2018

MIPAD

Most Influential People of African Descent

GLOBAL

* * TOP * * *

UNDER 40

IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS...





BRIGETTE HYACINTH
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
Business and Entreprenurship

COLIN KAEPERNICK
USA
Media and Culture

CHADWICK BOSEMAN USA Media and Culture MEGHAN, DÜCHESS OF SUSSEX UK Humanitarian and Religious

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BUSINESS GATHERING NOT TO M

Afreximbank brings you the inaugural Intra-African Trade Fair 2018 (IATF 2018), the first ever gathering of buyers and sellers promoting matchmaking, business to business transactions on the African continent; hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt.

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND:

- **EXPLORE**: Pavilions will feature host nation Egypt, Afreximbank, Regional Trade Hubs, Countries, Corporates and SMEs, showcasing all key business sectors in Africa.
- LEARN: Afreximbank's Intra-African Trade Finance and Payments will feature a Presidential Panel, a Ministerial Session on the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and practical actions to boost intra-African trade.
- CLOSE DEALS: A B2B match making platform will enable you to conclude transactions and get finance on site.
- GET INSPIRED: Heads of State, Trade and Industry Ministers, Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Banks, Africa's leading industrialists, financiers, business owners and trade experts all in attendance.

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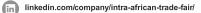


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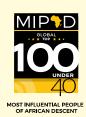
WORLD TRADE CENTER

Trace Your African Roots using DNA Technology

MIPAD supporting over 200 million people of African descent worldwide to trace their roots in Africa, one DNA test at a time.



FIND YOUR ROOTS.



MAKE AFRICA GREAT AGAIN #MAfGA

I am not African because I was born in Africa but because Africa was born in me."

- Kwame Nkrumah

#AfricanDescent





About MIPAD

The Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) is a global civil society initiative in support of the United Nation's International Decade for people of African Descent.

The Decade was proclaimed by the United Nation's General Assembly resolution 68/237, to be observed from 2015 to 2024. MIPAD identifies high achievers of African descent around the world in four categories: (I) Politics & Governance (II) Business & Entrepreneurship (III) Media & Culture (IV) Religious & Humanitarian, with the aim to build a progressive network of relevant actors who will join together in the spirit of recognition, justice and development of Africa both on the continent and across the diaspora.

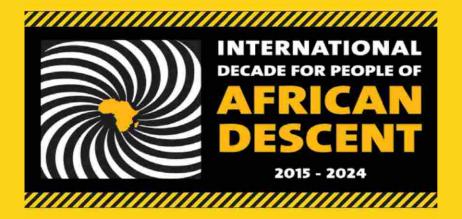
Vision

A WORLD DRIVEN BY EXCELLENCE ...

Mission

IDENTIFY	CONNECT	DEVELOP
1. Publish	2. Organize Events	3. Provide Consulting Services
a. Most Influential Genius (Under 20's) b. Most Influential Under 40 c. Most Influential 40-50 d. Lifetime Achievers e. Definitive Guide to Excellence 2. Global Diaspora Index (GDI)	A. ANNUAL SUMMITS @ UN General Assembly, New York @ AU Summit, Addis Ababa B. REGIONAL ROADSHOWS - Africa - America's - Asia-Pacific - Europe	A. GOVERMENTS - Harnessing the economical potential of Diaspora - Harnessing human capital for nation building B. CORPORATIONS - Doing Business in Africa - Building Business in Diaspora
	C.MIPAD MASTERCLASS	c. MOST INFLUENTIAL - Personal Brand Management Servic - Digital Footprint Services (DFS) - Leadership Training - Public Speaking Training

WHERE ARE WE AS AT 2018





Global Recognition

Fewer than 20 of the 193 member states have recognized UN IDPAD since 1 January 2015. African Union in 2018 officially recognized IDPAD



Regional Recognition

Africa: 0 Americas: 10 Asia: 1 Europe: 6 Oceania: 1 Caribbean: 3



Governmental Recognition

Only 3 countries have recognized IDPAD at the highest levels of government: The Netherlands, Canada, and Venezuela



IDPAD Implementation

As at 30th January, 2018, Canada is the only country in the world to have announced its commitment to the implementation of IDPAD





CONTENTS

Politics & Governance



The most influential people of African descent in Politics and Governance in Africa and across the Diaspora.

Business & Entrepreneurship



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The most influential people of African descent in Business and Entrepreneurship in Africa and across the Diaspora.



Media & Culture



The most influential people of African descent in Media and Culture in Africa and across the Diaspora.

Humanitarian & Religious



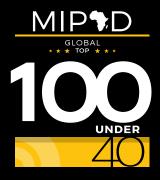
47

The most influential people of African descent in Humanitarian and Religious endeavors in Africa and across the Diaspora.

CONGRATULATIONS

MIPAD Honores

We love telling your stories to the world



MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

Class of 2017 & 2018





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MESSAGE

It is with great honor that we unveil the **2018 Most Influential People of African Descent** (MIPAD) global list to highlight the positive contribution made by people of African descent in public and private sectors worldwide.

The theme for 2018 Recognition Week in honor of the Most Influential 100 Honorees is "Global Recognition. Leadership Training. Local Impact."

Our goal with MIPAD is to build a progressive network of civil society actors to join together and support the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent, 2015 - 2024, as proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/237.

Please join us in congratulating the 2018 MIPAD honorees for their contributions to societies around the world and for their resilience and strength in the face of adversity, BRAVO!

Kamil Olufowobi, CEO Most Influential 100

SPECIAL THANKS TO ADVISORY BOARD

- Honorable Timothy McPherson (Jamaica)
- Dr. Wayne Malcolm (UK)
- Ambassador George Hamilton (Sierra Leone)
- Dr. Ishmael Dodoo (Ghana)
- Dr. Djibril Diallo (Senegal)
- Dr. Randall Pinkett & George C. Fraser (USA)
- Olubunmi Fayoku (Nigeria)
- Law Offices of Alozie N. Etufugh, PLLC, 200 Park Avenue, New York

2018 MIPAD TEAM

MIPAD GLOBAL TOP 100 UNDER 40 |

Tope Esan, COO | Niclette Mundabi, VP, Partnership | Segun Sobudu, Social Media Team
Oheneba Ama Nti Osei & Chinelo L. Njaka Ph.D, Research Team | Ezeocha Amudo &
Demilade Ojewumi, Creative Team | Eloine Barry, Public Relations | Farai Gundan, Comms & Strategy
Robin Devonish, Copy Editor, Definitive Guide to Black Excellence
Alessia Balducci & Nkem Begho, Technology Advisory TechSOLVES.org A MIPAD Initiative





THE SELECTION CRITERIA

Progressives, upwardly mobile people of African descent in public and private sectors from all over the world (Africa, USA, North America, South & Central America, Europe, Asia and Oceania) will be recognised for their achievements and united towards one vision of a brighter tomorrow for Africa and its people.

All recipients are influencers in one of the following four categories:

	Politics & Governance	Business & Entrepreneurship	Media & Culture	Religious & Humanitarian
Categories				
Criteria for	• Level of impact	• Level of impact	• Following/coverage	• Level of impact
assessment / nomination	• Coverages/span of control	• Net worth	• Social media presence	Followership
	Position/ level/ rank within government institution	• Turnover(Corporate)	• Achievements/awards	• Achievements/awards
		• Portfolio size		
	• Achievements/awards			

AGE LIMIT: All Finalist must be 40 as at the commencement of the United Nations International Decade for people of African Descent. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/237

CORRECTIONS: All corrections to NAME, COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, TITLE, PICTURES etc should be sent to honorees@mipad.org

MIPAD GLOBAL TOP 100 UNDER 40 | WWW.MIPAD.ORG



announces

DIASPORA CHAMPIONS INDEX



Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) announces the Diaspora Champions Index to rank African Countries with the best attractiveness index, engagement strategy, sustainable development goals and foreign policy towards the African diaspora.

The Leading African Countries are









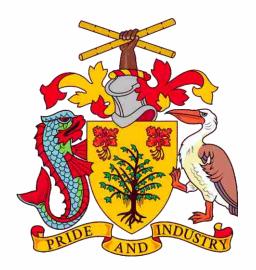




MIPAD invites all interested African countries delegation to UNGA for 2018 Recognition Week, Sept 28th - Oct 4th 2018

For more information about sponsorship, speaking opportunity and reservations please contact: Tope Esan +1 (917) 541-8394 (New York), Niclette Mundabi +1 (678) 818-6032 (Atlanta)











CONGRATULATIONS

It is my distinct honour to congratulate **Ms. Chereda Grannum**, Project Officer of the Ministry of Creative Economy, Culture and Sports - Commission for Pan-African Affairs, on her recognition as one of the **Global Top 100 Most Influential People of African Descent under 40 Class of 2018**.

Ms. Grannum's work continues to be an invaluable contribution to the Commission for Pan-African Affairs' mandate to empower Afro-Barbadians and to strengthen our institutions and positively enhance national life by building relationships, exchanges and interactions with the nation's population groups and institutions of the continent of Africa and the wider African Diaspora.

Ms. Grannum has once again gained a coveted place in the halls of history, being the first Barbadian to have earned the prestigious designation of United Nations Fellow for the International Decade for People of African Descent (IDPAD) in 2016; and is now the first Barbadian to be recognised by the Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) Global 100 Under 40 - Politics and Governance list. This is a remarkable achievement and as Barbadians, we are proud of her and applaud her success and recognition.

The Government of Barbados formally launched the IDPAD in February 2015, and supports the work of the MIPAD 100 initiative in recognising the contributions of those individuals at the forefront of the global efforts to achieve the objectives of the Decade.



