7TH AFRICA EMERGING MARKETS FORUM

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Central Bank of Nigeria

Emerging Markets Forum

CSEA

PARTICIPANT PROFILE

Olayemi Cardoso

Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

Mr Olayemi Cardoso, the former chairman of Citibank Nigeria, is a distinguished leader in the financial and development sectors with over 30 years' experience in the private, public and not-for-profit organisations. With diverse corporate governance experience, Mr Cardoso has also sat on the boards of Nigerian subsidiaries of Texaco and Chevron and chaired the board of EFInA, a financial sector development organisation supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. Mr Cardoso served in government as the first Commissioner for Economic Planning and Budget for Lagos State, where he championed the financial reform process which led to the state's development of independent tax revenues. In his capacity as a consultant and policy expert, Yemi has advised and collaborated with major international development organisations including the World Bank, Ford Foundation, UN Habitat, World Health Organization and the Swedish Development Foundation.Mr Cardoso started his banking career with Citibank where he eventually rose to the position of Vice President leaving to co-found Citizens International Bank where he was an Executive Director for eight years He is the recipient of several awards including an honorary Doctorate Degree in Business Administration from Aston University, his alma mater, and the Global Distinguished Alumni award from Citi. Mr Cardoso obtained a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard Kennedy School where he was a Mason Fellow.

Muhammad Sani Abdullahi

Deputy Governor, Corporate Services
Central Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

Mr. Muhammad Sani Abdullahi is the Deputy Governor for Corporate Services at the Central Bank of Nigeria. A development economist with over two decades of global experience, he oversees the Bank's human capital management and the modernization of its institutional infrastructure. Before his appointment to the Central Bank, in 2023, he had served as the Honorable Commissioner for Budget and Planning in Kaduna State (2015–23) and as a Senior Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2014–15).

Philip Ikeazor

Deputy Governor, Economic Policy, Central Bank of Nigeria,
Nigeria

Mr. Philip Ikeazor is the Deputy Governor for Economic Policy at the Central Bank of Nigeria. An accomplished leader with over 30 years of experience in banking and financial services, he spearheads the Bank's strategic mandates in monetary policy, exchange-rate management, and macroeconomic analysis. His work is instrumental in anchoring Nigeria's inflation-targeting framework and navigating the complexities of the current global financial landscape. Prior to his appointment to the Central Bank, in 2023, he held senior executive positions across the financial sector, including serving as the CEO of Keystone Bank (2013–17).

Emem Usoro

Deputy Governor, Operations Directorate, Central Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

Mrs. Emem Usoro is the Deputy Governor for Operations at the Central Bank of Nigeria. A distinguished professional with over 20 years of experience in the commercial banking and financial services sector, she oversees the Bank's critical operational frameworks. Her expertise spans the full spectrum of financial management, including branch operations, credit administration, and strategic marketing, ensuring the robust delivery of essential banking services. Prior to her appointment to the Central Bank, in 2023, she held senior leadership roles within the private sector, most recently serving as an Executive Director at the renowned United Bank for Africa (UBA) (2022–23).

Lamido Yuguda

Deputy Governor, Financial System Stability Directorate, Central Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

Mr. Lamido Yuguda is the Deputy Governor for Financial System Stability at the Central Bank of Nigeria. With a career spanning over three decades in central banking and capital market regulation, he oversees the supervision of deposit money banks and other financial institutions to safeguard the resilience of Nigeria’s financial system. Prior to his current appointment, in 2026, he served as the Director General of Nigeria's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) (2020–24), where he led the strategic development of the country's capital markets.

Hamisu Abdullahi

Director of the Banking Services Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria

Mr. Abdullahi Hamisu graduated with Second Class Upper Division in Accounting from Bayero University Kano, Nigeria in 1995 and obtained MBA (Finance) from Nasarawa State University, Nigeria in 2018. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (FCA). Mr. Abdullahi started his career with an accounting firm in 1996 and later joined FBN Merchant Bankers as a Banking Officer in 1999 where he worked in international operations till 2003. He joined the Central Bank of Nigeria in September2003 as Assistant Manager and rose to the position of Director, Banking Services Department in 2025. He participated in many projects in CBN, including implementation of Payments System Vision 2020, Shared Services Program, Real-Time Gross Settlement System, Bank Verification Number (BVN), e-dividend payment and Nigeria Central Bank Digital Currency.

Oyintare Abang

Development Finance Analyst,
Strategic Policy and SDG Acceleration Unit
United Nations Development Programme Nigeria

Oyintare is a development and sustainable finance professional with over 7 years of experience spanning impact investment, SDG financing, domestic resource mobilization, private sector engagement, public policy, and financial (tax) advisory. She has a proven track record in mobilizing private capital, structuring multi-stakeholder partnerships, supporting blended finance initiatives, and advising governments on financing strategies for sustainable development across Africa. Her current role aligns with the UNDP's mission to support countries in achieving the SDGs through partnerships and technical assistance through systems strengthening. Her work involves providing policy advice, and capacity-building support to governments and other stakeholders to enhance tax systems, broaden financial markets to include new instruments whilst promoting sustainable development. Before her role at the UNDP, she worked for over five years both in KPMG and PwC, where she served energy and natural resources, power and mining corporate clients as well as companies looking for tax reporting and strategy services. She studied Chemical Engineering at the University of Port Harcourt and holds two diplomas in business and accounting under ACCA. She is an award-winning writer and seeks more collaborative opportunities to publish various thought leadership on fiscal reforms, gender mainstreaming of tax policies and domestic resource mobilisation of developing economies.

Adekemi Ademiju

Policy and Research Consultant, Nextier, Nigeria

Adekemi is an Economist with experience in both public and private sector advisory. She is experienced in conducting in-depth economic analysis and producing strategic insights that inform high-level policy decisions. At Nextier, Adekemi leads policy research and technical advisory engagements that inform regulatory decisions, strengthen institutional capacity, and support economic reforms. Prior to joining Nextier, Adekemi built a strong foundation in macroeconomic policy at the Central Bank of Nigeria, and strategic advisory at KPMG Nigeria. She is a CFA charter holder.

Adeola Adenikinju

Professor of Economics, University of Ibadan
Nigeria

Professor Adenikinju, a seasoned economist, holds a PhD Degree in Economics from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He has served as a Professor of Economics and the Head of the Department of Economics at the University of Ibadan (2021-2023). His expertise is further demonstrated by his roles as a Research Professor at the Centre for Econometrics and Allied Research, a Senior Research Fellow at the Macroeconomic Study Group, University of Ibadan, and the Pioneer Director of the Centre for Petroleum, Energy Economics and Law, University of Ibadan. He is also co-Principal Investigator, Innovation Lab for Policy for Leadership in Agricultural Policy and Food Security. Adeola's influence extends beyond Nigeria, having consulted for several local and international development organisations. These include the European Union, United Nations, the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Company, NLNG, The African Economic Research Consortium, OECD, UNIDO, ECOWAS, UNECA, the World Bank, the National Data Bank, and Adam Smith International, among others. He was one of the consultants who prepared the First Perspective Plan for Nigeria. He is also involved in the United Nations Project Link, which makes economic projections for the Nigerian Economy. Adeola was a Visiting Scholar at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in 1996 and 2005. He also chaired the committee that prepared the Macroeconomic Framework for the Medium-Term National Development Plan, 2021-2025. Adeola participated in the drafting of Nigeria’s Energy Policy, Nigeria’s Energy Masterplan, Nigeria’s Renewable Energy Policy and the Renewable Energy Masterplan. His research interests include Petroleum and Energy Economics, Macroeconomic modelling, and Economic Development Issues. He has published extensively in reputable Local and International Journals, including the OPEC Review, Energy Policy, Pacific and Asian Journal of Energy, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Nigerian Journal of Economic and Social Studies, and African Journal of Economic Policy. Adeola is a Life Member of the Nigerian Economics Society. Former President of the Nigerian Association for Energy Economics, 2011 -2015, Immediate Past President of the Nigerian Association for Macroeconomic Modeling, and Member of the International Association for Energy Economics. He is a Member of the editorial Team of the Energy Journal and the Chairman of the Editorial Board of the BOI Journal of Development Finance and BOI Journal of Development Review. Adeola served as a special assistant to the presidential adviser on energy matters between 2005 and 2007 and as a senior special assistant to the president in the office of the chief economic adviser to the president between 2010 and 2011. He was a Technical Adviser to the Presidential Committee on Deregulating the Downstream Petroleum Sector from 2008-2009. President Muhammadu Buhari appointed him as a member of the CBN Monetary Policy Committee, 2018-2023. Professor Adenikinju is a Fellow of the Nigerian Association for Energy Economics, a Fellow of the Energy Institute, a Fellow of the Nigerian Association for Macroeconomic Modellers, and a Fellow of Capital Market Academics of Nigeria. He is the 44th President of the Nigerian Economic Society (NES).

Adedeji Adeniran

Director of Research, Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)
Nigeria

Dr. Adedeji Peter Adeniran is a development economist, policy researcher, and Director of Research at the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), with over a decade of experience leading multidisciplinary research, policy advisory, and institutional reform initiatives across Africa. He has successfully led more than 25 high-impact research and policy projects, mobilising over US$5 million in competitive grants from organisations including the World Bank, UNICEF, Mastercard Foundation, Hewlett Foundation, DFID, GIZ, and the United Nations. His work spans economic policy, public sector governance, education systems, public finance, digital transformation, and evidence-based policymaking, with a strong emphasis on translating rigorous research into practical policy solutions. Dr. Adeniran is recognised for his expertise in data governance, artificial intelligence, and digitalisationpolicy in Africa. He has led pioneering research on digital governance frameworks, cross-border data flows, digital trade, AI adoption, cybersecurity, digital competition policy, and regulatory systems that support Africa's digital economy. He currently provides strategic leadership for the Hewlett Foundation-funded Data Governance and Regional Integration in Africa programme and has authored influential publications on strengthening data governance, digital governance, and the economic implications of digital transformation. His recent work includes leading one of Nigeria's first nationally representative enterprise surveys on artificial intelligence adoption, generating evidence on AI readiness, governance, productivity, and responsible innovation to inform policy and private sector decision-making. Beyond his research, Dr. Adeniran is an experienced project director, mentor, and thought leader who has contributed to policy dialogue at national, regional, and global levels, including engagements with the African Union, UN agencies, Oxford University, and international policy forums. He combines advanced quantitative and qualitative research expertise with extensive experience in programme management, stakeholder engagement, and policy communication, making him a trusted adviser on digital governance, economic development, education reform, and institutional strengthening. His work continues to shape policy discussions on how African countries can harness data, artificial intelligence, and digital technologies to drive inclusive growth, regional integration, and sustainable development.

Adeyemi Adeniran

Statistician General of the Federation, National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)
Nigeria

Prince Adeyemi Adeniran is the Statistician-General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer, National Bureau of Statistics. He is a career Civil Servant and Professional Statistician with a first degree (BSc) in Demography and Social Statistics from the famous Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), Ile-Ife. With over 32 years of experience as a Statistician at the National Bureau of Statistics, the apex statistical agency in Nigeria, Prince Adeniran has served in several capacities before becoming the Statistician General and Chief Executive Officer of the Bureau. He has headed various Departments and divisions, including the Methodology Division, the Households Statistics Division, and the Demography and Household Statistics Department, arguably the largest Department in the Bureau. A scientist by training, with expert knowledge and experience in survey design and management, sampling, data management, health and nutrition statistics, and poverty and welfare analysis, he has managed and coordinated a countless number of major surveys in Nigeria, with remarkable innovations in line with modern statistical practices. Notable amongst these is the first-ever nationwide Corruption Experience Survey and Drug Use Survey in Nigeria, both conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He has also served as Project Director for the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2021, and the Multidimensional Poverty Index Survey 2022, both of which have been adjudged to be among the best quality surveys in Nigeria. Outside the Bureau, Prince Adeniran has also served on various Steering and Technical Committees set up by the Federal Government, including the Presidential Committees on Human Capital Development, Committee on Food Security and Agriculture Development, Presidential Committee on the National Development Plan 2021 – 2025, and the Steering Committee on Economic Sustainability Plan. Along with his professional experience, he has participated in many workshops, seminars, and conferences, both within and outside the country. He has also authored papers in health interventions such as“Combining cluster surveys to estimate vaccination coverage: Experiences from Nigeria's Multiple Indicator Cluster survey/ National Immunization Coverage Survey (MICS/NICS), 2017" and "Acute Malnutrition Among Children, And Humanitarian Interventions in Conflict Affected Regions, Nigeria, 2017". He is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Statisticians of Nigeria (CISON) and the National Association of Professional Statisticians (NAPS). He is also a member of the Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM), the Royal Statistical Society (RSS) in the UK, and the International Association of Official Statistics (IAOS). In his spare time, he enjoys reading, listening to music, and watching lawn tennis and football. In May 2022, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, appointed him as the Statistician-General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer, National Bureau of Statistics, a position which he currently occupies.

Bongo Adi

Professor of Economics and Data Analytics, Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University, NigeriaR

Bongo Adi is a Professor of Economics at Lagos Business School, Pan-Atlantic University, Nigeria. He is a Development Economist, Corporate Strategist, Data Scientist, AI Automation Engineer and Deployment Strategist, PPP and Project Finance expert, with over two decades of experience in research, consulting, development policy advisory, capital raising, business development, and data analytics. He is one of Nigeria's leading policy economists with an international media footprint. Among numerous professional engagements, Professor Adi chairs and sits on the board of several blue-chip companies and NGOs. He is the chairman of the editorial subcommittee of NESG and a former technical advisor to the President of Nigeria Economic Society. Prof Adi is an award-winning economist with several best paper awards, including the 2026 ESCA Africa Case Lab 1st Place position for his case on public finance technology surveillance.

Morayo Adisa

Director, Government Affairs & Policy, West Africa, Mastercard, Nigeria

Morayo Adisa is a Public Policy and Competition Law expert with over 15 years' experience in public policy, public interest research, investigations, competition law, consumer protection, stakeholder engagement, and advocacy. She is deeply committed to promoting national, regional, and international dialogue on policy development and currently serves as Director for Government Affairs and Policy lead for Mastercard in West Africa. Morayo was a pioneer staff of Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (FCCPC), Nigeria, where she served as Technical Consultant to the Executive Vice Chairman and CEO, leading key investigations and contributing to the development of policies and operational standards for the Commission. Callled to the Nigerian Bar in 2008, Morayo holds an LLB Degree from the University of Lagos and an LLM in International Human Rights and Terrorism Law from Lancaster University, United Kingdom. She is also an alumna of the United States International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP).

Tayo Aduloju

Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Economic Summit Group
(NESG), Nigeria

Tayo At the helm of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, my stewardship is driven by a vision for an inclusive, technologically-advanced Africa, where multidimensional poverty is eradicated. My expertise in economic strategy and policy advocacy is grounded in more than two decades of consulting and advisory roles, where I've partnered with leaders across business and government sectors to foster sustainable growth. My tenure reflects a stewardship of the NESG private sector-led board's commitment to shape a prosperous future by creating a modern, inclusive, open, competitive and sustainable Nigerian economy. The NESG benefits from my strategic approach to economic policy and my dedication to mobilizing transformative leadership within the continent. The organization's progress in research and program execution is a testament to our collective efforts in promoting a globally competitive Nigerian economy

Robert Agbede

Board Member, Central Bank of Nigeria ,
Nigeria

Mr. Robert Agbede is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Chester Group Inc. and Chester LNG, LLC. A distinguished engineer and business leader, his leadership is central to managing a diverse portfolio of investments in technology, engineering, and energy infrastructure. Prior to his current roles, he served as CEO of Chester Engineers, the largest African-American-owned engineering firm in the United States before its merger with Hatch Associates in 2017. He also chairs the board of Sigma Paints Nigeria and has held leadership positions in various organizations, including Vice Chairman of Hatch USA. He serves on the boards of the University of Pittsburgh, CNX, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and is actively involved in advancing education and minority business development.

Olugbenga Agboola

Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Flutterwave
United States

Mr. Olugbenga Agboola, OON is the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Flutterwave, one of Africa's largest and most successful payments technology companies. Since co-founding the company in 2016, he has built Flutterwave into a pan-African payments powerhouse operating across multiple countries and enabling seamless transactions for businesses and consumers. As CEO, he leads the company's global strategy, product development, international expansion, and mission to simplify payments and financial connectivity across Africa. A recipient of Nigeria's national honour (Officer of the Order of the Niger – OON), he is recognized as one of the continent's most influential voices in fintech and digital economy development

Adamu Ahmed

Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria

Professor Adamu Ahmed is an academician, Professor of Urban Development and Regional Planning and currently serving as the Vice-Chancellor of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria. With over three decades at ABU, where he teaches in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Ahmed has held administrative roles including Head of Department for four years and Director of the university's Directorate of University Advancement. From 2019 to 2021, he served as Commissioner for Lands and Survey in Bauchi State, applying his expertise in planning to public policy. His academic work focuses on urban management and development, supported by qualifications including a BSc in Geography (1985), MSc in Urban and Regional Planning (1990), and PhD in the field (2000). In June 2024, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu appointed Professor Adamu Ahmed as Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Governing Council of the Federal University of Education, Kano, a federal institution established under the Nigerian government's higher education framework. This role positions him as the chief overseer of the university's governance, policy direction, and compliance with federal regulations on tertiary education. Prior to this, Ahmed served multiple times as a member of Federal Government Visitation Panels to various Nigerian universities, tasked with investigating administrative, academic, and financial operations to recommend reforms to the Minister of Education. These panels, constituted under the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, provide independent assessments to ensure accountability and efficiency in federally funded institutions.
Additionally, in 2012, he participated in the Federal Government Needs Assessment Team, evaluating infrastructure, funding, and developmental needs at the University of Ibadan, Obafemi Awolowo University, and Osun State University to inform national intervention strategies for public universities. These assignments underscore his involvement in federal oversight mechanisms aimed at strengthening Nigeria's tertiary education sector through empirical audits and policy recommendations.

Segun Ajayi-Kadir

Manufacturing Association of Nigeria,
Nigeria

Seasoned technocrat and passionate advocate for the industrial development of Nigeria and Africa. As CEO of one of the foremost business membership organisations in Africa, I lead other professionals in the advocacy for a more conducive environment for manufacturing business; enhancement of the sector's competitiveness and sustainable economic development in general. With over three decades of experience serving in virtually all parts of Nigeria and playing leading roles in sub-regional and continental bodies, I have consistently championed initiatives supporting industrial growth, fostering innovation and creating a favourable business environment. An alumnus of the foremost government think-thank institution in Nigeria, I am a keynote speaker, strategist, active media commentator, stakeholder coordinator, government liaison expert and project manager. Currently serve as a member of the Presidential Economic Coordinating Council and the Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms. I play key multidimensional support roles on government initiatives and lead private sector engagements and collaboration in policy formulation and implementation. I am passionate about collaboration with key stakeholders to develop strategies that boost Nigeria's manufacturing productivity and global reach. Committed to making lasting impact on African industrial landscape and wellbeing of its people.

Zeal Akaraiwe

Chief Executive Officer,
FMDQ Group Plc
Nigeria

Mr. Akaraiwe is the Chief Executive Officer of FMDQ Group PLC. Prior to his appointment, he was the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Graeme Blaque Advisory Limited and previously held several leadership roles at Standard Chartered Bank Limited, across Nigeria, Zambia, and the United Kingdom. He has played a significant role in the development of Africa's financial markets, having pioneered several derivatives transactions and contributed to key market and regulatory initiatives. He is a Past President and Governing Council Member of the Association of Corporate Treasurers of Nigeria, a Non-Executive Director of FirstCap Limited, and has served on several industry committees and advisory groups supporting the growth and development of Nigeria's financial markets. Mr. Akaraiwe is also deeply committed to philanthropy and social impact, with a strong interest in initiatives focused on community development and humanitarian support.

Stéphane Akaya

Secretary-General, Ministry of Economy and Finance
Togo

Dr. Stéphane Kpowbié Tchasso Akaya is the Secretary General at the Ministry of Finance and Budget of Togo. Holding a Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA), he is a highly recognized economist and public policy strategist. He coordinates state economic reforms, budget execution, and partnerships with international financial institutions

Oluyele Akinwale Akinkugbe

President & Vice-Chancellor, James Hope University Nigeria

Prof. Akinkugbe's academic foundation is rooted in rigorous quantitative analysis and its practical application. He holds a doctorate in Applied Econometrics from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, where his pioneering thesis developed a 197-equation macro-model of the Nigerian economy. This work, completed as part of the prestigious Ford Foundation-sponsored LINK Project—a global economic modeling consortium—placed him at the frontier of macroeconomic policy translation, a lifelong commitment to bridging high-level research with real-world impact that has defined his entire career. Over four decades, he has held leadership roles at some of the world's most respected institutions, teaching and leading in universities across Nigeria, South Africa, Zambia, Eswatini, Botswana, Namibia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Cambodia, and Rwanda. His leadership footprint is substantial: he served as Dean of the largest faculty at the University of Namibia, overseeing more than 10,000 students and close to 70 faculty and staff, and as Head of Economics at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Most recently, he served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) at the University of Kigali, Rwanda, where he played a key role in advancing that institution's strategic growth and global positioning. Beyond academic administration, Prof. Akinkugbe is renowned for his ability to transform institutions. His leadership philosophy—centred on sustainable governance, financial resilience, faculty development, and deep community engagement—has resulted in successful faculty restructurings, robust quality assurance systems, and the cultivation of impactful international partnerships. His influence also extends deeply into the world of policy. As a respected advisor in the global community, he is frequently sought after by numerous regional and multilateral institutions—the World Trade Organization (WTO), African Caribbean and Pacific regional grouping (ACP); Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA); United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP in New York, Swaziland, Lesotho, South Africa, Zambia, etc.); the African Development Bank (AfDB); Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA); the Commonwealth International; etc. He served and continues to serve as a consultant/resource person on a wide range of economic and social issues. He is a seasoned academician with a substantial number of papers in international peer reviewed Journals and has edited Books, attended several academic conferences and workshops in Africa, Europe, North America, and Asia. Notable contributions include designing Barbados' national macroeconometric model and advising on youth employment and industrial strategy across Southern Africa. A prolific scholar, his research addresses pressing issues in energy economics, trade policy, health and education financing, and poverty dynamics, consistently bridging the gap between academic discourse and tangible policy change.

Olubukola Akinniyi Akinwunmi

Director of Banking Supervision, Central Bank of Nigeria , Nigeria

Dr. Olubukola Akinniyi Akinwunmi is the Director of Banking Supervision at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). A seasoned central banker with over two decades of experience, his leadership is central to regulatory oversight, innovation, and transformation within Nigeria's financial services sector. He has played a pivotal role in landmark initiatives, including the National Payment System Strategy, Real-Time Gross Settlement System, Cash-Less Policy, Open Banking, Regulatory Sandbox, and the Nigeria Central Switch. He holds a PhD in Economics, is a Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (FCA). He serves on the Governing Councils of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) and the Financial Institutions Training Centre (FITC), and is a Board Member of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC).

Beatrice Akpan

Directorate Head, UBA Plc Abuja

Beatrice Akpan is the Directorate Head, Abuja, UBA Plc, with responsibility for the Bank's Corporate, Commercial, SME, and Retail Banking businesses across the Federal Capital Territory. She previously served as Regional Manager, Lagos, overseeing 36 branches. With extensive banking experience gained across diverse leadership roles, she is a recognized expert in Oil & Gas and Corporate Banking, with a strong track record in business growth, client relationship management, and strategic execution.

Muslimat Olanike Aliyu

Board Member, Central Bank of Nigeria.

Mrs. Muslimat Olanike Aliyu is the Founder of Abadal Orphanage Home in Suleja. A retired public servant and lawyer with over 27 years of experience in the banking industry, her leadership is central to the orphanage's operations, staff management, financial oversight, and policy direction. Prior to founding the orphanage, she had a distinguished career at the Central Bank of Nigeria from 1990 to 2017, where she held key positions in Branch Operations and Banking Supervision, including coordinating CBN branches nationwide and conducting examinations of commercial banks. She previously worked as a State Counsel at the Federal Capital Development Authority and as a Junior Partner at Orifunmishe & Co Chambers.

