GSK, he led vaccine operations and field monitoring, delivering projects ahead of schedule and achieving significant cost savings.

Dr. Lawrence has championed the establishment of the Delaware Global African Center, a leading international trade and diplomatic advocacy hub. He is the founding president of the Delaware Africa Coalition, a non-profit organization advocating for people of African descent in Delaware. He actively volunteers on various community and nonprofit boards, chairs the Delaware African and Caribbean Affairs Commission, and has received numerous professional and civic honors. He has led successful trade and medical missions to Nigeria, serves as a founding advisor to the Association of Good Clinical Practice in Nigeria (AGCPN), and is a member of the Nigerian Clinical Trial Technical Working Group. He also served on the transition team of Governor John Carney of Delaware.

Dr. Lawrence holds a PhD in Molecular Pharmacology from the Medical University of South Carolina, completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, and has an MBA in Marketing/Finance from the University of Delaware. He is a certified Six Sigma professional and fluent in English and Igbo. Dr. Lawrence has published several scientific articles and has given scientific and civic presentations to different local, national and international audiences. He is the concept innovator of the Tourism Fair and Economic Summit 2024 and brings a global perspective and a commitment to excellence in all his endeavors.





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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Signed:
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Dr. Badewa T. Adejugbe- Williams



Dr. Badewa T. Adejugbe-Williams, Ed. D is an Educational Therapist/Professional (ET/P) and a Multicultural Educational Specialist with 30 years of experience in educating individuals (children and adults) with and without neurodevelopmental disorders. Her teaching career has spanned across Los Angeles and Temecula in California, Atlanta in Georgia and Abuja, Nigeria.

She currently serves as the Chief Executive of Ladama Consultancy LLC in the USA and Nigeria, and she is the visionary behind the Royal School of Educational Therapy Foundation in Nigeria, a nonprofit that provides therapeutic as well as academics, life and vocational skills for persons with developmental disabilities. Dr. Badewa is highly regarded for her work as an Educational Specialist at the Los Angeles Unified School District, where she has earned accolades as "the answer to our prayers". Additionally, she practices as an Educational Therapist in private settings.

Beyond her educational endeavors, Dr. Badewa has made significant contributions to the Entertainment Industry in the United States. She has directed, produced, and managed stage productions in Hollywood, including notable plays like "BEAUTY SHOP," "DEATH AND THE KING'S HORSEMAN," "GREASE THE MUSICAL," and "A DIRECTOR'S CHAIR." Her expertise as a Stage Manager and Director/Producer has been showcased at esteemed venues such as the Wilshire Ebell Theater, Beverly Hills Theater 40, Theater of Arts, and the Old Globe Shakespearean Theater. Building on her successful productions, she established La Da Ma Pictures Incorporated, a film production company that sought funding for various movie projects. Furthermore, at the

Royal School of Educational Therapy Foundation in Nigeria, she served as the Executive Producer for the docudrama "Yes, We Can" and the film "Not a Burden". She was the General Manager of the Abuja Film Village International (AFVI) Ltd from 2008 — 2021.

Throughout her career, Dr. Adejugbe-Williams has actively engaged in numerous technical committees in both Nigeria and the United States. As a passionate advocate, she has conducted free workshops to empower service providers and educate parents of individuals with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities, emphasizing inclusive education and promoting societal inclusion for individuals with disabilities. She has also well led capacity-building programs for youth in the Entertainment Industry.

Dr. Badewa remains deeply committed to volunteerism and national development.

She has chaired and participated in various committees, focusing on diaspora-related issues through her involvement with the Nigeria Diaspora Alumni Network (NiDAN). She holds key positions as the Chair of the Nigeria Diaspora Summit Initiative and the Chair/Coordinator of the Nigeria Diaspora Investment Summit (NDIS). NDIS is a collaborative project with the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM). Additionally, she is a co-founder of the Association of Female Agripreneurs based in Nigeria.

Wesley Watende Omari Moore: The Governor Who's Redefining Leadership

Governor Wes Moore is embracing diversity to unleash the vast potential of a multi-racial-Maryland.

By Abayomi Ojo & Ruth Macaulay

If the onus of leadership is service to the people, then history must be chasing Wesley Watende Omari Moore, the vibrant governor of the State of Maryland, United States of America, who recently became the first Black American to be elected governor by the people of Maryland, and only the third in the United States.

Moore's track record is a blend of fine education and gallant military service, making it no wonder how he's bringing honor into the murky waters of contemporary politics while attracting more trust in his leadership of one of the most heterogeneous communities in America.

His political career has continued to gather



Governor of Maryland Wesley Moore and Vincent Iweanoge chair of the Governor's Commission on African Affairs, during the September 10 Declaration of African Heritage Month.



“Politicians are the ones that work for the next election and do the things that are not controversial. But the leaders are the ones that do the things that are necessary even if it’s not popular.”

a huge fan base, gaining good momentum following a series of well-executed people agendas-one of which has currently sent the entire Marylanders, especially the African immigrants community, into songs of praises for Mr. Moore.

“He’s tackling the key issues head-on, taking the kind of inconvenient decisions that set great leaders apart,” one excited Marylander quipped shortly after Moore announced the month of September as African Heritage Month, on September 10, 2024, at the Maryland State House.

WE EMBRACE DIVERSITY

“In our state, we don’t shy away from our diversity-we embrace it,” that was part of the words governor

Moore used to drive home the point that Maryland’s population is a complex configuration of multi-ethnic nationalities-all working for a greater State of Maryland.

For Governor Moore, diversity is a strength and not a weakness to Maryland, and he’s making no qualms about it - that every small component of the state is very important.

On his part, Vincent Iweanoge, chair of the Governor’s Commission on African Affairs, described Governor Moore as the epitome of a true leader, “not someone who is just a politician.”

He clarified that “Politicians are the ones that work for the next election and do the things that are not controversial. But the leaders are the ones that do the things that are necessary even if it’s not popular.”

For the observers, the declaration of African Heritage Month in Maryland is a good encouragement to the African community given the increasing influence of African immigrants in the region over the past decades. Accordingly, it is expected that this move will also promote more commitments from Africans in the state, with big returns possible for the economy.

While the Africans in Maryland appear exceedingly proud of the support and acknowledgment which the declaration affirms, they are also well

aware of their significant contributions to the economy of the State of Maryland. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 estimates, about 8.6% of Maryland’s population was born in Africa and approximately 28.3% of Maryland’s foreign-born population was born in Africa making them an important part of Maryland’s development matrix.

