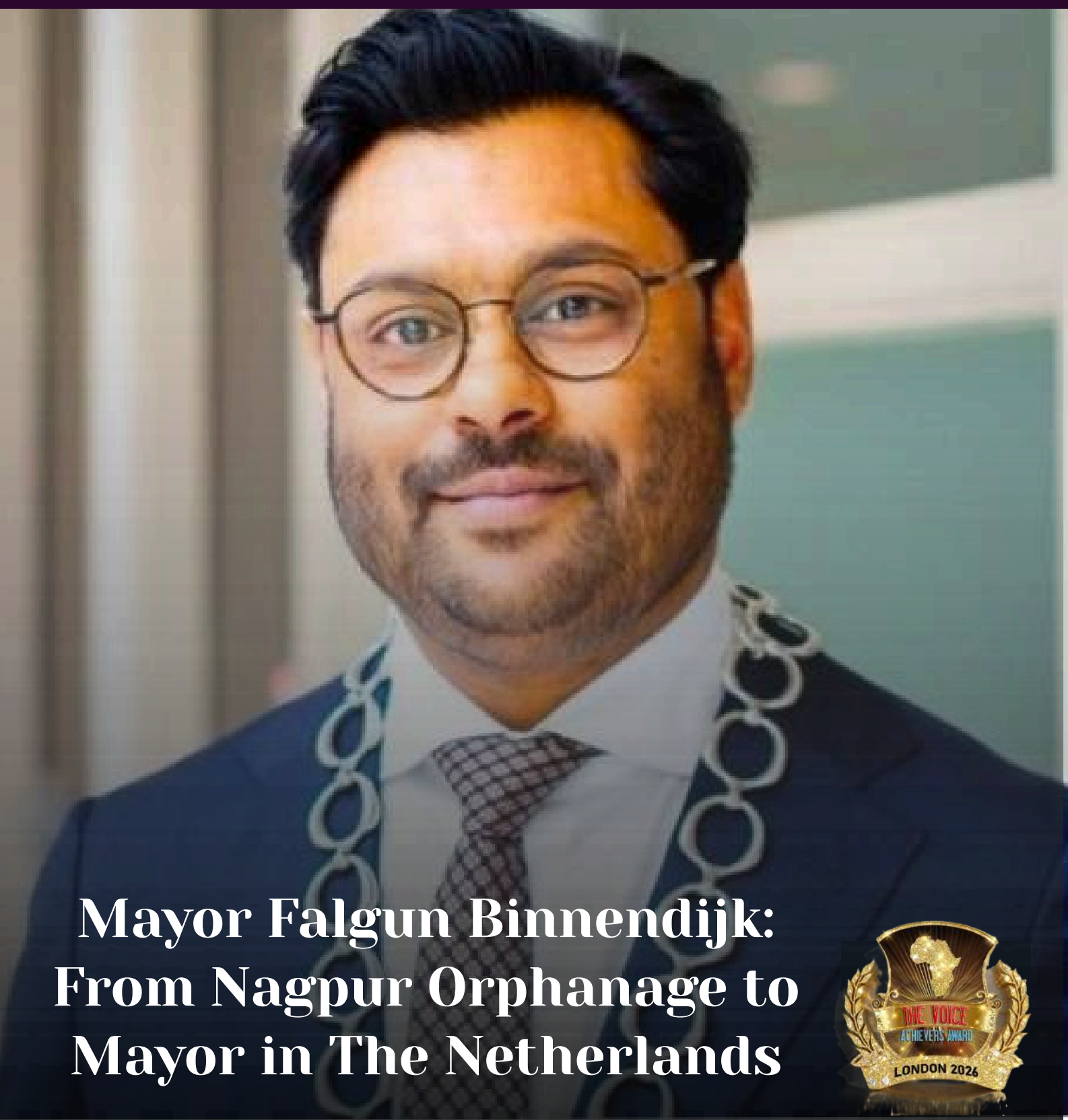


Motto: Actuated Towards Africa's Advancement

Volume 27. NO. 265 May 2026

# The Voice

ISSN:2588-8807



**Mayor Falgun Binnendijk:  
From Nagpur Orphanage to  
Mayor in The Netherlands**



The Church needs to step out in order to step in  
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*Pastor Roel & Ida Van Rooij  
Senior Pastor  
4Pillars Community Church  
Almere*



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**Happy New Year 2026 to you all.**

# AFRICA DAY IN TILBURG



1ST EDITION

23.05.2026  
17:00-20:00

**CELEBRATING HERITAGE  
AND CULTIVATING AFRO-  
DUTCH RELATIONSHIPS  
AND BUSINESSES**

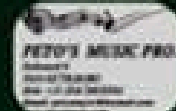
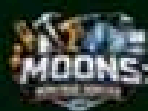
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- Music, community, & celebration

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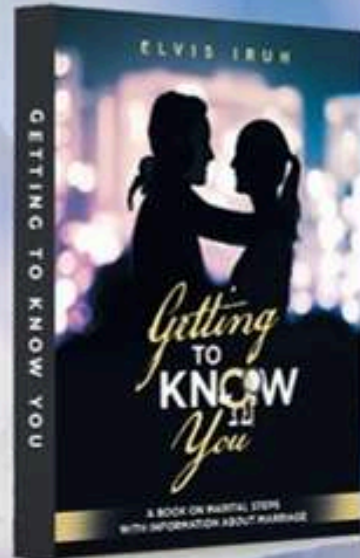
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# GRAB YOUR COPY NOW

Getting to know you written by Pastor Elvis Iruh Pastor Felix Asare wrote the foreword



*We can organise an event or program together or invite me during your activities to speak on this subject.*

*Send me an email at [elvisiruh@gmail.com](mailto:elvisiruh@gmail.com)*

*Tel No: +31684999548*

*Or visit my website at [www.elvisiruh.com](http://www.elvisiruh.com)*

## BEFORE MARRIAGE: FOR THE UNMARRIED

Many are afraid to get married yet they want all that is destiny for marriage like sex, companion, love, children. Yes, it is possible to have marriage and enjoy it to the fullest but before that happens; you need to be properly prepared. This is one gift I have received and with over 15 years' experience, I can say I have something to add to your relationship and support you to build it into a joyous marriage.

