



# TITANS OF AFRICA

DUBAI EXPO COMMEMORATIVE EDITION







This First Edition of the “TITANS OF AFRICA”  
Showcasing the Achievement and success stories of Titans from all walk of life.

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Special Thanks to Mr. Joe

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*Incredible Africa*











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P.O. Box 3854

Abu Dhabi

United Arab Emirates

26<sup>th</sup> September, 2021

To the esteemed readers of **"The Titans of Africa"**

The Kenya Embassy in Abu Dhabi under the current stewardship of Mr. Kariuki MUGWE wish to endorse this historic publication titled **"The Titans of Africa" , Coffee Table Book.**

I am impressed and hopeful that this novel publication touching on our beloved continent will be one of the most iconic accomplishments and success stories of Africa in 2021 in the UAE. Rarely, we find half of the continents stories of success and excellence being celebrated and shared within the UAE and the World at Large.

Africa has a plethora of great human capital and has a huge potential which is rich in minerals and commodities. The more than 25 untold stories illustrate the immense and vast array of talents and opportunities that Africa is capable of giving to the world.

I encourage the reader(s) of this publication to individually and/or collectively connect and consider collaboration with these Titans in their areas of expertise and explore the huge untapped opportunities in the Continent

This is the essence of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kariuki Mugwe'.

Mr. Kariuki Mugwe

Kenya's Ambassador to the UAE.





To the esteem readers of the "Titans of Africa."

I am extremely delighted to provide my personal endorsement of this historic publication, "The Titans of Africa", Coffee table book. I am deeply grateful and truly impressed that this publication is well on its way to be one of the most iconic achievements in 2021 in the UAE.

There are not many moments in time like today, where 25 African stories of significant success and excellence are being celebrated and shared with the UAE and the global community.

Africa has a plethora of great human capital as well as its natural endowments of rich minerals and commodities. These 25 stories illustrate the vast array of talents that Africa has given to the world.

I encourage the reader of this publication to connect and consider collaboration with these Titans in their areas of expertise.

This is the essence of this worthy project.

Sincerely,

H.E Ambassador Rashid Sesay

27<sup>th</sup> September, 2021



## Letter of Best Wishes



The United Arab Emirates is celebrating 2021 as the Year of success (50th) after last year pandemic. Now the Govt of UAE is to highlight UAE's history of coexistence where over 200 nationalities have been happily living with each other for decades.

UAE and its forefathers has created this beautiful futuristic land with their vision and cultural values. Business, Art, literature and Architecture has contributed a major role in it.

It's good to know that to honor such achievers "TITANS OF AFRICA" - A Dubai Expo Commemorative Edition will be milestone for many senior and upcoming Icons. I personally like to meet each Titan if time allows.

DCOM Designs FZE's team led by Vikas Bhargava and William Stenhouse of UAE Africa Network Group is bringing this book. I wish them all the best in their endeavor.



**Awad Mohammad Bin Shaikha Mujren**  
Director General of Emirates Travelers Festival



From the desk of  
**Rizwan Sajan**  
Founder & Chairman



22/09/2021



**Message of Congratulations**

I congratulate 'DCOM Design Co. FZE' for their first Coffee Table Book on Africa titled 'Titans of Africa' in association with 'UAE Africa Network Group' and authored by the team led by Vikas Bhargava and William Stenhouse.

African communities have been the ambassadors of rich culture and traditions through ages. I'm happy to know that DCOM Designs, after the successful launch of many books, is now bringing their first book on Achievers of the African Society. I'm sure this will endorse and showcase the achievements and the aura of African community and reach out and inspire the new generations, who are always excited to see and read about great journeys.

I convey my heartiest good wishes to all associated with this Coffee Table Book 'Titans of Africa' and hope we'll see many more such books in the years to come.

Wishing everyone all the best in this endeavor.

**Rizwan Sajan**





## Message of Congratulations

*It is a pleasure to know UAE based "DCOM Design Co. FZE" in association with "UAE Africa Network Group" is bringing out its yet another edition but first Coffee Table Book on Africa titled "Titans of Africa" featuring the Top 25 Achievers of the African Society from 17 countries - by Vikas Bhargava and William Stenhouse.*

*The African community is a great source of inspiration to the world. Africa has a great potential. It is full of minerals and a virgin market where growth is imperative. A market to be taken seriously and not abandoned.*

*I hope that this book would stand as a testament and provide signposts to young entrepreneurs on how to set up their businesses. I congratulate you for this effort in this direction and wish you all success with this latest endeavour.*

*Surender Singh Kandhari  
Chairman, Al Dobowi Group, Dubai, UAE*

**21-09-2021**



Since 1998



### **Message of Congratulations on “Titans of Africa Book”**

UAE is the land of opportunity and diverse culture with no Boundaries. There are many success stories we find in UAE within 200 nationalities. I’m happy to be a part of book on Africa launching from UAE. Over the past, Africans have been gone to great heights with their work and achievements. Now this new venture will fill the gap and will give objectives and dreams through their determination to many.

It is heartening to know that DCOM Designs led by Mr. Vikas Bhargava and Mr. William Stenhouse have launched many successful books, now bringing this first book on Achievers of the African Society is a wonderful platform and I’m sure this will endorse and grace the aura of African community and reach to the next generation, who are always excited to see and read great journeys.

I Convey my heartiest good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book “Titans of Africa”. I wish to see more in the years to come.

**I wish all the best in their endeavor.**

.....  
**Dr Thumbay Moideen**  
**Founder President**  
**Thumbay Group, UAE**



## Message of Congratulations

It gives me immense pleasure to know that UAE based "DCOM Design Co. FZE is bringing out its yet another edition of Coffee Table Book titled "Titans of Africa" A Dubai Expo Commemorative Edition by the team led by Vikas Bhargava in association with William Stenhouse

African people are soul of society they have been beautifying the world though centuries, there are many countries in Africa, it may divide them with boundaries but it unites them with great value and history, showcasing to the world. From such places some Titans are giving name and fame to their country.

I'm happy to know DCOM Designs after the successful launch of many books, now bringing this book in association with UAE Africa Network Group. I'm sure this will promote and grace the aura of African community not only in UAE but also around the globe.

I Convey my heartiest good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book "Titans of Africa". I Wish I can see more in the years to come  
I wish all best in their endeavor

Yours Sincerely,



**Bikram Vohra**

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Firstly I would like to thank all the Community members for giving me this opportunity to work on this wonderful project, not to miss the long waiting and calls but it all ending in great meetings and hospitality.

Each person and their family in a class of their own, there is lot to see, lot to learn and lot to write about them. Many we missed to meet yet felt the aura and grace while working on the designs.

Like always I say.... Initially seemed like a daunting task, but when I started all I had a vision which was supported by some great team particularly William Stenhouse of UAE Africa Network... rather I can say Networth. Real GEM... also I want to thank all the members in this journey, who not only stood by me also encouraged me to continue the work on this Coffee Table Book, they constantly was guiding me through to make this book a memorable one as each had a great source of content. Rest I'm sure the details of the book will explain.

On a personal note - many of the Titans are so different and motivating that I would like to travel with them to their home town and make a documentary film. I also would like to thank Mr. Joe who was a nice "Poster man of our Journey" and my boss Teena Bhargava.

So let's meet over a Traditional Coffee.



---

**Vikas Bhargava**

Editor / Creative Director



## Foreword

*By William Stenhouse*



The Journey to composing this book started in early 2021, where the idea of creating a coffee table book for genuine business stories, to change narratives and to make lasting impressions and impact was born.

Connecting the business community from the continent of Africa with 54 countries and the diaspora with the United Arab Emirates and its 204 nationalities i.e., 204 markets, is the reason for our existence as The UAE Africa Networking Group. The UAE is a hub for international trade and for African trade in particular.

Our journey represents and underpins the purpose and importance of this book; to tell 25 unique stories about their experiences, success, failures and triumphs. These 25 African narratives are authentically told in their own unique ways to vividly communicate their journey to “Titanship”.

I encourage everyone reading my words, to consider these Titans as partners, advisors or as clients. The 25 Titans represent the pursuit of Excellence, Success and Culture at its best.

This is not the end of the journey; we will continue to tell more of the Titans stories in years to come. This title and publication will become a legacy that will last for generations.

2021 is the year of the African renaissance in the UAE and the Titans of Africa is a beacon of change for the future. I am honored to be a part of history.

Sincerely,

William Stenhouse

Founder, UAE Africa Networking Group

Dubai, UAE



AFRICA - LAND OF DIVERSITY .....	001 - 016
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## | DIAMOND

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VOTE OF THANKS

COMPLIMENTS BY:





# *Incredible Africa*

## A land of diversity

Africa is the world's second-largest and second-most populous continent, after Asia in both cases. At about 30.3 million km<sup>2</sup> (11.7 million square miles) including adjacent islands, it covers 6% of Earth's total surface area and 20% of its land area. With 1.3 billion people as of 2018, it accounts for about 16% of the world's human population. Africa's population is the youngest amongst all the continents; the median age in 2012 was 19.7, when the worldwide median age was 30.4. Despite a wide range of natural resources, Africa is the least wealthy continent per capita, in part due to geographic impediments, legacies of European colonization in Africa and the Cold War, predatory/neo-colonialistic activities by Western nations and China, and undemocratic rule and deleterious policies. Despite this low concentration of wealth, recent economic expansion and the large and young population make Africa an important economic market in the broader global context.

The continent is surrounded by the Mediterranean Sea to the north, the Isthmus of Suez and the Red Sea to the northeast, the Indian Ocean to the southeast and the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

The continent includes Madagascar and various archipelagos. It contains 54 fully recognised sovereign states (countries), eight territories and two de facto independent states with limited or no recognition. Algeria is Africa's largest country by area, and Nigeria is its largest by population. African nations cooperate through the establishment of the African Union, which is headquartered in Addis Ababa.





Africa straddles the equator and the prime meridian making it the only continent in the world to be situated in all four cardinal hemispheres. It is the only continent to stretch from the northern temperate to southern temperate zones.

The majority of the continent and its countries are in the Northern Hemisphere, with a substantial portion and number of countries in the Southern Hemisphere. Most of the continent lies in the tropics, except for a large part of Western Sahara, Algeria, Libya and Egypt, the northern tip of Mauritania, the entire territories of Morocco, Ceuta, Melilla and Tunisia which in turn are located above the tropic of Cancer, in the northern temperate zone. In the other extreme of the continent, southern Namibia, southern Botswana, great parts of South

Africa, the entire territories of Lesotho and Eswatini and the southern tips of Mozambique and Madagascar are located below the tropic of Capricorn, in the southern temperate zone.

Africa is home to much biodiversity; it is the continent with the largest number of megafauna species, as it was least affected by the extinction of the Pleistocene megafauna. However, Africa also is heavily affected by a wide range of environmental issues, including desertification, deforestation, water scarcity, and other issues. These entrenched environmental concerns are expected to worsen as climate change impacts Africa. The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has identified Africa as the continent most vulnerable to climate change.







The history of Africa is long, complex, and has often been under-appreciated by the global historical community. Africa, particularly Eastern Africa, is widely accepted as the place of origin of humans and the Hominidae clade (great apes). The earliest hominids and their ancestors have been dated to around 7 million years ago, including *Sahelanthropus tchadensis*, *Australopithecus africanus*, *A. afarensis*, *Homo erectus*, *H. habilis* and *H. ergaster*— the earliest *Homo sapiens* (modern human) remains, found in Ethiopia, South Africa, and Morocco, date to circa 200,000, 259,000, and 300,000 years ago respectively, and *Homo sapiens* is believed to have originated in Africa around 350,000–260,000 years ago.

Early human civilizations, such as Ancient Egypt and Carthage emerged in North Africa. Following a subsequent long and complex history of civilizations, migration and trade, Africa hosts a large diversity of ethnicities, cultures and languages. The last 400 years have witnessed an increasing European influence on the continent. Starting in the 16th century, this was driven by trade, including the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, which created large African diaspora populations in the Americas. In the late 19th century, European countries colonized almost all of Africa, extracting resources from the continent and exploiting local communities; most present states in Africa emerged from a process of decolonisation in the 20th century.



# Etymology

Afri was a Latin name used to refer to the inhabitants of then-known northern Africa to the west of the Nile river, and in its widest sense referred to all lands south of the Mediterranean (Ancient Libya). This name seems to have originally referred to a native Libyan tribe, an ancestor of modern Berbers; see Terence for discussion. The name had usually been connected with the Phoenician word *afar* meaning "dust", but a 1981 hypothesis has asserted that it stems from the Berber word *ifri* (plural *ifran*) meaning "cave", in reference to cave dwellers. The same words may be found in the name of the Banu Ifran from Algeria and Tripolitania, a Berber tribe originally from Yafran (also known as Ifrane) in northwestern Libya, as well as the city of Ifrane in Morocco.

Under Roman rule, Carthage became the capital of the province it then named Africa Proconsularis, following its defeat of the Carthaginians in the Third Punic War in 146 BC, which also included the coastal part of modern Libya. The Latin suffix *-ica* can sometimes be used to denote a land (e.g., in *Celtica* from *Celtae*, as used by Julius Caesar). The later Muslim region of Ifriqiya, following its conquest of the Byzantine (Eastern Roman) Empire's Exarchatus Africae, also preserved a form of the name.

According to the Romans, Africa lies to the west of Egypt, while "Asia" was used to refer to Anatolia and lands to the east. A definite line was drawn between the two continents by the geographer Ptolemy (85–165 AD), indicating Alexandria along the Prime Meridian and making the isthmus of Suez and the Red Sea the boundary between Asia and Africa. As Europeans came to understand the real extent of the continent, the idea of "Africa" expanded with their knowledge.

Other etymological hypotheses have been postulated for the ancient name "Africa":

- *The 1st-century Jewish historian Flavius Josephus asserted that it was named for Epher ('calf'), grandson of Abraham according to Gen. 25:4, whose descendants, he claimed, had invaded Libya.*
- *Isidore of Seville in his 7th-century Etymologiae XIV.5.2. suggests "Africa comes from the Latin aprica, meaning "sunny".*
- *Massey, in 1881, stated that Africa is derived from the Egyptian af-rui-ka, meaning "to turn toward the opening of the Ka." The Ka is the energetic double of every person and the "opening of the Ka" refers to a womb or birthplace. Africa would be, for the Egyptians, "the birth-place."*
- *Michèle Fruyt in 1976 proposed linking the Latin word with africus "south wind", which would be of Umbrian origin and mean originally "rainy wind".*
- *Robert R. Stieglitz of Rutgers University in 1984 proposed: "The name Africa, derived from the Latin \*Aphir-ic-a, is cognate to Hebrew Ophir ['rich']."*
- *Ibn Khallikan and some other historians claim that the name of Africa came from a Himyarite king called Afrikin ibn Kais ibn Saifi also called "Afrikus son of Abraham" who subdued Ifriqiya.*
- *Arabic afriqā (feminine noun) and ifriqiyā, now usually pronounced afriqiyā (feminine) 'Africa', from 'afara [' = 'ain, not 'alif] 'to be dusty' from 'afar 'dust, powder' and 'afir 'dried, dried up by the sun, withered' and 'affara 'to dry in the sun on hot sand' or 'to sprinkle with dust'.*
- *Possibly Phoenician faraqā in the sense of 'colony, separation'*



Statue representing Africa at Palazzo Ferreria, in Valletta, Malta



# History

Africa is considered by most paleoanthropologists to be the oldest inhabited territory on Earth, with the Human species originating from the continent. During the mid-20th century, anthropologists discovered many fossils and evidence of human occupation perhaps as early as 7 million years ago (BP=before present). Fossil remains of several species of early apelike humans thought to have evolved into modern man, such as *Australopithecus afarensis* (radiometrically dated to approximately 3.9–3.0 million years BP, *Paranthropus boisei* (c. 2.3–1.4 million years BP) and *Homo ergaster* (c. 1.9 million–600,000 years BP) have been discovered.

After the evolution of *Homo sapiens* approximately 350,000 to 260,000 years BP in Africa, the continent was mainly populated by groups of hunter-gatherers. These first modern humans left Africa and populated the rest of the globe during the Out of Africa II migration dated to approximately 50,000 years BP, exiting the continent either across Bab-el-Mandeb over the Red Sea, the Strait of Gibraltar in Morocco, or the Isthmus of Suez in Egypt.

Other migrations of modern humans within the African continent have been dated to that time, with evidence of early human settlement found in Southern Africa, Southeast Africa, North Africa, and the Sahara.

## Emergence of civilization

The size of the Sahara has historically been extremely variable, with its area rapidly fluctuating and at times disappearing depending on global climatic conditions. At the end of the Ice ages, estimated to have been around 10,500 BC, the Sahara had again become a green fertile valley, and its African populations returned from the interior and coastal highlands in Sub-Saharan Africa, with rock art paintings depicting a fertile Sahara and large populations discovered in Tassili n'Ajjer dating back perhaps 10 millennia. However, the warming and drying climate meant that by 5000 BC, the Sahara region was becoming increasingly dry and hostile. Around 3500 BC, due to a tilt in the earth's orbit, the Sahara experienced a period of rapid desertification. The population trekked out of the Sahara

region towards the Nile Valley below the Second Cataract where they made permanent or semi-permanent settlements. A major climatic recession occurred, lessening the heavy and persistent rains in Central and Eastern Africa. Since this time, dry conditions have prevailed in Eastern Africa and, increasingly during the last 200 years, in Ethiopia.

The domestication of cattle in Africa preceded agriculture and seems to have existed alongside hunter-gatherer cultures. It is speculated that by 6000 BC, cattle were domesticated in North Africa. In the Sahara-Nile complex, people domesticated many animals, including the donkey and a small screw-horned goat which was common from Algeria to Nubia.

Between the 10,000–9,000 BC, pottery was independently invented in the region of Mali in the savannah of West Africa.





In the steppes and savannahs of the Sahara and Sahel in Northern West Africa, the Nilo-Saharan speakers and Mandé peoples started to collect and domesticate wild millet, African rice and sorghum between 8,000 and 6,000 BC. Later, gourds, watermelons, castor beans, and cotton were also collected and domesticated. They also started making pottery and built stone settlements (e.g., Tichitt, Oualata). Fishing, using bone-tipped harpoons, became a major activity in the numerous streams and lakes formed from the increased rains. Mande peoples have been credited with the independent development of agriculture by about 3,000–4,000 BC. In West Africa, the wet phase ushered in an expanding rainforest and wooded savanna from Senegal to Cameroon. Between 9,000 and 5,000 BC, Niger–Congo speakers domesticated the oil palm and raffia palm. Black-eyed peas and voandzeia (African groundnuts), were domesticated, followed by okra and kola nuts. Since most of the plants grew in the forest, the Niger–Congo speakers invented polished stone axes for clearing forest.

Around 4000 BC, the Saharan climate started to become drier at an



exceedingly fast pace. This climate change caused lakes and rivers to shrink significantly and caused increasing desertification. This, in turn, decreased the amount of land conducive to settlements and helped to cause migrations of farming communities to the more tropical climate of West Africa.

By the first millennium BC, ironworking had been introduced in Northern Africa. Around that time it also became established in parts of sub-Saharan Africa, either through independent invention there or diffusion from the north and vanished under unknown circumstances around 500 AD, having lasted approximately 2,000 years, and by 500 BC, metalworking began to become commonplace in West Africa. Ironworking was fully established by roughly 500 BC in many areas of East and West Africa, although other regions didn't begin ironworking until the early centuries AD. Copper objects from Egypt, North Africa, Nubia, and Ethiopia dating from around 500 BC have been excavated in West Africa, suggesting that Trans-Saharan trade networks had been established by this date.





# Early civilizations

Diachronic map showing African empires spanning roughly 500 BCE to 1500 CE

At about 3300 BC, the historical record opens in Northern Africa with the rise of literacy in the Pharaonic civilization of Ancient Egypt. One of the world's earliest and longest-lasting civilizations, the Egyptian state continued, with varying levels of influence over other areas, until 343 BC. Egyptian influence reached deep into modern-day Libya and Nubia, and, according to Martin Bernal, as far north as Crete.

An independent centre of civilization with trading links to Phoenicia was established by Phoenicians from Tyre on the north-west African coast at Carthage.

European exploration of Africa began with Ancient Greeks and Romans. In 332 BC, Alexander the Great was welcomed as a liberator in Persian-occupied Egypt. He founded Alexandria in Egypt, which would become the prosperous capital of the Ptolemaic dynasty after his death. Following the conquest of North Africa's Mediterranean coastline by the Roman Empire, the area was integrated economically and culturally into the Roman system. Roman settlement occurred in modern Tunisia and elsewhere along the coast. The first Roman emperor native to North Africa was Septimius Severus, born in Leptis Magna in present-day Libya—his mother was Italian Roman and his father was Punic.

Christianity spread across these areas at an early date, from Judaea via Egypt and beyond the borders of the Roman world into Nubia by AD 340 at the latest, it had become the state religion of the Aksumite Empire. Syro-Greek missionaries, who arrived by way of the Red Sea, were responsible for this theological development.