On a retrospective journey to the period of his governorship election campaign, Mr. Moore had given the assurance that when he is elected as the governor of Maryland, he will be accessible to all the people, and also, that Marylanders will not need to remind him of his promises before he keeps them. To this end, many are saying the Moore/Miller leadership is doing well. They are putting the state’s money into projects with profound effects on the quality of life for the majority. They are keenly building a robust and competitive economy while prioritizing the safety of its citizens and services that will expand opportunities for family units.

From supporting micro businesses to encouraging better wages for workers and investing in apprenticeship programs, to promoting green infrastructures and supporting healthcare, Maryland’s governor is playing by the promise card, keeping every detail of his “I wills” to the people and the state.

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Ms Kemi Amusan

Assistant Registrar, All Saints University School of Medicine and Nursing, Dominica



Kemi Amusan, fondly known as Lady Kay, is a dynamic professional based in Toronto, Canada, with a rich background in leadership, education, and community service, Women's advocacy and community relations. She currently serves as the Assistant Registrar (Admissions) at All Saints University School of Medicine and Nursing Dominica, where she plays a pivotal role in the recruitment of students for the institution's medical and nursing programs. Her work at All Saints University has made her a key figure in international student recruitment, particularly among African students seeking to pursue their medical education abroad.

Beyond her academic leadership, Kemi was the President of the Nigerian Canadian Association, Toronto. She is the current President of Global Women Ambassadors, Canada, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to empowering women and fostering global connections. Under her leadership, Global Women Ambassadors has spearheaded numerous initiatives, including a successful Christmas Toy Gifts program that has benefited thousands of children and families over the past three years. Supports for Women professionals and entrepreneurs. The organization is also focused on supporting newcomers to Canada, offering a wide array of programs aimed at helping families settle and thrive in their new environment.

Kemi's influence extends far beyond the confines of her professional roles. She is a passionate advocate for women's empowerment, education, and community development. Her vast experience, which spans teaching, stockbroking, entrepreneurship, and recruitment, equips her with a unique perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing women and youths globally. Fluent in English, French, and Yoruba, Lady Kay brings a multicultural approach to her work, making her a respected leader in both local and international circles.

Lady Kay continues to inspire and lead, leaving a lasting indelible touch on every project she undertakes, reflecting her commitment to making a positive global impact.

Ms. Ajawavi J. Ajavon

Ms. Ajawavi J. Ajavon, commonly known as AJA, is the founder and CEO of several organizations, including Ajavon Consulting Group, Every Man Counts, DAB Mediation Consultant, Bougie or Budget Travels, JFH Foundation, and co-founder of the Liberian Diaspora Agriculture Group (LIDAG). With over 30 years of professional, entrepreneurial, and philanthropic experience, Ms. Ajavon has made a substantial impact through her leadership and community-focused initiatives.

As the creator of the successful fatherhood organization, Every Man Counts, she empowers, educates, and supports single and re-entry fathers to build healthy relationships and become successful parents. Her philanthropic work extends to both the United States and Africa, where she has created opportunities for underserved communities. In Liberia and Ghana, she has developed pipelines for children in need, provided clean public restrooms in villages, empowered women and young girls through business models promoting self-sufficiency, and offered scholarships for higher education.

Through her work with LIDAG, Ms. Ajavon has been a strong advocate for agribusiness, supporting small and medium-sized farmers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Ajavon along with other community service organizations, fed over 5,000 families in New Castle County. Ms. Ajavon's commitment to service also led her to run for public office, contesting in 2018 for Delaware State Representative District 5 and in 2020 for New Castle County Clerk of the Peace.

Ms. Ajavon's influence extends to education as well. She collaborates with schools in West Africa to promote literacy, employ qualified teachers, and provide resources such as school supplies and scholarships. Her work in addressing domestic violence in Africa has supported programs offering technical, culinary, and literacy skills, along with establishing victim resource centers for women and girls.

Ms. Ajavon serves on multiple boards, including as a founding board member of The Friends of Cooches Bridge, an executive board member of NerdIT Cares, and President of the board of LIDAG. She previously served on the boards of The Bear Glasgow YMCA and the Newark NAACP, where she briefly chaired the Community Outreach Committee. Additionally, she served as Vice Chair of the 18th Representative District and was an advisory board member of the Women's Business Center.

As an educator, Ms. Ajavon is an adjunct professor at Wilmington University and a guest lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Delaware. She holds a master's degree from Wilmington University and an undergraduate degree from Widener University.

Ms. Ajavon is also a proud mother of three talented children and a Gigi, to one.



Adiya Urionu Ngozichukwuka:

Adiya Urionu Ngozichukwuka is a trailblazing leader, celebrated author, and dedicated advocate for disability inclusion, whose remarkable journey has inspired countless individuals worldwide. As a Fellow of the Global Institute of Management Consultancy (FCIMC, IMC), Adiya leverages her expertise in strategic communication and development to drive positive change across various platforms.

At the helm of April Benjamin and Dawn Communication Limited, Adiya provides innovative communication and development consulting services to clients, fostering growth and success. Her entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to social impact also led her to establish Empathy Driven Women International Initiative (EDWIIN), an award-winning NGO dedicated to advancing disability inclusion and advocacy.

A sought-after Ted Talk speaker, Adiya shares inspiring stories and insights on empathy and inclusion, sparking meaningful conversations and mobilizing action. Her gift for engaging audiences has also made her a respected public speaker, addressing topics such as leadership, diversity, and social impact on global stages. Through her life skills enhancement work, Adiya empowers individuals and organizations to unlock their full potential.

Adiya's academic achievements lay the foundation for her success. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Lagos and a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from Trinity University College Dublin.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Adiya is a devoted mother of three, balancing her personal and professional life with grace and dedication.