Hakama Sidi Ali

Ag. Director, Corporate Communications and Investors Relations Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

Hakama Sidi Ali is the Coordinator of the Corporate Communications Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria. An experienced communication executive with over two decades of experience spanning strategic stakeholder engagement, media relations, and reputation management, she plays a central role in guiding internal and external communications for Nigeria's monetary authority. She serves on the Enforcement and Compliance Committee of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) and holds executive memberships across major professional bodies, including the International Public Relations Association (IPRA), the African Public Relations Association (APRA), and the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN). Recognized for her leadership in public communication, she was named to the 2024 PR Power List and awarded the NIPR Distinguished Spokesperson in Financial Services Award.

Ofure Yvonne Alika

Ag. Director of the Legal Services Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria , Nigeria

Mrs. Ofure Yvonne Alika is the Acting Legal Adviser and Director of the Legal Services Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). She provides strategic legal counsel to the Bank and oversees the management of civil and criminal litigation, regulatory compliance, and legal risk across the institution. With over two decades of service at the CBN, she has extensive experience in banking and finance law, litigation, alternative dispute resolution, and financial sector regulation. She also served on the committee that drafted Nigeria's National Policy on Arbitration. Mrs. Alika is a member of the Chartered Institute of Mediators and Conciliators (Nigeria) and the International Bar Association, and holds several professional certifications in law.

Justin Amase

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Macrostrat Nigeria Limited, Nigeria

Dr. Justin Amase is a transformational manager, development policy, and finance and investment advisory expert, and currently serves as the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Macrostrat Nigeria Limited, a development policy and research firm based in Abuja. He holds a B. Sc. (Hons), and M. Sc., Economics from the University of Jos, and a PhD in Economics at the University of Abuja. Dr. Amase studied at the prestigious Manchester Business School, Manchester, England for his Global Masters in Business Administration (MBA) in Global Financial Management. He has over 25 years of career banking and finance experience, and served on the economic team of President Buhari as the Head of Secretariat overseeing the Policy Analysis and Technical Team of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council/Office of the Chief Economic Adviser to the President. He has been a member of several policy reform initiatives by international development partners and for the Nigerian government on national development plans. Dr. Amase is a former State Commissioner, who also represented his state government on various national engagements and committees such as the Nigerian Infrastructure Masterplan and National Information Council.

Ifediora Amobi

Economic Consultant, eConcepts Nigeria, Nigeria

Ifediora Amobi, Policy economist, lecturer, adviser and consultant to governments with over 30 years global experience in policy reform, investment and institutional development

Catherine Chinedum Aniagolu-Okoye

Regional Director for West Africa, Ford Foundation

A Development Sociologist with over 21 years experience in gender, building Civil Society Organisations' (CSOs) capacity, training, good governance, budget reform, migration, networking, HIV/AIDS, project design and management, monitoring and evaluation, public policy and gender mainstreaming.

Festus Akuetteh Ankrah

Senior Research, Business and Consulting Manager, Associates for Change, Ghana

Mr. Festus Akuetteh Ankrah is an economist with over 12 years of experience in research, advocacy, consultancy, and non-governmental organization management. He currently serves as the Senior Research, Business and Consulting Manager at Associates for Change (AfC), where he oversees several research and development projects, including GPE KIX and IDRC-funded initiatives. Previously, he worked with IMANI Centre for Policy and Education as a Research Associate and Social Policy Team Lead, and later as a Business Analyst at E.N. Omaboe Associates Limited. Over the years, Mr. Ankrah has consulted for numerous local and international organizations, including the GPEKIX, IDRC, World Bank Group, UNICEF, WaterAid, STAR-Ghana Foundation, ATLAS Network, Ford Foundation, DANIDA, and OSIWA. His expertise spans market research, financial analysis, education, economic policy, health, governance, and water and sanitation. He currently serves as the MEL and Knowledge Management and Mobilization Expert on regional education projects in Ghana, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso and is the Project Manager for the NORRAG's IFE Impact evaluation of the Ghana Education Outcomes Project (GEOP) and the Sierra Leone Education Innovation Challenge (SLEIC). His extensive experience in research and policy analysis continues to contribute to evidence-based decision-making and development practice across Africa

Mussie Delelegn Arega

Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries, and Special Programmes, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Switzerland

Mussie Delelegn Arega PhD, is Head of Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch of UNCTAD's Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes. He has worked on trade and development-related issues for almost 30 years and is currently responsible for analytical, technical, and normative work of UNCTAD in support of developing countries in fostering productive capacities and structural economic transformation. Over the years, he has also led the conceptualization, development, an implementation of various country-specific and regional projects, including the design and application of UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index (PCI), National Productive Capacities Gap Assessments (NPCGAs) and Holistic Productive Capacities Development Programmes, in several developing countries. His work on development governance and resource economics at UNCTAD has led to the establishment of Regional Centres of Excellence (RCEs) in Africa and Asia. Mussie Delelegn's research includes productive capacities building, structural economic transformation, export diversification, private sector development, and the understanding of the main drivers and enablers of growth and development. He has published extensively on these and related topics, including, authoring the book "Africa-China partnership: An Holistic Analysis", recently published by Routledge. In his spare time he enjoys reading, hiking and listening to music

Jonathan Aremu

Professor of International Economic Relations,
Covenant University
Nigeria

Jonathan Adeyemi Aremu is a Professor of International Economic Relations and a former Acting Vice Chancellor of Covenant University (CU), Ota, Nigeria, from 2004 to 2005. He is also a consultant at ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) on the Common Investment Market (ECIM) in Abuja. Aremu started a successful career at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) where he rose from Assistant Economist in 1980 to become the Acting Assistant Director of Research before voluntarily retiring in December 1992; and established Marketlink Consults Ltd in 1998. At national level, Aremu was among the experts appointed by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2012 to develop a Trade Policy for implementation in Nigeria; in October, 2018 he was a Member of the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the Nigeria Impact and Readiness Assessment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), and currently a Member of the National Action Committee (NAC) on AfCFTA. Aremu was appointed as the National Consultant of United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) that developed the AfCFTA National Strategy for Nigeria. He was also a Coordinator in one of the main Technical Working Groups established by the Federal Government that developed the National Development Plan 2021-2050. He is also the Consultant that developed the adopted Nigeria Investment Policy in May 2023. In ECOWAS Region, Aremu was appointed by European Union (EU) as the Monitoring Expert for the preparation of an ECOWAS Investment Guarantee /Reinsurance Mechanism (2012); and the Financial Expert that drafted ECOWAS Common Investment Code and Policy by European Union. He is the Lead Consultant on the Common Investment Market (ECIM), to coordinate the establishment of ECOWAS Payments and Settlement System (EPSS), West African Capital Market Integration (WACMI), ECOWAS Common Investment Code and Policy, among others till present. He was a Member of ECOWAS Tax Harmonization Committee; Expert who conducted the Study on ECOWAS Trade in Services Policy Review, assisted by UNCTAD (published 2020), and he is also providing Technical Assistance to the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI) activities. Aremu is an expert appointed by GIZ and the ECOWAS Commission to provide capacity building to both the Commission and the Member States in the negotiation and implementation of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol for the ECOWAS region. He is also the Consultant who developed the Procedural and Manual of Operation of ECOWAS ECIM Council to implement AfCFTA Investment Protocol and the ECOWAS Investment Code and Policy. He is now being seconded by the EU, through Expertise France Groupe AFD, in the implementation of the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment at the ECOWAS region, relying on the ECIM Council institutional arrangement. At Continental and International levels, Aremu was the National Coordinator/Country Team Leader of UNIDO Investment Survey in Nigeria in 2009-2012; Member of the technical experts that developed the Pan African Investment Code (PAIC) that was used in the development of adopted Investment Protocol of AfCFTA; and currently a Member of the Technical Experts appointed African Union (AU) towards Sustainable Investment across AU Member States since 2019. Currently, Aremu has been appointed by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in Geneva in 2026 as an International Consultant for the development of Trade and Investment Facilitation of South Sudan into the East Africa Community (EAC), AfCFTA Investment Protocol, and World Trade Organization (WTO) Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement (IFDA). Professionally, Aremu is a life member of both the Nigerian Economic Society (NES) since 1990 as well as Nigerian Society of International Law (NSIL) since 1998; a member of Nigerian Institute of International Affairs since 1993; and the current Facilitator of Trade, Investment and Competitiveness Commission of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) as well as Member of the National Economic Advisory Council. Prof Aremu is also currently the Chairman of the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) on Trade and Investment Group; and a Member of the Editorial Board of the Canadian Institute for International Law Expertise (CIFILE), Toronto.

Efosa Asemota

Deputy Manager, Public Relations & Stakeholder Management , Revenue Service, Nigeria

Efosa Asemota is a human resource officer at the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), where he works to ensure the prompt compensation of staff and pensioners their due entitlements. Efosa holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the University of Benin and upon return from the fellowship, he plans to focus on capacity building and better customer service for staff within FIRS.

Elsie Gyekyewaa Attafuah

Resident Representative, United Nations
Development Programme (UNDP)
Nigeria

Ms. Elsie Gyekyewaa Attafuah currently serves as the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria, having assumed the position on 2 February 2024. In this capacity, she leads UNDP's Nigeria office and steers the programme and operations portfolio, ensuring alignment with strategic priorities and coherence across the organization's engagements in the country. With a career that spans over 25 years, Ms. Attafuah is widely regarded as a seasoned development professional and high-level UN executive. Her strengths lie in evidence-based strategy formulation and policy development, institutional management and reforms, programme design and execution, forging high-level partnerships, and mobilizing financing instruments and investment platforms.

El-Yakubu Audu

Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer,
Investonaire Academy
United Arab Emirates

El-Yakub Audu is a fintech entrepreneur, youth empowerment advocate, and visionary leader committed to advancing financial inclusion and economic prosperity across Africa. As the Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Investonaire Academy (www.investon.ai), he leads the organization's vision, strategic direction, partnerships, and impact agenda, driving innovative solutions that empower young people to participate meaningfully in the emerging digital economy. Driven by a strong commitment to inclusive growth, El-Yakub co-founded Investonaire Academy, a pan-African platform dedicated to providing free financial literacy education, economic empowerment programs, and entrepreneurship development opportunities for young Africans. Through Investonaire, he is also building mission-driven fintech solutions that promote financial inclusion, expand access to financial services, and support sustainable social and economic development across emerging markets. Under his leadership, Investonaire has established strategic collaborations with key public and private sector stakeholders, including a landmark partnership with the Federal Ministry of Youth Development and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, aimed at equipping young Nigerians with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to build successful enterprises and achieve financial independence. As an advocate and thought leader on youth development, innovation, and financial empowerment, El-Yakub continues to champion initiatives that bridge opportunity gaps, foster entrepreneurship, and accelerate Africa's transition toward a more inclusive and prosperous future.

Nonye Ayeni

Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer,
Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)
Nigeria

Mrs. Nonye Ayeni is the Executive Director/CEO of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), where she leads Nigeria's non-oil export transformation in alignment with the economic diversification agenda of His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's Renewed Hope Agenda.Since her appointment in October 2023, she has driven sustained growth in Nigeria's non-oil export sector through strong collaboration with stakeholders across the export value chain. Under her leadership, Nigeria's non-oil exports has increased by 35.6% to an all-time high of USD 6.1 billion — the highest level recorded since NEPC was established in 1976 and in the history of the country. In the same vein, the volume of non-oil export also hit a record breaking 8.o2million metric tonnes. Her strategic reforms cuts across different segments of trade facilitation and non-oil export development in the areas of capacity building to equip exporters with the tools and technical capabilities to play competitively in the global market, ensuring adherence to quality and standards to avoid rejects, mainstreaming informal trade, facilitating international certifications to improve global competitiveness for Nigerian businesses, and aggregating the exporters especially MSMEs, women and youth into clusters to drive grassroots mobilization for sustainable economic growth and development. A strong advocate for innovation, value addition, digital trade, and e-commerce particularly for women-led businesses, her leadership positioned NEPC and Nigeria as one of only four Business Support Organisations (BSO) globally, selected to implement the inaugural Women Exporters in the Digital Economy (WEIDE) Fund. The initiative, launched by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Trade Centre (ITC), supports women entrepreneurs to compete in the global digital marketplace. Prior to NEPC, Mrs. Ayeni was the pioneer Managing Director/CEO of Signature Bank Limited and served as Deputy Managing Director at FETS Limited, a leader in Nigeria's fintech space. Her earlier career at Zenith Bank spanned key leadership roles across Treasury and Correspondent Banking, Business Development, Human Resources, Foreign and Domestic Operations, E-Business, and Retail Banking among others. She was Group Treasurer for over 12 years . Her banking career started at Citibank, where she laid the foundation for a distinguished career in the financial services sector. She has served on many Boards including FMDQ Group - Nigeria's largest securities exchange - Signature Bank, Zenith General Insurance, Zenith Registrars (now Veritas Registerers), Quantum Zenith Securities, and the Private Sector Health Alliance of Nigeria (PSHAN), among others. Her board experience reflects her broad cross-sector influence. She is widely travelled and has attended several management and leadership training programmes globally including Harvard Business School, Wharton Business School, among others. She holds an MBA from the University of Lagos, and she is an alumna of INSEAD Business School, France, where she completed the Advanced Management Studies. She has also successfully completed Level II of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Programme. Mrs. Ayeni is a recognised voice on trade facilitation and Africa's economic transformation. She served as an Ambassador for the Intra-African Trade Fair 2025 in Algeria — Africa's largest Pan-African trade platform, chaired by former President Olusegun Obasanjo. She is Nigeria's Head of Delegation to UN-CEFACT (United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business) and plays an active role within the ECOWAS Trade Promotion Organisations Network where NEPC serves as the permanent secretariat. She has led high-level government delegations on trade facilitation programmes, study tours, and trade missions, representing Nigeria on international platforms across the world. She has spoken on various platforms in the United States, China, the United Kingdom, Turkey, Switzerland, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, South Africa, The Gambia, and beyond. Through these engagements, she continues to advocate for stronger intra-African trade, improved export competitiveness, and deeper regional collaboration in line with the objectives of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and ECOWAS regional integration efforts. With over 28 years of experience across the financial sector, banking, e-business, fintech, and trade development, Mrs. Ayeni remains committed to strengthening Nigeria's non-oil export ecosystem through innovation, policy reform, and strategic partnerships.

Olubunmi Ayodele-Oni

Ag. Director of the Compliance Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria ,
Nigeria

Mr. Olubunmi Ayodele-Oni is a seasoned financial regulator and governance professional serving as the Acting Director of the Compliance Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria. With over 20 years of experience, including about 15 years in banking supervision, he has contributed significantly to regulatory policy, governance, and risk oversight across Nigeria's financial system. His expertise spans corporate governance, regulatory compliance, financial crime risk management, cybersecurity and technology risk, ESG oversight, and enterprise risk governance. He has played a key role in the development of supervisory frameworks and regulatory standards that promote financial stability and institutional resilience. He is a CFA charter holder, Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), and Associate Chartered Accountant (ACA)

Melvin Ayogu

Board Member, Central Bank of Nigeria , Nigeria

Professor Melvin Ayogu is a Teaching Professor of Economics at Emory University, Atlanta. An accomplished economist and academic leader, his expertise is central to political economy research, with a focus on illicit financial flows, infrastructure, institutions, and the relationship between violent conflict and natural resources in Africa. He has held senior academic and leadership positions including Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Chair of the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town, Director of the Executive MBA programme, and Director of the Global Leadership Center at Standard Bank Group. He is a former Fellow of the Africa Growth Initiative at the Brookings Institution and has been a Visiting Scholar at the IMF, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Harvard University, and Oxford University. He is an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Financial Services, London.

Nkiru Balonwu

Adviser to the Governor on Strategic
Communication and Stakeholder Engagement,
Central Bank of Nigeria,
Nigeria

Dr. Nkiru Balonwu is the Adviser to the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria on Stakeholder Engagement and Strategic Communication. A lawyer, strategist and institutional communications specialist, she has built a multidisciplinary career spanning public policy, technology, strategic communication, gender advocacy and Africa's creative and knowledge industries. She is the Founder and Creative Director of the Africa Soft Power Group, home to Africa Soft Power, African Women on Board and RDF Strategies, platforms that work to strengthen African participation in global conversations, advance women's leadership and develop stakeholder-engagement and communications strategies for public and private sector institutions. Dr. Balonwu served as a Senior Fellow at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at Harvard Kennedy School and has held board and executive leadership roles in several media and pan-African institutions. She currently serves on the boards of FIPP, Asaase Radio and the Africa Prosperity Network.

Ayodele Bakare

Assistant Director, Cybersecurity Department,
National Information Technology Development
Agency (NITDA),
Nigeria

Dr. Ayodele Bakare is a leading Nigerian cybersecurity and digital transformation expert, serving as Assistant Director at the National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA). A Fellow of the Institute of Information Management (FIIM) and the Institute of Business Development (FIBD). Dr. Bakare holds multiple international certifications in cybersecurity, risk management, IT service management, Artificial Intelligence and project management. He has played a key role in advancing Nigeria's cybersecurity frameworks, promoting Zero Trust architecture, and leading initiatives that have trained thousands of Nigerians in blockchain and emerging technologies. An internationally respected speaker and thought leader, Dr. Bakare has represented Nigeria at various global fora, including the Gulf Information Security Expo and Conference (GISEC) and the Arab International Cybersecurity Conference (AICS) offering insights on cybersecurity strategies, AI transformation, digital transformation, and emerging technologies. He remains passionate about driving innovation, enhancing digital trust, and creating a secure, inclusive, and prosperous digital future for Nigeria and Africa.

Ola Bello

Executive Director, Good Governance Africa
Nigeria

Dr. Ola Bello obtained both his MPhil and PhD degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and also holds a First Class BSc degree from the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. He has worked for organisations including the United Nations (New York) and Management Systems International (Washington DC), Merchant International Group (London) and Arthur Andersen (late KPMG). Dr Ola has more than 15 years experience in research and policy advisory. His principal expertise span governance and extractive sector reform (oil, gas and mining); sustainable development; and international development cooperation (including in EU-Africa relations). He spent three years with FRIDE (Spain) managing a donor-funded programme on the EU's role inmanaging fragility and resource governance in select African countries. In 2012-2015, he was Head, Governance of Africa's Resource Programme (GARP) at the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and also functioned as head of SAIIA's Cape Town office. Ola currently leads GGA's technical work to support Nigerian governance reform, including delivering ethics training for senior Nigerian judicial officers and change-makers since 2017. He has championed GGA's engagement as in-country resource centre for multilateral consultative missions to Nigeria's ministries and parastatals, including visits by the UNECA/AU mineral sector governance team.

Suman Bery

Former Deputy Chairman, Niti Ayog (National Institute for Transforming India), Government of India; Non-
Resident Fellow, Bruegel Think Tank Brussels, India

Until May 7, 2026, Mr. Suman Bery was Vice Chair, NITI Aayog, in the rank and status of a Union Government Cabinet Minister. He was appointed to this position effective May 1, 2022 by NITI Aayog's Chairman, the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. At the time of his appointment, Mr. Bery was a Global Fellow in the Asia Programme of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre for Scholars in Washington D.C. and a non-resident fellow at Bruegel, an economic policy research institution in Brussels. He was also on the board of the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, New Delhi. Between 2012 and 2016, Mr. Bery was Royal Dutch Shell's global Chief Economist based in The Hague. In this capacity, he advised the board and management on global economic and political developments. He was also part of the senior leadership of Shell's global scenarios group. During his time at Shell, he led a collaborative project with Indian think tanks (later published) to apply scenario modeling to India's energy sector Before his appointment at Shell, Mr. Bery served as Director-General (Chief Executive) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in New Delhi-one of India's most respected institutions of empirical socioeconomic research. During his tenure, NCAER greatly extended its global links and was recognized as one of India's leading think tanks by the independent global Think Tank Initiative.In his decade leading NCAER, Mr. Bery was at various times member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council; of India's Statistical Commission; and of the Reserve Bank of India's Technical Advisory Committee on Monetary Policy. He commented extensively in the media on economic issues, and contributed a monthly column to an Indian business newspaper. Prior to NCAER, Mr. Bery was with the World Bank in Washington D.C., which he joined through the Young Professionals Programme. His career at the World Bank spanned research on financial sector development and country policy and strategy, notably in Latin America and the Caribbean. His country experience included Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru. His experience on financial sector reform in Latin America led to an appointment as Special Consultant to the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India between 1992 and 1994. His professional writing includes contributions on the political economy of reform, financial sector and banking reform, and energy trends and policy. He has a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs (earlier the Woodrow Wilson School), and an undergraduate degree in philosophy, politics and economics from Magdalen College, University of Oxford.

Ijebor Blaise

Director of the Risk Management Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria

Dr. Blaise Ijebor is the Director of the Risk Management Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria, where he leads enterprise-wide efforts to identify, evaluate, and mitigate operational, financial, and cybersecurity risks across the apex bank's mandate. A seasoned risk strategist and financial sector leader, he brings over 25 years of international experience spanning executive roles in global banking and central banking operations. Prior to his current role, Dr. Ijebor held senior leadership positions in the UK—including EMEA Head of Risk and Controls for Citibank Operations and Technology, and Global Chief Risk Officer for Barclays Wealth Advisory—before returning to Nigeria to spearhead key CBN initiatives in IT risk, AML/CFT assessments, and risk-based supervision. He holds a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Benin and an MBA from Cranfield School of Management, alongside numerous advanced certifications in risk management, cybersecurity, and financial strategy.

Lars Boilesen

Group Co-Chief Executive Officer, OPay
Nigeria

Mr. Lars Boilesen is the Co-Chief Executive Officer of OPay, a leading digital financial service and fintech platform operating primarily in Nigeria and other emerging markets. He joined OPay in late 2025, bringing decades of global technology and business leadership experience. As Co-CEO, he is responsible for regulatory affairs, business implementation, strategic expansion, and strengthening the company's position as a major player in Africa's digital banking and payments ecosystem. A seasoned international executive with a strong background in scaling technology companies, he plays a key role in driving OPay's growth and operational excellence across emerging markets.

Andrzej Bolesta

Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, United NationsConference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Switzerland

Dr. Andrzej Bolesta was educated at the University of Oxford, where he obtained his master's degree, and at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where he was awarded his PhD. He has 25 years of experience in international development, having worked in the UN system, international diplomacy, and academia. His career in the United Nations included positions at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and focused on the challenges facing developing countries, especially LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and countries affected by violent conflict. As a senior diplomat, he was responsible for economic affairs and development cooperation in his country's regional missions in Beijing and Bangkok. During his time in academia, he headed a centre for developing economies. He has written two books and edited seven volumes on development, as well as authored or co-authored more than 40 papers in refereed journals, book chapters, and UN reports.

Seydou Bouda

President and Chief Executive Officer, United Bank for Africa;
Former Minister of Economy and Finance
Burkina Faso

Dr. Seydou Bouda is an economist, international consultant, former Cabinet Minister, former Ambassador of Burkina Faso to the United States, former Executive Director of the World Bank Group representing 23 African countries, and business executive.NHe currently serves as Chief Executive Officer of Burkina Mining Services.BF SA (BMS.BF SA), a company specializing in mining support services, Chairman of the Board of United Bank for Africa (UBA) Burkina Faso, and Independent Director of several corporations. As an international consultant, he advises governments and private-sector organizations on public development policies, economic governance, resource mobilization, economic intelligence, strategic management, and institutional capacity building. From 2014 to 2018, he represented Burkina Faso and 22 other African countries on the Board of Executive Directors of the World Bank Group as Executive Director for the Africa Group II Constituency.Previously, he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Burkina Faso to the United States of America, with concurrent accreditation to Mexico and Argentina (2011–2014). Within the Government of Burkina Faso, he successively held the positions of: Minister of Economy and Development (2002–2007), Minister of Civil Service and State Reform (2007–2008); Minister of Health (2008–2011); Secretary General of the Government and the Council of Ministers (2000–2002). Throughout his public service career, Dr. Bouda led several major national reforms, including the preparation of Burkina 2025, the country's first National Long-Term Prospective Study, national territorial planning policies, public administration modernization, and significant reforms in the health and employment sectors. He also chaired or represented Burkina Faso within several international institutions, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), the ECOWAS Bank for Investment and Development (EBID), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Dr. Bouda holds a Master's Degree in Economics, a Postgraduate Diploma (DESS) in Project Economics from the University of Montpellier I (France), and a Doctorate from Clermont Auvergne University (France). He is also a graduate of the French National School of Administration (ENA) (Érasme Class, 1999–2000), the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM), Paris, and the Harvard Kennedy School, where he earned an Executive Certificate in Public Leadership.