I work with young men and women, even older person who desire a relationship that would lead to marriage.

*How do you start?*

*How do you build such relationship, grounded a true Godly foundation.*

*What are the possible obstacles ahead so you don't go into a relationship blindly?*

*(Godly relationship is not a blind date)*

*What does words like commitment & dedication in a relationship means?*

*Tools to help you improve communications and many others things to know.*

*I am willing to partner with your church, cell group, youth ministry to work with your future couples and you all would be happier for it.*

## FOR THE MARRIED

*Do you want to spice up your relationship in your marriage?*

*Marriage is supposedly to last for a life time – not boring and not tiring.*

*Let me support you in building a healthier marriage that would last you for a life time*

*I have been working with couples with my world selling book – Getting to know you.*

*Some of the topics:*

*How do we keep our marriage fresh as early morning bread!*

*How do we bond in our relationship and nothing comes in between the two*

*Conflict management in marriage as it would occur from time to time*

*Enjoying intimacy in your marriage*

*Coping with children in marriage*

*Knowing each other better and any other question you may have.*

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The Voice magazine is editorially independent although we enjoys the support of our readers, advertisers, subscribers, non-governmental organizations and individuals of like minds; however, the magazine publishers are in no way affiliated to any of these bodies or to any other publishing institution or political interest or group.

The Voice magazine strives to foster awareness among the African audience and bridge the widening gap between Africans and the rest of the world in news gathering and dissemination.

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On the Editorial board are Pastor Amb. Elvis Iruh, Jonathan Mgbejume, Sandra Iruh-Monsels, and Henry Oduenyi

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## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Voice News Magazine has been published in the Netherlands by Stichting Paddi Europa since August 1999, with an online format available for worldwide distribution since 2016.

The publication is registered with the Chamber of Commerce in Amsterdam and aims to serve as a vital link among African readers in the diaspora.

The Voice News Magazine provides objective information and organizes the exchange of opinions among African people both on the continent and abroad. It strives to foster a complete understanding of the African continent's challenges and brings information to help address those issues.

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## **ATTACK ON MALI: A WIDER THREAT TO WEST AFRICAN REGION**

Towards the end of the month of April 2026, the world was awake of the deadly attacks carried out by al-Qaida-linked terrorists and separatists group fighting the government of Mali for a period of time now. This time around, the attack was deadly, it was coordinated and an assault and a signal to the military regime that all is not well in Mali. According to reports from the Front de Libération de l'Azawad (FLA) they launched the coordinated attacks on several major cities in Mali. One of their targets was to eliminate the strong defense minister of Mali. The Malian government confirmed the death of the defense chief, General Sadio Camara, in a post on the defense ministry's Facebook page, and expressed its condolences to his family. State-run television also broadcast the announcement of his death by spokesman Gen. Issa Ousmane Coulibaly. His death came as a huge shock to the country and the people claim they are even more exposed now to more likely attacks.

The rebels/terrorists groups succeeded in killing him after his home was attacked with suicide bomber and other heavy military mercenaries. Although he lost his life in the battle but he left many of the terrorists dead too. The separatists called on Russia to "reconsider its support for the military junta" in Mali, saying its "actions have contributed to the suffering of the civilian population."

Wassim Nasr, a specialist for the region and senior research fellow at the Soufan Center security think tank, said this "coordination, conducting attacks all over the country at the same time," the united push by the two groups and the call for the Russian military to leave was a first of its kind in the history of the country and there is fear that they may attempt this again or somewhere else within the region.

A threat to the wider region

The Economic Community of West African States condemned the attacks in Mali and called on "all states, security forces, regional mechanisms and populations of West Africa to unite and mobilize in a coordinated effort to combat this scourge." Following military coups, the juntas in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso turned from Western allies to Russia for help in combating Islamic militants.

But the security situation in the region has worsened in recent times, with a record number of attacks by militants. Government forces have also been accused of killing civilians they suspect of collaborating with militants.

In 2024, an al-Qaida-linked group claimed an attack on Bamako's airport and a military training camp in the country's capital, killing scores of people.

Ulf Laessing, from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, said that the separatists and JNIM are unlikely to take control of Bamako in the near term due to opposition from the local population. Still, the attacks undermined the Malian junta's Russian partnership.

"The attacks are a major blow to Russia as the mercenaries had no intelligence about the attacks and were unable to protect major cities," Laessing said.

The fear now is that this attempt may be copied by other terrorist groups like that of Boko Haram in Nigeria who in recent times have become more daring attacking military bases in Northern part of the country. We therefore call on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's government to as a matter of urgency call together regional political leaders and their military strategists to discuss how to gather intelligence to prevent this type of occurrence in any other West African countries in the near future.

The world is watching how the West Africa leaders react to this new insecurity challenges pose to Africa countries where terrorist groups are emerging and seem to be getting stronger by the day.

We pray for peace over Africa. Enjoy your new edition for the month of May 2026. Preparations are ongoing for our major event of the year – the Voice Achievers Award and Business Dialogue 2026.