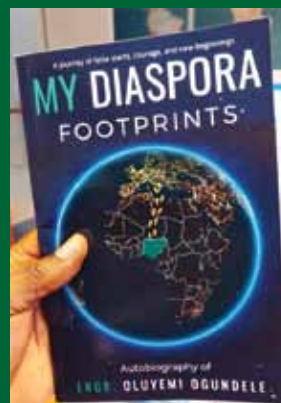
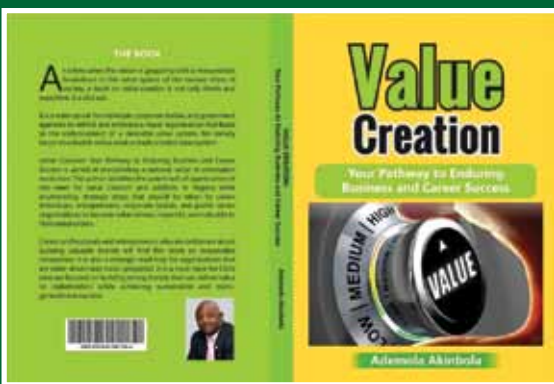
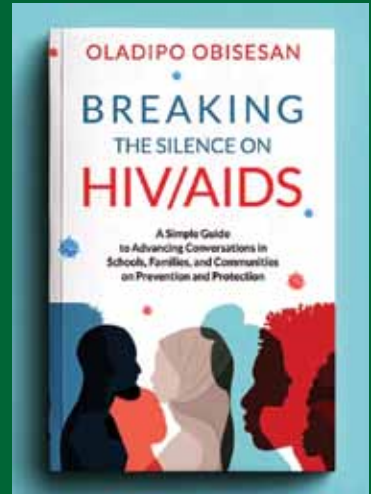
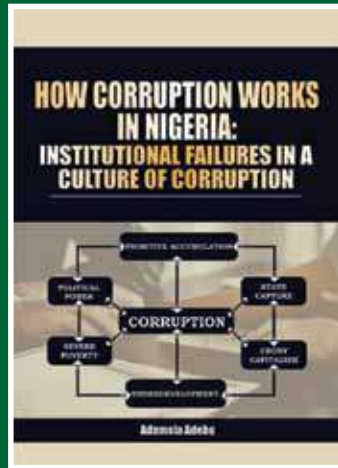
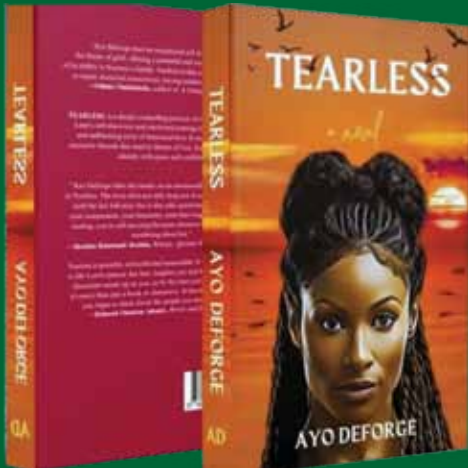
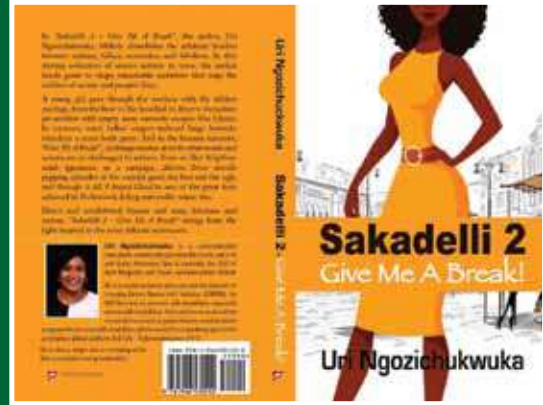
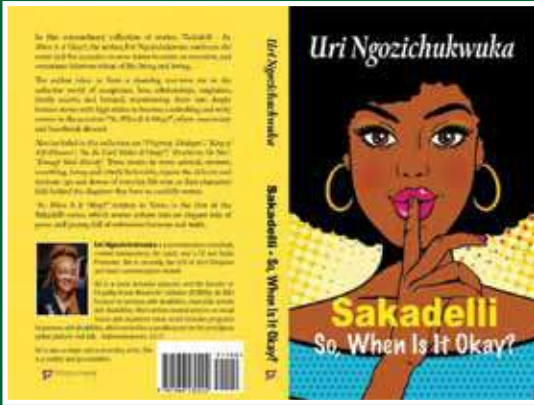
Throughout her career, Adiya has received numerous awards and recognition for her tireless efforts in promoting disability inclusion. Her work through EDWIIN has made significant strides in providing support and resources to marginalized communities, inspiring a movement of empathy and understanding.

Adiya Urionu Ngozichukwuka's legacy serves as a testament to the power of empathy, inclusion, and determination, inspiring generations to come.

Championing Empathy and Inclusion



DIASPORA BOOKS AND AUTHOR





Georginah Jacobs

in my own country. Recent events however have had me looking closely at this subject as my own offspring show aspirations to travelling abroad for both economic and educational purposes. As a parent I feel duty bound to carefully peruse some, if not all the risks and challenges that might present themselves and that one must mitigate or at least plan for.

So as we go through my list I hope that you would have the presence of mind to make sure that you do not fall into these categories of regret.

Lack of Research and Preparation:

This, in my opinion is the most critical of all five. Research and planning can make or break your goals, investment and future prospects but many travellers take it for granted. The biggest mistake to make is moving to unknown territory without arming yourself with the necessary information or following due process for your stay. Not only are you almost guaranteed to experience culture shock, but you will also likely end up with insufficient funds for your general upkeep with no employment options, certainly nothing beyond part-time work in the case of students. During my research I stumbled upon numerous videos and articles of those in the diaspora who are being deported back to home country after being found guilty of some or other legal transgression and in this case I want to use Canada as an example.

To be continued...

Today I'm talking about the Top 5 Mistakes That People Make (as per my research) when planning to travel abroad either permanently or for a considerable length of time. I have to give credit to the The Citizen newspaper for inspiring this article after they published an article on the 07 Nov. 2-24, reporting that the Democratic Alliance (DA), a political organisation here in South Africa has submitted an appeal to the ConCourt (constitutional court) to challenge the constitutionality of Section 6(1)(a) of the Citizenship Act. The aim is the reversal of the condition stating that once a South African is naturalised in another country such as becoming a British citizen, said person loses the South African citizenship. In other words, South Africa currently does not recognise dual citizenship of its own citizens such as was the case of Mr. Plaatjies cited in the article,

you can read more on his story as reposted here. In short, Mr. Plaatjies had not done the necessary research concerning this section of the Act.

This had me thinking about the Diaspora and how developments in the last 30 years or so, have completely changed how people move around the world, the act of migration is no longer straight forward.

Yes, it is common that human beings move from one geographic location to another in hopes of a better life, better future, better economic prospects and even just love or a desire to start afresh. Having travelled to both the United States and the United Kingdom, I personally have never been bitten by the migration bug. I have never wanted to establish roots in a foreign country and possibly suffer some of the pitfalls I have seen many African foreign nationals experience

Oloye Ademola Akinbola is an entrepreneur, certified trainer, author, publisher, digital marketing strategist, experienced journalist and a communications specialist with over three decades of experience in the areas of branding, corporate communication, corporate reputation management, business development, organizational change management, and digital marketing.

He is the Founder and Head Steward at Brand Stewards Limited, a brand and reputation management consultancy. He is also the Publisher of The Podium International Magazine, Ile-Oluji Times, and Who's Who in Ile-Oluji.

He had a successful media practice at The Guardian, Punch and This Day between 1991 and 1996 during which he worked with others to revolutionize business reporting in Nigeria.

