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WHAT NOTABLE LEADERS ARE SAYING ABOUT AFRICAN LEADERSHIP MAGAZINE



H.E. JOHN MAHAMA
Fmr. President of Ghana

"It is always an honour to be in the company of such distinguished fellow Africans, that the African Leadership Magazine events bring together - Africans who have committed their lives to changing the negative narrative about our continent."



H.E. MRS. AMEEN GURIB-FAKIM
Fmr. President of Mauritius

"It is very gratifying that we now have an organization like African Leadership Magazine, which endeavors to promote good governance and impactful leadership in Africa - bring the best of Africa to the global stages."



DR. GOODLUCK JONATHAN
Fmr. President of Nigeria

"African Leadership Magazine has become a brand for Africa and I am pleased to be associated with it, especially because of the caliber of African Leaders on its board."



H.E. JOHN KUFOUR
Fmr. President of Ghana

"I believe people are more important than power and anything that promotes good people and leadership is what we need in Africa, and that is what African Leadership Magazine is doing."



H.E. JAMES A MICHEL
Fmr. President of Seychelles

"I wish to express my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the African Leadership Magazine for the work that it is doing on the continent, and especially in advancing the cause of small Islands Developing states, Any effort aimed at increasing the visibility of the good work being done by leadership in Africa does positively impact on the continent and that is what the African Leadership Magazine is doing."



H.E. ERNEST BAI KOROMA
Fmr. President of Sierra Leone

"I am delighted to be associated with the sterling work that the African Leadership Magazine is doing on the continent. Democratic governance is the elephant in the room, and the continent needs to reassess its governance systems. The agenda on global sustainable development shows that Africans are lagging behind. Africa will need to reinvent its governance system with its youth growing population."

WHAT NOTABLE LEADERS ARE SAYING ABOUT AFRICAN LEADERSHIP MAGAZINE



MRS. ELLEN JOHNSON - SIRLEAF
Nobel Peace Prize Winner & Fmr.
President, Republic of Liberia

"I feel deeply honored to be associated with the African Leadership Magazine as it is a veritable platform to honor true service in Africa. I commend your efforts and assure you of my continued support and the support of the good people of Liberia."



H.E. JAKAYA KIKWETE
Fmr. President of Tanzania

"African Leadership Magazine is doing a wonderful job of speaking for Africa and Africans. The magazine remain a good example of what young people in Africa can do in the world. Best wishes in keeping the African dream alive."



H.E. DAVID MABUZA
Deputy President
Republic of South Africa

"It is an honour to participate at this African Leadership Magazine's 2020 Ceremony, and I commend the magazine's focus to reshape positively, the dominant narratives about the African continent, especially towards the pursuit of peace-building and democracy on the continent".



DR. AKINWUMI ADESINA
President,
African Development Bank

"I thank you so much, African Leadership Magazine for the great work that you are doing for the continent. Your tradition of awarding excellence as I have seen in the line up of African Leaders who have received the African Leadership Awards, is something very commendable"



DR. MO IBRAHIM
Founder,
Mo Ibrahim Foundation

"The future of African people and improving the quality of Leadership on the African continent is my vision and I find in African Leadership Magazine - a true partner. I am also happy that the African Leadership Awards is doing at a lower level, what I intend to achieve at the Head of State level. That is why I flew to Paris just to be a part of what you are doing here at the African Leadership Magazine".



MO DEWJI
Tanzania Businessman
& Philanthropist

"The African Leadership Awards truly captures the essence of my message which is that, success shouldn't be solely defined by wealth. It should be about the positive impact and influence that one has had in his community."

ENTHRONING PEACE AND SECURITY IN WEST AFRICA

...being part of an address presented by Dr Ken Giami, Chairman African Leadership magazine, an affiliate of African Leadership Organization during the ALM Africa Dialogue Series at the House of Lords London recently





It is my honor and pleasure to welcome you all to THE ALM AFRICA DIALOGUE SERIES. The Dialogue Series has become a unique and strategic platform for us at THE AFRICAN LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION to engage in high-level conversations with key African leaders on governance, leadership, and sustainable development in Africa.

We all agree that peace, security, and good governance are essential prerequisites for achieving sustainable socio-economic development. Therefore, the focus of this edition of The ALM Africa Dialogue Series is on Ensuring Peace and Stability in the West Africa Sub-region.

The West African sub-region is currently facing unprecedented and complex threats that impact the existence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political unity, and survival of African nations.

While conflict has plagued Africa for decades, the emerging threats to peace, security, and stability in the continent, particularly in the West African sub-region, are unprecedented and have devastating impacts on socio-economic development. These threats include terrorism, violent extremism, radicalization, unconstitutional changes of government, and complex political transitions.

According to available data from the Economic Community of West African States Commission, the sub-region recorded 1,814 incidents of terrorist attacks resulting in 4,593 fatalities from January to June 2023. By the end of April 2023, half a million refugees were recorded in the region. The level of insecurity in West Africa is evident in the nearly 30 million

people requiring food assistance, a number that is projected to increase to 42 million within the same year.

Another alarming trend is the recent upsurge in government overthrows in the sub-region. Africa has witnessed the highest number of attempted or successful coups globally, with 220 out of 492 since 1950, and 109 of them being successful. In the last three years, the ECOWAS sub-region has experienced six successful coups, with Niger, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Gabon being the latest.

The uncontrolled proliferation of small arms and light weapons, along with the increasing activities of private military contractors, mercenaries, and foreign forces in the West African sub-region, sustains conflict, exacerbates violence, fuels crime and terrorism, promotes cultures of violence, violates international humanitarian law, and hinders political, economic, and social development.

While Africa has made significant progress in conducting credible and peaceful elections in over sixteen Member States of the African Union (AU), the continent still faces challenges associated with political violence and security in achieving peaceful transitions.

Addressing the emerging threats to peace and security in the ECOWAS sub-region requires a robust and collective response. African-led peace operations have made significant strides in reducing and addressing unconventional threats over the past 20 years. I strongly believe in the leadership of the African continent to tackle these security challenges.

Looking ahead, it is estimated that by 2050, Africa's population will reach 1.9 billion. Therefore, as we address the crises of today, we must also recognize the opportunities for a more stable and peaceful future for Africa. Addressing security challenges is crucial for achieving socioeconomic development goals such as the 2030 SDGs and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

The leadership approach must be tangible, collective, and concerted. The pace of international change is accelerating, necessitating the strengthening and acceleration of institutional capacities in the African Union and African sub-regional organizations like ECOWAS to respond to new challenges.

African political leadership must make targeted proactive investments, build strategic partnerships, and collaborative mechanisms to address the multidimensional challenges of tomorrow. The broad range of ECOWAS, the African Union, and the United Nations requires new multilayered partnerships and initiatives for peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peace-building in light of today's burgeoning challenges and future preparedness.

African leaders must demonstrate an unwavering commitment to strengthening security institutions. Efforts to improve

institutional capability and diminish politicization must match capacity-building initiatives in Africa's security sector. I urge all stakeholders to continue pushing for sound democratic governance, effective accountability, and strategic investments in activities and institutions that address the drivers and sustainers of insecurity.

As the African Leadership Organization, we are passionate about the progress of the African continent. Over the past 16 years, we have been promoting impactful leadership and African opportunities globally. Through quality Afro-positive content, Africa trade facilitation, market entry solutions, Afro-centric communities, business networking platforms, and public sector training and consulting, we continue our efforts to create a high-level platform for transformational change. ■



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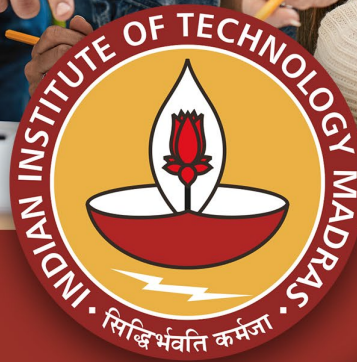
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CHANGEMAKER, CLIENT-CENTRIC & COMMUNITY- MINDED

Credentia Group's Remarkable
Business Ventures in Africa

Embarking on a transformative odyssey spanning over two decades, Sanjeev K.S. Gopaul, the astute CEO & founder of the Credentia Group, shares an illuminating narrative encapsulating his entrepreneurial journey. With a career initiation from the year 2000 that traversed the landscape of banking, investment management and legal structuring; Sanjeev's evolution towards entrepreneurship culminated in the founding of the Credentia Group in 2012. His tale brims with essential milestones offering profound insight and valuable lessons gathered through enriching experiences with the Financial Services Industry.

In an exclusive interview, Sanjeev unravels the multifaceted fabric of his professional evolution, expounding on the inception and expansion of Credentia Group. His vision and strategic prowess have manifested in the group's diversification, aligning financial services under Credentia® International, embracing non-financial activities through Cyberati®, and introducing the pioneering Uniklik Concierge® - a one-stop solution redefining business, lifestyle, and investment services in Mauritius.

This interview provides a compelling glimpse into Gopaul's dogged commitment to entrepreneurship, impactful initiatives, and the compelling vision steering Credentia Group's trajectory. He posits Credentia Group as a Changemaker and a place where Client-Centric, and Community-Minded values unite for unparalleled success!

Excerpt;

Can you share your journey from starting your career in 2000 to founding Credentia Group in 2012, highlighting the key milestones and lessons learned along the way?

The first twelve years of my career, prior to founding Credentia®, have constituted an enriching learning phase during which I continually acquired insights into investment, banking, offshore business, structuring, business development, and client services. With a scientific background, my journey into finance started with banking, where I gained a deep understanding of banking's pivotal role within the broader financial ecosystem. I was involved in credit underwriting, which

provided me with exposure to various company structures. Subsequently, I transitioned to investment management, where I honed my skills in portfolio management and pension fund management and ultimately assumed responsibility for managing a listed fund.

The next phase of my knowledge gathering led me to become involved in the legal structuring of investments, and this experience opened a new world for me. During this time, I had the opportunity to collaborate with seasoned entrepreneurs and financiers, which allowed me to embark on what would eventually become my passion and my *raison d'être*—entrepreneurship. This phase of my career laid the foundation for a robust understanding of finance before the next turning point, which was the creation of Credentia® in 2012. I have always been passionate about entrepreneurship and the dream of founding my own company first took shape when I was sixteen years old. The Mauritian conglomerates fascinated me, and I aspired to one day establish a diversified group of companies.

Credentia Group has evolved into a diversified group of companies involved in various financial and advisory services. Could you elaborate on the different sectors your group operates in and some notable achievements within these sectors?

Indeed, over the years, Credentia® has undergone significant evolution. In 2023, we will have consolidated all our operations within the Cyberati® Group, which encompasses the brands Credentia®, Cyberati®, and Uniklik Concierge®.



Credentia operates as one of the brands under the Cyberati Group with three underlining companies, Credentia International, Credentia Global and Credentia International Seychelles. All our Financial Services (including FinTech & Capital Market) activities are organised under Credentia International, whereas our Outsourcing activities are housed under Credentia Global.

The Cyberati brand, combines our non-financial activities such as our Digital company, Concierge Services and Property Investment Management company and other none FinTech services.

Our newly launched brand, namely: Uniklik Concierge, is our latest pride and venture. The first of the industry services providers to offer a one-stop-shop tailored Concierge to International and local clients. It offers an invaluable approach to accompanying individuals catering to those who wish to create a business by investing in Mauritius and live in, work in and /or retire in Mauritius. Uniklik Concierge provides an accompaniment service from our specialist professionals on matters related to permits residency, company and estate planning formations, tax guidance, property investment and much more.

Furthermore, since our inception in 2012, we have grown from a work force of two people to over 48 in 2023. Along this journey, we have had many achievements, with one of our most recent milestones being our certification as a Great Place to Work, where 100% of our colleagues mentioned that when

they joined the company, they were made to feel welcomed. Within the financial services industry, Credentia® is considered the pioneer in the capital market segment. Our portfolio of clients currently includes top-tier international brokerage houses such as CGS-CIMB, CFI, ATFX, ALLNew Investments, Pepperstone, FP Markets, and many others. We have also been involved with some industry firsts, such as the listing of the first company trading in EURO on the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, successfully assisting our client in obtaining the first permanent residence permit as an investor, obtaining the first single family office licence for our client, and contributing towards the licencing of the first robotic and artificial intelligence-enabled advisory services for an international group.

Your entrepreneurial spirit has led to the creation of multiple start-ups. Could you tell us about one or two of your most recent ventures and their significance in the financial industry?

Credentia® International Seychelles Ltd. is another venture that has been recently launched and is our first foray outside Mauritius. This enterprise provides financial services and outsourcing services to firms registered in the Seychelles. We are looking forward to sharing our expertise gained over the last 10 years in Mauritius with the Seychelles, especially in the capital market segment, where we see huge potential. Our aim is to combine the strengths of Mauritius and the Seychelles and provide clients with expanded business opportunities.



The M&S foundation, launched by the Credentia Group in October 2021, focuses on helping children born with congenital anomalies. What inspired you to start this foundation, and what impact has it had so far?

The idea of creating the foundation has been tinkling in my mind for many years, as I believe that society conspires to make us what we are and what we become. Nobody is self-made but achieves professional and personal success with the help of all elements forming part of our society. In return for whatever society bestows on us, it is our duty to contribute to the same society and make life beautiful for others.

The M&S foundation (www.msfoundation.life) is dedicated to brightening the eyes of our children and ensuring they continue to shine throughout their lives. This is done through the financing of surgeries for newborns or children having serious health difficulties. The surgeries are life-changing and bring back the joy of life to our children. To achieve our goals, we are building a strong network of doctors, clinics, private hospitals, associations, and volunteers.

Since the inception of our foundation, we have facilitated ten surgeries in Mauritius and Rodrigues for children between the ages of 4 months and 5 years old. The surgeries so far handled through the foundation include club-foot correction, cleft-palate surgery, open 'Spina Bifida', and cryptorchidism.

Funding is received from group companies as well as from client companies. We are also looking forward to donations from the public and making them experience the fulfilment of contributing to the betterment of children's lives. Our foundation is managed transparently by a council, assisted by volunteers, and our accounts are made available on our website.

As a board member of CFI Financial Group and international companies listed on the stock exchange of Mauritius, could you discuss your role and contributions in these organisations and how they align with your overall vision for Credentia Group?

Certainly, as a board member of these licenced entities, my role and contributions are crucial for their success and direction. These entities form part of larger groups that are licenced in jurisdictions such as Australia, England, Cyprus, Dubai, and Singapore. The management and performance of these

entities in Mauritius could impact related companies outside Mauritius, which enhances my responsibility as a board member. My responsibilities are generally overseeing and guiding the organisation's strategic decisions, ensuring its financial health, and acting in the best interests of its stakeholders.

As a board member, I act as an advocate for these entities. I promote these entities' mission and values towards all stakeholders, such as regulators, banks, service providers, and others. Given the current emphasis laid on corporate governance, I recognise its fundamental importance in ensuring long-term sustainability, compliance with regulations, enhancing reputation, and safeguarding the interests of shareowners. My role is to guide the board and the sub-committees of the board to put in place a strong corporate governance framework that would help the entities achieve their goals and effectiveness.

The vision of Credentia® is aligned with that of these entities, as their success translates into our own success. We are committed to the continuous improvement of the services we provide to our clients, and their trust has made us the leader in the global market segment.

You were awarded the Distinguished CEO Impact Award at the 11th African Leadership Persons of the Year 2023 ceremony. Can you tell us about the achievements and initiatives that led to this recognition?

I respectfully appreciate the Distinguished CEO Impact Award at the 11th African Leadership Persons of the Year 2023 conferred on me this year. This recognition, of course, is a collective one, as there is a big team accompanying me in our quest to make a difference in the lives of people. Behind the team, there are families and friends who are very supportive. My journey has been enriching and successful, thanks to the support of all these people who believe in the vision of the group.

Over the course of my journey as founder of the group, there have been various initiatives that

Beyond business, the M&S Foundation reflects our dedication to brighter futures. The initiative has facilitated surgeries for children with congenital anomalies, a testament to our commitment to making a meaningful difference in society.

have contributed to garnering international recognition. We have achieved sustainable business growth and have made substantial contributions to the Mauritian economy. From a headcount of just two individuals in 2012 to over 48 persons as of date, we have created jobs at all levels, and we shall continue with this trend over the next two decades. Our group has been instrumental in attracting international corporations to do business in Mauritius and also in making more people discover our island nation. Today, we are proud that these groups have established their headquarters here and that they provide employment to the local workforce. They contribute directly or indirectly to various sectors, including banking, audit, transport, and real estate, while allowing government bodies to serve and exist.

From achieving sustainable business growth to attracting international corporations, our journey reflects dedication. Our social initiatives, like the M&S Foundation, stand as a testament to our mission to contribute to the betterment of society.

On the social front, our foundation, namely the M&S foundation, represents our commitment to contributing to society, and we are actively engaged in both Mauritius and Rodrigues. The work has just begun, and in 2024, we plan to expand this initiative to a national level. Here, I would like to thank our client companies for their contribution to Mauritian society through our foundation. This initiative stands as a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire team, as well as our mission to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people in Mauritius and Rodrigues. We remain committed to these initiatives and strive to continuously contribute to the betterment of the country and its people.

Credentia Group serves both private and institutional clients. What unique value propositions does your group offer to these clients, and how has it contributed to their success?