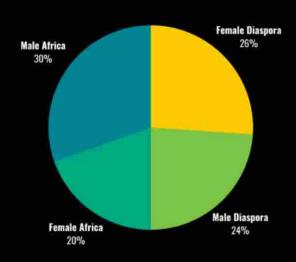
The Hon. John A. King, M.P.Minister of Creative Economy,
Culture and Sports



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MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE



STATISTICS FOR THE CLASS OF 2018



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

24 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



DIASPORA/AFRICA

DIASPORA: 10 COUNTRIES AFRICA: 14 COUNTRIES



GENDER

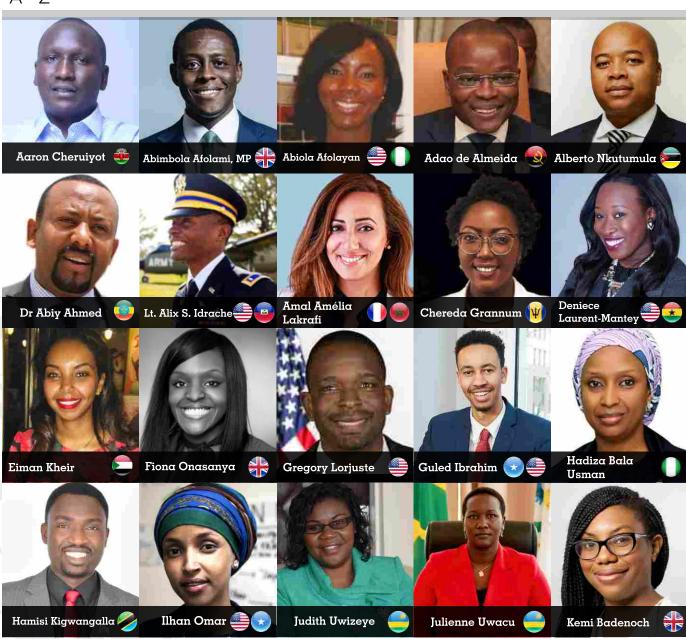
FEMALE: 2 MALE: 25

mipad.org













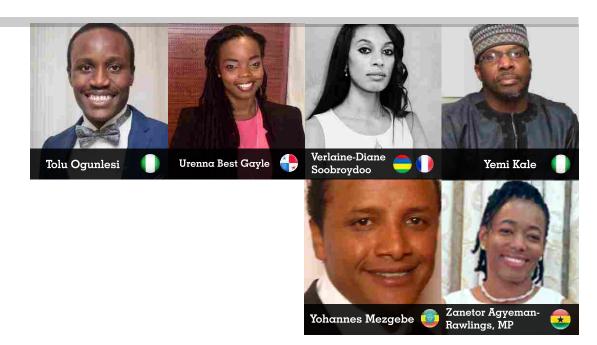


















- 1. Aaron Cheruiyot, Senator for Kericho County, Kenya,
- 2. Abimbola Afolami, MP, British Politician, UK
- 3. **Abiola Afolayan Esq.,** Foreign Affairs Counsel, House of Representatives, Washington, DC, **USA/Nigeria**
- 4. Adao de Almeida, Minister for Territorial Administration and State Reform,
 Angola
- 5. **Alberto Nktumula,** Lawyer, Former Minister of Youth and Sports, Vice Minister of Justice, **Mozambique**
- 6. Abiy Ahmed Ali, Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Ethiopia
- 7. **Lt. Alix S. Idrache,** Aviation Officer, 2nd Battalion of 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, **USA/Haiti**
- 8. **Amal Amélia Lakrafi**, Member of the French National Assembly for French Residents Overseas, **France/Morocco**
- 9. **Chereda Grannum,** Government of Barbados, Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth, Commission for Pan-African Affairs, **Barbados**
- 10. **Deniece Laurent-Mantey,** Foreign Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of State, **USA/Ghana**
- 11. **Eiman Kheir,** Diaspora Policy Officer, Middle East, Asia and Oceania, African Union, **Sudan**
- 12. Fiona Onasanya, MP, Labour Party Politician, UK
- 13. **Gregory Lorjuste**, Scheduling & Strategic Planning at Office of Barack and Michelle Obama, **USA**
- 14. **Guled Ibrahim**, Rotary Peace Fellow & Policy Advisor, Permanent Mission of Somalia to the UN, **Somalia/USA**
- 15. Hadiza Bala Usman, Managing Director, Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA), Nigeria
- 16. Hamisi Kigwangalla, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanazania
- 17. **Ilhan Omar,** Minnesota House of Representatives & Director of Policy and Initiatives of the Women Organizing Women Network, **USA/Somali**
- 18. **Judith Uwizeye**, Cabinet Minister in the Office of the President, **Rwanda**
- 19. Julienne Uwacu, Politician, Rwanda
- 20. Kemi Badenoch, MP, British Politician, UK
- 21. Khalid Albaih, Political Cartoonist, Illustrator & Designer, Sudan/Qatar







- 22. **Kow Essuman, Esq.,** Counsel, Office of President, Ghana & Youth Ambassador for Diaspora Affairs, **Ghana**
- 23. **Lindiwe Mazibuko**, South African Politician & Former Parliamentary Leader, **South Africa**
- 24. **Mamadou Samba**, Director, Mayor's Office on African Affairs, Washington, DC, USA/Senegal
- 25. Marcus Vinicius Moreira Marinho, Brazilian Diplomat, Brazil
- 26. Mia Love, US Congresswomen, USA/Haiti
- 27. **Mohamed Elfayoumy**, Egyptian Diplomat & Political Adviser, United Nations, **Egypt**
- 28. Ndaba Mandela, Co-Founder, Africa Rising Foundation, South Africa
- 29. **Nicholas J. Haughton**, Director, Chancery & Protocol Division, Office of the Prime Minister, **Jamaica**
- 30. Nzioka Waita, Chief of Staff, Office of The President, Government of Kenya, Kenya
- 31. Pedro Lopes, Secretary of State for Innovation & Technical Training, Cape Verde
- 32. Prince Godswill Edward, Special Adviser to Governor, Cross Rivers State, Nigeria
- 33. Quintin Haynes, Chief of Staff at NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services, USA
- 34. Rama Yade, Former French Secretary of Human Rights, France/Senegal
- 35. Randall Woodfin, Mayor of Birmingham, Alabama, USA
- 36. Seun Omobo, Special Adviser to Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria
- 37. **Sibeth Ndiaye**, Conseillère Presse et Communication chez Présidence de la République (France), **France/Senegal**
- 38. Simão Miguel, UCF Prime Candidate Municipal Elections Rotterdam, Netherlands
- 39. Sophie Masipa, Head, Communication Mo Ibrahim Foundation, UK, South Africa
- 40. Sunir Chandaria, Hon. Consul of Kenya in Toronto, Canada
- 41. **Tolu Ogunlesi**, Special Assistant to the President (Digital & New Media); and Head of the Presidency Office of Digital Engagement (PODE), **Nigeria**
- 42. **Urenna Best Gayle,** General Director of the National Secretariat for the Development of Afro-Panamanians (SENADAP), **Panama**

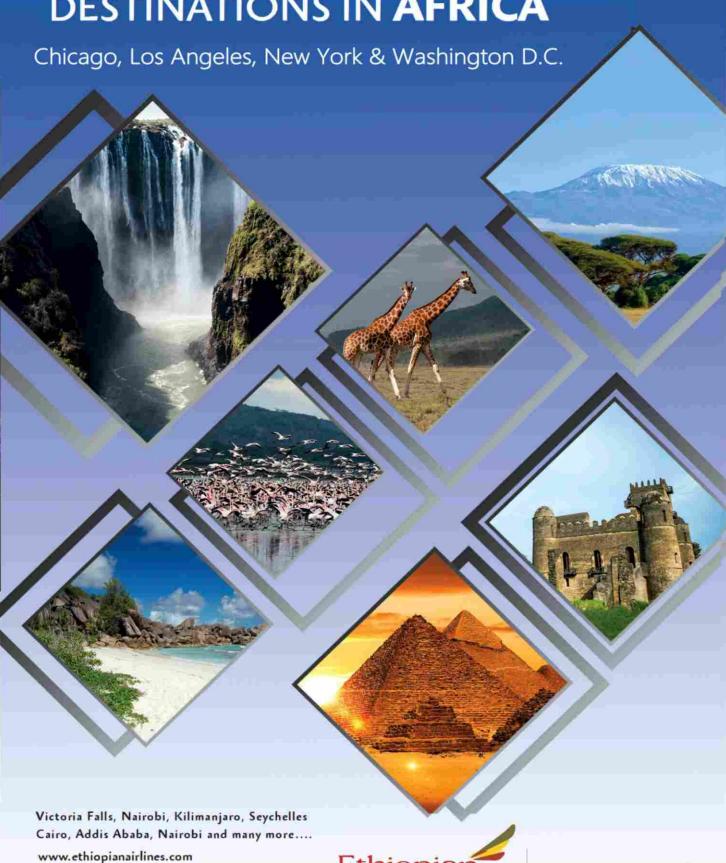






- 43. **Verlaine-Diane Soobroydoo**, Policy Adviser, Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations, Mauritius/Congo (Brazzaville)
- 44. Yemi Kale, Statistician General of the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria
- 45. Yohannes Mezgebe, Coordinator AU Talks, African Union (AU), Ethiopia
- 46. Zanetor Agyeman-Rawlings, MP, Member of Parliament, Ghana

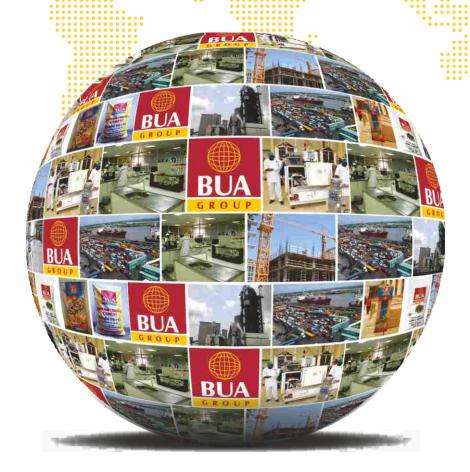
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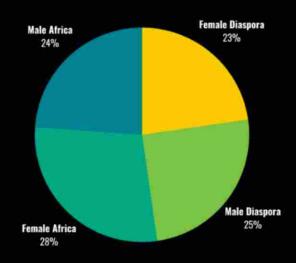
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The most influential people of African descent in Business and Entrpreneurship in Africa and across the Diaspora.

MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP



STATISTICS FOR THE CLASS OF 2018



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

25 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



DIASPORA/AFRICA

DIASPORA: 10 COUNTRIES AFRICA: 15 COUNTRIES



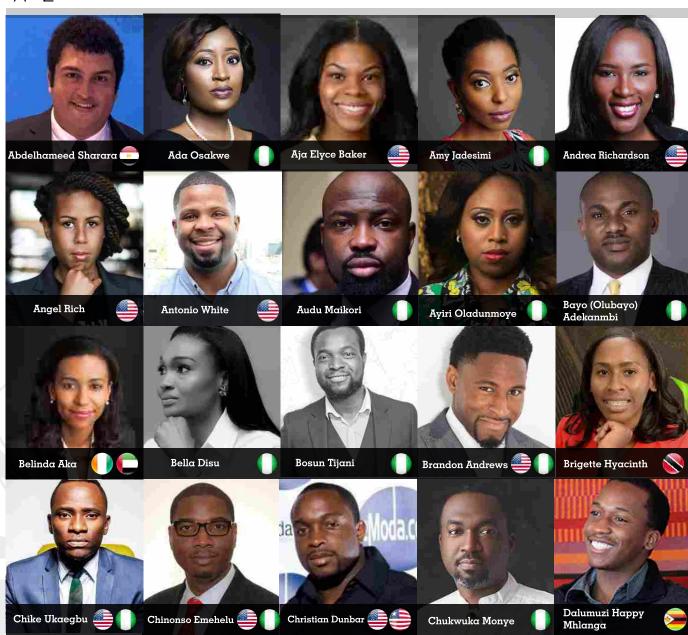
GENDER

FEMALE: 41 MALE: 43





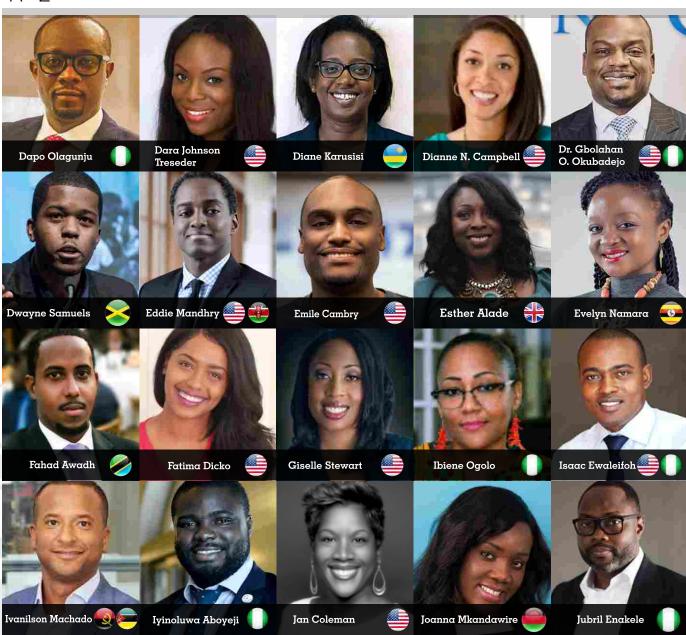








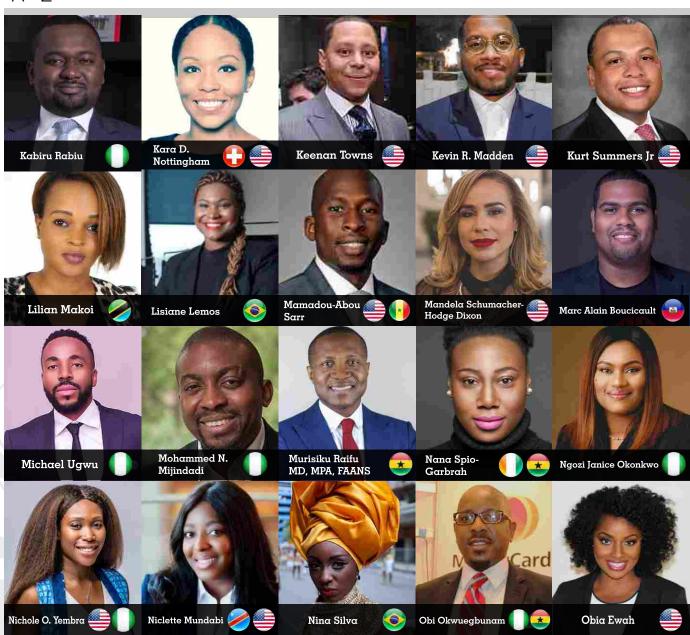


















A-Z







BUSINESS &













- 1. **Abdelhameed Sharara**, Founder & CEO, RiseUp Summit, **Egypt**
- 2. Ada Osakwe, Creative Food Entrepreneur and Investor, Nigeria
- 3. **Aja Elyce Baker**, Vice President Global Sponsorship Marketing Bank of America, **USA**
- 4. Amy Jadesimi, Managing Director, LADOL, Nigeria
- 5. Andrea Richardson, Director, Multicultural & Diversity Engagement at Hilton, USA
- 6. **Angel Rich**, CEO, The Wealth Factory Inc., **USA**
- 7. Antonio White, Special Events Producer & PR Consultant, USA
- 8. **Audu Maikori**, Founder at Chocolate City Group. Entertainment Lawyer and entrepreneur focused on Media /Entertainment in Africa/Globall, **Nigeria**
- 9. Ayiri Oladunmoye, CEO, Oaken Events, Nigeria
- 10. Bayo (Olubayo) Adekanmbi, Chief Transformation Officer, MTN, Nigeria
- 11. **Belinda Aka**, Digital Project Specialist at Caterpillar Inc., **Ivory Coast/UAE**
- 12. Bella Disu, Group Executive Director, Globacom, Nigeria
- 13. Bosun Tijani, CEO Co-creation Hub (CcHUB), Nigeria
- 14. **Brandon Andrews**, Senior Consultant, Values Partnerships, **USA/Nigeria**
- 15. **Brigette Hyacinth**, Author: The Future of Leadership: Rise of Automation, Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, **Trinidad and Tobago**
- 16. Chike Ukaegbu, Founder, Startup52, USA/Nigeria
- 17. **Chinonso Emehelu**, Director, Africa, International Government Relations at ExxonMobil Corporation, **USA/Nigeria**
- 18. Christian Dunbar, Deputy City Treasurer, City of Philadelphia, USA/Liberia
- 19. **Chukwuka Monye**, Managing Partner, Ciuci Consulting (see-u-see); Director General DESG, **Nigeria**
- 20. Dalumuzi Happy Mhlanga, Chief of Staff at Econet Global, Zimbabwe
- 21. Dapo Olagunju, Managing Director & Head of West Africa, JP Morgan, Nigeria
- 22. **Dara Johnson Treseder**, Chief Marketing Officer, GE Business Innovations & GE Ventures, **USA**
- 23. **Diane Karusisi**, CEO, Bank of Kigali, **Rwanda**
- 24. **Dianne N. Campbell,** Vice President Global Diversity & Inclusion at American Express, **USA**
- 25. **Dr. Gbolahan O. Okubadejo**, Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon, Institute for Comprehensive Spine Care, New York, New Jersey, **USA/Nigeria**







- 26. Dwayne Samuels, Founder/CEO Samelogic, Jamaica
- 27. Eddie Mandhry, Director for Africa, Yale University, USA/Kenya
- 28. Emile Cambry, Founder & CEO, BLUE 1647, USA
- 29. Esther Alade, Executive, Corporate Afrika, UK
- 30. Evelyn Namara, Founder of Vouch Digital, Uganda
- 31. Fahad Awadh, Co-founder YYTZ Agro processing, Tanzania
- 32. Fatima Dicko, Founder & CEO at Jetpack, USA
- 33. Giselle Stewart, Global Diversity and Inclusion at The Boeing Company, USA
- 34. **Ibiene Ogolo**, MD / Chief Responsibility Officer, Eko Development Company, **Nigeria**
- 35. **Isaac Ewaleifoh**, Executive Director/Vice President, Finance Division, Goldman Sachs, **USA/Nigeria**
- 36. Ivanilson Machado, CEO, PUMA ENERGY, Angola/Mozambique
- 37. **Iyinoluwa Aboyeji**, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Flutterwave, **Nigeria**
- 38. **Jan Coleman**, Director, Global Marketing Partnerships at The Walt Disney Studios, **USA**
- 39. **Joanna Mkandawire**, CEO and co-founder, Road Financial Services, **Malawi**
- 40. **Jubril Enakele**, Managing Director / Chief Executive Officer at Zenith Capital Limited, **Nigeria**
- 41. Kabiru Rabiu, Group Executive Director, BUA Group, Nigeria
- 42. **Kara D. Nottingham**, International Affairs and Regulatory Policy, Philip Morris International, **Switzerland/USA**
- 43. **Keenan Towns**, Head of Influencer Brands and Diageo World Class Spirits Competition, **USA**
- 44. **Kevin R. Madden**, Global Influencer & Entertainment Creative Programming & Events at INTERSECT BY LEXUS NYC, **USA**
- 45. Kurt Summers Jr., Treasurer of the City of Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 46. Lilian Makoi, Founder, Jamii Africa, Tanzania
- 47. **Lisiane Lemos**, Microsoft/Grupo Mulheres do Brasil, **Brazil**
- 48. **Mamadou-Abou Sarr**, Senior Vice President Director of Product Development and Sustainable Investing, **USA/Senegal**
- 49. Mandela Schumacher-Hodge Dixon, Founder & CEO of Founder Gym, USA
- 50. Marc Alain Boucicault, Founder & CEO at Banj, Port-au-Prince, Haiti







- 51. Michael Ugwu, GM, SONY West Africa, Nigeria
- 52. **Mohammed N. Mijindadi**, Managing Director, Gas Power Systems, General Electric (GE), **Nigeria**
- 53. **Murisiku Raifu** MD, MPA, FAANS, Founder and CEO Talamus Health Inc., **Nigeria/Ghana**
- 54. Nana Spio-Garbrah, Creative Director, Blueprint Africa, Cote d'Ivoire/Ghana
- 55. Ngozi Janice Okonkwo, Chief Legal Officer, Oando, Nigeria
- 56. Nichole O. Yembra, Managing Partner, GreenHouse Capital, USA/Nigeria
- 57. Niclette Mundabi, CEO, TheLuxe Africa, DRC/USA
- 58. Nina Silva, Founder, D'Black Bank & Leading IT Executive, Brazil
- 59. Obi Okwuegbunam, Country Manager Ghana-MasterCard, Nigeria/Ghana
- 60. Obia Ewah, CEO, OBIA Naturals, USA
- 61. Olakunle Oloruntimehin, General Manager, CISCO, West Africa, Nigeria
- 62. Omar Johnson, CMO at Beats by Dre & VP at Apple, USA
- 63. Onyeche Tifase, Managing Director/CEO at Siemens Nigeria, Nigeria
- 64. **Oyinade Ogunade**, Group Head, Comms & External Affairs, Guaranty Trust Bank, **Nigeria**
- 65. Patrick Buchana Nsenga, Chief Executive Officer, AC Group Ltd, Rwanda
- 66. Paulo Rogério Nunes, Co-Founder, Vale do Dendê, Brazil
- 67. Randall M. Tucker, SVP, Chief Inclusion Officer at MasterCard, USA
- 68. **Rimini Makama**, Head of Government Affairs, Microsoft Nigeria, **Nigeria**
- 69. **Rolake Akinkugbe-Filani**, Head, Energy & Natural Resources, FBN Merchant Bank, **Nigeria**
- 70. **Samallie Kiyingi,** Director and General Counsel at the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) Egypt, **Uganda**
- 71. Samke Mhlongo, CEO, TNC Wealth Partners, South Africa
- 72. **Sefa Gohoho Boatin**, Chairman, Africa 2.0 Foundation, **Ghana**
- 73. **Serge Nawej**, International Business Lawyer focusing on Finance/Strategy/Mining President of Young Entrepreneurs at Federation des Entreprises du Congo., **Congo DRC**
- 74. Sherrexcia 'Rexy' Rolle, VP of Operations & General Counsel at Western Air Ltd., Bahamas