As an international consultant, he has worked with major development institutions, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF). During his distinguished national and international career, he has traveled to 83 countries across the five continents.Dr. Bouda is a Grand Officer of the National Order of the Stallion of Burkina Faso and a Commander of the Order of Health and Social Action

Fernando Jorge Cardoso

Executive Director, Club of Lisbon
Portugal

Fernando Jorge Cardoso is a full professor at the Autonomous University of Lisbon since October 2021. He has been a collaborator of the Instituto Marquês de Valle Flôr since September 2012 and co-founder and executive director of the Club of Lisbon, a platform for reflection and debate on global challenges and security issues, since April 2017. He holds a degree in economics (1976) from the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique and a doctorate in economics (1991) with agrégation (2006) from the Higher Institute of Economics and Management at the University of Lisbon. He has over a hundred publications in scientific journals, books and chapters in books and newspapers, on development, African issues and international relations. In Mozambique, he was Director of the Faculty of Economics at Eduardo Mondlane University (1978-1983), adviser to the Minister of Planning (1977-1983) and Executive Chairman of the Maragra sugar company (1983- 1985). In Portugal, he held research, training and management posts in several universities (1991-2021) and was coordinator of the Africa programme at the Institute for Strategic and International Studies, IEEI (1991-2012). He was Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Europe-Africa Policy Research Network, EARN (2007-2014). As a consultant, he has prepared and evaluated several cooperation programmes in Mozambique, Angola, Cape Verde and the PALOP group, for Portuguese and European entities. He is a regular contributor to the Institute of National Defence and the Institute of Military Studies and an occasional commentator on African and international relations in various media. In recent years, his studies have focused on development studies, geo-economics and security, with a particular emphasis on Africa.

Lourdes Casanova

Senior Lecturer and Academic Director, Emerging Markets Institute, Cornell S.C. Johnson College of Business
Spain

Lourdes Casanova is a visiting professor at Haas School of Business, University of California at Berkeley; Judge Business School, University of Cambridge; Latin American Centre, University of Oxford and University of Zurich. Consultant Inter-American Development Bank. Authored and Co-authored several books and articles. Formerly at INSEAD, specializes in international business with focus on emerging markets multinationals. Awarded in 2014 and 2015 one of the 50 most influential Iberoamerican intellectuals by Esglobal. Faculty Fellow at the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future. Fulbright Scholar with Masters from University of Southern California and PhD from University of Barcelona. Member of Latin America Global Agenda Council and Competitiveness in Latin America taskforce of World Economic Forum, B20 Task Force on ICT and Innovation, G20 summit, Los Cabos (2012), Goldman Sachs 10,000 women initiative. Board member Boyce Tompson Institute, MYDocumenta, Societé des Amis du Chateau de Fontainebleau and Advisory Council of the Tompkins Public Library. Founding board member Emerging Multinationals Research Network. Co-founder of Ithaca Hub, Global Shapers. Writer of op-ed Latin Trade http://latintrade.com/ and regular contributor to CNN en español http://cnnespanol.cnn.com/ .Member of Latin America Global Agenda Council and Competitiveness in Latin America taskforce of World Economic Forum, B20 Task Force on ICT and Innovation, G20 summit, Los Cabos (2012), Goldman Sachs 10,000 women initiative. Board member Boyce Thompson Institute, MYDocumenta, Societé des Amis du Chateau de Fontainebleau and Advisory Council of the Tompkins Public Library. Founding board member Emerging Multinationals Research Network. Co-founder of Ithaca Hub, Global Shapers. Writer of op-ed Latin Trade http://latintrade.com/ and regular contributor to CNN en español http://cnnespanol.cnn.com/

Abisoye Coker-Odusote

Director General, National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Nigeria

Bisoye Coker-Odusote is the general manager/CEO of the Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency (LASIMRA) who has been appointed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu as Director General (DG) of the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC). Coker-Odusote brings a wealth of experience to her new role as acting DG which will follow the terminal vacation of the office by the outgoing DG/CEO of the commission, Aliyu Abubakar Aziz, who has been asked to proceed on a 90-day retirement leave from August 24 after which, a full term of four years will begin as the substantive NIMC boss on November 24, 2023.

Felix Costales Artieda

High Commissioner of Spain to Nigeria, Spain

Felix Costales Artieda has a Degree in Law. He joined the Spanish Diplomatic service in 1986. He has served in various Spanish diplomatic missions abroad, such as Mexico, Tunisia, Italy and Holy See. He was the head of Cabinet of the Spanish Secretary General for Foreign Policy 2003 - 2004. He was the Deputy Political Director from 2004 - 2008. The Ambassador of Spain to the Democratic Republic of Congo 2008 - 2012. The Secretary General of the Council of Spain-Brazil Foundation 2012 - 2015. The Ambassador of Spain to Tanzania 2015-2018. Senior Advisor for Maritime Security Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2022-24

Faith Dafe Joseph

Media Executive and Managing Director at Rapid Broadcsating Network Limited.

Result-oriented Media Executive and Managing Director with 15+ years of experience in journalism, content strategy, and broadcast leadership. Her career sits at the intersection of editorial excellence, audience engagement, and organisational growth.

Faith has led and anchored high-impact radio shows, mini-documentaries, webinars, podcasts, and X Spaces, interviewing senior public officials, policymakers, and business leaders. Her professional background includes TodayFM Portharcourt, Classic FM Abuja, Lagos Talks, Avalon Daily, and Nairametrics. Currently, Faith is Managing Director at Rapid Broadcasting Network, where she also leads the Programmes and News Units. She provides strategic oversight for news and programming, drives content innovation, and supports revenue-aligned media initiatives. She additionally hosts Business Lens, the network's flagship business show airing Mondays and Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. She is passionate about building credible media institutions, mentoring talent, and using journalism as a tool for informed decision-making and societal impact.

Hannatu Dalhat

Strategy Advisor for international Partnerships

Accomplished senior public sector and international development professional with over 25 years of progressive leadership experience in government relations, programme operations, institutional partnerships, administration, financial management, and strategic planning within the Kaduna State Government and the World Health Organization. Proven expertise in building high-impact partnerships with federal and state governments, multilateral organizations, diplomatic missions, and development partners to deliver sustainable development outcomes.
Recognized for leading complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives that have mobilized significant public financing, strengthened institutional capacity, and improved public service delivery. Successfully facilitated strategic projects including the ₦185 billion Kaduna Bus Rapid Transit initiative, recovery of ₦9 billion for water infrastructure, expansion of social housing programmes, implementation of innovative health logistics through drone technology, and resolution of complex intergovernmental negotiations involving pensions, customs, and development financing. Brings extensive experience in programme and project management, grants administration, procurement, financial oversight, human resources management, emergency operations support, and compliance with international standards. Demonstrated ability to manage large multidisciplinary teams, oversee donor-funded programmes, strengthen governance systems, and foster productive relationships across government, development agencies, civil society, and the private sector. A strategic, results-oriented leader with exceptional negotiation, stakeholder engagement, and policy advisory skills, committed to advancing sustainable development, strengthening public institutions, and delivering measurable impact through effective partnerships and operational excellence

Philippe Dessoy

President, Confederation of International
Contractors' Associations (CICA)
France

Graduated in the year 1983 in civil engineering from the University of Brussels, Belgium. The next year he landed a job for CGEE Alstom and Spie Batignolles on the project of the Cairo Metro (phases 1 and 2), and worked there for four years as a Site Engineer. In 1989, he joined the BESIX Group in the Belgian head office as a civil estimator for the International markets. He moved to Dubai in September 1992 to be in charge of the tender department for the GCC operations of BESIX-Six Construct. From here he was promoted to Deputy General Manager of Six Construct in 2003, and then finally to General Manager in June 2007. Philippe DESSOY was instrumental in expanding Six Construct's activities in the Gulf area to where it is today. Philippe Dessoy has helped spur Six Construct into becoming one of the most competitive foreign firms in the region. Large contract wins in the last few years has helped grow the firm's reputation, as both a single main contractor and within a joint venture. The latter includes work on the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest structure, and Cleveland Clinic in Abu Dhabi. As well as having a key part to play in the development of the region's flagship projects, he was also responsible for all the operations of BESIX Group in the GCC, mainly Oman, the UAE, Qatar, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. Beginning 2014, Philippe Dessoy has been promoted as General Manager of BESIX Group, in the Head Office in Belgium, where he is in charge specifically of all Business Development activities worldwide. From April 2015, till September 2020, Philippe Dessoy has been President of the European International Contractors (EIC). From April 2019, Philippe Dessoy has been elected as Senior Vice President of CICA (Confederation of International Contractors 'Associations) and will take the Presidency at the end of November 2022 for a term of 2 years. He so takes part in many meetings with institutions very active in the construction field (Multilateral Development Banks, World Bank, FIDIC, National and Regional Federations).

Alain Ebobissé

Chief Executive Officer, Africa50,
Morocco

Mr. Alain Ebobissé is the CEO of Africa50, the pan-African infrastructure investment platform capitalized by the African Development Bank, over 33 African sovereign nations, and central banks. A leading authority on infrastructure finance and project development, he spearheads the platform's mandate to bridge Africa's infrastructure gap by mobilizing both public and private sector capital. Prior to joining Africa50, he served as the Global Head of the World Bank Group's Global Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IFC InfraVentures) (2008–16). In this capacity, he led a global team of specialists in the development of and investment in critical infrastructure across Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

Ray Echebiri

Chief Executive Officer, Center for Financial Journalism (CFJ)
Nigeria

Ray Echebiri is a consummate financial journalist, economist, financial analyst, researcher and author. He is the Founder/Chief Executive Officer of Centre for Financial Journalism (a media capacity-building and research outfit) and Editor-in-Chief of NextMoney, an authoritative financial publication. Before founding Centre for Financial Journalism and NextMoney, Ray had worked with some reputable media houses in Nigeria, occupying top editorial positions such as Assistant Editor, Business Editor, Deputy Editor, Member Editorial Board, Editor, Editor-in-Chief. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Guild of Editors. A widely-travelled journalist, Ray has covered many high profile local and international events, including Nigerian Economic Summit (various editions), The World Bank/International Monetary Fund annual meetings (in different countries), African Development Bank annual meetings (in different countries), The World Economic Forum, African Export Import Bank (Afreximbank) annual meetings (in different countries), Intra African Trade Fair, Cairo, Egypt, etc. Ray has attended many conferences, workshops, seminars and training programmes within and outside the country. He has also presented papers and moderated sessions at many conferences, workshops, seminars and trainings around the world. He has to his credit many scholarly articles in high-impact journals. Ray is the author of Rage of the Risk God: A Reportage of the Lamido Sanusi Banking Reforms, a book which documented the impact of the catastrophic global financial crisis of 2008/2009 on the Nigerian banking industry and the concomitant regulatory intervention by the Central Bank of Nigeria; The Power of One Man: How the Soludo-Engineered Consolidation Transformed Nigerian Banks to Global Players, a book that documented Nigeria's economic reforms, especially the banking consolidation of 2004/2005; and editor of Pathways to Nigeria's Socio-Economic Transformation: Timeless Thoughts that Can Catalyse Nigeria's Socio-Economic Development Ray studied for B.Sc. (Economics) at the University of Calabar, Nigeria, as a Mobil scholar, and MA (Development Economics) at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, United Kingdom, as a British Chevening scholar. He holds PhD (Economics) from Babcock University, Nigeria

Ngozi Eunice Egbuna

Former Director General, West African Monetary Institute, Ghana, and Chair, World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Nigeria, Nigeria

Prof. (Mrs.) Ngozi Egbuna recently retired as Director General of the West African Monetary Institute where she was on Secondment from the Central Bank of Nigeria. The first female Director General of the Institute. She is currently the Director, International Centre for Regional Integration and Trade Research at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka – Anambra State, Nigeria Also, a visiting faculty member of two private Universities namely the Bingham University, Nasarawa, Nigeria and the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, Nigeria. In these Universities, Prof Ngozi Egbuna teaches International Trade Theory and Practice, Taxation and Fiscal Policy, Public Enterprise budget and finance policy, Economic Development Policy Analysis and Gender and Development Policy at the Post Graduate Schools.

She is a Harvard trained and astute economist with over three decades of strategic and focused leadership in central banking, economic research, monetary policy formulation and financial/economic integration in the West African sub region. Vast knowledge of the economies of West Africa with a track record of implementing innovative solutions that yielded sustainableeconomic growth and development across the sub-region. Her accomplishments include the facilitation of the Afrieximbank sponsored “Linkage of Payment System” infrastructure in the West African Monetary Zone (WAMZ) PAPSS, which has enabled trade within the member states to quote and trade within the region in their local currencies. She is an author of several books and academic papers as well as a life member of the Nigerian Economic Society and fellow of the Nigerian StatisticalAssociation amongst others.

Valentina Egedeye

Former Director General, West African Monetary Institute, Ghana, and Chair, World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Nigeria, Nigeria

Prof. (Mrs.) Ngozi Egbuna recently retired as Director General of the West African Monetary Institute where she was on Secondment from the Central Bank of Nigeria. The first female Director General of the Institute. She is currently the Director, International Centre for Regional Integration and Trade Research at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka – Anambra State, Nigeria Also, a visiting faculty member of two private Universities namely the Bingham University, Nasarawa, Nigeria and the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, Nigeria. In these Universities, Prof Ngozi Egbuna teaches International Trade Theory and Practice, Taxation and Fiscal Policy, Public Enterprise budget and finance policy, Economic Development Policy Analysis and Gender and Development Policy at the Post Graduate Schools.

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Tonna Ejiofor

Head, Debt Solutions and Financial
Advisory, FirstCap Limited, Nigeria

Tonna is an Investment Banker with 20+ years experience raising capital for some of the largest projects in Nigeria. Over the past 12 years, Tonna has focused on financial advisory, debt structuring and project finance of big ticket transactions in Oil & Gas, Power and Infrastructure. He has advised, structured and raised project finance debt valued at over US$10 billion in Oil, Gas and Power sub-sectors. Some of his landmark deals include advising the Nigerian Sovereign Investment Authority on the funding mechanism for the Second Niger Bridge, a critical South East Infrastructure. He also led the team that raised funding for the Egbin Power Acquisition, Geregu Power, Ikeja Disco, Sapele Power and First Independent Power plants. He advised the Central Bank of Nigeria on the landmark N213Billion CBN Electricity Market Stabilization Facility. He led the team that closed the largest and longest tenured naira commercial bank loan in Nigeria. Previously, he advised
LASG on the landmark Island Power Project financing in 2011, a project that set the scene for embedded power financing in Nigeria. He holds a first degree in Accountancy, a Masters degree in Energy Finance from the University of Dundee (2009) and a PhD, Finance (2023). He is writer and author of the book "Financing IPPs in Nigeria: Can the Island Model be an Alternative?". He is also an entrepreneur with investments in emerging sectors.

Chukwunonso Ekesiobi

Lecturer and Researcher, Department of Economics,
Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, Anambra
Nigeria.

Dr. Chukwunonso Ekesiobi is an economist, researcher, academic administrator, and policy strategist specialising in energy economics, policy economics, and sustainable development. He is a Lecturer in the Department of Economics at Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU), where he earned a First Class degree in Economics, becoming the first graduate in the history of the department to achieve that distinction. He subsequently obtained an MSc in Public Sector Economics and a PhD in Energy and Policy Economics from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. With well over a decade of experience in teaching, research, policy analysis, and university administration, Dr. Ekesiobi has built a distinguished career at the intersection of academia, public policy, and sustainable development. He currently serves as the Head of the Policy and Strategy Office of COOU and is also a member of the University's Governing Council. As part of his membership in several professional bodies within and outside Nigeria, Dr. Ekesiobi serves as a Council Member and National Editor of the Nigerian Association for Energy Economics (NAEE) and as the National Assistant Secretary of the Nigerian Economic Society (NES). Through these roles, he contributes to professional development, research dissemination, policy advocacy, and the advancement of economics scholarship in Nigeria. Dr. Ekesiobi actively participates in conferences, workshops, editorial activities, consultancy assignments, grant-funded projects, and collaborative research initiatives. His scholarly works continue to attract growing citations and recognition through publication in leading international journals, contributing to policy discussions in his field.

Tony Elumelu

Chairman, Heirs Holding; Chairman, United Bank for Africa (UBA), Nigeria

Tony O. Elumelu is an African investor and philanthropist. e is the founder and Chairman of Heirs Holdings, his family-owned investment company, committed to improving lives and transforming Africa through long-term investments in strategic sectors of the African economy, including financial services, hospitality, power, energy, technology & healthcare. Tony is also the Chairman of the United Bank for Africa(UBA), which operates in 20 countries across Africa, the United Kingdom, France, the UAE & United States. He also chairs Nigeria's largest quoted conglomerate, Transcorp whose subsidiaries include Transcorp Power, one of the leading producers of electricity in West Africa and Transcorp Hotels Plc, Nigeria's foremost hospitality brand.

He is the Founder and Chairman of Heirs Energies, Africa's largest integrated energy company, committed to Africa's equitable transition to alternative energy. Tony is the most prominent champion of entrepreneurship in Africa. In 2010, he created The Tony Elumelu Foundation(TEF), the leading philanthropy empowering a new generation of African entrepreneurs, catalysing jobs creation, driving poverty eradication and ensuring inclusive economic empowerment across all 54 African countries. Since inception, the Foundation's flagship programme has identified and funded18,500 entrepreneurs and created a digital ecosystem of over one million Africans, as part of a ten-year US$100m commitment to fund, mentor & train young Africans. Tony's businesses and the Foundation are inspired by his economic philosophy of Africapitalism, which positions the private sector, and most importantly entrepreneurs, as the catalyst for the social and economic development of the African continent. The Federal Government of Nigeria granted Tony the titles, Member of the Order of the Federal Republic in 2003, Commander of the Order of the Niger, in 2012, and Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic in 2022, for his contribution to Nigeria's economic and social development. In 2020, in recognition of his business leadership and economic empowerment of young African entrepreneurs, he was named in the TIME100 Most Influential People in the World, and recognised with Belgium's oldest and highest royal order. In 2022, TIME again recognised Tony with its inaugural TIME100 Impact list, honouring him alongside five other global leaders who have gone above and beyond to move their industries–and the world–forward. Tony sits on a number of global boards, including the Global Leadership Council of United Nations Generation Unlimited.

Mohammed Bello El-Rufai

Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Banking Regulations, National Assembly
Nigeria

Hon. Mohammed Bello El-Rufai is the Chairman of the House Committee on Banking Regulations and the Member representing Kaduna North Federal Constituency. Born in 1988, he holds a B.A in Political Science & International Relations from Wheaton College, Massachusetts, and an M.Sc. in Public Relations & Corporate Communications from Georgetown University. Before his election to the House of Representatives in 2023, he served as Chief of Staff to Senator Uba Sani, contributing to a record number of bills passed. He has since sponsored over 20 bills, focusing on judicial reform, financial regulation, state policing, and the protection of vulnerable populations.. Hon. El-Rufai also leads impactful constituency interventions in education, healthcare, nfrastructure, and youth empowerment. He serves as a Board Member of the Yasmin El-Rufai Foundation and is the founder of the Hamza El-Rufai Foundation.

Job Eronmhonsele

Executive Director, Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED)
Nigeria

Job Imharobere Eronmhonsele is an experienced development practitioner, researcher, programme manager, policy-engagement specialist, and Executive Director of the Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED), Benin City, Nigeria. He has over 17 years of progressive professional experience in research, programme management, institutional leadership, policy engagement, strategic communication, capacity building, and the implementation of multidisciplinary development projects across Nigeria. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng.) in Production Engineering, with Second Class Upper Division, and a Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Industrial and Production Engineering, both from the University of Benin. He also holds a Master's degree in Health Planning and Management (MHPM) at the University of Benin. His multidisciplinary academic background enables him to bridge engineering, health systems, development research, institutional management, and evidence-informed policymaking.Engr. Eronmhonsele joined CPED in 2008 and has risen through several positions of increasing responsibility, including Programme/Communication Officer, Senior Programme Officer and Head of Communications, Deputy Executive Director, Acting Executive Director, and, since January 2025, Executive Director. In these roles, he has contributed significantly to institutional strategy, programme development, project implementation, stakeholder engagement, research coordination, policy communication, organisational management, and the supervision of multidisciplinary teams. His research and development experience spans public health, health systems strengthening, maternal and child health, sexual and reproductive health and rights, climate change adaptation, food security, gender equality and women's empowerment, pastoral livelihoods, governance, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. He has participated in and coordinated research and intervention projects supported by leading international organisations and development partners, including the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada; European Union; World Bank; Canadian Institutes of Health Research; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; West African Health Organization; Cowater International; and Management Sciences for Health/USAID. His professional expertise includes research design, quantitative and qualitative data collection, training and supervision of research assistants, community mobilisation, stakeholder mapping and engagement, project coordination, monitoring and evaluation, report writing, policy brief development, knowledge translation, policy dialogue, and the dissemination of research evidence to policymakers, communities, civil society organisations, and other evidence users. He has extensive experience engaging national, state, local government, and community-level stakeholders to translate research findings into actionable policy recommendations and practical development interventions. Engr. Eronmhonsele has undertaken specialised professional training in leadership, think-tank management, gender action learning, grants management, monitoring and evaluation, strategic costing, organisational sustainability, policy engagement, and research communication. These include the Developing Leaders Program for Nonprofit Professionals at Columbia Business School, New York, as well as international capacity-development programmes in Guatemala, Uganda, Ghana, Senegal, and Kenya. He is also an active researcher and author with numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals, policy briefs, policy papers, and discussion papers. His publications address issues relating to women's empowerment, rural health, climate change, food security, pastoral livelihoods, primary healthcare, gender inequalities, governance, and community resilience. He has participated in and presented at major international conferences and policy forums across Africa, Europe, Asia, and North America. Through his leadership at CPED, Engr. Eronmhonsele remains committed to strengthening locally led research, advancing evidence-informed policymaking, promoting inclusive and sustainable development, and ensuring that the voices and experiences of vulnerable and marginalised populations are meaningfully reflected in research, policy, and development interventions.

Evelyn Dan Epelle

Public Affairs Strategist, Baobab Consulting
Nigeria

Evelyn works at the intersection of strategic communications, policy engagement, and development systems design, helping organizations translate complex policy issues into narratives that influence decision-making across government, philanthropy, and global development institutions. Her work focuses on strengthening the relationship between evidence, public discourse, and resource flows, particularly in areas such as governance reform, inclusive finance, and gender equity. Through research translation, coalition building, and public engagement, she supports institutions and networks working to expand opportunity and amplify voices often underrepresented in global policy conversations.

Alex Ezenagu

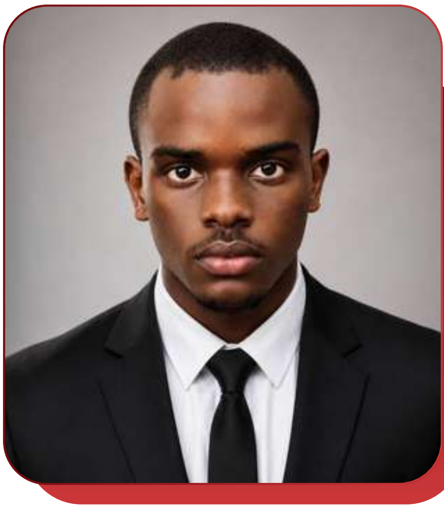
Partner, Dumon Partners
United Arabs Emirate

Dr. Alexander Ezenagu is Partner at Dumon Partners covering Sub-Saharan Africa. He is also the Founder and Chief Consultant of Sapient Consulting Group, a full-service professional firm, with offices in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo, amongst others. Dr. Alexander Ezenagu was Associate Professor, Director of Policy Studies and Co-Director of the Centre for Trade and Regional Integration at the African School of Governance based in Kigali, Rwanda.

He holds a PhD in Civil Law from McGill University, Canada and is a Professor of law with a career spanning over 15 years across Africa, Europe and the Middle East. He was, until recently, the Director of the AfCFTA Policy and Development Hub and Senior Research Fellow at Strathmore University Business School, Kenya. He was a Professor of Law at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), a member of Qatar Foundation, Qatar. He specializes and practices in a myriad of areas including: general law, investment and commercial law, trade and international tax law, construction and infrastructure development law, regulatory compliance, and developmental governance among others.