Since the beginning of our activities, we have maintained clear value propositions for our private and institutional clients. Our unique value propositions rest on the foundation of transparency, ethics, and trust, which have continued to shape our business to date. These propositions have contributed to the success of our clients by helping them achieve their financial goals, manage risks effectively, and

navigate the complexities of the financial landscape, all while delivering a high level of service and support. As the relationship with our clients has evolved over the years, we have observed a shared commitment towards the same values of trust, transparency, and ethics. I often remind my team that our business plan is encapsulated in three words: trust, transparency, and ethics. These principles have contributed to our success and that of our clients.

Another value proposition that has led to the success of our clients is our client-centric approach and our continuous investment to achieve this. We are confident that the level of service we provide to our private and institutional clients is unique and of superior quality to the average industry level.

With over 20 years of experience in the financial industry, what trends or shifts have you observed that are shaping the future of the financial advisory and related services sector?

The landscape of the financial and related services sector continues to evolve in an exponential manner. Going back to the 1990s, the first significant impact on the financial industry was the advent of the World Wide Web in 1993. Since then, there have been transformative changes in the financial industry, with one of the latest being the launch of ChatGPT in 2022. Along the way, cloud computing, mobile phone networks, and artificial intelligence have dispersed into all spheres of finance. Indeed, financial technology has brought about a substantial change in how we engage with finance today. This evolution necessitates rethinking how we organise our operations, how we leverage new technologies for the benefit of our clients, and how we adapt our service delivery from the traditional one-to-one human contact system to the introduction of a technology-to-client system.

We are witnessing the emergence of robotic advisory services in the finance sector, which represents a considerable improvement from traditional person-to-person advice. Mauritius has taken the lead in this regard, as the Mauritian authorities have already launched the Robotic and Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Advisory Services licence since 2021. Through robotic advisory, companies can provide cutting-edge advisory services that reduce costs and inefficiencies and improve the customer experience.



Nevertheless, it is crucial to remain very cautious and not be excessively reliant on the use of technology. The last 2008 global financial crash was caused by using financial instruments that had no connection to reality.

Can you share your vision for the future of Credentia Group and any upcoming projects or initiatives that you are particularly excited about?

Credentia® has evolved over the years and today forms part of the Cyberati® Group. This evolution has been essential as we have regrouped our activities under three brands, separating the financial activities from the low-risk non-financial activities. The vision of the group is two-fold. Firstly, we aspire to be first in the minds of our partners when they think of business, of relocation, of starting a new venture, or are looking for advice. On the same token, we also have a social vision: to create as many shiny eyes as possible through our foundation, namely the M&S foundation. We want to make an unthinkable difference in the lives of people.

One very exciting project that is very close to my heart is the creation of a fintech village where all our clients and our group companies would be housed. This village in a city will have international fintech brands, green spaces, leisure spaces, a gymnasium, a meditation centre, and many other features that will elevate our joy of living.

What specific strategies and initiatives do you have in mind for the strategic unveiling of “Doing Business in Mauritius” during the GAP-Forum event in London, and how do you plan to leverage the networks and platforms offered by African Leadership Magazine?

The GAP Forum is an African event outside Africa. It represents a huge opportunity for us to showcase the possibilities that we offer to the world, be it in terms of business or possible collaborations or alternatives to the current turbulent geopolitical landscape. The “Doing Business in Mauritius” platform is unique in the region and presents Mauritius as a country where the art of living threads through business, peace, culture, and opportunities. We are positioning Mauritius as “an island of opportunities” powered by our concierge offering “Uniklik Concierge®”. With this palette of services and a single platform, customers can navigate through the complexities of finance, real estate, taxation, permits, and regulators. Our group of companies is combining with international firms to offer services under one roof.

By rolling over these strategies and engaging with African Leadership Magazine’s networks and platforms, we are presenting Mauritius from a fresh perspective with the aim of attracting potential investors and business professionals to our island. Partnering with African Leadership Magazine is also raising awareness about opportunities in Mauritius, powered by our brands Cyberati®, Credentia®, and Uniklik Concierge®.

What is the expected role of the government of Mauritius in your laudable project of ‘Doing Business in Mauritius’?

We aspire to collaborate closely with the government of Mauritius for our “Doing Business in Mauritius” project. Presently, through the Economic Development Board, the government is doing excellent work to promote Mauritius as an International Financial Centre (IFC) as well as an attractive destination to live, invest, work, and retire. We see ourselves as capable partners in the government’s initiatives and aim to complement these efforts with a comprehensive suite of concierge services. Through our partners, we provide advice on critical matters not provided by the authorities, such as taxation, structuring advice, company set-up, bank account opening, etc. Our endeavour is to work hand-in-hand with the Government of Mauritius to create the ultimate customer experience.

Amidst the prevalent geopolitical challenges around the world, Mauritius stands out as being the most vibrant and peaceful democracy in Africa. This positions our country as the undisputed destination for individuals seeking a harmonious balance between work and life.

Lastly, can you share your vision for the future of doing business in Africa and how you see “Doing Business in Mauritius” playing a pivotal role in this vision?

For the past thirty years, Africa has been touted as the continent of the future. We need to ask ourselves: have those expectations been achieved? In my personal view, as a continent, those aspirations have not been realised. There are various reasons to explain why. For instance, today we still hear about war in Africa, about coups d’état, and about corruption and violence. In many countries, not much has changed over the years, while very few countries have progressed. Africa is abundant in resources, and yet others benefit from them while our gains remain relatively insignificant. By 2030, one in five people worldwide will be African, and in contrast, western and European populations are declining. We need to act and not live in a world of expectations.

Doing business in Africa will only benefit us if it is done according to our terms. By getting rid of the shackles of war, violence, and corruption, we will be able to reach the heights we are destined to. The tide is already flowing in our favour with a burgeoning middle class, a thriving e-commerce, fintech, and other digital startup industries, and diversification away from traditional sectors such as agriculture and extractive industries.

Doing business on the Mauritius platform can be extended to other regions, with the same concept being replicated in other African countries. We are already planning to replicate the concept in another African country in the first half of 2024.■





BANK OF GHANA'S DOMESTIC GOLD PURCHASE PROGRAMME



Bank of Ghana's Domestic Gold purchase programme, launched on 17th June 2021, has paved the way for the Bank to grow its foreign exchange reserves to foster confidence, enhance currency stability, create a more attractive environment for foreign direct investments and economic growth. It enables the Bank to leverage its gold holdings to raise a cheaper source of financing to provide short-term foreign exchange liquidity.

 www.bog.gov.gh  [thebankofghana](https://www.facebook.com/thebankofghana)  [thebankofghana](https://twitter.com/thebankofghana)

A portrait of Sanjeev K.S. Gopaul, CEO & Founder of Credentia Group, standing with his arms crossed in front of a brick wall. He is wearing a dark blue blazer over a blue shirt.

DOING BUSINESS IN MAURITIUS:

Sanjeev's Bold Vision for
African Commerce

Sanjeev K.S. Gopaul, CEO & Founder of Credentia Group, has steered an illustrious career spanning over two decades, from entering finance in 2000 to establishing Credentia Group in 2012. He navigated diverse financial sectors, carving a path rooted in innovation and entrepreneurial zeal. Reflecting on his journey, Sanjeev highlights pivotal milestones and lessons that shaped his ascendancy.

The early years of Sanjeev's career were a crucible for learning, immersed in banking, investment, and structuring realms. This phase instilled deep insights into financial mechanisms, credit underwriting, and investment management, eventually leading to managing a listed fund. His immersion in legal investment structuring marked a turning point, fueling a profound interest in entrepreneurship.

The genesis of Credentia Group in 2012 marked a lifelong dream realized. Sanjeev's fascination with Mauritian conglomerates sparked a vision to establish a diversified conglomerate, culminating in Credentia Group's inception.

Credentia Group's evolution has been noteworthy, consolidating its operations under the Cyberati® Group umbrella. This conglomerate encompasses Credentia®, Cyberati®, and Uniklik Concierge® brands, bridging financial and non-financial services.

Under Credentia®, the group operates globally, with Credentia® International and Credentia® Global focusing on financial and outsourcing activities. Cyberati® encompasses property and fintech clusters, while the recently launched Uniklik Concierge® pioneers a comprehensive one-stop service for diverse client needs in Mauritius.

Among Sanjeev's recent ventures, "Doing Business in Mauritius" through Uniklik Concierge® stands as proof of streamlining services catering to individuals seeking opportunities in Mauritius. Moreover, the establishment of Credentia® International Seychelles Ltd. marks the group's expansion beyond Mauritius.

Sanjeev's dedication to societal contribution is evident through the M&S Foundation, devoted to aiding children with congenital anomalies. Facilitating surgeries and transforming lives, the foundation epitomizes the group's commitment to impacting communities positively.

Sanjeev's board membership in various esteemed financial entities accentuates his role in strategic decision-making, governance, and upholding values. His contributions align with Credentia Group's vision, fostering excellence and sustainability.

Sanjeev's recognition as a Distinguished CEO Impact Award recipient echoes Credentia Group's trajectory, underpinned by sustainable growth and societal contributions. His vision resonates with creating vibrant ecosystems and innovative financial platforms.

Reflecting on the industry's evolution, Sanjeev spotlights technological interventions reshaping finance. Embracing robotic advisory services and leveraging technology cautiously, he envisions a dynamic yet cautious approach to navigating the sector's future.

The group's evolution under the Cyberati® banner envisions fostering partnerships and propelling societal change. Sanjeev's fervent aspirations focus on creating a fintech village and expanding initiatives for societal welfare.

Sanjeev articulates a vision for Africa's transformation, urging action over mere expectations. Emphasizing the need to break free from strife and corruption, he champions Africa's potential, foreseeing the Mauritius platform's extension across the continent.

Sanjeev envisions replicating Mauritius' success across Africa, advocating for a future that transcends geopolitical challenges. Collaborating with African Leadership Magazine, the GAP Forum marks an opportunity to showcase Mauritius' allure.

Sanjeev underscores collaboration with the Mauritian government, aiming to enhance Mauritius' image as an international hub. Fostering partnerships, the group aims to deliver a seamless experience through Uniklik Concierge®.

Looking ahead, Sanjeev aims for a more progressive Africa, built on a foundation of collaboration and innovation. Proposing extensions of the Mauritius platform across Africa, he champions a transformative narrative for the continent.

Sanjeev K.S Gopaul's narrative embodies an odyssey from finance to entrepreneurship, underscored by innovation, societal impact, and a vision for transforming business landscapes, heralding a promising future for Mauritius and Africa at large. ■

Credentia Group's evolution under the Cyberati® umbrella reflects a commitment to excellence. From pioneering financial and non-financial services to societal contributions through the M&S Foundation, Gopaul's leadership emphasizes sustainable growth and positive impact, epitomizing the group's trajectory.



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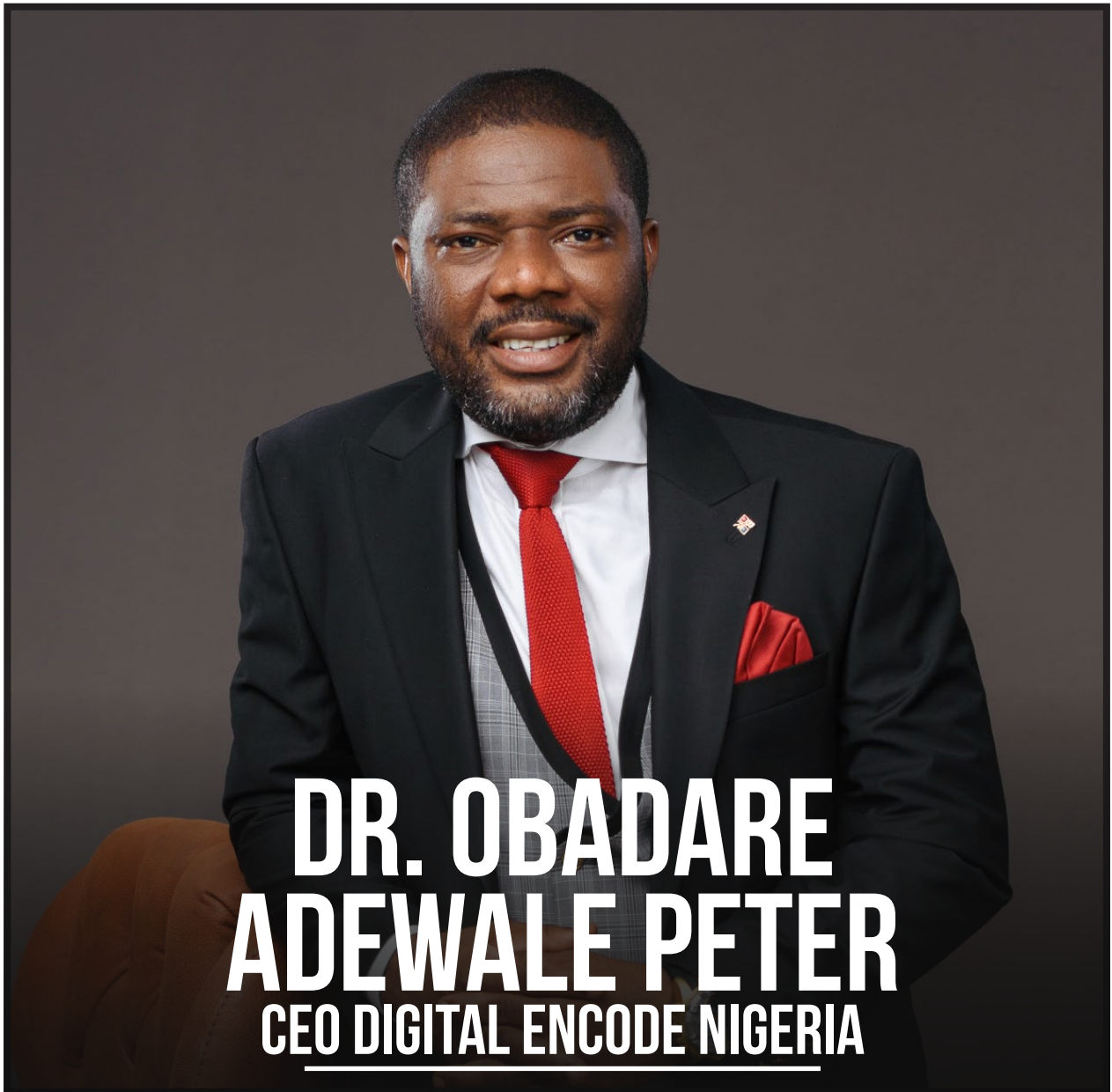
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ILLUMINATING THE CYBERSECURITY LANDSCAPE:

A Journey with
Digital Encode Ltd.

In the fast-evolving realm of cybersecurity, Dr. Obadare Adewale Peter stands as a luminary, shaping the landscape through his unmatched leadership at Digital Encode Ltd. In an exclusive interview with African Leadership Magazine, Dr. Obadare unveils the transformative journey that led to the inception of Digital Encode. Born out of necessity, Digital Encode emerged in 2003 as a means of survival for Dr. Obadare, who, as an accidental entrepreneur, embarked on a path to cybersecurity prominence. His inspiring tale, from selling Maggie on the Eko Idumota bridge to becoming a cybersecurity pioneer, underscores resilience, determination, and the power of a compelling vision.

Moving beyond corporate achievements, Dr. Obadare highlights the awareness of cyber threats in both the private and government sectors. Drawing on his extensive experience, he discusses the potential consequences governments may face if they do not proactively implement cybersecurity structures. His insights paint a vivid picture of the imminent global cyber-pandemic and the critical role governments play in securing national infrastructure.

Dr. Obadare's personal journey, underscoring the four pillars of perspiration, persistence, perseverance, and praise that have shaped his leadership style. He shares his commitment to mentorship and education, expressing a deep-seated belief in giving back to society. With a forward-looking perspective, Dr. Obadare Adewale Peter provides invaluable advice for aspiring cybersecurity professionals, emphasising the importance of a balanced approach that combines theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and effective interpersonal relationships.

In the grand tapestry of his legacy, Dr. Obadare envisions Digital Encode as a beacon of light, illuminating Africa's cybersecurity landscape with unparalleled value and commitment. At the individual level, his legacy extends to inspiring future generations, proving that with resilience and determination, anyone can navigate the challenging yet rewarding path of cybersecurity. It is a story of triumph, education, and mentorship that resonates not just in Africa but across the global cybersecurity community.

Your journey with Digital Encode Ltd. has played a pivotal role in shaping the cybersecurity landscape. Could you share the defining moment or inspiration that led to its inception and your vision for its impact?

I'd like to revisit the inception of Digital Encode, a topic I've covered in numerous interviews. Often, when people see me today, they perceive me as audacious. However, the truth is, Digital Encode began as a survival strategy during my accidental entry into entrepreneurship. This journey wasn't a sudden desire to be an entrepreneur; it was a response to the need for survival. I refer to myself as an accidental entrepreneur because, initially, my path wasn't about waking up one day and deciding to be an entrepreneur. It was a means to survive. Allow me to briefly share my background: I finished secondary school in 1992 and faced delays in my education due to financial constraints. I've even sold goods on the Eko Idumota bridge for a living. When I finally secured admission to the Federal Polytechnic Ede, Osun State in 1998 to study electrical electronics, I was already 30 years old. The realization struck that completing my BSc at 33 would limit job opportunities, as most employers sought

individuals under 25. Faced with this reality, I dropped out of Lagos State University, where I was studying computer science, despite having completed my OND.

My journey into information technology began during my internship in 1999, where I had the opportunity to work with a leading computer services firm. This exposure ignited my interest in IT. Through self-evaluation and guidance from the Holy Spirit, I decided to pursue professional certifications. I started by assembling computer systems and registered Digital Encode as a business name, eventually becoming a limited liability company. My transition from a purely technical role to an entrepreneur took a significant turn when I joined Fate Foundation, a center for aspiring entrepreneurs. This experience provided a 360-degree mindset change, transforming me from an accidental entrepreneur to a disciplined one. Fate Foundation instilled purpose and structure in my entrepreneurial journey, laying the foundation for Digital Encode. We recently celebrated our 20th anniversary in July, and the journey continues.