- 75. **Sherrod Seward**, Partner, Investment | Business | Artist & Athlete Immigration Practice, Queen City Immigration Law, **USA**
- 76. Taa Wongbe, Founder & CEO, The Khana Group, Liberia
- 77. Tania Tome, CEO Ecokaya Group, Mozambique
- 78. **Tarbinlam Lafon**, Executive Director, Operations & Sourcing Center of Excellence, Merck & Co., **USA/Cameroon**
- 79. Terell Sterling, CEO, Paladin, USA
- 80. Thato Kgatlhanye, Social Entrepreneur | Author | Speaker, South Africa
- 81. Tolulope Ayomide Agbeyo, CEO, Botosoft Technologies, UK/Nigeria
- 82. **Trudi Makhaya**, Economic Advisor to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, **South Africa**
- 83. Valerie Obaze, CEO, R&R Luxury, Ghana
- 84. **Vivian Osayande,** Head Legal, Asia Pacific Middle East & Africa (APMA) Novartis, **Switzerland/Nigeria**
- 85. **Vusi Thembekwayo**, Managing Partner, Watermark Afrika Fund, **South Africa**
- 86. Yvonne Manzi Makolo, Chief Executive Officer, RwandAir, Rwanda
- 87 Yvonne Mburu, Scientist & Founder, Med in Africa, Kenya/France
- 88. Zekarias Amsalu Dubale, Founder & MD, Ibex Frontier. Sheba Valley, Ethiopia



MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DECENT





CONGRATULATIONS

in recognition of your achievement

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP INSIDE AFRICA



Bella DisuGroup Executive Director,
Globacom

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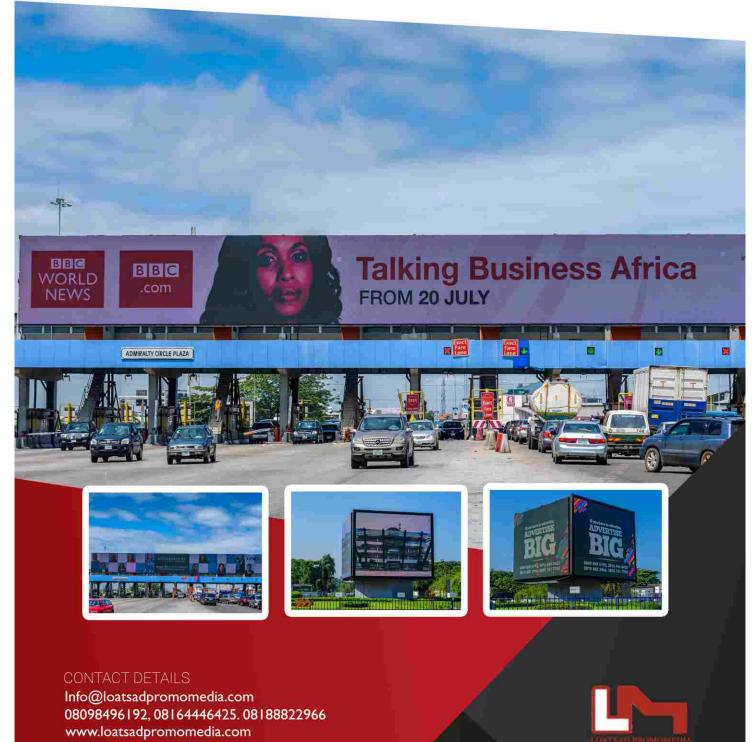
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To us at LOATSAD PROMOMEDIA LIMITED, we get to understand the unique goals and needs of each of our clients and then we

position ourselves to meet those needs.

CORE VALUES

Innovative- Professional- Exceptional.
This is what we stand for at Loatsad Promomedia.



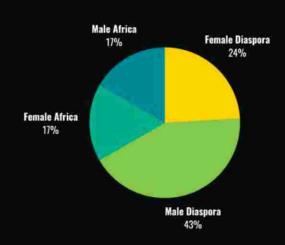
MEDIA & CULTURE



The most influential people of African descent in Media and Culture in Africa and across the Diaspora.

MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

MEDIA AND CULTURE



STATISTICS FOR THE CLASS OF 2018



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

13 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



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DIASPORA: 10 COUNTRIES AFRICA: 3 COUNTRIES



GENDER

FEMALE: 22 MALE: 32

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MEDIA &





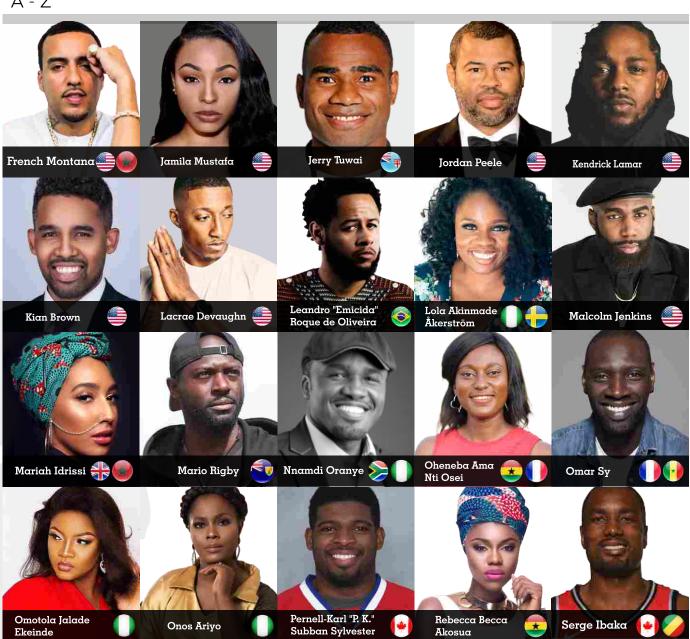




MEDIA &



A-Z







MEDIA & CULTURE









MEDIA & CULTURE



- 1. Abiola Oke, Editor, OKAY Africa, USA/Nigeria
- 2. Afua Hirsch, Author, UK
- 3. Amara La Negra, Musician, Dominican Republic/USA
- 4. Armando Cabral, Model/Fashion Icon, Guinea-Bissua / Portugal
- 5. Banky Wellington & Adesua Etomi, Banky W & Adesua (Power Couple), Nigeria
- 6. Black Panther Cast & Directors, Panther Face, Wakanda
- 7. Cassper Nyvovest, Rapper, South Africa
- 8. Cecilia Brækhus, Boxing Champion, Colombia/Norway
- 9. Charlize Theron, Actress, South Africa
- 10. **Chichi Nwoko**, GM Kwese Free sports, Executive Producer, "Hey Whats On" **Nigeria/USA**
- 11. Colin Kaepernick, American Football Quarterback, USA
- 12. Dakore Akande, Actress, Nigeria
- 13. Daniel "Dbanj" Oyebanjo, Singer/Entertainer, Nigeria
- 14. Danielle Belton, Editor In Chief, The Root, USA
- 15. David "Davido" Adeleke, Singer-Songwriter, Nigeria
- 16. David Bullock, Founder, 907 Agency, USA
- 17. Donald Glover, Actor, USA
- 18. Eloine Barry, CEO, Africa Media Agency, USA/Senegal/Guinea
- 19. Érico Brás & Kenia Maria, Power Couple Brazil, Brazil
- 20. Eunice Omole, Chief Strategy Officer Ebony Life TV, Nigeria
- 21. Folarin "Falz" Falana, Musician, Nigeria
- 22. French Montana, Rapper, USA/Morocco
- 23. Jamila Mustafa, Lead Host, BET NETWORKS, USA
- 24. Jerry Tuwai, Captain, Fiji Ruby Team, Fiji
- 25. Jordan Peele, Movie Producer, USA
- 26. Kendrick Lamar, Rapper, USA
- 27. Kian Brown, The Brand Elevator / Co-Founder, The Maroon Society, USA
- 28. Lacrae Devaughn, Gospel Artiste, USA
- 29. Leandro "Emicida" Roque de Oliveira, Brazillian Rapper, Brazil
- 30. Lola Akinmade Åkerström, National Geographic Photo Journalist, Nigeria/Sweden
- 31. Malcolm Jenkins, Professional Footballer, USA





MEDIA & CULTURE



- 32. Mariah Idrissi, Model / Fashion Icon, UK/Morocco
- 33. Mario Rigby, Adventure Turks and Caicos Islands
- 34. Nnamdi Oranye, Author "Disrupting Africa", Media Contributor, South Africa/Nigeria
- 35. Oheneba Ama Nti Osei, Journalist/Production Editor, The Africa Report, Ghana/France
- 36. Omar Sy, French actor and comedian, France/Senegal/Mauritania
- 37. Omotola Jalade Ekeinde, Actress, Nigeria
- 38. Onos Ariyo, Gospel Artiste, Nigeria
- 39. **Pernell-Karl "P. K." Subban Sylvester**, Canadian professional Ice hockey Defenceman, **Canada**
- 40. Rebecca Becca Akosua, Singer-Songwriter, Ghana
- 41. Rene Silva, Editor-Chefe Voz das Comunidades, Brazil
- 42. Serge Ibaka, Professional basketball player, Canada/Brazzaville Congo
- 43. Seyi Tinubu, CEO/Chairman Loastad Promomedia, Nigeria
- 44. Sheila Okonji Ashinze, Radio Personality, USA/Nigeria
- 45. Tamara "Shy'm" Marthe, French singer, France/Martinique
- 46. Tomi Adeyemi, Bestselling Author, USA/Nigeria
- 47. Virgil Abloh, Artistic Director, Louis Vuitton, USA/Ghana
- 48. Yemi Alade "Mama Africa", Musician, Nigeria







BLACK PANTHER CAST AND DIRECTOR

Chadwick Boseman | Michael B. Jordan | Lupita Nyong'o | Danai Gurira | Daniel Kaluuya | Winston Duke | Letitia Wright | Florence Kasumba | Sterling K. Brown | Forest Whitaker | Andy Serkis



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TO UNDER 40

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HOW MIGRANTS ARE POWERING EUROPEAN



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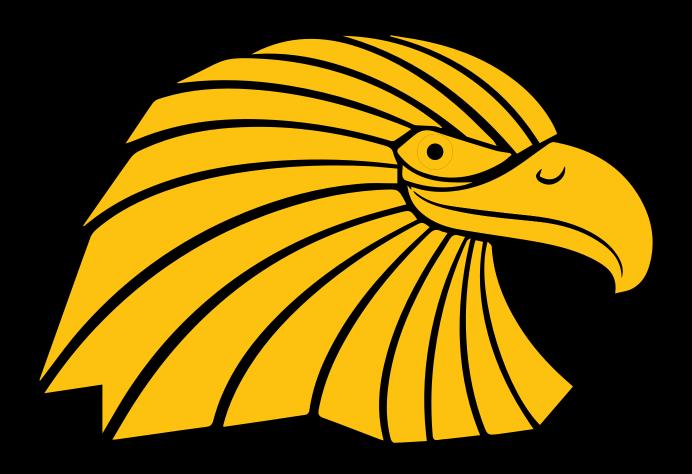
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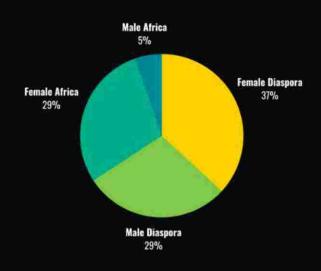
HUMANITARIAN & RELIGIOUS



The most influential people of African descent in Humanitarian and Religious endeavors in Africa and across the Diaspora.

MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

HUMANITARIAN AND RELIGIOUS



STATISTICS FOR THE CLASS OF 2018



COUNTRIES REPRESENTED

13 COUNTRIES WORLDWIDE



DIASPORA/AFRICA

DIASPORA: 7 COUNTRIES AFRICA: 6 COUNTRIES



GENDER

FEMALE: 25 MALE: 13

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HUMANITARIAN & RELIGIOUS



A-Z







HUMANITARIAN & RELIGIOUS









HUMANITARIAN & RELIGIOUS



- 1. Alicia Garza, American Civil Rights Activist, USA
- 2. Chance the Rapper, Humanitarian, USA
- Chinelo L. Njaka, Social Researcher and Director of Peckham Rights, UK
- 4. Chude Jideonwo, Founder, Joy, Inc., Nigeria
- 5. Danilo Rosa de Lima, Civil Rights Activists and Public Policy, EDUCAFRO, Brazil
- 6. **DeRay Mckesson**, American Civil Rights Activist and Former School Administrator, **USA**
- 7. Djamila Ribeiro, Activist and Scholar, Brazil
- 8. Fatima Jabbe-Bio, H.E., Mother of the Nation. First Lady of Sierra Leone, Sierra Leone
- 9. Hatim Eltayeb, Dean of the Academy, African Leadership Academy, South Africa
- 10. **Jaha Mapenzi Dukureh**, UN Women Goodwill Ambassador for Africa, **Gambia**
- 11. Jaydee Tarpeh, Founder and Host, Ten Thousand African Podcast, Canada
- 12. Jazmin Graves, PhD, African-Indian (Sidi) Sufi Devotional Tradition, USA
- 13. **Johnetta Elzie**, American Civil Rights Activist, **USA**
- 14. **Justin Hansford,** Executive Director of the Thurgood Marshall Center for Civil Rights, Law Professor, Howard University, **USA**
- 15. Lamia Naji, Learning and Strategy, Mastercard Foundation, Canada
- 16. Leila Akahloun, Special Advisor to Mrs. Graca Machel, South Africa
- 17. Lígia De Medeiros Batista, Activist, Lawyer & Researcher, Brazil
- 18. Lunga Nene, Media Analyst, Nelson Mandela Foundation, South Africa
- 19. Marcus Allan Noel, Founder at Heart of Man/ Social Entrepreneur, USA
- 20. Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, Humanitarian, UK/USA
- 21. Morag Neil-Johnson, Country Director, International NGO, Bostwana
- 22. Nana Appiah-Mensah, Founder, NAM Mission, Ghana
- 23. Nereida Lobo, Founder Little Crowns & Former Miss Africa USA, USA/Cape Verde
- 24. Νικος Deji Odubitan, Founder, Generation 2.0 RED, Greece/Nigeria
- 25. Niniola Soleye, Managing Director Dr Ameyo Stella Adadevoh (DRASA) Health Trust,
- 26. **Peter Flegel,** Director of Programs and Communications, Michaëlle Jean Foundation, **Canada**
- 27. Rene Silva, Activist & Editor-chefe Voz das Comunidades, Brazil
- 28. Robinson Lynn, Executive Director, Momentum Education, USA
- 29. Samantha Sibanda, Founder/CEO, Appreciate Africa. Organizer, Pride of Africa Asia Awards, China
- 30. Semhar Araia, Managing Director, Diaspora & Multicultural Partnerships, UNICEF USA, USA/Eritrea

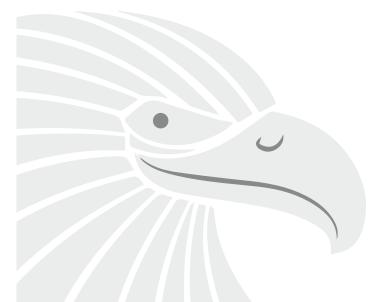




HUMANITARIAN & RELIGIOUS



- 31. Shanthi Annan, Founder, Kin of Kush. Advisor, Queen's Commonwealth Trust, UK/Ghana
- 32. Shaun King, American Writer and Civil Rights Activist, USA
- 33. **Somachi Chris-Asoluka**, Head of Policy and External Relations, Tony Elumelu Foundation, **Nigeria**
- 34. Stephanie Ribeiro, Founder, BlackGirl Magic,
- 35. **Vanessa M. Moungar,** Director, Gender, Women and Civil Society, African Development Bank Group, **France/Chad**
- 36. UN OHCHR Fellows for People of African Descent (2017), Worldwide
- 37. Walla Elsheikh, Executive Director, Birthright AFRICA, USA
- 38. Yemi Adamolekun, Enough is Enough, Nigeria, Nigeria
- 39. Zuriel Oduwole, Sahara Group Girl Education Ambassador, Nigeria









OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

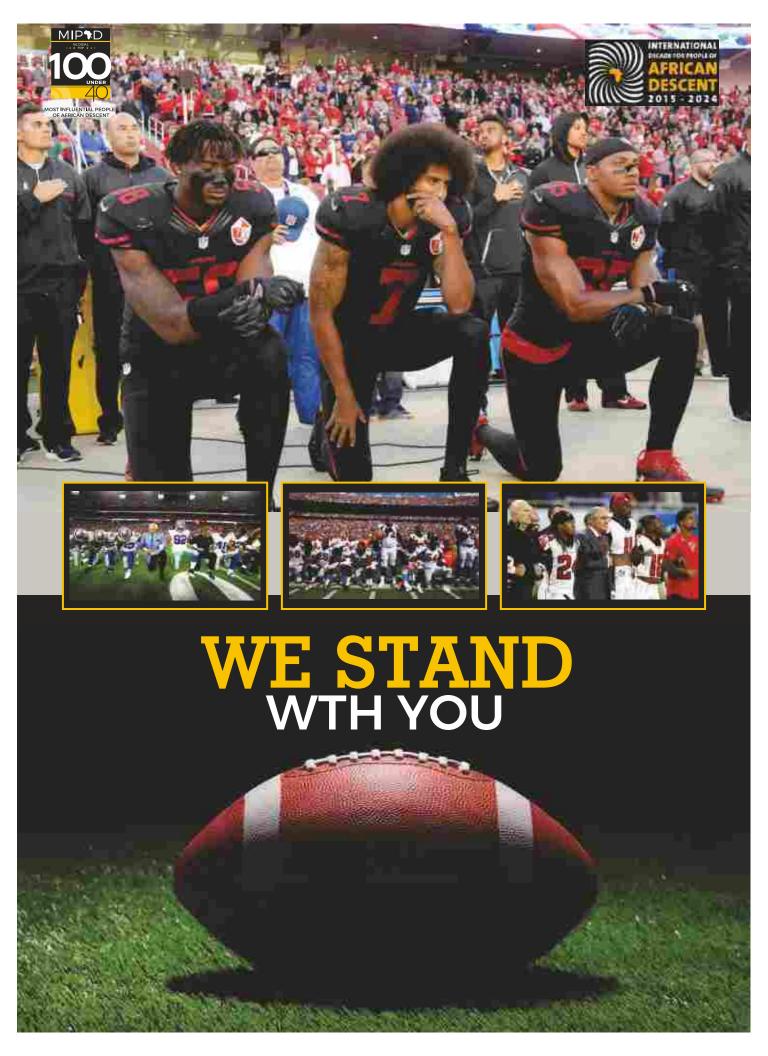
MIPAD 2018 Honorees

United Nations Fellowship for People of African Descent 2017



The photo: the UN Fellows are photographed with the previous UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein (center). The High Commissioner is the overseer of the entire International Decade for People of African Descent. Isabelle Mamadou Blanco (Senior Fellow) and Francisco Tovar Blanco were 2017 MIPAD honorees.

First Name	Middle Name	Surname	MIPAD Year	Country of Residence	Country of Origin (If different)
Alessandra	Ramos	Makkeda	2018	Brazil	
Chinelo	L.	Njaka	2018	United Kingdom	USA/Nigeria
Fernando	Vasco "Chokwata"	Chironda	2018	Brussels	Mozambique
Francisco	Javier	Tovar Blanco	2017	Colombia	Venezuela
Francine		Berabose	2018	Australia	Democratic Republic of Congo
India-Alana	Ingrid	Doris	2018	United Kingdom	
Isabelle	Mamadou	Blanco	2017	Spain	
Julieth	Balanta	Zuniga	2018	Colombia	
Ligia	de Medeiros	Batista	2018	Brazil	
Melissa		Varswyk	2018	Guyana	
Michel		Chikwanine	2018	Canada	Democratic Republic of Congo
Stephen	Amazia	Dradenya	2018	The Netherlands	Uganda
Violeta		Donawa	2018	United States	Panama







PORTUGUESE SPEAKING PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT WORLDWIDE

In Support of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent

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1000 UNDER 40

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Pedro Lopez



Tania Tome



Ivanilson Machado



Addo de Almeida



Nereida Lobo



Armando Cabral



Erico Bras



Djamila Ribeiro



Emicida





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UNDER 40

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Samke Mhlongo

Entrepreneur Founder of The Next Chapter

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Ndaba Mandela

Co-Founder Africa Rising Foundation

POLITICS & GOVERNANCE

Charlize Theron

Actress
MEDIA & CULTURE

Lindiwe Mazibuko

South African Politician & Former Parliamentary Leader

POLITICS & GOVERNANCE





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POLITICS & GOVERNANCE

POLITICS & GOVERNANCE

POLITICS & GOVERNANCE



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Akuoma Omeoga

Athlete

MEDIA & CULTURE

Seun Adigun

Athlete

MEDIA & CULTURE

Ngozi Onwumere

Athlete

MEDIA & CULTURE





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TO UNDER 40

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IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

Team Work Makes The Dream Work.