Within the last decade, he has been a great resource in rendering legal, research and expert consulting services to international organizations such as the UNDP, UNCTAD, CODA,MEFMI; corporate organisations as well as Universities and Institutions across Qatar, Hong Kong, Canada, USA, UK, Kenya and Nigeria. He is a graduate of the University of Cambridge, UK, McGill University, Canada and the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Dr. Ezenagu is a prolific author and has several articles published in high impact journals. As Chief Consultant of Sapient Consulting Group Limited, Dr. Ezenagu supports investors seeking to invest in the African market



Eric Chimuanya Eze

National President, Nigerian Economics Students' Association, University of Nigeria, Nigeria

Eric Chimuanya Eze is an emerging economist, finance professional, policy researcher, and youth leader committed to driving sustainable economic transformation through evidence-based policy, strategic leadership, and innovation. Currently serving as the National President of the Nigerian Economics Students' Association (NESA), I lead a nationwide network of economics students across more than 80 university chapters in Nigeria. In this capacity, He has spearheaded national initiatives, forged strategic partnerships with public and private sector organizations, and led programs focused on policy development, professional advancement, innovation, and youth empowerment.

His professional experience spans finance, economic research, policy analysis, stakeholder engagement, and project management. Through the PARG a research organization, TFIS (Finance) and other professional development initiatives, I have strengthened my expertise in financial analysis,investment fundamentals, and strategic decision-making. I have also completed leadership and finance development programmes that have enhanced my ability to translate analytical thinking into impactful action. As a policy enthusiast, He was part of one of the Top Five teams in the Enugu State Policy Challenge, where I contributed to developing practical policy solutions to pressing socioeconomic issues. This experience deepened my passion for designing policies that are both data-driven and implementable. His interests lie at the intersection of development economics, digital transformation, public policy, and institutional development. I am particularly passionate about building partnerships that connect young people with opportunities while contributing to inclusive economic growth across Africa.

Tope Kolade Fasua

Special Adviser to the President on Economic Affairs, Nigeria.

31 years of experience and counting as of today (2023). I have worked in banking and in Management Consulting. I am a proficient writer, public speaker and analyst. I am also a teacher. I am currently a non-executive director in major companies and I'm available to offer my services when asked. I've written ten books and thousands of articles. I ran to be president of Nigeria in 2019.

Abdullahi Mahmood Garba

Special Adviser on North East Region, Nigerian Economics Students' Association, Sa'adu Zungur University,
Nigeria

Abdullahi Mahmood Garba, Economics Student | NESA Vice President (SAZU Chapter) | Special Adviser to NESA
National President (North East) | Member, NAEE/IAEE | Member NES.
Passionate about economic development and energy economics, I combine academics with leadership and initiative. Currently serving as Vice President of NESA SAZU Chapter and Special Adviser on North East affairs, 1 am also organizing a conference for economics students in the North East region to promote research, collaboration, and policy engagement.
Eager to connect with professionals and organizations driving impact in economics, energy, and regional development

Indermit Gill

Chief Economist and Senior Vice President for Development Economics, World Bank Group, United States

Indermit Gill is Chief Economist of the World Bank Group and Senior Vice President for Development Economics. He brings to the role a broad combination of leadership, expertise, and practical experience working with governments on macroeconomic imbalances, growth, poverty, institutions, conflict, and climate change. Before starting this position on September 1, 2022, Gill served as the World Bank's Vice President for Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions, where he played a key role in shaping the Bank's response to the extraordinary series of shocks that have hit developing economies since 2020. Between 2016 and 2021, he was a professor of public policy at Duke University and non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution's Global Economy and Development program. Gill is widely regarded for his contributions to development economics. He spearheaded the influential 2009 World Development Report on economic geography. His pioneering work includes introducing the concept of the "middle-income trap" to describe how countries stagnate after reaching a certain level of income. He has published extensively on key policy issues facing developing countries—among other things, sovereign debt vulnerabilities, green growth and natural-resource wealth, labor markets, and poverty and inequality. Gill has also taught at Georgetown University and the University of Chicago. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago

Selma Malika Haddadi

Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission,
Algeria

H.E. Selma Malika Haddadi (Algeria) is a career diplomat and legal expert. She is the former Ambassador of Algeria to Ethiopia and Permanent Representative to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa where she served from 2024. From 2023 to 2024, she served as the Director General of Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Community Abroad. 2019- 2023, H.E. Haddadi was the plenipotentiary and Extraordinary Ambassador of the Republic of Algeria to Kenya. She also served in a similar position as the plenipotentiary and Extraordinary Ambassador of the Republic of Algeria to South Sudan.
Prior to that, H.E. Haddadi was the Minister Counselor and Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Algeria to Ethiopia and the African Union from 2015 to 2019. She also served as Deputy Director for Social Development, General Directorate for Political Affairs and International Security. For one year from 2012, she was the Head of the Algerian office for Refugees and Stateless Persons, General Directorate for Legal and Consular Affairs in Algeria. In the earlier years, she served as the Counselor, Head of Political Section, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations in Geneva. H.E. Haddadi was sworn in as a lawyer and member of the Algiers Bar Association in 2002. She has a Master of Art in Public and Private International Law from the Peace and Development Law Institute, Law School, Nice- Sophia Antipolis University. She also has a Master's Degree in Private Law from the Law School, Nantes University.

Keith Heffer

Chargé d'Affaires, U.S Mission to Nigeria
Nigeria

Mr. Keith L. Heffer is the Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the United States Mission to Nigeria, representing the United States as the senior-most American diplomat in the country. A seasoned diplomat and career member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service, he provides strategic leadership in advancing the strong bilateral partnership between the United States and Nigeria. His responsibilities encompass political, economic, security, and commercial cooperation, with a focus on strengthening trade and investment ties, regional security, governance, and people-to-people relations. Thus far, he has had a distinguished diplomatic career spanning over three decades. Prior to arriving in Abuja, in 2025, for his current assignment, he had served at various periods as Minister Counselor for Management at the U.S. Missions to Japan and France/the OECD. In Washington, D.C., he once served as Deputy Executive Director in the Executive Office of the Secretary of State.

Okezie Aloysius Ihugba

Senior Lecturer, Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri, Nigeria

Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics and Immediate Past Head of Department, with expertise in development economics, entrepreneurship, SME development, renewable energy, public policy, and sustainable development. Experienced in teaching, research, and consultancy, with numerous publications in reputable national and international journals and presentations at academic conferences. Committed to evidence-based research, policy analysis, and capacity building for sustainable economic development.

Pamela Titi Igoche

Assistant General Secretary, Economics Department, Veritas University

Igoche Pamela Titi is a dedicated and analytical 300-level Economics student at Veritas University, Abuja, with a strong academic foundation in economic theory, quantitative analysis, and policy studies. She has cultivated a keen interest in Econometrics and Monetary Economics, where she applies analytical and data-driven approaches to understanding complex economic issues. Her commitment to academic excellence and lifelong learning continues to shape her growth as an aspiring economist. Pamela is currently undertaking her second consecutive summer internship at the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), Nigeria, following the successful completion of her first internship with the organization. During her first internship, she served in the National Accounts Department, where she gained practical experience in the compilation and analysis of national economic indicators and national accounting systems. She is presently attached to the Price and Trade Statistics Department, where she contributes to price monitoring, trade statistics, and economic data management. These experiences have strengthened her quantitative, analytical, and research skills while deepening her appreciation for the role of official statistics in evidence-based policymaking and sustainable national development. Beyond academics, Pamela currently serves as the Assistant General Secretary of the Nigerian Economics Students Association (NESA), Veritas University Chapter. In this capacity, she supports the administration of the association by coordinating official correspondence, maintaining records, assisting in the planning and execution of academic programmes and events, and facilitating effective communication among members and the executive council. Her leadership reflects her commitment to excellence, accountability, teamwork, and service. Pamela possesses strong competencies in leadership, communication, research, project management, analytical thinking, critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and public speaking. She complements these strengths through active participation in student politics, debates, sports, volunteer initiatives, church activities, and community service, experiences that have enhanced her interpersonal skills and reinforced her passion for servant leadership. Herr professional interests include economic development, poverty reduction, gender equality, sustainable development, and youth empowerment. She aspires to build a distinguished career as an economist, contributing to the design and implementation of evidence-based policies that promote inclusive economic growth and improve socioeconomic outcomes in Nigeria and beyond. Recognized for her discipline, intellectual curiosity, and strong work ethic, Pamela approaches every opportunity with professionalism, integrity, and a desire for continuous improvement. Driven by excellence and committed to lifelong learning, she remains dedicated to developing the knowledge, leadership, and technical expertise required to make meaningful contributions to economic research, public policy, and national development.

Chisom Jane Ikechukwu

Youth Advocate & Deputy Speaker, The Nigerian Youth Parliament
Nigeria

hisom Jane Ikechukwu, Esq., is a dedicated legal practitioner and the Deputy Speaker of the Nigerian Youth Parliament. She has demonstrated exceptional leadership and an unwavering commitment to youth and community development through several impactful initiatives in recent months. In August, she successfully coordinated the Young Women in Enterprise 5-Day Program, which provided capacity building opportunities for emerging female entrepreneurs. In September, she served as one of the key stakeholders representing the ECOWAS Private Sector during the establishment of the ECOWAS Business Council, where she contributed her expertise to advancing regional economic integration and promoting youth inclusion in policy discussions. Most recently, in October, she is set to spearhead an Empowerment Program for Inmates and Their Representatives, following successful deliberations and formal approval from the FCT Comptroller General of Prisons. This initiative underscores her passion for rehabilitation, social justice, an inclusive growth. Throughout her career, Chisom Ikechukwu has exhibited integrity, intelligence, and initiative consistently applying her skills and influence to promote sustainable youth development. Her professionalism, moral uprightness, and dedication to service distinguish her as a young leader of remarkable promise. She remains a worthy ambassador of Nigerian youth and a strong advocate for positive change

Chinedu Ikegwoha

Team Lead, Payment and Reconciliation,
NIRSAL Microfinance Bank,
Nigeria.

Prince Chinedu Ikegwoha is an accomplished Nigerian banking professional with extensive experience in development finance, financial inclusion, and business development. He is a dedicated leader with a strong passion for empowering individuals, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and promoting sustainable economic growth through innovative financial solutions. Born in December 1972, Prince Chinedu Ikegwoha hails from Orlu Local Government Area of Imo State, Nigeria. He is a proud Christian whose personal and professional life is guided by the principles of integrity, diligence, accountability, and service to humanity. He is happily married and has consistently demonstrated a commitment to both family values and national development. Prince Chinedu obtained a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) degree from Imo State University (IMSU), where he built a solid academic foundation that prepared him for a successful career in banking and finance. Driven by a desire for continuous learning and professional excellence, he further earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Baze University,in view .Abuja. His postgraduate education strengthened his expertise in strategic management, corporate leadership, financial analysis, and organizational development. Throughout his professional career, Prince Chinedu has accumulated valuable experience in the Nigerian financial services sector. He currently serves as a Team Lead at NIRSAL Microfinance Bank, where he plays a significant role in implementing initiatives that support financial inclusion, agricultural financing, entrepreneurship, and access to affordable credit for individuals and businesses. His responsibilities involve coordinating teams, developing business strategies, nurturing customer relationships, and ensuring the successful delivery of financial products and services that contribute to national economic development. As a banking professional, Prince Chinedu has demonstrated strong leadership, effective communication, and exceptional interpersonal skills. He has successfully managed teams, mentored colleagues, and built lasting relationships with clients and stakeholders across different sectors of the economy. His ability to identify opportunities, solve complex problems, and drive organizational performance has earned him the respect of colleagues and business partners alike. Beyond his professional responsibilities, Prince Chinedu is passionate about community development and social impact. He actively supports initiatives that promote entrepreneurship, youth empowerment, financial literacy, and economic self-reliance. He believes that access to finance, coupled with the right knowledge and guidance, can transform lives and contribute meaningfully to national prosperity. Prince Chinedu is also deeply rooted in his cultural heritage and values the traditions of his community. He participates actively in family and community affairs, demonstrating leadership, responsibility, and respect for cultural institutions. His ability to balance professional excellence with community service reflects his commitment to making a positive difference both within and outside the workplace. Known for his integrity, professionalism, and dedication to excellence, Prince Chinedu approaches every responsibility with enthusiasm and a results-oriented mindset. He values teamwork, innovation, accountability, and continuous improvement. His leadership style encourages collaboration, inspires confidence, and promotes high performance among those he works with.

Chinedu Ikegwoha

Team Lead, Payment and Reconciliation,
NIRSAL Microfinance Bank,
Nigeria.

As the financial services industry continues to evolve, Prince Chinedu remains committed to expanding his knowledge, embracing innovation, and contributing to policies and initiatives that strengthen Nigeria's financial ecosystem. He is particularly interested in advancing financial inclusion, supporting agricultural value chains, and promoting sustainable enterprise development through development finance. With years of practical experience, sound academic qualifications, and an unwavering commitment to excellence, Prince Chinedu Ikegwoha has established himself as a dependable and forward-thinking professional. His career reflects a consistent pursuit of impactful leadership, ethical service, and meaningful contributions to the growth of Nigeria's economy. He continues to inspire confidence through his professionalism, strategic thinking, and dedication to empowering individuals, businesses, and communities, making him a respected figure in the banking and development finance sector.

Evaristus Ikpa

National Chairman, Association of Graduate Economics Students (AGES), Department of Economics, University of Calabar, Nigeria

Evaristus Ikpa is the National Chairman of the Association of Graduate Economics Students and a Doctoral Candidate at the Department of Economics, University of Calabar with research interest in Development Economics, International Trade, Natural Resource Economics and Macroeconomic. Evaristus is adept at analyzing complex concepts and providing insights into a wide range of economic discuss.

Muhammad Nuruddeen Isa

Professor of Economics,
Department of Economics, University of
Abuja, Nigeria

Isa, Muhammad Nuruddeen is a Professor of Economics in the Faculty of Social Science, University of Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria. He holds a PhD from the University of Abuja (2014). He is currently the Director, General Studies Directorate of the University as well Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Seminar Coordinator of the Department of Economics. He was the Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Social Science (2016 – 2018) and Head of Department of Economics (2018 – 2021). His current research is on Transport Economics, Microeconomics, Infrastructure and Sustainable Transport and Financial Economics. He has successfully supervised three (12) PhD's. He is currently supervising seven (07) PhD's. He attended several conferences, seminars, workshops and symposiums in the field of Economics and Finance. He was appointed a full Professor in 2020. He has taught full time for twenty four (26) years. Furthermore, he has several publications in both local and international journals. He is a life member of the Nigerian Economics Society (NES), Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM), Institute of Management Consultants (IMC) and Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers (CIS)

Hartmut Janus

Head of Project, GIZ Nigeria and ECOWAS Commission
Germany

Dr. Janus has worked for more than 20 years as Senior Economic Advisor. Since 2026, he leads programmes to support the ECOWAS Commission in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and to foster Trade in Services in West Africa, based in Abuja (Nigeria). From 2020 to 2026, he headed a programme on entrepreneurship promotion in Morocco with the Ministry of Economics and Finance. Prior to that, he spent six years as Director of a programme supporting the regional economic integration of Lao PDR into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. From 2009 to 2014, he accompanied as Senior Advisor at GIZ headquarters in Germany all programmes in the area of regional economic integration and cooperation. Dr. Janus is an economist. He studied public finance in Nordkirchen (Germany), then economics and business administration at the Ruhr-University in Bochum (Germany). He wrote his PhD. Thesis on private capital inflows and the investment behaviour in emerging markets and developing countries as research fellow at the Institute of Development Research and Development Policy (IEE). His fields of expertise cover economic policy, trade, business and investment climate, private sector and financial system development as well as public finance.

Musa Itopa Jimoh

Director of the Payments System Policy
Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

I hold a BSc in Computer Engineering from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, and an MBA from Enugu State University of Technology, Nigeria. I also have a certificate in Public Leadership from the Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. Additionally, I have attended the Advanced Management Program at the Lagos Business School, Nigeria, and I am a fellow of the Fletcher School at Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA.

With several years of work experience in the banking and payment services industry, I have worked at First Bank Nigeria, FSB International Bank Nigeria, ValuCard Nigeria Ltd, and is currently employed at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). I have undergone various international trainings, including the Payment System and Oversight training by the Federal Reserve Bank in New York, training on Payment System Policy, Consumer Credit, and Impact on the Payment system at George Mason University in Washington DC, and Project Management and Procurement training from the Institute of Public-Private Partnership (IP3) in Washington DC. I served as Director, Payments System Management Department (December 2019 to November 2023). During the period I served as the Chairman of the Nigerian e-Fraud Forum (NeFF) and the Nigerian Payments Initiatives Coordinating Committee (PICC). I am a member of the Nigerian Institute of Management and the Nigerian Institute of Directors. I have been instrumental in implementing various payment system initiatives such as the Nigerian Payment System Regulatory Sandbox, Open Banking, Contactless payments, and more. I played a significant role in the Technical Working Committee on the Nigerian Central Bank Digital Currency (eNaira), and I led the team that developed the CBN's Payments System Vision 2028 I have also held the position of the Director of Capacity Development Department from November 2023 to December 2024, where I implemented the capacity building strategy of the Bank.I am currently the Director, Payments System Policy Department at the CBN

Yemi Kale

Managing Director and Chief Economist, Research and International Cooperation, African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK)
Egypt

Dr. Yemi Kale is Group Chief Economist & Managing Director, Research & International Cooperation. He was Partner and the Chief Economist as well as Head of Research at KPMG West Africa. He has held significant roles, including Statistician-General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics. Dr. Kale has also worked as an equity analyst at Goldman Sachs and for several years, as a quantitative analyst at Merrill Lynch Financial Services from where he became Group Head of Research and Investment Strategy at Investment Banking and Trust Company Plc. (now Stanbic IBTC Bank plc).

Dr Kale has held the prestigious position of Special Adviser to the Minister of Finance and subsequently, Technical Adviser to the Minister of National Planning before his appointment to Statistician General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer of the Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in 2011, becoming the first chief executive of the NBS to be reappointed for a second term. He has served as the chairman of the National Consultative Committee on Statistics (NCCS) and a member of the Nigerian Economic Management Team (EMT) as well as the Central Bank of Nigeria's Monetary Policy Committee, National Steering Committee on 2nd Peer Review of Nigeria, the Executive Committee of PARIS 21 of the OECD as well as various Presidential Standing Committees. He is also currently chairman of the Nigeria Country Office of Accountability Lab and a non-executive director on several other institutions, and is also currently a member of the Next Bretton Woods think tank group, which is a convening forum for rising international economic policymakers, researchers and financial market leaders covering over 20 countries. He has written widely on fiscal and monetary policy, governance, finance and economic development in Africa.

Dr Yemi Kale holds a B.Sc. in Economics (First class honours) from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. M.Sc. (with distinction) and PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School of Government leadership in government programs. Fellow of the UK Royal Statistical Society, Fellow of the Nigerian Statistical Association & Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Administrators and Researchers of Nigeria, among others

Menachem Katz

Senior Advisor, Emerging Markets Forum, United States

Menachem Katz holds a BA in Economics and Statistics from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and a Ph.D. in International Economics from Columbia University. Menachem Katz served at different positions at the IMF for some 29 years from junior economist to Assistant Director, working on countries in East Asia, Latin America, and Africa; served as mission chief for Niger, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Kenya and Nigeria. In Nigeria, negotiated a Policy Support Instrument, which enabled the government to reach a debt deal with Paris Club creditors, which virtually eliminated Nigeria's external debt. Organized workshops on oil-revenue management with top officials of oil exporting countries in Africa and international oil companies operating in Africa. Led technical assistance (TA) missions as Assistant Director in the Fiscal Affairs Department to Mauritius (fiscal rules and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and program-based budgeting), Mauritania (oil revenue management), and Burkina Faso (tax policy); and coordinated TA work to African countries on public finance. Taught at universities in the US—Columbia College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Cooper Union, Mount Saint Vincent College and Queens College. Published papers on external indebtedness dynamics in growing economies; interest rates, capital flows and taxation; import tariffs and international trade; demographic trends and the future of social programs; oil revenue management; aid absorption, policies and institutions, and on sovereign wealth funds. Helped to establish the Abuja-based economic think tank, CSEA—Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa, and is serving on its board; and has done consulting work for DFID Nigeria in the area of debt management; and for the Washington-Based Centennial Group on JICA projects concerning country risk assessments for Uzbekistan, Cambodia, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Cote d'Ivoire and Ukraine; the World Bank on tax expenditures in Armenia; and for the IMF on management development.

Kenan Karakülah

Senior Economist and Special Assistant to the Vice President, World Bank Group,
United States

Experienced Economist with a demonstrated history of working in the international organization. Skilled in Macroeconomics, Fiscal Policy, Debt Sustainability, and Policy Analysis. Strong finance professional with a Master’s Degree focused in International Development Policy from Duke University.

Rita Ijeoma

Director of the Financial Policy and Regulation Department,Central Bank of Nigeria

Rita Ijeoma Sike (PhD) is Director of the Financial Policy and Regulation Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). She oversees the development of policies and guidelines, licensing procedures and the management of systemic financial risks to safeguard Nigeria's financial stability. With over two decades of experience in banking supervision, regulatory policy formulation, banking and accounting practice, Rita is committed to building structures that promote transparency, strengthen institutional trust, and enhance the safety and resilience of the financial system. She holds a B. Sc. in Accounting from the University of Calabar, as well as M. Sc and Ph.D. in Management from Nile University of Nigeria. She is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Directors.

Maryam Ismaila Keshinro

Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youth Development
Nigeria

Dr. Maryam Ismaila Keshinro (Née Aliyu Ibrahim Tsafe) hails from Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State. She commenced her early educational at Aki Akilu Primary School, Tsafe and Later Capital School, Sokoto before advancing to Federal Government College, Kaduna. Following this foundational education, she pursued a medical degree at the University of Maiduguri. In 2007, she obtained a fellowship in Pediatrics from the West African College of Physicians, affiliated with the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital in Zaria. Dr. Keshinro's quest for knowledge led her to the KIT/Vrije Universitiet in Amsterdam, where she earned a Master of Science in Public Health. Her commitment to continuous professional development is evident in her numerous certifications amongst which are specialized training at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She enrolled in courses some of which are data analysis and global health. In 2011, Dr. Keshinro joined the Federal Civil Service as an Assistant Director and Consultant Pediatrician at the State House Medical Centre. Her dedication and hard work enabled her to ascend to the position of Director (Consultant Special Grade II) by 2019. During her tenure, she held various clinical and managerial roles, such as Head of Department in Pediatrics and Chairman of Clinical Services at the Centre. Additionally, she has made significant contributions to global health initiatives, engaging in efforts to promote the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda across Africa. Her scholarly work includes numerous publications on public health matters featured in respected journals and platforms. She is recognized as a devoted public servant who exemplifies dedication and integrity. In 2019, she was honored with an award for her exemplary service in the Federal Civil Service, presented by the President of Nigeria. In 2024, she was appointed as a Federal Permanent Secretary, where she leverages her vast experience and leadership skills to make a positive impact within the Nigerian Public Service. As Federal Permanent Secretary, she has served in Federal Ministry of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs, and currently Federal Ministry of Youth Development. Dr. Keshinro is key driver of Government policies and reforms. In her current post as Permanent Secretary Federal Ministry of Youth Development, she has emphasised the critical role of the Ministry in shaping Nigeria's future, noting that youths constitute nearly 70% of the country's population. She has focused on aligning the Ministry's mandate with the "Renewed Hope Agenda", emphasizing strengthening youth empowerment, transparency, and the rule of law. She has notably prioritized upgrading the National Youth Service Corps through enhanced stakeholder collaboration, international partnerships and increased funding for infrastructure.

Jade Kichou

Economic Attaché, French Embassy in Nigeria
Nigeria

Jade Kichou is the Economic Attaché for the French Treasury at the French Embassy in Nigeria. She obtained her Master degree in International Political Economy from the London School of Economics and a Master degree in International Security

Harinder Kohli

Founding Director and Chief Executive, Emerging Markets Forum
United States

Harinder Kohli is the Founding Director and Chief Executive of Emerging Markets Forum as well as Founding Director, President, and CEO of Centennial Group International, both based in Washington, D.C. He is the Editor of Global Journal of Emerging Markets Economies. Prior to starting his current ventures, he served over 25 years in various senior managerial positions at the World Bank and before then in the private sector in India and France. He has written extensively on the emergence of Asia, Latin America, Africa and other emerging market economies; financial development; and infrastructure. He is a co-author and co-editor of India 2039—An affluent society in one generation (2010), Latin America 2040—Breaking away from complacency: An agenda for resurgence (2010), A resilient Asia amidst global financial crisis (2010), and Islamic Finance (2011), Asia 2050—Realizing the Asian century (2011), A new vision for Mexico 2042—Achieving prosperity for all (2012), Africa 2050—Realizing the continent's full potential (2014), and Central Asia 2050: Unleashing the region's potential (2016). He led Centennial Group teams that helped ADB and CAF develop their long term corporate strategies. Mr. Kohli is the editor and co-author of the latest book The world in 2050: Striving for a just, prosperous and harmonious global community which was released in Paris on April 12, 2016.