In the early 7th century, the newly formed Arabian Islamic Caliphate expanded into Egypt, and then into North Africa. In a short while, the

local Berber elite had been integrated into Muslim Arab tribes. When the Umayyad capital Damascus fell in the 8th century, the Islamic centre of the Mediterranean shifted from Syria to Qayrawan in North Africa. Islamic North Africa had become diverse, and a hub for mystics, scholars, jurists, and philosophers. During the above-mentioned period, Islam spread to sub-Saharan Africa, mainly through trade routes and migration.

In West Africa, Dhar Tichitt and Oualata in present-day Mauritania figure prominently among the early urban centers, dated to 2,000 BC. About 500 stone settlements litter the region in the former savannah of the Sahara. Its inhabitants fished and grew millet. It has been found by Augustin Holl that the Soninke of the Mandé peoples were likely responsible for constructing such settlements. Around 300 BC the region became more desiccated and the settlements began to decline, most likely relocating to Koumbi Saleh. Architectural evidence and the comparison of pottery styles suggest that Dhar Tichitt was related to the subsequent Ghana Empire. Djenné-Djenno (in present-day Mali) was settled around 300 BC, and the town grew to house a sizable Iron Age population, as evidenced by crowded cemeteries. Living structures were made of sun-dried mud. By 250 BC Djenné-Djenno had become a large, thriving market town.

Farther south, in central Nigeria, around 1,500 BC, the Nok culture developed on the Jos Plateau. It was a highly centralized community. The Nok people produced lifelike representations in terracotta, including human heads and human figures, elephants, and other animals. By 500 BC, and possibly earlier, they were smelting iron. By 200 AD the Nok culture had vanished and vanished under unknown circumstances around 500 AD, having lasted approximately 2,000 years. Based on stylistic similarities with the Nok terracottas, the bronze figurines of the Yoruba kingdom of Ife and those of the Bini kingdom of Benin are suggested to be continuations of the traditions of the earlier Nok culture





Pre-colonial Africa possessed perhaps as many as 10,000 different states and polities characterized by many different sorts of political organization and rule. These included small family groups of hunter-gatherers such as the San people of southern Africa; larger, more structured groups such as the family clan groupings of the Bantu-speaking peoples of central, southern, and eastern Africa; heavily structured clan groups in the Horn of Africa; the large Sahelian kingdoms; and autonomous city-states and kingdoms such as those of the Akan; Edo, Yoruba, and Igbo people in West Africa; and the Swahili coastal trading towns of Southeast Africa.

By the ninth century AD, a string of dynastic states, including the earliest Hausa states, stretched across the sub-Saharan savannah from the western regions to central Sudan. The most powerful of these states were Ghana, Gao, and the Kanem-Bornu Empire. Ghana declined in the eleventh century, but was succeeded by the Mali Empire which consolidated much of western Sudan in the thirteenth century. Kanem accepted Islam in the eleventh century.

In the forested regions of the West African coast, independent kingdoms grew with little influence from the Muslim north. The Kingdom of Nri was established around the ninth century and was one of the first. It is also one of the oldest kingdoms in present-day Nigeria and was ruled by the Eze Nri. The Nri kingdom is famous for

its elaborate bronzes, found at the town of Igbo-Ukwu. The bronzes have been dated from as far back as the ninth century.

Slavery had long been practiced in Africa. Between the 15th and the 19th centuries, the Atlantic slave trade took an estimated 7–12 million slaves to the New World. In addition, more than 1 million Europeans were captured by Barbary pirates and sold as slaves in North Africa between the 16th and 19th centuries.

The Scramble for Africa, also called the Partition of Africa or the Conquest of Africa, was the invasion, occupation, division, and colonization of most of Africa by seven Western European powers during a short period known to historians as the New Imperialism (between 1881 and 1914). The 10 percent of Africa that was under formal European control in 1870 increased to almost 90 percent by 1914, with only Ethiopia (Abyssinia) and Liberia remaining independent, though Ethiopia would later be invaded and colonized by Italy in 1936.

The Berlin Conference of 1884, which regulated European colonization and trade in Africa, is usually referred to as the starting point of the Scramble for Africa. There were considerable political rivalries among the European empires in the last quarter of the 19th century. Partitioning Africa was effected without wars between European nations.





Imperial rule by Europeans would continue until after the conclusion of World War II, when almost all remaining colonial territories gradually obtained formal independence. Independence movements in Africa gained momentum following World War II, which left the major European powers weakened. In 1951, Libya, a former Italian colony, gained independence. In 1956, Tunisia and Morocco won their independence from France. Ghana followed suit the next year (March 1957) becoming the first of the sub-Saharan colonies to be granted independence. Most of the rest of the continent became independent over the next decade.

Portugal's overseas presence in Sub-Saharan Africa (most notably in Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and São Tomé and Príncipe) lasted from the 16th century to 1975, after the Estado Novo regime was overthrown in a military coup in Lisbon. Rhodesia unilaterally declared independence from the United Kingdom in 1965, under the white minority government of Ian Smith, but was not internationally recognized as an independent state (as Zimbabwe) until 1980, when black nationalists gained power after a bitter guerrilla war. Although South Africa was one of the first African countries to gain independence, the state remained under the control of the country's white minority through a system of racial segregation known as apartheid until 1994.

Today, Africa contains 54 sovereign countries, most of which have borders that were drawn during the era of European colonialism. Since colonialism, African states have frequently been hampered by instability, corruption, violence, and authoritarianism.

The vast majority of African states are republics that operate under some form of the presidential system of rule. However, few of them have been able to sustain democratic governments on a permanent basis, and many have instead cycled through a series of coups, producing military dictatorships.

Great instability was mainly the result of marginalization of ethnic groups, and graft under these leaders. For political gain, many leaders fanned ethnic conflicts, some of which had been exacerbated, or even created, by colonial rule. In many countries, the military was perceived as being the only group that could effectively maintain order, and it ruled many nations in Africa during the 1970s and early 1980s.

During the period from the early 1960s to the late 1980s, Africa had more than 70 coups and 13 presidential assassinations. Border and territorial disputes were also common, with the European-imposed borders of many nations being widely contested through armed conflicts.



Although it has abundant natural resources, Africa remains the world's poorest and least-developed continent (other than Antarctica), the result of a variety of causes that may include governments that have often committed serious human rights violations, failed central planning, high levels of illiteracy, lack of access to foreign capital, and frequent tribal and military conflict (ranging from guerrilla warfare to genocide). Its total nominal GDP remains behind that of the United States, China, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, India and France. According to the United Nations' Human Development Report in 2003, the bottom 24 ranked nations (151st to 175th) were all African.

From 1995 to 2005, Africa's rate of economic growth increased, averaging 5% in 2005. Some countries experienced still higher growth rates, notably Angola, Sudan and Equatorial Guinea, all of which had recently begun extracting their petroleum reserves or had expanded their oil extraction capacity.

The continent is believed to hold 90% of the world's cobalt, 90% of its platinum, 50% of its gold, 98% of its chromium, 70% of its tantalite, 64% of its manganese and one-third of its uranium. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has 70% of the world's coltan, a mineral used in the production of tantalum capacitors for electronic devices such as cell phones. The DRC also has more than 30% of the world's diamond reserves. Guinea is the world's largest exporter of bauxite. As the growth in Africa has been driven mainly by services and not manufacturing or agriculture, it has been growth without jobs and without reduction in poverty levels. In fact, the food security crisis of 2008 which took place on the heels of the global financial crisis pushed 100 million people into food insecurity. Africa is starting to focus on agricultural innovation as its new engine for regional trade and prosperity.

In recent years, the world has seen the potential in Africa, many countries are investing and exploring the ventures with African various parts





Africa's population has rapidly increased over the last 40 years, and is consequently relatively young. In some African states, more than half the population is under 25 years of age. The total number of people in Africa increased from 229 million in 1950 to 630 million in 1990. As of now, the population of Africa is estimated at 1.3 billion. Africa's total population surpassing other continents is fairly recent; African population surpassed Europe in the 1990s. This increase in number of babies born in Africa compared to the rest of the world is expected to reach approximately 37% in the year 2050, an increase of 21% since 1990 alone.

## Languages

By most estimates, well over a thousand languages are spoken in Africa. Most are of African origin, though some are of European or Asian origin. Africa is the most multilingual continent in the world, and it is not rare for individuals to fluently speak not only multiple African languages, but one or more European ones as well. There are four major language families indigenous to Africa:

- *The Afroasiatic languages are a language family of about 240 languages and 285 million people widespread throughout the Horn of Africa, North Africa, the Sahel, and Southwest Asia.*
- *The Nilo-Saharan language family consists of more than a hundred languages spoken by 30 million people. Nilo-Saharan languages are spoken by ethnic groups in Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and northern Tanzania.*
- *The Niger-Congo language family covers much of Sub-Saharan Africa. In terms of number of languages, it is the largest language family in Africa and perhaps one of the largest in the world.*
- *The Khoisan languages number about fifty and are spoken in Southern Africa by approximately 400,000 people. Many of the Khoisan languages are endangered. The Khoi and San peoples are considered the original inhabitants of this part of Africa.*







The Culture of Africa is varied and manifold, consisting of a mixture of countries with various tribes that each have their own unique characteristic from the continent of Africa. It is a product of the diverse populations that inhabit the continent of Africa and the African Diaspora. Culture, in a general sense, is defined as a collective mass of distinctive qualities belonging to a certain group of people. These qualities include laws, morals, beliefs, knowledge, art, customs, and any other attributes belonging to a member of that society. Africa has numerous ethnic nationalities all with varying qualities such as language, dishes, greetings, and dances. However, all African peoples share a series of dominant cultural traits which distinguish African Culture from the rest of the world. For example, social values, religion, morals, political values, economics and aesthetic values all contribute to African Culture. Expressions of culture are abundant within Africa, with large amounts of cultural diversity being found not only across different countries but also within single countries. Even though African cultures are widely diverse, they are also, when closely studied, seen to have many similarities; for example, the morals they uphold, their love and respect for their culture, as well as the strong respect they hold for the aged and the important, i.e. kings and chiefs.

## Clothing

African clothing and fashion is a diverse topic that is able to provide a look into different African cultures. Clothing varies from brightly colored textiles, to abstractly embroidered robes, to colorful beaded bracelets and necklaces. Since Africa is such a large and diverse continent, traditional clothing differs throughout each country. For example, many countries in West Africa have a "distinct regional dress styles that are the products of long-standing textile crafts in weaving, dyeing, and printing", but these traditions are still able to coexist with western styles. A large contrast in African fashion is between rural and urban societies. Urban societies typically are exposed more to trade and the changing world, while it takes more time for new western trends to get to rural areas.







## African Arts and Crafts

Africa has a rich tradition of arts and crafts. African arts and crafts find expression in a variety of woodcarvings, brass and leather artworks. African arts and crafts also include sculpture, paintings, pottery, ceremonial and religious headgear and dress. Certain African cultures have always emphasized personal appearance, and jewelry has remained an important personal accessory. Many pieces of such jewelry are made of cowry shells and similar materials. Similarly, masks are made with elaborate designs and are an important part of some cultures in Africa. Masks are used in various ceremonies depicting ancestors and spirits, mythological characters, and deities.



African art describes the modern and historical paintings, sculptures, installations, and other visual culture from native or indigenous Africans and the African continent.

Pottery, metalwork, sculpture, architecture, textile art and fibre art, are important visual art forms across Africa.

- *The human figure has always been the primary subject matter for most African art, and this emphasis even influenced certain European traditions. The human figure may symbolize the living or the dead, may reference chiefs, dancers, or various trades such as drummers or hunters, or even may be an anthropomorphic representation of a god or have other votive function. Another common theme is the inter-morphosis of human and animal.*

- *African art takes many forms and is made from many different materials. Most African artworks are wood sculptures, probably because wood is a very widespread material. Jewellery is a popular art form and is used to indicate rank, affiliation with a group, or purely for aesthetics. African jewellery is made from such diverse materials as Tiger's eye stone, haematite, sisal, coconut shell, beads and ebony wood. Sculptures can be wooden, ceramic or carved out of stone like the famous Shona sculptures, and decorated or sculpted pottery comes from many regions. Various forms of textiles are made including chitenge, mud cloth and kente cloth. Mosaics made of butterfly wings or coloured sand are popular in West Africa. Early African sculptures can be identified as being made of terracotta and bronze.*







## Music

Given the vastness of the African continent, its music is diverse, with regions and nations having many distinct musical traditions. African music includes the genres Jùjú, Fuji, Highlife, Makossa, Kizomba, Afrobeat and others. The music and dance of the African diaspora, formed to varying degrees on African musical traditions, include American music like Dixieland, the blues, jazz, old-time, and bluegrass and many Caribbean genres, such as calypso and soca. Latin American music genres such as zouk, bomba, conga, rumba, son, salsa, cumbia and samba, were founded on the music of enslaved Africans, and have in turn influenced African popular music.

Like the music of Asia, India and the Middle East, it is a highly rhythmic music. The complex rhythmic patterns often involving one rhythm played against another to create a polyrhythm.

## Dance

The term African dance refers mainly to the numerous dance styles of Sub-Saharan Africa. These dances must be viewed in close connection with the traditional rhythms and music traditions of the region. Music and dancing is an integral part of many traditional African societies. Songs and dances facilitate teaching and promoting social values, celebrating special events and major life milestones, performing oral history and other recitations, and spiritual experiences. African dance utilizes the concepts of polyrhythm and total body articulation. African dances are a collective activity performed in large groups, with significant interaction between dancers and onlookers in the majority of styles.



## Sports

Africa's most common & Favorite Sport is Football- played at almost all over the continent. In recent years, the continent has made major progress in terms of state-of-the-art basketball facilities. The number of African basketball players who drafted into the NBA has experienced major growth in the 2010s. Cricket is also popular in some African nations like South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya. Rugby is another popular sport in South African nations, Namibia and Zimbabwe



# African Cuisine



Traditionally, the various cuisines of Africa use a combination of plant and seed based and do not usually have food imported.

Central Africa region has received culinary influence of the Swahilis culinary influences can be found in dishes such as: mandazi, pilaf rice, kachumbari, sambusa, kuku paka, etc.

East Africa, the traditional cuisine of cattle-keeping peoples is distinctive in that meat products are generally absent. Cattle, sheep, pigs and goats were regarded as a form of currency and a store of wealth, and are not generally consumed as food. Maize (corn) is the basis of ugali, the local version of West and Central Africa's fufu. Ugali is a starch dish eaten with meats or stews. In Uganda, steamed green bananas called matoke provide the starch filler of many meals.

North Africa like Morocco, Algeria, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt and Sudan. The roots of North African cuisine can be traced back to the ancient

empires of North Africa. Over several centuries traders, travelers, invaders, migrants and immigrants all have influenced the cuisine of North Africa. The Phoenicians of the 1st century brought sausages, while the Carthaginians introduced wheat and its by-product, semolina. The Berbers adapted semolina into couscous, one of the main staple foods. Olives and olive oil were introduced before the arrival of the Romans.

Southern Africa is called "rainbow cuisine", as the food in this region is a blend of many cultures: indigenous African societies, European, and Asian. To understand indigenous African cuisine, it is important to understand the various native peoples of southern Africa.

West African meal are starchy items and can contain meat, fish as well as various spices and herbs. A wide array of staples are eaten across the region, including fufu, banku, kenkey, foutou, couscous, tô, and garri. Rice dishes are also widely eaten in the region.





While these were the titans of that have created history and contributed immensely to the growth and development of the continent across all aspects, we're now presenting the titans of the present day Africa - the men and women who've carried forward the glorious legacy left behind by their stalwart ancestors, and presented Africa in a completely new way on the global map.

Embark on a journey with us as we uncover their stories, struggles, successes and achievements that will engage and inspire one and all.





*Incredible Africans*



TITANS OF  
AFRICA



# Serving *the community before self*

DR. SWARUP RANJAN MISHRA, Chairman & Founder, Mediheal Group of Hospitals



*"As long as one has the willingness to serve the society, power or position does not matter.  
He can serve in every little way possible,"*







‘Thy need is greater than mine.’ is a saying many of us would have heard. But how easy and practical is it to keep other’s needs ahead of yours? Well, in Dr S.R. Mishra’s opinion, it’s not difficult. “As long as one has the willingness to serve the society, power or position does not matter. He can serve in every little way possible,” he affirms. From being a young medicine graduate in India to being one of the most sought after politicians revered for his unflinching service attitude towards the African society, he has left a legacy for generations to follow.

Dr Swarup Ranjan Mishra, popularly known as Dr Mishra’s story began in the small town of Cuttack, Orissa, a state in India where he was born to a middle-class visionary family. While his father worked in an international firm back in the 60s, his mother held a Master’s degree in Political Science and Economics, which considering the socio-economic situation in

those times was a huge accomplishment in itself. His parents raised him with modern values and a visionary attitude. “Everything I have achieved is due to the Lord’s mercy and the teachings of my parents. They brought me up with the values that helped me become what I am today,” says Dr Mishra.

From a young age, he wanted to pursue his career in medicine. He completed his basic MBBS and post-graduation in Obstetrics and Gynecology from India after which he began working as a Junior Consultant in P.D.Hinduja hospital in Mumbai. And that’s where his life took a beautiful turn as he met his wife Dr Pallavi there. “We both worked in the same hospital under the renowned Dr Nargis Motasa and Madam Urvashi Jha, and that’s how we connected, and decided to marry,” he recalls fondly.

His wife hailed from South India and he belonged to East India. Due to the cultural

differences, he mentions how initially the alliance was a tipsy turvy ride but eventually, both of them developed synergies and compatibility. It was, in-fact, during this period where their seniors exposed them towards medical career abroad and the growth potentials there.





Dr Mishra and his wife Pallavi decided to move abroad, their first stop being Ireland. From there, they moved to Kiel, Germany to pursue his diploma in Gynecology Endoscopy. Then, they decided to move to Australia for further education but due to financial constraints, decided to move to Kenya instead. He joined as a lecturer and consultant at Department of Reproductive Health, College of Health Sciences, MOI University, Kenya in 1997.

But as destiny brings you where you ought to be, within six months of their stay, the duo decided to make Kenya their home for good. “It is better to become the head of a cat than to become the tail of the tiger,” he remarks. Staying in Kenya, they knew the immense scope they had to not only grow individually but collectively. There was a lot to do in health,

education and practice. “We had the experience from India and Europe which we could now translate to Africa and transform the society,” he says. “Whenever I would take a flight from Africa to India, I would see nearly half the flight being full of terminally sick people, which hurt me a lot. That’s when I took an oath to bring high end medical treatments and technologies to Africa so their people didn’t have to travel to get treated,” he adds.

He continued working during the day but harboured his dream all throughout in his heart and mind. As you seek, so shall you find, and so finally in 2005, Dr Mishra and his wife came across a lucrative opportunity - to start their own practice in the private sector. There was a hospital called Pacifica which hadn’t been properly run by the Africans, Indians or the Chinese based there. With the little savings

they had, they purchased the hospital, renaming it to Mediheal Hospital.

Today, over 19 years after its establishment, the hospital consists of 1800 full time staff out of which 250 are Indian expatriates, spread across 2 countries for now and are expanding into 2 more shortly. Fulfilling his dream, Dr Mishra has not only brought in the latest technology into Africa but has also ensured to provide local treatment for the most complex medical cases too so his people, the Africans, don’t have to travel far and wide. “Today, less than 10% of Africans in Kenya travel abroad for treatment. In-fact, we’ve become a renowned name for countries in East, South and North of Africa for treatments. They send their patients to us for treatment, which is an achievement. Now we’re busy planning new hospitals in their countries too,” he says.







Following his milestone accomplishment in the medical field, in 2016, he was approached by the local people to contest for elections. It came as a surprise for Dr Mishra and he mentions how initially he didn't take it seriously. When he came home, discussed this idea casually with his wife and mother, he was amused when they consented to it.

"They said, if you'll be able to perform in this role, benefit people, then do it," he adds. Taking their agreement into consideration, he contested for the elections and in September 2017, he was appointed as the Vice Chair for the Health Committee. Today, he is Member of Parliament from Kesses constituency, the

Director of Economic Diplomacy at Kenya Chamber of Commerce & Industries, a member of India Kenya Business Council and Member on Parliamentary Committee on Interior, Security and Administration. He is also member of parliament for peace and also selected as member of international parliament for global health.

When businessmen become politicians, they often get digressed. But Dr Mishra's strong ideals didn't let him waiver from his main goal - serving the people. After entering politics, he has initiated many things such as high education scholarships, cow donation programs for the needy, underprivileged ladies who were

the sole earners of their families, and more. "We also initiated a program where we provided help to over 20,000 individuals who wanted to start small scale businesses like farming, cattle rearing, poultry farming, cyber cafe and irrigation."