**15<sup>TH</sup>  
EDITION**



# THE VOICE ACHIEVERS AWARD & BUSINESS DIALOGUE

**Theme:**  
"Putting Africa In The Right  
Perspective- Focusing On Mental  
Empowerment For Economic  
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# ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE DAY DINNER PARTY AT THE ZIMBABWE EMBASSY, LONDON – APRIL 2016



I was delighted to be invited back to the Zimbabwe Embassy in London by His Excellency Colonel Christian M. Katsande, the Zimbabwe Ambassador to the United Kingdom, as a special guest to celebrate Zimbabwe's Independence Day.

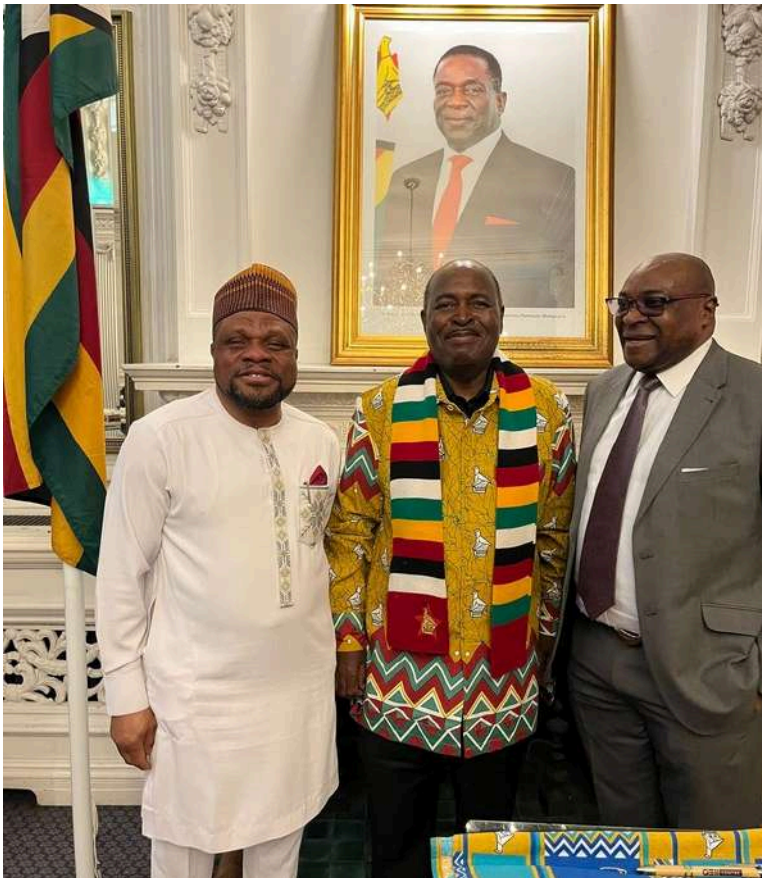
It was indeed a great honour and pleasure to join many Zimbabweans, alongside a few Nigerian-Zimbabwean friends, at the elegant dinner party held inside the Embassy building on Strand, London.

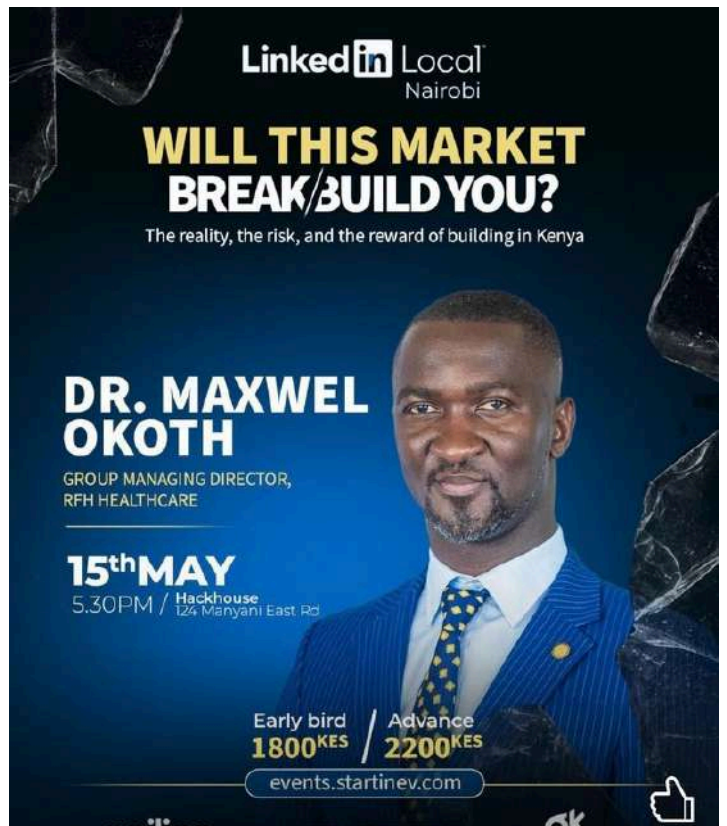
The evening was filled with warm hospitality, meaningful conversations, and reflections on Zimbabwe's journey of independence, national pride, and the strong diplomatic and cultural ties shared among African nations in the diaspora.

I was privileged to share this memorable occasion with His Excellency the Ambassador, my brother Chief Uzo Owunne, the Zimbabwe Defence Attaché, Ms. Remi Dada, and many other distinguished invited guests.

It was truly a night of celebration, friendship, and African unity.

By Mazi Godson Azu





There comes a point in every entrepreneur’s journey where you stop asking whether the market will reward your effort, and start asking whether the process is shaping the person you are becoming

Building in Kenya is not for the faint-hearted. It tests your patience, your convictions, your relationships, your resilience, and sometimes even your identity. There are seasons of uncertainty where vision is the only thing keeping you moving forward. Yet within that pressure, something powerful happens — you evolve.

Over the years, I have learned that true leadership is not built in moments of comfort, but in moments of responsibility. In carrying people’s hopes, creating opportunities, making difficult decisions, and continuing to believe even when the odds appear impossible.