Your list of accolades, including recognition from Forbes and various industry awards, speaks volumes about your contributions. What do you consider the most pivotal milestone in your career thus far, and how has it influenced your approach to cybersecurity leadership?

I consider myself one of the most credentialed cybersecurity professionals in Africa, holding over sixty-six international certifications. I've completed a master's degree in cybersecurity from Liverpool University and am currently pursuing another master's degree from Oxford University's business school. Additionally, I hold a doctorate in cybersecurity from Trinity International University in Atlanta, Georgia.

Looking ahead, the future of cybersecurity appears promising. Over the last two decades, technology has evolved from digitization to digitalization and, currently, to digital transformation. This evolution has permeated every aspect of business and personal life, necessitating a heightened focus on

As a cybersecurity pioneer, my legacy extends beyond corporate achievements, inspiring future generations to navigate the challenging yet rewarding path of cybersecurity.



cybersecurity. The use of technology brings inherent risks, including technology, people, and process risks. As organizations and individuals continue to leverage technology for business transformation, the demand for cybersecurity becomes paramount. The evolving landscape of technology requires constant adaptation in cybersecurity measures to ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information. In essence, as technology usage expands, cybersecurity will continue to evolve, offering protection against various digital threats such as hackers, cybercriminals, and ransomware attacks – which I sometimes refer to as digital kidnapping. The need for robust cybersecurity measures will persist as we navigate the ever-changing digital landscape.

As a leader, how do you ensure that Digital Encode plays a role in Cybersecurity?

Great question. Firstly, we attribute all glory to God. Celebrating 20 years is a testament to our resilience, surpassing the average startup lifespan. The title “Chief Visionary” reflects a clear vision for Digital Encode’s future. Our vision for the first two decades was to be the

top information technology assurance service provider in Africa. This entails assisting organizations, from small to large enterprises and government agencies, in safeguarding their information assets. Our mission is to serve as a trusted advisor, ensuring the security of IT infrastructure as organizations embrace technology. Digital Encode has successfully supported numerous organizations across Africa, aiding them in standardizing their environments through international best practices. For example, we have assisted in obtaining ISO 27001 certification, a global standard for Information Security Management Systems, emphasizing the holistic protection of information assets. Our focus extends beyond technology, encompassing process standardization, capacity building for individuals, and ensuring the correct implementation of technology for security. With our track record, Digital Encode is a multi-award-winning organization in cybersecurity, governance, risk, compliance, and human capacity. Our next goal is to become Africa’s first cybersecurity unicorn, emphasizing investment in our people’s knowledge and creating an enabling environment for Digital Encode to thrive.

How aware are individuals, governments, and private sectors of cyber threats?

I’ll approach this question from two dimensions: awareness and action. There is significant awareness of cybersecurity threats, trends, and issues across individuals, governments, and private sectors. However, the real challenge lies in the proactive measures taken in response to this awareness. In the private sector, particularly in financial institutions, there is a high level of proactivity due to their exposure to numerous transactions, including e-payments, web payments, ATM transactions, and mobile payments. The constant threat of cyber attacks and electronic fraud forces financial institutions to implement robust cybersecurity controls spanning people, processes, and technology. On the other hand, government entities, though aware, exhibit a lower maturity level in proactively implementing cybersecurity measures. In contrast to first-world counterparts, where governments often surpass the private sector in cybersecurity sophistication, our local governments need to enhance their proactiveness in establishing effective information security controls. The private sector, especially financial institutions, leads in this aspect, highlighting the need for improved cybersecurity measures in the government sector.

What would be the consequences for the government if they did not put the structures in place?

The consequences are unequivocal. A notable security solution provider, Checkpoint, has reported that the next global crisis could be a cyber-pandemic. Similar to the biological pandemic of COVID-19, this cyber-pandemic poses a significant threat, especially for governments responsible for critical national infrastructure. Failure to proactively address cybersecurity and implement robust controls could result in a country's paralysis. The vulnerability of national infrastructure to malicious activities could lead to nation-state attacks, surpassing conventional cyber theft. Governments must recognize the urgency of strengthening cybersecurity measures, drawing lessons from incidents like Estonia's experience. It is crucial for African governments to act promptly and become proactive in cybersecurity to avert potential significant losses during the impending global cyber pandemic.

Your academic pursuits, notably earning a Doctor of Human Letters in Cybersecurity and various executive education programs, demonstrate a commitment to continuous learning. How have these experiences shaped your leadership style and the strategic direction of Digital Encode Ltd.?

Life often throws challenges at us, and as the saying goes, when life gives you lemons, make lemonade. My journey, like many others, has been characterized by perspiration, persistence, and praise. Perspiration, representing hard work, is essential, but it alone might not guarantee success. Persistence demands consistent effort, and perseverance requires patient and delayed gratification. The fourth P, praise or gratitude to God, adds a sense of fulfillment to the journey. These four Ps – perspiration, persistence, perseverance, and praise – have significantly influenced my leadership style. When guiding my staff, I emphasize the importance of these principles, reminding them that cybersecurity expertise is cultivated through hard work, consistency, patience, and a grateful mindset. This philosophy shapes Digital Encode's strategic direction, fostering a culture of dedication, resilience, and appreciation.

Mentorship and education are integral components of your activities. Could you share a memorable experience from your role as an educator or mentor

that illustrates the impact you aim to achieve in shaping the next generation of cybersecurity professionals?

Given my spiritual background, the act of giving back is ingrained in my life. I have directly mentored over a thousand individuals and indirectly impacted nearly 2000 more, drawing inspiration from those who influenced me, starting with my mother. Her guidance instilled in me the belief that one's background does not dictate their life's outcome. This philosophy fuels my commitment to share my life experiences across various domains, encouraging others to recognize their potential. The aim is to convey the message that regardless of one's starting point, continuous improvement is achievable. I'm considering establishing a foundation to formalize this commitment, but even informally, I consistently encourage everyone to strive for personal and professional growth, as there is always room for improvement.

You've been acknowledged as a pioneering figure in cybersecurity. What advice would you offer to aspiring entrepreneurs or professionals aiming to make a significant impact in the cybersecurity realm, especially within Africa?

For aspiring individuals venturing into cybersecurity, I would like to address some common misconceptions about this field. While cybersecurity is undoubtedly one of the most lucrative careers globally, my advice revolves around what I call the 'three-dimensional traits of a cybersecurity professional.' Let's delve into these three crucial traits.

The first dimension is cognitive competence, which involves obtaining professional certifications. These certifications provide the theoretical foundation and knowledge required for cybersecurity. However, it's essential to recognize that this is just the starting point.

Moving to the second dimension, we have functional competence. This involves translating theoretical knowledge into practical, implementable skills. Acquiring practical knowledge is crucial, as it becomes your performance currency. Many individuals falter

Cybersecurity is more than cognitive competence; it requires a balance of theoretical knowledge, practical skills, and effective interpersonal relationships.

by stopping at the theoretical stage, missing the opportunity to enhance their practical capabilities.

The third and equally important dimension is social competence, representing your relationship currency. Effectively communicating and interacting with others is vital in cybersecurity. Whether writing reports or dealing with top management, your ability to convey complex cybersecurity concepts into actionable plans is crucial. Building strong social currency ensures success in various cybersecurity roles.

In summary, you need cognitive competence for theoretical knowledge, functional competence for practical skills, and social competence for effective communication and relationship-building. Balancing these three traits is key to achieving success in the dynamic field of cybersecurity.

Reflecting on your journey so far, what legacy do you hope to leave behind within the sphere of cybersecurity, and what steps do you believe are crucial for fortifying a secure digital future not just for Africa but on a global scale?

The legacy I aspire to leave within the

cybersecurity sphere is to be a beacon of light, illuminating the path for others. This legacy unfolds in two dimensions.

Firstly, at the company level (Digital Encode), the goal is to be a leading force in cybersecurity, dispelling the misconception of a dark cloud over Africa. By consistently delivering high-quality services, exceeding client expectations, and adhering to a Total Quality Management System, Digital Encode aims to set a standard not just in Africa but on a global scale.

On a more personal level, the legacy involves inspiring younger generations. As a pioneer in cybersecurity in Nigeria, my mission is to demonstrate that success in this field is achievable. By mentoring and motivating others, I aim to foster a mindset that emphasizes the marathon rather than the sprint, ensuring a lasting impact on the cybersecurity landscape worldwide. ■



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**Dr. Obadare
Peter Adewale**

Founder, Digital
Encode Limited

A portrait of Dr. Obadare Peter Adewale, a Black man with a beard, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. He is sitting in a brown leather chair. The background is dark. The text is overlaid on the image.

THE MOST “CREDENTIALIALED” PAN-AFRICAN DIGITAL TRUST LEADER

Dr. Obadare Peter Adewale, the founder and Chief Visionary Officer (CVO) of Digital Encode Limited, emerges as a central figure in the sphere of digital trust leadership. His influence extends beyond mere recognition; it serves as a benchmark for others to follow in the ever-evolving landscape of cybersecurity.

Undoubtedly, Dr. Adewale stands out as the most “Credentialed” PAN-African Digital Trust Leader, embodying the roles of a cybersecurity strategist and governance, risk, and compliance (GRC) thought leader. His journey is akin to a roadmap for success in the dynamic domain of digital security.

Being a Fellow of esteemed organisations such as the British Computer Society (FBCS), the Institute of Management Consultants (FIMC), the Institute of Information Management (FIIM), Enterprise Security Risk Management (FESRM), and the Institute of Brand Management (FIBM) reinforces his commitment to excellence. Additionally, holding titles like Chartered Information Technology Professional (CITP-UK) and Chartered Risk Manager (CRM-Nigeria) accentuates his stature.

Dr. Adewale’s pioneering spirit is evident in his acquisition of certifications, marking milestones like being the first PECB Certified Data Protection Officer (CDPO) in Nigeria, the first PECB Lead Pentest Professional in Nigeria, and the first global PECB Certified Digital Transformation Officer (CDTO). These achievements resonate globally, solidifying his impact.

Global recognition further crowns his accomplishments, with memberships in prestigious bodies like the Forbes Technology Council and acknowledgment as the Forbes Best of Africa Outstanding Digital Trust Leader 2023 Awardee.

Moving into the academic sphere, Dr. Adewale’s educational journey is no less impressive. Holding a Master of Science in Cybersecurity from Liverpool University, UK, is just the starting point. His commitment to the field is underscored by his Honorary Doctorate Degree in Cybersecurity from Trinity International University of Ambassadors in Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America.

Beyond traditional education, Dr. Adewale’s status as an alumnus of executive education at institutions like Harvard Business School, Harvard School of Government, MIT Sloan School of Management, MIT Professional Education, and Oxford University-Saïd Business School portrays him as a lifelong learner and a thought leader.

His expertise extends across a myriad of domains, making him a seasoned expert in data privacy, data protection, cybersecurity, information security, vulnerability management, penetration testing, computer forensics, business continuity, IT governance, risk management, and compliance.

Collaboration is at the core of Dr. Adewale’s impact, evident in his roles as a Platinum Team Member of the Open-Source Security Testing Methodology Manual (OSSTMM) and a lifetime member of the Open Worldwide Application Security Project (OWASP). These affiliations contribute significantly to the growth and development of cybersecurity practices on a global scale.

His global exposure, acknowledged through his distinguished alumnus status from the FATE Foundation and the US Department of State Exchange programme, solidifies his commitment to continuous learning and collaboration.

In conclusion, in a landscape where digital trust holds paramount significance, Dr. Obadare Peter Adewale emerges as a beacon of excellence. His unparalleled credentials, global recognitions, and resolute commitment to advancing cybersecurity mark him as the most “Credentialed” PAN-African Digital Trust Leader. ■

As a cybersecurity pioneer, my legacy extends beyond corporate achievements, inspiring future generations to navigate the challenging yet rewarding path of cybersecurity.

African Leadership

PHILANTHROPY



OLORI ATUWATSE III
OLORI OF WARRI KINGDOM

UNLOCKING POTENTIAL EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

STEM AND INNOVATION LAB

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UNLOCKING POTENTIAL, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

An Exclusive Interview with
the Olori of Warri Kingdom

..... Step into the transformative world of community leadership and empowerment! Delve into the inspiring journey of the Olori of the Warri Kingdom, the visionary driving force behind several initiatives reshaping lives in Warri, Nigeria.

Discover the innovative blend of agriculture, education, and empowerment through the groundbreaking Love Garden Project. Join us as we uncover the extraordinary milestones, the ethos, and the heartfelt mission of the Royal Iwere Foundation. Get ready to be inspired, uplifted, and enlightened as we explore the incredible story behind this impactful endeavor as the Olori speaks with us in an exclusive interview.

Your Love Garden Project in Iyara Community, Warri, has garnered significant attention. Could you share the inspiration behind initiating this agricultural endeavor and the impact it has had on the local community?

The Love Garden Project in Iyara, launched in February 2022, aims to offer food security and education to children. It's a multi-layered initiative teaching life lessons like patience, confidence, and resilience through practical gardening. The project encourages children to thrive beyond their circumstances and also imparts entrepreneurial skills. By introducing market days, the project teaches real-world lessons and fosters self-sustainability.

The Love Garden Project seems to blend agriculture with education, particularly benefiting schools like Ikengbuwa Primary School. How has this initiative contributed to fostering a learning environment and holistic development among children?

The Love Garden Project in schools like Ikengbuwa Grammar School includes an educational garden and an adjacent playground. This setup promotes fun learning and encourages children to attend school while expanding teaching beyond traditional classrooms.

Your focus on Agro-tech and innovative farming techniques in the Love Garden Project has brought forth success in agriculture within the Iyara Community. Can you share some key achievements or milestones achieved through these modern farming practices?

The Love Garden Project's modern farming techniques have led to the opening of three gardens and plans for an agricultural skills institute to train in agribusiness and diversification of produce.

The Royal Iwere Foundation has made notable strides in various

sectors, including education, women's empowerment, and healthcare. Can you discuss the foundation's primary goals and its role in shaping the community's mindset for a more fulfilling life?

Our foundation's primary goal is unlocking every human being's potential by different methodologies in education, empowerment, and healthcare.

Tell us more about the Warri Women Enterprise Fund.

The Warri Women Enterprise Fund was initiated to empower market women with financial and digital literacy, encouraging entrepreneurship through micro-loans. Our aim is to reach 1,000 market women, equipping them with digital and entrepreneurial skills for the future.

Your project is capital intensive. How do you hope to raise the needed funds?

Funding for the project has been self-supported, but I aim to partner with organizations sharing our vision for impact. Our Royal Iwere Foundation aims to unlock human potential through education, empowerment, digital training, skills development, healthcare initiatives, and partnerships.

What message do you have for such organizations?

I encourage organizations interested in education, empowerment, and community development to partner with us.

What would you like to add?

As a leader, I see serving people as my highest call. I aim to bring positive change, a better economy, lives, and society. Thank you for the opportunity.■

The Love Garden Project in Iyara, launched in February 2022, aims to offer food security and education to children. It's a multi-layered initiative teaching life lessons like patience, confidence, and resilience through practical gardening.

STEM AND INNOVATION LAB



The partnership between CleverMinds Educational Foundation and the Royal Iwere Foundation for the Captain Dr. Idahosa Wells Okunbo STEM and Innovation Lab in Iyara Community: Empowering Warri and the Niger Delta through STEM Education for Orphaned and Underprivileged Children

Introduction:

CleverMinds Foundation, in partnership with Her Royal Majesty Olori Atuwatse III through the Royal Iwere Foundation, has successfully established the Captain Dr. Idahosa Wells Okunbo STEM and Innovation Lab in Iyara, Warri. This pioneering initiative aims to provide orphaned and underprivileged children in the slum area access to quality STEM education through an engaging and interactive learning center.

Objectives:

The partnership between CleverMinds Educational Foundation and the Royal Iwere Foundation seeks to achieve the following objectives through the Captain Dr. Idahosa Wells Okunbo STEM and Innovation Lab:

1. Provide Access to STEM Education:

The STEM Lab serves as a platform for children from underserved communities to access quality STEM education, empowering them with the knowledge and skills needed for personal and academic growth.

2. Foster Creativity and Innovation:

The STEM Lab encourages children to unleash their creativity, curiosity, and innovation through hands-on activities, projects, and challenges, fostering a culture of critical thinking and problem-solving.

3. Promote Inclusivity: The STEM Lab is designed to be inclusive, catering to the needs of orphaned and indigent children from different slum areas in Warri, promoting inclusivity and addressing the educational gap among underserved communities.

4. Inspire Interest in STEM: The STEM Lab provides an exciting and stimulating environment for children to explore and experiment with STEM concepts, igniting their interest and passion for STEM fields at an early age, potentially inspiring future careers in STEM.

Activities and Benefits:

The Captain Dr Idahosa Wells Okunbo STEM and Innovation Lab offers a diverse range of activities that provide immense benefits to the children and the community:

1. Engaging STEM Activities: The STEM Lab offers a wide array of activities such as digital labs, coding challenges, robotics kits, prototyping with 3D printers, physical computing with Arduino, and multimedia content. These activities enable children to learn, experiment, and create using cutting-edge technologies, nurturing their interest and skills in STEM.