With initiatives like these, he became instantly popular among the masses. But despite all the accolades, Dr Mishra considers himself a leader and not a politician. "A politician is concerned about the next elections and a leader is concerned about the next generation," he says. He feels really blessed to have lived all the three stages of his life to the fullest - academics, business and politics.







All through his journey, Dr Mishra explains how his wife has been standing like a rock besides him. “Pallavi is very different. I am a bit casual but she is very organised, disciplined and meticulous. She has a fixed routine to follow and trust me, if I could live 10% like her, I would be in a different place,” he describes. “She has really accommodated very well to my lifestyle and supported me wherever I needed her. My parents trust her more than me.” Together, they are parents to two wonderful children, a son who’s pursuing his Masters in Finance and Economics from London and working for an HR Capital firm, and a daughter who is pursuing Corporate Law in Kenya.

Now this would make many of us wonder what

would a busy man like him do in his free time. Well, surprisingly, Dr Mishra doesn’t take specific offs but whenever he wants to enjoy, he’ll invite some African youth over dinner, listen to some music and dance.

Talking about what sets Africa apart from the world, it is their honesty and their forgiveness, he affirms. “They know how to welcome you, love you and forgive you,” he adds. “When they say they’ve forgiven, it actually means they have.” But he wishes to see Africans stand up for themselves and go beyond the discriminations of caste, creed, tribe and more,

unite as a continent and work towards betterment. “We’re a rich continent and

Africans have been so warm and welcoming towards so many of their foreign brothers and sisters, why is the same not done for their own brothers and sisters across borders? If they unite and work together, they’ll be one of the strongest continents in the future.”

On a concluding note, Dr Mishra believes that the only way to become successful is by being humble. “If you believe you’re rich, you’ll stop working and hence stop growing. But if you’re hungry for growth, you will continue growing.”

*“It is better to become the head of a cat than to become the tail of the tiger,”*





*Incredible Africans*



TITANS OF  
AFRICA





# Faith, hard-work *and perseverance*

DR. AHMED OLANIYI SALAWUDEEN, President - Standard Group of Companies  
Chairman, Signature Global Real Estate



*“Being humble is a reflection of my personality. Being a Muslim, Islam teaches humility.  
That one needs to be humane. This has guided me over the years*

When you walk into Dr. Ahmed Olaniyi Salawudeen office, the first thing you’ll notice are the neatly aligned awards, one for each of his achievements. A Melvin Jones Fellow, a Full Member of the Global Club of Leaders, and the proud recipient of the “World Leader Businessperson’ award for four consecutive years, he has many laurels to his name, which he accepts with utter humility. He has recently been awarded as TOP 100 PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN IN NIGERIA. He is also the recipient of many awards internationally.





Born and brought up in a strict Islamic family, Dr. Salawudeen has always been a firm believer in God and his supreme powers. He believes that when you are guided by your faith and culture, you do twice as well and work twice as hard, because you know you are on the right path. After his schooling in Nigeria, he went to graduate in the year 1976 from the College of Insurance Surbiton Surrey as a Chartered Insurance Practitioner.

He is an alumnus of Commonwealth University Belize where he bagged Doctor of Management (specializing in insurance) and a Fellow of Commonwealth Academy of Leadership and Management.

With a bag full of life experiences and quality education by his side, it was only in 1982, when he got married, that he decided to move out of London and start something of his own.







Dr. Salawudeen's decision to set up his Group of Companies including but not limited to the Mother Company, Standard Insurance Consultants Limited, and Signature Global Real Estate LLC which is headquartered in Dubai UAE has turned out to be one of his most fruitful decisions.

In his opinion, the UAE is one of the most

secured and business -friendly countries, with a proactive government who maintains the infrastructure of the country very well.

He is happily married and live with his 2 sons and 2 daughters. His biggest joy in life is to give as much as he gets and plans on imparting the same values to his children. If not into

insurance and real-estate, he says he would have been a consultant who would sit down with his clients, talk to them in depth about their financial decisions and advise them about the right way to make use of their money.

He says " I have great passion to give all children the qualitative Education"







*“Be disciplined and stick to your roots.  
Success will suerly follow you.  
Don’t try short-cuts in life.”*

He has received several laurels from Muslim organisations, his insurance community across the country and in Real Estate Fraternity but prefers to maintain a low profile with his belief that everything one has belongs to God. But like a golden fish that has no hiding place, Salawudeen continues to soar. It is with fanfare recently in Lagos when Salawudeen was honoured by his constituency, Chartered

Insurance Institute of Nigeria (CIIN) as Fellow during its 2015 graduation ceremony and inductions of Fellows and Associates. Salawudeen was among the six new inductees into the fold in the elaborate ceremony.

Basking in Euphoria of his the new recognition, Salawudeen gave glory to Almighty Allah for lifting him up. “I am elated

today that I am being honoured having certified all the requirements.

I have a Doctorate Degree in Management specializing in Insurance and I have acquired various certificates and fellows both home and abroad. But this is the peak one can attain in one’s career and I am grateful for the honour bestowed on me,” he said.



*Out of many, these are some of the other awards*



*“I’m a people’s man I welcome all with open mind and heart- life is for giving.”*

An extremely likable personality, you will always find Dr. Salawudeen with a huge smile on his face. In his 41 years of running a successful venture, he has never missed a single meal and ensures that his employees too, get the break that they deserve. ‘I am a chief servant officer’, he says. He doesn’t believe in being a boss, but he does believe in being an

advisor or a friend in need who is there to guide his employees at every step of their career. For him, hard work should be at the core of everything that we do, and we should continuously move beyond our boundaries and step out of our comfort zone if we want to build a successful life. As the President of Standard Group of Companies, Dr.

Salawudeen takes pride in his work ethics and his faith. He also credits his staff who are ready to work twice as hard to make his vision possible. His ultimate goal he says is ‘to make my company one of the biggest and most sought-after real-estate and insurance firms in the UAE’.

*Signature Global Real Estate Partners*







*Incredible Africans*

TITANS OF  
AFRICA

AN INITIATIVE OF THE AFRICAN UNION

# The Determined, *Charismatic Business Warrior*

KENNETH RAYDON SHARPE, Executive Chairman - West Property Company



*“Let’s leave the world better than we found ”*

Renowned business author, John C. Maxwell rightly said, “A leader knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” Kenneth Raydon Sharpe, popularly Ken Sharpe, is a suave, confident, self-made leader and a highly-inspirational global citizen. He has

proved this famous business saying right by his immense contribution to his country of birth, Zimbabwe and the world at large. Ken has not only believed in this but has wholeheartedly applied it all in his storied adventurous life.







Ken is the first Zimbabwean to win the coveted Forbes Best of Africa Innovative CEO Award and he has a life story that defies human imagination and expands our idea of what the human experience is like. Here is a man who was brought up in a broken family after his parents divorced when he was still young, consequently spawning untold hardship for the young boy. The now-ambitious businessman, as a youngster, endured heavy-bullying in school to the point of becoming a timid introvert; yet against all odds, his misfortunes couldn't break his unbending resolve to fight back and become a bonafide global brand and a roaring, inspirational success story.

His unbelievable business journey begins with this wide-eyed curly haired White Rhodesian child peculiarly selling fresh vegetables to African mineworkers by setting up a make-shift store where he lived in a small mining town in Zimbabwe. But as they say, a strong building is built on a firm foundation and tall trees have deep roots; so does Ken too bring with him a most-interesting legacy of entrepreneurial adventure that was built upon the foundations of his wayfarer forefathers, and still rocks today. According to family legend, Ken's ancestors were descendants of the Vikings – a renowned warrior people who originally occupied the

north of England, in about A.D. 1000. His paternal great-great-grandfather, Robert Good Sharpe was appointed a Rear Admiral of the Northern Fleet of the British Navy.

Also his other great-great-grandfather, Sir Joseph Wilson Swan invented and patented the world's first electric light bulb some three months before the well-known Thomas Edison did and won a case against Edison in the British courts, forcing him to accept Sir Swan as a 50 percent shareholder in EdiSwan, the first-ever light bulb company which eventually became part of AIE and behemoth manufacturer, General Electric.



Sir Joseph's daughter Hilda, met Captain Robert Sharpe, Ken's great-grandfather, on a skiing holiday in Switzerland and they migrated as a young married couple to start the family's long African adventure. Their son Dr. Noel Sharpe, followed in his father's footsteps to become a famous geologist in Africa. Dr. Sharpe helped the legendary Tiny Rowland acquire his mining interests for Lonrho, which became one of the largest African conglomerates ever, at its peak.

Despite such extraordinary, inspiring tales of success behind him, Ken was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth and in fact his father sent him on a one-way ticket with only 100 pounds at age 16 to the UK to make his own way in life. Growing up during the deadly Rhodesian civil war is what catapulted him

towards an era of huge social change and led to the inception of cultural integration in the country of his birth Zimbabwe, which he openly adores. Despite living through sanctions in the 70's and facing many tough challenges in life, Ken has fought through it all with his positive can-do attitude of 'seeing the glass half full' and his determined spirit of never giving up. Ken's youthful aspiration to be an RAF fighter pilot was quickly overtaken by his burgeoning love and passion for business at a tender age. He has started more than 100 companies and is the founder of the West Group which he started as an FMCG import and distribution company in 1991.

Ken grew it into a large diverse holdings until 2007 when he began a strategic re-focus, rationalization and exit of legacy assets to create

West Prop, Zimbabwe's largest and most-prominent private developer of exceptional properties in Zimbabwe.

The eminent businessman possesses an extensive 30-year experience in senior management roles and has chaired various operating management teams, boards of directors, and shareholders. His business knowledge and skills extend to multiple organizations in Zimbabwe, Africa and other global locations. He is widely- recognized as a prolific and influential business leader who has set an example as a high achiever for everyone to follow. His overriding passion for Zimbabwe to drive investment, job creation, resource availability and transformational development is very evident through all the projects he undertakes.





Ken acknowledges that Africa has the largest youth demographic in the world and that its people were its biggest asset. Africa is a continent of highly-educated people and Ken calls upon others to invest in Africa as the time is now ripe.

Asked to share a personal moment that changed his life, Ken recalled when aged only 18, he knew the minute he first laid his eyes on the now love of his life, Ludmila (aka Joanna), born in Ukraine, and upon seeing her, confidently told Mark his best friend at the time, that she was going to be his wife. He shares that it became his pre-eminent purpose to pursue his heart and follow her to the then USSR with only her address and a telephone number (those days had no cellphones), albeit in the middle of the infamous Russian winter and only \$100 in his back pocket, landing in Moscow and discovering he was in the wrong city as she lived closer to Kyiv.

Ken somehow managed to sweet-talk Joanna's guarded Communist mother, convincing her that their marriage was meant to be and he struggled to get permission to take her back to Africa to start a life together. Another story for a different day and suffice to say they now stand as a very successful and happily-married couple that has stood the test of time. Together, they have a beautiful daughter Tatiana. She studied at the leading King's College in London and went on to study innovation and tech at the Ivy League's world-famous Stanford University, and was now launching her own pioneering tech business at the Dubai Expo 2021.

The philanthropic couple also fostered their son Denzel at 15 and put him through law school. Ken values his family over everything, having always done the best for them and kept his promise to himself to do far-more for his children than his parents did for him. At 17, he was motivated enough to decide to break away

from the chain of generational mistakes and be different. His aim was always to provide the best education in a safe environment and provide sufficient resources that would be beneficial to his children – and beyond – to his grandchildren.

In his quest for success Ken reflects that in his 20's he had somewhat carelessly neglected his health by being a workaholic. It is only during his 30s that he started concentrating on maintaining good health. He strongly believes in the saying: "No amount of success in the world makes up for a failure in the family." With equilibrium in his mind, body, and spirit, Ken has divided his life into 12 segments that he prudently reviews individually every month.



*"Never give up on anything. Persevere and one day you'll get it."*



Ken considers himself as both a learner and a teacher. Life has always had something good to teach him and as a man of strong faith, he believes everything happens for a reason. Learning is a continual process for him and he considers it the fortuitous, unmerited grace of God to provide such that his glass was always overflowing. He realizes that God has the ultimate control over everything and everyone.

Ken credits his solid spiritual transformation to a life-altering accident he encountered in 2007 in Canada, when he had his Damascene moment, surviving a near-death experience whilst skiing for the first time and bravely off piste. After hitting a tree at high speed, Ken

gravely severed his brain from his skull and left a haematoma the size of a large pear, and endured a 6-hour craniotomy and a five-day coma after doctors had given him a minuscule 2 % chance of survival with the chilling caveat that even if he did wake up from the coma, he would be a vegetable! Yet the miracle was that he was fully restored with no side effects of any kind and all his faculties intact. Ken now spiritually considers life as a gift from God, and what we choose to do with it is our gift to God.

Throughout the course of his notable career and life, charitable Ken has supported various orphanages and youth projects. He strongly believes in impact investment and giving a hand up and not mere handouts as a way for

society and its people to permanently and sustainably improve the lives of the underprivileged and the benefactors' lives too in the process.

The Forbes Award has reinvigorated and keeps reminding Ken of a truism taught in his faith and the importance of leading correctly: "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall in the ditch" and we ought to develop a culture of celebrating success and being happy for the success of others.

Ken's declared purpose and mission is seemingly simple; *to lead* and have real, lasting, and sustainable impact in his personal, family, and business lives altogether.





*Incredible Africans*



# The Unstoppable *journey*

MICHAEL L. BARTLETT - VANDERPUYE, Group Chairman - M&C Group (Global)



When you want to achieve more in life, you need to keep working hard and compete with yourself before competing with others. These words are easier said than done but for Mr Michael Bartlett, this is the motto

he lives by. From opening a small business in a corner room, to having a billion-dollar venture, his is a story that has been an inspiration to many, especially those who wish to work on their own terms.







*“Entrepreneurship is not easy, you need to always be on your toes and work towards becoming better each day”, he maintains.*

Mike, set foot into the world of business in 2007 and since then has never looked back. He likes to call himself a “leader who likes to serve”. He is a thorough believer of the fact that there is no alternative to hard work, and you will reap the benefits if you work in the right direction. “I always knew that I wanted to work for myself”. An entrepreneur through

and through, it is almost like Mike never gets tired of coming up with new ideas to expand his business. An alumnus of the University of Ghana, he has been an independent person from the very beginning.

He went to a boarding school, from where he picked up necessary life skills, thereafter pursued his education in Business Administration and took a plunge to open his own business in packaging and logistics. At the time, it was a challenge to obtain a business license in Ghana and to have an office space

was a distant dream. However, that did not deter him from his aim to work for himself and he went on to open a small office in his own house.

With a strong background in administration and management, Mike took upon himself to continuously learn and get acquainted with the market trends to further expand his businesses in UAE and Asia. He says that UAE and Hong Kong are by far the most business-friendly countries in the world.



*Out of many, these are some of the other awards*



“You just need to follow the rules and be a good person,” he exclaims. With utmost humility, he goes on to mention how important it is to have good conversational skills as someone who is willing to open his own business. Thank you and sorry are the two magical words, he says, that can land you innumerable business opportunities so always be good and nice to people.

*“Entrepreneurship is not easy, you need to always be on your toes and work towards becoming better each day”*



*Africa's Most Respected CEO Award 2021*



“There is so much to learn and so much to give”



When asked what he likes to do in his free time, Mike frowns before finally agreeing that taking time off from his work is one of the biggest challenges he faces. With so many ventures and his urge to learn and reach out to more people, he hardly gets any free time to enjoy life with his wife and kids.

However, he tries every day to make some time for his family and works hard on maintaining a good work-life balance. A good daily vacation is on the cards soon, he beams as he says.



Micheal Barlett wants to train more and more people to become successful entrepreneurs. “There is so much to learn and so much to give’, he exclaims while talking about the aptitude for young people to become business owners. Instead of sitting and thinking, he encourages people to stand up and start working. When you work for yourself, you work twice as hard, is the motto he stands for and lives by. As for his future, he says there is always something better to do, something better to learn and something new to try your hands on.





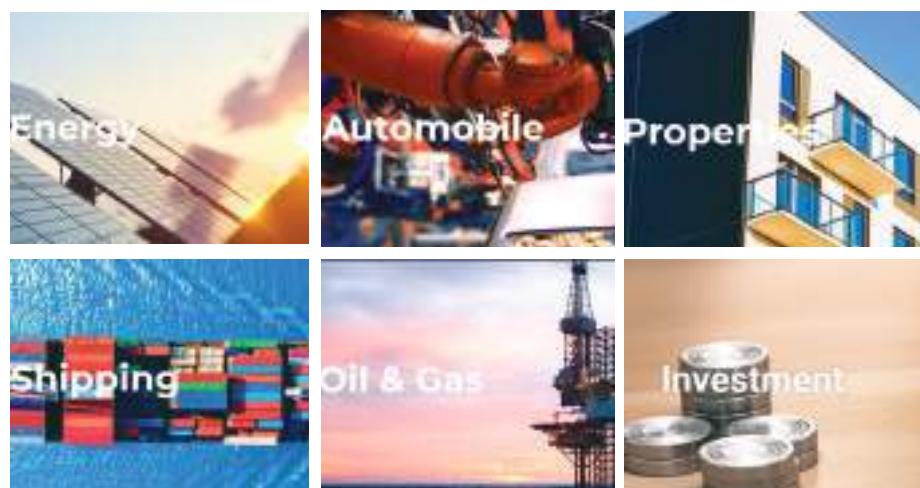


*Incredible Africans*



# Mission to *bring mission*

PRINCE FRANKLIN E. OMENE, Group CEO , Omene Holdings



*Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.*

- Martin Luther King

Nigeria is known as the giant of Africa, it is natural that a leader so benevolent, forward-thinking, and humble hails from one of its kingdoms. Being born in Lagos and having roots in Sapele, precisely

Mosogar Kingdom of Delta State, Prince Franklin E Omene is more than a marvel. His progressive attitude, immense knowledge has helped not one but two nations develop simultaneously.







*We are an enterprise attaching importance to human beings and their environment*

From studying in a private school in the eastern part of Nigeria to completing his bachelor's and master's degrees in Austin, Texas has been quite a journey. Hailing from a polygamous family and being the eldest son, the move from Nigeria to the USA was not an easy one. However, with the values, discipline, and confidence instilled in him by his father, Prince Franklin was determined to experience different cultures, add value to his education, and contribute positively to his homeland. All the way from Jordon, to Syria

From the days of being merchants of rubber and timber to being merchants of gas and oil to trading across borders in diverse industries, Prince Franklin has truly revolutionized the trade relations between Nigeria and the UAE. He has always been a very family-oriented person and believes that every person you work with has to be treated with respect and as

family. When he moved to Dubai, the nation was undergoing many changes and also battling certain challenges. Prince Franklin was definitely intrigued by the situation in the UAE. He wanted to explore the UAE and also begin his journey as an entrepreneur. It is when he started out, he realized there is a lot of work to be done in case he wants to build a sturdy base to enhance the business relations between Nigeria and the UAE.

Being the optimistic, goal-oriented, and determined person he is, he left no stone unturned in assisting in setting up a Nigerian embassy in the UAE. Besides all the activities he undertook to strategize operations for Nigerian scholars and entrepreneurs, he contributed a great deal to enhance the business ties between both nations. As his role model, he considers the contribution of his highness, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al

Maktoum, incremental in helping him achieve this objective. Prince Franklin has very high regard for him and his governance and truly appreciated how the UAE is a melting pot of opportunities and supports everyone who has the talent to showcase.





Prince Franklin is among the first few businessmen who set up legitimate and excellent businesses in the UAE. He has set high standards of excellence and quality by establishing more than five companies across various sectors such as editorial, real estate, logistics, freight, and general trading. Omene Holdings which is the general trading company incorporated leading technologies such as AI, Next-Generation, Blockchain, and Digital Currencies.

It is his mission to contribute significantly to more than 20,000 women and youth across the African continent. Through these companies, he has built excellent ties with various nations across the globe and has also contributed significantly to the development of Nigeria. The true Ubuntu spirit of, 'together we can', is clearly reflected in every work he does and how he treats his people. He is of the opinion that a lone tree cannot make a forest and every



individual's contribution is important and relevant.

Even though he considers himself to be a workaholic and an octopus, he would definitely like to spend more time on himself. He does enjoy his leisure time with his friends and tries to spend at least an hour watching a movie or simply disconnecting from the digital world.

His family means everything to him and despite his hectic work schedule, he does make time for his 4 children. He owes part of his success to his wife who is a contractor and manages logistics and events for his company in Nigeria. Extending his services to pro bono work is something that he enjoys. Optimism, hard work, and a go-getter attitude can help one bring about massive changes are what he truly believes in. Humility, supporting people, being a good listener, and giving back to your



nation, are some of the stepping stones to success, which is what he propagates.

At Omene Holdings, we pride ourselves on our innovative approach, backed by a straightforward business model and a proven ability to identify and realise valuable opportunities before others. We are proud to announce that we have successfully trained and empowered over 1,500 youths from the Niger Delta region of The Federal Republic of Nigeria through the Presidential Amnesty Programme of Nigeria in various spheres like Engineers, Underwater welders, Information in Telecommunication Security, Architects, Programmers, Medical Doctors etc in 4 countries.