From building RFH Healthcare into a growing healthcare ecosystem to expanding access to advanced cancer care and affordable healthcare solutions, the journey has taught me that impact is always bigger than ambition. Institutions outlive individuals when they are built on purpose, service, and courage.

I look forward to sharing these reflections at LinkedIn Local Nairobi as we discuss the reality, risks, and rewards of building in Africa’s evolving markets.

To every entrepreneur, founder, and dreamer navigating difficult seasons — sometimes the market is not trying to break you. Sometimes it is preparing you.

Hackhouse, Nairobi

15th May | 5:30 PM

#LinkedInLocalNairobi #Leadership #Entrepreneurship #RFHHealthcare

#PurposeDrivenLeadership BuildingAfrica HealthcareLeadership Resilience Legacy Innovation

# THE ENTREPRENEUR'S CORNER: IDEA TO BUSINESS MODEL — TURNING PROMISE INTO STRUCTURE



*Josephine Asemota  
The Entrepreneur*

## “Vision without execution is hallucination” — Thomas Edison

Across the world, many promising ideas emerge every day, yet only a small number evolve into sustainable businesses. Evidence from institutions such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development shows that early-stage ventures often fail not because the ideas lack potential, but because they lack a clear structure for execution.

An idea may inspire interest, but without a defined way to create and deliver value, it remains only a possibility.

Every business begins as an idea — a response to a perceived opportunity or problem. However, an idea becomes viable only when it answers key questions:

Who is the customer? What problem is being solved? How will value be delivered consistently? How will the business generate revenue? Without clarity in these areas, even strong ideas struggle to survive.

### Understanding Value before Structure

At the core of every successful business is a clear value proposition — what is the specific value your business offer, what will make customers prefer it over another. To achieve this, your business must align with three realities: What the customer wants to achieve. The obstacle the customer faces. The final outcome (customer satisfaction). A promising idea becomes viable only when it aligns with these realities.

Moving an idea to a business model requires a shift from what business do I want to start to what value am I creating for a specific customer (Customer Segment), how will the value be consistently delivered to the customer (value delivery /Key Activities and Resources), how will income be generated (Revenue Logic), what does it take to operate? (Cost Structure). For instance, a food idea should shift from just cooking and selling to having affordable, hygienic, and accessible meals for busy workers- This is a very clear value proposition and it becomes a solid foundation for such a restaurant or eatery structure.

Similarly, a transport idea shifts to a business model from providing general transport services to reliable and timely delivery for small traders for instance.

So there should be clarity of the specific value to be delivered to specific customers, then the next building block on the structure will be how you intend to achieve it constantly, what it will cost you, the revenue, this is what the business model is all about. Professionals like us can be consulted to help out where you are stocked rather than nose diving.

### Why Structure Determines Survival

Many businesses fail not at the level of ideas, but at the level of structure.

Without a clear model: operations become inconsistent, costs become difficult to manage, customer satisfaction declines, growth becomes unstable. But Structure turns possibility into continuity. A good example is the rapid rise and subsequent challenges faced by WeWork company, it showed how a compelling idea can attract investment, but without a strong and sustainable business model, long-term stability becomes difficult. WeWork shows that vision without structure, discipline and sustainable value can lead even the most promising companies into failure.

### Reflection Questions

Who exactly is my target customer?

What specific problem am I solving?

How will I deliver value consistently?

What system will generate revenue sustainably?

### Closing Insight

A promising idea becomes a viable enterprise only when it is structured to create, deliver, and sustain value.

### Next Edition

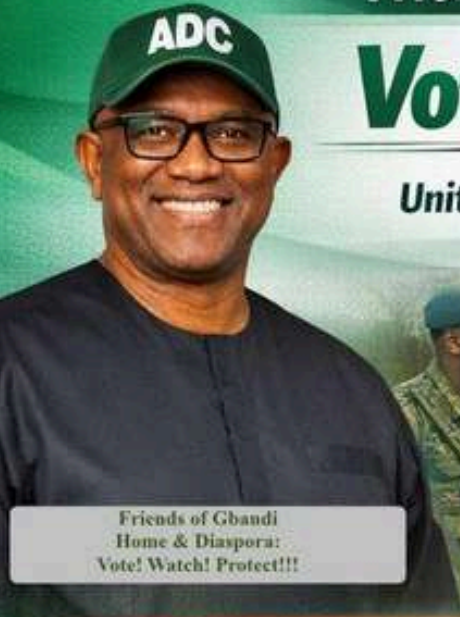
In our next edition, we explore how systems and structure form the invisible engine of every successful enterprise — and why businesses must move beyond dependence on the founder.

“Ideas inspire change, but value creation transforms economies.”

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# INNOVARE UK SECURES PRESTIGIOUS HONOUR AT ASIA PACIFIC SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS 2026 BY H.E. HON. EBUBE EBISIKE GEORGE

*Innovare, the British luxury beauty and wellness innovator founded by Hana Nur, has been recognised on the international stage after receiving a major honour at the Asia Pacific Sustainability Conference & Awards (APSCA) 2026.*

The awards ceremony, held on 17 April 2026 in Kuala Lumpur at Complex Kraf, brought together more than 200 delegates, business leaders, and sustainability advocates from across the Asia-Pacific region. Organised by SustNET and founded by noted sustainability leader Dr. Norsaidatul Akmar Mazelan, the event celebrates organisations demonstrating measurable leadership in innovation, responsible growth, and environmental stewardship. For Innovare, the recognition marks a significant milestone in the company's international expansion and validates its strategy of combining scientific advancement, luxury product design, and values-led sustainability.