In 1996, he started his communication and brand management career at Owena Bank as Media Relations Manager with the responsibility of ensuring the strategic and effective media positioning of the bank. He was promoted Head of Corporate Affairs in 1998 and he effectively coordinated the ascension phase of the bank's restructuring Programme leading to improved public perception, enhanced brand equity, and increased profitability.

When Prudent Merchant Bank obtained a universal banking license in 1999, and was to become a commercial bank, Ademola was one of the bright, skillful, and young professionals that were recruited to ventilate the enterprise change project that was beginning to gather momentum. He joined Prudent Bank (later known as Skye Bank, and now Polaris Bank) in 2000 as the pioneer Head of Corporate Affairs. He successfully coordinated the team that made the bank a household financial brand name through innovative communication and stakeholder engagement initiatives.

In 2004, the British Council appointed him as Head of Communication and Marketing to co-ordinate branding and reputation management activities at its Lagos, Abuja, Kano and Port Harcourt offices, with senior management oversight responsibilities for the West African operations.

In 2007, when the Nigerian Aviation Handling Company (NAHCO), Nigeria's biggest aviation ground handling company with 80% market share, was privatized and commercialized, Ademola was head hunted and appointed the Head of

Corporate Planning and Strategy. He led on the branding, communication, strategic planning and stakeholder management support functions and reported to the Board through the office of the CEO.

Following his impressive and impactful performance, his job scope was expanded and redesigned as Head of Corporate Communication and Business Development with the mandate to continue to execute the Board's vision in the areas of Corporate Planning and Strategy, Branding and New Businesses. The new portfolio followed an organisational audit conducted by Pricewaterhousecoopers.

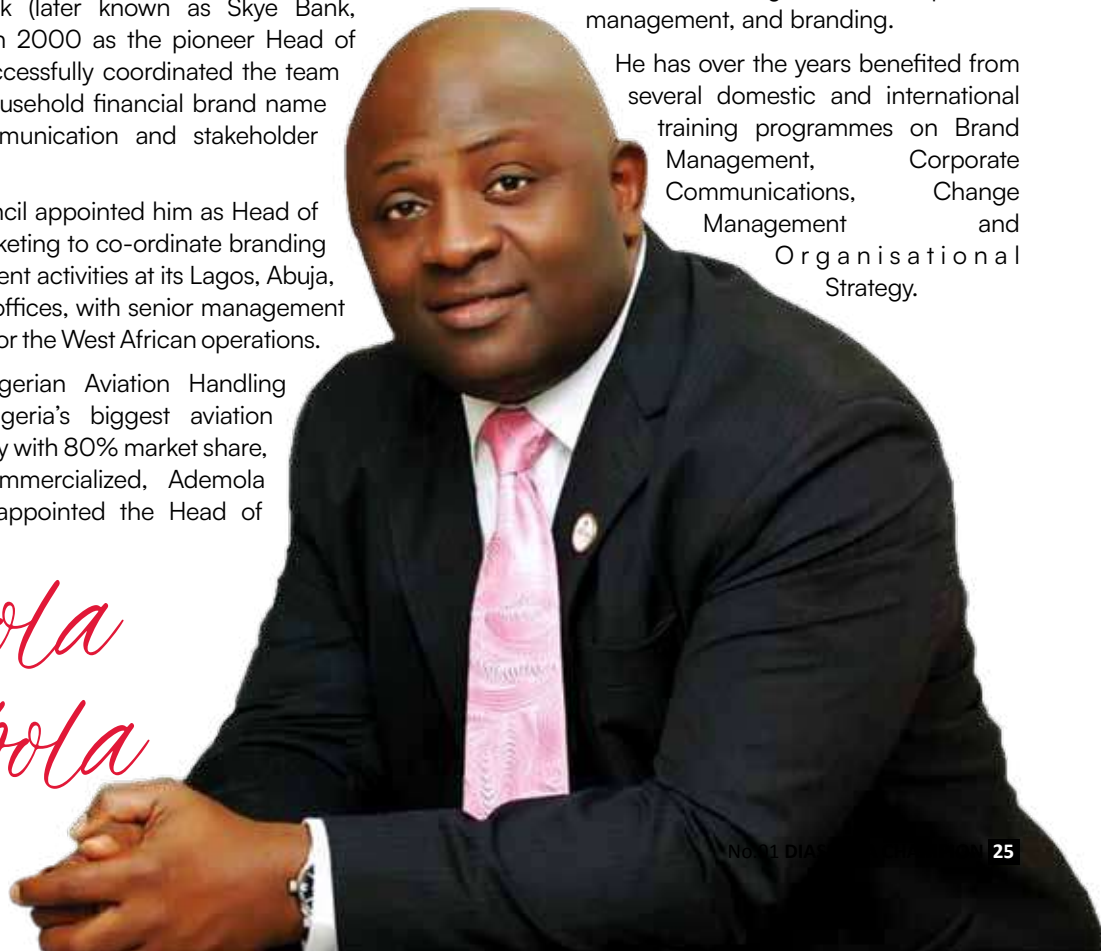
In 2010, he voluntarily resigned from NAHCO to focus on managing Brand Stewards, a reputation and brand management firm he established in 2003. Brand Stewards has successfully executed branding, re-branding and marketing communication projects for clients in the private and public sectors.

Ademola obtained a M.Sc. Degree in Digital Marketing & Web Analytics from the Dublin Institute of Technology in 2016, and the Master of Communication Arts degree of the University of Ibadan in 1997. He had previously obtained a Higher National Diploma (with Upper Credit) in Mass Communication from Ogun State Polytechnic, Abeokuta.

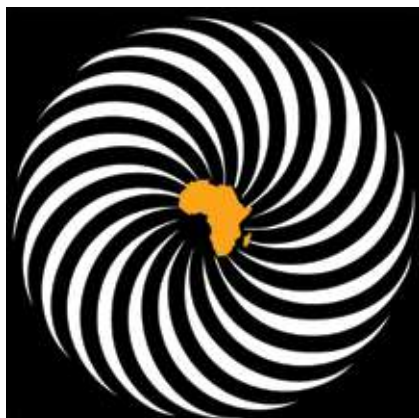
He is currently undergoing a combined post-graduate Diploma in Business Analysis, Software Testing, and Project Management in the United Kingdom.

Ademola who holds the traditional chieftaincy title of Onigegeara 1 of Ile-Oluji, has published several articles and authored five management books on Corporate Communication, Organisational reputation management, and branding.

He has over the years benefited from several domestic and international training programmes on Brand Management, Corporate Communications, Change Management and Organisational Strategy.