2. Skill Development: The STEM Lab equips children with valuable skills such as coding, programming, robotics, 3D printing, and physical computing, which are highly relevant in today's technology-driven world. These skills can open up future opportunities for higher education and careers in STEM fields.

3. Holistic Development: The STEM Lab not only focuses on technical skills but also fosters holistic development. Through teamwork, critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity, children develop a well-rounded skill set that can benefit them in various aspects of their lives.

4. Empowered Communities: The establishment of the STEM Lab empowers the local community by providing access to advanced STEM education, creating opportunities for socio-economic development, and uplifting the lives of orphaned and underprivileged children.

5. Future Leaders in STEM: The STEM Lab aims to inspire and nurture the next generation of leaders in STEM fields. By providing early exposure and access to STEM education, the Lab aims to create a pipeline of skilled and talented individuals who can contribute to the development of Warri, the Niger Delta, and beyond.

Conclusion:

The partnership between CleverMinds Educational Foundation and the Royal Iwere Foundation has successfully established the Captain Dr Idahosa Wells Okunbo STEM and Innovation Lab in Iyara, Warri, to provide orphaned and underprivileged children with access to quality STEM education. Through engaging activities, skill development, and holistic empowerment, the STEM Lab aims to inspire and nurture future leaders in STEM. ■





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GUARDIANS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH:

FINANCE LEADERSHIP

Africa's Core Central Bank Governors of 2023

By Blossom Ukoha

In the intricate dance of global economics, the African Central Bank Governors emerge as key orchestrators, wielding immense influence through their deftly crafted monetary policies. In the domain of fiscal intricacies, these leaders meticulously steer their nations towards stability and growth. Their strategies resonate across borders, influencing not just local economies but also shaping their region and the broader continent's financial landscape. As the year 2023 unfolded, their decisions became pivotal brushstrokes on the canvas of Africa's financial destiny.



The term “monetary policy” describes the precise measures the Central Bank takes to control the amount, cost, and value of money in the economy to meet the macroeconomic goals of the government.

In many nations, the laws that establish the central bank specifically declare the goals of monetary policy; in other nations, they do not. While monetary policy goals might differ from nation to nation, there are two basic schools of thought. While the second approach aims to achieve price stability and other macroeconomic goals, the first view advocates for monetary policy to achieve price stability, and these decisions are doled out by the governors. “In monetary policy, African Central Bank governors are the architects of economic resilience, shaping a future where stability and growth coalesce.” Economic Analyst, Jane M. Financials.

The Central Bank of West African States maintains regional stability with an inflation target of 2%, managing credit growth, and adapting to global challenges, showcasing a commitment to fostering economic stability and inclusive growth.

The function of central banks in guiding a country’s financial course is critical in the dynamic world of global economics. This article lists the outstanding monetary policies of twenty African Central Bank governors. These influential people’s financial plans for 2023 not only show their dedication to stability but also influence the course of their respective countries’ economies.

Hassan Abdullah: The Central Bank of Egypt’s (CBE) 2023 Monetary Policies

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) navigated a turbulent year in 2023, juggling conflicting priorities amid an inflationary environment, global uncertainties, and a continued focus on economic growth. Here’s a summary of their key monetary policies:

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) has implemented a cautious approach to managing inflation, gradually raising key interest rates to curb credit growth. The CBE has also adopted a flexible exchange rate policy to preserve foreign exchange reserves and boost export competitiveness. The CBE has also implemented targeted credit facilities for priority sectors and collaborated with the government on growth initiatives.

Hussein Yahya Jangoul al-Basha: Sudan’s Monetary Policies in 2023

Sudan’s monetary policies in 2023 were shaped by an extremely challenging economic

environment, marked by political instability, armed conflict, and severe food insecurity.

The Central Bank of Sudan (CBOS) aimed to stabilise the Sudanese Pound (SDG) through controlled depreciation, currency auctions, and tightening monetary policy. However, inflation reached unprecedented levels in 2023, driven by depreciation, food price hikes, and supply chain disruptions. Additional measures were needed to control inflation.

Tightening Monetary Policy: The CBOS increased reserve requirements for banks, limiting their lending capacity and aiming to reduce the money supply and curb inflation.

Central Bank of Mauritius Monetary Policies in 2023

Harvesh Kumar Seegolam, the Bank of Mauritius (BoM), implemented a cautious and accommodative monetary policy stance in 2023.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) plans to reduce headline inflation to 2-5% by 2024 and maintain real GDP growth between 6.5-7.5% in 2023. Measures include a new monetary policy framework, open market operations, and 12% reserve requirements for commercial banks.

South Sudan’s Monetary Policies in 2023

The Bank of South Sudan (BoSS) aims to stabilise the economy by managing inflation, maintaining exchange rate stability, improving financial stability, supporting economic growth, and increasing foreign exchange reserves.

The BoSS, under James Alic Garang’s leadership, has implemented currency auctions, strengthened the banking system, encouraged business lending, and boosted foreign exchange reserves. It uses the Reserve Money Targeting Framework to manage monetary policy, releases a yearly statement, and regularly holds currency auctions to stabilise the SSP.

Dr. Denny Kalyalya, The Bank of Zambia (BoZ)

The Bank of Zambia (BoZ) is the central bank of Zambia, with headquarters centered in Lusaka. The bank’s major duty is to formulate and carry out monetary policies that preserve the nation’s economic stability. The Bank is a prominent member of the Alliance for Financial Inclusion and actively advocates for policies about financial inclusion.

Announced by Governor Dr. Denny Kalyalya, the Bank of Zambia raised the monetary policy rate by 50 basis points to 10.0% in July 2023, and in November 2023, he raised the monetary

policy rate by 100 basis points to 11.0%. This decision was informed by recent and projected inflation, moving further away from the 6-8% target band.

Salah Eddine Taleb, Bank of Algeria

Under the Bank of Algeria’s monetary policies in 2023, under the leadership of Salah Eddine Taleb, the Governor of the Bank has struck a balance between promoting economic growth and the need to keep inflation under check.

The Central Bank maintained a 3% discount rate for 2023 to encourage borrowing and economic activity. To reduce inflation, the bank implemented policies like raising reserve needs and open market operations. Inflation reached 9.7% in 2022 and is expected to reach 8.1% in 2023. Despite challenges, Algeria’s economy grew robustly in 2023 due to rising hydrocarbon costs and public spending.

The Bank of the Republic of Burundi’s Monetary Policies in 2023

In 2023, the Banque de la République du Burundi (BRB) Governor, Jean Ciza, harnessed the country’s central bank and managed a difficult economic environment by enacting monetary policies meant to curb inflation and promote financial stability.

The BRB set a 5% +/- 2% inflation target to support economic expansion and price stability. To achieve this, they tightened monetary policy by raising the reserve requirement ratio and raising the minimum lending rate.

The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL)

In keeping with the mandate of the bank, to promote macroeconomics and financial stability in the nation, the Governor of the Central Bank of Liberia, J. Aloysius Tarlue, and board members took the following decision:

The Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) in Liberia has been raised from 15% to 17.5% to manage inflation and maintain reserve requirement ratios. The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has allowed commercial banks to contract Liberian currency outside the banking system and encouraged secondary market transactions for liquidity management. The decision was made due to global growth’s downward trend and high headline inflation.

South African Reserve Bank

According to Lesetja Kganyago, the Governor of the South African Reserve Bank “As we approach the end of the year, easing headline inflation and modest economic growth remain

the dominant global economic trends of this past year. Output in the Euro Area is poor, while the robust growth seen in North America is likely to moderate. China’s growth performance is still weak, with few benefits for global commodity prices. Across most regions, monetary policy will continue to focus on achieving inflation targets, while high debt levels will require fiscal consolidation efforts. In the developing world, financing conditions are expected to remain tight and growth moderate.”

With high interest rates and uncertainty, financial markets and asset prices are expected to remain volatile, dampening investor appetite and capital flows. Taking these and other factors into account, the SARB’s forecast for global growth in 2023 is broadly unchanged at 2.7% (from 2.6%) and 2.6% in 2024.

The policy stance aims to anchor inflation expectations more firmly around the midpoint of the target band and to increase confidence in attaining the inflation target sustainably over time. The MPC will seek to look through temporary price shocks and focus on potential second-round effects and the risks of de-anchoring inflation expectations.

Bank of Tanzania’s Monetary Policies in 2023

In 2023, Emmanuel Mpawe Tutuba, the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT), had to balance the necessity of keeping inflation under control with the promotion of economic growth and the preservation of currency rate stability. The following outlines their main policies:

The Bank of Tanzania tightened its monetary policy, initially targeting a 7% inflation target. However, the target was later reduced to 5.3%. Despite a 5% drop in inflation, it remains higher than the original goal. The Tanzanian government aims to support economic growth, with a 5.3% growth forecast in 2023.

Kamau Thugge: The Central Bank of Kenya’s Monetary Policies in 2023

The Central Bank of Kenya (CBK) faced a turbulent year in 2023, marked by global economic shocks, rising inflation, and a depreciating Kenyan shilling. Their monetary policies aim to:

The Kenyan Central Bank (CBK) initially maintained a stable Central Bank Rate (CBR)

In the intricate dance of global economics, African Central Bank Governors emerge as key orchestrators, wielding immense influence through their deftly crafted monetary policies.

Economic resilience in Africa is shaped by the architects of stability – the African Central Bank governors, where decisions become pivotal brushstrokes on the canvas of Africa's financial destiny.

of 10.50% to control inflation. However, as inflation soared to 9.2%, two aggressive rate hikes were taken, bringing the CBR to 12.50% by December. The CBK also intervened in the forex market to stabilise the shilling and support economic growth.

Dr. Ernest Kwamina Addison: Ghana's monetary policies in 2023

A difficult economic environment in 2023 that included growing inflation, currency depreciation, and headwinds to the world economy influenced Ghana's monetary policies. To strike a balance between promoting economic growth and maintaining price stability, the Bank of Ghana (BoG) used a cautious and data-driven approach. Below is an overview of their main initiatives:

The Bank of Ghana (BoG) has addressed inflation by raising the monetary policy rate from 14.5% to 30%, stabilising the Ghanaian cedi, and promoting economic growth. The BoG has also intervened in the foreign exchange market to smooth volatility and encourage foreign direct investment. It has also implemented special credit facilities for priority sectors and strengthened the banking system to ensure financial inclusion.

Hon. Buah Saidy: Gambia's monetary policies in 2023

The Gambia's monetary policies in 2023 were primarily focused on tackling inflation and stabilising the economy in the face of global challenges. Here's a summary of the key points:

The Central Bank of the Gambia (CBG) responded to inflation by increasing the monetary policy rate and reducing reserve money growth. Despite inflation concerns, the Gambian economy showed resilience, with projections of 4.3% growth in 2022 and 5.5% for 2023--2025. CBG focused on balancing inflation control with economic activity.

Karamo Kaba: 2023 Monetary Policies of the Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea

The Central Bank of the Republic of Guinea (BCRG) implemented a cautious and accommodative monetary policy stance in 2023, aiming to balance price stability with economic growth. Here are some key points about their policies:

The Guinea Central Bank (BCRG) has implemented a targeted inflation rate of 8% +/- 2% and tightened monetary policy to curb credit growth. The bank has also maintained a flexible exchange rate system and intervened in the forex market to prevent depreciation. The BCRG has also implemented targeted credit facilities for priority sectors, and its GDP is expected to grow by around 5.6% in 2023.

Emmanuel Maluke Letete, Central Bank of Lesotho's Monetary Policies in 2023

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) navigated a complex economic landscape in 2023, juggling the need for price stability with supporting economic growth while maintaining a fixed exchange rate peg to the South African Rand (ZAR). Here's a summary of their key policies:

The Central Bank of Lesotho (CBL) maintains the Loti-Rand Peg to the ZAR to control inflation and facilitate cross-border trade. It manages net international reserves to ensure the peg, maintains exchange rate stability, and controls inflation within a 3-5% range. The CBL supports economic growth with a low-key rate and targeted credit facilities for priority sectors. Lesotho's GDP is expected to grow around 6.5-7.5% in 2023.

Saddek Elkaber: Central Bank of Libya monetary policies 2023

In 2023, the Central Bank of Libya (CBL) had a turbulent year as it worked to reunite its operations following ten years of separation and dealt with an unstable economy characterised by inflation, a declining value of its currency, and persistent post-conflict issues. The following outlines their main monetary policies:

The Central Bank of Libya (CBL) focused on reunifying the banking system, managing liquidity, financing imports, and stabilizing the exchange rate. The CBL raised interest rates to curb inflation. It also plans to move towards a more flexible exchange rate and rebuild foreign reserves. However, political divisions continue hampering efforts.

Bank of Central African States

The six central African nations that make up the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa are Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo. The Bank of Central African States, also known as Banque des États de l'Afrique Centrale, or BEAC, is the central bank serving these nations, and Abbas Mahamat Tollu is the governor.

Amidst global concerns, the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) implemented a flexible and cautious monetary policy strategy in

2023, adroitly handling the intricacies of a recuperating regional economy.

In 2023, the Bank of Central African States (BEAC) implemented a prudent monetary policy to balance stability and growth in a recovering regional economy. Key actions included maintaining regional price stability, supporting economic activity, managing external shocks, and addressing global commodity price hikes. The BEAC also facilitated access to credit for priority sectors, managed foreign exchange reserves, and collaborated with member governments to mitigate inflationary challenges.

Jean-Claude Brou, Central Bank of the West African States

The Central Bank of West African States serves Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo, which share the common West African CFA franc currency and comprise the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

These monetary policies demonstrate a commitment to fostering economic stability, promoting inclusive growth, and adapting to global challenges in the West African region.

The Central Bank of West African States maintained regional stability by setting an inflation target of 2% and managing credit growth. It also maintained exchange rate stability by managing foreign exchange reserves. The bank supported sustainable growth by facilitating credit for priority sectors and improving financial inclusion for underserved populations. It also adapted to global challenges by collaborating with member governments to mitigate food and energy prices and address potential risks from the global economic slowdown.

Bank of Botswana’s Monetary Policies in 2023

José de Lima Massano

To preserve price stability and foster economic growth, the Bank of Botswana (BoB) adopted a cautious and balanced monetary policy in 2023, navigating a challenging economic environment. Below is an overview of their main initiatives:

Preserving Stability in Prices:

Headline inflation remained within the BoB’s medium-term targeted range of 3-6%, with an average of approximately 3.5% in 2023.

MoPR, or the Monetary Policy Rate: The MoPR was first kept at 2.65% by the BoB for most of the year. In December 2023, it was lowered by 25 basis points to 2.4%. This

cautious strategy sought to strike a balance between promoting economic growth and controlling inflation.

John Rwangombwa, National Bank of Rwanda, 2023 Monetary Policies

The National Bank of Rwanda (NBR) implemented a prudent and supportive monetary policy in 2023, aiming to balance price stability with economic growth.

The Rwandan Central Bank (NBR) maintains an inflation target of 2-8% and raised the central bank rate to 7.5% in November 2023 to curb rising food prices. The NBR supports economic growth through liquidity support, targeted credit facilities, and a flexible exchange rate regime.

The year 2023 has proven to be proof of the African Central Bank Governors’ tenacity and flexibility in negotiating the intricate currents of the world economy. Each monetary policy has been a brushstroke on the canvas of the continent’s financial destiny, from inflation targeting to currency stabilization. As we come to the end of our examination of the exceptional monetary policies, it is clear that these Central Bank governors’ choices are critical to achieving sustained economic growth, promoting financial stability, and advancing the developed countries they oversee.

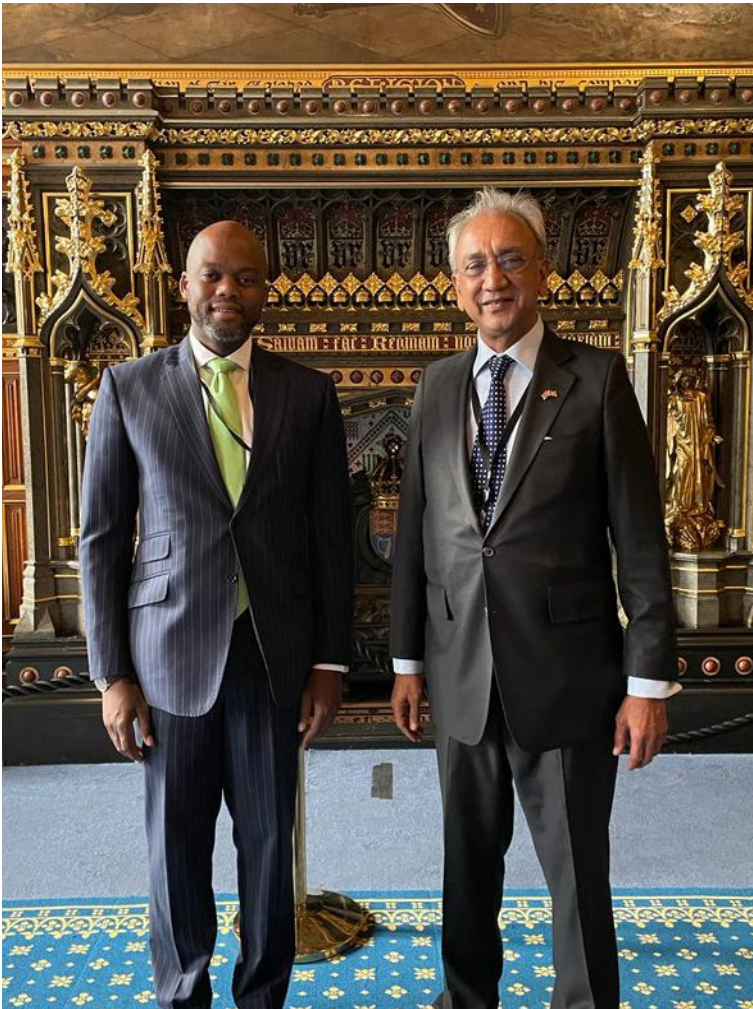
As we conclude our exploration of the exceptional monetary policies set forth by these Central Bank governors, it becomes abundantly clear that their choices wield profound significance. These economic maestros are architects of stability, agents of growth, and custodians of prosperity. Their policies not only navigate the complex currents of global economics but also hold the key to Africa’s sustained growth, financial stability, and advancement.■

Amidst global concerns, the Bank of Central African States implements a flexible and cautious monetary policy, skillfully handling the intricacies of a recuperating regional economy.