Founded in the United Kingdom, Innovare has rapidly built a reputation for creating elevated skincare, wellness, and lifestyle products that merge modern formulation science with timeless ritual-inspired experiences. The brand's portfolio reflects a distinct market position: premium beauty products designed not only for performance, but also for emotional connection, identity, and everyday luxury.



...Continued on Page 13



"We're not creating a concept piece, we're building something that can exist globally something that elevates safety standards, not just discusses them."



One of the company's patented innovations has sold more than 100,000 units over the past five years, supported by strong repeat demand and thousands of positive customer testimonials. With a growing client community exceeding 60,000 customers, Innovare has generated revenues of more than £1.5 million in one of the world's most competitive beauty markets.

Its affiliated company, White Innovation, further extends the group's reach through bespoke treatment services, advanced skincare programmes, and personalised beauty consultancy for private clients and notable public figures. Beyond cosmetics, Innovare is investing in future-facing health technologies through a dedicated medical innovation division. Among its flagship concepts is the development of advanced sexual wellness protective systems designed to support earlier awareness of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), underscoring the company's commitment to preventative wellbeing and socially relevant innovation.

The company is also preparing new fragrance launches and expanded treatment concepts as it strengthens its footprint in London and broader European markets. Its wider international strategy includes recent entry into Nigeria, with further growth ambitions across Asia, North America, and South America, including Brazil.



*Speaking following the award recognition, Hana Nur said: “We are deeply honoured to receive this recognition. Innovare was founded on the belief that luxury, science, and responsibility should exist together.*

*To be acknowledged for our commitment to People, Planet, and Prosperity is both meaningful and motivating. It strengthens our resolve to continue building a modern global brand that delivers beauty, wellbeing, and innovation with purpose.*

*We welcome conversations with strategic investors and partners who share our long-term vision for international growth and transformative product development.”*

*With a growing portfolio, expanding international presence, and increasing recognition for sustainable innovation, Innovare enters the next phase of growth with considerable momentum.*

*Under the strategic marketing direction of H.E. Hon. Ebube Ebisike George, the company is focused on accelerating market share, strengthening brand equity, and positioning Innovare as one of the most distinctive emerging names in global luxury beauty and wellness.*

FOUNDER

## A VISIONARY AT THE HELM.

Innovare was born from a simple belief: *beauty deserves better.*

After years in the beauty industry, I saw the same pattern repeat—short-term thinking, empty promises, and a lack of real innovation. I knew the industry needed a new standard.

So I built Innovare.  
A company designed to merge science, technology, and luxury into systems that deliver lasting transformation.

This is more than a brand.  
It's a new era of beauty.

*Hana Nur*

**HANA NUR**  
FOUNDER & CEO, INNOVARE

<b>ENTREPRENEUR</b> Building category-defining companies.	<b>INNOVATOR</b> Where science meets human experience.	<b>VISIONARY</b> Redefining the future of beauty.
--	---	--



# HAPPENING ON 9TH MAY 2026 BONNY EDITION, RIVERS STATE

## **THEME: My Bride, My Pride**

(2 Cort 11: 2)

2 Corinthians 11:2b NLT

*...I promised you as a pure bride to one husband—Christ.*



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# STRATEGIC NOTE DJEMBÉ FESTIVAL EXPOPME 2026

## STRUCTURING PRODUCTIVE VALUE CHAINS AND MOBILIZING INVESTMENT



**LOCATION:**  
KRIBI – NGOYÈ BEACH



**DATES:**  
OCTOBER 11–17, 2026

### 1 CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

In a context marked by the need to accelerate industrialization, strengthen local transformation, and enhance the competitiveness of African economies, the Djembé Festival ExpoPME 2026 is positioned as an operational instrument for structuring productive value chains.

Its location in Kribi, near the deep-sea port, offers a strategic opportunity to develop an integrated value chain centered on production, processing, logistics, and export, in partnership with major Northern ports such as Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Antwerp, etc.



### 2 STRATEGIC VISION

To make the Djembé Festival ExpoPME a permanent platform for economic structuring, connecting local value chains to international markets through bankable projects and strategic partnerships.



### 3 OBJECTIVES

#### General Objective:

To structure competitive value chains and mobilize high-impact investments.

#### Specific Objectives:

- Organize stakeholders into sectoral federations
- Develop local processing projects
- Facilitate access to financing
- Create integrated value chains
- Position Kribi as a regional hub



### 4 PRIORITY SECTORS

- ✕ Agriculture and livestock
- ✕ Fisheries and blue economy
- ✕ Agro-processing
- ✕ Gastronomy
- ✕ Crafts and creative industries
- ✕ SMEs and entrepreneurship
- ✕ Inclusive finance and investment
- ✕ Tourism and territorial development
- ✕ Technology, innovation, and skills
- ✕ Education (early childhood, primary, secondary, university, institutes of applied sciences, etc.)
- ✕ Water sanitation and river networks



### 5 OPERATIONAL APPROACH

- Structuring stakeholders into federations
- Development of bankable projects
- Matching with investors
- Deployment of processing hubs



### 6 IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

- Inter-ministerial preparatory meetings under the authority of the Prime Minister's Office
- Technical support to value chains
- Investor platform
- Organization of business meetings

### 7 EXPECTED RESULTS

- Structured value chains
- Launch of industrial projects
- Signed partnerships
- Mobilized financing



### 8 IMPACT

- Job creation
- Increased added value
- Territorial development
- Economic inclusion



### 9 PARTNERSHIPS

- Public institutions
- Local authorities
- International investors
- Technical partners



### 10 PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION MODALITIES

Participation is reserved for stakeholders organized into sectoral federations. Registrations are conducted through two channels:

- Online, via the official festival platform
- Through the General Secretariat of the Djembé Festival ExpoPME

As the number of places is limited, registrations will be processed on a first-come, first-approved federation basis, with priority given to complete applications submitted online.