*Ademola
Akinbola*





HRH (DR.) Abdul Ganiyu Olusegun Awokoya

HRH (DR.) Abdul Ganiyu Olusegun Awokoya, the revered Onirete of Irete Kingdom, is a visionary leader and philanthropist.

Before ascending to the throne in 2021, he is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Algasali Global Concept Limited, a premier land surveying firm that played key roles behind the Lekki Free Zone's landmark reallocation projects.

As monarch, HRH Awokoya has transformed Irete-ijeju Kingdom from the once obscured community as it was known, to a fast developing community, bringing in initiatives like a multi-billion naira specialist hospital, estates, and road projects.

His generosity also extends to Lagos, where he donated

a mosque worth over N1 billion, and has been a key Pillar behind several empowerment projects in several communities.

A cultural ambassador and keen traveler, HRH Awokoya has been honored as the Global Icon of Yoruba Heritage and Culture by the African German Information Centre, AGIC.

He supports various Islamic projects promoting peace and love.

As the Grand Patron of Sikiru Adetona College of Education, Science and Technology, Ogun State, HRH Awokoya remains dedicated to youth education, community development and progress.

Abiodun Dominic Odunuga



in that vein, he has been a recipient of various national and international honors for his contributions in the entrepreneurship ecosystem and as one of the prominent voices in the diaspora.

Abiodun Dominic Odunuga is an international development consultant having acquired over 10 years of experience in the field of sustainability, entrepreneurship and international development. Abiodun has developed and worked on projects with organizations such as the World Bank, European Union, United Nations, Africa Development Bank, and The Commonwealth across Africa and Europe.

He holds a Masters in Development Practice degree from Sciences Po, Paris. Abiodun also served as the project manager for the Nigeria France Tech Initiative (NFTI) launched by the Embassy of Nigeria, Paris amidst stakeholders such as the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA) to support the tech ecosystem between France and Nigeria. He was an ambassador and consultant for the MATCH - a 36-month initiative funded by the European Union (EU) aimed at providing highly skilled talents from Africa to private sector companies whose needs for qualified staff cannot be satisfied by the offer available on the EU labour market.

Abiodun is the CEO of Bridge and Value, a Paris based consulting company that helps African and European companies

expand into new markets through strategic partnerships. He is the Co-Founder and Vice President of Friends of Nigeria - a foremost diaspora organization headquartered in France that fosters socioeconomic relations between Europe and Nigeria. He is a mentor at Chapter54 - an accelerator operated by Partech Shaker focussed on European Scaleups with the ambition to enter the African Market. He brings his wealth of experience in training, project management, fundraising and business development to consult for various international organizations focusing on Africa as it relates to investment opportunities, supporting startups, and empowering small and medium scale enterprises. He regularly consults for various government agencies and States in Nigeria as well as French agencies on economic initiatives in Agriculture, Digital Technology and Industry.

Abiodun is a lecturer and faculty member in Paris Graduate School in France as well as the American International University, West Africa in the Gambia. Abiodun is a frequent global conference speaker and sits on the board of many organizations. He is an ardent believer in the prowess of the diaspora in contributing to the sustainable development of Africa and

Demola Aladekomo

Demola Aladekomo is a visionary entrepreneur and innovative leader, renowned for his transformative impact on the business landscape. With decades of experience spanning technology, finance, and entrepreneurship, Demola has established himself as a respected voice in the business community.

As a seasoned executive, Demola has founded and led multiple successful companies, including Chams Plc and Smartcity, leveraging his expertise to drive growth and innovation. His leadership acumen has earned him key positions in prominent organizations, where he has developed groundbreaking solutions and strategies that have revolutionized industries.

Demola's achievements have been recognized through numerous awards, including the

prestigious Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award and ThisDay Newspaper's Business Person of the Year. He has also received honorary doctorate degrees from reputable institutions, a testament to his enduring legacy.

A graduate of the University of Lagos, Demola holds degrees in Computer Science and Business Administration. His passion for innovation, entrepreneurship, and nation-building drives him to empower the next generation of leaders, foster collaborative ecosystems for growth, and harness technology for societal impact.

Through his work, Demola continues to inspire and mentor entrepreneurs, business leaders, and individuals, leaving an indelible mark on the business world.



Winifred Uloaku Gaillard

Winifred Uloaku Gaillard was an accompanying spouse (a term for spouses of diplomats) for over 20 years, in the Middle East, Europe and Africa. As a renowned event organiser, she seized every opportunity to showcase Africa's rich heritage everywhere she went. Among her many successful events are:

- 1st Nigeria/South African Cultural Day, in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1997, an event that promoted Nigeria and South Africa's collaboration at a time when tension was running high between both countries;
- Nigerian Pavilion at the 2020 Paris International Agricultural Show. The pavilion aimed at showcasing Nigerian agriculturists and agricultural products at the biggest agricultural event in Europe.
- More recently, Winifred she founded The AfrikaFora, formerly AfricaFora, a social enterprise where we pride ourselves in bringing together Africans (continental and descendants), and their friends around activities that tell new narratives of the Africa we want! These values are conveyed through the conception and organisation of far-reaching activities that place Africans at the center stage, while showcasing various African talents: designers, inventors and innovators, with the aim to attracting investors, as well as celebrating African culture and traditions. For more details on our vision and mission statements please visit africafora.com.

Ms. Gaillard is very passionate about her visions for Africa and believes that through intra-African cooperation, Africa will advance to Africans' benefits. She seeks the support of well-meaning Africans and friends of Africa to help achieve that independent, self-sufficient and peaceful Africa of our dreams.

Winifred is an international Coach Federation (ICF) ACSTH certified Life Coach from New York Institute of Technology (NYIT), specialised in Expatriate family and Intercultural life coaching. She is also a graduate of the Nigerian Institute of Journalism; Crux Management School, South Africa, and University of Bournemouth England. A wife and mother of 3 grown-ups, she is a Princess of the Ihie-lyi ancient kingdom in Abia State, Nigeria. Her passions include volunteering, discovering talents, travel and jewellery making. Ms Gaillard is the 2023 winner of Africa Culture Excellence Award, of The Voice Achievers Award.

As a passionate African, she has created a series of annual events to honour her continent, country and homeland. Among them are:

- Nzuko — Africa Week, an annual event that unites African (continental and descendants), and friends of Africa thought leaders to propose action plans to rewrite the relationships (economic, human and professional) between Africa and the world, as well as promote the diverse African culture and traditions. These activities align with the visions of the founding fathers of the former Organisation of African Unity (now African Union), founded on May 25, 1963, among which are to: 1) Rid the continent of any remnants of colonialism and apartheid; 2) Promote unity and solidarity amongst African states etc. Past videos are available [here](#).
- Asampete 2000 — Celebrating the Black and African Woman: an event that showcases and honours the African Woman, and promoters of women's causes.
- Ikenga Day — A European Igbo Festival, an event where Ndigbo and their friends come together annually to display and celebrate their culture, traditions, and economy, as well as take a retrospective look at themselves and homeland and define ways to promote community development projects.
- Wazobia - Nigeria Day; showcasing Nigeria's heritage: a forum to ponder on issues that bring Nigerians together, to promote peace, unity and security as well as showcase our rich and diverse economic and cultural heritage.