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GLOBAL

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TO UNDER 40

IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS



Congratulations

IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENT

Team Work Makes The Dream Work.
Congratulations to Africa Trade & Investment Global Summit (ATIGS) Team



Amega Yawo

ATIGS Official Trade Partner and Global Representative



Fernando Dolbeth Assunção

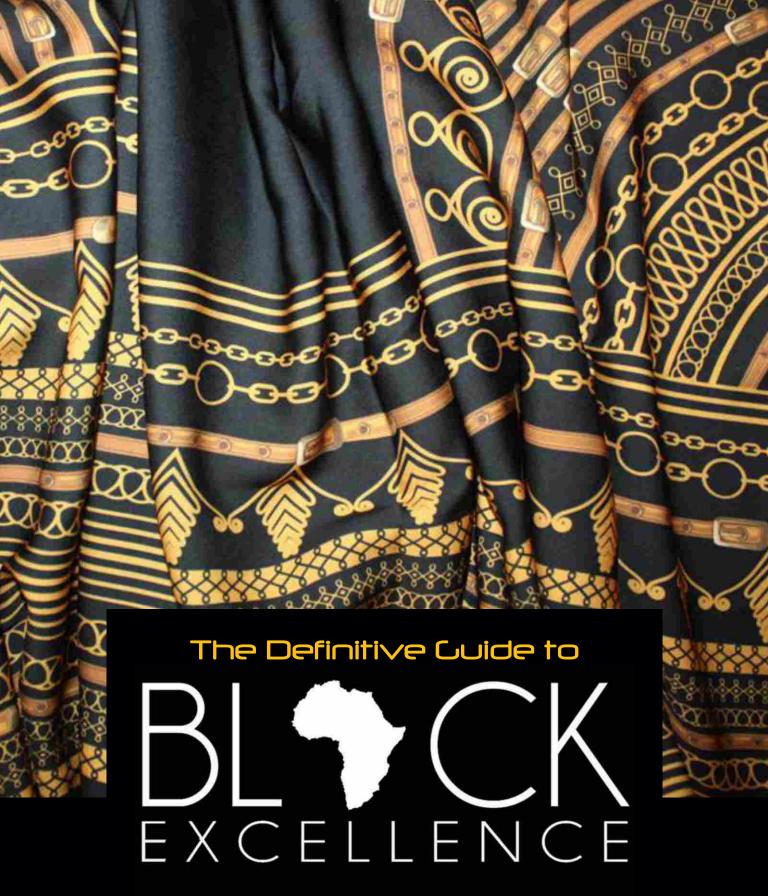
Senior Member of ATIGS Organizing Committee



Bako Ambianda

Chairman of ATIGS
Organizing Committee

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From Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) 100, Under 40







STELLA DAMASUS

Throughout my years on this earth, I have learned many lessons. I do wish, however, that I had a learning curve of knowing that talent alone is not enough to be successful in your chosen career. Blindly, I thought that your talent could take you anywhere. I know now, that there is much more involved. For example, fully understanding the business behind your chosen field and constantly educating yourself as the world and your industry, in particular, are changing and advancing each day, are imperative to your success. It is also equally important to connect with the right people and build a strong network across industries.

When faced with challenges, I had to make a choice. I could either let them swallow me or move forth. I knew my challenges were keeping me away from my goals, so I decided that regardless of the obstacles I face, my end game would be a success. No matter how difficult, I pushed hard, followed the rules and learned as much as I could from my

experiences. I will also add that my spirituality and being someone who prays a lot, has been integral to my success. I am driven! I have meaning!

Knowing that I have a purpose drives me to achieve daily. I wake up every morning with the zeal to accomplish my goals. My priorities in life are to please God, be the best I can be to my family, be as successful as I can be in my field and positively impact as many lives as possible. Although each day varies from filming, to podcasting, to writing, or teaching, I am grateful to live the life of an artist.







MARIAH IDRISSI

Excellence means a number of things to me but it all connects back to one root, which is, ultimately be the best version of you. It took me some time to feel content with the speed and direction my life was going because of all the crazy and wonderful ideas I had but lack of resources and organizational skills to bring them to life.

Understanding gratitude is key and combining that with setting goals, doing everything you can in your ability and then trusting in the process that the work will all manifest. Until I understood gratitude, I understood all the resources I needed were already in front of me, I just wasn't looking in the right direction.

During my process of working in the fashion and entertainment industry, I've learned more lessons in a small space of three years than most of my life. Most importantly, I've learned that life is not a sprint but a marathon and there is no need for chasing. Rather, your focus should be on creating. Being a Muslim, Hijab wearing woman, being mixed racially and growing up in the UK, breaking

into the entertainment and fashion industry was never going to be straightforward. Keeping that in mind, I learned very early, I couldn't wait for opportunities but rather create them for myself and open doors for others too.

The drive to keep pushing forward comes from God and my family. Without purpose, I would feel no motivation to do what I do daily. Without wanting to better my family and the lives of others, I wouldn't have endless goals and dreams and life would feel pretty unfulfilling. My priority is to live my purpose to my full potential which will consume the rest of my life. But as long as I enjoy what I do, it will never feel like work.

I learned that excellence isn't a destination but a journey. Excellence is about feeling successful because you are on that journey, instead of, waiting to feel successful when and if you ever reach that destination we call success. Helping others reach their goals along the way is also a part of the success. Your legacy isn't simply from your personal achievements but from how you helped others achieve theirs.







LUNGA NENE

Where excellence is not in the daily language of a community, lack of access and inequality are pillars of the glass ceiling found hampering the efforts toward its normalization.

If we agree that 'African Excellence' should serve as a tool for equality, then our job as people of African descent under the age of forty is to introduce a more apt definition of excellence. This will allow us to set goals that cement real change driven by the results of opportunity. Unlike physics, excellence is not a static construct and cannot have a narrow set of indicators.

The dictionary defines 'Excellence' as "the quality of being outstanding or extremely good." Its presence in a world moving from analog functionality to Artificial Intelligence must be a mutating one. For the African youth, their results lie in the broadened development and a deepening of opportunity across the globe throughout the changing times.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation calls on all of us to #BeTheLegacy during the celebrations of Nelson Mandela's centenary year. It asks us to observe the life of Madiba, as he is fondly called in South Africa, in a way that unifies our purpose towards this opportunity and equality. The call is rooted in the understanding that where one starts has no bearing on their potential to change the world. It hands us the ownership of building a world that systematic oppression deems an impossible fantasy. It charges us to be revolutionaries daily, driven by the basic understanding that what is African is both an identity and apparatus.

As a young African woman, I find my role in the development of the continent and its people to be a personal one. My work involves cementing an understanding that excellence should become a global norm undefined by heritage or privilege. To this end, the legacy of Nelson Mandela helps me navigate a set of universally applicable values towards equality and equity. Growing up in democratic South Africa has also alerted me to the importance of profiling the stories of the marginalized and those without voices. Across the continent, they are our purpose and definition.

With almost all African people under the age of forty, is a personal story of deep inequality that motivates a shift towards broadening opportunity. This shared commonality binds us in the fight for dignity for all. To this end, we are all on a personal journey that must pave the way for our future generations.

It is no mistake that the narrative of excellence is currently being brought back to conversations about Africa and its people. It is a heightened consciousness of a hollowness in current global standards, an admission of a lack of inclusivity and understanding that what is outstanding or extremely good exists in varied pockets of society.

Our job, in no uncertain terms, is to declare that excellence exists with vibrancy in African people. It is my conviction as a part of the class of 2018 MIPAD Global Top 100 that this is what it is to #BeTheLegacy because my beginnings have no power or bearing on my potential.







LOLA AKINMADE ÅKERSTRÖM

I took the long way to get my photography published because I didn't see that working on your own projects and focusing squarely on your passions will bring people to you. There is no need of you trying to convince them of your worth.

My greatest challenge continues to be navigating an industry (travel photography) that is predominantly white and male and getting those photography assignments that editors always seem to assign to rugged white guys. I have illustrated many publications with my photography, shot many assignments, and been recognized for my work. It's a matter of believing in myself and keeping the momentum even if the industry isn't ready to support me.

Travel is about being an open-minded sponge to not only soak up other cultures in respect, but to also squeeze some of me and my culture out in return to foster understanding, break down bias, and break through prejudices. That is what drives me. Fully listening to others and connecting with our very basic humanity.

I have many priorities but my main focus, careerwise, is to continually work smarter, not harder by actively focusing on the three "P's" - Partnerships,

Projects, and Passive Income. Personally, I continue to work daily on self-care and ensure I get adequate rest in a mad-dash world. My day- to- day ranges from assignments and lunch meetings to family time and sometimes staying in bed all day and reading a book, which is, the beauty of this flexible lifestyle I've built with my family.

Excellence is a powerful and actionable word. When I think back, as a child, my dreams scared the daylights out of me because they were wild, idealistic, borderline delusional and as unattainable as dreams could be. They seemed in direct contrast to what I was expected to dream about as a Nigerian girl. I wanted to travel the world. I wanted to write worldly fiction. I wanted to be a geologist. I wanted

My greatest challenge continues to be navigating an industry (travel photography) that is predominantly white and male, and getting those photography assignments that editors always seem to assign to rugged white guys. to be an artist. I wanted to do what I was passionate about instead of what I was expected to do. I wanted to be my most authentic self in a world that had predefined boxes which it constantly tries to stuff people in.

Decades later and having carved a career out of those seemingly audacious dreams, I believe EXCELLENCE means living your truth and thriving within your natural passions with a resilience that feels timeless and evergreen.







CHINELO L. NJAKA Ph. D

Growing up with an immigrant Nigerian father who achieved his doctorate in his early twenties and a US American mother who was the first in her family to attend and graduate from university, excellence was a notion that permeated throughout my upbringing. My sisters and I were encouraged to do well in school, to treat people well and fairly, and to do well in sports and hobbies. Proudly, excellence remains ingrained in me to this day and I am committed to living a life of excellence in all that I do.