Each federation must submit a file including:

- Festival registration form + fees
- A PowerPoint presentation
- A three-year business plan
- A detailed budget



**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**  
MAY 23, 2026



### 11 CULTURAL DIMENSION

Cultural and artistic activities will provide a space for relaxation and promotion, fostering exchanges between working sessions and B2B meetings.



### 12 CONCLUSION

The Djembé Festival ExpoPME 2026 is a structuring tool to accelerate economic transformation, attract investment, and sustainably position Kribi as a regional hub.

The quality of projects and the speed of federation structuring will be decisive in accessing opportunities.





# TIME FOR NIGERIA TO RISE TOGETHER

- *Victor Oladokun*

Over the last decade, I have deliberately avoided publicly commenting on Nigeria's often toxic political discourse.

Two reasons guided this decision.

- Any stance invites criticism from all sides, and
- My past roles, first as Director of Communication at the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), then as Senior Advisor to its then President, which required strict diplomatic adherence to neutrality on the affairs of member countries.

For the first time in nearly a decade, this rare milestone compels me to speak, as President Bola Ahmed Tinubu and First Lady Oluremi Tinubu receive the full pomp and pageantry of a State Visit from King Charles III at Windsor Castle this week, the first by a Nigerian head of state in 37 years.

For a nation that has long punched above its weight yet sometimes doubted its stride, this is more than ceremonial. It is a powerful invitation for every Nigerian at home and in the Diaspora to pause, reflect, and choose unity over division.

Without denying Nigeria's many challenges, and setting aside partisanship, it is time to acknowledge the quiet, determined work underway.

#PresidentTinubu's administration has taken the bull by the horns with bold economic reforms: unifying exchange rates, stabilizing a naira once in freefall, removing unsustainable fuel subsidies, overhauling taxation, and liberalizing key sectors.

Though results remain uneven and unfolding, these systemic shifts, designed for macroeconomic stability, investment unlocking, and sustainable growth, are gaining recognition. The Economist (January 2026) described Nigeria's economy as potentially "back from the brink," with painful reforms showing results: inflation dropping sharply (from 34.8% peak to around 15%), naira stabilization, reserves at seven-year highs (\$46 billion), and restored investor confidence.

The IMF has called the moves "bold," praising improvements in forex markets and fiscal management. The World Bank has hailed Nigeria as a "global reference point" for steady, credible reform implementation and results over the past two years.

From the creative industries to agriculture, mining, technology, and renewable energy, Nigeria is repositioning itself as a serious global partner with vast potential, and NOT as a perpetual supplicant. Investor interest is also rising.

The question is: if not now, when?

This State Visit carries deep mutual strategic significance.



For Nigeria, it showcases its reform story and opens doors to fresh capital, technology transfer, and market access in infrastructure, energy, and the blue economy.

For the #UnitedKingdom, it strengthens ties with Africa's largest economy and most populous nation, and pursuing modern partnerships beyond old colonial lenses. Bilateral trade has hit a record £8.1 billion annually. The large Nigerian Diaspora in the UK (professionals, entrepreneurs, students, and families) is a powerful and mutually beneficial asset.

This is and should be a genuine win-win roadmap.

Yet, while the red carpet rolls out in London, some voices at home and abroad remain stuck in perpetual de-branding mode.

Don't get me wrong. #Nigeria faces real issues including leadership gaps, insecurity, and governance challenges. But we have a built-in cycle of demonization that ignores progress. Professional critics seize every headline to paint the nation as hopeless, amplifying setbacks while dismissing strides. Their endless negativity deters investors, demoralizes youth, and markets Nigeria as a risk rather than an opportunity.

Constructive criticism has its place, but weaponized cynicism that de-markets Nigeria at every turn is not patriotism. It is self-sabotage.

Fellow Nigerians, whether in Lagos or London, Abuja or Atlanta, Maiduguri or Manchester, this is our shared moment. The world watches our response to this historic moment. Let us choose pride and opportunity over perpetual complaints and a sense of hopelessness.

To the Nigerian Diaspora, our skills, remittances, and networks already make a difference. Imagine the exponential impact we can still create when we collectively amplify Nigeria's story instead of diminishing it.

To investors and global partners eyeing Africa's future, the door is wide open more than ever. Come see the real Nigeria. A dynamic nation brimming with innovative youth that are determined and ready to deliver in a stable and reforming environment.

This State Visit therefore is not the end of a journey but the beginning of a new chapter. Nigeria is rising, and not because the world suddenly noticed us, but because we are choosing to believe in ourselves again.

My humble plea is simple ... Let us move forward together, focused, and unapologetically proud and thankful for all that God has endowed us with.

God bless you and God Bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



# HOW TO HAVE AN HONEST CONVERSATION WITHOUT GETTING HURT!



It is important to know when and how best to get a good and honest conversation with your spouse without getting into arguments or getting hurt. We shall look together some points here, starting with number one.

1. Start the conversation at a good and right time. Timing is very important. Don't start a conversation after a quarrel or fight when your partner is still hurting or when your partner is stressed. Do not start a conversation when your partner is preparing for an assignment or about to leave the house or when his or her attention is divided.

Try to do something to get your partner's 100% attention before you start any form of conversation. Could be you prepare your partner's favourite meal or get him or her a gift, just be sure the atmosphere is right for a good and honest conversation.

2. Make the conversation interactive not a lecture or a speech that was prepared to address an issue. Make each other's opinions or feelings count.

3. Give each partner a time to have their moments. Just listen and do not shut your partner down or call your partner names like, you are too emotional or insensitive.

4. Use the right words. Do not own the conversation or make the conversation all about you. Words like I should be we or us.