Harpaul Kohli

Senior Economist, Emerging Markets
Forum, United States

Harpaul Alberto Kohli is Senior Economist at Centennial Group International and the Emerging Markets Forum, where he is responsible for all econometrics, economic modeling, and databases. He previously served as Centennial's Manager of Information Resources and as a consultant for the Asian Development Bank. He earned a degree with Honors in Mathematics and Philosophy from Harvard University, where he served as co-president of both the Society of Physics Students and the Math Club and was elected a Class Marshal for life. He earned his MBA with honors from Georgetown University and his Master of Science in Economics from The George Washington University. He is also a Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist, and is owner and CEO of the Abora Music Group. Prior to joining Centennial, he served as a teacher in prisons in Ecuador and Massachusetts, a researcher at UBS and in the US Congress, a field organizer for the 2004 American general election, and a communications staffer for the Wesley Clark presidential primary campaign

Vahyala Kwaga

Country Director, BudgIT Nigeria

Vahyala Kwaga is a public finance and development analyst at the BudgIT Foundation, where he promotes fiscal transparency and accountability in Nigeria. As BudgIT's Country Director, he has experience in analyzing public budgets, advocating for efficient governance, leveraging technology and data-driven insights to strengthen public financial management and empowering citizens to hold governments accountable.

Folasade Femi-Lawal

Country Manager,
West Africa, Mastercard, Nigeria

Folasade Femi-Lawal is the Country Manager, West Africa at Mastercard. Based in Nigeria, Folasade is responsible for advancing the Mastercard brand presence in West Africa, overseeing performance and strategic direction, deploying innovative payment solutions, and partnering with local governments and market regulators to build a World Beyond Cash. Before joining Mastercard, Folasade held multiple roles in the finance and banking industry. Her career began in 1995 as a Senior Associate, Audit & Business Advisory Services in PricewaterhouseCoopers, before she transitioned into the finance and banking industry. Her first role in banking dates back to 1998, when she joined United Bank of Africa (UBA) as the Head of Loan Monitoring Unit — overseeing the bank's loan portfolio and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. This position was then followed by her role as Head of Card & Messaging Business at FirstBank, where she managed eleven million cards and coordinated the Card Products Strategy in the Bank and its subsidiaries in the United Kingdom, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Senegal, Gambia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea. Folasade also served as the Vice President of the Committee of E-Business Industry Heads (CeBIH), where she contributed to driving innovation and collaboration across Nigeria's financial ecosystem. She is a seasoned Digital Transformation Senior Executive with 30 years of experience across diverse industries such as Financial Services, Management Consulting, Telecommunications, and Business Advisory Services. Alongside her varied experience, she is passionate about women empowerment and financial inclusion, with affiliations to key organisations such as the Women in Management, Business and Public Service (WIMBIZ) and the Women Entrepreneurs (AWE) initiative, launched by the U.S. Consulate General. Folasade has been recognised for her leadership and achievements, receiving the Visionary Leader in Technology and Business Award in 2024, presented by The CIO and C-Suite Awards Africa, and being named among the Forty-Five Most Influential Women in Digital Transformation in 2024, awarded by CIO Africa Magazine. She holds a B.Sc. in Accounting from Obafemi Awolowo University and an MBA in Information Management System from Texila American University, Guyana. She has also received an Honorary Doctoral Degree from Veridian Christian University, awarded in recognition of her impact in Business and Christian Leadership. In addition, she has received professional and executive education from Pan-African University, Harvard Business School, London Business School, and Gershom Lehman Consulting (USA). Folasade is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, the Chartered Institute of Taxation, and the Association of Enterprise Risk Managers. She is also a member of the Forbes Business Development Council and the Committee for Open Banking API Standard.

Carole Lebreton

Financial Counsellor, Embassy of France
in Nigeria, France

Carole Lebreton is currently the Financial Advisor for the French Treasury at the French Embassy in Nigeria. She obtained her Master degree in Economics from Ecole Polytechnique and ENSAE Paris as well as a Master degree in International Relations. She has experience working for the French Treasury as she was Economic Attaché at the French Embassy in London and later in Cairo

Johannes Lehne

Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy to Nigeria, Germany

Born 1962 married, three children
Deputy Head of Mission German Embassy in Nigeria , Abuja since August 2023 Lawyer by profession, Master in governance studies, political sciences
Diplomat in the foreign office since 1991
Postings :
Consul in Peru,
Advisor to the World Bank Executive Director of Germany, Washington,
Chargé d´affairs German Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan
Chargé d´affairs German Embassy La Paz, Bolivia,
Ambassador , Djuba, South Sudan
Specialized in policies of crisis prevention, economic and development policies, Latin America and Africa

Olivia Longza

Vice President, Economics Department, Veritas
University
Nigeria

Olivia Longza is a 300-level Economics student at Veritas University, Abuja, Nigeria, with a keen interest in development economics, public policy, economic research, and sustainable development. She is passionate about leveraging research and evidence-based policymaking to address socioeconomic challenges and promote inclusive growth across Africa.

Olivia currently serves as the Vice President of the Nigerian Economics Students Association (NESA), Veritas University Chapter. In this leadership role, she has demonstrated dedication, resilience, and a commitment to academic excellence by fostering student engagement, supporting academic initiatives, and promoting collaboration within the Economics community. Her tenure has been marked by a focus on strengthening student participation and creating opportunities for intellectual and professional development.

Beyond the university, Olivia is actively involved in leadership and civic engagement initiatives. Through Champions of Peace Nigeria, she has participated in various leadership forums, workshops, and capacity-building programmes focused on peacebuilding, youth leadership, civic responsibility, and national development. She is also an active participant in the Women in Politics Forum, where she contributes to conversations and initiatives that advance women's leadership, political inclusion, and youth participation in governance.

Her commitment to research and policy development is reflected in her participation in the Tobacco Control Data Insights Workshop: Advancing Evidence-Informed Tobacco Control in Nigeria, organized by the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA). The programme strengthened her appreciation for the role of data and evidence in shaping effective public health and economic policies. Olivia also contributed to the publication of Ecoviews: The Renaissance , an academic magazine that promotes research, intellectual discourse, and knowledge sharing within the Economics community. Her contribution underscores her dedication to advancing academic excellence and fostering informed discussions on economic and developmental issues. As an aspiring economist, Olivia is committed to continuous learning, impactful research, and public service. She hopes to contribute to the design and implementation of policies that drive sustainable development, strengthen institutions, and improve the socioeconomic well-being of communities across Africa.

Bengt Van Loosdrecht

Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Nigeria, Netherlands

H.E. Mr. Bengt van Loosdrecht is the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the Republic of Chad. A seasoned diplomat with extensive international experience, he represents the Kingdom of the Netherlands as its senior-most envoy in Nigeria, providing strategic leadership in advancing bilateral relations between the two countries. His responsibilities encompass political dialogue, economic cooperation, trade and investment (particularly in agribusiness and water management), security, and development partnerships. He assumed duty in 2024, following a distinguished career in the Dutch Foreign Service. Prior to his current assignment, he held senior diplomatic positions with a strong focus on international trade, economic diplomacy, and multilateral affairs

Chukwuka Richard Madu

HSE Superintendent,
All Grace Energy Nigeria, Nigeria.

Chukwuka Richard Madu is a dedicated and proactive Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) Superintendent with over 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, including onshore, offshore operations and E-commerce. Proven expertise in developing, implementing, and monitoring HSE management systems, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, and promoting a strong safety culture across project sites. Experienced in risk assessment, incident investigation, emergency response coordination, contractor management, environmental protection, and workforce safety training. Demonstrated ability to lead multidisciplinary teams, conduct HSE audits and inspections, and drive continuous improvement initiatives that reduce incidents and improve operational performance. Possesses strong leadership, communication, and analytical skills, with a commitment to achieving zero harm, environmental sustainability, and operational excellence. Well-versed in international standards including ISO 45001, ISO 14001, OSHA requirements, and industry best practices

Ali Baba Mairami

Ag. Director, Development & Finance Institutions Supervision Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria.

Mr. Ali Baba Mairami is the Acting Director of the Development & Finance Institutions Supervision Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). A seasoned financial supervisor and technology expert with over three decades of experience, his leadership is central to the oversight of Development Finance Institutions, Finance Companies, and Bureaux de Change, while advancing financial system stability and inclusive economic growth. Prior to his current role, he led the establishment of the Nigeria Financial Industry Computer Emergency Response Team (NFICERT) and held senior positions in IT Programme Management, Operations Management, Security Operations, and Architecture & Strategy at the CBN. He holds an MBA and a Master's in Information Management, is a Certified Information Systems Risk Professional (CRISC), and is TOGAF and ITIL qualified. He is a registered engineer and a member of COREN, the Nigerian Society of Engineers, and the Computer Professionals of Nigeria.

Maren Damina Makut

Ag. Director of the Human Resources Management Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

Mr. Maren Damina Makut, FCA, SPHRi, is the Acting Director of the Human Resources Management Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). A seasoned human resources and governance professional with over two decades of experience, his leadership is central to rewards administration, pension management, investment oversight, and institutional development within the Bank. Prior to his current role, he held strategic positions in Rewards and Investment Management at the CBN and built a strong career in auditing and financial advisory services with PKF Professional Services and Ekoja B. Ekoja & Co. He is widely recognized for his strategic leadership, professionalism, and commitment to excellence in public sector management.

Olaitan Adeola Martins

Group Executive, Transaction Banking, First Bank of Nigeria Plc

Olaitan Martins is currently the Group Executive, Corporate Banking. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Executive in charge of the Transaction Banking Division, leading the digitisation and automation of the Trade and Cash management system of the wholesale business of the Bank.Olaitan has over 25 years' work experience in various financial institutions, including Investment Banking & Trust Limited, Intercontinental Bank Limited, IBTC Asset Management Limited and Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, where she held various leadership positions. She currently serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of FirstInsurance Brokers Limited and as a Director of FirstBank Gambia. Since joining FirstBank in 2014, Olaitan has recorded remarkable achievements instrumental to the re-positioning of FirstBank's Transaction Banking and Corporate Banking businesses as a credible industry player. She brings her deep market and customer-facing experience to bear in the Corporate Banking Business. Olaitan has a wealth of experience across Cash Management, Trade Services, Product Development, Relationship Management, Business Development, Risk Management, Wealth and Portfolio Management, Investment Banking, Treasury and Foreign Exchange Management amongst others. She is currently the Chairperson of the FirstBank Women Network, where she lends her voice to encourage all-round inclusion for women in the workplace. She is a pioneer of change who uses her leadership skills to act as a mentor, sponsor, and advocate for women. Olaitan is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) with a Doctorate degree in Business Administration (DBA) from the University of Durham, United Kingdom, with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Manchester Business School, United Kingdom, and a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Hassan Mahmud

Group Chief Economist, Dangote Group
Nigeria

Group Chief Economist in charge of providing strategic guidance and advise to the President of the Group, on key global geo-economic and macro-financial developments, and hedging appropriately for likely implications for the enterprises in the Group. He holds a PhD in Economics from UniS, United Kingdom. Visiting Professor of Energy Economics at Nnamdi Azikiwe Unveristy, Nigeria and Visiting Scholar and Applied Macroeconomics at Federal University of Petroleum Technology, Effurun, Nigeria.

Rodrigue Francis Mba

Ambassador, High Commission of Gabon
to Nigeria, Gabon

As an Economic and Commercial Advisor, I'm responsible for promoting Gabon as a destination on all necessary platforms, talking to and finding investors

Chika Mbonu

Project Director, KSBC Knowledge Resources, Nigeria

Mr Mbonu is a consummate banker and financial services expert. He was Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of two Nigerian commercial banks – the Citizens International Bank, and the Assurance Bank of Nigeria. He is currently the MD/CEO of KSBC Advisory Partners Limited, a first-class financial consulting firm based in Lagos, Nigeria, and working with several financial institutions across Africa.

Mr Mbonu has over 36 years experience spanning across Accounting, Consulting and Banking, Training, Mentoring and Life coaching. He started his career at the renowned international consulting and accounting firm, Arthur Andersen (now KPMG in Nigeria), where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant. While in Arthur Andersen, his experience covered Audit, Tax and Consulting Services. He joined the Guarantee Trust Bank (now GT Bank), Nigeria, as a pioneer staff before rising to the height of his banking career as MD/CEO of two Nigerian commercial banks. Currently, as a consultant and trainer, Mr Mbonu is supporting banks across Africa to build capacity to contribute to the development and deepening of the financial services industry in Africa. His areas of focus, amongst others, include Transactions and Credit Structuring, Risk Management, Corporate, Commercial and Retail Banking, Corporate Transformations, Branch Management, Performance Reviews, Sales and Relationship Management, Human Capital management and capacity building. He has active projects with the Central Bank of Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Ghana, and Liberia, helping to transform various banking institutions. Mr Mbonu has, in the last half a decade, become a highly respected and influential finance, business and economic analyst on national television and YouTube. His opinions and suggestions are helping to shape national dialogue and policy actions on the economy, business and finance.

Mr Mbonu is a very brilliant scholar - a first-class honours graduate of Civil Engineering from the prestigious University of Ife, Nigeria, and a multiple academic prize winner, including as the overall best graduating student of his set, and the national best overall in the final qualifying professional examinations of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Nigeria. He has undergone several professional development trainings in world-class institutions, including the Lagos Business School and IESE Business School, Barcelona, Spain. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Accountants, Nigeria.

Carlos Mejia

Senior Urban Economist,
World Bank Group

I'm a Senior Urban Economist who bridges analytical and operational work: I produce economic and spatial diagnostics that inform how cities invest, and I help prepare and deliver the operations that put those insights to work. Over more than a decade across four regions, I've worked across the full arc—diagnosing a problem (an unmanaged urbanization process, a weak business environment, a fragile city recovering from crisis), then contributing to programs that can be structured, funded, implemented, and measured. Currently based in Nairobi with the World Bank's Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice, I focus on urban economics, jobs and local economic development, territorial development, and municipal finance across Sub-Saharan Africa. I lead and help prepare urban and resilience operations at scale—from large results-based programs and crisis-recovery investments to regional initiatives that connect cities across borders—and I build platforms designed to generate investment-ready pipelines anchored in the urban-jobs agenda. I'm accredited to lead World Bank operations across its full financing toolkit, from results-based programs to investment lending and trust-funded advisory work, and I head my region's tourism agenda, treating tourism as a lever for urban regeneration, public-space renewal, and job creation rather than a standalone sector.
My foundation is in private sector development and the business environment—I led subnational competitiveness and regulatory studies across Africa, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean—which is why I design urban programs around where jobs and investment actually come from, not infrastructure alone. I've delivered in some of the world's hardest settings, including Haiti, Mali, South Sudan, and Somalia, and authored flagship analytics spanning macroeconomics, urbanization, and disaster recovery. Fluent in English, French, and Spanish, I work across Francophone, Anglophone, and Hispanophone contexts. I'm known for connecting what institutions usually keep apart—the firm and the city, headquarters and the field, analysis and the balance sheet—and for translating complex economic insight into strategies that governments, partners, and investors will actually fund.

Mohammed Laminu Mele

Vice Chancellor, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria

Professor Mohammed Laminu Mele is a distinguished Professor of English Language in the Department of English and Literary Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Maiduguri, Nigeria, and currently serves as the Vice-Chancellor of the University, a position he assumed on 18 September 2024. Born in 1972 in Mafa Local Government Area of Borno State, he obtained his Ph.D. and M.A. in English Language, as well as a B.A. in English (Language), from the University of Maiduguri, in addition to a Diploma in Computer Applications and the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE). Professor Mele began his academic career as an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Maiduguri in August 2004 and attained the rank of Professor in October 2016. His research and teaching interests span Semantics and Pragmatics, Discourse Studies and Applied Linguistics, with particular emphasis on Language in Education. He has authored over 40 scholarly publications in reputable journals, books, conference proceedings, and educational resources, and has participated in more than 40 national and international conferences, workshops, and academic training programmes. A seasoned academic administrator, Professor Mele has served in several strategic leadership positions, including Head of the Department of English, Sub-Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Director of the Instructional Technology Centre, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Central Administration), Acting Vice-Chancellor, and now Vice-Chancellor of the University of Maiduguri. He has also held visiting and sabbatical appointments at Bauchi State University, Gadau, Federal University Dutse, and the Federal College of Education, Yola, and has served as an External Examiner and Moderator for numerous Nigerian universities. Professor Mele is a member of several learned and professional bodies, including the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), the Nigerian Academy of Letters (NAL), the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), the Linguistic Association of Nigeria (LAN), and the Arewa Development Support Initiative (ADSI). He is also an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Project Managers of Nigeria (CIPMN). Beyond academia, he has contributed to national educational development and community service through appointments on the Governing Board of JAMB, editorial responsibilities, and the boards of several educational and non-governmental organisations. Fluent in English, Hausa, and Kanuri, with a working knowledge of Arabic, Professor Mele enjoys reading fiction and non-fiction as well as creative writing.

Otunba Francis Meshioye

President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)
Nigeria

Otunba Francis Meshioye, OFR, is a top-tier corporate administrator, multidisciplinary professional, and sovereign industrial policy advocate with over three decades of distinguished leadership at the intersection of Nigeria's private sector and public administration. He possesses highly specialized expertise in international business law, macro-fiscal frameworks, corporate secretarial practice, and labor relations.

Core Leadership & Public Advisory Placements

• President, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN): Serves as the principal executive steering voice for the Organized Private Sector (OPS), managing macro-industrial advocacy councils and advising on national trade architectures.

• Federal Policy Architect: Acted as Co-Chairman of the Federal Industry Revolution WorkGroup alongside the State Minister for Industry, and actively serves on the Presidential National Steering Committee for the implementation of Nigeria's National Development Plan.

• Statutory Public Boards: Maintained strategic board-level fiduciary seats across federal agencies, including the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA)—where he chairs the Trade and Investment Committee—and the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI).

Commercial Governance & Board Portfolios

• Corporate Oversight: Exercises board-level leadership across major market corporations, including JMG Ltd and Associates (where he has overseen Legal, Taxation, and Compliance divisions for over 25 years), MYTLE Assets Management and Trust LTD (Chairman of the Board), and JAMARA Operations LTD.

• SME Turnaround: Founded GBM Consulting, a boutique firm dedicated entirely to structural re-engineering and business model refinement for Small and Medium Enterprises**.**

Academic Foundations & Fellowships

• Elite Credentials: Holds an LLM in International Business Law and an MSc in International Management from the University of Liverpool, alongside an MBA in Technology, Marketing and Business Strategy from the Federal University of Technology, Akure.

• Institutional Memberships: Certified Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN), the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria (ICSAN)—where he served four years as National Treasurer—and the Association of Investment Advisers and Portfolio Managers.

National Distinctions & Awards

• Order of the Federal Republic (OFR): Decorated with the high-level civilian National Honor for his transformative impact on economic development.

• Lagos State MAN of the Year: Named the definitive recipient following a resounding majority landslide mandate within the corporate sector

Gautier Mignot

Head of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), European Union, Nigeria

Ambassador Gautier Mignot is the European Union Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Head of the EU Delegation to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), based in Abuja. A seasoned diplomat and senior European External Action Service official, he represents the European Union as its senior-most envoy in Nigeria, providing strategic leadership in advancing the multifaceted partnership between the EU and Nigeria. His responsibilities encompass political dialogue, economic cooperation, trade and investment, security, development assistance, climate action, and regional integration across West Africa. He assumed duty, in 2024, following a distinguished diplomatic career spanning nearly three decades. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Ambassador of the European Union to Mexico. Before joining the European External Action Service (EEAS) in 2021, he spent 26 years in the French Foreign Service, with extensive experience in Latin America.

Richard M. Mills, Jr

Former Ambassador of the United States of America to Nigeria, U.S Embassy, Nigeria

Richard M. Mills, Jr was the United States Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria on May 2, 2024 – January 16, 2026. Ambassador Mills, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister-Counselor, most recently served as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations. He previously served as Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim, of the U.S. Embassy to Canada, as U.S. Ambassador to Armenia (2015-2018), Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon (2012-2014), and as Deputy Chief of Mission and Chargé d'Affaires, ad interim, of the U.S. Embassy to Malta (2010-2012). Ambassador Mills, who joined the U.S. Foreign Service in 1988, has also served as the Senior Democracy Advisor at U.S. Embassy Baghdad, Political Counselor at U.S. Embassy London, and as the Attache for Energy Issues at U.S. Embassy Riyadh, among other assignments. Immediately prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ambassador Mills was an Associate Attorney with the firm of Duncan, Allen and Mitchell in Washington, D.C. (1984-1987).Ambassador Mills earned a B.A. in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. (1981), a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law, Austin, Texas (1984), and a M.S. in National Security Policy from the National Defense University, Washington, D.C. (2005). He was a nominee for the State Department's Deputy Chief of Mission of the Year Award in 2012 and has received nine Superior Honor Awards from the Department of State during his career. He speaks French and conversational Russian.

Aziz Mlima

Chairman of the Board, Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA), Tanzania

Aziz Mlima is a seasoned Tanzanian diplomat and economist with a PhD from Gothenburg University. As Permanent Secretary (2015–2017), I led the merger of two ministries and established six new diplomatic missions. Served as High Commissioner to Malaysia (2013–2015) and Uganda (2018–2023), representing Tanzania's interests in international forums.

Polycarp Ishaku Mikloda

Ag. Director of the Special Duties Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria , Nigeria

Polycarp Ishaku Mikloda is the Head of the Ethics, Anti-Corruption and Compliance Division at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). An economist and compliance expert with over 20 years of experience, his leadership is central to strengthening governance, ethics, and anti-corruption frameworks within the Bank. Prior to his current role, he lectured in Agricultural Economics before joining the CBN in 2004. He was instrumental in the development and Board approval of the Whistle Blowing Policy and the Conflict-of-Interest Policy, and has contributed to the establishment of key initiatives, including NIRSAL Plc. He is a Chartered Stockbroker, Certified Anti-Money Laundering Professional (CAMS), and Project Management Professional (PMP). He holds a PhD in Agricultural Economics and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Economists of Nigeria.

Richard Montgomery

British High Commissioner and the UK Permanent Representative to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), British High Commission to Nigeria, United Kingdom

Mr. Richard Montgomery CMG is the British High Commissioner to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), based in Abuja. A highly experienced British diplomat, he represents the United Kingdom as its senior-most envoy in Nigeria, and his responsibilities encompass political, economic, security, trade and investment cooperation, development partnership, and regional engagement across West Africa. Before taking up his current appointment, in 2023, he had had a distinguished diplomatic career spanning over three decades with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO). Prior to arriving in Abuja, he served as the UK Executive Director at the World Bank Group in Washington, D.C. (2018–22). He previously served as Head of Office at DFID in Pakistan (2013–15) and as Head of Office at DFID in Nigeria (2009–13).

Rashida J. Monguno

Secretary to the Board and Director of the
Corporate Secretariat,
Central Bank of Nigeria

Mrs. Rashida J. Monguno is the Secretary to the Board and Director of the Corporate Secretariat at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). A seasoned banker and legal expert with over three decades of experience, she has played a pivotal role in strengthening corporate governance, regulatory compliance, and institutional transparency at Nigeria's apex bank. Since joining the CBN in 1993, she has held strategic positions across Trade & Exchange, Foreign Operations, and Board Affairs. While she was Director of the Consumer Protection Department, she championed key initiatives including the SabiMONI e-learning platform for financial literacy and drove the review of the Consumer Protection Regulation and National Financial Literacy Framework to align with current realities. She remains a strong advocate for financial inclusion, consumer rights, and sound governance.

Farouk M. Mujtaba

Director of Reserve Management,
Central Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

Mr. Farouk M. Mujtaba currently serves as Director of Reserve Management at the Central Bank of Nigeria, where he oversees the prudent investment and strategic allocation of the country's external reserves. In this role, he leads portfolio diversification initiatives, optimizing reserve performance across a broad range of asset classes. He joined the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2003 and has since held leadership roles across strategy, economic policy, and investment management functions.