For me, living a life of excellence means to always try to give my best, whether that is in work, study, or relationships with family, friends, colleagues, and strangers. Excellence is knowing my strengths and my weaknesses. Excellence is knowing who I am and where my talents can best be used. Excellence is knowing when to say yes and when to say no. Excellence is being humble, grateful, full of wisdom and understanding, adaptable, and accountable.

Excellence is not perfectionism. Excellence is not striving to be the best at everything, as it is important to know and accept that excellence is possible. Excellence is not presenting a false or inflated image of oneself. Excellence is not

showing off or being boastful. Excellence makes room for others to succeed and helps others be their best.

I believe that excellence is a process that we journey on all throughout our lives. As I go throughout my own life, I do my best, whether the task is big or small, noticed or unnoticed. I either succeed or fail or fall somewhere in between. I learn with gratitude. And I keep going on, taking my new knowledge and experiences with me and building upon them. Excellence is a concept of which I am immensely proud. I am forever thankful that my parents taught and modeled excellence for me.

I do not have to be the best, but knowing that I gave my best is what drives me in all aspects of my life. Thank you, Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) for recognition as a Global 100 Honoree, Class of 2018. I look forward to working with fellow honorees to continue the important work of addressing human rights concerns during the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) and beyond.







EVELYN NAMARA

If I knew then what I know now I would tell my younger self that failure is not necessarily a bad thing if you know how to turn your failures into valuable lessons. If I had this bit of information early on, I would have taken more risks and BOLD steps. I now take every chance as an opportunity to learn, explore and excel.

I have had some challenges. It's quite an experience to wake up and realize that the person you had built the greatest (business) partnership with is no longer the person you thought they were. My biggest challenge was to part ways and venture on my own because our priorities had shifted. Taking time to reflect is key! I say this because reflection allows you to re-align with your values and priorities. My greatest challenge taught me about my inner fight. I knew I wanted to win so much that I did everything I could to get back to the moment of winning. The biggest learning point for me was knowing the value of a rich network and how to activate each network at the right time.

What drives me is making a contribution to my community and ultimately the continent at large. I used to complain a lot about what was wrong in my 'country' until one day I had to stop complaining and started working a little each day to make a difference in my own way. If each one of us works on something that we can change or transform in our communities, we would change the world. Starting my business was such a great and BOLD moment of realizing that I can make a contribution to the tech ecosystem in Uganda by providing a solution to a pertinent distribution crisis in the country.

I am excited to say that I am a trend-setter! Being a trend-setter matters in any industry you are working. I focus a lot on research and understanding what everyone else is doing and how I can ultimately find a unique spot to differentiate myself. I also try and focus on giving back and mentoring the next generation of techpreneurs. It is each of our duty to help others be even better than ourselves.







TANIA TOME

If I could speak to my younger self I would say, Tania Tomé, I am glad to have you as part of my history. I am amazed by you, your experiences and the positive energy you possessed after dealing with failures and mistakes. You learned everyday "by doing", and have appreciated all the amazing things life has offered you, including the obstacles. From the age of 10-years- old, you knew to maintain the child inside that's grateful, happy, who knows how to enjoy life. You couldn't change the past but understood that you could direct your future. You are very committed to creating history with our hands. Dearest Tania, I love you more and more each day and I am blessed we have this life. Thank you.

Today, I can say that I have overcome challenges with passion, confidence and the belief that nothing is impossible. The best way is to bounce back knowing that belief is an important resource that can be used to energize me and allows me to follow my succenergy, principles, and rules. When challenges come, it's important for me to refocus on the goal, not to stay and wallow in the issue, but to forge forth toward my dreams with action. My energy is focused on health, family, happiness, wealth and success. I will remain driven by Energy, Motivation, and most important, Succenergy!!! (www.taniatome.com)



MARIO RIGBY

If I could send a message to my younger self I would share that anything is truly possible. I would let the young in me know that you can overcome any challenge by thinking logically. I would say to always strive to be better to mankind and self. I would also say to focus your energy on improving your craft and be willing to push the limits. Each day will hold a lot of data analysis and preparation but this journey is one of adventure.







ROBINSON LYNN

Nelson Mandela, the late South African antiapartheid revolutionary, political leader, philanthropist, and former President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999 once said: "I dream of an Africa which is in peace with itself." That, too, is the Africa of my dreams.

What's more, I dream of an Africa that is known around the world for her greatness: the brilliance and creativity of her people, the vastness and variety of her beauty, and the abundance of her divine gifts. The Africa of my dreams stretches her hands throughout the world, sharing her greatness for the benefit of all. It is the Africa of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The great thing about a dream is that it can be a reality, and an aspiration at the same time. That's a perspective that can be applied to the greatness of Africa, the most interesting and diverse continent on the Earth. Africa is the home to a wide range of people and cultures. Scientists, anthropologists, and historians tell us that Africa is where human beings first walked the earth and that it is the home of the world's first great civilization dating back to 3300 BC.

We also know that with approximately one billion people speaking more than one thousand languages, the African continent, with 54 independent countries, has the second largest population in the world. It is a rich mixture of cultures, history, and economies, all of which point to her greatness now and over time... the real-life manifestation of the Africa of my dreams.

"When you understand that you matter, you realize there are some things that you won't do but there's nothing you can't do."

The Africa of my dreams that is yet to be realized is that the world will know, acknowledge, and appreciate the greatness of Africa, that Africa's "peace with itself" is a model for nations on other continents, that her resources are not plundered but preserved... that her people are not appeased but applauded. The greatness of Africa already exists. We just need to tell the world.

In the aftermath of the fall of South Africa's apartheid system, my mother, Robin Lynn, moved our family from New York City to Cape Town because she wanted to actively participate in creating a world that works for everyone. She saw South Africa as a fertile environment for big new ideas, particularly the idea that everyone matters. This is the context in which she raised my siblings and me.

Like the great cathedral builders of the Middle Ages, my mother toiled long and hard toward a very big vision and did not get to see the completion of her work, in this world, at least. However, she left knowing that I would continue what she had started. And although I no longer live in Africa, I have made it my life's work to honor her legacy, and to share with people around the world the empowering impact of her ideas.







SEYI TINUBU

Excellence to me starts with having a clear vision and making strides to achieve it. As my mentor, Mr. Aliko Dangote would say – "Think Big!" Excellence comes with the strength of building synergy with likeminded creatives and having mentors who can walk you through the principles of success and failures.

To birth excellence, I learned to be persistent. I define it as facing an obstacle to your vision and rather than walking away from it, you push through it. This formed the bedrock of my brand Loatsad Promomedia, which sets out to break the barriers of advertising in Nigeria.

I learned from the early days of our humble beginning that people won't buy into your vision of winning unless they feel connected to the organization. Connection starts with having a powerful vision people can believe in and feel good about. Creating momentum requires going requires a variety of leadership behaviors that often get overlooked in the rush to get the product out the door. At Loatsad Promomedia, we consider leadership development as something that is integral to our success and ultimately the excellence we seek to deliver every day to our customers.

I remember when my partner and I thought about our first iconic location, we were seen as too young, inexperienced and told that our vision could not work. We, however, turned this into our success story by digging deeper into understanding our craft, the requirements of its structure and seeking the right partners who would bring our vision to life.

I have a strong desire to make an impact in my environment and thankfully, I am blessed with a wife who is just as passionate about helping people and giving back to the society. This made us create The Noella Tinubu Foundation (named after our daughter) where we had our inaugural CSR Initiative called S.T.E.P (Seyi Tinubu Empowerment Program). This program exposed us to hundreds of young innovative entrepreneurs in the tech space. We believe that our foundation will create the platform that will encourage young people to strive for excellence and become change–makers in their society.

Lastly, excellence to me is the driving force of life with a 'Think Big' mindset of creating a difference. Like Steve Jobs said, "Be a yardstick of quality, some people aren't used to an environment where excellence is expected." Also, it is our attitude that translates itself into excellence, a reflection of passion and commitment.







ABIOLA AFOLAYAN

In my view, excellence is tenacity plus inspiration, measured on an individual basis, kind of like yoga.

The marker of excellence is the ability to set objectives, surmount challenges, step back, assess and change strategy when needed to achieve set objectives. In his book, A Long Walk to Freedom, Nelson Mandela discussed how he utilized various strategies to get his voice heard. Sometimes it was a verbal protest, and then standing back and watching things develop. However, often times it was a silent protest. Whatever the strategy, Mandela embodied excellence and inspiration in his fight for the people of South Africa. Another key element for success is intentionally carving out time to reflect upon successes and failures, which can sometimes, brings forth more effective outcomes. Finally, excellence should be undertaken with grace at every possible point, because a positive outlook and understanding of how to work with others will carry one very far in life.

My greatest challenge is being placed in the four corners of a box, which is in a total contradiction of my upbringing by parents who assured me that I could do anything I set my heart to. My parents were not all talk, as they were accomplished in their pursuits. They always challenged my siblings and me to be kind to others and always figure out a way to use our God-given talents to make humanity better. Finally, they always told us to place God at the center

of all we do. Anchored by my upbringing I,

- Always strive to navigate unchartered territories with a positive outlook.
- Make it a priority to learn the rules of engagement.
- Fight fair and be respectful towards everyone I encounter.
- Keep my dynamic personality.
- Set high standards for myself.
- Build important alliances to last a lifetime.
- Navigate the rough terrains of being a woman of African descent with grace and "collegiality" as U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg always advised.

I am driven by the zest to be part of things larger than me and that better humanity for many generations to come. I worry about how history will judge me, and so that inspires me to strive to be a positive force in all contexts. But guess what? I am human with frailties and so I try my best not to worry too much about whether or not my best is enough. After all, it took the teenage David the courage, a stone, and a slingshot to slay Goliath!

These days, I focus my energy on youth, women and empowering persons of African descent and their supporters. Why? You may wonder. Well, on the youth issue, about eight years ago, I read Say Are You One

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of Them by Jesuit author Uwem Akpan. In it, he chronicles the ordeals youth of African descent from Rwanda, Ethiopia, Nairobi, Nigeria, and an unnamed country, all adversely impacted by conflict, corruption, and disease, because of the decisions made by adults. This catapulted me into activism around youth rights: starting an NGO (non-governmental organization), researching, drafting and arguing the passage of American Bar Association Resolution on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and managing a portfolio on youth issues at the U.S. House of Representatives in DC. My passion for women and persons of African descent come from my observation of challenges they must surmount. This is also what has inspired my book in progress on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.



AFUA HIRSCH

If I were to speak to my younger self I would say, never say what you think people want to hear. Speak the truth! Ironically, it IS what people do actually want to hear. But, that's not why you're saying it.

