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# U50

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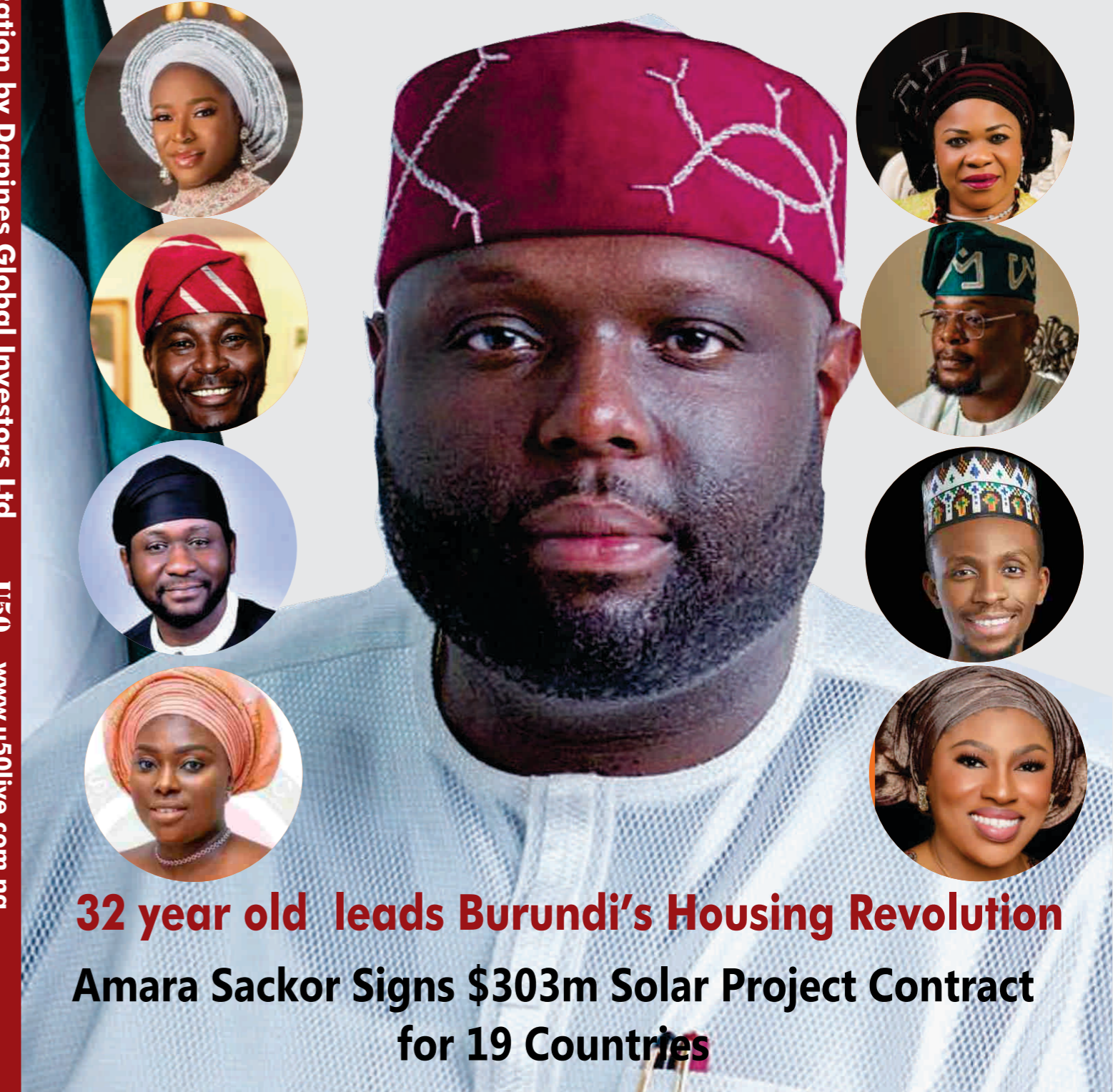


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U50

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## President Tinubu Burns Nigeria's Ship



**32 year old leads Burundi's Housing Revolution**

**Amara Sackor Signs \$303m Solar Project Contract for 19 Countries**

**Under 50' 10th NASS Bringing ReNew Hope**

Dr Betta Edu  
Honorable Minister  
Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs  
& Poverty Alleviation



**C**ongratulations to one of Nigeria's brightest minds and compassionate hearts who has committed her life to the service and upliftment of others. On this well deserved appointment by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR to serve as the Honorable Minister Humanitarian Affairs & Poverty Alleviation we at U50 Magazine and the entire management of Dapines Global Investors Ltd wish you relentless sustainability of your giant strides.

We are confident that no one could be better suited for the job than you.

Keep blazing the trail for over 30 million Nigerians who are Under 50 years.

Proudly U50

Simon Tuleh  
Publisher/CEO



TSC Global



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The foundation of every great development is good design. That's why we take great care to ensure our engineering designs reflect our clients' visions, meeting the highest standards of functionality, safety, and beauty.



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# U50

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The 10th National Assembly is the one symbol of Nigeria's growing democracy with political parties represented beyond the erstwhile dominance by major political parties of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and People's Democratic Party (PDP). The emergence of parties like Labor Party, New Nigeria Party, All Progressives Grand Alliance and others gives credence to the argument that the times have indeed change. In this piece we bring you some of the top under 50 year old senator and honorable members set to rejuvenate a dwindling hope of Nigerians.

## 24 | President Tinubu Burns Nigeria's Ship

Nigeria's 5th democratically elected president and chief of the Armed Forces was sworn in on May 29th 2023 making the country one of Africa's longest democratic nations. President Bola Ahmed Tinubu takes over from president Muhammadu Buhari after 8 years yet the country has struggled with its historic terrorism, banditry, corruption, poverty, insecurity, unemployment, capital flight, nose diving currency and many other problems awaiting the new administration.

Even though the new government is a transition of the same political interests many worry if the president will have the courage to stand firm and lead the country to overcome or he will let its ship burn into thin air.



## 47 | Uncommon Diplomacy, Amb. Elijah Onyeagba PhD

He was appointed as Nigeria's youngest ambassador in 2021 and now returns from Burundi with a memoir of giant strides. In this special piece, His Excellency shares about his journey to diplomacy and his achievements in Burundi leading to unprecedented international relations between the two countries.

## 57 | Discover A UK Pharmaceutical Brand For Africa By Nigerian

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**11 | 32 yr old Burundian Diaspora to lead Africa’s Housing Revolution**

Fablice is not like most Africans who spend their lives abroad and never dream to come back, for him it is transforming Africa into a world class continent of cities. From Burundi to every country in Africa, affordable housing.

**47| Asteven Group On A Mission to Take Green Skills Across Africa**

According to researchers, Africa is the next frontier for technological development and one resource the world is banking on is the multi-trillion dollar abundant solar resources that could save the world from the global warming. Asteven is one indigenous brand committed to preparing millions of unemployed Africans to take the lead.

**46| Amara Sackor Signs \$303m Solar Project Contract For 19 Countries**

Ex U.S. soldier is leading ECOWAS war to end the reign of darkness in 19 African countries using the power of the sun. The CEO of TSC Global is not taking this job lightly.

TSC Global is an international consultancy firm in the fields of engineering, technical services and innovation. The firm is bringing together a consortium of local and international companies to holistically address the rigors majority of Africans face in accessing solar energy technology.

Find out how to key into the over \$300 million project.



**47| Books Nigeria’s Vice President Wants You To Read**

After Nigeria’s 2023 general elections, for the time Africa’s giant has an entirely democratic presidency, the president and his vice not ex military. Also, away from the past vice presidents who were mainly academic, Sen. Kashim Shettima is one book worm who wishes every African could be avid readers.

**47| Block Chain Tech Can Save Your Life**

How important is your medical history? Are you concerned about how your healthcare provider manages your medical records? What if we told you that your life depends on it.

Derek unravels the growing potentials of block chain technology in health care services and the life of millions of people depends on it.



## THE TEAM

### Simon Tuleh

*Publisher / CEO*

#### About Us:

Dapines Global Investors Ltd is a certified investment company with wide range of investment in media, ICT, real estate and consumer lending. With a team driven by decades of experience in finance, media, entertainment, ICT, real estate and business consulting. Our subsidiaries are U50 Media & Events, Kombuy.ng, Investus.ng and car4u

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Yusuf is the lead counsel at Mildred & Patriarch, a legal firm committed to providing excellent legal representation and advisory including litigation, asset recovery, corporate law and mediation. He is one outstanding legal practitioner who believes there is a solution to any problem in the law, and provides affordable legal services to clients.

### Chief Raphael Atuu



Chief Raphael Atuu is a Nigerian journalist, editor, media consultant and publisher of Action Newspaper. His journalistic experience includes local and international investigative reportage for Paydesk, The Voice Nigeria, Oracle Magazine and Daily Asset Newspaper. He provides media related services to governments and corporate entities within and outside Africa.

### Gift Greg Nwokorie



Gift Nwokorie is the Communications Manager at Asteven Group with wealth of experience in renewable energy technology. She pens down an informative piece on the achievements of Asteven Group reputed to be one of Africa's leading renewable energy companies.

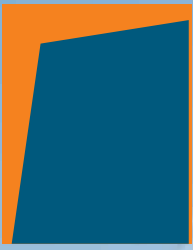
### Derek Terver Iortyom



Derek leads the team at Clinicbank, a healthcare technology company that develops block-chain channels for healthcare providers to manage their clients data base. He is a highly motivated and experienced ICT professional with strong track record in innovation solutions within and outside

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# EDITOR'S NOTE

**M**ark Sinclair popularly known Vin Diesel is an American actor, film producer and master stunt maker who is one of the world's highest grossing actors best known in the Fast & Furious franchise as Dominic Toretto, he got afro hip hop music trending when he shared Rema's song "calm down." The Hollywood star expressed that he got hung on the artist when his daughter kept on singing the song over and over. The song "calm down" by Nigerian singer Rema made its debut with the studio album Rave & Roses in 2022 when it was released on 11th February 2022 through Jonzing World and Mavin records. The song charted across Europe, reaching number one on the Belgian Ultra 50, Dutch Top 40 and Single Top 100. In the United Kingdom, the song peaked at number three and spent twenty-seven non-consecutive weeks in the top ten of the UK Singles Chart. The song was later remixed with Selena Gomez in August of the same year. When the world was gradually calming down from the Rema buzz, a Nigerian music artist stomps the O2 arena in London, which is one of the largest and most prestigious indoor arenas in the world with 20,000 sitting capacity. The O2 arena has hosted some of the biggest stars in the world, and selling out the arena is a big achievement with a list of top tier

artists selling out the arena such as Spice girls, Monty Python, Gary Barlow, The Rolling Stone, Rihanna and so many others. Asake also stepped on the same pedestal with the likes of Burna boy, Wizkid and Davido who had also graced the arena in the past. This speaks of how far Africa has come in getting the world to pay attention to us.

Since our first edition of this magazine in 2020, this is the first time we will be peeping into the music industry and featuring it in our Good Beats column. Indeed, we could not run for too long from the wave it blew beyond the continent driven by boisterous genre of Under 50 creative talents. Expect more dive from us in subsequent editions.

The Tinubu administration revives Nigeria's early republics where the country's leadership was mainly saddled by young under 50s, the likes of Sir Ahmadu Bello, Nigeria's first premier in 1954 at just age 44, Chief Obafemi Awolowo as the first premier of the Western region when he was just 43 years old, Olusegun Obasanjo was just 39 years as head of state in 1976 and Muhammadu Buhari as head of state at the same age of 39 in 1983. The legislature was full of young Nigerians who sought and hoped for a better future for the next generation. So as Africa, the unforgettable heroes of Pan-African, Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, Patrice Lumumba of the Democratci Republic of Congo, Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and many more.

Its 2023 and Nigeria has a 39 years old politician in the senate as the youngest

senator, Senator Ekpeyong Asuquo, whilst the house of representatives constitutes of 80% of under 50 honorable members for the 10th National Assembly. Déjà vu buds!

The U50 team brings you a focus on Under 50 Africans putting Africa first and making real change. Burundian Diaspora who giggered Australian tabloids and events with his music performances thought it was not enough to just be a celebrity if people back home in Africa could not afford beautiful homes. Fablice Manirakiza sparks Africa's housing revolution with Burundi's first gated community and financing plan of \$5 million worth of investment.

Another African from Diaspora, former U.S. Soldier turned engineer, Amara Sackor of Liberian decent wants Africa to go green and he got ECOWAS to not only listen but make over \$300 million commitment for the Regional Off-grid Electricity Access Project (ROGEAP).

We also bring you memoirs of Nigeria's youngest diplomat who shares his uncommon journey.

So much memories, information and inspiration captured in this edition of U50 magazine.

Enjoy and don't forget to visit our website for more beats and follow us on social media.

With gratitude from the team



**Simon**

**Tuleh**

*Publisher /*

*CEO*



# BUZZ FEED

## YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT OUR

I want to commend you and your team at U50 Magazine for finding me worthy to feature in your Special piece among the Top 10 Most Outstanding Nigerian's To Make President Tinubu's Cabinet. I urge you to continue to promote young people who are working on a daily basis in making Nigeria great despite the challenges you may encounter continue to persevere because in due time you will be rewarded.

I will continue to support and encourage efforts geared towards positive development of Nigeria and Nigerians.

Thank you

### **Dr. Betta Edu**

*Former National Women Leader, All Progressives Congress (APC), and Currently, Honorable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs & Poverty Alleviation.*



Great job from U50 Magazine Team.

Thank you for taking your time to research and find young under 50 years old Nigerians who are making a positive difference in the country.

### **Mrs Hadiza Bala Usman**

*Special Adviser to the President on National Policy Coordination*

Well done!

I am glad to make your feature of Top 10 Outstanding Under 50 Nigerians to Make Presidential Cabinet of the Sen. Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration. Look forward to more future engagements.

### **Barr Ismaeel Ahmed**

*Senior Special Assistant Investment Program to President Muhammadu Buhari*

Congratulations on your recent publication of U50 Magazine. This initiative is in line with our commitment in the All Progressives Congress (APC) Youth Wing to promote greater inclusion of young people in governance and leadership in the society.

### **Amb. Dayo Israel**

*National Youth Leader All Progressives Congress (APC)*

# GOOD BEATS



## President Tinubu Appoints APC National Youth Leader Contestant as Special Assistant on Social Media

Olusegun Dada emerged as one of the first persons appointed by president Bola Ahmed Tinubu among the first batch of aides to constitute his cabinet. For many observers, his appointment did not come as a surprise but one that was expected for compensation of his acceptance to step down for Dayo Israel in the contest for the party's national youth leader.

Dada, the Pure and Applied Chemistry graduate from Ladoké Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho is a writer and social change advocate who's involvement in youth advocacy and media gradually gained high acceptance among youth who clamored for his nomination to contest for the position of national youth leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC).

Before his appointment as the Special Adviser to the President on Social Media he was actively involved in youth mobilization and campaign in preparation for the 2023 general elections.