Ojora Babatunde



Ojora Babatunde popularly known as OJB is a Nigerian international sports broadcast Journalist based in Paris, France. He is a reporter,

presenter and a content provider, who has metamorphosed into a digital sports journalist.

He is the publisher of ojbsport.com. OJB traverses the world especially Europe covering the activities of athletes of African origin and Nigerian descent.

He has a wide range of experience in the coverage of international football events and over the years has covered Champions League football games across Europe, The FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019, UEFA Champions League games, Europa League games LNB Pro A basketball games in France, LNB Pro B basketball games and several French Ligue games.

OJB is known to have done interviews that have gone viral. From Jose

Mourinho to Jurgen Klopp etc. Famous amongst them was his question to Manchester United coach Ole Gunnar Solskjaer about signing Nigerian Jude Odion Ighalo from a Chinese team.

Ojora Babatunde is a card-carrying member of the Association of International sports press (AIPS) The only recognised body for sports journalists worldwide.

OJB is the convener of the Nigeria - France sports awards. An award that celebrates Nigerian athletes in France.

Social media accounts:

Twitter:	Ojbsports
Instagram:	Ojb.sport
Facebook:	Ojora Babatunde
Website:	www.ojbsports.com

Kenneth Gbandi

Kenneth Gbandi, a trailblazing figure in the Nigerian Diaspora, has dedicated over 28 years to championing the interests of millions. His remarkable leadership has left an indelible mark on the global stage.

A Legacy of Excellence

As the longest-serving Nigerian Diaspora leader, Kenneth has spearheaded high-profile initiatives, including the groundbreaking NIDOE-DGR/Phymus Housing project, securing \$2.36 billion for affordable housing and job creation. His vision for Diaspora engagement has inspired a new generation of leaders.

Diaspora Impact

Kenneth's leadership extends beyond Nigeria's borders. He has:

- Initiated the Diaspora City Housing project, providing a haven for returnees in Delta State.
- Collaborated with international

organizations, such as CIM/GIZ and BMZ, to promote sustainable youth employment.

- Fostered strategic partnerships as Continental Chairman of Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Europe (NIDO).

Politics and Governance

Kenneth's commitment to democracy and good governance is unwavering.

He has:

- Contested for the Nigerian Senate, representing Delta North.
- Served as National Deputy Chairman (Diaspora Engagement) for the African Democratic Congress (ADC).
- Contributed to presidential campaign organizations, promoting active citizenship.

Cultural Ambassador

Kenneth's creative endeavors have showcased African heritage globally:

- Executive Producer, Afrika Outlook TV/TIDE.
- CEO, Heritage Media Consult Limited.
- Founder/Editor-in-Chief, African Heritage Magazine.

Honors and Recognition

Kenneth's tireless efforts have earned him numerous accolades:

- President Obasanjo Stellar Performance Award.
- Ambassador for Peace, Universal Peace Federation.
- Honorary Doctorate in Christian Motivation.

Kenneth Gbandi's legacy serves as a testament to his unwavering dedication to leadership, community development, and cultural exchange. His story inspires generations to strive for excellence and make a lasting impact.



Unveiling Félix Ayoh'Omidire: The Maestro of Afro-Latin American Studies



In the realm of academic excellence, few names shine brighter than Félix Ayoh'Omidire. This visionary scholar has dedicated his life to unraveling the rich tapestry of Afro-Latin American culture, leaving an indelible mark on the global stage.

Félix's passion for cultural exchange and linguistic exploration led him to renowned institutions worldwide. He earned his Licentiate and Master's Degrees from Obafemi Awolowo University and later obtained post-graduate diplomas from Portugal and Benin Republic. His crowning achievement came in 2006 when he received his doctorate from the Universidade Federal da Bahia (UFBA), Brazil.

Félix's groundbreaking theory, *YoruBaianidade*, revolutionized the study of Afro-Latin American identity. This innovative framework explores the intersections of Yoruba culture, orality, and epistemology, shedding light on the African diaspora's profound impact on Latin American societies. His complementary concept, *Oralitura nagô-yorubana*, further illuminates the intricate dynamics of cultural expression.

With 19 books and over 100 scientific articles to his name, Félix is a leading voice in his field. His notable works include *ÀKÓGBÀDÚN: ABC da língua, cultura e civilização iorubanas*, *PÈRÈGÚN e outras fabulações da minha terra*, and *YoruBaianidade: Oralitura e matriz epistêmica nagô*.

As a visiting professor at UFBA and Humboldt University, Berlin, Félix has inspired generations of scholars. His tireless efforts have earned him prestigious recognition, including awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and DAAD, and membership in the Scientific and Museographic Committees of the Musée International du Vodun.

A certified translator and interpreter in six languages (Yorubá, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Italian), Félix bridges cultural divides with ease. His remarkable journey serves as a testament to his unwavering dedication to Afro-Latin American studies.

Félix Ayoh'Omidire's pioneering work continues to illuminate the complexities of cultural identity, inspiring a new wave of scholars to explore the rich heritage of the African diaspora. Join us in celebrating this visionary scholar's remarkable achievements and contributions to the world of academia.



Emmanuel Odemayowa

GMD, Cavalli Group

Emmanuel Odemayowa is the Chairman & Group Managing Director of Cavalli Business & Investment Group. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of Global Property Partners, a Member of the Cavalli Group.

Emmanuel Odemayowa is a transformational business leader with over 20 years working experience; in developing innovative solutions, analysing complex situations, turning strategy into action with cross-functional business knowledge to catalyse change transformation and drive success.

Emmanuel Odemayowa holds a Master's of Law (LLM) degree in International Commercial Law from the University of Salford, a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from the London School of Business & Finance (LSBF) and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A) in English Language and Literature from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria.

He attended the Owner Manager Programme at the Pan-Atlantic University (Lagos Business School) and has

also participated in several trainings in Entrepreneurship, Management and Marketing.

In the course of his career, Emmanuel Odemayowa worked with the Economic Growth and Development Centre, Abuja, where he was fully involved in research projects spanning National Planning and Development Issues. He later moved to the real estate sector as pioneer Business Development Manager with a frontline real estate firm in Nigeria, after-which he became the Managing Director of Ambassage Properties Limited (A Commercial Real Estate Development Firm), where he spearheaded the growth and expansion of the Ambassage Group; which also includes: The Sage Homes (The luxury homes subsidiary of the business).