I want this done should be let's try this out.



By  
**Mrs. Uche Ideho**  
**Councilor UC**



*If you have any relational question or advise, you can reach our counsellor on WhatsApp: +2348050275758*

Henceforth should be what should we do

5. Don't be too proud to admit you are wrong and apologise. Let your apology be sincere and honest and do not repeat the same mistake or action that hurts your partner.

6. Don't bring back the past. Deal with the issue at hand. Discuss the issue not the circumstances so be focus on the issue and the resolution.

7. Make sure the conversation ends in making both of you better. Kiss, hug and make up. Smile or do something together immediately.

I know there are more, kindly share with us too how you deal with conversation, who starts the conversation and how do you resolve listening to one another.

Your opinion or thoughts matters in this matter. I want to read from you.

Thank you and see you all next month.

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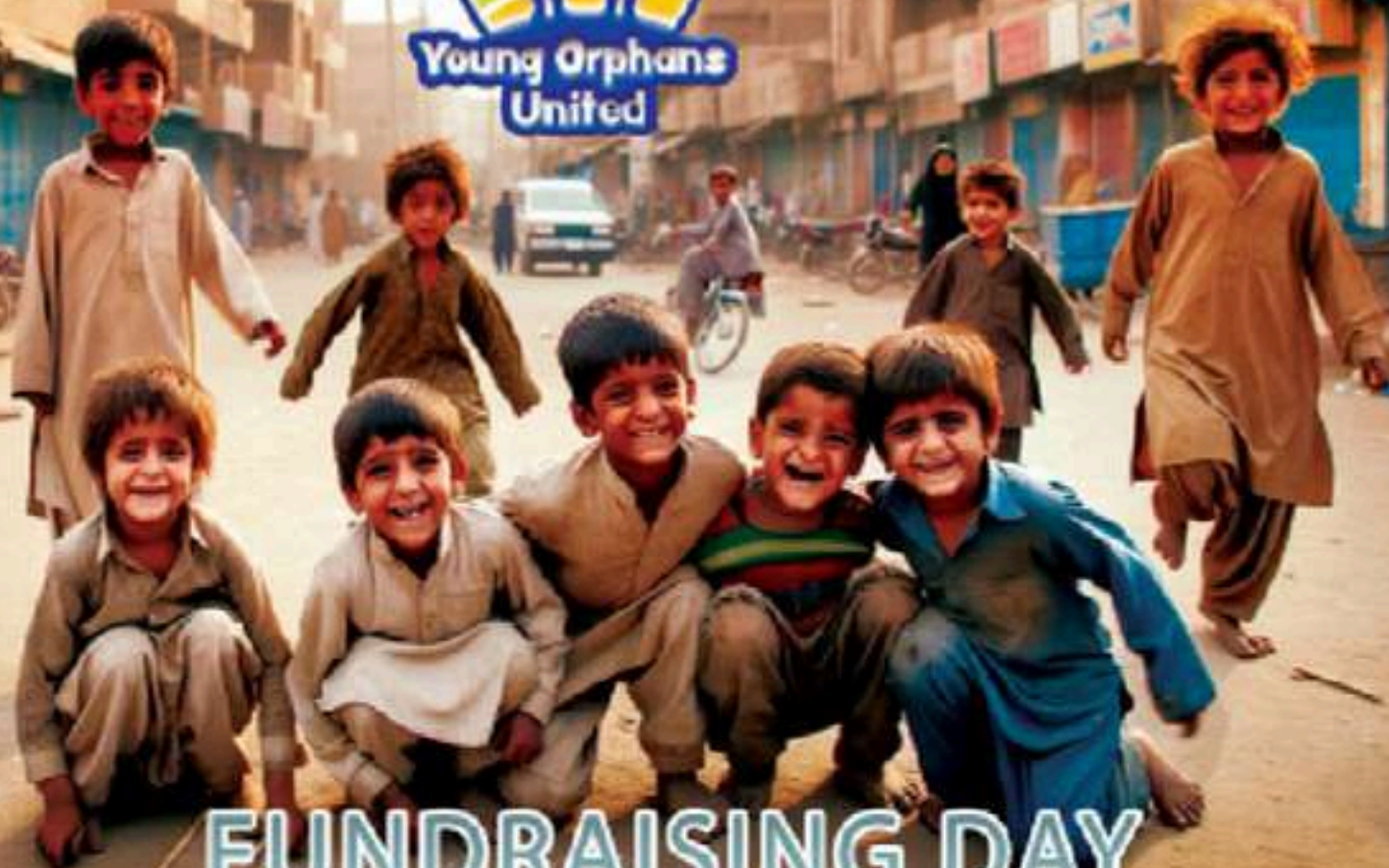
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Dear Interested Readers,

One of the great problems in the world, and one that concerns me personally, is the countless orphans. Children who sometimes, through tragic circumstances, are given the unwanted status of orphans and in that status often lose all hope of a "normal" life. In many distressing cases we see abuse and exploitation of these children. My hope is that this message will touch your heart. I am writing to share with you an important initiative of Young Orphans United in collaboration with the Overseas Pakistani Christian Alliance (OPCA), with which organization I am also involved. OPCA is committed to providing food, medicine, and care to people in need and has recently launched a new project called YOU (Young Orphans United), aimed at providing shelter and care for homeless children in Pakistan.

The situation these children face is dire. Many are homeless, forced to live on the streets without access to education, food, or basic health care. For these children, every day is a struggle to survive, and the lack of a stable and loving environment only increases their vulnerability.

Young Orphans United and Overseas Pakistani Christian Alliance strongly believe that every child deserves a safe and caring home where they are loved, supported, and able to thrive. This is why we have committed to creating an orphanage through the "YOU" initiative, a place where these children will not only receive shelter and food but also education, healthcare, and the emotional support they need to thrive.