UK SUPPORTS MAKING AFRICA THE LARGEST TRADING BLOC IN THE WORLD

By Lord Dolar Popat,

Member UK House of Lords & HM Trade Envoy
to DRC, Uganda, and Rwanda



Africa today, as we know it, following the combination of lessons learnt from the outbreak of Covid-19 and the roll out of the AFCTA, should not...and will not be the same again. We have seen decades where nothing much happens...and we have seen weeks where decades happen. For far too long, the UK has seen Africa with band aid lens. But this should stop and it is beginning to. The key is what lens you wear. It is time to look at Africa from a different perspective. It is time to come back to Africa, especially as the Africa Continental Free Trade Area begins to achieve its objectives.

Post Covid-19, the next 10 years are going to be the best for Africa. With Brexit done...time to look at new opportunities available in Africa is now. Africa is a land of great potential, and the continent has always held a special place for me, having been born in Uganda and now a member of Parliament and Her Majesty's Trade Envoy to DRC, Rwanda, and Uganda.

I am delighted that the UK government has decided to commit up to £35m to support negotiations and implementation of African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA). I am working closely with TEMA (Trade Mark East Africa) to ensure the success of this programme and have held discussion with its CEO, Frank Matserat, Ken Giami, CEO African Leadership Organization, and several other African Business leaders on this very important subject.

This ambitious pact has been signed by 41 of Africa's 54 countries, thereby ensuring a three percent extra GDP growth. This pact was much needed in the light of the fact that UK's trade with Africa which was 30 percent not so long ago has shrunk to less than four percent. It is estimated that by 2035, AFCFTA will be able to lift an additional 30 million people above extreme poverty and increase intra Africa exports by 81 percent thereby raising wages by 10 percent. For UK businesses, the trade bloc will remove market access barriers by creating a single largest continental market of 1.3 billion people, making it easier and more cost effective for UK businesses to export goods and services across the 54 AFCFTA member states.

Recently, UK's Deputy Trade Commissioner to Africa, Alistair Long and myself hosted His Excellency Wamkele Mene, Secretary General, AFCFTA in London. I have held meetings with Mr. Mene who was formerly the Director of International Trade Laws at the Department of Trade and Industry to iron out the fine lines to realize the benefits of AFCFTA coming from lower tariffs, which involves working with the continent's trade negotiators to agree on rules of origin.

Inter-regional trades within the continent make up 18% of Africa's export, far lower than the 59% in Asia, and 69% in Europe, indicating an absence of regional value chains and challenges of cross border trade.

The AFCFTA will not only allow better movement of people, trade, and investments, it will help expand trade within the region, through better coordination of trade across the regional blocs and Africa as a whole. It will lead to the reduction in tariffs between Nigeria, Uganda, South Africa, and Ghana as markets of key interest to many African countries. I am glad the president of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, President of South Africa Cyril Ramaphosa, and other African leaders appreciate this effort.

The sub-regional trade blocs on the continent, like the EAC can have the opportunity to maximize AFCFTA trade opportunities. EAC partners can strategically use government procurement to spur manufacturing capacity of companies, identify and address impediments to market access where applicable and include provisions in the FTA negotiations to mitigate them in the future.

In a volatile and changing world of geopolitics, the UK, through AFCFTA, can continue to work as a strategic partner in making it the world's largest trading Bloc and creating new opportunities for businesses across Africa and the UK. It cannot be ignored that Africa's 54

countries cover a landmass that is larger than China, USA, Western Europe, Japan and India combined. By 2050, more than a quarter of the world's population will be African and the continent has the largest middle-class in the world. With a very large young population. As the world's largest free trade area, the AFCFTA has the potential to boost Africa's economic growth by driving industrialization, generating jobs, and delivering prosperity across the continent. If implemented fully, the trade pact could increase Africa's income by \$450bn, or 7%, while increasing GDP growth by up to 3.5 percentage points under some scenarios (Brookings Institute).

Despite accounting for 17 percent of the world's population, Africa has only three percent of global GDP. But with sustained structural reforms, one can envisage Africa emulating China's rapid rise over the past 50 years, and McKinsey has estimated that by 2025 there will be approximately \$5.6 trillion in African business. And, as the UK Prime Minister's trade envoy to the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda, I am confident that the success of AFCFTA will open Africa, deservedly, to major trade benefits.



Tomorrow starts today...



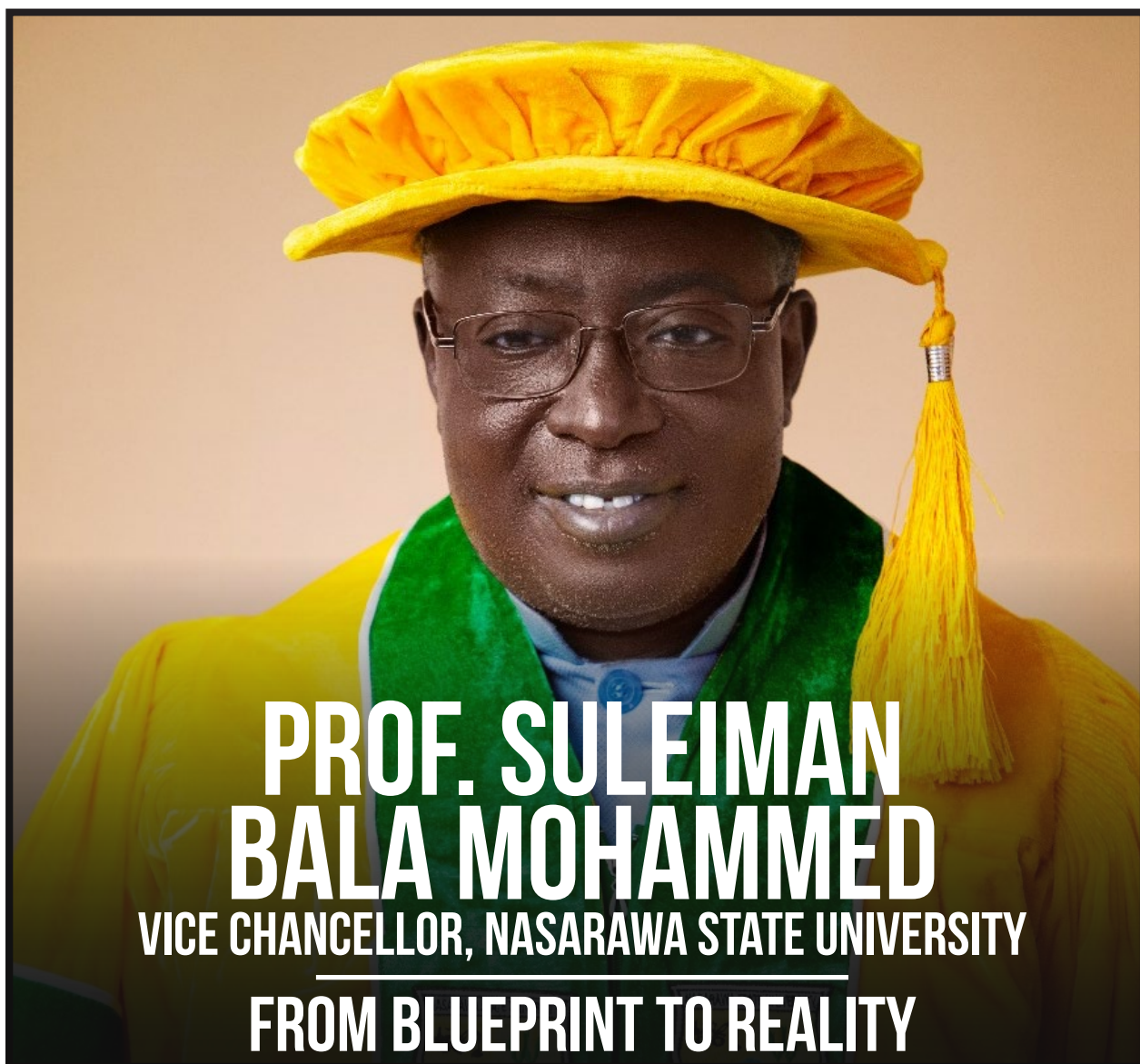
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African Leadership

EDUCATION



**PROF. SULEIMAN
BALA MOHAMMED**

VICE CHANCELLOR, NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY

FROM BLUEPRINT TO REALITY

FROM TRADITION TO TECHNOLOGY

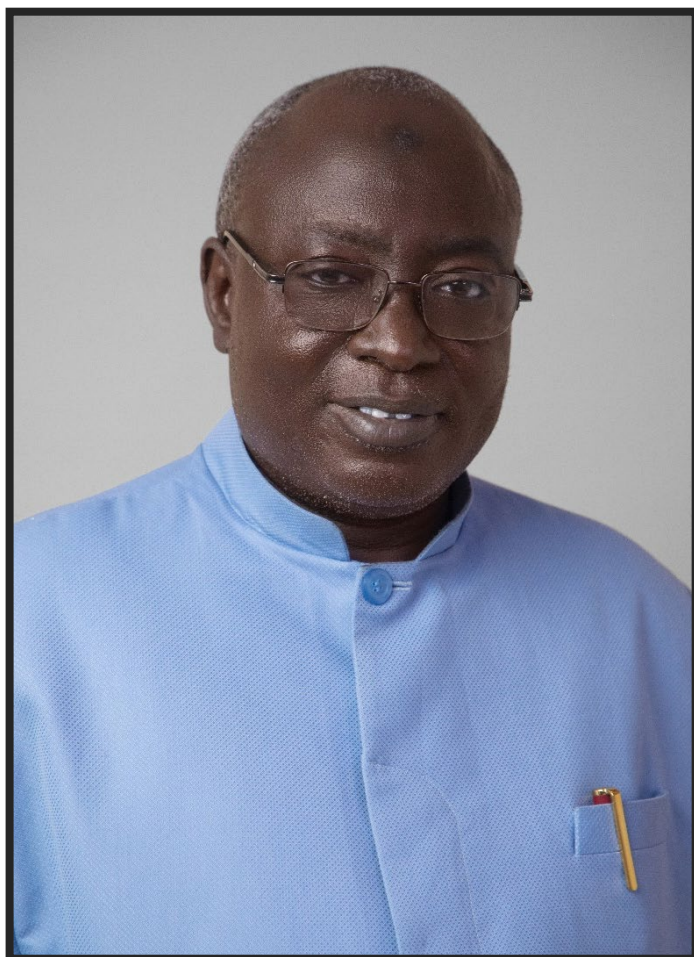
PSYCHO-GOVERNANCE FUSION

**NSUK'S GLOBAL
IMPACT**

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FROM BLUEPRINT TO REALITY:

Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed's Transformative Leadership at Nasarawa State University



Nasarawa State University stands today as proof of the visionary leadership of Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed, the distinguished Vice Chancellor. His tenure has woven a fabric of transformation, shaping the academic landscape with remarkable milestones and strategic initiatives. Professor Mohammed's adept stewardship has not only navigated challenges but has also propelled the university towards commendable accomplishments, resonating both locally and globally.

In this exclusive interview, we navigate the extraordinary journey of Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed, exploring his ingenious strategies in ensuring NUC accreditation for all academic programmes, the genesis and impact of innovative alliances fostering medical research, and the visionary expansion of faculties heralding socio-economic progress. Uncover the resolute leadership and transformative vision that have etched a golden mark on Nasarawa State University under Professor Mohammed's astute guidance.

The Excerpt:

Your tenure as Vice Chancellor has witnessed significant milestones at Nasarawa State University. Can you share the pivotal strategies or initiatives you implemented to ensure the full accreditation of all academic programmes by the National Universities Commission?

When I began at the university, I established a clear work plan that underwent thorough discussions at various levels. We focused on inclusivity, holding regular meetings at management, Senate, and congregational levels to ensure everyone was informed, and decisions were democratic. For accreditation, we ensured departments and faculties collaborated closely, addressing any shortcomings highlighted by the National Universities Commission (NUC). This collective effort resulted in accreditation for all our programmes, and currently, every academic programme at Nasarawa State University is accredited.

The establishment of the Institute of Molecular Diagnostic and Infectious Disease in collaboration with Freiburg Universität and the World Health

Organisation is a commendable feat. How did this partnership come about, and what impact do you foresee it having on the university’s research and global health contributions?

The institute stemmed from the need to research infectious diseases post-COVID-19. Collaboration with experts from the University of Freiburg and the World Health Organisation was proposed. Although there were challenges in furnishing the laboratory as initially planned, we decided to repurpose it as the Global Health and Infectious Diseases Control Institute (GHIDCI). Today, GHIDCI conducts research and offers postgraduate programmes, establishing Nasarawa State University as a hub for medical research and health studies. Our vision is to make Keffi a destination for medical health research and academic excellence in the health sciences.

Your leadership has seen the birth of the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Medicine at Nasarawa State University. What inspired these new faculties, and what goals do you have for their future growth and impact?

The establishment of the Faculty of Engineering and Medicine was necessitated by the vital role these disciplines play in societal development. After 22 years without these courses, we recognized the need to broaden access to engineering and medical education in Nigeria. With determination and support, we remodeled a donated campus for engineering, secured funding, invited NUC for accreditation, and the Faculty of Engineering is now operational. Similarly, to address the scarcity of medical education, we built the College of Health Medical Sciences, started several courses, and are preparing for MBBS commencement next year. The goal is to increase access to these crucial courses for socio-economic growth.

How did you manage to secure funding for these projects, given the constraints often faced by universities due to inadequate funding for infrastructure?

Our main funding sources are federal agencies like TETFund and Needs Assessment. We’ve maximized these allocations for essential projects. For instance, our Senate building, workshops, laboratories, and library extensions were funded by TETFund. The goal was clear: judiciously utilize available funds for infrastructure development.

Why do you think Nigerian students seek education abroad, particularly in Europe?

Lack of access and deteriorating conditions in Nigerian institutions compel students to

seek education abroad. Infrastructural decay, declining standards, and inadequate facilities cause institutions to lose international appeal. However, we’re witnessing a potential revival as foreign students have started showing interest in our programmes.

You entered Nasarawa State University with a clear agenda. Could you elaborate on the goals you set and your achievements so far?

My objectives included infrastructure development, academic progress, combating unethical conduct, ICT integration, creating a green campus, and fostering impactful research. We’ve made significant strides in these areas, from introducing state-of-the-art ICT facilities, new faculty buildings, research initiatives, and advocating for a transparent, democratic student union election process.

Beyond whistleblowing, are there ways to protect those who blew the whistle against acts of illegality in the institution?

We’ve established dedicated lines for reporting misconduct, ensuring confidentiality. However, the complexity arises as many affected individuals are unable to report incidents of harassment or abuse, hindering resolutions.

How do you address the brain drain issue in universities?

Retaining talent is challenging on a national scale. While our institution offers competitive conditions, they’re insufficient on a larger scale. The country’s universities face salary challenges and lack adequate measures to stop the exodus of skilled personnel.

How can the quality of education in Nigeria be enhanced?

There’s a belief that the quality isn’t as low as perceived. Nigerians excelling globally are proof of our educational quality. However, the lack of funding for modern equipment, training for lecturers, and curricular development is affecting standards. We ensure lecturers fulfill their roles, offering detailed assessments, while students are encouraged to attend and engage in classes.■

My vision was clear: inclusivity, regular discussions, and collaboration at all levels. Through collective effort, every academic programme at Nasarawa State University is now accredited.

FROM TRADITION TO TECHNOLOGY:

Prof. Ari's Impact at PG School and ICT Usage at NSUK



In an era where education stands at the crossroads of tradition and technology, African Leadership Magazine sits down with Professor Maikano Ari, the visionary Dean of Postgraduate Studies and Chairman of ICT at Nasarawa State University (NSUK), to discuss his transformative leadership. Professor Ari's relentless advocacy for integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into the academic landscape did not only weather the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic era but also propelled NSUK into a new era of educational excellence.

As the interview unfolds, Professor Ari provides a gripping account of his dual role, steering both the Postgraduate School and the university's ICT master plan through the tumultuous waters of the pandemic. From swiftly implementing a dual-mode learning system to leveraging ICT for virtual exams and overcoming geographical barriers, Prof. Ari's initiatives have not only ensured continuity in education but have also positioned NSUK as a global player in the technology-driven future of academia. Join us on this riveting exploration of how tradition and technology converge under the leadership of Professor Ari, shaping the future of education at Nasarawa State University.

Professor Ari, as the Dean of the School of Postgraduate Studies, you've championed the integration of ICT in education. How has this transformation impacted teaching, learning, and administration within the university?

Thank you for the insightful question. As both the dean of the PG School and the chairman of the university's ICT master plan, I have a unique perspective on the profound effects of ICT integration. The Vice-Chancellor prioritized ICT as a central element in university administration, especially during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic forced us to balance physical and virtual classes, considering the large student populations and limited space. We swiftly implemented a learning management system to facilitate both in-person and online classes, ensuring that every student could participate effectively. This dual-board approach became crucial during the pandemic.