Zakari Mumuni

First Deputy Governor,
Bank of Ghana,
Ghana

Dr. Zakari Mumuni is the First Deputy Governor of the Bank of Ghana. A seasoned economist and central banker with over two decades of experience, his leadership is central to monetary policy formulation, financial markets supervision, and macroeconomic stability in Ghana. Prior to his appointment in February 2025, he served as Director of the Financial Markets Department and headed the Modelling and Forecasting office at the Bank of Ghana, where he supported the Monetary Policy Committee. He also served as Special Assistant to the Governor, coordinating with the Ministry of Finance and international institutions. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Nottingham and an MPhil from the University of Ghana. He has published extensively on inflation targeting, exchange rate dynamics, and macroeconomic policy in low-income countries.

Baba Yusuf Musa

President, Nigerian Economic Society (NES);
Director-General, West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management
Nigeria

Baba Yusuf Musa is the Director-General of the West African Institute for Financial and Economic Management (WAIFEM). For over two decades, Dr. Musa has been involved in capacity building in the area of Macroeconomic Management, with emphasis on Public Debt Management of Anglophone West African Countries. Dr. Musa had a twenty-one year stint in the Research and International Economic Relations Departments, Central Bank of Nigeria, where he retired as an Assistant Director. He also worked in the Ministry of Education, Plateau State, Nigeria and the National Directorate of Employment (NDE), before joining the Central Bank of Nigeria. Baba Yusuf Musa holds a B.Sc. in Economics, MBA and PhD degrees.

Isaac Mwaipopo

Executive Director, Center for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD), Zambia

Trade and Investments Policy Enthusiast with over 12 years of work experience within and outside the Civil Society. I lead the Centre for Trade Policy and Development with my day-to-day responsibilities revolving around providing strategic leadership and policy direction on public policy matters related to Tax Administration, Mining and Climate Justice. CTPD plays host to the Zambia Tax Platform, Civil Society Debt Alliance and the Young Professionals Network.

Sylvie Naville

Director, Emerging Markets Forum
France

Specialized in strategic communication and project management, Sylvie Naville joined the Emerging Markets Forum in February 2007 to lead the management of the Forum‘s activities. Former Associate Director for Latin America at the World Economic Forum, she was responsible for strategy, activities and community building in the region. She worked for more than 15 years with this international organization, involved in the Mercosur Economic Summit and other business activity in Latin America. From 2001, in addition to the involvement of business, academia, media and political leaders, she took the initiative of enlarging the participation of civil society in the Latin America Summits. Before that, she was in charge of institutional relations in Spain and Southern/Eastern Europe, and responsible for the Engineering and Construction Industries. She graduated in Philosophy and Literature and has a Master’s Degree in Foreign Languages Applied to Business and Commerce from the University Jean Moulin Lyon III, together with Diplomas from the Spanish Chamber of Commerce and the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Paris. She is certified in English by Cambridge University

Musa Nakorji

Director of Research, Central Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

Dr Musa Nakorji, the current Director of Research and immediate past Director of Trade and Exchange Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), is a seasoned economic analyst with extensive expertise in macroeconomic forecasting, policy development, and financial market stability. Throughout his distinguished career, he has provided critical analytical support to the Bank, driving key policy initiatives on several priority areas, including inflation control and exchange rate stability. During his impactful tenure leading the Trade and Exchange Department, he steered the landmark development and rollout of the 2026 Foreign Exchange Manual, a sweeping reform that digitalised FX processes and modernised Nigeria's trade frameworks. His notable leadership on other high-impact projects includes serving on the 2013 Early Warning System Committee and heading the 2016 initiative that updated the CBN's real effective exchange rate methodology using BIS standards. As chair of the Forecasting and Policy Analysis System (FPAS) Committee and leader of the 2022 team that developed Nigeria's comprehensive Macroeconomic Diagnostics framework, Dr Nakorji has been instrumental in shaping the analytical tools and forecasts that guide the Bank’s monetary policy decisions.

Oumar N'diaye

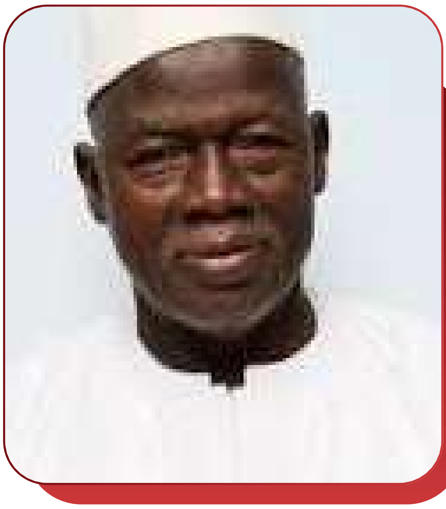
Program Officer, Ford Foundation, Lagos
Nigeria

Oumar N'diaye is a program officer based in the foundation's West Africa office in Lagos, Nigeria. He plays a pivotal role in connecting the Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice-International (GREJ-I) and Natural Resources and Climate Justice (NRCC) program areas. His work also focuses on strengthening democracy, civic space, disability rights, youth empowerment, centering gender, and working with government, regional institutions and the private sector. Oumar is a global leader with a more than 20-year track record of overseeing and negotiating strategic partnerships and investments at country, regional, and continental levels for the UN System, WaterAid UK, Plan International, Alliance for the Green Revolution (AGRA) and Nutrition International. These efforts have led to improvements in social justice, equality through innovation, good governance, access to healthcare, water and sanitation, education, nutrition, human rights, and gender equality for the most vulnerable people. Before joining Ford, he was the global director of Business Development and Strategic Partnerships and assumed the role of acting chief executive officer of African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD), one of the largest African-based and home-grown development organizations. He oversaw the organization's development, outreach, and operational management. Originally from Mali, Oumar has extensive experience in policy development and brokering strategic partnerships between governments, CSOs, and the private sector in the West Africa region. Oumar holds a MSc in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from HEC Paris, an MBA, an MA in International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, and a MA in Finance Engineering. Alumni of HEC Paris and Harvard Kennedy School, Oumar is fluent in Bambara, English and French, and he loves to cook, mind the kids, and play tennis.

Rose Ngugi

Chair, Southern Voice
Kenya

Dr Rose Ngugi is a Richard von Weizsäcker Fellow, Robert Bosch Academy and Chairperson of Southern Voice. Before that she served as the Executive Director, Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA), where she was involved in providing overall strategic leadership in delivery of the Institute core mandate. She has also served as a Senior Advisor in the Office of Executive Director, Executive Board, African Group1 (AFGI), IMF in Washington DC. She was a Member of the inaugural Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Central Bank of Kenya and Member of the Monetary Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) CBK. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in economics from the University of Nairobi, and a PhD in Finance from Business School, University of Birmingham, UK. Rose Ngugi has published widely. In 2023, she was awarded by the President of Republic of Kenya, the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW) in recognition of her outstanding service rendered to the country.



Harouna Niang

Former Minister of Industry, Trade and InvestmentPromotion, Mali

Harouna Niang, Former Minister of Industry, Trade and InvestmentPromotion, Mali service rendered to the country**.**

Ngozichukwu Njemanze

Director, African School of Governance

Ngozichukwu C. Njemanze is a governance strategist, legal executive, institutional reform leader and executive education architect with more than twenty-four years of experience across higher education, financial regulation, public policy, corporate governance and multilateral development. She currently serves as an inaugural Director at the African School of Governance in Kigali, Rwanda where she leads strategic institutional development and directs the Executive Master of Leadership and Governance, a postgraduate programme designed for senior African leaders. She began her professional career in legal practice at Aluko & Oyebode, one of Nigeria's leading commercial law firms. Her career includes senior roles at the Central Bank of Nigeria, the Nigeria Commodity Exchange, the World Bank Group and the Federal Government of Nigeria. At the Central Bank, she contributed to major governance and regulatory reforms covering financial institutions, digital payments, fintech supervision, open banking, financial integrity and regulatory innovation. Her work sits at the intersection of ethical leadership, technology governance, institutional accountability, regulatory and policy reform and Africa centered executive learning. Called to the Nigerian bar 23 years ago, she holds an LL.M. from Harvard Law School, an MBA in Global Emerging Markets from American University in Washington DC and professional qualifications in law, governance and board audit.

Joseph Nnanna

Chief Economist, Development Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

Globally experienced economist and macroeconomic strategist with 20+ years of experience spanning central banking, development finance, financial markets, academia, and policy advisory. Recognized thought leader specializing in macroeconomic forecasting, monetary policy, financial systems, development finance, and strategic economic analysis across emerging and global markets. Currently serves as Chief Economist at the Development Bank of Nigeria, advising executive leadership and board stakeholders on macroeconomic trends, monetary policy, financial stability, capital markets, and strategic risk. Experienced in translating complex economic data into actionable market and policy insights for institutional stakeholders, investors, policymakers, and executive leadership. Frequent keynote speaker, media contributor, and published researcher on macroeconomic policy, exchange rate dynamics, entrepreneurship, financial inclusion, and emerging-market economic development.

Ndubuisi Nwokolo

Managing Partner, Nextier, Nigeria

Dr Ndubuisi N. Nwokolo is a Managing Partner at Nextier & the Chief Executive of Nextier SPD (Security, Peace and Development), a business unit under Nextier. Nextier is a multi-sectoral, multi-competency international development consulting firm with Offices in Nigeria, Liberia, the USA, and the UK. Ndu is a Pracademic who specialises in Peacebuilding, Conflict, Security, governance, and International Development with significant experience and knowledge of Nigeria's and Africa's conflict, stabilisation, security, democratic and governance interventions. He consults for international organisations and Development agencies such as NATO, UNDP, the AU, and the ECOWAS Commission. He is also a Reader (Associate Professor) at the Institute for Peace, Security and Development Studies, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Nigeria He has been published in academic journals, newspapers, and policy briefs, and is a regular analyst on local and international news networks such as Arise, Channels TV, AIT, and TRT World. He has been an Honorary Fellow at the School of Government, University of Birmingham, UK, since 2017 and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Nathanson Centre on Transnational Human Rights, Crime, and Security at York University, Canada. He is also a Senior Scholar at the Centre for Intelligence, Security and Peace Studies, Coal City University, Enugu, Nigeria. He holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham, UK, in the Political Economy of Natural Resource Conflicts and an advanced MA in Conflict and Sustainable Peace Studies from Katholieke University, Leuven, Belgium. He also has a master's degree in political economy and development studies from the University of Jos and a B.Sc. in Political Science from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He is a Fellow of the Nigeria Institute of Management (NIM) as well as a Fellow of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP).

Chika Reginald Nwosu

Chief Executive Officer, PalmPay Nigeria
Nigeria

Chika Nwosu is a seasoned executive with a Management Science degree from Enugu State University of Science and Technology. He is a member of esteemed professional organizations like the CIBN and IPMA. Chika has excelled in various roles, notably at Huawei Technologies and Transsion Group, and currently spearheads growth and success as PalmPay's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. In his personal life, he finds joy in his family, being happily married to Mrs Nkechinyerem Nwosu and a proud father of three children.

Emmanuel Nwosu

Professor of Economics, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria.

Emmanuel O. Nwosu has been a Professor at the Department of Economics, University of Nigeria since October 2021 and was the Head of the Department of Economics from August 2020 to July 2022. He has been a member of AGRODEP since 2013, a researcher at the African Economic Research Consortium, the Partnership for Economic Policy (PEP) and affiliated with J-PAL, CEGA and DIWA. He was a visiting scholar at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington D.C. and a Technical Assistant in the Office of the Honourable Minister of Finance and CME. He holds a Master's in Economic Policy Management from the University of Tsukuba, Japan and a PhD in Economics. He has conducted several funded research and published many articles in well-indexed journals indexed. His areas of research interest include public policy, environmental economics, policy impact analysis and evaluation, child and maternal health, labour market, gender, poverty and income distribution.

Evelyne Mbula Nzuki

Founder and Managing Partner, MNL Africa-Leadership Circle, Kenya

Mbula Nzuki is a distinguished multi-hyphenate: legal practitioner, ecosystem builder, sustainability advocate, deal-maker, innovator, serial entrepreneur, and esteemed global host and moderator. She curates a luminous international career at the nexus of law, technology, sustainability and finance—bringing strategic clarity, intellectual rigor and magnetic presence to every endeavor. She is Founder and Managing Partner of MNL ADVOCATES LLP (MN Legal), a boRutique firm renowned for advising an eclectic roster of high-growth startups, multinationals, international NGOs and government agencies across finance and investment (PE/VC)R, technology, telecommunications, infrastructure, clean energy, water and sanitation, real estate, FMCG, AI and beyond. Mbula is also Founder and Convener of the MNL Africa Leadership Circle, an influential convening shaping leadership, crosRs-sector collaboration and the continent's sustainable future while championing investment and business in Kenya and Africa. In LL.M. in Public International Law and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (MCIArb, London), Mbula serves as President of the Environmental & Energy Law Commission of AIJA — the International Association of Young Lawyers. Her legal scholarship and practice are matched by entrepreneurial ventures spanning AI for legal innovation, fintech, construction, real estate and luxury goods. A sought-after moderator and speaker, Mbula's warm authority and incisive analysis command global stages—hosting VIP events, leading trainings, moderating panels and conducting relaxed yet powerfully insightful fireside conversations. Guided by a conviction that business can be a force for good, she pursues a deliberately Interdisciplinary path while safeguarding the nobility of the legal profession.
Mantra: “We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children”

Godpower W. Obah

Bursar, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

- Role: Substantive Bursar, University of Port Harcourt
- Joined UNIPORT: 1997 as Accountant II
- Education: M.Sc. in Accounting (2015), PhD in Accounting (2021)
- Professional Memberships: Fellow of the Association of National
- Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN), Chartered Institute of Taxation of
- Nigeria (CITN)

Ugochukwu Obi-Chukwu

Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Nairametric Nigeria

Ugochukwu "Ugodre" Obi-Chukwu is the Founder and CEO of Nairametrics Financial Advocates, a leading authority on Nigeria's financial and economic sectors. A Chartered Accountant with extensive experience, Ugodre has spearheaded significant business transformations and strategic reorganizations, enhancing operational efficiency and profitability. His experience in covering the Capital market, the economy and geopolitics makes him one of the leading resource persons for delivering macro economic insights. His leadership at Nairametrics has transformed the platform into a globally recognized source for economic analysis and financial literacy. Ugodre is an eloquent speaker and host of popular financial radio shows on Lagos Talks 91.3FM and Classic FM 97.3FM. Ugo also host several influential podcasts shows covering the capital markets and investor education. His influential work in the financial sector has earned him several awards and recognitions.

Obinna Obidiegwu

Director, Product Management – Cross-Border Payments at Mastercard

Obinna Obidiegwu is the Director, Product Management – Cross-Border Payments at Mastercard, where he leads initiatives that enable banks and financial institutions to deliver seamless cross-border payment solutions across Africa. He has extensive experience in payments, banking, product strategy, and partnership development, working closely with financial institutions, fintechs, and regulators to drive innovation, financial inclusion, and regional economic integration. Based in Lagos, Nigeria, he is passionate about advancing digital payments and strengthening cross-border commerce across emerging markets.

Hakeem Olusegun Odumosu

Director of the Security Services Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

Hakeem Olusegun Odumosu, PhD is a seasoned retired Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG, RTD.) with over three decades of leadership in policing. A diligent security professional recognized for critical thinking, proactive approach, swift threat response, and extensive expertise in policing procedures. A celebrated English author whose works have been adopted in Lagos public schools, reflecting his commitment to education. A Resourceful Security Expert, Lawyer, Administrator, Investigator, and Policy Executor renowned for meticulous documentation and unwavering dedication to personal, corporate, and organizational security. He has brought this wealth of experience into the Central Bank of Nigeria and elevated the Bank's Security Operations Bank wide.

Enefola Odiba

International Program Director, Investonaire, Nigeria.

Dr. Odiba has a Doctorate from Loughborough University, UK with decades of experience as a trainer, mentor, and program builder. Leads program alignment with national youth development priorities. Focused on skills, leadership, and economic empowerment for women and youth

Opuiyo Oforiokuma

Senior Partner, Africa 50 Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, Morocco

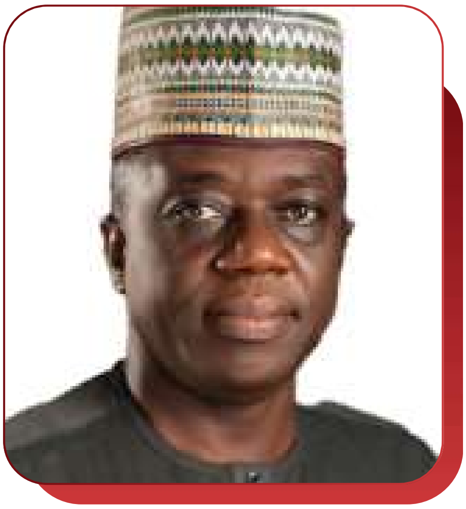
Mr. Opuiyo Oforiokuma is a seasoned infrastructure specialist with over 3 decades of global experience. As Senior Partner of the Africa50 Infrastructure Acceleration Fund, he currently leads major infrastructure investments across Africa, with a double bottom-line focus on generating attractive risk-adjusted returns for investors while making meaningful development impact through the Fund's investments.

Omobalade Oghiadomhe

Chief of Staff at Flutterwave Solutions Limited, Nigeria

Her career in the financial services industry spans over a period of 14 years, where I have been responsible for debt recovery, legal advisory, litigation, contract review, corporate restructuring, negotiation, legal research, and legal drafting at the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria from 2012 till date. Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) was set up in 2010 for the primary purpose of efficiently resolving the problems associated with non-performing loan assets of Nigerian banks towards restoring stability to the Nigerian economy.

Her core competencies include litigation, case management, legal advisory services, drafting and reviewing contracts, agreements and legal documents and advising on the legal aspects of asset acquisition, management and disposal. I have contributed to the successful resolution of multiple complex and high-value cases involving bad loans, insolvency and debt recovery actions. Her mission is to uphold the rule of law and protect the interests of AMCON and the Nigerian economy.



Shamseldeen B. Ogunjimi

Board Member, Central Bank of Nigeria and Accountant General of the Federation.

Mr. Shamseldeen B. Ogunjimi, FCA, FCS, FCTI, CFE, is the Accountant-General of the Federation and a board member of the Central Bank of Nigeria. A seasoned chartered accountant and public finance expert, his leadership is central to managing Nigeria's federal treasury, driving financial reforms, and ensuring transparency and accountability in public expenditure. With over three decades of experience in banking, investment, and public service, he has held key positions including Director of Finance in several federal agencies and Director of Financial Reforms at the Office of the Accountant-General. He previously worked in commercial banking and stockbroking before joining the federal civil service in 2000. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria, and several other professional bodies.

Friday Ohuche

Former Senior Policy and Research Adviser to the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) and Current Chief Economic Adviser to the Abia State Government.

Friday Kanu Ohuche is a development economist, specializing in institutions and macroeconomics of Growth. He is also an International Economic Governance Professional with expertise in Public Financial Management, Macro-Fiscal Policy Analysis and International Development Evaluation. Dr. Ohuche is currently the Chief Economic Adviser to Governor Alex Otti of Abia State. Before joining Governors Ottis team, Dr. Ohuche was Senior Policy and Research Adviser at the African Development Bank Group in Abidjan. He served as Policy Economist for Non-Lending Policy Dialogue for Nigeria at the Nigerian Country Office of the African Development Bank in Abuja. Dr. Ohuche was IMF Country Economist for Nigeria and Technical Assistant to the IMF Resident Representative in Nigeria. Dr Ohuche voluntarily retired as Deputy Director in Monetary Policy Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2018. He was a Senior Faculty at the Department of Economics, Ebonyi State University. Dr. Ohuche was Special Assistant to Four Economic Advisers to President of Nigeria, namely, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo, Prof. Ode Ojowu, Prof. Osita Ogbu and Ambassador A. Wali. He was also Special Assistant to two former Deputy Governors of the Central Bank of Nigeria, namely, Deputy Governor, Economic Policy Directorate and Deputy Governor, Financial System Stability (FSS). Dr. Ohuche currently serves as a distinguished member of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) National Council of Economic Advisers and recently concluded a World-Bank funded programme for Fragile States in Africa as Technical Advisor to Bank of South Sudan (BoSS).

Dr. Ohuche holds a Ph.D. in Development Economics, specializing in Institutions and Macroeconomics of Growth, He has an MSc in International Economics and B.Sc. (Economics) from University of Nigeria Nsukka. He is an Alumnus of the Columbia University Graduate School of Business, Manhattan, New York, USA where he earned a post-graduate certificate in Finance and Accounting. He is also an Alumnus of Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, USA where he earned a post-graduate certificate in Budget and Public Financial Management in the Public Sector. Dr. Ohuche is also a distinguished Alumnus of HARVARD UNIVERSITY KENNEDY SCHOOL, where he earned a post-graduate certificate in LEADING ECONOMIC GROWTH. Dr. Ohuche is an experienced economist and International Economic governance expert and Public Financial Management consultant with wide consulting experience in Monetary and Fiscal policy management, public policy reform with over 25 years of cumulative extensive experience in diverse areas of economic governance, development evaluation, Economic policy reforms and strategy development. Dr. Ohuche's experience covers the academia (University lecturer), international consulting, Central Banking, Public Financial Management (PFM), Development Planning and Evaluation, Economic Governance, Small and Medium Scale Business Research Consulting (MSMEs) and Strategy Development

Dr. Ohuche has provided consultancy services to international development agencies such as World Bank, EU, JICA, USAID, IMF, IFAD, DFID, DAI, UNDP, UNECA, ADB, AU, APRM, SADC and COMESA. He has consulted on a wide range of regional, national and sub-national matters especially Public Finance management and Budgeting, Economic Policy and Governance Reforms, Capacity Building, Debt management, Procurement Reforms, financial reporting, and public sector Reforms. He participated in the development of National Economic Empowerment and Developments Strategy (NEEDS 1 and NEEDS II,2004) and currently serves in the long-term development planning Committee for Nigeria named "Agenda 2050"

Anthony Babatunde Ojei

Country Director, International Rescue Committee Nigeria

Anthony Babatunde Ojei is International Rescue Committee's (IRC) Country Director for Nigeria. He has over 25 years of experience, both in the non-profit and private sectors (environment, development, civilian protection, and humanitarian). He has worked at leadership and management levels for numerous INGOs in Nigeria, including Oxfam Great Britain, Save the Children and Center for Civilians in Conflict. Tunde holds a BSc in Agriculture and an MBA in global business. He is an alumnus of the prestigious GELI Harvard and GELI London School of Economics and Cambridge University courses in Leadership.

Adenike Ojumu

Director of the Medical Services Department,
Central Bank of Nigeria , Nigeria

Dr. Adenike Ojumu is the Director, Medical Services Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, providing strategic leadership in healthcare delivery, employee wellness, and health systems management. She is passionate about healthcare innovation, organisational wellbeing, and resilient health systems. She champions quality improvement and sustainable healthcare solutions that enhance health outcomes and organisational performance.

Chiji Ojukwu

Managing Director Africa Projects Development Centre (APDC), Nigeria.