Emmanuel Odemayowa is happily married with three lovely kids. He is a football and golf enthusiasts and spends most of his evening after work playing golf at the Ikoyi Club, Lagos.



Alyson Parham Small

Alyson Parham Small is the founder and president of Partec Consulting Group Inc. (Partec), a management consulting and training firm established in 1994. For more than 30 years, Ms. Parham Small has provided project management, consulting, and training to various entities nationwide and internationally. Her services include strategic planning, organizational development services, group facilitation, program monitoring, and grant writing services. Ms. Parham Small has trained numerous resident leaders and nonprofit executives on various management and leadership topics including proposal writing, sustainability strategies, strategic planning, and fundraising.

Through her grant writing services; Alyson has helped secure millions in funding for her clients. In working with intermediaries including foundations, Ms. Parham Small has designed and helped implement infrastructure development programs to strengthen the capacity of nonprofits and collaborations on local and national levels.

Dr. Bashir Olalekan Obasekola

Dr. Bashir Olalekan Obasekola is a highly respected figure in the Nigerian diaspora community, currently serving as the Continental Chairman of Nigerians In Diaspora Organisation Europe (NIDO-Europe) ¹ ². He's also the CEO and owner of Afro-Mama outlet in Moscow, showcasing his entrepreneurial spirit.

Dr. Obasekola's impressive educational background includes a degree from the faculty of Economics & Law of the Russian People's Friendship University in Moscow, Russia, and a PhD in Economics from RUDN University ¹. His professional experience is equally impressive, having worked as the Director of Economics at Independent Media Group, a renowned Russian publishing house, and as an Adjunct Lecturer at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia.

A dedicated servant of the Nigerian community, Dr. Obasekola has held

various positions in NIDO-Europe, promoting Nigeria's image and unity among its people ¹. He's a sought-after voice, frequently featured on Russian national television to discuss contemporary Nigerian issues. His selfless service has earned him numerous honors and recognitions from institutions like the Nigerian Embassy in Moscow and Nigerian and Russian organizations.

Dr. Obasekola's commitment to philanthropy and volunteerism is inspiring, generously giving his time, expertise, and resources to support those in need ¹. He's a role model for many Nigerians, admired for his simplicity, accessibility, and humility.

Awards and Recognition

- Listed in NIDO-Europe's Hall of Fame as one of the 100 most renowned, supportive, and patriotic Nigerians living in Europe

- Recognized by Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NIDCOM) as one of the 600 most influential Nigerians abroad in its "Compendium of +600 Diaspora Icons."



You don't get to choose locations when you are called to serve

– ALYSON PARHAM SMALL



Can you please introduce yourself?

My name is Alyson Parham Small, and I live in Indianapolis, Indiana, with my husband, children, and new grandchild. For 30 years, I have operated my own management consulting and training firm, Partec Consulting Group (Partec).

Pls share with us your background and how your diaspora experience has shaped your life and work?

In early 2004, I started traveling to Ghana with my church's mission team. Each trip made me feel like I was on an extended learning journey. Even now, my connection with the African continent has reshaped many of my thoughts and beliefs about myself, my connection to Africa, and, ultimately, my purpose. I can honestly say my diaspora experience is evolving and continues to reshape who I am in this world.

Can you highlight some of your most notable achievements or contributions to the diaspora community especially the project in Ghana

When I first started working in Ghana, I wanted to support orphans and other vulnerable children in orphanages. Although I recognized the concerns in placing children in this living environment, I believed we could help these children by investing in their academic and personal development. We sought to strengthen children's educational

and life skills through our offerings. Unfortunately, we quickly learned this approach was not sustainable as we encountered many barriers created by adults more interested in receiving money than educating children. While I commend others called to start or support orphanages, working with local leaders, I learned that more orphans live in communities.

After many starts and stops trying to figure out effective strategies to best impact children in Ghana, we realized we could maximize our impact by working directly in local communities. During the COVID pandemic, we launched Read, Feed, and Lead (RFL), a program that targets children in grades 1-6 with a Saturday-based program. RFL focuses on using competency-based activities to help children improve their reading, math, and life skills while receiving a nutritious meal before returning home. Our program started out serving around 30 children and quickly grew to over 100. We also established another location in Ghana, serving another 80+ children. In 2022, recognizing the power of connecting African American youth in the U.S. with Ghana youth, we launched Through the Eyes of Youth, a unique program that uses photos and videos for youth to share aspects of their worlds with youth in other countries. Recently, we returned from a trip to Ghana, where we took youth from Indianapolis to Ghana to meet their youth counterparts who had been working through the same program for the past year. This

experience impacted the thoughts and perceptions of both sets of youth and was truly amazing.

What inspired you to become involved in diaspora-related initiatives, and what drives your passion for connecting with your community?

As I watched my church launch various mission-related events in Ghana, I realized there was a tremendous need to support orphans and other vulnerable children. While this was not my professional background, I felt called to contribute somehow. In 2010, working with my friend in Ghana, Michel Bowman Amuah, we established an NGO to advance our commitment to help vulnerable children. For the next several years, we made the typical mistake of believing that bringing "stuff" from the U.S. to Ghana was the best way to support children. By 'stuff,' I mean clothes, shoes, and other products that it never dawned on me could have been purchased in Ghana! As I continued spending more time in Ghana and meeting more Ghanaians who shared the same concern for vulnerable children, I learned our approach was not helpful. It also failed to lift up Ghanaians' rich culture and traditions and perpetuated the belief that all good things come from the West.

In realizing the mistake in our service delivery approach, I created Sustainable Connexions Internationals in the U.S. to help raise money to

support locally-led work in Ghana. The word 'Connexions' in our name represents our commitment to forge partnerships with people and organizations locally and globally who support the advancement of vulnerable children. Committed to ensuring vulnerable children in Ghana understand and appreciate Ghana's rich culture, we prioritized support programming led by Ghanaian leaders, with Americans taking a supporting role in the background. We also created another organization, OVC Connexions Ghana, as our local, non-governmental organization, enabling us to hire a solid team of teachers, social workers, and leaders to operate our programs.

How will this Award Impact your future pursuits?

We are so grateful, for receiving this Award. It acknowledges our work and helps us spread our message and make a bigger impact to a wider audience! I believe this recognition will foster opportunities for collaborations and new funding partners. Bringing in additional resources will help us expand our reach to serve more children. Having seen the achievements and boosted the self-confidence of the children in our programs, this accolade reflects that the obstacles we faced and our progress have equipped us for the significant efforts we are engaged in now.