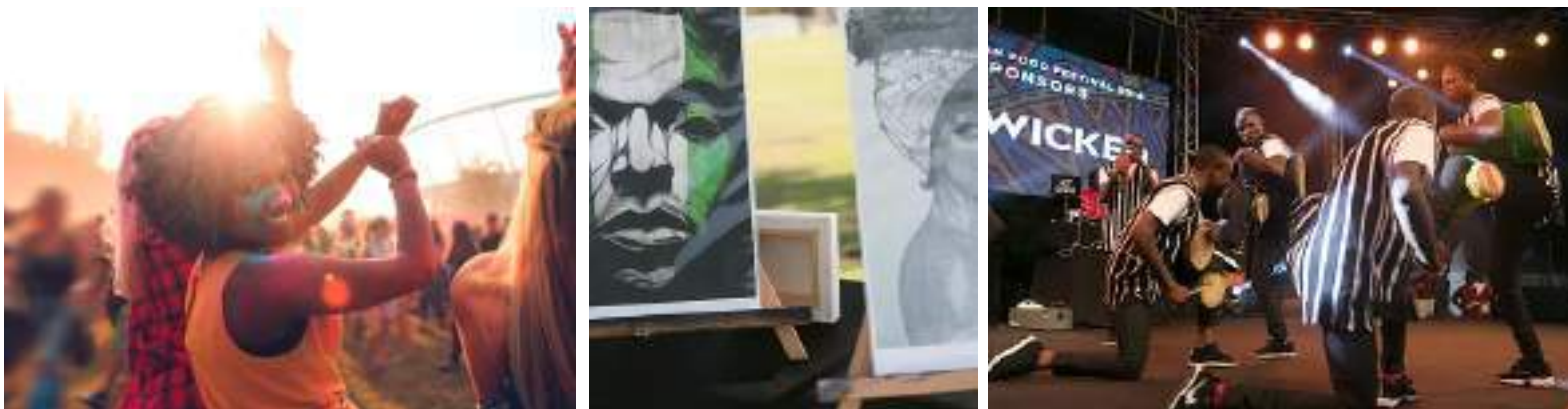


*Incredible Africans*



# Celebrate *Yourself Everyday*

NINA OLATOKE, Vice President, BDP International Logistics



*“One must always compete with themselves and not others”*

Nigeria is a land known for harbouring many legends who’ve time and again proved that goodness is far more powerful than anything else in the world. Nina Olatoke is one such lady that yet again makes her people proud by going all the extra miles to help

and inspire people. Nina Olatoke, currently the Vice President of HR Europe, Middle - East Africa (EMEA) for BDP International which is a global US-based logistics company, brings with her an array of Nigerian values.





Being raised with integrity by a strong, determined and successful entrepreneur-minded family, she is resilient, hardworking, a problem solver and an extremely positive soul. She believes that the world is a land of opportunities. And hence, without waiting for them falling into her kitty, she started working for herself ever since she was young. She took up all kinds of jobs to support herself and her education. Wherever she has worked, she strived to build a home and not a workplace, considering her people as family and not a workforce. Her aim in life is to add value to people's life, empower them, educate them and train them to be a better version of themselves, even be better than her.

From starting her career in payroll to pursuing a law degree, and then eventually bringing about massive reforms in the field of Human Resources, Nina has left a mark wherever she went. Throughout the course of her career, she has developed various strategies and executed development plans for employees and organizations. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience, which she believes in utilizing for the upliftment and benefit of people. She is extremely passionate about her work and her family.



Despite being in a role that spans over 3 continents, and 18 countries, she always makes time for the celebration of the African continent. As one of the co-founders of the Africa Festival, Nina strives to honour the diversity, culture and dimensions of Africa. She believes it's a great platform to salute the African spirit within oneself. Her work for Africa is something she considers as her me time.

As a motto in life, she says: "One should embrace the challenges life throws at you as they help in building your personality and identity. The slightest alteration to any of these situations could make you a completely different person." Nina has no regrets and is very grateful for every experience and opportunity she has had in life. Her role as a spouse

and mother is what she immensely adores. She is a true learner and considers herself to be a guide, as she attains sheer joy and hope in helping others. According to her, the most challenging moment of her life was when she tried to change people's perceptions. Soon she realized that not everyone will understand the dynamics of your work and accept you for who you are. Since then, Nina has always let her work, knowledge, and intentions speak for herself.

Talking about the UAE, she believes the Dubai Expo 2021 is a great opportunity to network and bring about reform in the world. "One must always compete with themselves and not others," in her opinion is the mantra for success.

*"One should embrace the challenges life throws at you as they help in building your personality and identity. The slightest alteration to any of these situations could make you a completely different person."*







*Incredible Africans*



# A heart *that Gives*

REJESH SATIJA, Group Chairman, Sun & Sand Group of Companies



*“Born in India, worked in Europe and Middle East. But my soul is in Africa”*

Most of us have a passion for something or the other in life. But what differentiates leaders from the rest is their zeal to follow their passion despite all hardships. Such a leader is Rejesh Satija, who currently serves as the Group Chairman of the Sun and Sand Group of Companies, with offices in London as well as Dubai. But his true identity,

fortunately, goes far beyond. Born in a small village near Ambala, India, he completed his primary education in Haryana, where his mother taught. Rejesh describes himself as being an inherently calm and mature child; he spent more time with the teachers in school than with the students his age.





*“God has given me a lot of opportunities in Africa. Africa is full of resources, 15-16 times more than the combined world economy. But they have no infrastructure to utilize them. Something must be done.”*

When he passed school, upon his father's insistence, Rajesh took up engineering so he could secure a good Government job. But fate had its own will. He graduated in 1986, and in 1989 left for Dubai to set up a business there.

But, surprisingly, even after over 30 years of having lived in Dubai, he doesn't have an affinity for it. He says: “I have a house here, an office, bank accounts and family. But my soul is in Africa.”

When Rajesh first travelled to Africa in 1990, he knew nobody there. “I had no connections, there was no communication and no money.” All he had was the \$1 his father had given to him before he left India. “That dollar turned me into a billionaire.” But it didn't come easy.

Rajesh has seen his share of hardships. He mentions how once he went without food for 21 days and had to be hospitalized. “Everyone goes through hardship”, says Rajesh, who has now built an empire and quite the legacy in Africa.

It all started when the Indian government banned trade and import in the early 1990s. The possibility arose to import teakwood from Nigeria. Within a year Rajesh became the

largest exporter of teak. He further expanded his exports into utensils, charcoal, textiles, and electrical goods. He bought scrap and converted it into auto-parts.

Eventually, his work grew from trading to manufacturing, and he began to export to Japan. In-fact, he was the first in all of Africa to be listed on the London Metal Exchange and remains the only one to do so till date. He exported to brands like Toyota, Rolls Royce, and Honda, becoming so successful that the President sent a special team to his factory to see the manufacture of alloys to be sent to Japan. He became the recipient of two Presidential awards and continued to export until 2016, after which he sold the plant.

Despite being so successful in business, Rajesh's goal has never been to make money. It has always been to help the African people. He describes how once he was held at gunpoint by robbers. Instead of becoming terrified or angry, he brought them some chicken and beer from the kitchen and asked them to relax while he collected all his money and belongings for them from his room. “It's the mindset of kindness that changes people. Those same

robbers became my good friends and protected my factory in the night.”

He owned a gold mine in Ghana but couldn't bear to see children on the same land sleeping without clothes. “God has given me a lot of opportunities in Africa. Africa is full of resources, 15-16 times more than the combined world economy. But they have no infrastructure to utilize them. The people here are suffering.” Rajesh has dedicated his entire life to Africa.





*“Destiny is your height and karma your body – you can’t change your height, but you can change your weight by working hard.”*

“Africa is in my blood, I cannot go back to India.” Every day he spends his own money to raise funds for the poor, without getting anything in return. He does this out of feelings of pure love, passion, and belonging to his motherland, to his Africa. One of his intentions is to build machines that will condense water from the humid air to provide clean drinking water to civilians. He built a company called Africans for Africa, to administer healthcare and telemedicine. He also wants to make sanitary napkins that will prevent infections and visits to the doctors.

When asked about his personal life, Rejesh says he believes in leading a balanced lifestyle. He is very spiritual and practices meditation and

reiki, but is also an astute businessman. He loves spending time with family and friends, and also does yoga to keep fit. He stays with his wife, Renu, in Dubai, while his two children, Garima and Atul, are pursuing their Masters degrees in the UK. He is proud of them being for being self-sufficient, economically, as well as mentally and spiritually.

His long-term goal is to help ease poverty in all 54 countries in Africa. For this, he wishes to involve Presidential leaders and work as one committed force for the betterment of continental Africa. “Dynasties and countries come and go. I believe in one Africa.”

He has a message for non-Africans who want to

do business in Africa: “Don’t come with the mindset of commercialization. Think about giving, rather than taking. Go with your heart and see the results. Opportunities will automatically present themselves.” On a parting note, Rejesh imparts a lesson to remember: “Destiny is your height and karma your body – you can’t change your height, but you can change your weight by working hard.”







*Incredible Africans*





# A lady of *substance*

SALWA ABDULAZIZ ZEIN, CEO at Royal Office of H.H Sheikh Ahmed Bin Faisal Al Qassimi



*"Connecting Minds, Creating the Future."*

From starting her career as a cashier for her parents to being the first female CEO in the royal office of H.H Sheikh Ahmed bin Faisal al Qassimi, Salwa Abdulaziz Zein has steered the ship of her life in a

direction she wanted. An inspiration to many aspiring leaders and entrepreneurs, Salwa believes there is much more than sheer hard work that goes into the making of history.







*“I was so focused on work that I earned the nickname “the Old Soul”*

Born in Dubai, she is the third of the eleven children born of her parents. When she was two years old, her family migrated to London, England which she calls her second home. Reminiscing her childhood, Salwa says: “Growing up in such a large household was both chaotic and joyous, our family has always been ardent and warm-hearted. My parents have always been passionate and hardworking individuals with several thriving businesses. Moreover, it was they who influenced me into pursuing entrepreneurship, and following in their example is what has lead me to become the woman I am today.”

Since her parents had multiple businesses in the likes of trading and manufacturing products in the UK and the UAE, she started her career as a cashier at the age of 12 working

for one of their firms. After that, she continued working and exploring different avenues. By the age of 16, she was already driving delivery vans from storage to the shops. “I was so focused (on work) that I earned the nickname “the Old Soul” as the neighborhoods we operated in considered me a very mature girl for my age,” she recollects. After a few years, the young explorer girl had become much more as she traversed the business world in the West, Middle East and Africa with changing roles of a junior staff member, as a founder and CEO of multiple companies, to become the first female CEO in the royal office of H.H Sheikh Ahmed bin Faisal al Qassimi and a group of companies including a successful oil company in UAE and a number of businesses worldwide. “My roots may be Eastern but I consider myself an amalgamation of the best of East and Western

business culture”. As dedicated as she is to her business, she is also a dotting family woman. She is a happily married mother of five children ranging from teenagers down to a toddler. “My husband is an intuitive businessman and professional with several businesses in the GCC and Europe,” she adds. “We are quite similar in that both our birth families are business people – and hopefully this will rub on at least one of our children.” While she wants them to be entrepreneurial, she is open to them choosing their own career paths. In-fact, for Salwa, motherhood has been one of the greatest challenges and greatest joys.

That said, she is very grateful for the amount of support she has received and that’s helped her balance both motherhood and growing organisations. Her heart goes out for those mothers who are unable to pursue their careers because of their children. “This takes on a different meaning to me when those mothers are poor working mothers such as a friend of mine that writes to me regularly and was selling vegetables in an open market.

*“Forward-thinking and  
be adaptable to change-  
if someone wants success”*



Over the years she has improved her life with the advice and support from many people that I happen to be one of. This is what gives me the feeling of achievement more than any other. To know that a woman is now able to look after her children is an achievement like no other.

Commenting on the progress UAE has made and the upcoming Dubai Expo 2021, she feels it is a global destination for millions of people to share ideas, showcase innovation, encourage collaboration and celebrate human ingenuity. “It is an exciting time to be in Dubai as there is a lot to cover since the main theme is “Connecting Minds, Creating the Future.” Several countries will be participating and she is especially keen to explore different futuristic visions from technological innovations while consuming

culinary delights and dishes from all over the world.

All throughout her journey, Salwa Abdulaziz Zein has focused on creating something that lasts, and that’s what she advises other entrepreneurs too, to think futuristic. “As an entrepreneur I have built businesses with the future in mind and to build something that will be successful that will stand the test of time. I want to breed growth and longevity. After all, being told that your company is ‘stuck in the past’ isn’t exactly a compliment, and competition in the business world is fierce. In order for a business to have the best chance of succeeding in such a competitive environment, they need to be forward-thinking and able to adapt to change,” she concludes.





*Invincible Africans*



# Empowerment & Growth through Technology

TIMOTHY OLATOKE, Founder - Ojamea



A continent that teems with unique landscapes, ancient history, geographical wonders, and active adventures to boot, has another feather to add to its cap. Timothy Olatoke, the founder of an online platform, Ojamea, that brings Africa to your homes,

is a visionary and a magnificent personality. The first kid among four siblings and always drawn to adventure, it is his curiosity, knowledge and diligence that has led him to explore and contribute to multiple verticals





*“To evolve, update your skills  
and bring your talents  
to the forefront, one must fully  
participate in it,”*



Belonging to a huge family of engineers, it was natural that he too went on to study electrical engineering. However, his heart lay in technology and computers.

Hence he began studying systems engineering. From his first job at Pizza Hut where he made pizzas to being a delivery agent who was screamed at for delivering lost luggage to people in the UK and then to eventually being a part of the British Telecom, his career path has been quite eventful. His quest for knowledge has always been huge.

This led him to obtain multiple industrial certifications. He read a lot of books, purchased multiple types of equipment and even obtained his Cisco certification, all whilst he was still completing his education. The evolution of technology has always motivated him and he believes that it can bring about remarkable results.

Timothy is always committed to bringing in technology from various sectors of life and deploying them together, in order to develop and innovate people's lives, so much so that

even in his ME time, he thinks about the next big thing to do.

He analyses situations, people, and opportunities from different perspectives. He tries to learn every day and with his expertise of being able to simplify things, he strives to constructively add value to people's lives. Technology is his medium to succeed, educate, sustain and motivate. He uses his experiences to caution others and considers himself a guide and a learner as he explains the processes and shares options.



He believes that people need to evolve in their thought processes too and not take a traditional approach to things and situations.

On a lighter note, he sometimes thinks that he should have chosen finance over IT, as it is always the finance team who approves the funds. His heart, however, still lies with IT and given the power it holds, he agrees that it can be easily combined with other industries to get enhanced results.

When asked what he considers as his major challenge, he mentions it is with his ability to foresee things and people not paying heed to his word of caution. But whenever he is involved, he has been able to solve them through his expertise and skills.

While Africa is where his heart lies, he has very fond memories of the UAE. According to him, the Dubai Expo is a platform for change and innovation. "To evolve, update your skills and

bring your talents to the forefront, one must fully participate in it," he adds. "Dubai has excelled in all parameters given its competitive edge and collaborative approach. The vision and competence of Dubai is a great example for everyone to follow." Tim suggests that to grow one must explore opportunities, develop skills and be willing to learn and evolve.

Adapting an open mind and building connections through networking can help you go a long way.





*Incredible Africans*



TITANS OF  
AFRICA

# Where vision *supersedes boundaries*

VUSI THEMBEKWAYO, Author, Business Mogul & Global Speaker



*“Every once in a while you meet someone that disrupts your thought process, forces you to unlearn everything you have learned, and transforms you”*

One such person is Vusi Thembekeyo. He possesses not just one or two qualities but is an amalgamation of many wonderful things. From being a leadership genius to a global motivational speaker to a business mogul, Vusi is someone who not only inspires revolution but initiates it

too. He is a South African venture capitalist, entrepreneur, and the Founding CEO of MyGrowthFund and IC Knowledge Bureau. It doesn't end here because he is an acclaimed author, and a huge business influencer who has transformed many businesses.





*“A pencil was passed through our hair to determine our race, if the pencil stuck, you were black and were subject to the brutality of apartheid.”*

Born in 1985 in the small town of Benoni, Johannesburg, South Africa, Vusi is the second among three children. He believes his parents have been the most affectionate and loving ones in the world and considers them to be an amazing couple. From having witnessed and experienced the awfulness and brutality of the apartheid era, to living in a free country, Vusi has been part of both.

Recalling the dreadful past, he mentions: “A pencil was passed through our hair to determine our race, if the pencil stuck, you were black and were subject to the brutality of apartheid.” He respects his freedom and his ability to make a remarkable difference in someone’s life. Despite the hardships, Vusi agrees to have had an amazing time at school.

Failures have never worried Vusi and having failed at his first public speaking speech only motivated him to do better and do it perfectly. He joined the public speaking class offered by his teacher in ninth standard and within the next two years, he went on to win the South African championship in public speaking.

This was just the beginning of his travel across the world, where he visited England, Australia, and many other countries to participate in the world public speaking championships and won accolades. Vusi believes in constant improvement and pursuing perfection in everything he does.

Vusi’s father would practice the Kyokushin form of martial arts and was particular when it

came to discipline. Vusi too follows the same ideology and doesn’t wait for motivation or inspiration to arrive. He is fuelled by two things, one recognizing the talent and skills he has and the second, leveraging the amazing gift he is bestowed with.

He is passionate about bringing in a change in people and helping them be the best version of themselves. While excellence is something that comes naturally to him, he sometimes isn’t pleased with being ruthlessly ambitious. Vusi pushes him beyond his limits and often tends to do the same to others.

He says, “I am constantly pursuing faster, better, and more.” It is something he wishes to improve on positively.





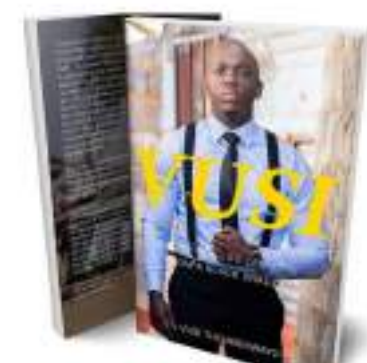
Vusi believes that he is a leader because rather than telling people what to do, he shows them how to do it. According to him bosses just give instructions, instead, a leader will explain the reason, and show you the way to get to your goals. In his pursuit of excellence, ensures that he shares his intent, shows people the way, and also guides them while they are on their path to achieving something bigger and better.

Vusi adores his children and they are a source of pure joy and happiness in his life. He thinks his elder son, aged 10 is just like him and refers to his daughter as a very strong-headed girl. It is however his third boy who is considered to be the chairman of the house as he orders everyone around and they love listening to him. He feels

he is blessed to have the most affectionate kids in the world, who keep showering him hugs and kisses, every time he is with them in South Africa. Additionally, Vusi loves watching movies. It is something his father would spend time doing with him and his younger brother. He enjoys watching them so much that he has memorized dialogues of many movies and watched reruns of many sitcoms and tv series.

Vusi sometimes is worried about being so aware and observant. He feels sometimes that restricts him from fully opening up when conversing with someone. All of us happen to profile people and make assumptions about them or have perceptions about them. However, he believes that is not the case with Dubai.