## Catch Me If You Can D'tigress Coach Leads Her Team To Win Cup

One does not need to be a sports lover to know coaching is no mere job be it for a man or a woman. Coaching Nigeria's female basketball team is not a job many people will jostle to get, very few politicians would even give it a thought, unlike football where you have overwhelming interests and lobbyists cashing in. Not many people thought the girls would go any far, except for Rena Wakama.

Wakama was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on April 11, 1992. Johnson Wakama and Rosana Oba, her parents, are natives of Okrika in Rivers State. She studied at the Western Carolina University, where she graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor's degree in therapeutic recreation. She served four years on the institution's women's basketball team, the "Catamounts."

She did not only lead the Nigerian female team to win a fourth championship but also made history as the first female coach to win the competition since it began in 1966.



As part of president Bola Tinubu's decision to constitute his cabinet was the appointment of Ms Olu Verheijen as the president's Special Adviser on Energy.

Her close to two decades experience in the field, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that encompasses the oil, gas, power, and renewable energy sectors in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ms Verheijen formerly worked at Shell, where she provided advice on gas commercialization and participated in mergers and acquisitions. She held the position of Founder and Managing Director at Latimer Energy, a commercial consultancy firm that specializes in advising clients on investment decisions in the energy sector.

She holds a B.Sc. in Economics & Political Science from Long Island University, NY, United States and Masters in Public Policy from Harvard School of Business in 2003.

She brings on board vibrancy and innovation to drive Nigeria's Energy Policy at the presidency.

## Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory's University Appoints Youngest Deputy Chancellor & Law Professor

Nigeria's youngest Professor of Law, Aisha Sani Maikudi, has been appointed the Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) in charge of academics at the University of Abuja, the country's Federal Capital Territory's University.

The Kastina State born legal luminary attended Queens College, Lagos, obtained her LLB degree from the University of Reading, UK, the LLM from the London School of Economics, UK, BL from the Nigeria Law School, Abuja and Ph.D from the University of Abuja, Nigeria.

In 2007, Aisha did her National Youth Service Corps at the Corporate Secretariat and Legal Division of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation. In 2008, she joined the University of Abuja as a Lecturer 2 and became the first female and youngest Head of Department, Faculty of Law in 2014; first female and youngest Vice Dean, Faculty of Law in 2018 and the pioneer Director, University of Abuja.





**Dr Betta Edu Becomes Nigeria’s Youngest Minister Sworn In Tinubu’s Government**

Nigeria is Africa’s most populated country with a female population that counts to about 60% of the total population yet there has been a disproportionate share of this population in governance. But the appointment of Dr Betta Edu as the Honorable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation portends a new shift from the old norm. More than the fact that she is female, Dr Betta is the youngest minister appointed by president Tinubu. Her stint races back to her remarkable achievements as national women leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and former commissioner of health, Cross River State.

Dr Betta has been known for her compassionate disposition and commitment to empowering the poor and downtrodden. The 37 years old graduate of Medicine from University of Calabar with professional certification from internationally renowned academic institutions seeks to galvanize critical stakeholders within and outside Nigeria in tackling the growing poverty index of the country.

Many observers have lauded the choice of president Tinubu as they are confident that very few Nigerians holds the pedigree that Dr Betta possesses for the job.

**Dr Bosun Tijjani Beats The Odds For Ogun Slot**

A gold fish has no hiding is one axiom that befits the play out of Dr Bosun Tijjani’s appointment as honorable minister of communications, innovation and digital economy. The outcry and rage from APC faithfuls and politicians at the announcement of his nomination could be considered the situation of the proverbial ‘camel passing through the eye of a needle.’ Disgruntled people dug old twits from his twitter handle to validate their claim of his lack of patriotism and disdain for government. But no one could beat the argument that Dr Bosun was the one person



Nigeria needed to man its ICT space. The 46 years old tech giant who has engineered Nigeria’s tech space for over a decade has gained a reputation internationally among leaders like Bill Gates, and facebook founder Mark Zuckerbeg. His rich resume beats even the most cynical nay sayers that he is one who the cap fits.



**Otega Appointed Tinubu’s SSA Media**

Nigeria is a country endowed with enormous intellectual resources in its teeming population. One young man who exemplifies the rich potentials of the country is O’tega Ogra who was appointed by president Tinubu as Senior Special Assistant to the President on Digital & New Media.

The Babcock graduate of Public Health developed the interest in public relations and communications leading to his heading marketing and communications of top tier brands including one of Nigeria’s biggest conglomerates, BUA Group.

**Benue Produce Most Qualified & Youngest Male Minister Under Tinubu**

Prof Joseph Utsev is the honorable minister of water resources and sanitation appointed by president Bola Ahmed Tinubu. He became the most qualified minister posted to the ministry since 1999 and the youngest male minister in the administration.

Prof Ustev rose from the academia to public service and then politics with over a decade in the academia he gained a high reputation as a excellent administrator. With a Bsc. in Civil Engineering, Msc. and doctorate in Environmental and Water resources well suited for his appointment. His credited with over 40





**37 years Old Chief Ajuri Beomes Tinubu’s Spokesman**

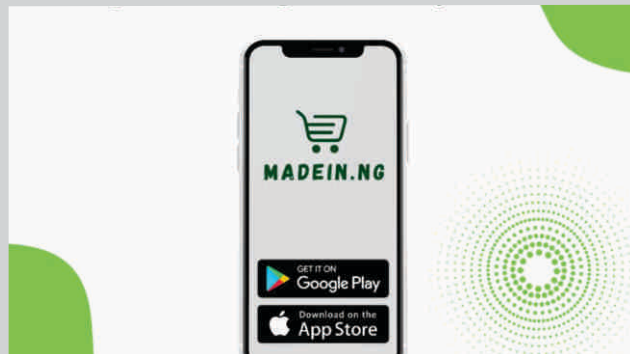
The appointment of Chief Ajuri Ngalele did not come as a surprise to many because of his remarkable performance as the spokesperson for the Buhari led administration. Even though his fortnight appointment in the previous administration was considered to be medicine after injury, Chief Ajuri amplified erstwhile salient achievements of the government to such extent that many critics sought to know more and applauded the illumination.

Chief Ajuri was appointed by president Tinubu to serve as the special adviser to the president on media and publicity as a smart and preemptive way to bridge the wide communications gap created by past administrations. The former senior reporter at Africa Independent Television (AIT) and Channels Television was born in 1986 in Wisconsin, United States. He expresses his commitment to ensure a public friendly relations through his office.



Nigerian singer and songwriter. He is signed to YBNL Nation and Empire Distribution. His stage name "Asake" is his mother's name.

On the 20th of August 2023, Asake became the fourth African act to successfully headline and sell out the O2 Arena In London. Following in the footsteps of the often acclaimed Africa’s “Big 3” who have each previously conquered the twenty-thousand-capacity stadium – Wizkid, David and Burna Boy. Ahmed Ololade (born 13 January 1995), known professionally as Asake, is a



A Nigerian, Uko Ekpo has introduced the madien made in Nigeria goods application on play store and app store. Speaking to newsmen in his office in Abuja, Mr Ekpo said, "The world has gone digital and our society needs to be carried along. On how the application works, the web designer said any manufacturer or entrepreneur can download the app on goggle store and register his or her goods using the email, for wider and efficient patronage for free. Mr Ekpo who has over twenty years in ICT operation, and was trained in United Kingdom, said he is only giving the society back as a Nigerian and part of his contribution to develop the country. The mobile app which was designed to help businesses expand and increase revenue also seeks to promote Nigerian enterprise.



**NBA Charlotte Hornet Player, James Made In Benue**

On June 22, 2023, 18-year old Makurdi born Nigerian basketball player James Nnaji was drafted as pick number 31 for Detroit Pistons of the National Basketball Association (NBA). He was then traded to Michael Jordan’s Charlotte Hornets.

Born on 14, August, 2004, Nnaji started his inspiring basketball journey in Makurdi the capital city of Benue State and took a turn for the best when his camp highlights from a Facebook post went viral. Nnaji who started his career in 2019 with Pecs VSK in Hungary on the draft night said was ecstatic for having his dream of playing in the NBA come through.

His immense raw talent was immediately spotted by the Ratgeber Basketball Academy in Hungary and from there his journey has been awe-inspiring.



**32 Years Old NASENI Boss Appointed by President Tinubu**

Khalil Halilu, the youngest boss of National Agency for Science & Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI) was born on the 29th October, 1990 in Kano City, Kano state. He attended the Rainbow Primary School in Kano from 1996 to 2001. Halilu had his Secondary School Education at St. Thomas Catholic School (2001-2003) which he completed at Prime College, in Kano (2006). After graduating from high school, Khalil enrolled at the University of Hertfordshire, the United Kingdom, where obtained his Bachelor of Science (BSc) degree in Business Administration in 2009, as well as his Master's degree in International Business in 2010.

After graduating from the University, Halilu worked as an administrative clerk at Archimode & Associates before proceeding for his Youth service in Abuja where he lives till date. As a business and tech expert and entrepreneur, he has also served as Chief Operating Officer at Scirrocco and held this position for a little over three consecutive years. At the young age of only 23, Halilu already held positions in various companies as well as established an outstanding reputation for himself in the business sector.

After graduating from the University, Halilu worked as an



**F**amed singer Rema wins big at the just-concluded MTV Video Music Awards, VMAs for the 'Best Afrobeats' category at the 2023 MTV award ceremony in New Jersey, USA. He secured the award with the remix of his 2022 collaborative smash track "Calm Down" which featured America's Selena Gomez.

Divine Ikubor, born 1 May 2000, known professionally as Rema, is a Nigerian singer and rapper. He rose to popularity after releasing the song "Dumebi". In 2019, Rema was signed to Jonzing World record owned by D'Prince and affiliated to Mavin Records. He is best known internationally for his 2022 hit single "Calm Down",

the remix with American singer Selena Gomez of which peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100, and led the U.S. Afrobeats Songs for a record-setting 52 weeks.

Divine Ikubor was born into a Christian family in Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. He grew up singing and rapping while he was in secondary school. He attended his primary and secondary school education at Ighile Group of Schools, Edo State. His father and elder brother are deceased, and Rema was left to look after his mother.

He gained admission to study at the University of Lagos in 2022.

**B**isoye Coker-Odusote, 38, before she was appointed National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) boss, has 15 years of experience in technology, real estate/construction, oil and gas, finance and media. She was the general manager/CEO of the Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency (LASIMRA). Earlier than that, she was Special Adviser on Technology to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu while he was governor of Lagos state. Bisoye Coker-Odusote is a professionally trained tech enthusiast who has held roles that

improved stakeholders' engagements and execution of digital transformation projects. Coker-Odusote served as Head of Information Technology and Communication at Bate Litwin, an engineering company working on projects such as Chevron ESA (JV with Atlas).



**4** years, Wally Adeyemo holds highest ranking position of any African diaspora in the Biden administration and deputy treasury secretary set to visit Nigeria to strengthen economic relations between the U.S. and Nigeria.





# Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN)

## 63<sup>RD</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY CONGRATULATIONS NIGERIA

The Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) extends its warmest congratulations to Mr. President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCON and the entire nation on Nigeria's 63<sup>rd</sup> Independence Day celebration.

As we commemorate this significant day, we appreciate Mr. President for his unwavering dedication to the progress and development of Nigeria. Our efforts are geared towards realizing a more robust and efficient transmission grid as part of Mr. President's Renewed Hope agenda



Happy Independence Day, Nigeria!



**Engr. Dr. Sule Ahmed Abdulaziz**  
MD/CEO. TCN

**CHIEF ADEBAYO. A ADELABU** OFR, FCA, FCIB  
Honourable Minister  
Federal Ministry of Power



Senator Asuquo Ekpeyoung is the youngest distinguished senator of the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Deputy Chairman of the Senate Committee on National Intelligence. His remarkable emergence from state administration to national legislation is a lesson of possibilities for young Nigerians aspiring to make a stint in Nigeria's politics. Discover more in the following pages.

Senator Asuquo Ekpenyong is a Nigerian politician, business, financial expert and member of the senate of the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The Cross River state senator who represents Cross River South Senatorial District which covers seven local governments areas of the state that includes Calabar Municipality, Calabar South, Akpabuyo, Bakassi, Odukpani, Biase and Akampka. is the Chairman of Senate Committee of Niger Delta Development Commission and member of several other committees.

He is the former Commissioner for Finance who at the time of his appointment was just 29 years old and the youngest commissioner in the country.

Sen. Asuquo Ekpenyong Jr hails from a community in Odukpani called Eniong Abatim, precisely Etcheri Iquo Esin lineage in Asang Eniong was born into the family of Chief Dr. Asuquo Ekpenyong and Dr. Mrs. Iquo Ekpenyong. His father, His Royal Majesty Etinyin Dr Asuquo Ekpenyong OON, the Monarch and Clan Head of Bukong Clan Eniong Abatim is known to be respected leaders and minister of God.

The young Asuquo attended the prestigious King's College, Lagos State before later furthering his higher education in Economics from the University of Reading, UK in 2007 and a master's degree in International Banking and Financial Services in 2008.



Upon his return to Nigeria after graduation, Sen Asuquo would begin his career journey at University of Calabar, Cross River State where he was lecturing in the department of Banking and Finance from 2009 to 2012. It is well known within the school that Asuquo's passion to teach and impart knowledge in others knew no bounds leading to his subsequent aspiration to become a federal law maker at the National Assembly.

Sen. Asuquo had always nurtured the desire for entrepreneurship and business solutions services which gave birth to his first venture, Iquasu Ventures Limited, a haulage and logistics company, in 2010 incorporated in Calabar. The company sought to leverage on the immense opportunities in goods and services delivery, targeted at using cutting edge technology to link businesses and their customers within and outside the state.



# Happy *Celebration*



65<sup>rd</sup>

**NIGERIA'S  
INDEPENDENCE  
ANNIVERSARY**

**Over 60 Million Nigerians**

**U50**



He later took over as Managing Director of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) licensed Chamley Bureau de Change Limited. Asuquo was later appointed Executive Director for finance at Pearland Energy, an indigenous Oil and Gas company, and member of the board of directors at Ekondo Microfinance Bank Limited.

After the 2015 general elections, the machinery of government settled down post nomination of federal ministers and state commissioners, given to the need to involve more younger Nigerians at the different levels of government. One of the state governors who took that bold step is Ben Ayade of Cross River State.

On October 19 2015, Governor Ayade submitted a list of 28 commissioner nominees to the Cross River State House of Assembly. The list included professionals such as Goddy Etta, Etim Ayimobi, John Ulafor, Stella Odey, Engineer Francis Eraye, George Abang Kabu, Joe Abang and Asuquo Ekpenyong, the youngest nominee. What raised a few eyebrows concerning Mr. Ekpenyong's nomination is his age and the fact that he is not a career politician.



## UNDER 50 NIGERIA SPOT

**B**ut for those close to the seat of power, the nomination of Ekpenyong did not come as a surprise because he was an integral part of Governor Ayade's campaign team.

On November 27, Asuquo Ekpenyong was sworn in as the commissioner for Finance in Cross River state and the youngest serving commissioner in the country. He brought with him experience gained at home and abroad to contributing in building the state to be a key player in this age of information technology and global financial market advancement. His accomplishments leave no room to doubt his eligibility and preparedness for the role. It is certain that his appointment by governor Ben Ayade amplifies the unfolding reality of a new Nigeria of greater inclusion of young technocrats to governance and public administration.