Dr Chiji Ojukwu is a Managing Director Africa Projects Development Centre (APDC) Abuja, a youth-run organization for youth and women empowerment through training and incubation in agribusiness and creative arts. He is skilled in policy analysis, strategic planning, international development finance, and programme management. He served at the African Development Bank (AfDB) for 21 years rising to the position of Regional Director for seven Southern African and Indian Ocean Island Countries (Angola, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Sao Tome & Principe and Zambia), before retiring in 2018 as the Director, Agriculture & Agroindustry Department. Dr. Chiji led the approval of the AfDB Feed Africa Strategy and spearheaded the establishment of key flagship programmes, including the Technologies for African Agricultural Transformation (TAAT), the ENABLE Youth Programme, the Leadership for African Agriculture (L4Ag) Initiative, among others, which have fostered agricultural transformation and brought many African youths and women into agriculture as a career choice. Since retiring from the AfDB, Dr. Chiji established the Africa Projects Development Centre (APDC) in Abuja, where the Centre has empowered over 10,000 youths and women in agribusiness and the agro-food sector and over 2,000 women in the Fashion and Creative Arts industry (Fashionistas). Over 75% of these youths and women run their businesses and are not only self-reliant but also contributing their quota in the economic and social development of the country. In addition, the Centre employs close to 60 youths as enterprise and ICT managers, trainers, economists, analysts, fashion experts, hospitality and facility managers and officers, among many. Dr. Chiji Ojukwu attended the prestigious Government College, Umuahia, the Federal Government College Port Harcourt, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife (BSc. Agriculture) and the University of Bradford, UK (MSc. and PhD in Development Economics & Project Planning). He has taught and written several articles in the areas of agricultural policy, project management, financial and economic analysis of development projects and youth and women empowerment, coaching and mentoring.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)
Switzerland

Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala took office as WTO Director-General on 1 March 2021. She is a global finance expert, an economist and international development professional with over 40 years of experience working in Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and North America. Dr Okonjo-Iweala was formerly Chair of the Board of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. She was previously on the Boards of Standard Chartered PLC and Twitter Inc. She was appointed as African Union (AU) Special Envoy to mobilise international financial support for the fight against COVID-19 and WHO Special Envoy for Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator. She is a skilled negotiator and has brokered numerous agreements which have produced win-win outcomes in negotiations. She is regarded as an effective consensus builder and an honest broker enjoying the trust and confidence of governments and other stakeholders. Previously, Dr Okonjo-Iweala twice served as Nigeria's Finance Minister (2003-2006 and 2011-2015) and briefly acted as Foreign Minister in 2006, the first woman to hold both positions. She distinguished herself by carrying out major reforms which improved the effectiveness of these two Ministries and the functioning of the government machinery. She had a 25- year career at the World Bank as a development economist, rising to the No. 2 position of Managing Director, Operations. As a development economist and Finance Minister, Dr Okonjo-Iweala steered her country through various reforms ranging from macroeconomic to trade, financial and real sector issues. She is a firm believer in the power of trade to lift developing countries out of poverty and assist them to achieve robust economic growth and sustainable development. As Finance Minister, she was involved in trade negotiations with other West African countries and contributed to the overhaul of Nigeria's trade policy enabling it to enhance its competitiveness. She is renowned as the first female and African candidate to contest for the presidency of the World Bank Group in 2012, backed by Africa and major developing countries in the first truly contestable race for the world's highest development finance post. As Managing Director of the World Bank, she had oversight responsibility for the World Bank's $81 billion operational portfolio in Africa, South Asia, Europe and Central Asia. Dr Okonjo-Iweala spearheaded several World Bank initiatives to assist low-income countries during the 2008-2009 food crisis and later during the financial crisis. In 2010, she was Chair of the World Bank's successful drive to raise $49.3 billion in grants and low interest credit for the poorest countries in the world. As Minister of Finance in Nigeria, she spearheaded negotiations with the Paris Club of Creditors that led to the wiping out of $30 billion of Nigeria's debt, including the outright cancellation of $18 billion. In her second term as Finance Minister, Dr Okonjo-Iweala was responsible for leading reform that enhanced transparency of government accounts and strengthened institutions against corruption, including the implementation of the GIFMS (Government Integrated Financial Management System), the IPPMS (Integrated Personnel and Payroll Management System), and the TSA (Treasury Single Accounts).

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO)
Switzerland

Dr Okonjo-Iweala has been listed in the Top 100 Most Powerful Women in the World (Forbes, 2022, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2011), as one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in the World (TIME, 2014 and 2021), one of the 25 most influential women (Financial Times, 2021), Minister of the Decade, People's Choice Award by Nigeria's This Day newspaper (2020), one of Transparency International's Eight Female Anti-Corruption Fighters Who Inspire (2019), one of the 50 Greatest World Leaders (Fortune, 2015), the Top 100 Global Thinkers (Foreign Policy, 2011 and 2012), the Top Three Most Powerful Women in Africa (Forbes, 2012), the Top 10 Most Influential Women in Africa (Forbes, 2011), the Top 100 Women in the World (The UK Guardian, 2011), the Top 150 Women in the World (Newsweek, 2011), and the Top 100 most inspiring people in the World Delivering for Girls and Women (Women Deliver, 2011). She has also been listed among 73 "brilliant" business influencers in the world by Condé Nast International.

Zik Zulu Okafor

Founder and Managing Director/CEO of Zulu Films Ltd, Nigeria

Zik Zulu Okafor is an accomplished and multi-dimensional media professional. With a career rooted in a tradition of fearless investigative reporting and expanded through leadership in media strategy and visual storytelling, he has distinguished himself as a credible voice in Nigeria's public discourse. His writing has cut across sectors; from arts and entertainment to politics, economy, energy and maritime, and with a style that is clear, compelling, and consistently insightful. An award-winning journalist of rare depth, Zik Zulu's stories interrogate power, simplify policy, and illuminate issues. His stories carried his signature precision, purpose, and professional courage. As Managing Director and CEO of Energy and Business Media Limited, he has translated that editorial excellence into corporate leadership. At the helm of the company, Zik Zulu has led a brilliant, focused team that has reimagined how organizations communicate with critical clients. Energy and Business Media Limited has thus become a strategic partner to government institutions, the organized private sector and industry leaders, seeking to redefine their image, reshape public perception, and realign their messaging with national priorities.

Patience Okala

National Coordinator, Nigeria African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Coordination Office, Nigeria

Patience Okala serves as the National Coordinator of the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office and Special Adviser, Legal Affairs on Trade and Investment to the Honourable Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment. She assumes this role following the impactful tenure of Olusegun Awolowo, building on his legacy while advancing Nigeria's strategic positioning under the AfCFTA.mes this role following the impactful tenure of Olusegun Awolowo, building on his legacy while advancing Nigeria's strategic positioning under the AfCFTA. In her advisory capacity, she supports the Minister on critical trade and investment matters, including aligning Nigeria's regulatory framework with the AfCFTA Agreement. She played a key role in coordinating Nigeria's AfCFTA Central Coordination Committee and the gazetting of Nigeria's provisional Schedule of Tariff Concessions, a milestone that signaled the country's readiness to commence trading under the agreement. She also contributed to Nigeria's designation as co-Champion of Digital Trade and supported the assessment of the country's five-year AfCFTA implementation plan, alongside engagements in WTO negotiations.

Mrs. Okala brings over two decades of experience from the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), where she rose to Director, Legal Services, and served as Lead Negotiator on international investment treaties. She led reforms of Nigeria's International Investment Agreements to attract responsible, inclusive, balanced and sustainable investments, and contributed to the development of Nigeria's model bilateral investment treaty, recognized in UNCTAD's World Investment Report. She has played key roles in negotiations across regional and global platforms, including the AfCFTA Protocol on Investment, ICSID Rules Amendment process, and UNCITRAL Working Group III. She also led the development of Nigeria's first National Investment Policy (2023). Mrs. Okala is a frequent speaker at major global investment forums and continues to drive policy innovation and continental collaborations.

Tony Okpanachi

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer,
Development Bank of Nigeria
Nigeria

Dr. Tony Okpanachi is the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Development Bank of Nigeria Plc. He is a seasoned banker with over 30 years' experience. Before he was appointed Managing Director/CEO of the Bank, he was the Deputy Managing Director of Ecobank Nigeria Limited, a position he held since April 2013. Before that, he was the Managing Director, Ecobank Kenya and Cluster Managing Director for East Africa, Ecobank (comprising Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Ethiopia). He was also at various times, Managing Director of Ecobank Malawi and Regional Coordinator for Lagos and South West, at Ecobank Nigeria. Earlier in his professional career, he managed various portfolios including Treasury Management, Retail Business Development, Corporate Finance, Corporate Services, Branch Management, and Relationship Management, amongst others.

He holds a Doctorate degree (Ph.D.) in Development Economics from Nile University, Master's in Business Administration (MBA) from the Manchester Business School UK, a Master of Science degree in Economics, from the University of Lagos and a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics, from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. He has attended several Executive Management Development Programmes in Leadership, Corporate Governance, Credit and Risk-Management at leading institutions – Harvard Business School, Harvard Kennedy School, INSEAD, IMD, Wharton, MIT etc. He is a fellow of both the Chartered Institute of Bankers (FCIB), and the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers (FCIS), as well as a Distinguished Fellow of the Nigeria Economic Society (FNES).

Moses Usman Okpanachi

Director, Statistics Department, Central
Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

Dr. Okpanachi Usman Moses is the Director of the Statistics Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), appointed in March 2025. A distinguished Fulbright Scholar, he is a seasoned economist and academician with specialization in monetary economics. He plays a leading role in producing reliable economic data, supporting monetary policy formulation, and enhancing evidence-based decision-making at Nigeria's apex bank. Prior to his current appointment, he served as National Economist for Nigeria at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and taught economics and statistics at the University of Jos.

Ugbedeojo Emmanuel Okpanachi

President, Economics Department, Veritas University

Ugbedeojo Okpanachi is a driven and analytical 400-level Economics student at Veritas University, Abuja, with a strong foundation in economic theory, policy research, and project management. His academic and professional focus centers on the intersection of digital finance and economic development, currently highlighted by his final-year quantitative research which analyzed the effect of Fintech payment platforms on the operational performance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Professionally, Ugbedeojo gained valuable experience as a Research Intern at the Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), where he contributed to economic data sourcing, literature reviews, and quantitative analysis for key economic policy and development studies. Additionally, he serves as a Communications Assistant for the Royal Initiative Against Poverty and Starvation (RIAPS) facilitating public messaging and community outreach initiatives driven by his zeal for poverty eradication and human capital development. A proven leader and skilled communicator, Ugbedeojo currently serves as the President of the Nigerian Economics Students Association (NESA), Veritas University Chapter. In this role, he leads the executive student body, orchestrates large-scale academic events, facilitates corporate sponsorships, and manages the end-to-end publication of the departmental magazine, ECOVIEWS: The Renaissance. He is also an award-winning debater, having earned the 3rd Best Speaker award at the university's 7th Vice Chancellor's Debate competition. Equipped with professional certifications in Business Venture Management from the Cisco Networking Academy and Microsoft Excel from Coursera, alongside proficiency in statistical tools such as Stata and E-Views, Ugbedeojo is highly passionate about leveraging data-driven insights and strategic communications to foster sustainable economic growth and development across emerging markets.

Raymond Omenka Omachi

Board Member, Central Bank of Nigeria

Jide-Samuel Omoyemen

Director of the Information Technology
Department, Central Bank of Nigeria , Nigeria

Omoyemen Jide-Samuel is the Director of the Information Technology Department in the Central Bank of Nigeria, steering the Bank's technology vision since May 2024 in acting capacity and now in the full capacity since March 1, 2025. With three decades of progressive IT leadership, she has directed software development, service management, IT strategy management and quality and compliance functions, championing three IT strategies that strengthened resilience, cybersecurity and innovation. Omoyemen is renowned for strategic clarity, collaborative leadership and an ability to harness talent across the CBN HQ and 39 IT Service Desks nationwide, ensuring seamless nationwide banking operations.

Oladele Olaolu

Professor of Finance, Baze University, Nigeria

A Chartered Banker and a Professor of Management & Finance, with over 30 years cognate experience at Executive Management positions in the Nigerian Banking Industry and over 20 years cognate experience in Academics as Lecturer blending the Town & Gown Handshake.

Aisha Isa-Olatinwo

Director of the Consumer Protection & Financial Inclusion Department, Central Bank of Nigeria , Nigeria

Dr. Aisha Isa-Olatinwo is the Director of the Consumer Protection & Financial Inclusion Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN). A seasoned financial sector professional with extensive expertise in consumer protection, financial inclusion, and policy development, her leadership is central to advancing equitable access to financial services and strengthening consumer safeguards across Nigeria. Prior to her current role, she served as Acting Director of the Branch Operations Department, where she led the restructuring of operations across the CBN's 37 branches and co-led the "Make Branches More Attractive" initiative. She holds a PhD in Management Science (Finance) and is a Chartered Banker, Associate Arbitrator, and Associate Fraud Examiner. She has contributed to several high-level domestic and international committees, including the Alliance for Financial Inclusion (AFI).

Makinde Kayode Olanrewaju

Director, Procurement & Support Services Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

Mr. Kayode Makinde holds a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) degree in Accounting, a Post Graduate Diploma (Economics), as well as a Master of Science (M.Sc) degree in Economics from the University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos. Mr. Makinde is currently studying for his Ph.D degree in Economics from the University of Lagos, Akoka, Lagos. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), an Associate member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) in the UK, an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria (CIBN) and a Certified Information System Auditor (CISA) from the Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA) in Chicago, Illinois State, USA. He is currently the Director, Procurement and Support Services Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja. Prior to his assumption of office as Director, he was the Head and Deputy Director in charge of the Cybersecurity & IT Surveillance Group in the Banking Supervision Department of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Lagos. His over two decades of banking experience with the apex bank has spanned the examination of Nigerian Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) and their overseas subsidiaries in the areas of financial analysis, treasury activities, Anti-Money Laundering, Foreign Exchange Utilization and Monitoring, Risk Management, as well as Corporate Governance Audit and IT Surveillance & Cybersecurity.

Paul Oluikpe

Ag. Director, Development Finance Advisory Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

Dr. Paul Oluikpe is the Acting Director of the Development Finance Advisory Department at the Central Bank of Nigeria, where he leads policy advisory, research, programme governance, and stakeholder engagement on development finance initiatives. Over the course of his career, he has held leadership roles in financial inclusion, agricultural finance, strategy, and trade policy, and has contributed to the design and implementation of major national development finance and financial inclusion reforms. His research spans financial inclusion, development finance, agricultural finance, external sector resilience, and macroeconomic policy, with publications in leading international journals and conference proceedings. He holds a PhD and an MSc from Loughborough University, UK, and a distinction in Strategy and Innovation from Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. His work has received international recognition, including the Emerald Citation for Excellence Award and the British Council Education UK Alumni Award, reflecting his contributions to research, policy, and economic development.

Patience Oniha

Director-General, Debt Management Office
Nigeria

Patience Oniha is currently the Director-General of the Debt Management Office (DMO) Nigeria, a position she assumed in July 2017. Prior to her career move from the private to the public sector in 2008, she was an accomplished banker with over two (2) decades of experience in reputable banks including Ecobank and Standard Chartered Bank. During this period she occupied top management positions and acquired skills in Treasury, Credit and Investment Banking. Between 2008 and 2015 when she served as the pioneer Director of the Market Development Department, she initiated and anchored a number of initiatives which have transformed Nigeria's fixed income securities market, making it one of the top three (3) markets in Africa. These initiatives which include the introduction of Benchmark Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) Bonds; transparency in market operations and a sovereign yield curve extending to thirty (30) years resulted in the inclusion of five (5) FGN Bonds in the J.P. Morgan Government Bond Index – Emerging Markets (Local Currency) in 2012. Since then, under her leadership as Director-General, the DMO has introduced a Sovereign Sukuk and Green Bond into the Domestic Market. Indeed, with the issuance of the first Green Bond, Nigeria became the fourth (4th) country in the world to issue a Green Bond. The domestic market now supports the FGN's borrowing needs and those of corporates and sub-national governments.Ms Oniha was largely responsible for Nigeria's entry into the International Capital Market through the issuance of a USD500 million Eurobond in 2011. Since then, Nigeria has raised over USD18 billion through the issuance of Eurobonds to finance budget deficits and critical infrastructure. This window has benefited the private sector as well, as banks and other Nigerian corporates have raised capital through Eurobonds. She holds a First Class Bachelors Degree in Economics and a Masters Degree in Finance. Ms Oniha is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria and a member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation. In addition, she has served as a resource person, facilitator, speaker, and panelist at various local and international fora and has served on the Boards of a number of Institutions. Ms. Oniha is passionate about work and is self-driven. She enjoys coaching, mentoring, networking and building new relationships. Her hobbies include music and travelling.

Chukwuka Onyekwena

Executive Director, Center for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA)
Nigeria

Dr. Chukwuka Onyekwena is a prominent and experienced Nigerian economist, widely recognized for his work in driving evidence-based policy research across Africa. His career spans over a decade of leadership in economic research, policy advisory, and non-profit management, with a focus on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), trade, and sustainable development in Africa. As the Executive Director of CSEA, he has lead organizational strategy, resource mobilization, and research agendas. Throughout his career, he has served as Principal Investigator for high-level projects funded by organizations such as the World Bank, Afreximbank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and IDRC.

Additionally, I have provided technical consultancy for UNCTAD, the AfricanDevelopment Bank, and the International Trade Centre on productive capacities and economic diversification.

His work includes over 40 publications covering critical topics like the AfCFTA, debt sustainability, and energy transition. He is also an active member of the African Policy Circle and frequently contribute as a panellist at IMF, World Bank, and G20 forums. Recently, he was honoured to receive the 2025 Nigerian Economic Society (NES) President's Special Award for Public Economics Service.

Eghosa Emmanuel Osaghae

Director-General, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA)
Nigeria

Eghosa Emmanuel Osaghae is a Professor of Political Science

Taiwo Oyedele

Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, Nigeria

Mr. Taiwo Oyedele is Nigeria's Honorable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of the Economy, appointed in 2026. An architect of fiscal transformation, he serves as the primary steward of Nigeria’s macroeconomic stability and cross-sectoral economic coordination. His transition to the cabinet follows a high-impact tenure as Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms (2023–26), where he led the structural redesign of Nigeria’s domestic revenue mobilization framework. Prior to his entry into public service, he spent over two decades in global professional services, culminating in his role as Fiscal Policy Partner and Africa Tax Leader at PwC (Nigeria).

Ndeye Seynabou Pouye

President, African Women Active for Development (FAADEV)
Senegal

Ndeye Seynabou Pouye shares her expertise on the economic and social empowerment of women and young people by exploring consulting opportunities, with the aim of inspiring and collaborating with institutions, NGOs, and SMEs committed to a more equitable and sustainable future.

Aliyu Sanusi Rafindadi

Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Advancement, Research, and Innovation,
Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria
Nigeria

Aliyu Sanusi Rafindadi is a Professor Aliyu R. Sanusi is a Professor of Economics and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Advancement, Research and Innovation) at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria. A highly respected economist and academic leader, he brings a wealth of experience spanning higher education, public policy, and financial sector governance. He has held prominent national appointments, including serving as a Member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MOC) and as Special Assistant to the Chief Economic Adviser to the President. His areas of expertise encompass monetary policy, financial markets, public sector economics, economic development, and institutional reform. Professor Sanusi is widely published and actively engages in shaping policy discourse on macroeconomic stability, private sector development, financial inclusion, and sustainable growth across Africa's emerging economies

Musa Rabiu

Director, Finance Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

Mr. Rabiu Musa holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Bayero University Kano and an MBA from the University of Benin. He is a fellow of the institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria with over twenty (20) years post qualification experience in bank examination, pension regulation and supervision, compliance, enforcement and financial reporting. Before joining the CBN in 2012, Mr. Rabiu had a career with the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) and the National Pensions Commissions (PenCom). At the Central Bank of Nigeria, he worked at the Finance Department where he rose to the position of Head, Budget and Investment Management Division. He was appointed the Director, Finance Department on 13th September 2023.

Chike Princewill Rewhuamwhu

Chancellor, University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria

- Position: 10th Substantive Vice-Chancellor, University of Port
- Harcourt
- Qualifications: B.Med.Sc [1]., M.B., B.S., M.Sc., MD (UPH), FAGP,
- DMP, DSSRS
- Previous Public Service: Former Rivers State Commissioner for Health
- Assumption of Office: July 13, 2026

Aisha Rimi

Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer,
Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC)
Nigeria

Ms. Aisha Rimi is the Executive Secretary and CEO of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC). A distinguished legal expert and investment advisor, she leads Nigeria's strategic efforts to catalyze investment inflows and enhance the nation's competitive standing in the global market. Prior to her transition to public service, in 2023, she amassed extensive experience in international legal practice and strategic advisory. Her professional pedigree includes tenures at renowned global organizations such as Chadbourne & Parke New York (now Norton Rose), GWI Consulting LLC, and Ajumogobia & Okeke. An entrepreneur in the legal sector, she founded Rimi & Partners, which she subsequently merged to co-found Africa Law Practice (ALP), a preeminent continental law firm.

Siamak Rouhani

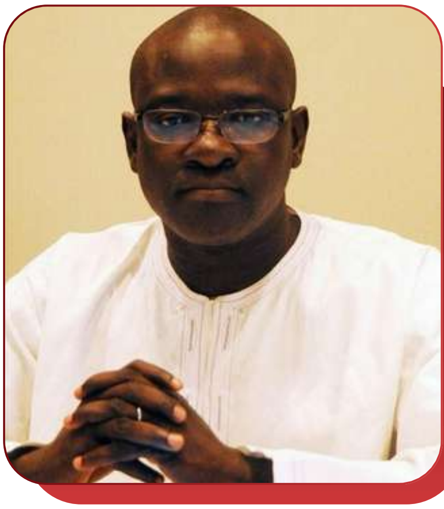
Embassy of Switzerland to Nigeria

He studied business and economics at the University of St. Gall (Switzerland), Rotterdam School of Management (The Netherlands) and at Fundação Getulio Vargas in São Paulo (Brazil). He worked in the private sector before joining the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2002. Throughout his diplomatic career he occupied various functions at the Swiss Embassies in Ukraine, Brazil and India as well as the Ministries of Economic and Foreign Affairs.
Currently serves as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria.

Murtala Sabo Sagagi

Board Member and Monetary Policy Committee Memeber, Central Bank of Nigeria.

Professor Murtala Sabo Sagagi is a development economist and policy expert with deep expertise in inclusive economic growth, private sector development, entrepreneurship, and agribusiness. His leadership is central to advancing evidence-based policy, entrepreneurship education, and sustainable economic development in Nigeria and across Africa. With over three decades of experience, he served as the Pioneer Dean of the Dangote Business School at Bayero University and has held senior advisory roles, including Special Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Adviser on Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth to Global Affairs Canada. He has contributed to major national initiatives such as the National Agricultural Technology and Innovation Policy (NATIP) and is a Fulbright Fellow.



Bakary Sambe

President and founder
of the Timbuktu Institute – African Center for Peace Studies,
Dakar, Senegal

Dr Bakary Sambe, Ph.D. in International Relations, President and founder of the Timbuktu Institute – African Center for Peace Studies, is a specialist in security and stabilization issues. He supports international organizations, donors, and multinational corporations in concretely adapting their engagement strategies to the differentiated realities of the Sahel and fragile zones. Rather than applying standardized tools and conditionalities to contexts that are nonetheless highly dissimilar, he provides companies and organizations with tailor-made mechanisms enabling his partners to maintain an operational presence in fragile environments. Today, he supports companies and organizations such as the World Bank and other multilateral institutions in closing — through reliable field data — the gap between remotely designed fragility assessments and the actual perceptions of local populations, in order to deliver impactful investments and interventions. Dr. Sambe regularly conducts third-party monitoring and evaluation (TPM) missions in areas of limited access, perception studies and security risk analyses, FCV due diligence for investors and multinationals, as well as training for decision-makers and field teams deployed across more than 15 countries in West and Central Africa through the Timbuktu Institute's network of experts. A recognized International expert, practitioner-researcher — named in 2017 among the 50 most influential African intellectuals shaping the continent positively (New African Magazine) — he translates the analysis of necessary institutional reforms into operational tools that international partners can directly act in the field.

Fatou Kiné Sambe

Founder-President of AWARD (African Women for Action and Research on Digital Empowerment)

Mrs. Fatou Kiné Sambe is Founder-President of AWARD (African Women for Action and Research on Digital Empowerment) and an Investment Adviser, with over 15 years of experience at the crossroads of finance, development, and complex project management. She holds a Master's degree (M1) in Finance and a Master's degree (M2) in Statistics, Evaluation and Foresight from the University of Reims, and began her career in the French banking sector (Caisse d'Épargne, CIC, BNP Paribas) in credit and risk control, before specializing in the financing and support of development projects in fragile contexts. She has notably led the mobilization of, and engagement with, diaspora entrepreneurs and investors for the financing of resilience projects in eastern Senegal, mapped existing financing mechanisms, and conducted impact and mid-term evaluations based on OECD-DAC criteria for institutions, governments, and international technical and financial partners. Her expertise in management, inclusive finance, and investment advisory, combined with her commitment to the economic empowerment of African women through digital technology, has established her as a recognized authority in strategic advisory, project financing, and evaluation.

Juan Sell

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Nigeria

Juan Sell is the Minister-Counsellor of the Spanish Embassy in Rabat since July 2017. He was also Spains's ambassador to various countries, namely : the Union of the Comoros, the Republic of Mauritius, the Kingdom of Lesetho, the Republic of Madagascar and the Republic of South Africa. Among his many honorable occupations, Mr Juan Ignacio Sell Sanz held the position of head of the Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in 2011. He has received three Spanish decorations; Grand Officer of the Order of Civil Merit, Officer of the Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic and the Meedal of Merit of the Civil Guard with Distinction.