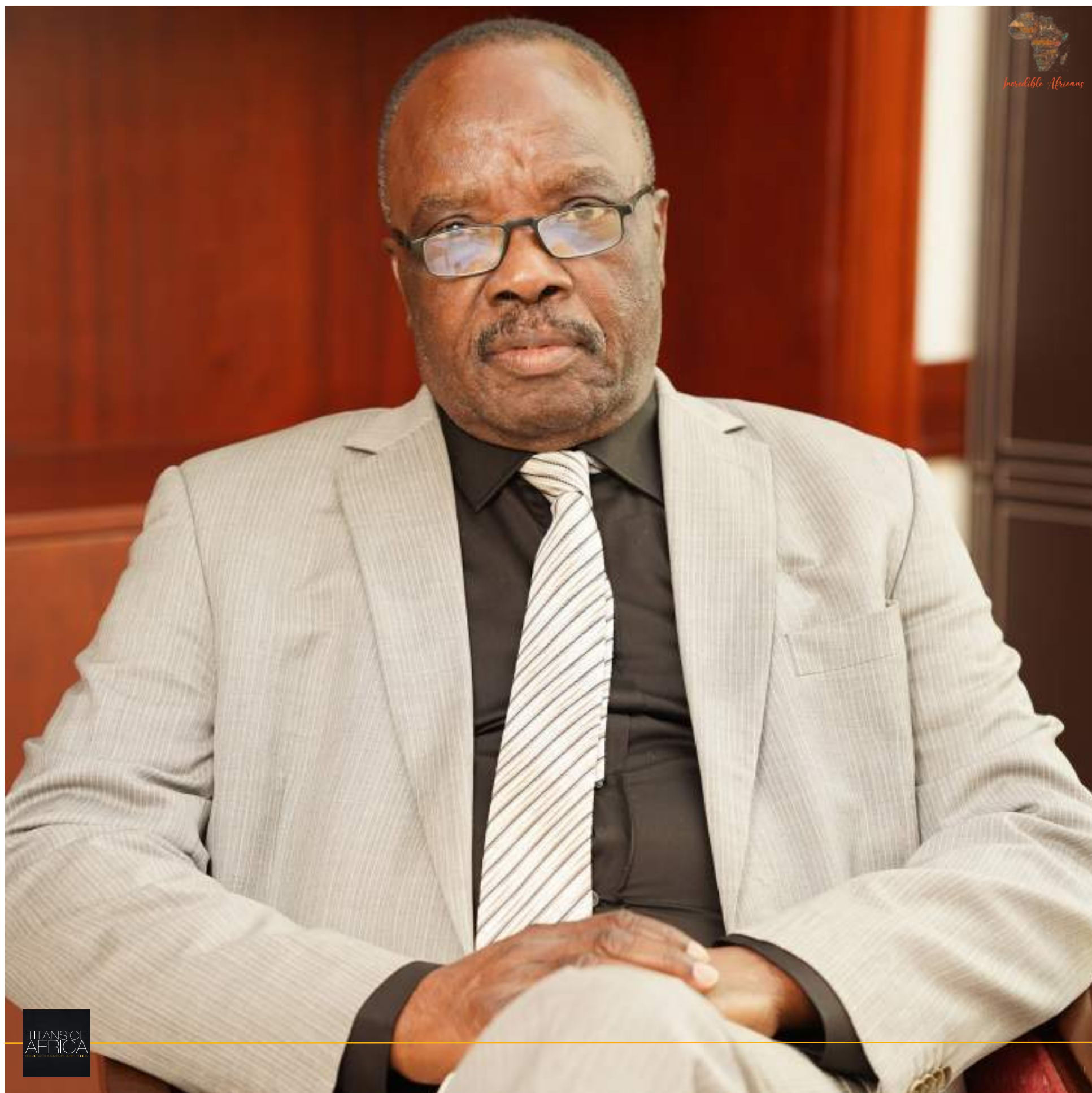
Everyone in Dubai is extremely kind, honest, open, has no formed opinions, and is always willing to listen and have a conversation. Vusi considers the Dubai expo as a great platform to unlearn things and learn new things, be more informed, and build great connections with everyone. Often ideas and prejudices exist in the environment, however, they do not make up for the future and one must learn to evolve from them, concludes Vusi.







*Incredible Africans*





# In Search *for Light*

YORO DIALLO,  
Board Member of Gambia Sierra Leone & Guinee Conakry, Vista Bank.



Losing family at a young age, traveling to foreign lands without any support, managing a living there - these thoughts can be daunting for any normal human being. But what differentiates them from leaders is that the latter triumphs over

them all. We're talking about a leader who not only changed his reality but also that of others through his efforts and visionary thinking - Yoro Diallo, Board Member of Gambia Sierra Leone and Guinee Conakry, Vista Bank.







Yoro hails from a small West African tribe which has been famous for the agriculture and cattle farming. Born in a village called Ibel, Yoro had witnessed challenging times ever since he was young.

He grew up during the 60s which for Africa was a decade of upheavals and independence. Amidst colonial tensions, Yoro lost his father at a very young age. “My father was under 45 when he died leaving behind 14 children and three wives,” he says. Needless to say, his family dynamics, post his father’s untimely demise, became very complicated, pushing Yoro to find out other alternatives for himself. While he continued studying in Africa, he began exploring opportunities as after high school, in those times, students would often travel abroad for pursuing further studies.

As a norm, majority of the students went to France but he didn’t want to go there. “They’d done enough damage to our country and I didn’t feel like going there. The second option was Russia where we

were offered scholarships too but that didn’t impress me either,” he adds. Finally, after much deliberation, he decided to pursue his studies in the USA.

Back then, former USA President John. F. Kennedy launched an initiative wherein American students would travel to Africa to familiarise themselves with their culture, learn their language, skills and receive international exposure. “I was a part of that initiative where I would teach young graduates how to mingle with people in Africa, the general do’s and don’ts,” he mentions. After this stint, Yoro took up a few odd jobs before he decided to pursue formal education in California. He enrolled himself at the Claremont Men’s college, California to pursue a B.A and then moved to San Francisco to pursue his M.B.A.

It was there when he started working for City Bank, that his career in banking kicked off with a story to tell.

He also met his first wife in the USA who was an American citizen. Eventually, he too received his citizenship.



*“In Africa, we’re all trying to imitate the west and in doing so, we’ve lost our identity. We need to change our mindset.”*

A few years later, the bank he worked in wanted to expand their frontiers to Africa and the Middle East. “During the 80s, Bahrain was the focal of the Middle East, nobody even knew Dubai,” he remarks. “I frequented Bahrain and Africa quite often during those times to train the teams. Eventually, however, when the focus of the bank shifted from Africa to other countries, I left the bank.”

But apparently his destiny was written with the ink of banking, so how could he leave it? After a few months, it was announced that 15 African countries had come together to create an economic zone called Eco and wanted to create one centralised bank for all - the Ecobank. Yoro

joined the bank and today it is the largest bank in the whole of Africa, with a branch in Dubai that was setup by Yoro himself.

Money isn’t a motivator for Yoro. For him, the ultimate objective matters. “In Africa, we’re all trying to imitate the west and in doing so, we’ve lost our identity. We need to change our mindset.” In his free time, he likes to study the Holy Quran and likes to take long walks. He has been to Hajj a couple of times and looks forward to going there sometime soon.

In Yoro’s opinion, Dubai has really changed and grown over the years. “Back then, you’d land at the airport, see a small hut outside, have

two roads that drove you till the Trade Centre and that was Dubai. Look at where the country is today!” He has also been involved with the Expo 2021 right from the start and looks forward to seeing how the long dream of Dubai would manifest in a couple of months.

Yoro wants to live a life of inspiration. “The passage of time is so quick that people don’t realise how negligible our existence is. One needs to work towards leaving an impact and Africans really need to start looking at what they have rather than focusing on what they don’t.

We’re a rich continent only if we start utilizing what we have,” he concludes.





*Incredible Africans*



# The tale of *a self-made man*

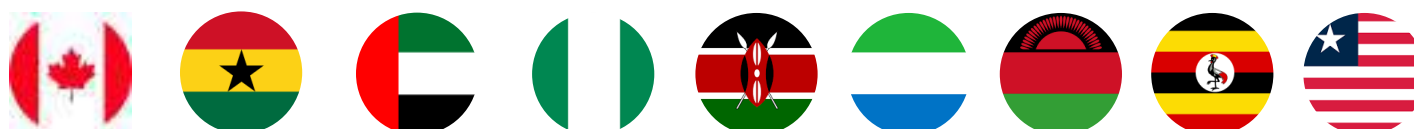
THOMAS A. BAAFI II, Group CEO , Bsystems, Ghana



*"It is only when you get too comfortable is when you know that something might be wrong",* says Thomas A. Baafi. A self-made man, his journey started when he realized that his skills and expertise were better suited to help his own people rather than working for someone else, in a different country away from home. When he quit his 10,000-dollar job in the US and shifted his base to his

hometown, people raised eyebrows and questioned his wisdom. But this was just the beginning.

He slowly started noticing the untapped potential in the Ghanaian market and went on to pitch in his experience to create several software for digitization of varied processes like the Collateral Registry System.







*“If I can help 20 people  
and then they in turn  
help 20 more,  
my aim is fulfilled”*

He named his company Bsystems Limited which now is one of the leading information and technology service providers in Africa. It is safe to say that all African countries who use his products are now dependent on his expertise for product support and training.

Born in a small town called Kumasi, in Ghana, Thomas A. Baafi was raised in a humble and grounded family with his six brothers and two sisters. An avid traveler, he met his wife, an officer in the U.S. Army, in Holland where he stayed for two years before shifting to the United States. There he continued his

education in Austin Peay State University, went on to work in Oracle for four years, and acquired necessary technological skills before turning back to his hometown.

His education and background are what encouraged him to take charge and change the way businesses in Ghana function and he credits his late mother for being his guiding light and for the values she gave him that inspired him to move back to his hometown and work for his own people.

Ghana at that time was suffering from severe technological impairment. Banks were badly in

need of digitization and were looking for Oracle experts to do the job. They started outsourcing their work to companies in India and China, which was ridiculously expensive.

Thomas A. Baafi stepped in to not only install the Oracle software in the banks and make their processes better, but he also trained the staff and ensured that everyone was on board with the new digital process. He recalls, “When I went to Ghana, I realized that there was no Oracle expertise in my hometown which inspired me to take matters in my own hand”.





As a businessman, he admires the way the Government of UAE functions and wishes that the same processes are followed in Ghana. The dedication and commitment in UAE towards performing each task with strict adherence to rules and principles is what makes it one of the most sought-after countries to do business and settle in.

As per him, every time he visits the country, he is awestruck at the way UAE maintains its

infrastructure, old and new alike. He also admires the way the UAE Government takes initiative to continuously move the country in the direction of growth and innovation which is something he plans to do for his own country one day.

It takes a certain amount of courage and madness to leave a well-paying job and start afresh. Mr Baafi had a bit of both, which is what makes him the man he is. As somebody

who has always believed in concentrating on the solution rather than the problem, he is an inspiration to those who dream to start their own business and make their own mark in the world.

He wants to become more than just a businessman and wants to really help people. “If I can help 20 people and then they in turn help 20 more, my aim is fulfilled”, he says.

Our Corporate Partners: \_\_\_\_\_







*Incredible Africans*

TITANS OF  
AFRICA

# Dream, Create, *Build and Sustain*

COUMBA DIOUKHANE , Director General - Global View



*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”  
- Nelson Mandela*

Coumba Dioukhané is the finest example for the above saying by one of the most honorable men in the history I’ve ever known. With great admiration, the President of an Holding composed of Global View (France), Global View Africa (Ivory Coast) and Opportunity (UAE),

broke all the odds to come up and live as a successful international figure. Coumba was born in Dakar (Senegal) and brought up in her own native country until 19. Soon after her schooling, she took a courageous step in her life, flying to France for her further studies.





*“I always play a win-win game with everyone to make the relationship sound and healthy”*

Hard work and dedication kept her going. With not much difficulty she excelled in her studies of Management and Foreign Languages in the University of CAEN. One fine day she decided to be a teacher, like her mother. Her father was a politician and was very well connected to the Gulf.

Being a woman of specification and methodic, though she was a teacher, Coumba actively participated in politics in France hoping to do some good for the people. She spent there 17 years as a pioneer.

In 2001, she was the first from Africa to be elected as a Deputy Mayor in the City of Evreux (Normandy). In 2010, she was elected General Counsellor at the Region of Normandy, the first from Africa also. In the french Republican Party, she used to be the National Secretary in charge of Universities and Research and a couple of years later, in charge of international relationship and Cooperation. For 10 years, she was the one who made the link between African political

parties and her French one, but she mostly put in place the international cooperation policy. Coumba run several political campaigns.

Last but not least, Coumba had been nominated in 2008 the first ever from Africa to serve as an advisor of a French Minister. She was in charge of civil society European affairs at the Ministry of foreign Affairs.

A woman who shines as a great example for all the women in the world. Her service was also extended a bit more to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food where she had been nominated special advisor in charge of food security in 2019.

Global View is 10 years old today. The Company is well-known for its strength in communication, marketing which targets decision makers from the public sphere and the private sector. They are specialized in strategic positioning and institutional campaigns.





*Wherever I am, whatever I do, whoever I am supposed to be,  
my family is my faith, my reliance and my certitude.*



As for Opportunity, it is the gate to the UAE for all African countries. This Company helps them promote their business opportunities in this region and it helps UAE to know the African business environment and the projects better.

Honestly, in the world of male domination, which is quite a bit less from the yesterdays, a

woman from Africa is indeed a big admiration for all women and men as well.

Coumba is a person with tough competition and wide thinking. She says, “I always play a win-win game with everyone to make the relationship sound and healthy”. From her thought, I can assume that she knows the situation of Africa well and can animate the youth to settle in their lives. With no doubt, she claims that the youth are the future of Africa and educating them must be a high priority of the civil Government.

Being a woman of thinking, she loves everything without frontiers, and asks her

daughters to be international ones without any obstacle from color to brain. Do not imitate, be yourself, be proud of where you come from. People will respect you for what you are able to bring, not what you hope to take from them.

Education and Hard Work are the two pillars on which the country and personal achievement stand. If one collapses or one is left out, the other is also at stake. Today is not yesterday and tomorrow is not today.

At last, she has this to take home, ‘live in today, educate yourself and never settle with tiny things—think big and explore big.’





*Incredible Africans*



# An Epitome of *Excellence and Service*

DR. GENEVIEVE PEARL DUNCAN OBUOBI, Banker, Certified Trainer & Author



*"I take challenges as learning experiences"*

Dr. Genevieve Pearl Duncan Obuobi is an accomplished Ghanaian banker, a well-respected SME consultant, a prolific author as well as an in-demand leadership expert and speaker. From the humble surroundings of Camara, - a typical

communal environment located in Mamprobi, a suburb of Accra, the capital city of Ghana- Dr. Duncan Obuobi has, today, become a shining example to many Ghanaian, entrepreneurial hopefuls.







She describes her ascent up the twin ladders of the corporate and entrepreneurial world, as eventful but immensely rewarding. Chronicling her journey thus far, the Business Administration doctoral degree holder, from Swiss Business School, Zurich, recounts that one major hurdle she had to overcome early in life, was having the responsibility of leadership thrust upon her at the tender age of about thirteen (13) years, as she had to fill in the shoes of her mother, who had to frequently sojourn abroad to support the rest of the family. Therefore, during this phase of her life, when she should have enjoyed all the fun that came with early teenage years, she had to mature before time, learning how to balance tasks such as cooking for the family; looking out for the well-being of her younger siblings, and combining her academic work with other household responsibilities.

Reminiscing about the past, she admits, “Undoubtedly, there were times I felt overwhelmed with the enormity of these responsibilities, but little did I know that, this was to become the training ground for my

future success in my career and in being an exemplary mentor for others.

With nostalgia, Dr. Duncan Obuobi, also recounts how her hopes were dashed when she did not get through to medical school to pursue her childhood dream of reading Medicine.

“This was another significant setback in my life, growing up,” she shares, “however, I drew inspiration from my dad, who would always admonish, ‘Life is not a straight path but meandering’.”

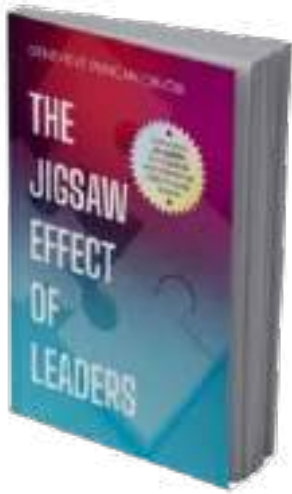
“At any point in my life, I was faced with one obstacle or the other, I, literally, would hear these words reverberating in my mind, and the warrior within me, awoken to action,” she continues.

Tracing her steps, Dr. Genevieve Pearl Duncan Obuobi, attributes her keen sense of focus, her resilience and faith in God, as the key principles spurring her on to make a lasting impact on lives, in her space and making the best of all she finds herself in.

Today, Dr. Duncan Obuobi, has to her credit, about fifteen (15) years, industry experience in banking and has carved an enviable niche for herself as a manager par excellence, manning one of the flagship branches, of Fidelity Bank, Ghana. Her responsibilities span managing a diverse portfolio of high net-worth to small business accounts. She also doubles as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Genevieve Pearl Consult, a company that provides training, coaching and business advisory services to women in the corporate and Small & Medium Scale Enterprise (SME) eco-system.

*“Simple Living High Thinking”*





Her success as a woman entrepreneur, her exemplary life-style and her remarkable contributions to initiatives geared towards the attainment of financial empowerment for women, have gained international acclaim and recognition, earning her the Hive Africa Community Support Award 2021 in Lagos, Nigeria.

Without a doubt, Dr. Pearl Duncan is one of the

emerging leaders of the present era. The subject of effective leadership is at the heart of all her activities, engagements, and speeches. She is an avid believer of the fact that, “a leader is the one who shows the way and leads others.”

“Leadership is not about commanding and repeating the word, ‘Do’! But the leader does the work and the rest follow”, she stresses.

She is convinced that her adoption of this strategy has been instrumental in garnering the total support of her team, in the achievement of set targets and goals.

“The Jigsaw Effect of Leaders”, her maiden book, which is widely available, discusses these

priceless nuggets at length. Dr. Duncan Obuobi, views family as crucial to the sustained success of every individual, and therefore values every moment she spends with hers. She mentions having the reliable backbone of a family as a major contribution to the strides she has made, thus far, in life.

Indeed, the sequence of events, over time, in Dr. Genevieve Pearl Duncan Obuobi’s life, is a testament to the fact that, no-one is born over-endowed with one talent than another. Rather, life offers endless possibilities to those who are self-motivated, hard-working and persevere.







Incredible Africans



# People *are Priority*

JOSEPH OSAWAYE, Owner of Kiza Restaurant & Lounge



Africa is inspiring the world indeed but there is one man who is the epitome of legacy, motivation and diligence: JOE OSAWAYE - a man with a vision to transform lives, one person at a time, one who inspires you to be the best version of yourself.

Joseph Osaawaye, fondly known as Joe, is the CEO of Kiza

Restaurant and Lounge, DIFC, Dubai amongst all other businesses he owns. Kiza is known for its best-in-class hospitality. The place where the Spirit of Africa comes alive, showcasing the best in and out of Africa through Music, Food and The People. We showcase the African culture to the rest of the world.







Born in Lagos, Nigeria, he is a clear example of uniqueness and vibrancy. Being industrious and extremely people-oriented has led him to explore and cater to various businesses. He spent his formative years in Nigeria, then moved to the U.K and returned to the African continent. From contributing significantly to the telecommunications space (Managed Services), Oil and gas industry (Subsea and ROVs) to bringing to Dubai: KIZA, a venue that transcends cultures, one of the most premium hospitality brands in the region, Joe brings his Midas touch to everything he handles. He has always looked at businesses as something that is a channel to reform and not just as a mere means of making a profit. He aims to inspire, celebrate and promote people and their talents through entrepreneurship. Just like a life coach, he strives to bring out the best in people.

As they say, the fruit doesn't fall too far away from the tree; Joe too gets his meticulousness and diligence from his father who was a chartered

accountant and his amicability from his mom who served in the army and later went into Business. As "...a man of steel and velvet", the way he likes to call himself, he finds excitement and satisfaction in bringing the invincible to life. He is the second born among five siblings. Besides his doting family, he considers the entire human race to be one big family. He puts everyone on the same pedestal and is constantly working towards adding value to everyone he comes in contact with. Playing golf is somewhere he finds his Zen in and considers life to be one great adventure. Just like a roller coaster, life is a time of test and rest. As an individual, creating value to people and leading through inspiration and not coercion, is what Joe finds exhilarating. As a leader, Joe likes to interact with ordinary people, understand what potential they have and help them realize it and help them become extraordinary.

Life is the most precious gift anyone has ever been bestowed with and as a polymath; he loves

to connect the dots. Failures are considered to be his companions. He says: "...every situation in life presents you with something to learn from instead of regretting over it."

Joe is a man full of gratitude, immense patience and a heart of gold and joy. He considers his OCD (obsessive-compulsive disorder) to be an asset as it helped him be organized and strategically structure things.





With the same thought in mind, he advises about how to succeed in life. “One must transform themselves, build on their skills and bring about a massive transformation through discipline,” he notes. According to him, one of the world’s greatest football players, Lionel Messi, is a perfect example of how one can add value to their being and to the world. On his thoughts about cultural inheritance or someone having an easy life, he mentions that growth doesn’t come served on a silver platter, as the saying goes, no pain, no gain.... It needs to be achieved with due diligence. For a businessman or anyone doing any sort of work, serving the customer shouldn’t be the end goal; instead, they must exceed expectations and bring value. “We are our biggest competitor and asset,” which is something he strongly believes in. Joe advises everyone to make themselves competent enough to create a legacy, so even when you are at the other end of it, you can still control some outcomes.

As someone who hails from the African continent, he wants the people of continent to build on their capacity. “They need to harp on their true potential through clear vision, diligence, smart and hard work and skill development,” he adds. Through the course of his life, he has learnt that no meal is free and people who believe so, live in delusion. “Originality is your biggest virtue. One must pursue their passion and purpose with all their heart and might, and they’ll be truly rewarded for it,” he says. He wants the youth of today to move out, start working, paying their bills and understand the value of labour and education. The leaders of today, especially the African ones need to bring in reforms, think ahead of their times, create value for their people or else, a certain segment of their societies will become extinct like the dinosaurs, would have no relevance in the new world. Forward Thinking!!!