I am reminded that struggle is what makes us human and failing is what makes us successful. I work to keep my body and mind aligned because it helps me balance and makes me stronger. One of my favorite expressions is, love everybody, and run for your life.

I think I'm blessed with a deep and incurable curiosity, both, about people and the nature of things, which makes me genuinely enthusiastic about the work I do. I'm fascinated by life and by people's stories. A sense of happiness at what's good, and frustration and anger at what's unjust both come easily to me. Both of these things drive me.

I try to focus my labor on two different kinds of projects, those that I enjoy, and those where I can make a difference. If it doesn't fall into one of those two categories, and ideally it falls into both, I'm not doing it. I've never been good at applying myself to things I don't believe in. At times that seemed inconvenient but now I'm grateful that that instinct has saved me a lot of wasted time. Life is too short to do things you don't believe in.







IBIENE OCOLO

My understanding of excellence came to me early in life. Being the first daughter in my family taught me leadership, responsibility and the importance of setting goals. I understood at a young age that I would be an example for my younger siblings. I had to be and live to a standard, as well, as excel in all that I did. The one thing I do wish I was prepared for at a younger age, however, is corporate politics. A lot goes into working within the public sector and that learning curve would have been helpful.

As a woman in a male-dominated sector, there is the challenge of being closely watched or going the extra mile to prove my competence. Despite those challenges, I strive to perform at my highest level in which doing the work in a timely manner yields the respect I deserve. I am also challenged with work and life balance. God, meditating, working out, and spending time with family and friends is important.

I am excited about the growing number of females who are blazing trails within the real estate sector. I enjoy mentoring a few of them and I am happy to see the level of acceptance in the industry now is better than when I started.

My drive comes from God's grace, the pursuit of perfection and executing to improve the bottom line. I encourage my team to provide solutions to challenges and we all work to continuously learn and improve ourselves daily. I am focused and dedicated to making a change. I am grateful for this honor.







NINA SILVA MARINA BARBOSA da SILVA

I have been an IT Executive for more than 16 years, with international experience in writing, mentoring and serving as a technology business manager. I consider myself an African born in the Diaspora knowing that being of 'African Descent' is something more inherent in its history than just being born in Brazil.

I am the Founder of the Black Money Movement that works with Innovation, Mindset Entrepreneurship and Financial Education for the black population. I am also in process of launching Afreektech's Black People Empowerment project, which caters primarily to black women in technology and business management, to generate a competitive mindset for professionals in the job market. Additionally, the goal is to support black entrepreneurs to instrumentalize their business. I am excited to share that my Founding partner of Fintech D'Black Bank is in the current phase of prototyping and market fit.

Over the last 10 years, I have managed project portfolios, rollouts, and systems with experience abroad, along with large consultancies in the segment. I currently work for ThoughtWorks as Project Manager, as well as companies such as Petrobras, Honda, L'Oreal, Heineken, among others.

I am passionate about speaking on the topics of Technology, Leadership, Fintech, Business Management, and Diversity in corporate and institutional environments; as well as mentoring professionals and entrepreneurs interested in these areas. I enjoy contributing as a columnist in journalistic reports about the social and economic realities of the black population in Brazil and world.

To be recognized by the international institution MIPAD (Most Influential People of African Descent) as one of the 100 most influential in the world is truly an honor.







WALLA ELSHEIKH

The common thread in my journey has been a sense of optimism and enthusiasm for what I hope to accomplish in my life's purpose. With that focus of possibility, it makes it easier to tackle challenges which are always part of the journey towards excellence. Building the Birthright AFRICA mission to instill pride, enhance confidence, and spark creativity means I have to believe in myself the way I hope for our Scholars to believe in themselves. Whether it was transitioning my career from finance to education or learning to build collaborative and effective relationships, I embrace the growth and change required to achieve excellence.

Prior to launching the organization, I recognized the importance of learning is more about the history and cultural roots of African heritage as well as the present-day legacy of innovation being built by African descent people throughout the diaspora and Africa.

It is essential to study our greatness to explore our heritage and travel to places where we can experience it first-hand. This exploration will help us to stay inspired in spite of the challenges and will continue to be my source of strength and what is now my life's work and purpose.

I am humbled to live out the Birthright AFRICA vision as we develop the next generation of global leaders and entrepreneurs that are proud of their African heritage, confident in their innovative aspirations and connected to the African continent.







BAKO AMBIANDA

Chairman of ATIGS Group, and Labacorp Group

If I had known at a younger age what I know now, I would have started much earlier and focused on building what I was passionate about. Everything we focus on will manifest and out of that comes our commitment. Out of commitment comes our determination and out of determination come greatness.

Regarding business, the first challenge was structuring my 'Group' and planning its dynamic growth strategy and expansion. There were so many things that interesting to me and I wanted to do so much. However, I had to concentrate on the resources for the business that could generate quick money, and then I could invest the money into businesses of strategic importance, in addition to, our core businesses. The second challenge was time and project management. The good thing is I started my 'Group' as an events company and events are all about project management. I was able to utilize those

skills in getting the 'Group' off the ground. Access to finances was a major challenge but I kept my eyes on the ultimate goals and focused on what I had going for me, as well as, my ability to write and strategize!

My passion for Africa is what drives me. I want to make a difference, and I am committed to economic development in Africa focusing on key sectors. Africa remains the final frontier for development because of its vast unexplored potential for investment. This is why I created the 'Afridevelopism' economic and philosophical initiative to promote development and social progress in Africa. The focus is to contribute to the development of key economic sectors in Africa and have a solid foundation in the five industries of manufacturing, construction, renewable energy, agribusiness, and exhibition. I am also very focused on providing access to clean energy via Labacorp Power Company. Thank you for this honor.

MIPAD Most Influential People of African Descent 100

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Momentum Education celebrates Executive Director Robinson Lynn's recognition by MIPAD (Most Influential People of African Descent) as a member of their Global Class of 2018 within the top 100 under 40 in the Humanitarian and Religious Category.

Since taking the helm at Momentum Education eight years ago, Robinson Lynn has revamped the company's transformational experiential curriculum in his role as Executive Director and Trainer. As a result he has grown its corporate portfolio to include some of the nation's premium brands, and has positioned Momentum's philanthropic efforts to impact millions of people worldwide.

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For more information, please visit www.businessforafricaforum.org or contact events@icpublications.com

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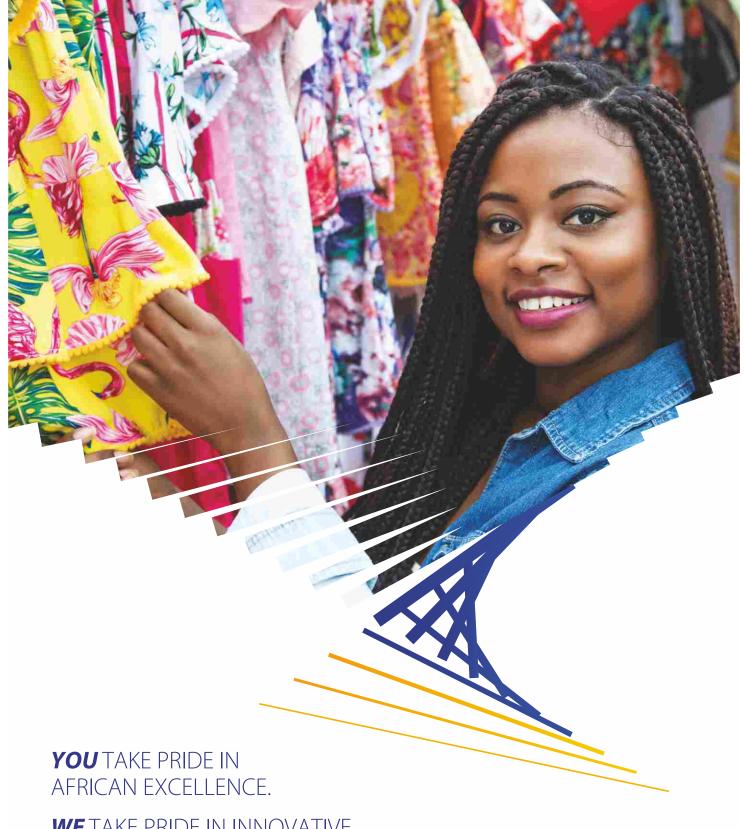






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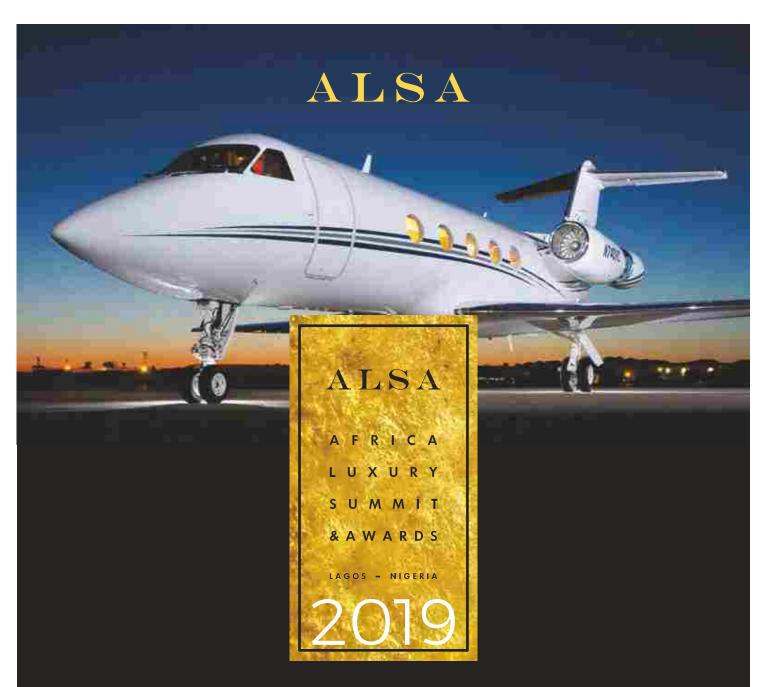




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Samallie Kiyingi, Director, Legal Services, African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK)

The Management and staff of **AFREXIMBANK** joins the rest of Africa in celebrating your recognition by **MIPAD** Class of 2018 a global list for Most Influential People of African Descent, for your extraordinary achievements in developing Africa.

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Total Assets: US\$11.726 billion; **Gross Loans Outstanding:** US\$10.316 billion; **Operating Income:** US\$305 million; **Net Income:** US\$165.03 million; **Ratings:** Fitch: BBB-/F3 (Negative); Moody's: Baa1 (stable); GCR: BBB+.

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