Additionally, we enhanced our library's e-holding capacity, ensuring that publications and academic resources were easily accessible

online. This move not only aligned with legal requirements but also increased visibility and global appreciation for our work.

In terms of administration, we automated accounting, registration, and admission processes to improve efficiency and accountability, addressing previous challenges related to fund leakages. Our goal was to create a seamless experience while reducing unnecessary human interactions.

Considering the international nature of our PG School, we faced unique challenges during the pandemic, with students stranded abroad. Leveraging ICT, we conducted virtual learning and examinations, highlighting the importance of technology in overcoming geographical barriers.

Now, transitioning to your role as dean, you've implemented various strategies to enhance academic excellence and efficiency. Could you share specific initiatives aimed at fostering growth in the postgraduate programmes?

Absolutely, when I assumed the role of Dean, I identified areas for improvement and implemented strategies to enhance academic excellence and efficiency. Firstly, to recognize leakages in fund management, we automated accounting, registration, and admission processes. This not only increased efficiency but also minimized contact between individuals, ensuring transparency and accountability.

We also focused on creating ICT-compliant classrooms within departments, especially as we engage in collaborations with other universities and agencies. This meant reallocating resources to upgrade our infrastructure to meet the evolving standards of education.

To address challenges in the thesis submission and examination processes, we initiated a shift towards electronic formats. These are now submitted in both electronic and physical forms, promoting accessibility and even the potential commercialization of research.

Moreover, we introduced mandatory training for students and faculty in the use of academic software, fostering a culture of self-checks and improvements. This initiative extends beyond postgraduate students to include assistant lecturers and upcoming academics, creating a more tech-savvy academic community.

Considering the evolving landscape of postgraduate education, do you foresee the possibility of running a PG school virtually?

While the future holds promise for more virtual education, the current reality is a gradual shift. Specific courses with suitable models are currently run virtually, acknowledging

the traditional mindset and the industry's dependence on certain practices.

We are stimulating interest and gradually aligning with efficiency demands, recognizing the medium as a vital tool. Collaborations with virtual participants, especially in international programs, showcase the potential of virtual education. It's a work in progress, and we are adapting to the changing landscape.

Reflecting on your tenure, have there been notable advancements or initiatives enhancing the quality and accessibility of postgraduate education at Nasarawa State University?

Certainly, my tenure has seen significant initiatives aimed at improving the quality and accessibility of postgraduate education.

One key area is the revision of policies to align with global realities. We shifted from traditional approaches to accommodate diverse research methodologies, incorporating modern tools like graphics software for writing and referencing.

To enhance accessibility, we adopted a flexible admission structure with two intakes per year for every semester, allowing students to register independently. Additionally, we are fostering industry-based collaborations, involving them in solving societal issues through research. This not only addresses real-world problems but also provides funding for research initiatives.

Creating a supportive environment, we initiated the Legacy Project, encouraging collaboration among alumni and class members to fund research. This internal grant system aims to set transparent standards for research and development, garnering respect and recognition for the university's commitment to excellence.

In terms of interdisciplinary collaborations, how does Nasarawa State University encourage research initiatives among postgraduate students and faculty members?

Interdisciplinary collaboration is a key focus at Nasarawa State University. We encourage students to choose research areas that intersect different disciplines, fostering a holistic

Our goal was to create a seamless experience in education by swiftly implementing a dual-mode learning system, enhancing the library's e-holding capacity, and automating administrative processes, all of which contributed to NSUK's global recognition.

approach to problem-solving. For instance, a nutritionist, a biochemist, a veterinarian, and a physiologist might collaborate on a single project, each contributing their expertise.

We are promoting database development, allowing students the freedom to choose research areas that align with their interests. This approach ensures that postgraduate education is not just about certifications but also about producing impactful, focused, and all-encompassing research.

Furthermore, we are working with external groups like Innovate 8 to explore virtual information and research centers, expanding our network of collaborators both within and outside the country. These collaborations aim to provide students with diverse perspectives and opportunities for innovative research.

Can you discuss any significant partnerships or collaborations you've facilitated to enhance the academic experience and research opportunities for postgraduate students?

We have established strong collaborations both nationally and internationally to enrich the academic experience and research opportunities for our postgraduate students. For instance, we are working with Innovate 8, a unique center that provides valuable resources for research and virtual information.

Internationally, we have collaborations with universities in Poland and Ethiopia, facilitating student exchanges and creating a global platform for research. Our Vice Chancellor's recent visit to Poland solidified partnerships, showcasing our commitment to fostering international academic relationships.

Additionally, we are open to collaborations with various universities worldwide, continuously reviewing Memoranda of Understanding to ensure mutual benefits. The goal is to provide our students with diverse opportunities for research and academic growth.

Looking ahead, how do you envision Nasarawa State University further elevating its academic reputation on a global scale?

Nasarawa State University has already undergone a transformative journey, embracing ICT, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations, and establishing strategic partnerships. Moving forward, we will continue to focus on improving infrastructure to accommodate the growing student population.

Our commitment to innovative research and industry-based collaborations will set us apart, showcasing our dedication to addressing real-world challenges. We plan to expand our network of collaborators and explore more opportunities for international partnerships, enhancing the global reach of our academic programs.

Furthermore, we will continue to adapt to evolving educational landscapes, explore virtual education possibilities, and incorporate modern teaching methodologies. By maintaining a culture of excellence, transparency, and continuous improvement, Nasarawa State University will undoubtedly elevate its academic reputation on a global scale. ■



PSYCHO- GOVERNANCE FUSION:

Professor Andrew Zamani's Trailblazing Leadership



Welcome to this insightful interview with Professor Andrew Zamani, the Director of the Institute of Governance and Development Studies. His unique blend of expertise in clinical psychology with the leadership role at the institute has sparked innovation and academic excellence in Nigeria's academic landscape. Today, we gaze into Professor Zamani's journey, exploring how his background in clinical psychology intertwines with his strategic leadership to bring about positive changes in mental health and governance in Africa.

As Director of the Institute of Governance and Development Studies, how do you combine your expertise in clinical psychology with your role to drive academic excellence and research innovation within the institute?

Thank you for being here today, team from African Leadership Magazine. It's truly a pleasure to have you in my office this morning. My choice to specialize in clinical psychology was intentional. I envisioned its vital role in the long-term development of Nigeria's healthcare sectors. When I pursued my Ph.D. in clinical psychology, mental health in Nigeria was at a nascent stage. There were fewer than 10 practicing clinical psychologists and approximately 20 teaching in universities across the country. I observed that many clinical psychology graduates either left Nigeria or diverted their careers, leaving a gap in our mental health sector. I aimed to bridge this gap by integrating clinical psychology into broader healthcare systems.

I conducted a study to understand the challenges in mental healthcare delivery, aiming to contribute meaningfully. This journey exposed me to diverse subjects like sociology and economics because I realized that providing healthcare requires a holistic approach. Integrating clinical psychology wasn't just about expanding practice; it was also about understanding the requirements for such expansion and its impact on people's development, societal structures, and overall well-being.

My journey led me to see clinical psychology as a tool to manage people and make administration more responsive to human needs. By addressing these needs, individuals become healthier, contributing positively to society and the economy, thereby enriching our nation.

The statistics on mental health issues are indeed alarming, possibly even higher than reported. Factors such as economic hardship, political instability, and pervasive insecurity contribute to anxiety disorders and other mental health challenges.

Mental health issues are prevalent in Nigeria. What are your thoughts on the high number reported?

The statistics on mental health issues are indeed alarming, possibly even higher than reported. These numbers don't necessarily indicate diagnosable psychiatric conditions but reflect the stressors affecting people's mental health, leading to suboptimal performance. Factors such as economic hardship, political instability, and pervasive insecurity contribute to anxiety disorders and other mental health challenges.

People often seek medical help only when their conditions escalate, and this delay in seeking mental health support worsens the severity of their conditions. This delay also leads to individuals not initially consulting psychiatrists but rather general practitioners, further impacting accurate diagnoses and interventions.

Can psychologists play a more significant role in the initial stages of providing mental health support?

Yes, universities now emphasize mental health education in their medical curricula.

Psychologists and psychiatrists lecture medical students to identify early signs of mental health issues, enabling them to make referrals or provide initial care.

How have you contributed to mental health and victimology in this university?

At the university, we've conducted studies to understand mental disorder patterns in populations. I focus on teaching students how to estimate mental health rates in communities, identify cases needing intervention, and understand mental health within various cultural contexts. We've also developed psychological measurement instruments, essential tools for psychologists to evaluate and assess behavior against normative standards.

How can psychologists effectively support victims, especially in crises like the Boko Haram insurgency?

Initially, foreign psychologists were brought in, but cultural nuances hindered their effectiveness. Training local mental health service providers proved challenging due to time constraints. Unfortunately, successive governments favored foreign experts over local specialists. This led to intergenerational traumas and mental health conditions like depression and substance abuse persisting.

As President-Elect of the Pan African Psychology Union, what are your plans?

My focus is on expanding engagement among African psychologists, aiming to make psychology more relevant to African governance, politics, and diplomacy. Psychology can provide valuable insights into leadership behavior, aligning it with local contexts rather than applying foreign norms. I also aim to foster collaborations with other regional psychology organizations to globalize African psychology without losing its local essence.

Professor Zamani, as the incoming President of the Pan African Psychology Union, your vision for expanding engagement among African psychologists is truly inspiring. Could you share more about your plans to achieve this?

Absolutely! I'm thrilled about the opportunity to lead the Pan African Psychology Union. You see, I strongly believe that African psychologists have so much potential to make a real impact, but we're not tapping into it fully. There's this

incredible deficit in engagement among us. We've got 52 countries in Africa, and yet we've only got 23 team members! It's time to change that, and my goal is to get more countries involved and to encourage deeper connections and collaboration among academics across the continent.

That's ambitious and much needed indeed! How do you see psychology influencing politics and governance in Africa?

Oh, it's vital! Picture this: our leaders often apply governance styles that are just not in sync with our local realities. They sometimes lead as if they're governing a different continent altogether! My aim is to make psychology a guiding force in helping leaders understand their people better. We need to bridge this gap so that our leadership becomes more in tune with our unique African contexts.

Fascinating! Now, moving on to the Institute of Governance and Development Studies, your approach to learning seems refreshingly different. Can you elaborate on how your students learn beyond the classroom?

Absolutely! Traditional classroom learning is great, but it doesn't always cut it, especially for our students, many of whom are already seasoned professionals. We take learning beyond the four walls by sending our students on national and international tours. It's incredible how this exposure triggers a fresh perspective. They encounter problems similar to what we face back home but in different contexts. It's like a light bulb moment when they see how their solutions could apply in our African setting.

That sounds incredibly enriching! As for the governance challenges in Africa, you've highlighted some pressing issues. How do you envision addressing these through your Institute's curriculum?

Oh, it's a big task! Our curriculum is designed to bridge the gap between theory and practice. We want our students to be problem solvers, not just theoretical experts. We organize policy dialogues where we engage policymakers directly. This gives our students a chance to present their findings, receive feedback, and work on solutions collaboratively. It's all about making sure our research doesn't gather dust on shelves but instead becomes a driving force for real change.

what about measuring the impact of your governance and development studies?

Ah, well, we're still working on formal metrics for that! But what we do have is a thriving platform – a forum where we dive into burning issues, approach authorities, and discuss what needs to be done. It's more about creating a culture of ongoing dialogue and action rather than simply relying on static measurements.

Professor Zamani, your vision and enthusiasm are truly infectious! Before we wrap up, what future aspirations do you have for the Institute?

My ultimate goal is to see the Institute formalized as a government think tank, wielding influence in policy-making circles. But more than that, I want us to be hands-on in addressing community issues. Take the Almajiri problem in Keffi, for instance. We're gearing up to collaborate with local stakeholders to make a real impact. Our aim is to show that a university can be a driving force for positive change in its immediate community and beyond.

Absolutely inspiring, Professor Zamani! Thank you so much for sharing your incredible vision and plans with us today.

Thank you for having me. It's been a pleasure!

As we conclude this engaging conversation with Professor Andrew Zamani, we've gained a profound understanding of the profound impact his fusion of clinical psychology and academic leadership has on mental health, governance, and the African community at large. His visionary approach towards integrating psychological insights into governance frameworks promises a brighter future, bringing hope for a more inclusive and mentally healthier Africa. Professor Zamani's dedication to bridging gaps in mental health services and nurturing African psychologists' potential for global impact stands as a testament to his commitment to fostering positive change. ■

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NSUK'S GLOBAL IMPACT:

Insights from Dr. Nghargbu K'tso, Director of Linkages and International Cooperation



In this exclusive interview, we delve into the transformative role of Dr. Nghargbu K'tso, the Director of Linkages and International Cooperation at Nasarawa State University Keffi (NSUK). Discover the remarkable strategies, challenges, and triumphs behind NSUK's global ascension under Dr. Nghargbu K'tso's visionary leadership and the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Suleiman Bala Mohammed.

Join us as we uncover the intricate web of international collaborations, the impact of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) on education quality, and the geopolitical dynamics influencing academic partnerships.

Gain insights into the impressive legacy that Dr. Nghargbu K'tso aims to leave behind and the roadmap he envisions for the future of NSUK's global engagement.

Explore how NSUK evolved from a local institution to a globally recognized university while making major marks on the international academic landscape. Follow the director's journey as he shares his experiences, challenges, and aspirations in navigating the complexities of internationalization within the academic sphere.

As the Director of Linkages and International Cooperation, could you elaborate on how you've fostered collaborations and global partnerships to enhance the university's academic standing?

Well, the role of the director in linkages and international cooperation inherently focuses on establishing robust global partnerships. Embracing this designation compelled me to concentrate on international alliances while ensuring local connections weren't overlooked. Recognizing the significance of global relationships beyond national boundaries, both local and international partnerships became pivotal. Leveraging individual and corporate networks was crucial in this endeavor. We tapped into the expertise of colleagues who studied abroad and those still situated internationally, capitalizing on their connections. My assumption of this responsibility wasn't devoid of contributions.

The university recognized my existing network, which I brought to the table. In collaboration with university officials and their networks, our efforts centered on extensive communication.

We reached out to numerous international institutions, tirelessly drafting countless emails. Persistence paid off as we garnered more than 70 Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) since my tenure began, a substantial increase from less than 10 previously. Approximately 60 of these are active, yielding opportunities for faculty and student exchanges, scholarships, joint conferences, publications, and specialized projects. This surge in partnerships aligns with the current Vice-Chancellor's goal of internationalizing the institution and enhancing local and global visibility. Notably, we've witnessed remarkable progress in our ranking and recognition. As per various ranking platforms, we're recognized as the premier state university in northern Nigeria and among the top universities nationally. Internationally, we've earned our place among the top 100, resonating with several ranking agencies.

How have these MOUs and partnerships impacted the quality of education and the institution's processes?

These partnerships have significantly influenced our educational landscape. Faculty and student exchanges have facilitated the internationalization of our faculty, enhancing exposure to global scholars. Collaborations with institutions under MOUs have broadened access to renowned scholars worldwide, enriching our academic environment. Additionally, joint publications with prestigious publishers and collaborations at international conferences have been instrumental in enhancing our academic standards.

Do geopolitical tensions and realignments affect your partnerships?

Absolutely, geopolitical tensions do influence our partnerships. Instances like travel advisories due to political unrest in neighboring countries sometimes hinder planned collaborations. Similarly, certain countries may not prioritize collaborations with Nigeria due to prevailing geopolitical issues, impacting our initiatives towards internationalization. Financial challenges also arise, making it challenging to attract foreign lecturers due to disparities in salary expectations.

What legacy do you intend to leave at the local and international levels, and what should your successor anticipate?

My aim is to establish a legacy of global recognition for the university. Initiatives like

establishing the Geology Research Centre, the Institute of European Studies, and the UN Climate Action Centre in Africa signify our strides in global prominence. I hope to inspire future directors to surpass my achievements by expanding partnerships and MOUs further. I advocate for a more globalized approach across Nigerian universities, emphasizing the significance of international cooperation in academic growth. Scaling up international cooperation offices within universities and amplifying their focus would contribute significantly to this pursuit.

As we conclude this compelling journey, it's evident that NSUK's transformation under the Vice-Chancellor's guidance, Prof. Suleiman Bala Muhammed's guidance, and the stewardship of Dr. Nghargbu K'tso signifies more than just a progression in academia. It symbolizes a commitment to transcending boundaries, fostering cultural exchange, and embracing the interconnectedness of the global academic community.

The strides made by NSUK in forging partnerships, establishing pioneering centers, and spearheading cutting-edge initiatives highlight the institution's dedication to global excellence. Dr. Nghargbu K'tso's fervor for internationalization has not only elevated NSUK's stature but also set a benchmark for universities aspiring to achieve a truly global presence.

The future shines bright for NSUK, poised to continue its journey towards greater international collaboration, academic distinction, and global impact under the guidance of its committed leaders and dedicated faculty.

Join us in celebrating NSUK's remarkable voyage towards becoming a global educational beacon, steering the way for transformative academic partnerships, and fostering a world where knowledge knows no borders.■

International partnerships aren't just about crossing borders; they're about creating bridges. Leveraging networks and persistent efforts, we've secured over 70 MOUs, propelling NSUK to global recognition.