Talking about Dubai, he feels that Dubai is a

fantastic place. It reflects the epitome of leadership and courage. It’s a live example of someone’s tenacity to follow a vision and transform things. The upcoming Dubai Expo 2020, in his opinion, is a pre-set stage for leaders from all over the world to come together to create the NEW WORLD. “It is a platform that needs to be explored and utilized for the betterment of Africa,” he affirms. “While people talk and exchange ideas, there must be equal focus on actions and outcomes. Africa is one of the richest continents as far as deposits are concerned and through effective leadership, it can be transformed into something magnificent.’

His last words are, whatever your hand finds to do, do with all your passion, heart and might as there is profit in every labour and the rewards will come.







*Incredible Africans*



TITANS OF  
AFRICA



# A Visionary *legend*

MUKESH THAKWANI, Group CEO , B5 Plus Holdings / Director DPSI School, Ghana



*"It's not about the Ideas. It's about making Ideas Happen"!*

No one is born a legend, rather they become one in the course of time. To be a legend, you need to have legendary ideas that can turn the attention of the world towards you. Being a legend takes courage

to choose a different path which no was able to discover and travelled to. All these attributes go to the living Indian legend, Mukesh Thakwani from a small city Baroda of Gujarat, India.







Mukesh Thakwani, the Founder and CEO of B5 Plus Steel Company of Ghana, shines as the most successful entrepreneur and a well-versed businessman of all times. His company has been recognized as one of the best enterprises in the field of Steel Industry in Ghana and all of West Africa. In fact, he acquired this attribute in a short span of time holding on to his vision. “I am an ordinary man like any of you, not so literate as you think, but I had something which many of you lack: a clear vision and mission,” he says. To be a legend requires courage, innovation and, of course, a bit of luck which he certainly had.

Like most successful men, Mukesh Thakwani’s life also started amidst the dusty lanes of Baroda in Gujarat. He wasn’t a son of a rich man but rather a baker who supplied the whole city. All he mostly did was study whilst helping his father in the bakery to support the family.

He understood the importance of business somehow and expressed the idea of beginning a manufacturing business to his friends. Everyone said, ‘It’s a waste of time’.

However, his wings of hard work and determination did not stop him from soaring high with his ideas.

With the legendary vision he flew to Liberia in 1989, and worked hard on his unique ideas. Eventually, he moved on to Ghana and settled down there from 1996.”

One fine day in 2002, his fiery idea took shape with the foundation of B5 Plus Limited in Tema, Ghana. B5 Plus is the leading iron and steel company in Ghana. The company doesn’t just produce steel but serves people with fine quality, excellence and conduct.

Over 15,000 Ghanaians work happily under the leadership of Mukesh Thakwani.



*I have a dream of 'MADE IN GHANA' and give me 5 years, I will make that dream into a reality,*



The invincible spirit and presence have expanded this steel company in 6 countries and exports to over 15 countries around the globe, including a school named DPS. Mukesh Thakwani is not a mere businessman but believes in giving back to the society. He helps a few NGOs and one of his remarkable charities still echo in the hospitals of Ghana; He has been providing oxygen cylinders during the Pandemic.

Mukesh Thakwani has a lot to say with regard to his dream, irrespective of his age and achievements that speak of him for centuries. "When I stepped into Ghana, even a nail was imported from outside. And now it's the other way around. I have a dream of 'MADE IN

GHANA' and give me 5 years, I will make that dream into a reality," he says. An enthusiastic man with clear vision and mission, he never gave up and stands as a concrete example for all of us, especially for the entrepreneurs.

Moreover, he says, "Have a positive mind, think out of the box and care for the society, and you'll see the change, a change for the betterment of many lives." If you have innovative ideas, make them work against all the odds.



*"Have a positive mind, think out of the box and care for the society, and you'll see the change, a change for the betterment of many lives."*





*Incredible Africans*



TITANS OF  
AFRICA

# The tale of *the Legen-DAIRY*

AHMED EL TIGANI ABDUL RAHEEM EL MANSOURI, CEO, Al Rawabi Dairy Company



Born in Khartum, the capital city of Sudan, Dr Ahmed El Tigani has come a long way. Currently, Dr Tigani juggles a number of designations: CEO, business consultant, board director, general manager, lecturer, entrepreneur, along with being a husband and a father. His own father was the chairman of the Farmer's Union as well as an active politician in Sudan. One among sixteen siblings, Ahmed Tigani completed his schooling

in a prominent world-class British school before moving away from his hometown at seventeen. He then completed his PhD in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Zagreb in former-Yugoslavia, before going to Saudi Arabia to teach as a lecturer. Further he pursued his business studies from Wharton Business School, Pennsylvania where he accumulated most of his business and leadership skills from.





*“...It is only Africa that can save the world from food scarcity and famine.”*



His actual journey, however, begins when he arrives into the UAE. Dr Tigani's primary feat is constructing a company from scratch within the span of ten months. "We came to Dubai in June 1989, and by Jan 1991, we were in the market."

He started out with one secretary and an accountant – now he leads a company with 2800 personnel. Today Al Rawabi Dairy Company is internationally acclaimed and has won multiple awards. In-fact, it is the only company selling 13 different kinds of products including dairy, beef, juices etc.

During its initial days, Al Rawabi pioneered the practice of selling milk in plastic bottles, first in half and one litre, and then by 1993, in family sizes of two and three litre bottles. In 2000, Al Rawabi became the first company to introduce functional dairy products into the market. They

worked with a Finnish research team to calculate body requirements between 6 am to 2 pm, to create NutreeBoost – a special formula packed in a 200ml bottle that serves as a complete breakfast replacement. It won the Best Food Product in Balfour and the Best Tasting Food Product in an international food exhibition in Belgium.

In Dr Tigani's opinion, the only secret to success is innovation. "GCC countries only sold long-life drinks until Al Rawabi introduced the sale of fresh juices across the country," added Dr Tigani.

Furthermore, under the leadership of Dr Tigani, the company collaborated with the Ministry of Health to understand deficiencies in diets and started infusing their milk with Vitamin D.

They are the only company in the region till date to do this. Other products of the brand today include SuperMilk and ImmuniBoost

with added Zinc, probiotic bacteria, and vitamins D and C, to boost immunity especially post Covid-19.

All of the above paved the path to the success of Al Rawabi. Today the brand is the market leader in UAE, having shares in Oman and Qatar, delivering products to 14800 outlets, through 380 delivery vans.

The achievements of the brand, however, wouldn't have been theirs had Al Rawabi not had a strong team to back it up. Dr Tigani credits his exemplary team for making it big. Hence, he makes sure his employees are well taken care of so they can perform to their best capacity. "Boss or a leader? I am a facilitator," he says. He uses ideas like The Four Disciplines of Execution to help with cross-department project management, which is highly inspiring in its own accord.



*"Now is the right time to start investing in Africa. Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and the Ivory Coast are good options."*



He encourages healthy competition among employees and also provides them with regular bonuses despite the pandemic recession. He ensures to take the managers with their families for vacations twice a month because deep inside, Dr Tigani values family time just as much. In-fact he loves spending time with his wife and children, and ensures to take time out for them despite his busy schedules. He also hits the gym in his free time and enjoys going for long walks to rejuvenate himself. On the side, Dr Tigani has also established his own consultancy firm. He is a part of the Harvard Business Seminar, a senior leadership programme comprising of 52 international executives where Dr Tigani focuses on Africa.

He believes that "...It is only Africa that can save the world from food scarcity and famine." Africa has currently exploited merely 7% of its resources. With the correct consultancy, investment and business in Africa can fetch profits of 30-40%.

"Now is the right time to start investing in Africa. Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and the Ivory Coast are good options." Speaking with forty years of experience, he signs off with some advice for all businesspeople:

"Without connections, you cannot get anything done. Overcome bureaucracy, and the future is Africa."







*Incredible Africans*



# The everlasting *road towards excellence*

OLAYINKA FAYOMI , Chairman, Foreign Investment Network (FIN) UK



*‘Good, better, best. Never let it rest. ‘Till your good is better and your better is best’ - St. Jerome*

A quote that stands true to the dynamic and vivacious personality of Ms. Olayinka Fayomi - who is the Chairman of the Foreign Investment Network. Born to extremely hard-working

parents in Nigeria, Olayinka always drew inspiration from her father who was a banker for over 35 years, and her mother, who worked for a large chain of UK-based supermarkets.





Olayinka was amazed at how her father was a man responsible for helping so many individuals who came to the bank every day and wanted to become a banker herself when she grew up. With this ambition in mind, Olayinka pursued a degree from one of the best universities in Nigeria.

Often a first job is extremely gratifying for an individual and it was the same for her. However, even though she enjoyed being a homemaker and taking care of her family fulltime, Olayinka would often look out of her home in Rio-De-Janeiro and wonder about the technological advancements in the city. It would take her thoughts back home, to the need for development in Nigeria and reawakened her desire to make an impact to the society. Soon she began consulting people about investing and contributing to the development of Nigeria. From studying to be a chartered accountant to taking up courses in Singapore, and to learning computer science for three years, through her

diligence and determination, she added many skills to enhance her growth. She considers herself a constant learner and even though she spends almost every waking moment managing projects and people globally, attending meetings and conference, she ensures that she is learning something new every day. Having traveled to almost 80 countries, and attended over 500 professional conferences and events, Olayinka is the epitome of knowledge, leadership and tenacity.

Despite her diverse background and work experience, Olayinka, if given the opportunity, would wish to influence and transform specific governmental policies, especially in the healthcare sector. Her ambitions have always been to bring about reformation in Nigeria and she was extremely thrilled when, even though she lived in South Korea at the time, she was invited by Nigeria's Minister of Trade and Investment to set up an agency to promote investment in Nigeria.





Being married to Akin Fayomi, who is a Nigerian diplomat and was the Head of Minister/Head of Political Affairs at the High Commission of Nigeria, London, has been one of the best things that have happened to her. Olayinka truly adores her family and is extremely proud of what her four children have accomplished.

She believes that her children have inherited the zest, determination, and perseverance from their parents. Her youngest child is a Vice President at Citibank, London, and so is her third born, who is a Vice President at JP Morgan. Her second-born lives in Portugal and her firstborn is dedicated to humanitarian work in Nigeria and lives in the United States of America. Her family is a clear representation of diversity, legacy, and commitment to society.

A true inspiration to many, Ms. Olayinka Fayomi, advises the youth that hard work truly reaps rewards. She believes that nothing in life is easy but through hard work, honesty, and dedication, one can achieve it all. She also advises that even when one feels there is no work available, one must sign up for volunteer work as it helps to add to skills, builds confidence, and increase knowledge.

When asked about the Dubai Expo, Olayinka agrees that Dubai is a perfect example of meticulous

planning and great vision. Many countries around the world must learn from Dubai and its ability to plan, organize, strategize and accomplish truly amazing goals.

She believes that the Dubai Expo is a huge platform of opportunities and a stage for globalization and development. She agrees that right from the people, to the governance, and to the emirate itself, everything about Dubai is beautiful. To conclude, Olayinka says that instead of spending your life worrying, one must look for positives around and smile a lot. A humble, kind, inspirational, intelligent and extremely passionate person is what Ms. Olayinka Fayomi is to everyone around her.



*“nothing in life is easy but through hard work, honesty, and dedication, one can achieve it all”*







# Turning *Tribulation to Triumph*

IMAD EDDINE OUBIRI, Business Development Expert Investment Promotion Director  
- RAK Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Twelve years ago Imad Eddine Oubiri arrived into the UAE and started working as a Business Development Expert and Investment Promotion Director in the UAE. But it was near the Moroccan-Sahara border that his journey first began. Imad was born in Tiaret, Algeria, to a couple

that fought all odds to be together. But despite the fervent love and passion, differences between his parents had eventually led to their separation. His mother brought up six children all on her own. Imad says, “She fought like a lioness and did what she had to, to bring us up.”







Children of single parents often become mature at an early age. “I became an adult at the age of 12,” says Imad, who took up as many odd jobs as he could to support his family. “In certain cultures, if you lose a husband, you lose everything, including your family. I wanted to save her from this, to make her proud.” Imad decided that he had to do everything in his capacity to relieve his mother from her mental and physical anguish. Deprived of a normal childhood, Imad had to strive to sustain the everyday lives of his siblings and mother, by contributing to the income for the household. “I never even thought about spending the change I had on things like toys or candies,” he recalls.

His innate desire to ease his mother’s hardships have helped him drive forward and persevere through life. From giving his final exams in a grocery shop to traveling six hours for a job he didn’t like, Imad has been no

stranger to hardship – or hard work. According to him, the struggles he faced have “hardened as well as softened” him, making him work twice as earnestly.

From the small city, he travelled to the capital city of Algiera, to take admission at the University of Algiers within the Institute of Foreign Languages and Translation.

During his childhood, his mother had taught him various household chores, like sewing, cooking, cleaning, and even cutting hair. This gave him an edge over others because he was already self-sufficient. Using his grandmother’s old sewing machine, Imad would stitch his own clothes and wear them to university. “My garment was a victory for me,” he says because the others thought Imad’s homemade clothing was from a prominent brand. This helped him blend in with the wealthier students despite being from a less elite background.

After graduation, a new life began for him. With a new set of skills combined with his other learned abilities, Imad was ready to face challenges and turn them into opportunities.

*“She fought like a lioness and did what she had to, to bring us up.”*





He was unable to travel to London to pursue his career because he did not want to leave his family on their lonesome. He worked jobs that had nothing to do with the field he had graduated in due to their financial situation. After his brothers and sisters had graduated, he established a small company for translation services. “The industry wasn’t ready for me ... I lost all my savings. I was facing bankruptcy.” At which point he was compelled to take up a job loading cartons in Abu Dhabi.

Imad believes that one should: “...never refuse any extra job because it will only take you up. It will make a leader out of you. A leader does not do things, but he knows how things are done.” In 2009, he got a job as a translator in a small shop within a fish market in rural Abu Dhabi and that is where his life took a whole new turn.

Through the years, accomplishing one feat after another, today Imad stands as an inspiration. A business Development Expert, he has guided several businesses on how to face challenges, turn them into opportunities and scale up. He also helps and guides people on how to make the right investments for business growth.

Recalling his experiences in the past where he wore multiple hats, managing administration, translation, and business. “I understood that the key to success is people. Make yourself available and stay authentic, without waiting for returns.”

In his me-time, Imad gives back to society by dedicating at least three hours daily coaching people in businesses. His goal is to make one person happy each day. He believes, “Life is made of stations and each station is a story. We have to help each other along the way.”







*Incredible Africans*



TITANS OF  
AFRICA

# Connectologist

*Global Thinker. Local Impact*

KAMIL OLUFOWOBI, CEO, Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD)



*“I am a humble, responsible, loving, servant leader,  
who commits to give my gift of connectology to create win-win outcomes that  
will result in a win-win world, where I win and you win”.*

With this declaration, Kamil Olufowobi, the CEO of Most Influential People of African Descent has dedicated his being to be in service to others and helping them become the best versions of themselves.

Through MIPAD, Kamil and his team have been identifying high achievers of African descent in public and private sectors from around the world to support the development of Africa.







Through sharing ideas, information and resources, he is building a global network and MIPAD is working in support of the International Decade for People of African Descent, proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/237 that is being observed from 2015 to 2024.

“I was always the bridge between two worlds,” says Kamil. The youngest among five kids, Kamil was born in Lagos, Nigeria. At the age of 15, he moved to the United States of America. In the United States, the Americans called him African, and back home, the Africans called him American. It was a very challenging phase to tackle while he was growing up and these experiences led him to become the bridge between two different worlds and he strived to

minimize this massive gap in understanding by educating both sides about each other.

Kamil says: “You cannot run from racism; you have to fight it.” Racism existed everywhere. It followed him wherever he went and instead of running from it, he decided to fight it. From pursuing a master's in International Relations and Global Affairs and becoming a life coach, Kamil took it upon himself to bring about a massive change.

He left a lustrous career at Mastercard and joined the United Nations in the fight against racism by supporting the International Decade for People of African Descent. Kamil helped in mobilizing people who were negatively impacted by the ill effects of racism. He created a global platform for people of African descent

worldwide to call a home; MIPAD. One of the highlights of MIPAD was the screening of the movie Black Panther, at the United Nations. It was a celebration of the black excellence, achievements, and a glorious history. MIPAD recognizes people of African descent from all over the world sometimes in unexpected places.

Kamil’s biggest motivational factor is to fulfill his purpose of what he is designed to do. He is committed to bring forth the glory of Africa and connect African people from all over the world. As a connectologist, he uses the art of connectology to bridge gaps and connect dots in people’s life. His strength is being able to see things that others are not able to see.



Kamil sees the world through the lens of connections. From the time we are born to the time we finally rest, every action, every journey is based on connections. It is through connections, which is often referred to as networking, one starts to unlock new potentials and possibilities. Right from our birth, to various inventions, technological advancements, the rise of fortune 500 companies, social media, books, and education, etc., it's all built on connections.

Kamil considers himself a teacher. He says: "Learn to become the best version of yourself!" He believes that he must help people understand and discover their inner gifts and realize their calling. Personally, Kamil thinks, he tends to miss out on the little things and details given his busy schedule and hopes to get better at it. Being a complete family man, he enjoys spending time with his family. He loves to play chess, scrabble, and video games with his boy aged 9, and daughter aged 8.

Additionally, he enjoys traveling and believes it is the best doorway to experience diverse cultures and ethnicities. He takes to walking and running to maintain his fitness and can't do without his meditation. Being able to connect with his inner energy is what helps him spread positivity. Kamil is a huge believer in being grounded and always works towards building a win-win world.

Kamil is the true embodiment of "thinking globally and acting locally". According to him, living in different countries has helped him exchange cultures and celebrate differences. He believes that Dubai Expo has helped people learn, grow and sustain their success. It is only when the world starts to celebrate differences rather than rejecting them, it moves to a bigger union, says Kamil. We, the people of Africa are dispersed around the world and maybe disconnected but now is the time to come together for the glory of Africa and the world, concludes Kamil.







*Incredible Africans*



TITANS OF  
AFRICA

# Working on *things that matter*

SAMSON OGBU, Partner SmartPA & Co-Founder of Fitch Technologies



This is precisely what Samson Ogbu has been doing for himself and the community. Of Nigerian decent, Samson moved to Dubai over a decade ago and is currently the UAE partner at SmartPA, which is a BPO and back-office support provider that leverages

a talent pool of over 250 virtual assistants to support business with admin, call handling, marketing support and digital solutions. He is also the co-founder of Fitch Technologies, a software house and AdTech agency headquartered in Dubai.





*“money itself has no value,  
it is what you do with money, is of relevance”.*

Though qualified as a Pharmacist, Samson has always been passionate about learning and entrepreneurial ventures. From his first job as a parttime math teacher in a high school in Nigeria to working as a hospital pharmacist to venturing into healthcare consultancy and finally a tech and business support entrepreneur, his journey has been both challenging and fruitful.

He believes that one must constantly work on their skills, develop themselves and be able to add value to themselves and others every day. This was one of the factors that inspired him to pursue an MBA. Samson is very absorbed in what he does, and he derives satisfaction from being a part of the journey and success of the businesses he works with.

Entrepreneurship has always been his calling and even though he faced many challenges, he

is content with the learning and growth that has come with the ventures he has been a part of. Giving up his corporate career to pursue entrepreneurial ventures he is passionate about has been one of the most challenging phases of his life.

He embraces the challenge and the adventures of being an entrepreneur and only wishes he could have started earlier. He considers his MBA to be his best investment, and this is why he is passionate about giving back to the society by giving access to good education to as many people from his home community as he can. He thinks that money itself has no value, it is what you do with money, that is of relevance.

Samson, through his different professional roles, strives to empower people and businesses, educate them and add value to their being.



*“Forward-thinking and  
be adaptable to change-  
if someone wants success”*



Samson believes that we are all social animals and cannot live in isolation. He believes in building bridges, learning from each other's experience, and leveraging our collective know-how and network to contribute to the community.

For him, it's always community over competition. When it comes to the Dubai Expo, he is a strong supporter of the Expo. He agrees that it is a massive pathway for a myriad of opportunities. He feels privileged to be resident in Dubai at the time of the expo and be in such close proximity to all the opportunities around it. To him, it's an ecosystem that converges and brings out the best from all communities globally.

In terms of personal life, Samson loves spending time with his wife and kids. His family has been extremely supportive of him and has been the driving force behind his growth. Additionally, to satiate his quest for learning, he loses himself to the world of books.

He thoroughly enjoys different genres of books: history, economics, philosophy, and

even politics. Travel is something that he loves to indulge in, when he has time, to experience different cultures and understand the perspectives of others.

As someone who has been through various ups and downs in life, he believes that education is the biggest gift you can give someone. Here, he refers not only to formal education but to sharing information and assisting people with the right tools needed for their growth and development. He suggests that on the path to success, one must rise above themselves and look at the bigger picture. He truly believes in creating an impact on people's lives and empowering them with tools for them to in turn uplift their local community.