Antonia Taiye Simbine

Director-General, Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) Nigeria

Professor Antonia Taiye is the Director-General of the over sixty-year old Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER). She is widely published as an academic and her research has informed policy formulation, enriched academic discourse, and strengthened evidence-based decision-making across multiple sectors.Between 2015 and 2020, she rendered distinguished national service, notably as a National Commissioner of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), where she contributed significantly to electoral administration, party regulation, and institutional accountability.

Aderinola Shonekan

Director, Trade and Exchange Department, Central Bank of Nigeria

Aderinola Shonekan joined the Bank in 1994 and is currently the Director of Trade and Exchange Department. She started her career with the Financial Sector Stability Directorate, working in the Department of Banking Supervision, Other Financial Institution Supervision and the Financial Markets Department of the Economic Policy Directorate. She last worked in the Research Department. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Banking and Finance, Masters of Science in Accounting and Management Science. She also attended the programme for Management Development at the Harvard Business School.

Abhishek Singh

High Commissioner of India to Nigeria,
India

H.E. Mr. Abhishek Singh is the High Commissioner of India to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. A seasoned diplomat and career member of the Indian Foreign Service, he represents the Republic of India as its senior-most envoy in Nigeria, providing strategic leadership in advancing the strong bilateral partnership between the two nations. His responsibilities encompass political dialogue, economic cooperation, trade and investment promotion, defense collaboration, and cultural ties, with a strong focus on deepening South-South cooperation and people-to-people relations. He assumed office in October 2025 as the 21st High Commissioner of India to Nigeria. In addition, he is concurrently accredited as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Benin and Permanent Representative of India to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Adedeji Adetona Sikiru

Director, Currency Operations and Branch Management Department, Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigeria

Dr. Adetona Adedeji is the Director of Currency Operations and Branch Management (COBMD). Prior to his appointment as a substantive Director of COBMD, he acted as the Director of Banking Supervision Department for 16 months during which he ensured a successful take-off of the recently concluded re-capitalization exercise of the Nigerian banks. He also ensured the resilience and stability of the Nigerian banking system. In his capacity as Director COBMD, he has been working tirelessly and effectively with his team to ensure adequate supply and efficient distribution of Naira notes all over the country. He is an unapologetic advocate of proper handling of the Naira notes. Under his watch, Naira Ambassadors was launched with the support of the CBN Management with a view to enlightening and engaging the young pupils of our secondary schools to be advocates of proper Naira handling. Dr. Adedeji holds a Ph.D degree in Economics, he is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers of Nigeria.

Sidi Ould Tah

President of the African Development Bank (AfDB)
Cote d'Ivoire

Dr Ould Tah holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis in France and a Master's in Economics from the University of Nouakchott in Mauritania. He has also completed executive education programs at the Harvard Institute for International Development, the Swiss Finance Institute, and the London Business School. Fluent in Arabic, French, and English, with working knowledge of Portuguese and Spanish, Dr Ould Tah has leveraged his linguistic fluency and diplomatic agility to deepen South-South cooperation and forge high-level partnerships across Africa, the Gulf, and Europe. His contributions to development have been widely recognized with numerous national honors, including being named a Knight of the National Order of Merit in Mauritania and receiving Grand Officer distinctions from Burkina Faso, Niger, Senegal, and several other African nations. Dr Sidi Ould Tah's career spans the full spectrum of Africa's development finance landscape, both as a policymaker managing public resources and as a financier crafting continental investment solutions. His long-standing engagement with global donors, rating agencies, and development partners has further positioned him as a trusted interlocutor at the highest levels of international finance.

Bosun Tijani

Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Nigeria

Dr. 'Bosun Tijani is the Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital Economy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. An accomplished entrepreneur and business leader, Dr. Tijani is a pioneer in the African startup ecosystem and has been instrumental in driving innovation and fostering the growth of tech startups across the continent. He is the co-founder and former CEO of Co-Creation Hub (CcHUB), the leading pan-African technology and innovation center with presence in Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda and Namibia. Founded in 2010, CcHUB has played a pivotal role in nurturing startups through mentorship programs, funding initiatives, and access to essential resources. Under his leadership, CcHUB became a vital catalyst for the African tech ecosystem, promoting collaboration, knowledge sharing and the development of groundbreaking solutions to local and global challenges. Dr. Tijani's visionary leadership, passion for technology, and commitment to fostering a thriving startup ecosystem have made him a respected figure in the African tech communities. His dedication to creating opportunities and driving innovation continues to inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs in Nigeria and beyond. Prior to CcHUB, he led the networking and coordination of leading innovation agencies across Europe as European Innovation Manager at PERA, with the aim of standardizing the varying methodologies for commercializing research results. He had also previously worked at the International Trade Centre, in Geneva Switzerland overseeing the design and implementation of technical support programmes geared towards enlightening and assisting exporters in Sub-Saharan Africa in maximising the use of information and communication technologies for export marketing. Dr. Tijani is an exemplary scholar who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Jos, a Masters degree in Information Systems and Management from Warwick University and a Doctorate degree in Innovation and Economic Development from the University of Leicester. He is also an adjunct professor at the Wits School of Governance, South Africa. His PhD research focussed on contributing to a better understanding of how the network perspective to innovation capacity serves as a contextually relevantframework for explaining the adoption and adaptation of innovation in developing countries and offers an alternative path to how African countries can effectively organise to strengthen their innovation ecosystems. He was a member of the UK Advisory Committee on Digital Access Africa, a Committee member for NESG on Science and Technology and a member of the Expert Advisory Group to the European Commission on mainstreaming technology and innovation in the relationship between Europe and Africa. Dr. Tijani is a Desmond Tutu Fellow and fellow of the Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law at the prestigious Stanford University and is happily married with three children.

Boubacar Sidiki Traoré

Chairman, Ecobank Mali;
President and Co-Founder, Matokora Doutigui SA;
Former Resident Representative in Gabon
Equatorial Guinea and
Algeria African Development Bank (AfDB)
Mali

Mr. Boubacar S. TRAORE is an Economist by training, Expert in strategic planning and resource mobilization. He has worked since 1988 in the areas of strategic planning and economic and social development policies. With more than 30 years of experience, he has held very senior positions in the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, and the World Bank in Washington DC. USA. He has served as Resident Representative of the AfDB in Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Algeria. He also served as Head of the AfDB Strategy Planning Division, and Senior Advisor to the Vice President, Strategy, Programming, Budget, Cooperation and Partnership.

Mr. Traoré has also played a central role in the successive replenishment operations of the African Development Fund (ADF) concessional resources, and in the mobilization of resources under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPCs). By way of illustration, in 2005 the HIPCs was able to mobilize a G7 commitment of US $ 100 billion in nominal terms, for the World Bank, the IMF and the ADB, for nearly 60 eligible countries, three quarters of which are in the Africa Region. In addition, Mr. Traoré has for many years led the ADF performance-based resource allocation process, built on the assessment of the macroeconomic and governance performance of eligible regional member countries. During his mandate in Algeria, the ADB has granted to this country a record and historic envelope of US$1.0 billion, the equivalent of 900 million Euros, under the Support Program for Industrial and Energy Competitiveness (PACIE) in 2016. An operation exceptionally disbursed in one installment the same year.

Mr. Traoré spearheaded the preparation of the first Strategic Plan of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) for the 2003-2007 period. He also led the preparation of five consecutive Bank Group Annual Reports from 2004 to 2008, for the Ministers of Economy and Finance of all its 78 member country shareholders. These include all the member countries of the African Union, the OECD countries, together with other countries in the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. He also has a rich civil society and non-governmental associative experience, particularly in Mali and within the ADB Group, where he earned high level distinctions all along his long standing professional and managerial track record.

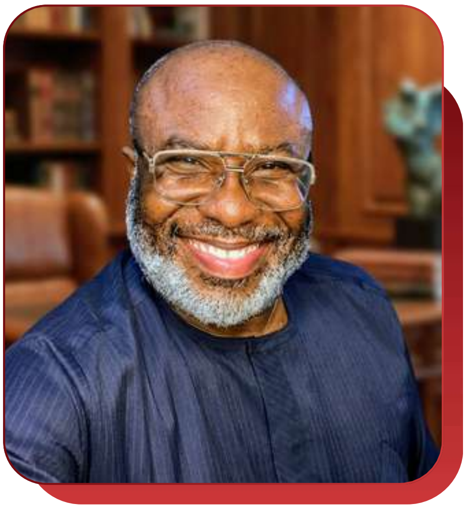
Kalilou Traoré

Ambassador of Côte d'Ivoire to Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire

Mr Kalilou TRAORE was appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Côte'dIvoire to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, by the Council of Ministers held on December 18, 2019 in Yamoussouktro. He effectively took office on February 13, 2020 in Abuja. Before this function, Mr Kalilou TRAORE was the Commissioner of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in charge of Industry and Private Sector.
In this capacity, he developed and launched ECOWAS's 2015-2020 industrial development strategy as well as the development strategy for the Private Sector and SMEs . From March 2018 to February 2020, he assumed the office of Director of Cabinet of the President of the ECOWAS Commission.
Previously, he held several missions in public administration, regional integration, international cooperation, industrial sector, municipal development :

- Director of Cabinet of several ministerial offices in Ivory Coast between 2003 and 2014 (African integration, Tourism, Crafts,);
- Technical Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2009 to 2010;
- Chairman of the Audit Committee of ECOWAS Institutions for the period 2010-2013 ;
- Chairman of the Board of the Regional Quality Agency (ECOWAQ), 2018-2019;
- President of the National Commission of Côte d'Ivoire of Follow-up of the Economic Partnership Agreement with the European Union (EPA) from 2007 to 2013;
- Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Dry Port Project of Ferkessédougou(Côte d'Ivoire) from 2007to2013;
- Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Program of Support to Trade and
- Regional Integration (PACIR)from 2010to 2014;
- President of the ECOWAS / UEMOA Joint Committee for the elaboration of the
- Common External Tariff (CET) (2012 -2013) ;
- President of the National Committee for the Approval of Products to the ECOWAS
- Trade LiberalizationScheme (2007-2013);
- Deputy Mayor of Adjame Commune, District of Abidjan (1996-2013)
- Vice-president of the prospective think tank of the General Confederation of
- Enterprises of Côte d'Ivoire (CGECI), 2009 - 2010;
- Factory Engineer at Nestlé Côte d'Ivoire from 1982 to 2000, Head of theTraining Department and industrial organization;

Ambassador Kalilou TRAORE is a graduate of the Felix HOUPHOUET BOIGNY University of Abidjan with a masters degree in science and techniques obtained in 1981.
He was born in 1956 in Korhogo in Côte d'Ivoire. He has been awarded an Officer of the National Order.



Chiwuike Uba

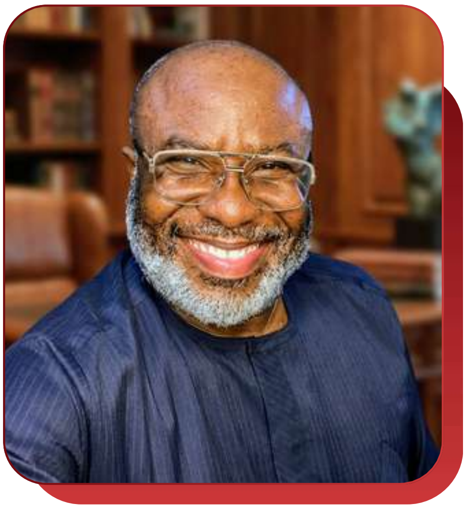
Chairman of the Board, Amaka Chiwuike-Uba Foundation (AUCF) initiative for Policy and Governance,
Nigeria

Prof. Chiwuike Newington Uba is a globally accomplished economist, chartered accountant, public relations expert, governance reform strategist, and Professor of Economics, with a distinguished career that spans more than 25 years across the domains of economic policy, public financial management (PFM), institutional reform, development consultancy, capacity building, and civic engagement. Recognized for his rare blend of intellectual depth, policy acumen, and moral leadership, Prof. Uba has built a reputation as one of Africa's most trusted advisors to governments, development partners, businesses, and civil society. A key highlight of Prof. Uba's public service career was his role as Special Adviser on Economy to the Office of the Deputy Senate President of Nigeria, where he played a central role in shaping Nigeria's macroeconomic strategy, legislative reform, and interagency collaboration. In this capacity, he prepared policy briefs, coordinated input across federal institutions, and helped guide national debates on poverty alleviation, employment creation, economic stability, and private sector development. Prof. Uba has led more than 70 technical assignments across Nigeria, Kenya, South Sudan, and Egypt, in partnership with organizations such as the World Bank, European Union, USAID, UNDP, FCDO, GIZ, and a host of global consultancy firms including DAI Global, Ecorys, GFA Consulting Group, and Results for Development (R4D). Prof. Uba holds a Ph.D. in Economics (Finance & Public Sector Economics) and has earned several other degrees and certifications in economics, education, accounting, management, and public finance. He has received training from elite institutions including Duke University, the University of Sunderland, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and WAIFEM, and is a Fellow or Member of over 15 professional bodies globally. As a Professor, he teaches graduate students in advanced economic theory, microeconomics, and policy design and analysis. He is a respected academic and mentor, guiding the next generation of economists and policymakers. He has published extensively in reputable journals including the European Journal of Business and Management, The Journal of International Trade & Economic Development, and Cogent Economics & Finance, with work focusing on fiscal policy, inflation, exchange rate management, foreign capital flows, and inequality. Prof. Uba is a seasoned facilitator and capacity development expert. He has designed and delivered over 200 high-level workshops and seminars across sectors, training thousands of stakeholders — including government officials, civil society actors, auditors, budget officers, and corporate leaders. His training materials, SOPs, manuals, and toolkits are widely used in Nigeria's reform ecosystem and development sector. Prof. Uba currently sits on the boards of numerous companies and international think tanks, where he provides strategic advice on governance, finance, investment, and organizational growth. His influence extends across private, public, and nonprofit sectors, shaping decisions at the highest levels of leadership. Chiwuike Uba is not just a technical expert or academic - he is a visionary leader, strategic thinker, and builder of institutions, knowledge, and communities. His career is defined by clarity of purpose, humility of service, and consistency of excellence. He leads with the conviction that policy should be people-centered, that development must be inclusive, and that leadership must be grounded in integrity. Through his consultancy, teaching, faith leadership, family life, and humanitarian work, Prof. Uba inspires, equips, and uplifts - one policy, one project, one person at a time.

Samuel Ubido

Executive Chairman, Techinnovate Group, UK

Samuel Ubido operates at the intersection of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, critical infrastructure, and international trade and investment—helping shape trusted corridors between Africa and global markets, particularly the Middle East, by aligning advanced technologies, capital, and strategic partnerships to enable long-term economic growth and digital resilience. He is Chairman of Techinnovate Group and Founder of Africa Market Access, platforms focused on enabling secure digital infrastructure, facilitating cross-border investment, and supporting governments, institutions, and private sector leaders in building resilient and globally connected technology ecosystems. With a foundation in cybersecurity and operational technology, Samuel has worked extensively across critical infrastructure, energy systems, and national digital environments, strengthening resilience across sectors essential to economic stability and national security. His work has since expanded into ecosystem and trade alignment—supporting African nations, financial institutions, and technology companies in accessing global markets, while enabling Middle Eastern partners to engage strategically with Africa's emerging digital economy



Chiwuike Uba

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Nnanna Ude

CEO, Agon Infrastructure Limited

Nnanna Anyim Ude is the Chief Executive Officer of Agon Infrastructure Limited, a company specialised in the delivery of quality infrastructure, with a conviction that the public and private sector can align their interests to provide transformational infrastructure solutions to the community. He is professional career began in Julius Berger Nigeria PLC, where he worked at various project sites across Nigeria. He later founded Agon Continental Limited and led a team that was active in designing policy, governance, regulatory and legislative frameworks for the delivery of public infrastructure in Nigeria. During that period in his career, he was also directly involved in the review of several Federal Government policies, plans and legislations in the infrastructure sector, particularly in promoting public-private partnerships. He served as the Deputy Coordinator of the Infrastructure Working Group of the Federal Government of Nigeria's Medium Term National Development Plans (2021 – 2025). He was also a member of the Steering Committee of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group's Infrastructure Policy Commission.

Nnanna has engaged in other policy reforms endeavours such as providing strategic leadership to the National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER), State Assemblies Business Environment Roundtable (SABER) and Judicial Capacity Project (JUCAP) of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group. The success of these projects led to the establishment of the Ernest Shonekan Centre for Legislative Reforms and Economic Development. Nnanna serves on the Boards of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, Centre for Memories, and Ernest Shonekan Centre for Legislative Reforms and Economic Development, among others. Through his membership of these boards, he is able to drive impact, shape policies, provide thought leadership and influence industry trends. He loves playing golf, badminton, squash and listening to music but, most importantly, reading books.

Kingsley Udeh

Minister of Innovation, Science, and Technology, Nigeria

Dr. Kingsley Tochukwu Udeh, SAN is a distinguished Nigerian lawyer, academic, and public administrator who currently serves as the Honourable Minister of Innovation, Science and Technology of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. He was appointed by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and confirmed by the Nigerian Senate in November 2025 to oversee the development and implementation of policies that promote science, technology, and innovation as key drivers of national growth and economic transformation. Dr. Udeh is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), a prestigious rank awarded to legal practitioners who have demonstrated exceptional excellence, integrity, and outstanding contribution to the legal profession. He has extensive experience in public law, constitutional law, administrative law, and policy development. Prior to his ministerial appointment, he served as the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Enugu State, where he contributed to legal reforms and strengthening of justice administration. Dr. Udeh holds a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) from the University of Nigeria, Master of Laws (LL.M) in Public International Law from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, and a Doctor of Laws (LL.D) in Public Law from Stellenbosch University, South Africa. His academic research focuses on public procurement law and governance systems. He is widely respected for his professionalism, strong analytical ability, and commitment to promoting innovation-driven development, transparency, and effective governance in Nigeria. Through his leadership, he continues to support initiatives that strengthen research, technological advancement, and institutional capacity for national development.

Monsurat Vincent

Director of Strategy & Innovation Management,
Central Bank of Nigeria .

Monsurat leads the Bank's strategy development efforts, oversees enterprise performance management, and drives innovation across the organization. With major footprints in supervision, financial sector reforms and regulatory compliance, she served as Group Head of the Finance Companies Supervisory Group prior to her current appointment.

Victor Oboh Ugbem

Director, Monetary Policy Department and
Secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee,
Central Bank of Nigeria.

Dr. Victor Ugbem Oboh is the Director of the Monetary Policy Department and Secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee at the Central Bank of Nigeria. With over 27 years of experience spanning monetary, fiscal, and trade policy, he has served in key national and international roles, including the National Economist at UNDP Nigeria, Policy Advisor with DFID's PropCom programme, and Senior Research Assistant at IFPRI. At the CBN, he has led major initiatives in macroeconomic policy analysis, inflation targeting, and monetary policy communication, and previously headed the Macroeconomic Policy Analysis Division.

Uche Uwaleke

Director, Institute of Capital Market
Nigeria

Uche Uwaleke is a Financial Economist and a Professor of Capital Market. He is currently the Director of the Institute of Capital Market Studies at the Nasarawa State University Keffi and President of the Capital Market Academics of Nigeria

Fatu Yumkella

Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Dalan Development Consult, Sierra Leone

Fatu Yumkella has more than thirty years combined national and International experience in the fields of Population and Public health. Fatu has extensive proven capability and experience in Program Development and Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Social Science Research, Human Resources for Health (HRH), gained in Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda. Fatu has an in –depth understanding of the public sector in Sierra Leone, having worked as the Medical and Senior Medical Demographer at the Ministry of Health, Sierra Leone. Fatu served WHO Onchocerciais Control Programme (OCP) and The African Programme For Onchocerciasis Control (APOC) in successive scientific committees for over a decade (2003 – 2015). Fatu has written a number of technical and scientific papers and is a member of International Scientific Organizations. Fatu is currently owner and Chief Executive for Dalan Development Consultants, a local consulting agency in Sierra Leone. Her leadership, foresight and commitment to high quality evidence generation across sectors, informs academic publications and programmatic recommendations for Dalan clients, including the Government of Sierra Leone, as well as local and international entities.

Rakiya Opemi Yusuf

Director of the Payments System Supervision Department, Central Bank of Nigeria , Nigeria

Dr. (Mrs.) Rakiya Opemi Yusuf is the Director, Payments System Supervision Department, Central Bank of Nigeria. A seasoned financial sector regulator with over three decades of experience covering accounting, development finance, banking regulation and supervision. She provides strategic leadership in strengthening Nigeria's payments ecosystem. Her work focuses on risk-based oversight, regulatory compliance, promoting digital payments innovation & financial inclusion, fraud prevention, data-driven supervision, and system resilience. She has contributed to key national payments initiatives, including Payments System Vision 2025, and currently chairs the Nigerian e-Fraud Forum. Dr. Rakiya holds advanced qualifications in accounting and finance and is a fellow/member of several leading professional bodies.

Ahmed Zakaria

Assistant Director of Advancement,Services,
Linkages & International Partnerships

Dr. Ahmed Zakaria serves as the Assistant Director of Advancement services, Linkages & International Partnerships within the Directorate of Advancement & International Education at Ahmadu Bello University(ABU), Zaria, Nigeria. Holding a PhD with an extensive background in Information Management and Computer Science, he specializes in system analysis, corporate partnership development, institutional knowledge management, and data governance. In his role, Dr. Zakaria leads key international collaboration frameworks, alumni-institutional networks, and strategic technology-driven advancement initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable higher education growth and regional development.

Samaila Zubaira

CEO of the African Finance Corporation (AFC), Nigeria.

Mr. Samaila Zubairu has championed African value capture, job creation, and industrialization, directing billions into transformative infrastructure over three decades. Over the past seven years as President & CEO of the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), he has more than doubled country membership recording an increase of150%, grown investments approximately 475%, including the largest renewable energy acquisition on the continent, and more than tripled profits as of 2024 year-end. Under his leadership, the AFC has received numerous accolades, including: Pan-African Champion at the 2024 Africa CEO Forum Awards; and DFI of the Year for Europe & Africa at the 2022 Infrastructure Journal Global Awards. Mr. Zubairu was recognized with Senegal's highest national honour, "the Ordre National du Lion – Commandeur" by former President Macky Sall, for visionary leadership. Mr. Zubairu is committed to fostering sustainable economic transformation in Africa through innovative financing, strategic partnerships, and impactful infrastructure projects. As the pioneer CFO for Dangote Cement Plc, he launched Africa's largest syndicated project finance facility and managed the unbundling of Dangote Industries Limited. At AfriCapital Management Limited, he partnered with AIIM to develop the Nigerian Infrastructure Investment Fund 1.Mr. Zubairu chaired the Alliance of African Multilateral Financial Institutions (AAMFI) from 2025-2026, a platform that brings together Africa's leading Multilateral Financial Institutions to advance the continent's economic interests both within member states and on the global stage. Mr. Zubairu also co-chaired the B20 South Africa Task Force on Finance & Infrastructure – responsible for developing business-driven, actionable policy recommendations to advance economic development for the G20.His efforts in mobilizing clean energy investment have set global benchmarks for climate action in emerging markets. Mr. Zubairu co-chairs the World Economic Forum (WEF)Network to Mobilize Clean Energy Investment in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies. Under his stewardship, AFC has driven some of the continent's most ambitious clean energy projects – including Xlinks – a platform aiming to generate 11.5 GW of zero-carbon electricity from solar and wind in Morocco; and Infinity Power – Africa's largest pureplay renewable energy provider focusing on utility-scale solar and onshore wind technologies. Mr. Zubairu is an Eisenhower Fellow and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Nigeria. He holds a BSc in Accounting from Ahmadu Bello University.

7TH AFRICA EMERGING MARKETS FORUM

THE EMERGING MARKETS FORUM

Was created by the **Centennial Group** as a not-for-profit initiative to bring together high-level government and corporate leaders from around the world to engage in dialogue on the key economic, financial and social issues facing emerging market countries.

The Forum is focused on some 120 market economies in Asia, Eurasia, Latin America and Africa that share prospects of superior economic performance, already have or seek to create a conducive business environment and are of near-term interest to private investors, both domestic and international.

Further Details

Further details on the Forum and its meetings may be seen on our website at www.emergingmarketsforum.org

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