EXPLORING NSUK'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE:

A Conversation with
Associate Prof. Usman Alhaji
Yusuf, Deputy Director,
Institute of Governance
and Development Studies



Embarking on an educational journey at Nasarawa State University (NSUK) opens doors to a world of academic excellence and innovative learning experiences. Today, we have the honor of conversing with Usman Alhaji Yusuf, the esteemed Deputy Director at NSUK's Institute of Governance and Development Studies. His insights shed light on the enriching academic environment and pioneering initiatives fostering growth and transformation at the institution. This interview reveals the vibrant tapestry of opportunities that NSUK offers to aspiring students seeking a transformative educational experience.

Tell us about some of the major changes you have spearheaded in this institute, your significant contributions, and your aspirations for this institute.

As the deputy director, I am accountable to our chief executive. There are specific responsibilities attached to my office. Firstly, I oversee all the PhD programs and coordinate several academic programs, including the PGD in Peace and Conflict Studies, the PGD in Security Studies, the MSc in Business Studies, the MSc in Forensic Investigation, the Professional Masters in Corporate and Governance, and the Professional

Masters in Public Procurement Management. Additionally, I am in charge of coordinating all PhD programs on peace and conflict studies. Our aim is to ensure an all-inclusive governance approach within the programs. We engage all stakeholders, referred to as governors, in decision-making processes. These governors, alongside their deputies, form a committee of elders in each program. We involve them in every decision that affects them directly or indirectly, adopting an all-inclusive leadership approach.

We also run the M.PHIL program, acting as a bridge for candidates with deficiencies in meeting the CGP benchmark required for a PhD program. The M.PHIL candidates must achieve a 4.0 GPA at the end of their coursework to upgrade to a PhD program. Contrastingly, for other PhD programs, as long as candidates pass all their courses, they can continue without issue. We have various presentations, from proposals to seminar presentations and internal and external defenses.

What aspirations do you have for this department?

Our aspiration is to ensure governance inflow, making it a prominent organ of this university. We have established numerous collaborations with external bodies, including recent collaborations initiated with institutions like the Nigeria Army College of Logistics, the Civil Services Institute in Abuja, the Army War College, and a collaboration in progress with Defence College. We aim to project our internal governance not only nationally but also globally, thereby enhancing the university's visibility on a global scale.

What would you want the world to know about this institute?

Our institute focuses on governance and development studies. Everything we do here revolves around governance. For instance, conflict studies are a major aspect, as conflicts are prevalent and pose a significant challenge to governance in Nigeria. We witness diverse forms of conflict, from communal to super-complex inter-community conflicts. Understanding the drivers of these conflicts is crucial to addressing them. Additionally, we offer programs in forensic investigation, training experts in financial verification to tackle corruption and resource mismanagement issues. These experts aid in addressing security studies, a major concern in our country today. Insecurity, such as kidnapping and banditry, persists across

various regions. Our multidisciplinary security studies involve the sciences, humanities, and management sciences, emphasizing that security is everyone's responsibility. Without a secure society, development becomes unattainable.

How do you ensure that your curriculum and activities resonate with global standards?

We have recently secured approval to run programs on organizational development and advocacy, the first of its kind in Nigeria. We've taken steps to commence PGD and MSc programs in advocacy and will soon launch Ph.D. programs. Another forthcoming program is Leadership and Strategic Studies, contributing to our governance mandate.

As we conclude our dialogue with Usman Alhaji Yusuf, his reflections epitomize the ethos of Nasarawa State University's Institute of Governance and Development Studies. NSUK stands as a place of academic distinction, providing a nurturing environment that fosters critical thinking, research excellence, and global perspectives. The institution's commitment to cultivating future leaders and changemakers resonates through its innovative programs, experienced faculty, and an atmosphere dedicated to holistic growth. Aspiring students seeking an inclusive and transformative academic journey will find NSUK an inviting and enriching haven to realize their potential and shape a brighter future.■



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INSIGHT INTO ECOWAS MEDIATION AND SECURITY COUNCIL



Delegates at ECOWAS 39th Ordinary Meeting of Mediation and Security Council at Ambassadorial Level

West Africa, a region abundant with diversity and cultural opulence, is steadfastly moving towards increased stability and affluence. In this complex tapestry, the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council (MSC) emerges as a beacon of hope, guiding the region towards tranquility, safeguarding, and advancement.

At the core of the MSC's mission lies a keen commitment to nurturing harmony and collaboration among West African nations. Serving as a nexus for dialogue, the



ECOWAS military chiefs

Council harmonizes diverse viewpoints to forge common ground on issues reverberating across the region. It stands as a testament to the collective resolve to combat challenges as a unified front, fostering solidarity among member states.

The undertakings of the MSC transcend mere discussions; they lay the groundwork for pragmatic solutions. By proffering recommendations and orchestrating extraordinary summits involving Heads of States, the Council advocates for peaceful conflict resolution, emphasizing the essence of togetherness in addressing prevalent challenges. This proactive stance underscores West Africa's allegiance to diplomacy and concerted efforts in the pursuit of a more congruous future.

The resilience of the Council manifests in its robust frameworks, including the Council of Elders and the ECOWAS Standby Forces. These structures epitomize the region's readiness to promptly respond to emerging issues, fostering a milieu of security and confidence among member states. The strength of the Council lies not solely in discourse but also in its preparedness to take resolute action when warranted, establishing a bedrock of stability and reassurance.

In consonance with global peacekeeping doctrines, the MSC champions a collaborative strategy for conflict management. Advocating for regional mechanisms in resolving disputes, the Council embodies West Africa's commitment to internal conflict resolution. This approach signifies the region's determination

to curtail the escalation of conflicts and underscores the significance of dialogue and mutual comprehension in the pursuit of enduring peace.

Peace and stability serve as catalysts for progress, and the unwavering commitment of the MSC directly contributes to the advancement of the region. Its proactive involvement in preventive measures, mediation, and regional collaboration lays the groundwork for sustained advancement and prosperity in West Africa. The recent momentous 51st Ordinary Session held in Abuja marked a significant leap forward, showcasing the united dedication of ECOWAS members to collectively address challenges. The imminent Council of Ministers meeting underscores a sustained emphasis on leveraging these insights to propel West Africa towards a brighter, more harmonious future.

The ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council instills hope and progress in West Africa. Its ceaseless endeavors not only sculpt the region's diplomatic terrain but also pave the way for a more stable, secure, and prosperous future. As it persists in setting an example, the MSC embodies the region's ethos of resilience, unity, and sanguinity.■

DEFENDING NIGERIA:

Inside the Navy's Battle Against Oil Thieves

By King Richard



The Nigerian Navy has displayed unwavering determination in suppressing crude oil theft, achieving notable triumphs in recent apprehensions. These actions underscore the pivotal role the Navy plays in safeguarding Nigeria's maritime domain and its profound impact on the nation's economy, security, and environmental integrity.

The illicit siphoning of crude oil yields deep-rooted consequences in Nigeria, leading to severe economic repercussions. Oil theft

causes substantial revenue loss and disrupts oil operations, significantly impacting Nigeria's economy. Nevertheless, the proactive measures and strategic arrests by the Nigerian Navy aim to alleviate these economic adversities by targeting those involved in these illegal activities.

Significantly, the Navy's involvement in apprehending crude oil thieves extends beyond economic ramifications. It assumes a critical role in preserving national security. Oil theft



foments unrest in the Niger Delta region, posing a substantial threat to Nigeria's stability. By actively combating these criminal activities, the Navy contributes significantly to restoring peace and stability in the region.

The recent string of apprehensions made by the Nigerian Navy further underscores their dedication to combating oil theft. In particular, the capture of the Motor Tanker VINNALARIS 1 LAGOS stands out as a significant milestone. This vessel, found engaging in the illegal siphoning of crude oil from the EBESAN oil field, was promptly apprehended by the Nigerian Navy Forward Operating Base (FOB) IGBOKODA in Ondo State.

Details of this apprehension, outlined in a recent press release, narrate the vessel's active involvement in oil theft and the subsequent capture of its 17-member crew. The vessel's capacity of 15,000 metric tonnes, loaded with approximately 500 metric tonnes of stolen crude oil, depicts the magnitude of illegal operations intercepted by the Navy.

Furthermore, the Navy's warnings to criminals and their associates, along with their plea for cooperation from the public to report criminal activities, signify a collective responsibility in combating oil theft. Such collaboration is crucial to supporting the Navy's mission to

protect Nigeria's maritime environment and promote economic prosperity.

However, challenges persist, with allegations of involvement by the Tantita Security Service (TSS) in these illegalities. Despite false alarms raised by TSS after the Navy's vessel arrest, the Nigerian Navy remains steadfast in fulfilling its constitutional mandate to safeguard Nigeria's maritime environment.

Recognizing the collaborative efforts between the Navy and agencies like the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) is imperative. Advocating the use of advanced technology for enhanced surveillance and security against oil theft, these alliances reinforce the Navy's commitment to eradicating oil theft and preserving the ecosystem from harmful practices associated with illegal oil operations.

As mentioned earlier, the arrest of MT VINNALARIS 1 LAGOS echoes the Nigerian Navy's resolute determination to eliminate oil theft and protect Nigeria's maritime territories. It signifies their commitment to upholding the rule of law, ensuring national security, and fostering economic prosperity for Nigeria. The Navy's relentless efforts continue to emphasize the severity of oil theft as a national concern and the imperative need for sustained vigilance to overcome this challenge. ■

POWER BROKERS

Influential Politicians Shaping South Africa's Destiny

In the dynamic landscape of 2023, South Africa has been profoundly influenced by a cohort of remarkable politicians who have left an indelible mark on the country's history. These influential figures have not only wielded power but have also significantly impacted policies, societal perceptions, and the trajectory of the nation's political landscape. This article provides a snapshot of the intricate roles and contributions of these political power brokers, recognizing that their impact and legacy are subject to ongoing assessments and the unfolding chapters of South Africa's political narrative.



Cyril Ramaphosa:
A Beacon of Leadership

Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa (born November 17, 1952) is a South African businessman and politician currently serving as the fifth president of South Africa.

At the helm as South Africa's President since 2018, Cyril Ramaphosa stands as an emblem of astute leadership. His tenure ushered in a new era following the resignation of Jacob Zuma. Beyond his presidential stint, Ramaphosa's legacy spans a lifetime of impactful achievements, including his pivotal role in growing the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and addressing critical national challenges such as load shedding, economic revitalization, crime reduction, and service enhancement.



Julius Malema:
Championing Economic Equality

Renowned for his impassioned speeches and dogged stances, Julius Malema has carved a niche as a formidable figure in South African politics. His trajectory from the Congress of South African Students (COSAS) to the helm of the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) manifests a journey marked by zealous advocacy for economic parity and social justice.

Malema's founding of the EFF in 2013 marked a paradigm shift, advocating radical measures towards land redistribution and economic reforms. His bold ideology and grassroots involvement underscore his commitment to address the chasms of inequality.



Pravin Gordhan:
The Architect of Economic Stability

Within the ruling party, Pravin Gordhan's influence on economic policy reverberates significantly. Emerging from anti-Apartheid activism, Gordhan's tenure as the Minister of Public Enterprises in 2018 embodies expertise and stability during turbulent economic times. His fiscal acumen and impactful changes in economic policies, coupled with his resolute commitment to reform state-owned enterprises, exemplify Gordhan's enduring contributions to South Africa's economic landscape.



Jacob Zuma:
A Controversial Legacy

Amidst legal challenges, Jacob Zuma's political legacy remains a polarizing force. His presidency, marked by both triumphs and controversies, witnessed strides in governance, economic growth, and diplomatic engagements. However, this era was also beset by controversies that cast a shadow on his accomplishments. Zuma's establishment of key government departments, commitment to economic growth, and active involvement in global partnerships like the BRICS Development Bank highlight his multifaceted impact on South Africa's developmental agenda.



David Mabuza:
An Enigmatic Political Figure

David Dabede "DD" Mabuza, a South African politician, served as Deputy President of South Africa from February 2018 to February 2023. Despite controversies surrounding his tenure's productivity, specific achievements attributed to Mabuza during his term remain obscure. David Mabuza's tenure as Deputy President from 2018 to 2023 remains enigmatic. While his political journey boasts a significant career within the ANC and various key positions, controversies and criticisms shroud his legacy. The lack of explicit achievements attributed to his term as Deputy President invites scrutiny and raises questions about his productivity.

These political stalwarts, with their distinct ideologies, personas, and impacts, will collectively define South Africa's dynamic political fabric in 2023. Their narratives, successes, and challenges encapsulate the ongoing evolution of a nation navigating the complexities of governance, equality, and progress. ■

INSIDE THE UK-RWANDA IMMIGRATION DEAL:

Unraveling the Details



The United Kingdom's government aims to transfer some asylum seekers to Rwanda, but a recent ruling by the UK Supreme Court deemed the proposal unconstitutional, citing potential harm to asylum seekers if sent back to their native countries. In response, the government signed a new treaty with Rwanda, enhancing the asylum procedure,

and introduced new laws in the UK affirming Rwanda's security.

The Rwanda scheme, initiated in April 2022 by then-Prime Minister Boris Johnson, is designed to discourage migrants from undertaking the perilous journey across the Channel in small boats or inflatable dinghies.

The Pact on Migration and Asylum

The Migration and Asylum Pact, established in September 2020, aimed to resolve the prolonged political deadlock among EU member states regarding changes to immigration and asylum laws. This comprehensive effort covers policy ideas related to integration, migration, asylum, and border control. As negotiations conclude in autumn 2023, the Pact is expected to influence immigration and asylum policies.

Rwanda

Rwanda, a landlocked country in east-central Africa, entered a partnership with the UK in 2020 regarding immigration. As of 2024, President Paul Kagame seeks re-election for a fourth term, continuing his initiatives for Rwanda.

The UK's Asylum Plan for Rwanda

The UK government intends to transfer certain asylum seekers to Rwanda, aiming to address concerns related to illegal immigration. The Asylum and Immigration Bill 2023 asserts Rwanda's safety and addresses challenges raised by the Supreme Court's ruling in *AAA v. Secretary of State for the Home Department*.

Rwanda Asylum and Immigration Bill

As part of a five-year trial announced in April 2022, asylum seekers arriving in the UK may be sent to Rwanda for processing. The bill aims to discourage illegal entry, particularly through dangerous means like small boats. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has identified



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halting such boats as a priority. The proposed law establishes Rwanda as a safe country under UK law, subject to parliamentary approval.

Effects of the Bill

The bill, combined with the constraints of the Illegal Migration Act, eliminates individual challenges that could hinder the removal process. It restricts the filing of asylum claims in the UK and eliminates protections against modern slavery. Concerns have been raised about potential violations of international law.

New Treaty with Rwanda

A new migration partnership, signed on December 5, establishes impartial monitoring and an appeal process overseen by UK and Commonwealth judges to ensure the safety of those seeking asylum in Rwanda. The UK will cover living and housing costs for individuals moved to Rwanda for up to five years.

In conclusion, the treaty, bill, and related facts indicate that Rwanda is deemed safe for displaced individuals, and the government's approach aligns with domestic law, the constitution, and international commitments. While innovative, the strategy presents risks but is built on a legitimate foundation for responsible governance. ■

PHASING OUT THE MENACE OF SKILLED MIGRATION FROM AFRICA

From 1990 to 2000, Africa witnessed a substantial upswing in skilled migration, marking a twofold increase in individuals leaving their native lands—from 650,000 to 1.4 million. Even presently, approximately 20,000 adept professionals depart Africa annually. Nations such as Nigeria, Gambia, Ghana, Mozambique, Kenya, and Uganda exhibit high rates of emigration. This trend significantly impacts the medical field, where numerous doctors trained in Africa opt to pursue careers abroad. But this continental

menace can be phased out; hence, this article and the solutions proffered therein.

The surge in migration stems from diverse causes. Heightened unemployment within African nations compels skilled individuals to seek superior employment prospects overseas, potentially offering higher remuneration. Additionally, students studying abroad often opt to prolong their stay due to enhanced job opportunities and fewer avenues for research and teaching in their home countries.



Africa contends with resource inadequacies for academic research, hampering its contribution to global scientific knowledge. Outdated equipment, limited libraries, and insufficient funding impede academic advancement. Moreover, issues such as social upheaval, political corruption, and the challenges of reintegrating into native societies dissuade many from returning.

Impacts: Losses and Gains

The brain drain from Africa precipitates significant consequences. The continent loses a wealth of talented individuals, impeding progress in crucial sectors like healthcare and access to clean water. Simultaneously, countries receiving these skilled migrants benefit from an influx of proficient workers, albeit potentially adversely affecting the global economy. Regrettably, Africa's contribution to the world economy, trade, and international investments remains limited.

Addressing Africa's brain drain necessitates comprehensive solutions. Priorities include enhancing local universities, encouraging the repatriation of individuals who studied abroad, and fostering an environment conducive to growth and opportunities.

Resolving Africa's brain drain is a gradual process, yet there is hope. Many individuals remain committed to aiding their home countries despite the challenges posed by migration. Africa's trajectory hinges on implementing strategic measures to retain and harness its talented workforce.

Understanding the motivations behind emigration and rectifying underlying issues are pivotal. Africa can curtail brain drain, retain its talent pool, and forge a brighter future by diligently improving opportunities, resources, and incentives.

Strategies to Preserve Africa's Skilled Workforce

1. Enhance Education: Bolster educational systems through increased funding and improved structures to retain skilled individuals within their home countries.

2. Stimulate Economies: Foster job creation by supporting emerging enterprises, fostering innovation, and attracting investments, thereby not only generating employment but also enabling local talent to contribute to national betterment.

3. Recognise Talent: Provide competitive salaries, benefits, and avenues for career advancement to retain skilled workers. Cultivating a conducive work environment will motivate and retain talent, benefiting the local economy.