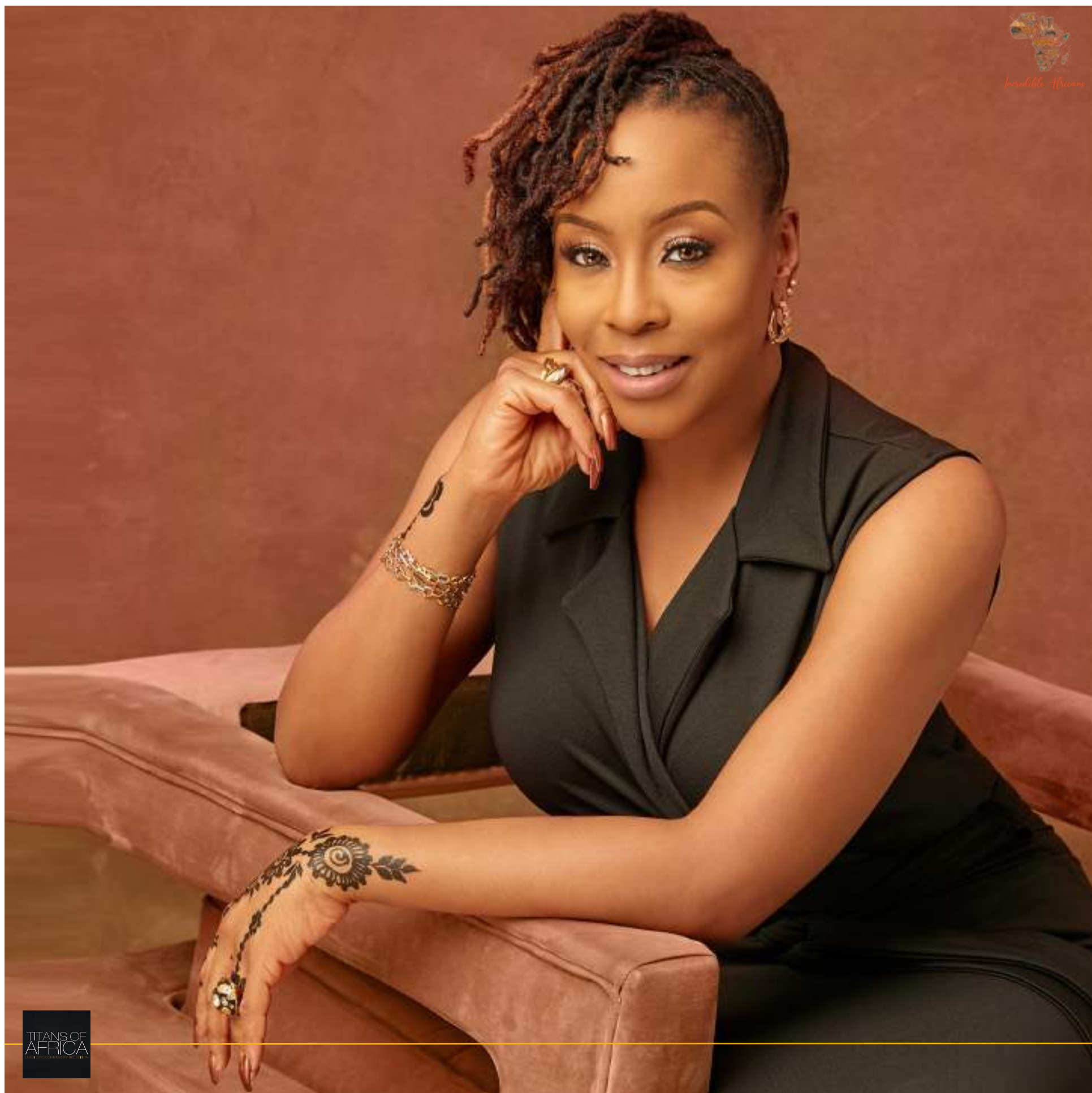
He leaves us with this pathing quote, “You can get an awful lot of good done in the world if you're willing to let someone else take the credit for it”







*Incredible Africans*



# Balancing all *through the way*

STELLA FUBARA, Director of International Operations - DTCM



*"The journey is my home and the world, an experience,"*

Born in Columbus Ohio, the U.S.A to extremely loving, compassionate, knowledgeable, and amazing Nigerian parents, Stella lived there until she was eight. Her childhood has been nothing short of a dream, given the unconditional love and support

from her parents, who despite their busy, demanding careers, made family a priority. Being the second child among seven siblings, Stella has had her share of girl scout experience, been a tomboy and was even a budding pianist at one point in time.







Stella's heart is always full of the amazing memories of her childhood and her siblings who are now spread out over France, Texas, Dubai, Nigeria, New York, and Columbus.

When referring to her career, she had always considered every failure to be a stepping stone and every disappointment to be a blessing. Her zeal, dedication, diligence, and sheer determination towards work are synonymous with the illustrious career she has had.

From starting out in college with Nationwide Insurance, then moving to Owens Corning, Deloitte & Touche to Walt Disney, Wyndham Hotels & Resort, and finally being a crucial part of the Dubai Tourism, Stella has left a mark wherever she went. She strongly believes in bringing value to the table wherever she is.

Doing a little research and studying about the culture of the company, always helps, is what she suggests one should do when starting out a new job. As a self-motivated person, Stella finds positivity in everything around her.

If she had to pick between being a learner or a teacher, she believes she is a blend of both. Always willing to learn to improve herself and adding value to her being. But she believes: "...it is only through teaching, can you impart knowledge to society and initiate a change."

If you wonder how the Director of International Operations with the Dubai Department of Tourism & Commerce Marketing manages a work-life balance, then you must know that it's not just about work-life balance, rather it's about life balance.

In fact, work-life balance is a term that Stella finds very cliché. She believes every phase in life exists for a purpose and only once that purpose is over, can you fully move to the next phase. Each stage has a different priority which is maintained until the task is accomplished.

From raising her kids to climbing up the corporate ladder, Stella has managed it all with finesse by executing one task at a time. Despite her busy schedule, she finds time to read, build jigsaw puzzles, play cards, and word games, enjoy her food, binge-watch t.v shows, and finds absolute solace in music.

However, she does wish to improve her health and exercise routine. Professionally, she aims to get better at networking and not shying away from crowds.



*“One can battle anything, if one accepts their situation, prepare themselves, be willing to learn, and give back to the community.”*

Her family which includes her four kids are everything to her. Celebrating the accomplishments of her children, as a mother she is proud of all they have accomplished and are set to achieve.

Aku is 27yrs old and is a budding chef, Nathan is 26yrs old and will be graduating Law School soon, Abuchi is 24yrs old and he’s a professional soccer player, and she dotes on Cece who’s a 19yr old medical undergraduate student.

Stella is always tied to her roots and despite her current role and highly influential career, she considers Nigeria and the UAE to be her community and is always willing to serve them. According to her oil, technology, agriculture, entertainment, and even tourism, are quite predominant in shaping the world, and even though these sectors are changing, there is a long road to be covered.

The Dubai Expo 2021 is referred to as a lifetime experience by her. She believes it’s a platform to see and observe the future of technology in every industry. Stella thinks it’s a massive chance to network, learn from challenging minds, and to experience diverse cultures.

For the youth of today, she suggests, that they prep up with their legwork and education, as they lay the foundation for who they’d eventually become. Additionally, she also advises them to not succumb to judgment and hold their head high, and keep their heart clean.

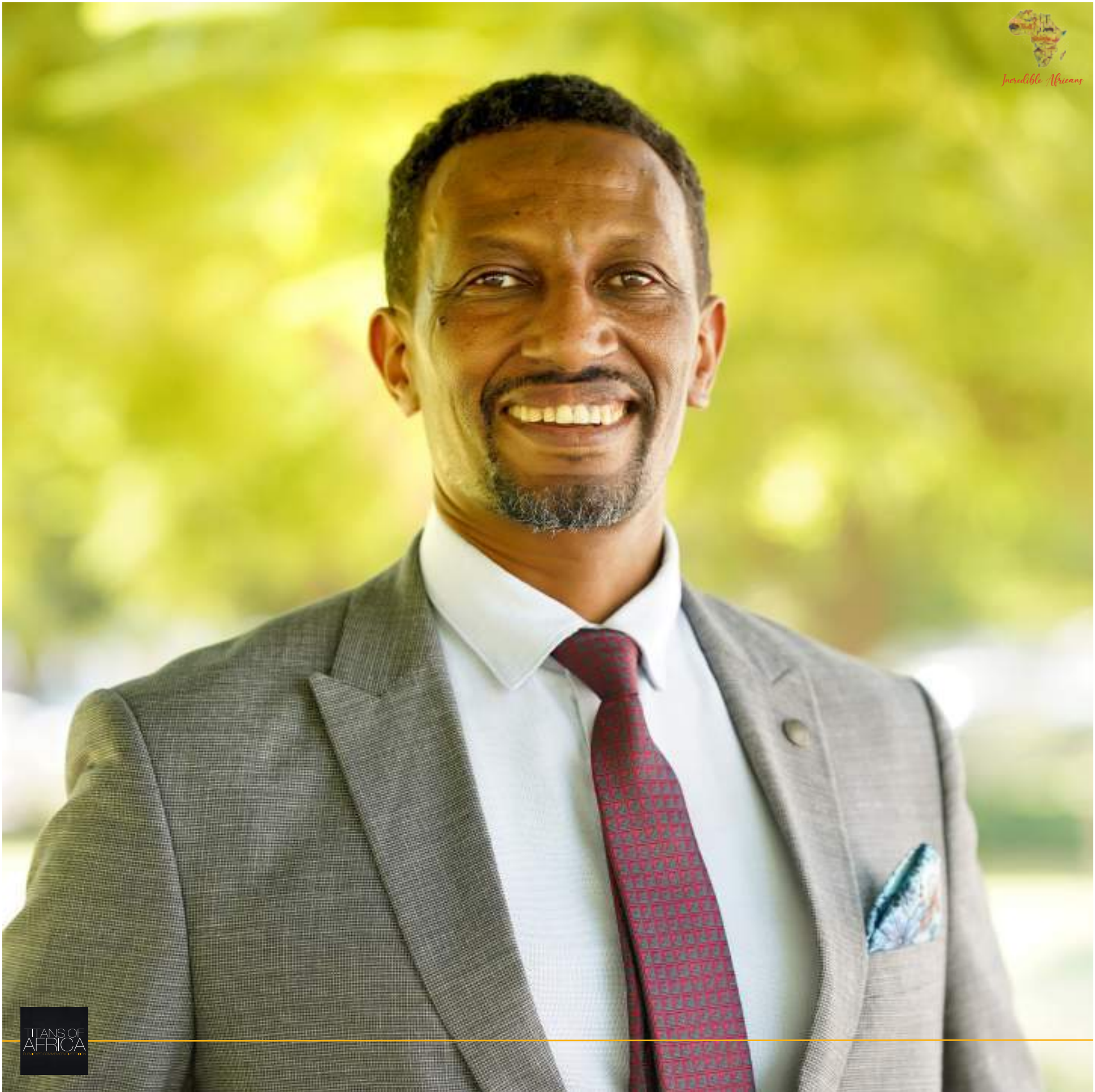
Just like the career and family-related challenges, Stella has successfully battled in her life, she advises: “One can battle anything, if one accepts their situation, prepare themselves, be willing to learn, and give back to the community.”







*Incredible Africans*



# The embodiment *of independence*

TATEK DERESE ESHETE, Founder & G M- Future Scale Safety Consultancies



Between the B (birth) and D (death) of life, there is a letter C that stands for Choice. While we cannot choose where we'll be born, our choices in time determine what the results would be. Tatek Derese Eshete, the founder and

GM of TATATECH and Future Scale Safety Consultancies is a man who's believed in making the right choices which have today helped in stand with his head high amidst all challenges, living with independence.







Despite being born in Ethiopia to a business family, Tatek's story is rather unusual. His father died shortly after his birth and he has never seen his mom and dad. "I have been told that he got killed. Back then, the intelligent men were the targets of the politicians. So many people lost their lives due to unruly politics," he exclaims. He had been raised by his uncle brother of his dad Yeneneh Eshete and special mother Tenage Mekuria whom he considered his father and mother.

Tatek began to adjust in his new family life, Unforgettable setback came his way. He lost his younger brother Zelalem in a car accident, which till date he considers the biggest scar of his life. "I cannot bring him back, no matter what I do and that's something I haven't been able to recover from till date," he says. However, when the going gets tough, the tough gets going. Tatek knew that if he spent more time grieving on the loss, he wouldn't be able to support his family which needed him the most. He quickly picked himself up and assumed the position of a leader and helped stabilize his family's situation.

Tatek went on to complete his high school in Ethiopia itself and decided to pursue commerce in college.

It was during this time that he started playing basketball for Olympiacos team and eventually managed to get selected for the Ethiopian Nationals. But that's where his life changed. He realized he had reached the zenith in sports, and that he wanted a stable career to do with something more technical rather than sports or accounts. "You see, in accounting you're calculating numbers all your life for others, not for yourself. I wanted to be on the other side of the table," he explains.

He pursued his studies and became a qualified Electrical/Electronic Technologist and an IT Engineer. While learning he opened his shop called Tata Electronics which became the stepping stone to his success, bringing him much renown and credibility for his IT skills.

After arriving in Dubai in 2010, he joined Safety Consultant IB and 2014 established Future Scale Safety Consultancies Est which performs safety inspections and trainings for the buildings, houses, offices and other residential and commercial places, on behalf of the Government. Eventually, his business grew and he decided to diversify into other sectors.



Finding a lucrative opportunity, in the year 2016, Tatek launched an Events company with multiple branches. “Our main aim here is to invite artists and speakers, give them a platform to showcase their talent and earn,” he describes. “But during Covid, we couldn’t do much and that’s when I decided to step up and launch another firm called TATATECH, an IT company providing all forms of IT products and solutions to customers across the UAE.”

He finds the combination of IT and safety very profitable as it allows him to offer a complete solution to his customers wherein he provides the systems and ensures their long term safety. Interestingly, the name Tatatech comes from his younger brother Amanuel who would fondly call him Tata. Tatek rejoices on how he is often

mistaken with the Indian business tycoon Tata and ends up getting business because of the shared name.

Beyond work, Tatek is a dotting family man. Whenever he gets free, he likes to spend time with his family consisting of his beloved wife Mulualet whom he met at Nazareth/Adama city, and five children. “My eldest son is 15 years old. I first had two children and then was blessed with triplets,” he mentions. His family is currently based in Virginia Alexandria, USA. He credits his wife for all his success and she’s been a constant guide, mentor, friend and supporter to him all throughout. Though out his success journey in Dubai he thank and gave credit to Mr Kassaye, Kalkidan ,Mahlet and Engineers and friend too.

Commenting on Dubai, Tatek feels it’s a land full of opportunities and the Dubai Expo 2021 is providing everyone a chance to meet people from fellow countries, explore their cultures and find synergies.

“Dubai is a country that pushes you to walk on your two feet, and that’s what I like. Till you continue walking, you will see opportunities.”







*Incredible Africans*



TITANS OF  
AFRICA

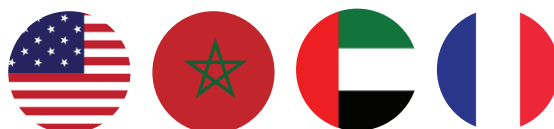
# A True Go-getter

TIMA JABER, CEO & Design Director- TIMA

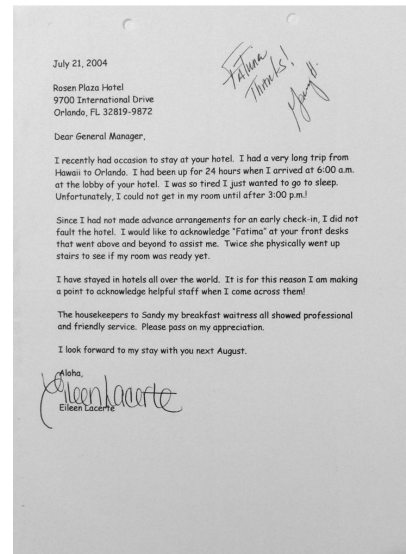


*Shaping the future of the world while designing her own career.*

From starting operations of a 1500 room 4 Diamond Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida to serving breakfast to the boxing legend Mohammed Ali at Disney World, to being a language interpreter for police and assisting them to resolve important cases there is nothing that this beautiful, kind, and hard-working lady, hasn't done.







*“Even a piece of Cake goes through a long and rigorous process, nothing is easy in life”*

Having traveled across the globe, living in four different countries, giving birth to an amazing daughter while pursuing her education, and also establishing a brand of her own, Tima Jaber, is persistent, consistent with her work, and a true go-getter.

Being born in Morocco, being warm, friendly, hospitable, and extremely tolerant, comes naturally to her. As the youngest one among five siblings, Tima was raised with a lot of love and care but was also taught how to be independent and explore the world. It is during one of her outings with her father, to their home under construction, did Tima realize her passion for architecture and design. She then moved to the United States of America along with her family and chose to work in the hospitality field. In addition to that, she pursued her studies in Architecture and Hospitality Management. After studying for some time, she decided to shift her base to

France and pursued the last year of her Architecture Degree there whilst looking for a job in hospitality that landed her to join the Dorchester Collection. But as destiny would have it, she was unable to find a job in Design/Architecture, she landed up using her linguistic skills for the police department. She then did internship in Italy where she studied the works of one of the most enigmatic architects of the 20th Century, Carlos Scarpa, and took up many assignments as well. Recalling her past, she credits her father for instilling the passion to pursue her career and her mother for instilling the artistic acumen in her, which has made her what she is today.

Studying interior and architecture was not an easy task and juggling it with part-time work was equally challenging. For four years, Tima worked two jobs all seven days of the work and gave up on her leisure time too. She just wanted to ensure, she was giving her education complete attention and nothing

came in between. Post her degree, Tima decided to move to the UAE because she wanted to live across the globe.

Tima appreciated the help and support the UAE has to offer expats and its citizens when it comes to pursuing their dreams and ambitions. She was mesmerized by the developments in the country and how the UAE was shaping up. Setting up the Abu Dhabi VIP lounge was her first million-dollar project in the country and it has been a dream come true to begin her journey with such a prestigious project.





Tima believes that the nation has always managed all rules and norms very well and is very welcoming to entrepreneurs as there is constant support available for facilitating their work and business.



She has always been on a quest for knowledge and considers herself a learner. She believes learning should never stop and keeps pursuing a degree or a diploma every few years. Her confidence, humbleness, passion, and determination are something that she's been able to pass onto her 10-year-old daughter Sophia.

Never take anyone's kindness for granted is what Tima advises everyone. She strongly agrees that life can only be a piece of cake if you patiently go through the entire process of baking and icing it. Every masterpiece requires hard work, determination, investment of time, money, and effort, but it's worth it in the end. She believes that a leader should inspire people and lead them by example rather than simply bossing them around. Africa will always be on the rise and will be a land of ethnicity, diversity, reserves, and continue being the distinctively unique continent among the seven continents of the world, concludes Tima Jaber.







# The artist *that knew no bounds*

ZAAHIRAH MUTHY, Artist Activist, Curator, Founder - ZeeArts



Every day the clock resets itself reminding us that change is inevitable. It is this very ability to bring about change and reformation that measures the intelligence, dedication, and perseverance of Zaahirah Muthy. She is a passionate and focused individual with a go-getter

attitude. As an artist-activist and a curator, who hails from Mauritius and now nestled in Dubai, Zaahirah has not only contributed largely to the world of art but her magical touch has also helped in beautifying the world around her.







Even at a young age, along with her two sisters, Zaahirah was always out-going and loved to make friends. Arts and community service are two major things that have always defined her life. She realized art was her calling when she would spend all her free time painting the walls of her house as a little kid. The best part was that she always had the encouragement and support of her parents. She began her career as an animator/project coordinator with an NGO, where her role was to counsel and develop the soft skills of street children. She also counseled and trained female inmates in the prison and even dealt with drug addicts. Further on in her career, she worked for the upliftment of sex workers too.

Zaahirah believes in completing the full circle of life which makes her actively involved in giving back to the community. She truly loves her work and derives strength from art itself. The words, 'Give up', don't exist in her dictionary at all. It's not like she hasn't encountered challenges, but every time she fell down, she dusted herself and got back up to continue on her path. It is this zeal and commitment that has led to her art being exhibited in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, the United States of America, and Asia. She has curated in over 75 art exhibitions in UAE, Singapore, Georgia, Mauritius, France, Lebanon and has also been the curator for World Art Dubai.