Receiving this Award inspires us to aim for achievements by broadening our reach to serve more children. We are excited about using this acknowledgment to connect with a larger community of supporters, enabling us to scale. Finally, this accolade reinforces our confidence that our work is striking a chord with others and will drive us as we persist in making a positive impact in Ghana and, hopefully, other African countries in the near future.

What are the challenges in the course of delivering this initiative



in Ghana and share your expansion plan to other countries?

When we started Read, Feed, and Lead, we tried applying for local and international funding. After not making progress in attracting philanthropic funding, my consulting firm and individual donors became the major supporters of our programs. Years later, as we continue to document this program's success, we have yet to find philanthropic or corporate partners to support our work.

We believe our two offerings can be expanded to other villages throughout Ghana and other countries as well. Expanding our programs requires working with other committed partners who are willing to join forces to leverage our collective resources to reach more African children.

In addition to expanding to other countries, our vision includes building a camp in Ghana that can house youth from Ghana and other countries as they come together to connect, learn, and engage with each other in building a global network of young leaders.

What advice would you give to African Americans individuals looking to make a positive impact in their communities or at the global stage?

It is funny how, in the beginning, people in the U.S. would ask me why I was working to help African youth when there are so many African



American youth in the U.S. who need help. In contrast, I recall being asked by a Ghanaian, after seeing our work, when I planned to bring White people to Ghana——because they are the smart ones!

Despite these disappointing comments, I believe you don't get to choose locations when you are called to serve. At times, it can be a bit lonely being on this journey, but you cannot stop. I truly believe that if we are willing to work together and prioritize children's advancement, we can collectively make an even bigger impact.

Not everyone who says they want to be a partner is right for you. Don't get discouraged. Remember to keep your vision front and center in your line of sight and not deviate from your mission.

Dipo Obisesan



Dipo Obisesan is a dynamic and multifaceted leader. He excels as a pastor, visionary, conceptualization strategist, prolific author, and dedicated intercessor. As the Lead Pastor of Enrichment City Church, he is committed to transforming lives through impactful teachings and empowering leadership. His inspiring approach touches on spiritual and practical dimensions, motivating individuals toward meaningful change.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Dipo Obisesan leads the global prayer movement, GO Large with Prayer, uniting intercessors worldwide to ignite

spiritual revival and breakthroughs. His visionary leadership and innovative strategies have positioned him as a global spiritual renewal catalyst.

Dipo is also the President of The Enrichment Academy, where he fosters leadership development, and the Living Without AIDS Initiative, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing preventive education and support to communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

His work is marked by a deep commitment to prayer, visionary leadership, and a passion for creating lasting impact in the lives of individuals and communities.

- Attended Penn State University for his undergraduate education and obtained his Doctor of Medicine degree at St. George's University School of Medicine in 1986. He completed his Medical internship at Coney Island Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, and later joined Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he completed a residency training in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Prof. Adeleke then became an Attending Physician in the Emergency Department of Crozer Chester Medical Center and Sacred Heart Hospital, both in Chester, Pennsylvania. Prof. Adeleke pursued fellowship training in Cardiovascular Medicine at Albert Einstein Medical Center from 1994 - 1997, obtained his Board Certification in Internal Medicine in 1996 and in Cardiovascular Diseases in 1998. He successfully competed with and was selected from a host of very highly skilled applicants in a keenly contested selection process, to pioneer the nascent one-year Interventional Cardiology fellowship training at the same elite institution in 1998.

- It perhaps is even more remarkable that Prof. Adeleke dared to break another invisible "glass ceiling" of clinical entrepreneurship practice in an exclusive industry by starting the Tri-State Cardiovascular Institute

in Wilmington, Delaware. He very soon imposed his practice through the quality of service as the busiest Cardiologist, with a year-long waiting list of patients in the State of Delaware. He founded the First State Diagnostic Center, Peninsula Medical Associates and Wilmington Cardiovascular Associates, all reputable industry brand leaders. For over ten years, he was the Chair of the Division of Cardiology and Director of the Interventional Cardiovascular Laboratory at the St. Francis Hospital in Wilmington, as well as dominant program leader in Interventional Cardiology at the Christiana Care Health Services, both in Delaware. He resigned his highly valued appointments in 2015 out of a passionate personal conviction to take up a new frontier mission of pioneering Interventional Cardiology in Nigeria and Sub-Saharan Africa.

- Having participated in several medical research projects with outstanding publications and procedural non-invasive surgical innovations, and leading out many successful and highly-impacting medical missions in Africa, South America and the Caribbean, Prof. Kamar Adeleke was appointed to a professorial chair of Medicine and Cardiology. He was chair the Division of Cardiology at the Benjamin S. Carson School of Medicine, Babcock

Professor Kamar Tayo ADELEKE, M.D., F.A.C.C., S.F.N.L.I.

President/CEO, Tristate Healthcare System



University, Chief, Division of Cardiac Catheterization and Interventional Laboratory at University College Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria, where he has also pioneered the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship program as a capacity-building process for Nigerian cardiologists and He is currently the president/ CEO of Tristate Healthcare System and the Provost, Tristate College Of Health and Allied Medical Sciences of Hillside University Of Science and Technology, Oke-mesi Ekiti state.

Nelson Ayodeji Daodu

Transformative Leader & Serial Entrepreneur

As the CEO of Nelson Africa Global, Nelson Ayodeji Daodu leverages his expertise in human capital development to drive transformative change. Born in Africa, Nelson's innovative approach identifies problems, assesses their impact, and creates lasting solutions through evidence-based collaborations with his team and clients.

Business Intelligence & Vision

Nelson's vision transforms capacity using tourism, sustainable solutions, and innovation. His methods include:

- Training and study tours
- Exhibitions and conferences
- Digitization of sustainability
- Bilateral cooperation
- Global branding and consultancy

Impact

Nelson Africa Global has empowered

various sectors, including:

- Education
- Hospitality
- Organizations
- Politics
- Policy makers
- Companies
- Businesses

By leveraging technology, Nelson promotes quality service, simplicity, and collective learning, adhering to global standards.

Unique Selling Point

Swift problem analysis, critical assessment, and quality implementation ensure top-notch solutions. Nelson targets clients seeking to reach the pinnacle of Abraham Maslow's pyramid, driven by purpose and actualization.



Legacy

Nelson's long-lasting impact aims to span generations, spreading holistic solutions globally. He aspires to collaborate with:

- The United Nations
- World Trade Organization
- Global brands

About Nelson

Nelson Ayodeji Daodu holds a BSc, PHN, and MBA. As an innovator and visionary, he drives Nelson Africa Global's mission to empower professionals and create a lasting legacy.

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