4. Promote Research: Stimulate research and innovative ideas, leveraging the skills of proficient individuals for scientific advancements domestically.

5. Upgrade Infrastructure and Healthcare: Enhance the quality of life by improving infrastructure and healthcare services, incentivizing skilled individuals to remain and contribute locally.

6. Attraction of Diaspora: Encourage the return of skilled expatriates by offering incentives such as tax benefits or leadership positions.

7. Stability and Governance: Ensure political stability and robust governance, which are imperatives for retaining skilled individuals within a country.

8. Collaborative Initiatives: Foster collaboration between universities, research institutions, and businesses, harnessing skills and talents for local projects.

9. Community Building: Foster connections among skilled individuals to create a support network, fostering their desire to remain and contribute.

10. National Framework: Establish a comprehensive plan involving government and businesses to curtail brain drain and leverage local talent for development.

By implementing these strategies, African nations can retain their skilled workforce, leading to enhanced growth and prosperity within their borders. To foster growth and development across the continent, all hands must be on deck with a focus on talent retention for Africa to transform the scourge of brain drain into brain gain.■

Addressing Africa's brain drain requires a comprehensive approach, including stability, governance, and collaborative initiatives. By establishing a national framework and encouraging the return of skilled expatriates, we can transform brain drain into brain gain for the continent's growth and prosperity.

IS AN AFRICAN SHARED PASSPORT AND CURRENCY FEASIBLE?

By Blossom Ukoha



If considered and implemented, the idea of a single African passport and currency has the potential to effectively impact the future of the continent. It's a super bold and forward-thinking concept. Even though there are a lot of obstacles to overcome, this project is worthwhile because it has the potential not just to improve mobility and escalate economic growth but also to foster a sense of African identity, thereby presenting Africa for global acceptance. Like Chinua Achebe aptly said, "An African passport and currency represent a cultural and identity revolution rather than merely an economic venture. It's about valuing our common history and creating a future in which our differences work to our advantage."

Africa has 54 continents endowed with abundant diversity and history, each with its own distinct character, culture, and economic structure. The idea of a single African passport and currency has become a subject of debate and conjecture as the world changes. This audacious plan solicits concerns about the possible advantages, difficulties, and viability of such a daring undertaking. The idea of a single African passport and currency will be discussed in this article, along with its possible benefits, challenges, and necessary actions to make it a reality.

If Africa had one unified passport and currency, there would be:

Improved mobility and connectivity

Travelling throughout the continent would be easier with an African passport. At the

moment, bureaucratic roadblocks are a common occurrence for African nationals travelling inside the continent, which limits the opportunities for commercial cooperation, tourism, and cultural interchange. The process would be streamlined by a unified passport, strengthening the bonds of unity and shared identity.

Increased Trade Within the African Continent

The adoption of a single African currency would remove the complexity of exchange rates and lower the costs of transnational transactions. Consequently, this would stimulate greater economic cooperation between African countries, cultivating a more cohesive and resilient intra-African market.

Fortification of Pan-African Identity

The creation of a single passport and currency will assist in the fortification of the Pan-African identity. This effort can promote a sense of oneness among the varied peoples of Africa, extending beyond national boundaries, by highlighting shared values and aims.

Foreign Investment Hub

Africa may become a more alluring hub for foreign investors if it has a single currency and passport. A more business-friendly atmosphere would result from streamlining trade and travel procedures, which would boost foreign direct investment and boost economic growth.

Possible Obstacles and Challenges This Process Might Encounter:

Numerous economies and fiscal policies

The numerous economic conditions in African countries are some of the primary obstacles. Every nation has unique economic systems, levels of development, and fiscal policies. To prevent economic inequities and imbalances, harmonizing these discrepancies to create a single currency would need a thoroughly thought-out transition.

Political will and cooperation

African leaders must demonstrate a strong degree of political will and cooperation to achieve a single passport and currency. Forging a unified front towards a shared objective will require overcoming political divides, nationalistic feelings, and historical tensions.

A Way Forward:

Pilot Programmes and Regional Integration

Instead of starting from scratch with a single passport and currency for the entire continent,

launching pilot programmes in particular areas may act as a testing ground. Achieving regional integration effectively may open doors for wider adoption.

Creation of a Centralised Monetary Authority

To oversee the one currency, a centralised monetary authority similar to the European Central Bank would need to be established. This organization would be in charge of currency issuance, monetary policy, and maintaining economic stability throughout the continent.

Gradual Harmonisation of Fiscal Policies

Harmonizing fiscal policies gradually would be required to overcome economic imbalances. To minimize shocks to individual economies during the transition, this entails coordinating taxation, budgeting, and economic strategy.

Public awareness campaigns

Obtaining support requires involving the public through awareness campaigns. Gaining public approval would require addressing concerns, outlining advantages, and stressing the benefits as a whole of having a single passport and currency.

Investment in Technology

It is imperative to make a sizable investment in technology infrastructure. This covers the creation of safe digital systems for border control, currency exchange, and passport issuance. Working together with international technological specialists could speed up this procedure.

Strategic planning, strong political will, and regional cooperation will all be necessary on the path to the union, but the benefits might be revolutionary for Africa and its people. Africa is at a turning point in its history, ready to embrace increased integration and cooperation in the future. The idea of a single African passport and currency offers optimism for a continent that is more rich and more integrated. According to Haile Selassie, former Ethiopian Emperor, “the process of uniting Africa is more like a marathon than a sprint. It necessitates endurance, teamwork, and a shared conviction in the unifying force of unity. Let’s set out on this adventure with tenacity and fortitude.”■

The vision of a single African passport and currency extends beyond bureaucratic roadblocks. It envisions an Africa where shared values and aims fortify the Pan-African identity, creating a more cohesive and resilient intra-African market.



Office of the Accountant General of the Federation

Federation Account Department

Distribution of Ecology to Local Government Councils by Federation Account Allocation Committee for the month of September, 2023 Shared in October, 2023

S/N	STATE	STATUTORY REVENUE (ECOLOGY)	EXCHANGE DIFFERENCE REVENUE (ECOLOGY)	TOTAL ECOLOGY FUND
		₦	₦	₦
1	ABIA	45,117,013.88	20,247,221.88	65,364,235.7625
2	ADAMAWA	56,908,637.67	25,538,964.45	82,447,602.1176
3	AKWA IBOM	75,798,961.26	34,016,399.91	109,815,361.1732
4	ANAMBRA	57,216,177.98	25,676,979.72	82,893,157.7007
5	BAUCHI	64,951,684.37	29,148,453.14	94,100,137.5127
6	BAYELSA	26,437,712.99	11,864,487.36	38,302,200.3462
7	BENUE	70,677,485.09	31,718,028.29	102,395,513.3730
8	BORNO	76,734,568.45	34,436,273.58	111,170,842.0352
9	CROSS RIVER	49,468,359.46	22,199,980.98	71,668,340.4335
10	DELTA	63,386,607.79	28,446,091.66	91,832,699.4512
11	EBONYI	36,593,504.22	16,422,115.20	53,015,619.4171
12	EDO	48,499,334.39	21,765,110.32	70,264,444.7099
13	EKITI	38,510,230.30	17,282,286.89	55,792,517.1939
14	ENUGU	49,276,044.78	22,113,675.67	71,389,720.4469
15	GOMBE	33,763,980.30	15,152,306.01	48,916,286.3106
16	IMO	66,040,861.37	29,637,244.54	95,678,105.9093
17	JIGAWA	69,382,142.83	31,136,715.83	100,518,858.6560
18	KADUNA	78,026,789.41	35,016,185.29	113,042,974.6932
19	KANO	124,225,336.08	55,748,768.06	179,974,104.1422
20	KATSINA	94,574,862.85	42,442,486.05	137,017,348.9002
21	KEBBI	59,686,890.04	26,785,764.44	86,472,654.4798
22	KOGI	61,690,772.83	27,685,049.56	89,375,822.3986
23	KWARA	43,652,683.58	19,590,072.44	63,242,756.0103
24	LAGOS	74,362,180.07	33,371,613.72	107,733,793.7895
25	NASSARAWA	38,945,717.48	17,477,721.05	56,423,438.5268
26	NIGER	72,085,518.89	32,349,913.48	104,435,432.3708
27	OGUN	51,425,548.54	23,078,311.31	74,503,859.8529
28	ONDO	49,114,651.75	22,041,247.11	71,155,898.8596
29	OSUN	66,527,037.58	29,855,426.48	96,382,464.0550
30	OYO	83,918,667.18	37,660,291.05	121,578,958.2282
31	PLATEAU	52,605,760.40	23,607,956.54	76,213,716.9365
32	RIVERS	65,207,756.31	29,263,370.88	94,471,127.1956
33	SOKOTO	65,674,303.20	29,472,743.74	95,147,046.9426
34	TARABA	49,223,109.96	22,089,920.04	71,313,030.0039
35	YOBE	49,489,523.28	22,209,478.70	71,699,001.9816
36	ZAMFARA	44,717,092.57	20,067,748.66	64,784,841.2352
37	FCT-ABUJA	19,750,166.17	8,863,308.15	28,613,474.3161
		#####	975,479,712.16	3,149,147,387.47

Details of Distribution of Ecology Revenue Allocation to States by Federation Account Allocation Committee for the month of September, 2023 Shared in October, 2023

S/N	States	Gross Statutory Allocation (Ecology)	Exchange Gain (Ecology)	Total Ecology Fund
		₦	₦	₦
1	ABIA	64,410,125.57	28,905,417.08	93,315,542.65
2	ADAMAWA	68,521,297.23	30,750,393.02	99,271,690.25
3	AKWA IBOM	69,158,060.26	31,036,154.00	100,194,214.26
4	ANAMBRA	68,392,930.65	30,692,785.77	99,085,716.42
5	BAUCHI	82,278,987.00	36,924,449.62	119,203,436.62
6	BAYELSA	60,863,064.04	27,313,597.60	88,176,661.64
7	BENUE	77,141,869.16	34,619,058.46	111,760,927.62
8	BORNO	85,462,135.52	38,352,955.38	123,815,090.89
9	CROSS RIBER	69,169,854.57	31,041,446.95	100,211,301.52
10	DELTA	69,842,252.61	31,343,199.91	101,185,452.52
11	EBONYI	61,538,831.50	27,616,862.65	89,155,694.16
12	EDO	64,317,941.71	28,864,047.61	93,181,989.32
13	EKITI	61,504,105.50	27,601,278.62	89,105,384.12
14	ENUGU	69,175,824.40	31,044,126.04	100,219,950.43
15	GOMBE	64,790,756.84	29,076,233.48	93,866,990.32
16	IMO	71,517,617.74	32,095,055.72	103,612,673.46
17	JIGAWA	76,923,832.15	34,521,209.70	111,445,041.86
18	KADUNA	90,125,216.41	40,445,612.35	130,570,828.76
19	KANO	109,106,608.10	48,963,916.55	158,070,524.65
20	KATSINA	84,554,516.11	37,945,641.82	122,500,157.92
21	KEBBI	72,632,751.18	32,595,495.63	105,228,246.81
22	KOGI	76,024,563.36	34,117,643.66	110,142,207.02
23	KWARA	61,229,896.43	27,478,221.45	88,708,117.88
24	LAGOS	92,147,608.60	41,353,203.96	133,500,812.56
25	NASSARAWA	63,434,304.27	28,467,496.47	91,901,800.74
26	NIGER	81,478,539.48	36,565,231.73	118,043,771.21
27	OGUN	63,905,430.96	28,678,924.61	92,584,355.57
28	ONDO	64,032,034.77	28,735,740.78	92,767,775.55
29	OSUN	62,733,917.38	28,153,182.92	90,887,100.31
30	OYO	77,150,392.42	34,622,883.45	111,773,275.87
31	PLATEAU	71,829,557.75	32,235,045.45	104,064,603.20
32	RIBERS	74,182,936.60	33,291,174.39	107,474,110.99
33	SOKOTO	75,808,226.68	34,020,557.96	109,828,784.64
34	TARABA	66,259,557.45	29,735,389.07	95,994,946.52
35	YOBE	68,305,098.03	30,653,369.01	98,958,467.04
36	ZAMFARA	68,450,567.94	30,718,651.74	99,169,219.68
	Total	2,608,401,210.37	1,170,575,654.59	3,778,976,864.96



Office of the Accountant General of the Federation

Federation Account Department

Table 1

Summary of Gross Revenue Allocation by Federation Account Allocation Committee for the Month of September, 2023 Shared in October, 2023

S/n	Beneficiaries	Statutory	Exchange Gain	Electronic Money Transfer Levy (EMTL)	Value Added Tax	Total
		₦	₦	₦	₦	₦
1	FGN (see Table II)	190,848,021,891.94	85,647,118,727.62	1,648,495,164.50	42,399,840,334.41	320,543,476,118.46
2	State (see Table III)	96,800,667,140.33	43,441,363,181.51	5,494,983,881.67	141,332,801,114.69	287,069,815,318.20
3	LGCs (see Table IV)	74,629,256,852.20	33,491,470,117.48	3,846,488,717.17	98,932,960,760.28	210,900,176,467.13
4	13% Derivation Fund	60,733,777,203.87	24,232,763,740.31	-	-	84,966,540,944.19
5	Cost of Collection - NCS	12,006,582,892.28	-	-	1,276,209,892.50	13,282,792,784.78
6	Cost of Collections - FIRS	16,765,464,590.33	-	457,915,323.47	10,865,783,330.41	28,089,163,244.21
7	Cost of Collections - NUPRC	13,054,152,825.06	-	-	-	13,054,152,825.06
8	Transfer to NMDPRA	19,511,168,760.03	-	-	-	19,511,168,760.03
9	Refund to NUPRC on cost of collection	2,952,771,383.33	-	-	-	2,952,771,383.33
10	13% Derivation Refund to Oil Producing States on Withdrawal from ECA	48,488,438,660.32	-	-	-	48,488,438,660.32
11	13% Refunds on Subsidy, Priority Projects	18,163,078,852.38	-	-	-	18,163,078,852.38
12	North East Development Commission	-	-	-	8,742,235,120.50	8,742,235,120.50
13	Transfer to Non-oil Excess account	461,000,000,000.00	78,000,000,000.00	-	-	539,000,000,000.00
	TOTAL	1,014,953,381,052.07	264,812,715,766.92	11,447,883,066.81	303,549,830,572.79	1,594,763,810,478.59

Table II

Distribution of Revenue Allocation to FGN by Federation Account Allocation Committee for the Month of September, 2023 Shared in October, 2023

S/n	Beneficiaries	2	4=2-3	5	6	7	8	9=5+6+7+8
		Gross Statutory Allocation	Total Deduction	Net Statutory Allocation	Exchange Gain	Electronic Money Transfer Levy (EMTL)	Value Added Tax	Total
		₦	₦	₦	₦	₦	₦	₦
1	FGN (CRF Account)	175,704,803,753.97	(87,418,881,690.53)	88,285,922,063.44	78,851,276,732.90	1,538,595,486.87	39,573,184,312.11	208,248,978,595.32
2	Share of Derivation & Ecology	3,622,779,458.84	-	3,622,779,458.84	1,625,799,520.27	-	-	5,248,578,979.11
3	Stabilization	1,811,389,729.42	-	1,811,389,729.42	812,899,760.13	-	-	2,624,289,489.56
4	Development of Natural Resources	6,086,269,490.86	-	6,086,269,490.86	2,731,343,194.05	-	-	8,817,612,684.91
5	FCT-Abuja	3,622,779,458.84	(971,24,889.00)	3,525,654,569.84	1,625,799,520.27	109,899,677.63	2,826,656,022.29	8,086,009,790.03
	Total	190,848,021,891.94	(87,516,006,579.53)	103,332,015,312.41	85,647,118,727.62	1,648,495,164.50	42,399,840,334.41	233,027,469,538.93

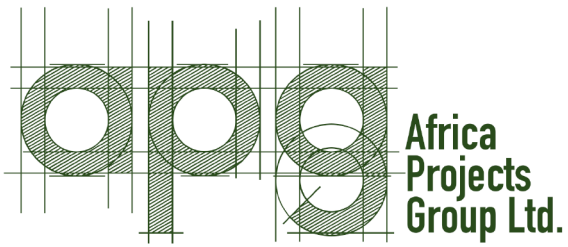
The above information is also available on the Federal Ministry of Finance website www.fmf.gov.ng and Office of Accountant-General of the Federation website www.oagf.gov.ng. In addition, you would find on these websites details of the Capital and Recurrent allocations to all arms of Government including Federal Ministries and Agencies. The Budget Office website www.budgetoffice.gov.ng also contains information about the Budget.

Mr. Wale Edun
 Hon. Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister for the Economy
 Abuja, Nigeria.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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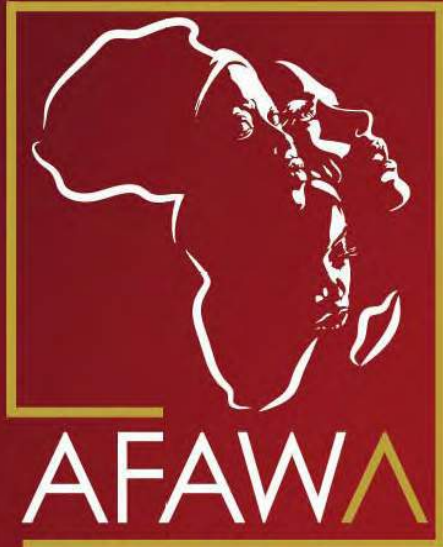
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