In 2018 Asuquo was appointed commissioner for transport and marine services following the resignation of Mr. Savior Nyong to contest 2019 elections.

As Commissioner of Finance, Cross River State, he was celebrated for engineering several achievements by the state government including; Biometric Capturing of Civil Servants in the State — An exercise that reduced the state's high wage bill by eliminating ghost workers with a view of making savings for the administration's industrialization mantra. By the end of the compulsory six(6) months biometric exercise, the Cross River State wage/pension bill was reduced approximately by N174 million, leading to an annual savings of N2.08 billion.

Designing and Implementation of Ministerial Single Account (MSA) — A fiscal reform programme that created a public accounting system where all government collectibles and receivables are channelled through a single consolidated account. At the conclusion of this exercise the state government were able

to mop up approximately 4.2 billion naira in idle funds and shutdown approximately 500 inefficiently operated bank accounts of MDAs. The MSA also allows the state government to appropriate funds to projects in order of priority.

Establishment of Efficiency Units — A unit established to reduce cost and make savings for the state government. The Unit reviews government expenditure with a view of identifying areas where government can save cost and make savings. The Unit focuses on reviewing travelling expenses and bulk purchases, and make appropriate recommendation to the state government for implementation.

Asuquo resigned as Commissioner for finance and Joined the race for governorship of Cross River State in the 2023 Cross River State general elections and was a leading aspirant until the emergence of Sen. Bassey Otu as the consensus candidate of the All progressive congress (APC) in the state.

In May 2022, Asuquo Ekpenyong emerged winner of the All Progressives Congress (APC) senatorial primaries with 347 votes out of 352 accredited votes. He won 2023 Senate in the Elections with 57,870 votes

## SENATE

to defeat his closest rivals Hon Daniel Effiong Asuquo of Labour Party who gathered 47,384 votes and Ekpo Okon of People's Democratic Party (PDP) with 41,116 Votes.

As a member of the 10th Senate he serves in the following committees:

National Security and Intelligence Committee  
Finance Committee

Ecology and Climate Change Committee

Banking, Insurance and other Financial Institutions Committee

Customs, Excise and Tariff Committee

Upstream Petroleum Committee

Marine Transport Committee

Trade and Investment Committee

Ekpenyong has also attended several training programmes, including the Global Executive Leadership Program at Howard University Business School, Washington D.C.; the Executive Management Development Program at the University of Pretoria, South Africa; the Euromoney Oil and Gas School London, etc. He is also a member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria.

Sen. Asuquo is committed to excellence and prepared for the task ahead and the people of his senatorial district have been assured of qualitative and impactful representation that would see a lot of dividends of democracy attracted to the state.

Sen. Asuquo Ekpenyong married Netanela Duke Ekpenyong, the second daughter of ex-governor Donald Duke in 2018.

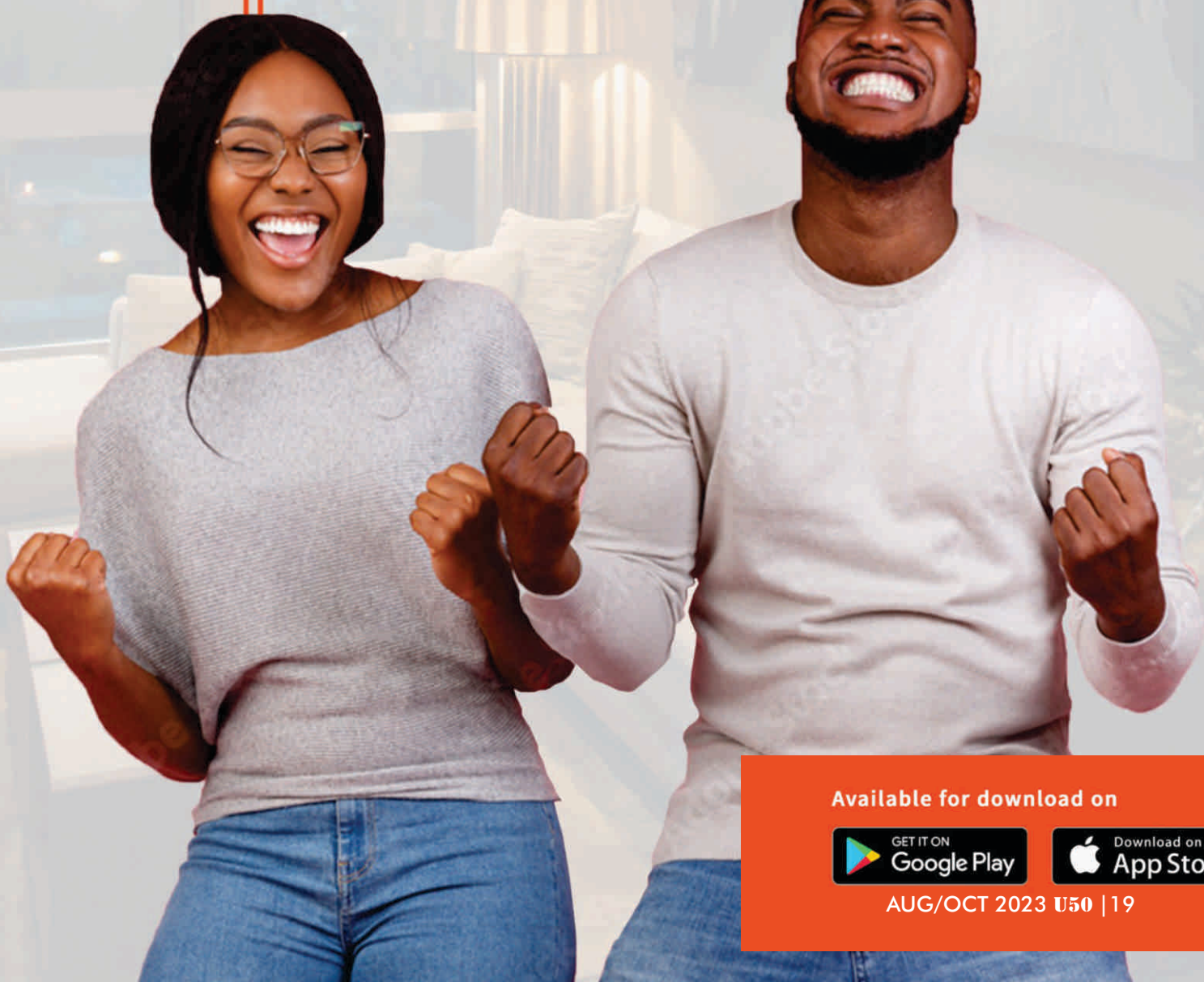




## Hon. Prof. Lilian Obiageli Orgbu

Member, Representing Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency

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## UNDER 50 NIGERIA SPOT



**H**on. Prof Lilian Obiageli Orogbu born 1972, internationally known academic, astute administrator turned politician representing the people of Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency at the National Assembly and a Amazon of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Assembly. She was an academic and a professor of Business Administration at Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, holds a Doctorate degree in Business Administration and Management from Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka.

In 2022, her entrant in politics on the basis of her popularity and call from many Anambarians to serve in government which got her the party's nomination, All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) to be the running mate and deputy to the governorship aspirant, Chukwuma Umeoji. Hon. Umeoji who served at the national assembly had been listed as the party's candidate for the governorship election but was later replaced by Prof Charles Soludo by the order of court. The emergence of Prof Soludo and his deputy as winners of the election was a clear indication that if not for the court judgement, Hon Prof Orogbu would currently be the deputy governor of Anambra State.

Party (PDP), Emeka Igwe who received 21,850 votes. Orogbu is one of only 17 women elected to the 10th National Assembly of 469 members comprising the Senate and House of Representatives. She became one of only 17 women elected to the 10th National Assembly and most qualified woman in the green chamber.

Before delving into politics, Hon Orogbu achieved remarkable success in the academia including serving as the Dean of the faculty of Management after being the Dean of Strategic Human Resource Management at the Nnamdi Azikiwe University in Awka, Anambra State.

Prof. Lilian O. Orogbu has served the University in many capacities, which includes Head, Department of Business Administration, a position she occupied for 5 years. She is a woman with awards and a long list of accomplishments. As an erudite Scholar, she has successfully supervised 19 Post Graduate students including 4 PhDs. She has occupied the Editorial Position of several Journals including Journal of Business and Finance Management Research and Journal of Social Development.

## GREEN CHAMBER

Her quest to serve forced her to contest and won Awka North/Awka South senatorial zone in 2023 under the LP ticket. She polled 34,713 votes to beat her major challengers, the candidate of All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Obi Nwankwo who scored 24,814 votes, and the candidate of the People's Democratic

“She rose meritoriously through the ranks as a trainer of Business Administrators to become a Professor of Business Administration at the prestigious Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria

“Prof. Orogbu’s Eloquence, Teaching and Mentorship skills have earned her numerous speaking engagements from reputable Training Organisations and Governments from all over Nigeria and beyond including those from South Africa on diverse topics that range from Business Leadership and Entrepreneurial skills. As the Dean of a Faculty, She is Chairman, Board of Faculty of Management Sciences; She is Chairman Postgraduate Studies Committee, and Chief Administrative/Academic Officer of the Faculty of Management Sciences, UNIZIK.

“Prof. Lilian Orogbu is not just a University Lecturer, she is also into Business Consultancy and Brand Management. She has consulted for NAPIMS, a subsidiary of NNPC; Catholic Clergy, Anglican Clergy, Stanel Group amongst many other Organisations.

“Prof. Orogbu is a member, Nigerian Institute of Management and a member, Academy of Management Nigeria”.

Recently, the vibrant young Professor, in collaboration with the Nnamdi Azikiwe University Management championed an ‘Alumni Homecoming and Award Night’ event with the theme: “Re-energising alliance with the Alumni and Society for Sustainable Development” under the Distinguished Chairmanship of Senator Annie Okonkwo, Special Guest of Honour, Hon. Uche Ogah, Minister of State for Mines and Steel Development; the Keynote Speaker, Chief (Dr.) Allen Onyema, Chairman, Air Peace Airlines and HRM Igwe Nnaemeka Alfred Achebe, Obi of Onitsha and Chairman, Council of Traditional Rulers, Anambra State as the Royal Father of the day amongst other dignitaries in attendance.

Hon. Prof Lillian Obiageli Orogbu is passionate about inspiring women to excel in public service and enterprise, and continues to lead the advocacy for people focused Corporate Social Responsibility as the Chairman of the House Committee. ■

HON. BLESSING ONUH  
HONORABLE MEMBER, REPRESENTING  
OTUKPO/OHIMINI FEDERAL CONSTITUENCY,  
BENUE STATE





The name Hon. Blessing Onyeché Onuh is reputed for compassion and youth empowerment in Benue away from the purported austere persona of her father, former military administrator and Benue's longest served senator.

Blessing Onyeché Onuh was born on the 30th June, 1976 in Otukpo, Benue State to the family of David Mark of Akpegedde-Otukpo. In 1988, she obtained her first school leaving certificate from St. Andrew's Primary School, Otukpo. She then attended Federal Government Girls' College Gboko and graduated in 1993. In 1995, she got admission to study Sociology at the University of Abuja and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1999. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Gender Studies at the University of Abuja.

After graduation from the University, Blessing Onuh went for the mandatory one year service of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) where she served at Nigeria's apex banking authority, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)

under the department of Agriculture Jos Office, Plateau State from 2000 to 2001. As soon as she completed her mandatory national service after graduation, she got appointed to the office of Special Assistant to the Honorable Minister of State for Education, Arc. Halima Tayo Alao. Her work ethic and high productivity got her retained at the same office under the Federal Ministry of Inter-Governmental, Local Government and Special Duties, during the period which subsequently emerged the Acting Chairman, Federal Capital Territory Committee on the Prerogative of Mercy. She was then appointed as Secretary for the Social Welfare Secretariat in the Federal Capital Territory Administration.

In 2018, she contested for the position of the House of Representatives member for Otukpo/Ohimini federal constituency under the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Benue State but lost to Egli Johnson Ahubi who is known to be her uncle. This led her leaving the People's Democratic Party (PDP) for the All Progressives Grand Alliance

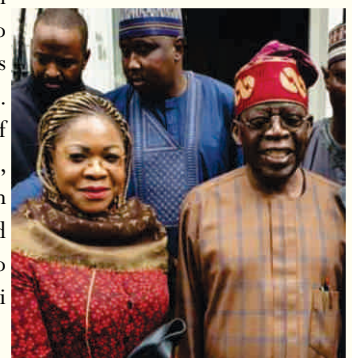
(APGA) for the Federal House of Representatives representing Otukpo/Ohimini Federal Constituency under which won the 2019 general elections. But she later defected to the All Progressives Congress (APC) in 2021.

Hon. Blessing Onuh, Deputy Chairman House Committee on FCT in the last three years has recorded significant achievements in her constituency including:

- Aggressive sensitization of constituents on the dangers of drugs and narcotics, empowered women and youths, provided job employment, Sponsorships & Scholarship programs, skill Acquisition for Women on Soap making, Disinfectants & sanitizers, sponsorship of 15 Persons on a study (Disaster Management) course in England, Palliatives to victims of Otukpo Main Market Disaster, provided COVID-19 Palliatives, distribution of grants in collaboration with NDE, Grants to Women & Youths across Otukpo/Ohimini Fed. Constituency, distribution of motorcycles, grinding machines, generating set to women and youth across Otukpo/Ohimini and distribution of hair clippers to Barbers across Otukpo/Ohimini Fed. Constituency.

In the educational sector, Mrs. Onuh said she had embarked on the construction of 6 blocks of classrooms in Okete ward in Otukpo LGA, a block of 6 classrooms in Adoka – Icho ward in Otukpo, a block of 3 classrooms with furniture in Onyangede Ehaje ward of Ohimini LGA, Block of 3 classrooms in the muslim community – Township ward one and Renovation of Akpachi Primary school in Otukpo LGA. She had constructed and rehabilitated the Onyangede – Otiloli – Awume Road in Ohimini LGA, Constructed and Rehabilitated the Illaba Ugboju Road (ongoing), and constructed drainages across the 23 council wards of Otukpo/Ohimini Fed. Constituency.

Hon. Blessing has made significant positive impact in a short time giving her constituents high hopes of better days ahead.





His Excellency,  
**Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR**  
Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces,  
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria

# Happy 63<sup>RD</sup>

## Anniversary Celebration of the Independence of Nigeria

Dear Mr President, as we celebrate another milestone of our independence as a nation, it is my prayer that God Almighty continue to grant you the wisdom to lead aright and grant we the citizens, the grace to keep and sustain our national peace and unity.



**H.E. Amb. Elijah C. Onyeagba, PhD**  
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Federal  
Republic of Nigeria to the Republic of Burundi.

# PRESIDENT TINUBU BURNS NIGERIA'S SHIP

BY SIMON TULEH



Upon landing, Alexander is first to step onto the beach. He spikes his spear into the sand and takes a knee to thank the gods for this new land. Although much of his beloved country is still in sight behind him across the water, with thousands of miles filled with hundreds of thousands of enemy soldiers ahead of him, he believes victory is at hand the moment he steps ashore. By simply choosing to embark on this quest, he knows in his heart he has already won.