Her expertise is not limited to curating art exhibitions alone. She has introduced multiple developments, training, and support programs for women artists through the 'Art Connects

Women' program. She also spearheaded the Little Picasso program to encourage children across Bangladesh, Dubai, Lebanon, and Mauritius into the realm of art. Her international art organization, ZeeArts endeavors to provide a standard platform for artists across the world. ZeeArts has laid the foundation for a myriad of artistic projects such as exhibitions, fairs, retreats, empowerment, art therapy, and consultancy services. The 'Art Connects Women' initiative, now in its 5th edition, has helped connect and bring into light the work of 100 exceptional female artists from around the world.



*“There are no shortcuts to success and that one must go all out to achieve what they dream off”.*

From being awarded the Leonardo Da Vinci Universal Artist Award, to Global Art Award, the Femina World Women Leadership Award, and the Inspiring African Women Entrepreneur Award, the list of accolades for Zaahirah's work and spirit are quite impressive and lengthy. Today, her work has been recognized and applauded not just in Mauritius but across the globe.

Zaahirah is a true learner and believes that learning is a continuous process. She is of the opinion that, one learns every day from their

family, children, team, community, and life experiences. Having a list of degrees and certifications up her sleeve, Zaahirah strongly believes in the power of education. According to her, education not only transforms an individual but can reform an entire nation. Hence, through her workshops and seminars, she has always thrown light on the strength of education.

One can never pour from an empty cup. Reiterating this thought, Zaahirah encourages everyone to remove some time for themselves.

It is only when one is fully content from within, can they influence their outer circle. A doting mother of her two boys, aged 19 and 4, she owes every ounce of her success to her parents. As someone who also enjoys singing, learning guitar is the next thing on her list.

A self-made person who wishes to have a mentor in her life, Zaahirah today serves as an inspiration to many. She proves that there are no shortcuts to success and that one must go all out to achieve what they dream off.











24-09-2021



### **Message of Congratulations**

*GMBF Global is happy to see that UAE based "DCOM Design Co. FZE is bringing out its yet another edition but first Coffee Table Book on Africa titled "Titans Of Africa" by the team led by Vikas Bhargava and Wiliam Stenhouse*

*We from Maharashtra - a business state of India, knows that Africans are the people who are always great source of Inspiration in all over the world. There is lot of potential in the land of Africa and its resources, we welcome all TITANS to connect with us and see what we we can support as Indian Community*

*It is heartening to know that DCOM Designs after the successful launch of many books, now bringing this first book on Africa. I'm sure this will promote and grace the aura of Continent in greater manner.*

*I Convey my heartiest good wishes to all those who are associated with this Coffee Table Book "Titans of Africa". I wish to see more in the years to come*

*I wish all best in their endeavor*

**Dr. Sunil Manjarekar**

**President**

**GMBF Global**



### **Thank you**

Africa is an opportunity for the world. It is a rising economic power, and the transformation it has undergone is remarkable. The people of Africa are more resilient than you think and are an inspiration to many. It is heart-warming to know about these fabulous people of Africa who have constantly strived for the development of the country. Their contribution to the continent and the globe is highly applaudable.

This land of rich and diverse cultures and tradition is constantly witnessing enormous innovation. It's fascinating to see so many great stories of hard work, perseverance, enthusiasm and courage come to light. Bringing them to the world through this book, *Titans of Africa* will help carve a new roadmap to success. Each story in this book is an inspiration on its own and defines its true self.

We at Content by Diksha Vohra congratulate Mr Vikas Bhargava on this endeavour. It has been an absolute pleasure to be associated with you. We wish to be a part of many more such innovative projects. Here's wishing you immense success and luck with the launch of the book.

Sincerely,

*Diksha Vohra*

Diksha Vohra

Founder & Creative Director

Content by Diksha Vohra FZ LLC, Dubai, UAE





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MOTTO: WE CARE

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**SAFE & ECONOMIC  
STABILITY**

  
**GROWTH  
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## WHY INVEST IN DUBAI



### DUBAI CREEK HARBOUR FEATURES

1. LOCATED 10-15 MINUTES FROM DUBAI AIRPORT, FESTIVAL CITY, AND DOWNTOWN
  2. AMAZING VIEWS OF DUBAI CREEK AND DOWNTOWN SKYLINE
  3. NICE COMMUNITY FOR LIVING
  4. AMAZING CAPITAL APPRECIATION
  5. WILL FEATURE THE TALLEST ICONIC TOWER "CREEK TOWER" AND BIGGEST SHOPPING MALL IN THE WORLD "DUBAI SQUARE MALL", DUBAI CREEK BEACH, CREEK ISLAND, PARK CENTRAL, SANCTUARY DISTRICT AND MUCH MORE.
- PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE

### DAMAC HILLS 2 AKNAN VILLAS (AKOYA) DUBAI

3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS

 **Swimming pool**  **Family Rooms**

 **Parking**  **Fitness center**

PAYMENT PLAN AVAILABLE





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**Aviation & Marine**

**Medical (Including COVID-19)**



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**Special Risk**

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Incorporated in 1980, Standard Insurance Consultants Limited! (SICL) is a client-focused and secured International Insurance and Reinsurance broking firm with offices in Lagos, Ibadan, Abuja, Port Harcourt, and Dubai the United Arab Emirates with Associate offices around the Globe. As a member of the Nigerian Council of Registered insurance Brokers (NCRIB), SICL is fully licensed by the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) to transact an extensive list of classes of insurance business, including special risks such as Oil and Gas, Aviation, Marine, Life Insurance and Reinsurance broking. SICL places premium on Claims servicing and closely monitors the Insurance Industry's developments to ensure that its Clients are positioned with secured and solvent Risk Carriers.

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## TOMORROW AFRICA, TODAY

KIZA Restaurant & Lounge – a household name for friends and lovers of Africa. We are renowned as a vibrant venue that curates culturally immersive, entertainment experiences which are an ode to the deep-rooted essence of Africa's people. Our base in Dubai is an invitation to the globally conscious, multi-dimensional and upwardly mobile patron with a knack for satisfying their curiosity. You hear the name "KIZA" and immediately think 'community' and 'collectivism' – as the spirit of KIZA is very much about ensuring that our guests feel a part of something bigger... KIZA is the premium destination in Dubai for African inspired immersive interactions, captivating conversation and celebratory expression.

KIZA FRIENDS, IS TOMORROW AFRICA, TODAY



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Chris Momah



Home and Kitchen Electronics



IT Electronics



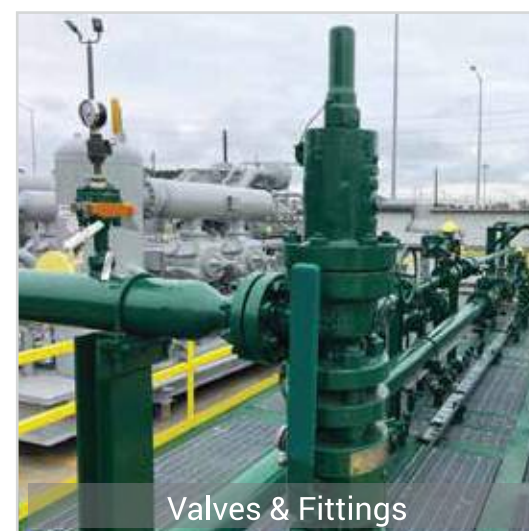
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Danachris General Trading LLC was established in 2008 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates with the purpose of providing high quality goods and products to serve the Middle East and African (MEA) markets. Our goal is to be the trusted partner for the sourcing of high quality goods that meet the needs and satisfaction of our customers. We are an internationally focused business that deals on wholesale and export supply of global brands in various industries. Partnering with us is a strategic decision, if you seek to increase your brand presence within the MEA regions and gain from the numerous benefits of the fastest growing market in the world.



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# MEDIHEAL HOSPITALS: TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE IN AFRICA

Mediheal Hospitals - a group of tertiary care centers (Nairobi, Eldoret, Nakuru & Kigali) with over 500 beds, offering state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic services with ten modern specialty-specific modular Operation Theatres. Driven by a strong interdisciplinary collaboration, the teams of accomplished medical experts deliver personalized and exemplary patient care across more than 25 specialties leveraging the most advanced evidence-based medicine and cutting-edge technology.

Today Mediheal group of Hospitals is the leading largest healthcare service provider in East Africa with rapid expansion plans across the continent offering the full spectrum of integrated healthcare services from clinics to hospitals to tertiary care and a wide range of ancillary services though the group began

its journey in 2004 with Mediheal Hospital & Fertility Centre in Eldoret, Kenya, a 50-bed comprehensive healthcare facility serving patients in the East African region. From then on, the group spread its wings across 10 state-of-the-art facilities.



Patient Prevents | Doctor Treats | God Heals



## COMPREHENSIVE ORGAN TRANSPLANT

**Accurate evaluation and world-class treatment**

Mediheal has developed the most comprehensive Organ Transplant Program for Kidney and Liver. As Africa's leading Renal Transplant centre with 97% success rate, Mediheal is the first in the region to perform Laparoscopic Donor Nephrectomy.



## ADVANCED NEUROSURGERY

**Minimally invasive techniques for faster recovery**



Mediheal hospital has world class equipment in the Neurosurgery theatre, which includes the CUSA, Navigation, Advanced Endoscopic systems, HEPA Filter operation theatres ensuring zero rate of infection.

The Dept. of Neurosciences at Mediheal Hospitals provides a thorough assessment and therapeutic interventions for diverse neurological conditions such as Brain Injury, Stroke, Epilepsy, Spinal Disorders, and conditions related to Neuro-oncology. The facility is equipped with sophisticated instrumentation and technology for diagnosing and treating even the most complicated neurological conditions. Our team of highly experienced Neurologists and Neurosurgeons are renowned in the field for their superior knowledge and skills.

## ORTHOPAEDICS(GENERAL ORTHOPAEDICS, JOINT REPLACEMENT, ARTHROSCOPY, TRAUMA, ARTHROPLASTY, SPORTS MEDICINE)

### Specialized interventions and implants for an active life

Department of Orthopaedics at Mediheal hospital is considered to be one of the best orthopaedics hospitals in the region. It is the most preferred healthcare service provider for orthopaedic surgeries with the largest number of Joint Replacement surgeries (Hip, Knee & Shoulder) performed at Mediheal which includes primary and revisions.

We have strong orthopedics team of highly qualified US & Europe trained doctors. The Institute of orthopaedics at Mediheal hospital, has laminar flow operation theatres. Treat patients with evidence based latest technology for surgeries and excellent rehabilitation programs till patient recovers completely.



## PEDIATRICS & NEONATOLOGY

### Specialized care for a healthy foundation

We at Mediheal Group of Hospitals run a fully equipped paediatric and neonatology department. We have neonatal ICU, Paediatric ICU and Paediatric ward.

#### Facilities

1. Paediatric and Neonatal ICU
2. Respiratory asthma and allergy clinic
3. High-risk neonatal follow-up clinic
4. Paediatric Cardiologist
5. Child behaviour Counselling
6. Adolescent Medicine (14-18 years)
7. Surgery of paediatric and neonatal patients
8. Immunization / vaccination clinic

The department has a fully equipped neonatal ICU, paediatric ICU and paediatric ward along with a vaccination clinic.



## CRITICAL CARE

### Multi-disciplinary approach for clinical outcomes

Critical Care Medicine (CCM) is a specialty that involves the management of patients with life-threatening, frequently complex medical and surgical illnesses in a specialized Intensive Care Unit (ICU) or similar facility. A modern ICU represents the pinnacle of any hospital's approach to highly technological & sophisticated in-patient care.

Mediheal Group of Hospitals provides critical care services round the clock with a team of highly qualified, skilled, and experienced intensivists and nurses. The plan of care for the patient is prepared in consensus with the admitting specialist, the patient, and the family. Periodic multi-disciplinary briefings on the patient's condition are provided to his / her family. Our Intensive Care is a state-of-the-art unit with 100 Critical Care beds segregated into different ICUs to provide more focused care as per the established protocols.

Our Intensive Care Team Practices **Evidence-Based Medicine** and follows **International protocols** and quality indicators like 'FASTHUG' to enable good outcomes and decreased hospital stay. The ICU outcomes are monitored with tools like 'APACHE' scoring and SMR (Standardized Mortality Ratios) that help the department benchmark outcomes against internationally reputed ICUs. Infection control protocols to prevent Healthcare-Associated Infections (HCAI) like Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP), Catheter-Related Blood Stream Infection (CRBSI), and Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) are followed rigorously.





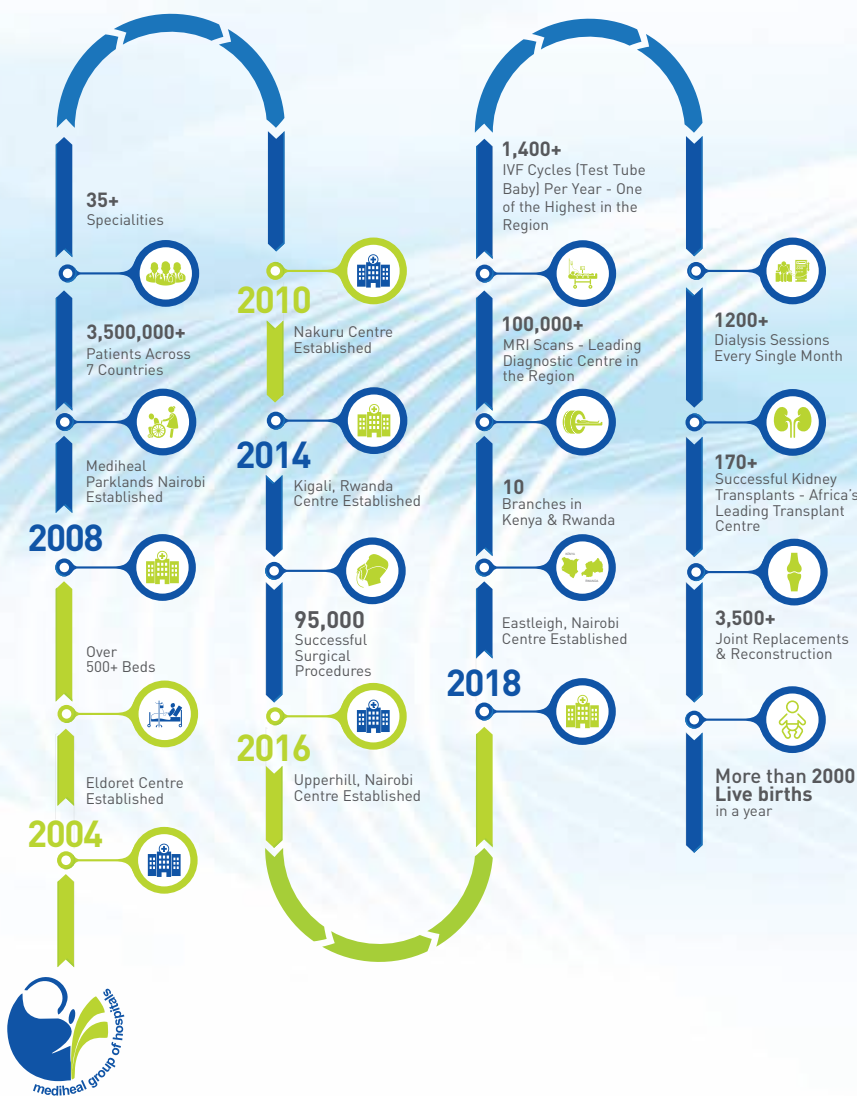
# ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (ART)



IN VITRO FERTILISATION (IVF) is an everchanging dynamic field that has undergone many milestones over the past 5 decades. Since, the time the 1st ever conceived IVF baby Louise Brown was born in 1978, there has been a sea change in the technology of IVF and infertility management. Also, the IVF technique has evolved rapidly to give better success rates, pregnancies and live births. Therefore, it is important that we update our techniques and equipment to give our clients the best facilities and success rates.

We at Mediheal Group of hospitals since 2014 have had a tremendous surge in the number of clients coming for IVF as a result of our very good success rates. We are currently operating at three centres for assisted reproduction – Nairobi and Eldoret in Kenya. Kigali in Rwanda. We manage treatment for 1200 couples annually and have a success rate of 60-70% clinical pregnancy rate. At the time of writing this article, there have been 6000 babies born through IVF treatment in our Mediheal Group hospitals in East Africa. Due to our impeccable track record in this region for quality management and success rates in the management of infertility we have been encouraged to set up highly specialized centres in other parts of Kenya, as well as in Uganda and DRC, with an aim to offer quality care management of Infertility. We have a big team of IVF specialists, trained and expert Embryologists, and specialized IVF Nurses and Counselors, to ensure that we achieve success in our endeavours and put our best step forward for humanity and procreation.

## CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF SERVICE EXCELLENCE



## MODERN, FULLY-EQUIPPED OPERATION THEATERS



Mediheal's well-equipped, ultra-modern Operation Theatres with laminar air flow and HEPA filters come with highly sophisticated equipment including anesthesia workstations, multi-parameter monitor, laparoscopes, defibrillator, C-arm, LED lights and other important life saving devices to carry out all types of complicated surgeries.

## STATE OF THE ART CARDIAC CARE

A one-stop centre for Cardiac Care & treatment. Mediheal is equipped with state of the art technology and a it's a world-class tertiary cardiac centre in the region.

### Services

1. Cardiac Screening
2. Interventional Cardiology
3. Cardiac Surgery (Peadiatric & Adult)



## MEDIHEAL CENTRES



**MEDIHEAL HOSPITALS AND FERTILITY CENTRE, ELDORET**  
Nandi Road  
P.O. Box: 7905 - 30100  
Eldoret, Kenya.  
T: +254 723 578 895 / 735 864 169



**MEDIHEAL HOSPITALS (PARKLANDS), NAIROBI**  
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Nairobi, Kenya.  
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**MEDIHEAL HOSPITALS EASTLEIGH**  
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**MEDIHEAL DIAGNOSTIC, DIALYSIS & DAYCARE CENTRE, NAIROBI**  
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Best Wishes From



Amit Gupta

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## ABOUT US

**M&C LOGISTICS AND TRADING-GHANA**- Licensed by the Minerals Commission of Ghana.

**M&C GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS REFINERY**- Licensed by the Minerals Commission of Ghana.

**MNCSBDMCC**- UAE- Registered & Licensed as a FREEZONE Company under the Rules & Regulations of DMCC.

**ENERS PRECIOUS METALS LLC**- United States of America-Precious Metals and Gems Dealer in accordance with the Precious Metals and Gems Dealer Licensing Act 59

**M&C TRADING AND LOGISTICS**-- Nigeria -Licensed by the Nigerian Export Promotion Council and the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development

### SERVICES:-

- GOLD SUPPLY SERVICES
- REVOLVING SUPPLY (PRE-FINANCE)
- GOLD RECEIVING
- ASSAYING
- REFINING
- STORAGE
- TRANSPORTATION
- EXPORT
- CONSULTANCY.



### OFFICES:-



UAE - UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
USA - UNITED STATE OF AMERICA  
NIGERIA

📍 **ACCRA, GHANA**  
**HEAD OFFICE**



ADDRESS: PLOT NO. 259 EAST LEGON. NO. 1 CARROT AVENUE.  
ADJACENT LIZZY SPORTS COMPLEX.

EMAIL: MNCGROUP@MNCGROUPGH.COM

**+233 (0) 302-998-246 | +233 (0) 561-032-253**

M&C Group





## ABOUT US

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### SERVICES:-

GOLD SUPPLY SERVICES  
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GOLD RECEIVING  
ASSAYING | REFINING  
STORAGE | TRANSPORTATION  
EXPORT | CONSULTANCY.



### OFFICES:-



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Dheeraj Mehta



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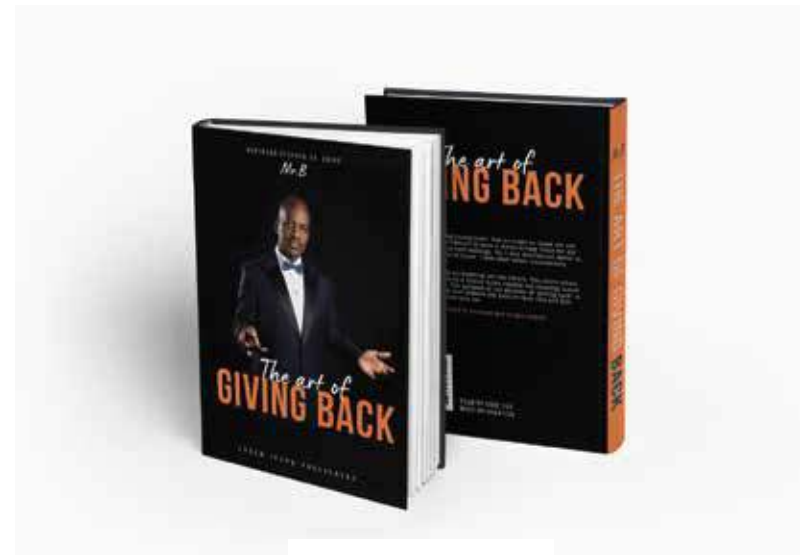


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