Alexander then issues his first order of the campaign: "Burn the Ships."

His commanders are shocked. As legend has it, they plea with Alexander, asking him why they should set fire to the one asset that could return them home? Alexander replied, "We will go home in Persian ships." By removing their ability to retreat when difficult challenges were inevitably faced, Alexander knows he and his men will muster whatever it takes to conquer the mighty Persians. In the months and years that follow, he is proven correct

((BurnThe Ships - Chapter One, by Able Ebenezer.com)

On the 29th May, 2023 at the inauguration of Nigeria's new president, former governor of Lagos State, senator under the third republic and national leader of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Bola Ahmed Tinubu. His emergence after a hardly fought battle for the presidency which many considered the most embattled general elections in Nigeria's history with fierce oppositions from the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Labor Party (LP) and New Nigeria People's Party (NNPP). The ceremonial inauguration of the new president did not only come with its momentary surprises but rather echoes its effect to such decibels that sounded beyond the borders of Nigeria but also nearby nations that have been sustained by the ship few Nigerians set cruise in.

Nigeria is the second largest oil and gas producer in Africa. Crude oil from the Niger Delta basin comes in two types: light, and comparatively heavy – the lighter has around 36 gravity while the heavier has 20–25 gravity. Both types are paraffinic and low in sulphur. Nigeria's economy and budget have been largely supported from income and revenues gene-

-rated from the petroleum industry since 1960. Statistics as at February 2021 shows that the Nigerian oil sector contributes to about 9% of the entire GDP of the nation. Nigeria is the second largest oil and gas producer in Africa, a major exporter of crude oil and petroleum products to the United States of America. In 2010, Nigeria exported over one million barrels per day to the United States, representing 9% of the U.S. total crude oil and petroleum products imports and over 40% of Nigeria exports.

The need for holistic reforms in the petroleum industry, ease of doing business, and encouragement of local content in the industry birthed the Petroleum Industry Bill by the Goodluck Jonathan administration on July 18, 2008. In her book, "Fighting Corruption is Dangerous," Dr Ngozi Okonjo Iweala shares the nightmarish experience in battling this humongous ship that a few Nigerians had fed fat from for decades and held the country under their grip to such extent that no president could deal with the problem headlong. One of those very excruciating experiences was the kidnap of her aged mother by unknown criminals leading to so much panic and trepidation that even international television media like CNN and BBC put the news on their headlines. Her defiant policies and initiatives to curb the exuberance of the country's petroleum excesses as Finance Minister under the president Goodluck Jonathan administration did not only threaten her life but put anyone close to her at harms way.

According to Dr Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, she kept asking herself the questions, "Why was my mother kidnaped and almost murdered? And why was a group planning to maim me?"

The answer to these awful questions were that I had stepped on the toes of some very rich and powerful people who were involved in a corruption scandal known in Nigeria as the oil-subsidy scam."

**Continues in next page**

## Issue Note

The announcement by president Bola Ahmed Tinubu that oil subsidy had been removed and shall henceforth no longer be funded by Nigeria's Federal government was a news many did not expect so soon. Even though it was not a new talking point in the country as historically the subsidy regime has faced several challenges that many Nigerians were familiar with. According to the Blueprint newspaper, "One of the main issues is that it has become a huge burden on the nation's economy. The cost of subsidizing petroleum products had become a major drain on government finances, leading to significant fiscal deficits and a strain on the country's budget. Apparently, the subsidy regime had been plagued by corruption and inefficiency, with a substantial portion of the funds intended for subsidy payments being diverted or mismanaged by previous administration." "Over the years, there had been calls for subsidy removal as a means to address these challenges. Proponents argue that removing subsidies would allow the government to redirect the funds saved towards critical infrastructure development, education, healthcare, and other social programmes. They argued that it would also promote more efficient use of resources and encourage private sector investment in the oil sector." Yet, opponents of subsidy removal, however, raised concerns about the potential negative impact on the population, particularly the poor and vulnerable segments of society. They argued that removing subsidies would lead to a significant increase in the prices of petroleum products, which would have a cascading effect on the cost of transportation, food, and other essential goods and services. This, in turn, could exacerbate poverty and inequality in the country. The Nigerian government had made attempts to remove or reduce subsidies in the past, but these efforts had often been met with public outcry and protests. The historical antecedent of subsidy removal on petrol in Nigeria was marked by a series of policy shifts, attempts, and controversies. The Nigerian government had implemented and reversed subsidy removal multiple times over the years.

The Tinubu administration was bent on sticking to its guns on the decision of ending the fuel subsidy no matter the cost. These costs could be grave as Nigeria and the world is faced with quantum splurge of economic problems. The country with a population of over 200 million people and a poor population of over one third of its total population could not endure the hardship of subsidy removal, but the continuance of it would be more deadly.

According to the president, "The government I lead will repay you through massive investment in transportation infrastructure, education, regular power supply, healthcare and other public utilities." "Solutions to problems can never be as instant as coffee. But we must certainly be there. I know the removal of fuel subsidy has created some things."

It has been months since the announcement of fuel subsidy removal by president Tinubu and the hope for many is that their lives will become much better than it has been under the previous administration.

Reports also show that the economy's key sectors suffer due to low earnings already consumed by inflated subsidy payments. The trade deficit of \$20 million recorded in November 2022 from the low crude oil export receipts signals the urgency to jettison petrol subsidy, develop local production capacity and end fuel import dependency for a favourable balance of trade.

Fuel subsidy was riddled with corruption, manipulation and mismanagement. The N3.92 trillion allocated for petrol subsidy between January 2020 and June 2022, surpasses the combined federal budgets for healthcare, education, and defence throughout the 30-month period. Nigeria spent about 10 trillion Naira on petroleum subsidies between 2006 – 2018. It gulped N5.82 trillion 2021 – 2022 and N3.36 trillion being proposed for the first six months of 2023. These figures indicate a significant drain on the government's finances, impeding its ability to invest in crucial sectors which could bolster economic growth and people's well-being.

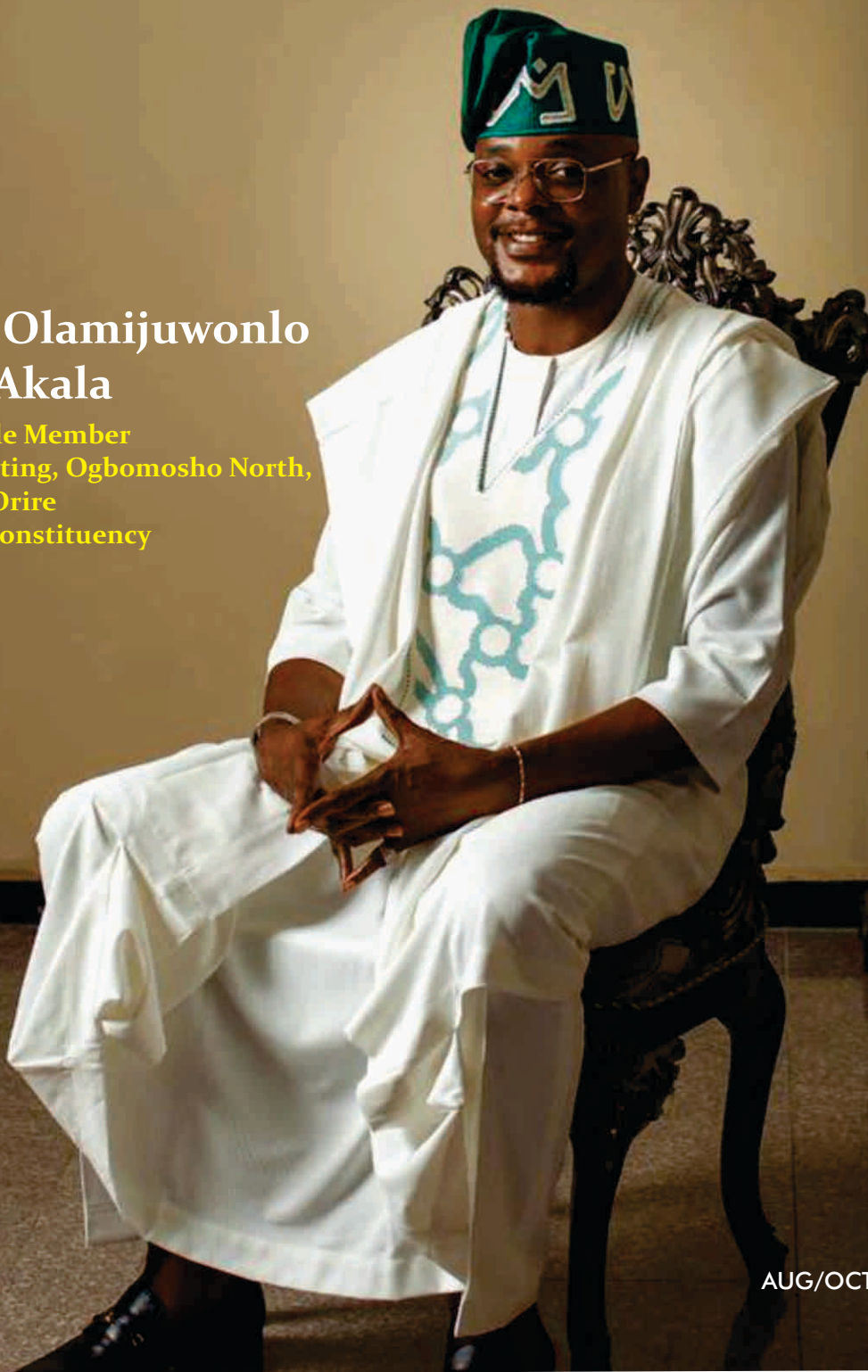
To some observers president Tinubu's decision to uphold the subsidy removal was untimely but for others it is a necessary evil if his government was serious about making significant change that will benefit the people. Like Alexander the Great, who created an empire that stretched from his home in Macedonia to India, ostentatiously burned his ships when arriving in Persia in 334BC turning around what seemed like a bleak situation into a historic moment.

As we look in the days ahead into the Tinubu administration one would wonder if Nigerians will remain adamant and conquer the monster or let this ship to burn into oblivion.



**Hon. Olamijuwonlo  
Alao Akala**

**Honorable Member  
Representing, Ogbomosho North,  
South & Orire  
Federal Constituency**





**H**on. Olamijuwonlo Alao Akala is the son of late Christopher Alao Akala, foremost Nigerian politician and one of the gladiators of the democratic fight for Nigeria during the pre-democratic era and former governor of Oyo state. Born in 1984 into family of influential parents one would have tagged him as one of the lost legacies of a political dynasty after his father's demise in 2022 yet Hon Juwon has marked a trajectory that spells greatness ahead.

Hon. Juwon is a graduate of Computer and Information Science from Leeds University, Ibadan and holds a Masters Degree in Service Management from University of Buckingham, London, United Kingdom.

The emerging young political leader in the South West grew within a political environment built on service to the people and commitment to their well being.

Olamiju's interest in politics was largely influenced by his politician father. He joined his father's political campaign team in 2007, 2011 and 2015.

After his father lost his re-election bid in 2011, Olamiju remained active in politics and gained tremendous popularity all over Oyo State, most especially Ogbomoso. This led to his appointment as Caretaker Chairman of Ogbomoso North Local Government by the Governor of Oyo State, Senator Abiola Ajimobi. He was one of the 3 youngest Local Government Chairmen in the State.

Hon. Olamijuwonlo Alao-Akala, the lawmaker representing Ogbomoso North, South, and Orire Federal constituency at the 10th National Assembly seems to tick all that Shakespearean greatness box. Born to an illustrious family of the late

Former Governor of Oyo State, Otunba Christopher Adebayo Alao-Akala, the young, vibrant, and energetic new-generation politician has greatness thrust upon him with his new legislative assignments.

But as an experienced public administrator who is equally exposed to global best practices in leadership, Hon. Olamijuwonlo, one of Nigeria's youngest Federal lawmakers is a man to beat. Urbane, yet rooted in the understanding of people's needs; born with a silver spoon, yet simple and unassuming; educated in some of the renowned institutions in the world, yet humbled and down-to-earth.

In 2022, at the wake of the loss of his father, Hon Juwon faced with the challenge to chicken out on his political dream or take the bull by horns. Undeterred, he threw in his hat into the race Federal House of

Representatives ticket under the All Progressives Congress (APC). His victory at the party's primaries sent a loud signals to observers that a colossus was about to stomp the contest for Ogbomoso's Federal Representation.

The former Chairman of Ogbomoso and the youngest local government chairman at the time emerged victorious at the 2023 general elections polling 33, 268 votes to beat his close rival, Olufemi Onireti of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), who polled 27,126.

He is currently the Chairman, House Committee on Youth in Parliament at the lower chamber of the national assembly.

Hon. Olamijuwonlo has done exceedingly well in demonstrating leadership where it matters, when it matters. In essence, it is a remarkable adventure in Nigeria as we briskly walk into the era of renewed hope, optimism, and confidence.

A portrait of Hon. Mohammed Bello El-rufai, a young man with a goatee, smiling broadly. He is wearing a white traditional Nigerian agbada with gold embroidery and a matching kofun. He has his arms crossed and is wearing a gold watch on his left wrist and a gold bracelet on his right. The background is a solid dark blue.

**Hon. Mohammed  
Bello El-rufai**  
**Member Representing  
Kaduna North  
Federal Constituency**



A survey by one of America's reputable academic institutions on the most important thing fathers want from their children showed that the majority said they would want their children to be better and greater than them. This is one common desire of all men irrespective of their race, color, class or tribe, we all want our children to be better than us.

Hon. Mohammed Bello El-Rufai is the son of former Kaduna State governor and most outstanding honorable minister in Nigeria since 1999, Nasir El-rufai. He was born on January 11, 1988. He is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and politician. He is a United World College (UWC) Scholar and holds a B.Sc (a Major in Political Science & International Relations and a Minor in Religious Studies) from Wheaton College, Massachusetts. Honourable El-Rufai also obtained an M.Sc in Public Relations & Corporate Communications from Georgetown University in 2015. He completed his National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) in 2015, serving with the political

pressure group Good Governance Group (3G).

During the 2015 general elections, he co-founded the Political Action Committee, Rescue Kaduna Group (RKG), alongside Hafiz Bayero, the current Senior Advisor Counsellor to the Kaduna State Governor and Mukhtar Baloni, the current Chairman of Kaduna North Local Government. His efforts led to his appointment as the Director of Youth Mobilization of the Buhari Campaign Organization (BCO) for the 2015 general elections. Under the recommendation of renowned businessman and philanthropist Hakeem Belo Osagie, Honourable El-Rufai was hired as a Manager with Huawei Nigeria. He worked in the Enterprise Business Unit for four years before leaving the private sector to work with Senator Uba Sani in the 9th National Assembly. The Senator, currently the Governor of Kaduna State, recruited the 35-year-old Bello to serve as his Senior Legislative Aide and Chief of Staff.

As the youngest Senior Legislative Aide in the Senate, Bello was pivotal in

establishing an efficient, innovative and productive system in the Senator's office. The system ensured synergy between the Senator's office, the Committee Clerk's office and the Constituency offices in Kaduna. Consequently, the system was duplicated by various ranking Senators due to its unique and practical approach to Legislative representation. The outcome was a record number of bills for a freshman Senator (32 bills), of which three were assented to by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR.

On February 27, 2023, he defeated a former Kaduna North Local Government Area Chairman and a two-term sitting Member to win the House of Representatives seat for the Kaduna North Federal Constituency. He is currently a Board Member of the Yasmin El-Rufai Foundation (YELF) and the founder of the Hamza El-Rufai Foundation (HELFI).

# A Well Fit

## Senator

**C**ongratulations to one of Nigeria's most outstanding statesman banker per excellence turned politician and Gombe South trailblazer.

Anthony Siyako Yaro is one senator who's election to the senate representing Gombe South Senatorial Zone in the 2023 general elections is prove of the confidence Gombe people have in excellence irrespective of tribe or religion.

A banker with a robust career demonstrated by his peerless creativity in delivering lasting results over the past three decades cutting across banking and financial service to government and institutions within and outside Nigeria. Sen. Yaro's philanthropic work and impact has left a lasting testimonial in the lives of the thousands of people before coming to the senate. Gombe people and Nigerians in the diaspora are confident of great days ahead.

We millions of Gombians and Nigerians in diaspora to celebrate a well deserved statesman.

Signed  
Adams Abimiku  
Pharm Uche Ikerechukwu



Sen. Anthony Yaro Siyako  
Deputy Chairman  
Diaspora & NGOs, Senate

# Hon. Terseer Ugbor

**Honorable Member  
Representing  
Kwande/Ushongo  
Federal Constituency**



## UNDER 50 NIGERIA SPOT

**T**erseer Ugbor is one young Honorable Member of the Federal House of Representatives whose career path did not portend to interject with politics 10 years ago until 2014 when he first contested for the Federal House of Representatives.

The 41 years old technocrat turned politician hails from Menev Ikyurav-ya Kwande Local Government. He is an entrepreneur in waste recycling and communications technology, a sustainability consultant and a public policy expert with over 15 years of practical working experience. He holds a Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree with interests in Sustainable Development and Circular Economy. He recently launched the African Intelligentsia Forum, a policy think-tank to advocate ideas for collective development of Africa.

Hon. Terseer is a Board Member and Executive Secretary of the Alliance for Responsible Battery Recycling (ARBR). He is the founder/CEO of REDIN Recycling Industries and also founder of Easyfone Communications and the Gwarinpa Metro Newspaper, which won him the first MTN Budding Entrepreneur Award in 2012 and the World Bank/PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Grant for entrepreneurship in 2013. He publishes the Living Environment Magazine, a niche publication promoting all things environmental sustainability, ecosystems and pollution issues in Africa.

He has presented papers and spoken at over 40 seminars, workshops and conferences in Africa and has designed and participated in over 10 policy development

projects with the World Bank, African Development Bank, European Union, Federal Ministry of Environment, German Development Agency (GIZ), the Heinrich Boll Foundation, the Basel Convention Coordinating Centre for Africa (BCC-Africa) and the Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria (REAN), among others.

Hon Terseer Ugbor started his political journey as part of the successful Planning and Strategy Team of the 2011 Goodluck/Sambo Presidential Campaign Council. He was appointed Head of ICT and Social Communications of Neighbour-2-Neighbour, a 2011 national political platform. He later became Special Aide to the Minister of Aviation on Communications before resigning in 2013 to join the All Progressives Congress (APC) during its formative.

During the 2014/15 political season, Hon. Terseer Ugbor returned to Benue State to contest for the Kwande/Ushongo House of Representatives seat under the All Progressives Congress (APC) but lost narrowly to Hon. Barrister Benjamin Wayo.

Later in 2018 election season, he accepted the invitation to contest the Kwande East State Assembly elections but stepped down for Hon. Fidelis Unongo at the request of the party leader Senator George Akume. Hon. Terseer Ugbor was then appointed Deputy Director of Strategy to the Jime/Ode Governorship Campaign Organisation where he worked closely with Dr Stephen Tsav as Director of Strategy. In 2022, Terseer Ugbor contested and won the APC House of Representative Primaries for Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency and now seeks to represent his constituency at the 10th National Assembly.

## GREEN CHAMBER

Hon. Terseer Ugbor has been a political player in Kwande Local Government, supporting party activities, sponsoring people to party positions at ward and local government levels, networking and empowering his constituents. Hon. Terseer Ugbor has sponsored the school fees of several students in secondary and university levels, catered to medical bills, initiated empowerment programs for small entrepreneurs, facilitated placements in the Immigration Service, Nigerian Airforce and other Federal Government institutions, supported weddings, burials and other socio-cultural activities among others.

World Economic Forum – Global Battery Alliance, Fellow, Professional Leadership Practitioners Institute (PLPI)

Member, Waste Management Society of Nigeria (WAMASON), Member, Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) Member, International Centre for Energy, Environment and Development (ICEED), Member, Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN), Trustee, Waste Battery Recyclers Association of Nigeria (WBRAN), Certified Management Consultant (CMC), Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves Bureau of International Recycling.





**Hon Oloye Akin Alabi**  
Member Representing,,Egbeda/Ona  
Ara Federal Constituency

**H**on. Oloye Akin Alabi is a depiction of the real life story of salesman turned law maker. One legislator who's zest to inspire, motivate and educate people on the secrets of succeeding using the skill of salemanship takes his cause to the lower chamber of the federal house of representatives. The 46 years old businessman turned politician represents the people of Egbeda/Ona Ara Federal Constituency in Oyo State.

Born in Ibadan, Oyo State, South West Nigeria to the family of Chief and Chief (Mrs) Adediran Alabi where he completed his primary education at Command Children School, Ibadan, and secondary school education at Federal Government College, Enugu, South East, Nigeria.

Akin Alabi holds a Bachelor of Science in Politics and International Relations from Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State of Nigeria. He obtained a Higher National Diploma from Ibadan with HND in Business Administration. He holds a masters degree in marketing from the University of Liverpool and a certificate in Intellectual Property Strategy from Harvard University.

Akin Alabi started his business career in 2003 writing and selling books, manuals and other information products. He then launched his own seminar and training company specializing in teaching and consulting for other young people starting their own small businesses. He also started publishing a business opportunity newspaper titled Income (now rested). To add to his publishing enterprise, Akin launched, World Soccer News, a weekly sports newspaper. Nigeria's first online sports betting portal, with outlets across Nigeria. He got the idea for NairaBET when he visited the United Kingdom and went to a sports betting shop.

He created an information manual about it and sold online. The success of the product prompted him to start his own online sports betting platform in Nigeria. Nairabet.com has its headquarters in Lagos with its nationwide operation regulated by the National Lottery Regulatory Commission. NairaBET is Nigeria's first sports betting company.

Akin Alabi is involved in

Akin Alabi is a member of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC). He was once a member of the People's Democratic Party (PDP). He declared his intention to contest for a seat in Nigeria's Federal House of Representatives. On June 20, 2019, Akin Alabi announced that he will be stepping down as CEO of Nairabet to concentrate on his political campaign.

On 25 July 2019 Alabi emerged as chairman, house committee on intergovernmental affairs. The news was announced during the plenary session presided over by the Speaker, Rt Hon Femi Gbajabamila Hon. Alabi leveraged his presence on Social media where he has over 500 thousand followers across platforms as a leading young politician to interact with young people, teach them about how the



philanthropic works. He is the founder of Akin Alabi Foundation, a non-governmental, not for profit outfit, aimed at improving the well-being of the average Nigerian. With the motto, "touching lives one person at a time"; the foundation has successfully implemented projects like building and donating classrooms to primary schools, sinking of bore holes in areas where there is scarcity of water, financial empowerment of widows and a free business and career building event called Youth Enterprise Conference, held annually at Eko Hotel and Suites, Victoria Island, Lagos.





**Hon. Miriam Onuoha**  
Member, Representing Okigwe North  
Federal Constituency

## UNDER 50 NIGERIA SPOT

Can anything good come from Okigwe? A coined out axiom from the popular biblical question about the messiah, Jesus and which led many to exclaim in amazement at the birth of the savior and they asked if anything good could come from Nazareth.

Hon. Miriam Odinaka Onuoha is one outstanding female politician from the popular Okigwe town who became the first female federal law maker from the town. She has earned the reputation of a respected and trusted politician in Imo state since her election in 2019 representing Okigwe North Federal Constituency at the National Assembly.

Onuoha is a native of Umunachi Osu-Ama in Isiala Mbanda Local Government Area of Imo State. She started her childhood education at Central School Umunachi Osu-Ama and then Tilley Gyado College Makurdi in Benue State. She attended Aquinas Model Secondary School Osu-Ama and that was where she got her senior secondary certificate. She proceeded to study at the University of Lagos and graduated with a degree in Estate Management. She went to the University of Ajuja and graduated with a master's degree in Environmental Planning and Protection.

Before she got into the Federal House of Representatives, Onuoha served as a Senior Special Assistant to the Governor of Bayelsa State on International Development Cooperation and also a board member of the Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC).

Obinna Onwubuariri of the PDP was declared winner for the 2019 election, but the national assembly election petition

tribunal in Owerri in September 2019, sacked Obinna Onwubuariri, and ordered a fresh election for January 2020. She won re-election after an election petition tribunal sitting in August 2020 upheld her victory in the January 2020 elections and emerged the only returning female lawmaker from the south east geopolitical zones of Nigeria at the time. Upon her inauguration, she was made the chairman of the committee on Disabilities and Special Needs. While she served in the 9th House of Representatives she successfully sponsored many impactful motions and bills, one of which was the establishment of Federal College of Nursing, Midwifery, and Health Sciences, Isiala Mbanda LGA, Federal College of Horticulture, Okigwe, Federal Medical Centre (FMC), OSenate for concurrence and subsequently, presidential assent. The lawmaker was a member of State Implementation Committee (SURE- P) Community Services, Women and Youth Employment Scheme: a task which earned her the name – MAMA SURE P. These bills are currently at the Senate for concurrence and subsequently, presidential assent.

## GREEN CHAMBER

The lawmaker was a member of State Implementation Committee (SURE- P) Community Services, Women and Youth Employment Scheme: a task which earned her the name – MAMA SURE P.

The lawmaker, who returned to the House after her first term which began in 2019, made the declared her interest to contest for the speakership position in the 10<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives and urged all her male colleagues in the race to step down for her, noting that it was time a woman presided over the House. Hon. Onuoha presented a 7-point agenda to implement if the elected speaker of the House to include: Digitization of activities of the Rules and Business Committee to improve effective record management without conflicts; "Introduction of periodic strategic Executive-Legislature dialogue for effective intervention by the National Assembly; and creation of opportunities for the National Assembly and stakeholders' engagement to provide access for public participation in the law-making process and also to improve legislative policy action to promote the interest of Women and vulnerable groups.

She continues to pursue equity in the green chamber and advocates for greater inclusion of women in governance through her motions and community programmes.





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10kVA Inverter  
220Ah Tubular Batteries  
120A Controllers  
350W Solar Panels

**Appliances:** Fridge, Bulbs, 50inch TV, Ceiling Fan, Home Theater, Decoder, Computer, Blender, Freezer, Washing Machine, Water Pump, Air Condition



### 48V SYSTEM WITH LOAD CAPACITY

7.5kVA Inverter  
220Ah Tubular Batteries  
60A Controllers  
350W Solar Panels

**Appliances:** Fridge, Bulbs, 49inch TV, Fan, Home Theater, Decoder, Computer, Blender, AC, Freezer, Water Pump.



### 48V SYSTEM WITH LOAD CAPACITY

5kVA PSW Inverter  
200Ah GEL Batteries  
60A MPPT Controllers  
350W Solar Panels

**Appliances:** Fridge, Bulbs, 50inch TV, Ceiling Fan, AC, Decoder, Computer, Desktop, Blender, Freezer, Water Pump.



### 96V SYSTEM WITH LOAD CAPACITY

15kVA Inverter  
220Ah Tubular Batteries  
80A Controllers  
120W Solar Panels

**Appliances:** Fridge, Bulbs, 50inch TV, Ceiling Fan, Home Theater, Decoder, DVD Player, Blender, Freezer, Washing Machine, Water Pump, Air Condition, Laptop.



### 96V SYSTEM WITH LOAD CAPACITY

10kVA Inverter  
220Ah Tubular Batteries  
120A Controllers  
350W Solar Panels

**Appliances:** Fridge, Bulbs, 50inch TV, Ceiling Fan, Home Theater, Decoder, DVD Player, Blender, Freezer, Washing Machine, Water Pump, Air Condition, Laptop.



**Hon. Erhiatake Ibori**  
Member, Representing Ethiope East/Ethiope  
West Federal Constituency



**T**o many people her surname would ring a bell, her father James Ibori is among Nigeria's first set of governor's after military transition to civilian rule in 1999.

The 42 years old Hon. Erhiatake Ibori is an Entrepreneur, Politician and Philanthropist from Urhobo, Delta State, South South, Nigeria. The United Kingdom trained Business and Information Systems graduate dedicated the early years of her life to community development through her various initiatives. Her remarkable passion and commitment to human capital development has consolidated her father's political landmarks.

As a legislator, her focus areas are on budgeting and promoting innovative ways of providing primary health care to citizens. On these pillars, she has devoted her time and resources to achieve notable success stories. Before venturing into politics, she successfully ran profit-driven and social enterprises. In her quest for a better

living standard for the people of her community, she focused herself on a number of key areas, such as changing the orientation of her people towards voluntarism, promotion of community involvement and provision of basic health care etc.

In 2011, she started Starlite Hopes Initiative (S.H.I), a charitable organization committed to helping the less privileged, the physically challenged and the aged in Ethiope West, Delta State with 60 volunteer Medical and non-Medical personnel. Today SHI has over 300 members who volunteer to build our country through giving of their skills and time. .SHI has gone on to establish 3 mobile free clinics in Ugbenu, Jesse and Ogharefe in Delta State. The Ugbenu clinic is a women's clinic that has ultra sound machines and laboratories and has delivered over 200 babies. The S.H.I. Mobile Free Clinics are fully equipped with laboratories and were created to serve members of communities that

have problems accessing health care services due to physical, economical, linguistic, age and religious barriers. We have treated over 15,000 people from both Edo and Delta States.

Erhiatake championed the course for youth empowerment during the recent flood disaster in Delta State. She also set up skill acquisition centres to train victims of flood disasters in different vocations and she also delivered health care services to the victims and distributed relief materials as well.

She founded Rirafield Farm Foods Ltd., Nigeria facilitates trade through the processing and packaging of food for export to UK, US and Canada. The farm has the capacity to house up to a maximum of 100,000 birds and the Aqua Culture section has about 30,000 catfish. The farm was setup with the aim to create more jobs to the less privileged members of her community.

Her experience as a law maker began at the Delta State House of Assembly from 2015 to 2023 where also Chaired the Committee on Finance and Appropriation.

Hon. Erhiatake who got the ticket to run for federal house of representatives under the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the Ethiope Federal Constituency. She emerged winner in the 2023 general elections after scoring 20,814 votes against her closest rival, Halims Agoda of the All Progressives Congress (APC) who got 15,172 votes.

She is well known as a philanthropist committed to the development of the Niger Delta, which is the reason for her emergence as the Chairman, House Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

Hon. Erhiatake holds certifications in Certificate Personal Effectiveness, Influencing and Communicating for Impact Course between 2022 – 2022 from SOAS University of London.

Certificate in Advanced Leadership Programme - 2021 – 2021 from Moller Institute and so many others.

According to Independent Newspaper, a Nigerian national daily, she is a titan who will always be superwoman on the battlefield, simply because she is coming from a big antecedent and cannot be equated with others in her ilk.

# DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT



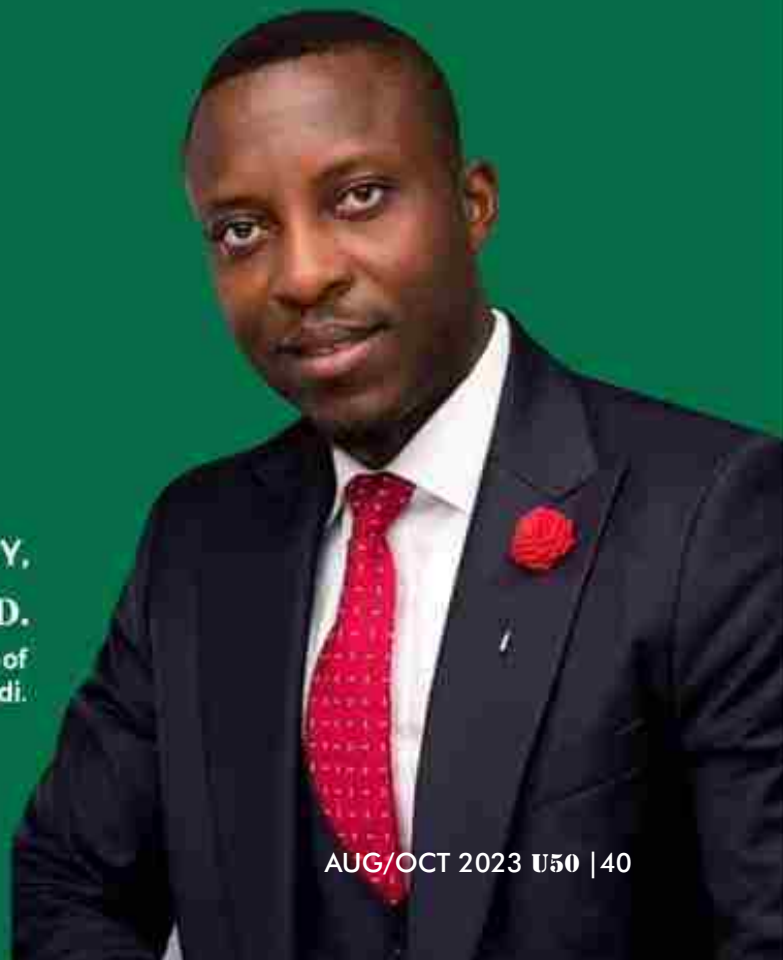
# MY STEWARDSHIP

THINGS WE DID IN BURUNDI



HIS EXCELLENCY,  
**ELIJAH C. ONYEAGBA, PhD.**

Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of  
Federal Republic of Nigeria to the Republic of Burundi.



# THE AMBASSADOR WITH GREAT IMPACT

## THINGS WE DID IN BURUNDI

### 1 BILATERAL AGREEMENT EXECUTION & IMPLEMENTATION



#### A. NIGERIA BURUNDI JOINT COMMISSION

Inaugurated within 90days of assumption of office (July 30, 2021)

#### B. BILATERAL AGREEMENTS EXECUTED ON:

- (I) Political Consultation
- (II) Education Cooperation

#### C. IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION AGREEMENT:

Commenced the implementation of Education agreement that led to signing of MOU with University of Uyo and Nnamdi Azikiwe University on exchange of programs, research, students and lecturers.

#### D. BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON VISA & TAC

Just concluded another bilateral agreement to be executed at the next joint commission holding in Nigeria - Agreement that will allow diplomatic and official passport holders travel to each country without VISA requirements and secondly the agreement of Technical Aid Corps (TAC) that will allow Nigeria send technical manpower assistance to Burundi.



HIS EXCELLENCY,

**ELIJAH C. ONYEAGBA, PhD.**

Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Federal Republic  
of Nigeria to the Republic of Burundi.



# THE AMBASSADOR WITH GREAT **IMPACT**

## THINGS WE DID IN BURUNDI

### **2** **POLITICAL RELATIONS**



- A. BURUNDI PRESIDENT HAS VISITED NIGERIA TWICE AND HAS SENT A SPECIAL ENVOY - HIS MINISTER OF FINANCE TO VISIT NIGERIA**
- B. BURUNDI FIRST LADY VISITED NIGERIA FOUR TIMES WITHIN MY TENURE**
- C. BURUNDI PRESIDENT - BEING THE AU YOUTH CHAMPION HAD A HIGH LEVEL TOWN HALL MEETING WITH NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF NIGERIA - NYCN AND THE APC YOUTHS ON MAY 30TH 2023.**
- D. FACILITATED THE VISIT OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE BURUNDI RULING PARTY CNDD-FDD TO THE APC NATIONAL SECRETARIAT**  
Facilitated the visit of the Leadership of the Burundi Ruling party CNDD-FDD led by the Chairman, Hon Reverien Ndikuriyo to Nigeria to discuss collaboration with the Leadership of APC
- E. NIGERIA FORMER FIRST LADY VISITED BURUNDI IN OCTOBER 2022**

To discuss the ways in which the Forum of First Ladies in Africa can help bring about positive changes in the economic and social development of the continent as well as building political linkage.



HIS EXCELLENCY,  
**ELIJAH C. ONYEAGBA, PhD.**  
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Federal Republic  
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# THE AMBASSADOR WITH GREAT **IMPACT**

## THINGS WE DID IN BURUNDI

**3**

### **ECONOMIC RELATIONS**



#### **A. INAUGURATION OF NIGERIA-BURUNDI BUSINESS COUNCIL**

Inaugurated on 27th July 2022, headed by Sir Paul Chukwuma, a Nigeria and Olivia Suguru a Burundian Businessman as Deputy Chair

#### **B. HELD THE MAIDEN EDITION OF NIGERIA BURUNDI BUSINESS SUMMIT**

The Nigeria-Burundi Business Summit was held from 27th-29th September 2022 with Major Stakeholders in both Nigerian & Burundi Economic system in attendance. The event was declared open by the Burundi President, HE Evariste Ndayishimiye.

#### **C. REGISTRATION OF NIGERIAN COMPANIES IN BURUNDI**

Facilitated the Registration of several Nigerian companies in Burundi and licenced for operations in business ranging from hospitality, education and merchandising, agriculture and consultancy.

#### **D. FACILITATED THE SIGNING OF MOU ON FERTILIZER**

Two Nigerian companies executed MOUs' to supply fertilizer raw materials (urea) to Burundi as well as the supply of cement products.



HIS EXCELLENCY,

**ELIJAH C. ONYEAGBA, PhD.**

Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Federal Republic  
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# THE AMBASSADOR WITH GREAT **IMPACT**

## THINGS WE DID IN BURUNDI

**3**

### **ECONOMIC RELATIONS**



*Contd....*

#### **E. FACILITATED AN AGRO-PROCESSING PARTNERSHIP**

Facilitated the use of Nigerian Agro-processing company for the supply of 95,000 Palm seedlings to a company in Burundi for the first phase. They are currently testing out plantain suckers from Nigeria which is billed to be exported to Burundi in 2024.

#### **F. FACILITATED A BUSINESS VISIT OF GOGÉ AFRICA TO BURUNDI**

Facilitated the Business visit of one of the finest African Entertainment/cultural promotion brand - GOGÉ AFRICA to Burundi for exploration of the rich East African talents in both documentary and cultural expo.

#### **G. PROMOTION OF NIGERIA MUSIC/ENTERTAINMENT**

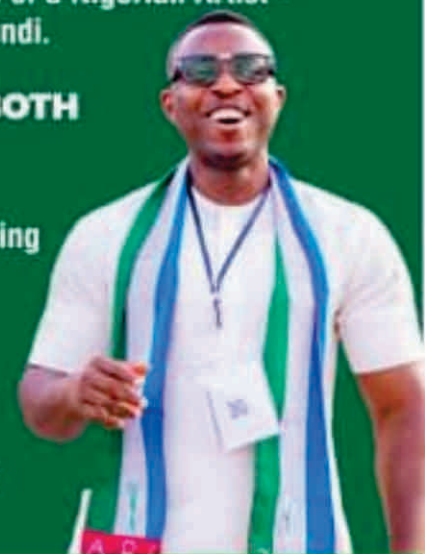
We brought the flavour of Nigerian Music by facilitating the performance of a Nigerian Artist - Timaya at a Burundi event and still promoting for others to come to Burundi.

#### **H. FACILITATED REAL ESTATE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES**

We facilitated the participation of the Biggest Real Estate developer in Burundi Ubakanation in the recently concluded Africa International Housing Show in Abuja.

#### **I. NIGERIAN EMBASSY IN BURUNDI BAGGED HONOURS**

The Embassy of Nigeria in Burundi was recognized by the Burundi Chamber of Commerce and as well by the Burundi Business Association in France for providing business linkages into Burundi.



HIS EXCELLENCY,  
**ELIJAH C. ONYEAGBA, PhD.**  
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Federal Republic  
of Nigeria to the Republic of Burundi.



# THE AMBASSADOR WITH GREAT **IMPACT**

## THINGS WE DID IN BURUNDI

### **4 EDUCATION RELATIONS**



#### **A. FACILITATED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OLIVIA UNIVERSITY**

In June 2022, the Nigerian owned First Private University in Burundi Olivia University was fully licenced for operations in Burundi with Rev Fr Prof. Oguejiolo as the Vice Chancellor. The University is to offer degrees in Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Computer Science etc.

#### **B. EDUCATION TOUR BY VICE CHANCELLOR OF NNAMDI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY AND LECTURERS FROM UNI-UYO**

On 6th April 2022, we facilitated and received the Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Prof Charles Esimone in Burundi for Educational Tour & research on the Educational system of Burundi. It was an opportunity to also sign MOU on Academic research and Education exchange for lecturers and Students.



HIS EXCELLENCY.

**ELIJAH C. ONYEAGBA, PhD.**

Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Federal Republic  
of Nigeria to the Republic of Burundi.



# THE AMBASSADOR WITH GREAT **IMPACT**

## THINGS WE DID IN BURUNDI

### **6 SPORTS DEVELOPMENT**



#### **A. ESTABLISHED THE ANNUAL MARATHON RACE IN BURUNDI**

We established a marathon competition called the RunBuja. The Nigerian Ambassadors Trophy for the Athletic Federation to identify talents. We have held it for two years running and it's part of the athletic federations activity annually. It's held on the week of our national day (independence) celebration and the third edition will be held before I depart Burundi this October 2023.

#### **B. ATHLETIC FEDERATION OF BURUNDI HONOURS NIGERIAN EMBASSY**

In the December 2022, the Embassy of Nigeria were presented with a Plaque by the Athletic Federation of Burundi for our contribution towards the development of Sports in Burundi.

#### **C. HOSTS THE YEAR 2000 OLYMPIC MEDALIST FRANCINE NYONSABA**

Discussed ways to establish Nigerian-Burundi Relations in Athletics



HIS EXCELLENCY,

**ELIJAH C. ONYEAGBA, PhD.**

Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary of Federal Republic  
of Nigeria to the Republic of Burundi.



## ASTEVEN GROUP ON A MISSION TO TAKE GREEN SKILLS ACROSS AFRICA



Africa is at the verge of a turn around in its energy needs with the gradual adoption of renewable energy technology in most countries within the continent and its growing multi-trillion dollar market. But in the wheel of this enormous opportunity is the lack of the skills to manage the technology contributing to the failure encountered by so many of these countries in the early phase of the adoption of solar technology, millions of dollars lost.

Despite growing demand for home solar systems and other off-grid renewable energy solutions in Africa and Asia, there is a growing shortage of job-ready talent to finance, develop, install, operate and manage these systems. And the biggest skill gap is in Sub-Saharan Africa. More than 600 million people in the region are still living without electricity, yet there are only 76,000 jobs in the renewable energy sector on the whole continent, according to the latest data from IRENA. Compare that to India, which has half as many people without electricity and 10 times more people working in the solar PV sector alone.

The photovoltaic market requires experts and technicians to utilize, design, and maintain the technologies. This can be a concern since skilled personnel and staff are scarce, which may lead to system failure and malfunction. Furthermore, personnel in the renewable energy sector must possess specific skills, which will necessitate further training for present professionals as well as an extension of the educational system to meet the PV market's demand.

Solar energy has become crucial in providing the world with an opportunity to reduce its carbon footprint, as well as fighting the consequences of climate change. Furthermore, Africa is at the forefront of the regions affected by climate change with a future expectancy of worsening consequences, in addition to being a region with various electricity complications, energy demands, and global greenhouse emissions contributions. Therefore, not only is Africa in major need of adopting efficient renewable energy technologies for their apparent future concerns but also Africa is already considered a region

that has significant solar energy potential due to its abundant natural and renewable resources. Solar energy's potential in Africa could not only be a solution to many of the continent's complications, but it could also help the continent's economy thrive. The potential of solar energy in Africa as well as techniques to efficiently implement it has piqued literary interest a lot recently however, this paper aims to highlight through literature not only the potential and the technologies available for adoption but also the challenges complicating the implementation. This paper is split into four literary sections, first section puts forward the challenges facing Africa in the uptake of solar energy technologies including financial, technological, human resources, and environmental challenges. Then, in-depth discussions of the various solar energy technologies for potential adoption. Third, the biggest solar energy projects implemented in Africa are put forward.

Continues in next page

## U50 NIGERIA SPOT

Asteven Group is one of the pioneer indigenous solar companies that manufactured world class products for the Nigerian market creating thousands of jobs through vendors and merchants of our products. Over the past 15 years, the company has operated across the six geopolitical zones in the country and around five African countries deploying cutting edge solar technology. It is in the course of our business expedition that we discovered the lack of skills in the solar industry in the country with largely 98% of solar projects outsourced to foreigners even with billions voted by government at federal and state levels, and bulk of the money getting repatriated by foreigners to their own countries without adding much value to our economy. We started the Asteven Renewable Energy Institute as the first private renewable energy institute certified by Nigeria Board for Technical Education under the Federal Mini-

-stry of Education with world class curriculum that was drafted based on the German model of technical/vocational education. The institute which has graduated more than 5,000 students from just one location in the past few years is the only certified institute that provides National Higher Diploma Programme.

Asteven Energy Institute is the first vocational/Innovation Enterprise Institution (IEI) approved by the Federal Ministry of Education (FME) and accredited by Nigeria's National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) to offer a National Innovation Diploma (NID) in Solar Energy Technology. The institute is equipped with modern and state-of-the-art facilities designed based on the German vocational skills model. According to the founder/president of the Institute, Dr Sunny Akpoyibo, the institute established in partnership and full consultation with leading professional institutions in Germany.

## BUSINESS

It was commissioned on February 28th, 2018 as a solar training academy and since its inception has trained, certified, and empowered over 3000 able-bodied men and women across Nigeria in solar photovoltaic (PV) installation and entrepreneurship. It is accredited by the ECOWAS Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) as a recognized institution for training and certification in Solar Photovoltaic (Off Grid) Installation in Nigeria.

With the Asteven 2 years National Innovation Diploma (NID) programme designed to help students develop a thorough understanding of contemporary science as applied to modern renewable energy technology and Nigerians can be sure of easier access to employment in Germany and even faster approval of residence permit.



**Sparking  
Africa's  
Housing  
Revolution**

A portrait of Fablice Manirakiza, a man with short dark hair and a light beard, wearing a tan blazer over a blue striped shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with his hands clasped in front of him.

**FABLICE MANIRAKIZA**  
**Founder, "Come & See Burundi,  
UbakaNation & More**

My dream is to bring back home the beauty and comfort that I saw in developed countries such as the United Kingdom and Australia. These were the words of Fablice Dieudonné Manirakiza is a Burundian by origin and migrated to Australia, and currently working in between the two countries on mission to lead Africa's affordable housing revolution.

Since arriving in Australia in 2007, Fablice has established himself as a leader and artist of influence in Australia and Burundi cultural and scape. Working as a Entrepreneur, Corporate & Incorporate leader, artist, presenter, actor, festival producer and curator, Fablice often appears on national television and radio around Burundi, Australia and in New Zealand, including a starring role in episode nine of the thirteen-part ABC TV series MY:24.

Fablice Manirakiza has become an icon among Australian & Burundian society in particular the youth, he has done inspiration talks about self development in entrepreneurship and self belief across Burundi, Australia and East Timor. Fablice was named the 2016 Victorian Young Achiever of the Year, and now has been granted the Kirk Robson awards for recognition of his work.

A powerful role-model and keynote speaker, Fablice Manirakiza's story of freedom and hope for former refugees living in Australia is filled with struggle, heartbreak and inspiration. He has told it to diverse groups around Burundi, Australia and South East Asia and delivered workshops to more than 700 school and



community groups. Whether he is talking to school students or world leaders, Fablice inspires and connects with his audiences to deliver a message of resilience, self development and hope for the future, always inspired to change the world.

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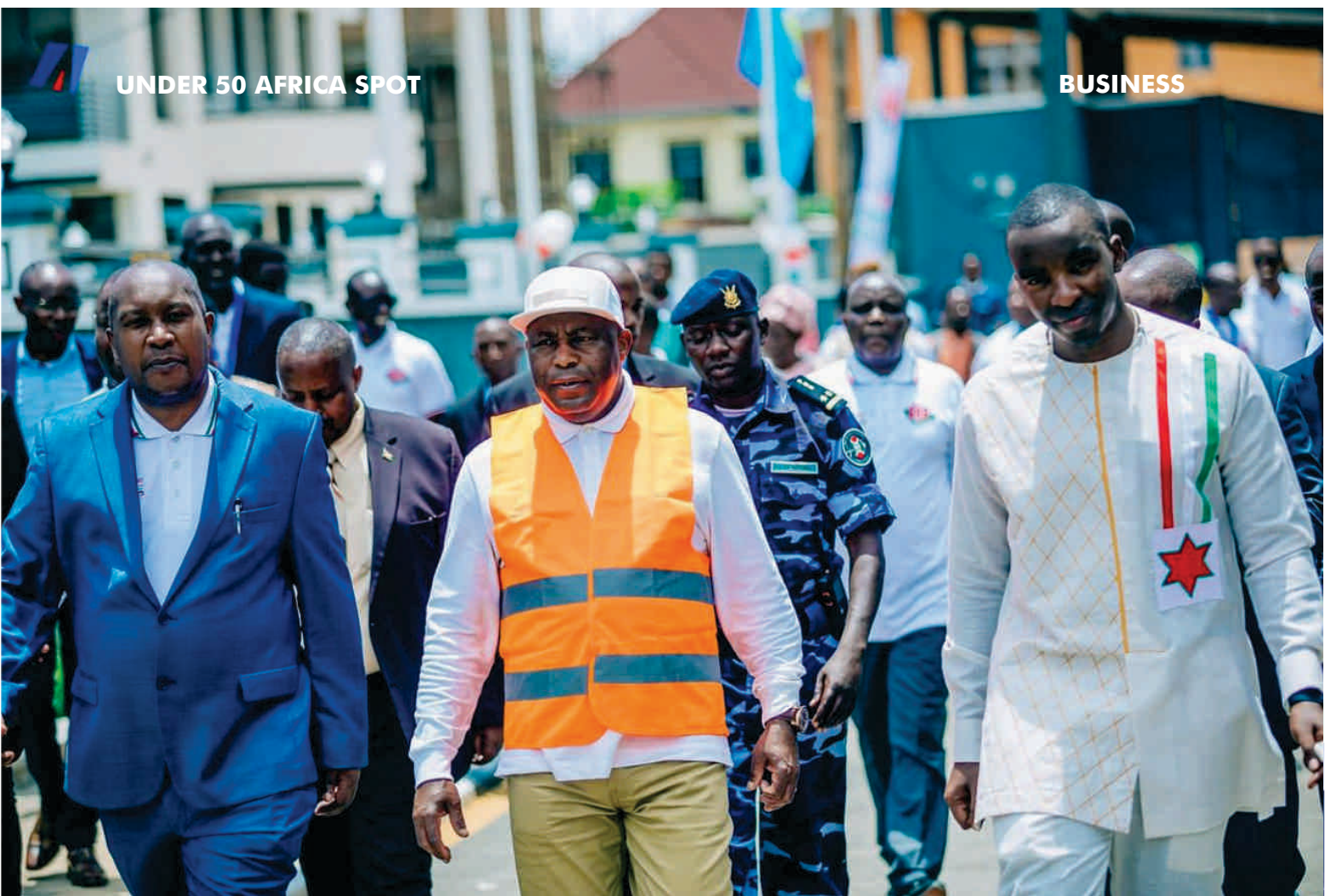


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Fablice served as President of the Australian Burundian Community in Victoria from 2013 to 2019. A proud ambassador of his community and his people, he delivered a heartfelt TEDx talk, entitled The Power of Education. After studying International Business, He continues to study a Bachelor of Criminology and Justice as part of his efforts to bring peace to his home of Burundi and beyond.

For five years Fablice was an Ambassador of Action Aid and Love of Language. He was the Recipient of Multicultural Arts Victoria's (MAV) inaugural Arts and Cultural Development Scholarship for Refugee Youth; host of 'I Love Africa Day' and 'Black Harmony Day' (funded by MAV and the City of Yarra).

Fablice has now started up several companies such as; Come and See Burundi, African Gateway Insurance Company (AGICO), UBAKANATION GROUP, iWAVE Real Estate & Trading, Burundian Dream Group, to name few. All these companies are active in Burundi, all have an objective of boosting up Burundian economy through private sector.

Fablice Manirakiza has been a key player into the private sector development of Burundi, He has founded several limited companies such as Come and See Burundi & UBAKANATION GROUP, which

**UNDER 50 AFRICA SPOT**

**BUSINESS**



is a well established Engineering, Procurement & Construction (E.P.C) Company, mainly focusing in Real Estate, Property & Infrastructure development in Burundi. Come and See Burundi has just completed its first Burundi's gated community estate of 28 houses in partnership with the Burundi local government housing bank BHB in Bujumbura, a project that has founded and lead by Fablice, the value of the project is 10,000,000,000 BIF.

Another start-up company which has fully been developed by Fablice is a new legal protection insurance company which he fundraised 1,000,000,000 BIF, now operating in all over Burundi. Under the company UBAKANATION GROUP, Fablice is currently running several other construction development project which holds a total of more then 30,000,000,000 BIF (15 Millions dollars - USD)..

In recent times, we see the re-emergence of Africa to lead in innovation and technological advancement, Fablice is one of those young Africans seeking to stir the kindred spirit in every African to think and live Africa. As far as he concerned, it is African who can bring real change to the continent.



“When we design and build a project, we are focusing on helping our clients create a lasting positive legacy that includes protecting the environment, creating economic growth and development, and partnering with communities.” -- Eng. Amara S. Sackor, President & CEO of TSC Global

**T**SC Global is an international consultancy firm in the fields of engineering, technical services and innovation. The firm employs a dynamic team of experienced engineers and technically trained employees with diverse experience in most disciplines relating to engineering services. TSC Global provides reliable and professional consultancy services based on a half century of knowledge and experience across a wide variety of projects and industries with presence across multiple countries in Africa and America.

The Company led by former U.S soldier turned engineering contractor and consultant, Amara Sackor signed a landmark contract with Economic Countries Organizations of West African States to kickstart the ROGEAP. ECOWAS signed the contract with a consortium of ECOWAS signed the contract with a consortium led by TSC Global >>>

The ROGEAP was designed with the objective of providing project countries with needed support to foster a sustainable and scalable off-grid electrification market to meet the electrification needs of unserved populations within the region. The contract which underwent procurement process stipulated by the donor's procedure saw the emergence of a consortium of companies with TSC Global as the lead alongside others including Intech-GOPA/AFC/BB and Co group.

ROGEAP is to be implemented in 19 African countries including; Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Togo, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, and Mauritania. It aims to increase access to sustainable electricity services in the >>>

fifteen ECOWAS member countries and four other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (Mauritania, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad) for households, commercial enterprises, public infrastructure health, education and community by isolated solar systems and all, according to a harmonized regional approach. The project is administered by a Steering Committee composed of Representatives of the ECOWAS Commission, BOAD and the World Bank.

ROGEAP was first initiated in 2017 under the name of Regional Off-Grid Electrification Project (ROGEP), then restructured and relaunched in November 2020 by ECOWAS and its Technical and Financial Partners under its current name of "Regional Off-Grid Electricity Access Project" (ROGEAP). The project is worth 338.7 million US, financed by the World



Bank, the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and the Dutch Cooperation (DGIS). The ECOWAS Commission, the Regional Center for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) and the West African Development Bank (BOAD) are responsible for implementing the project respectively for the development component of a regional market and access to finance for isolated solar systems.

The contract signing ceremony took place on Tuesday, 1st August 2023 in Abuja with TSC Global/Intech-GOPA/AFC/BB and Co as “Project Fund Manager” in the presence of Mr Amara S. Sackor, CEO/President of the lead company, TSC Global and Commissioner Sediko DOUKA in charge of Infrastructure, Energy and Digitization of ECOWAS and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the ROGEAP. Others also present included Mr. EL hadji SYLLA, Principal Advisor and Coordinator of ROGEAP, the Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Infrastructure, Energy and Digitalization and the associate members / experts of the PFM.

The strategic growth plans follow on from a successful year which saw the company establish new bases in Brazil and Australia and grow its global headcount by more than 30% in response to increasing demand for its tools and services. The year also marked the company's entry into new sectors, including offshore wind and flow assurance.

The “Fund Manager” consisting of a consortium of companies led by TSC Global shall support the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the ECOWAS in providing assistance through technical and financial support to the private sector including commercial banks and financial institutions in the countries.



Engr Amara Sackor express the company's commitment to ensure the project provides off-grid electricity access and affordability to the private and public sectors across 19 countries in Africa. Mr. Sackor stated that this project is a major milestone stone in ensuring that there is a reduction in the regional power gap. He has traveled widely across the region implementing multiple projects and has seen firsthand the positive effects of energy access. He stated that their team of experts will work hard to ensure that the project is executed in accordance with the ECOWAS and World Bank Guidelines. He added that women empowerment and youth employment are two key milestones to be achieved under this

initiative and encourage them to take advantage of the opportunities being provided through technical training and grants to improve their lives and become net positive contributors to regional development.



## Discover A UK Pharmaceutical Brand For Africa By Nigerian

**A**frica houses 1.2 billion people, about 11% of the global population. Along with this population burden, the continent also bears a disproportionate burden of disease, with 60% of people with HIV/AIDS living in Africa, and more than 90% of the annual global malaria cases being in Africa<sup>1</sup>. The continent is also afflicted by significant infectious diseases and increasing non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Africa has faced significant public health challenges due to insufficient access to quality, safe, efficacious, and affordable medical products over the years.<sup>2</sup> In 2022, some children reportedly lost their lives from acute kidney injury in Gambia after ingesting imported adulterated cough syrups. Events such as these are not just shocking, but also distressing knowing they could have been easily avoided.

Why is it hard for Africa to have a timely access to quality medicines?

**Weak and fragmented regulatory system:** Several African countries have unclear policies and incomplete or incoherent legal and regulatory frameworks. A 2012 study found that it took 4 to 7 years on average to register a new product in Sub-Saharan Africa, compared to just 6 to 12 months in high-income regions<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, there is a shortage of competent regulatory professionals along with an underdeveloped regulatory infrastructure. Ineffective regional collaborations exist among the National Medicine Regulatory Authorities (NMRA).

Presence of a few local and regional pharma manufacturing companies: The continent has approximately 375 drug makers serving over 1.1 billion people, and these companies are mostly concentrated in North Africa. Those in Sub-Saharan Africa are clustered in 9 of the 46 countries. When one compares this figure to 10,500 drug manufacturers in India and 5,000 in China for 1.4 billion population each, then the difference becomes quite apparent<sup>4</sup>.

**Limited financial and technology support:** Most of the African countries operate on limited social benefits or universal health coverage. Additionally, there is a lack of state-of-art healthcare provisions capable of handling innovative global health products. There exists a vast digital divide among African health systems. In most countries, poor linkages are seen amongst different information systems and solutions as they are not designed to capture robust data across multiple sectors.

Pharmadynamics is a UK licensed healthcare supplier founded by Nigerian pharmacists, Tony Uche Irechukwu over a decade ago. The company was founded to provide procurement solutions of pharmaceutical, medical devices and diagnostics with services targeted towards the entire healthcare sector within the U.K and Africa.

The company is one of the biggest African indigenous brand in the UK dedicated to providing products and services within a wide scope of pharmaceutical merchandise offering the very best of services available. They offer these via the integration of Supply Chain best practices while at the same time complying with stringent regulatory and Industry demands.

In dealing with the needs of our customers, we focus on agility; this means that with our flexibility, good logistic process and capacity management, we are able to efficiently adapt to changes as they emanate.




**Coming  
Soon!!!**



U50 UNITED KINGDOM SPOT



TECHNOLOGY



By taking care of the procurement needs of our customers, we are able to efficiently and effectively leverage their cost containment.

Pharmadynamics ambition is to transform the lives of people who are unable to access quality pharmaceutical products through seamless supply to dealers, distributors and retail outlets, allowing the people to live the best life that they can – as free as possible from the challenges and uncertainty of disease. That commitment comes to life in our research and development activities across neurology, immunology and other areas where our expertise, innovation and ambition align with unmet needs.

Pharmadynamics is continuously working to advance science and embrace new knowledge, bringing passion and leadership to solving the challenges that

matter to people living with severe diseases. We are leveraging scientific advances and new technologies in areas including genetics, biomarkers and human biology. Continually inspired by those we serve to bring differentiated solutions with unique outcomes that deliver tangible, positive impacts.

Since it was founded in 2008, Pharmadynamics has built a multi-million pounds facility for pharmaceutical warehousing in the UK and working with strategic partners in Asia and Africa to replicate its success in other countries, especially in Africa where there is a growing demand for quality and affordable products that can save millions from fake and substandard products.

The world class facility is built on a 9,000 square foot of warehousing space, over 5,000 units of products processed daily and 60 pellets delivered weekly.

With its growing portfolio of 30,000 products including branded, generic, OTC, specialty drugs for pharmacies, supplements, vitamins, medical equipment supply and consultancy.

The company has been engaged in humanitarian support in Africa through its provision of free medicines to countries affected by disaster, terrorism and pandemic. With subsidiaries in Africa and Asia, the company is focused on building a world class pharmaceutical warehousing facility in major cities in Africa. It has already commenced plans in Lagos and Abuja, Nigeria.

This is in its efforts to deploy world class technology and expertise into the industry in Africa where the founders are from.



# Blockchain Tech Can Save Your Life

## Blockchain Technology in the Healthcare Sector, and the Solution Provided by ClinicBank to Nigeria

**B**lockchain technology is a distributed ledger technology that can be used to record transactions in a secure and transparent way. This makes it ideal for use in the healthcare sector, where there is a need to securely store and share sensitive patient data.

One company that is using blockchain technology to improve the healthcare sector is ClinicBank. ClinicBank is a Nigerian company that is developing a blockchain-based platform that will allow patients to own and control their own medical records. This will make it easier for patients to access their records, and it will also help to improve the quality of care that they receive.

ClinicBank's platform will also allow healthcare providers to share patient data more easily and securely. This will help to improve coordination of care, and it will also help to reduce the risk of medical errors.

In addition to improving the way that patient data is stored and shared, blockchain technology can also be used to improve the efficiency of the healthcare system. For example, blockchain can be used to track the provenance of medical supplies, which can help to prevent counterfeit drugs from entering the supply chain.

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Blockchain technology is still in its early stages of development, but it has the potential to revolutionize the healthcare sector. ClinicBank is one of the companies that is leading the way in this area, and their platform has the potential to make a significant impact on the healthcare system in Nigeria.

Here are some of the specific benefits that ClinicBank can offer to Nigeria:

**Improved patient care:** ClinicBank's platform will make it easier for patients to access their medical records, which will help to improve the quality of care that they receive. For example, patients will be able to share their records with their

doctors more easily, which will help to improve diagnosis and treatment.

**Reduced costs:** ClinicBank's platform can help to reduce the costs of healthcare by improving efficiency and coordination of care. For example, blockchain can be used to track the provenance of medical supplies, which can help to prevent counterfeit drugs from entering the supply chain.

**Increased transparency:** ClinicBank's platform will make it easier to track and audit patient data, which will increase transparency in the healthcare system. This will help to improve accountability and reduce fraud.

**Enhanced security:** ClinicBank's platform uses blockchain technology to secure patient data, which makes it more secure than traditional methods of data storage. This will help to protect patient privacy and prevent data breaches.

Overall, ClinicBank is a promising company that is using blockchain technology to improve the healthcare sector in Nigeria. Their platform

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has the potential to make a significant impact on the quality of care, the cost of healthcare, and the transparency of the healthcare system.

In addition to the benefits mentioned above, ClinicBank's platform also has the potential to:

### Facilitate medical research:

ClinicBank's platform can be used to store and share medical data, which can help to facilitate medical research. This can lead to new treatments and cures for diseases.

### Improve disaster preparedness:

ClinicBank's platform can be used to store and share medical data in a secure and disaster-proof way. This can help to improve disaster preparedness and ensure that patients have access to their medical records even in the event of a natural disaster.

### Promote patient empowerment:

ClinicBank's platform gives patients control over

their own medical records. This can help to promote patient empowerment and improve the quality of care that they receive.

### Clinic Bank for Health Insurance:

With historical health records of clients been updated on the block chain and cannot be altered, this would allow HMO's and other insurance

companies access to comprehensive medical records of their clients and prospected customers, this would really go a long way to assist them deduce premiums for health-related service packages they offer. Asides that, deployment HMO services on Clinic Bank would avail these Companies the opportunity to carry out Compensation using the utility token of the application for swift remittance of entitlements, though its centralized and the effectiveness can't be overemphasized.

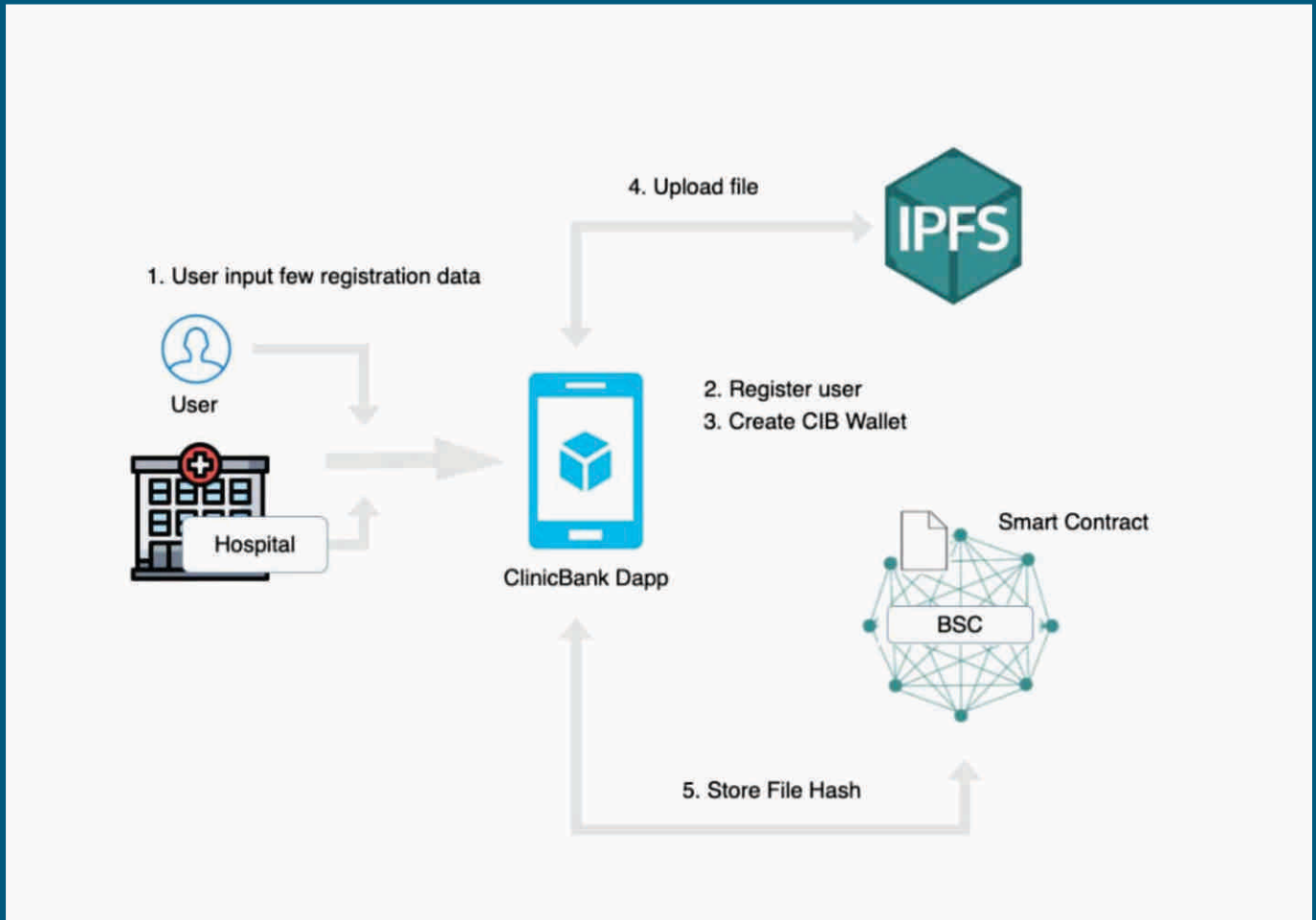
ClinicBank is still in its early stages of development, but it has the potential to revolutionize the healthcare sector in Nigeria. The company is committed to using blockchain technology to improve and revolutionize Healthcare insurance,

## TECHNOLOGY

the quality of care, the cost of healthcare, and the transparency of the healthcare system.

*Terver Derek Iortyom is the COO/Co-founder of ClinicBank, a healthcare technology company that is developing a platform to connect patients with healthcare providers. In this role and he is responsible for the overall operations of the company, including product development, marketing, and sales.*

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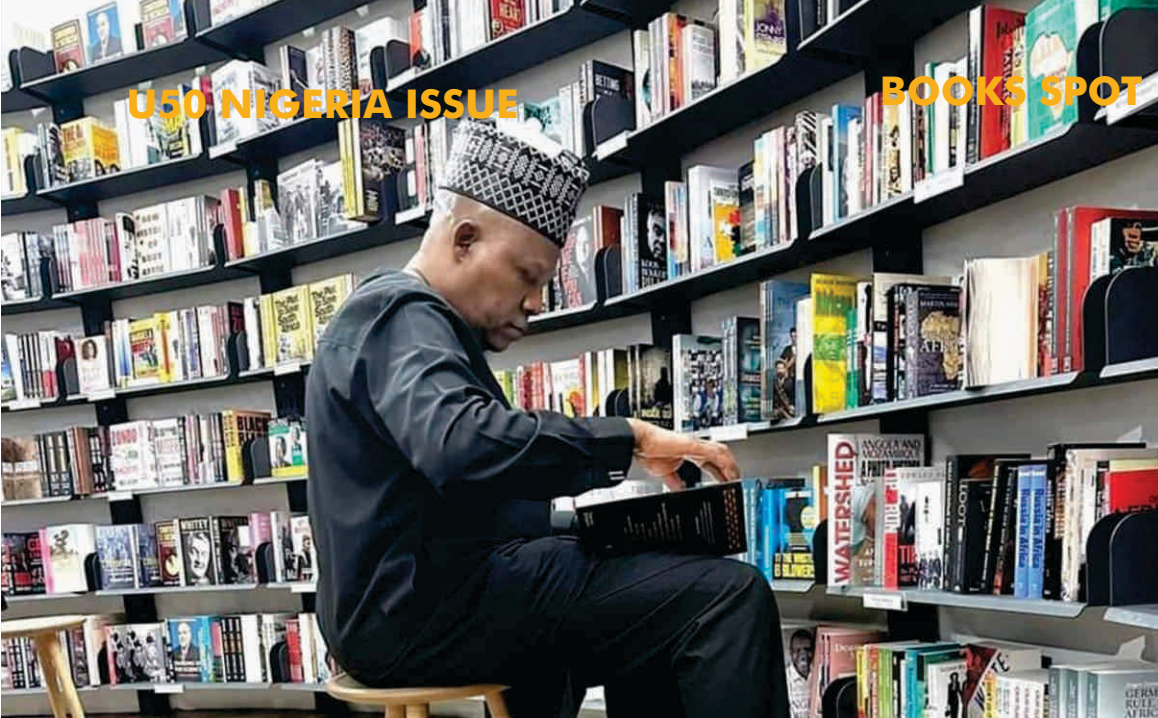
On behalf of the management, organizers of Business & Excellence Awards and the faculty of 2021 U50 Business & Excellence Awards we wish you giant strides as you lead the office of the deputy governor, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)



**Dr Bala Mohammed Bello**  
Deputy Governor  
Central Bank of Nigeria

Signed by 4th Edition Faculty

Amb. Elijah Onyeagba PhD	Barr Fatima M Lawan
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Aisha Mahmud	Bruce Ayonote
Dr Sunny Akpoyibo	Hajia Aminatu Dahiru
Bob Ugee	Olajide Adeola



## The Book Section with the Vice President

by Kimba Kakanda

“There’s another section over there, Your Excellency,” I said, pointing towards the Western philosophy enclave within the bookstore. He wasn’t in a hurry and had paused, flipping through the pages of assorted books spanning a symphony of genres. I assumed he probably didn’t know about the other parts of the bookstore. Sometimes he would sit in between reads and then rise to proceed to other sections. Senator Kashim Shettima appeared to have an interest in almost all kinds, except for, by his admission, motivational books, which of course are mostly superficial philosophical projections.

“You should read this book,” he said as I tagged along behind him, and he transferred the tome into my possession. It’s Mariana Mazzucato’s enlightening opus, “The Value of Everything.” “She offers a caricature of capitalism and a penetrating take on the subject.” With gratitude, I accepted the book and maintained stride behind him, observing his methodical traversal through the pages, volumes, and corridors of the Sandton, Johannesburg bookstore.

We are currently in South Africa for the 2023 BRICS summit, where Vice President Shettima is representing President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in a crucial global economic alliance.

earlier in the day, he participated in a trade fair held prior to the main event and expressed his principal’s strong commitment to innovation, investment and empowering MSMEs to stimulate Nigeria’s economy. He toured the exhibition stands, appreciating the participation of 180 exhibitors from various sectors at the trade fair.

What was poised to be an evening of rest in his hotel ahead of the forthcoming day’s commitments took an unexpected turn. It became an odyssey into literature and knowledge. I had the honour of accompanying him, witnessing his unquenchable thirst for books, profound intellectual curiosity, and insightful perspectives on writers and subjects. These topics spanned domains ranging from economics and philosophy to the intricate realm of politics. Mr Shettima even maintained a personal philosophy regarding acquiring books in the cities he journeyed through.

“You know the most accurate portrayal of a people or culture is found in the books you buy in their communities. Such books are the most credible reflections of their realities and experiences,” and then this turned into a caveat about the misrepresentations of ideas, people, or culture by foreign or detached curators and authors. It was a convincing argument, sparked by the time spent exploring the South African history sub-section of the African history enclave. He spent a significant amount of time analyzing the host country’s foremost thinkers, human rights activists, and politicians whom he knows so well.

It took a while, but I eventually made it through all the books. Although there were many good ones, here are three in addition to Weather for Dummies that I especially recommend:

The Atmosphere, by Frederick K. Lutgens and Edward Tarbuck. This one was first published in 1979 and is now in its 14th edition. (Redina Herman joined as a third author sometime after I got my copy.) Although it’s intended as a textbook for a college-level course, it’s quite accessible for anyone who’s motivated to learn about how the Earth’s climate works. It covers precipitation, air pressure, storms, air pollution, and much more and uses colorful illustrations to explain complex subjects. (Available for rent or purchase from the publisher, Pearson.)

The range of books Vice President Shettima acquired during his book hunts illuminated the reason he appeared to possess a quote for every conceivable occasion, effortlessly at his disposal. His peculiar memory enabled this skill. His reputation for having an exceptionally retentive memory stemmed from his practice of not allowing it to remain idle. He earned a reputation for his capacity to recall details and retain information due to his insatiable reading habit.

*(Excerpts from “Book Hunting with Kashim Shettima”*