However, to make this dream and vision a reality, we need the support of people with a heart like you. We ask that you consider donating to help us create a safe place for these children. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, will go directly toward securing a physical space, providing essential services and ensuring that each child receives the care and attention they deserve.

By supporting this cause, you are directly helping to change the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in Pakistan. Your generosity not only provides them with a roof over their heads but also the hope and opportunity for a better future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. Should you donate, we greatly appreciate your consideration and hope that your donation will help make a profound difference in the lives of these children. Together, we can create a future where every child has a safe home and the opportunity to reach their full potential.

I look forward to hearing from you all, and I am grateful for any support you can offer.

With love,

Farida Brinkman  
Founder of "Young Orphans United"

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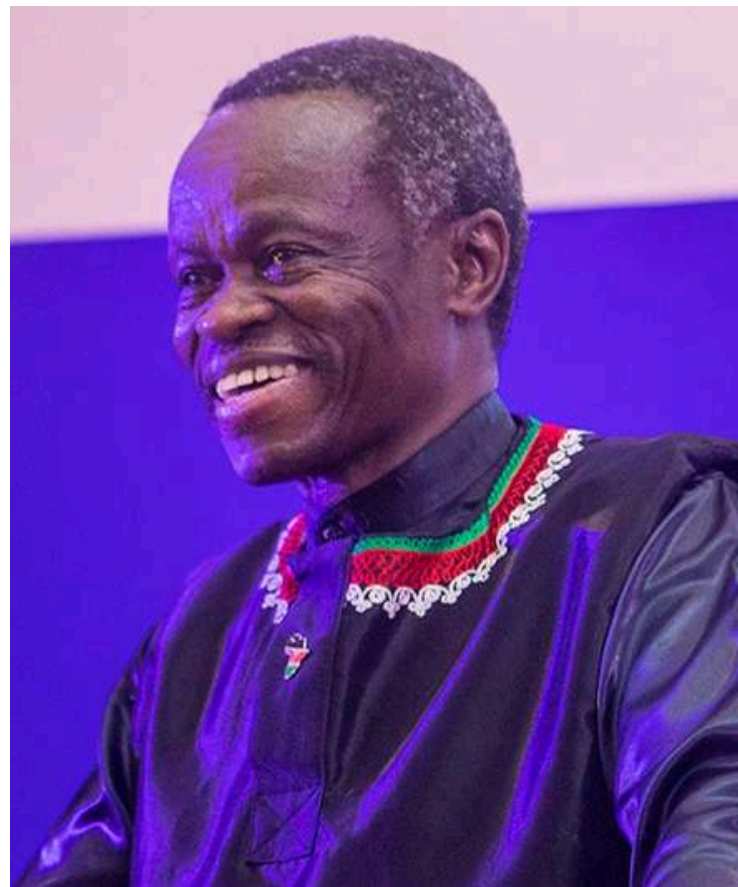


## LET US SERVE YOU ALL YEAR ROUND



# The World Applauds Broken English...

The world applauds broken English... until the speaker is African. Prof. PLO Lumumba once said something that should make us pause. A Chinese billionaire speaks broken English — nobody laughs. An Indian scientist speaks broken English — nobody mocks him. A Russian athlete speaks broken English — people applaud. But let an African mispronounce one word... Suddenly he is called illiterate. Think about what that reveals. Somewhere along the way we accepted a quiet lie: that intelligence must sound Western. That authority must pronounce every word perfectly. That credibility must arrive with a foreign accent. But history tells a very different story. Africa built great civilizations when much of the world was still discovering iron. Scholars filled the libraries of Timbuktu centuries ago. Today the continent holds the youngest population and one of the fastest-growing entrepreneurial energies on earth. The problem was never African intelligence. The problem was conditioning. For too long Africans were trained to doubt their own voice the moment it carried an accent. But an accent is not ignorance. An accent often means something powerful: A person who speaks more than one language. A person who moves between cultures. A person who sees the world from more than one perspective. That is not weakness. That is intellectual range. The real question Africa must ask itself is not: “Do we speak perfect English?” The real question is: Do we believe our ideas matter — even when our accents remain African? Because the world does not move forward through perfect grammar. It moves forward through bold thinking. And Africa has plenty of that. If this message resonates, share it. Africa moves forward when truth travels. Follow me for deeper conversations on African founders, generational wealth, legacy and purpose. — Phillip J. Mostert



PHILLIP  
MOSTERT

## WHO BEWITCHED AFRICA?

“A CHINESE BILLIONAIRE SPEAKS BROKEN  
ENGLISH — NOBODY LAUGHS.  
AN INDIAN SCIENTIST SPEAKS BROKEN  
ENGLISH — NOBODY MOCKS HIM.  
A RUSSIAN ATHLETE SPEAKS BROKEN ENGLISH  
— APPLAUSE.  
BUT LET AN AFRICAN MISPRONOUNCE ONE  
WORD...  
SUDDENLY HE’S ‘ILLITERATE.’”

— PROF. PLO LUMUMBA



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# THE VOICE ACHIEVERS AWARD & BUSINESS DIALOGUE 2026

21<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2026

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Your prayers, calls, messages, visits, and every act of kindness meant so much to us in this difficult time.

We are truly grateful for your love and support.

May God bless you all abundantly.

— The Lapite Family

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# CELEBRATE EXCELLENCE AT THE VOICE ACHIEVERS AWARD 2026!

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This isn't just an awards ceremony—it's a movement toward mental empowerment and economic inclusion.

#### Event Details:

Date: 21st August 2026

Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: Hilton London Kensington, UK

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# THE VOICE ACHIEVERS AWARD BUSINESS DIALOGUE 2026

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To policymakers:

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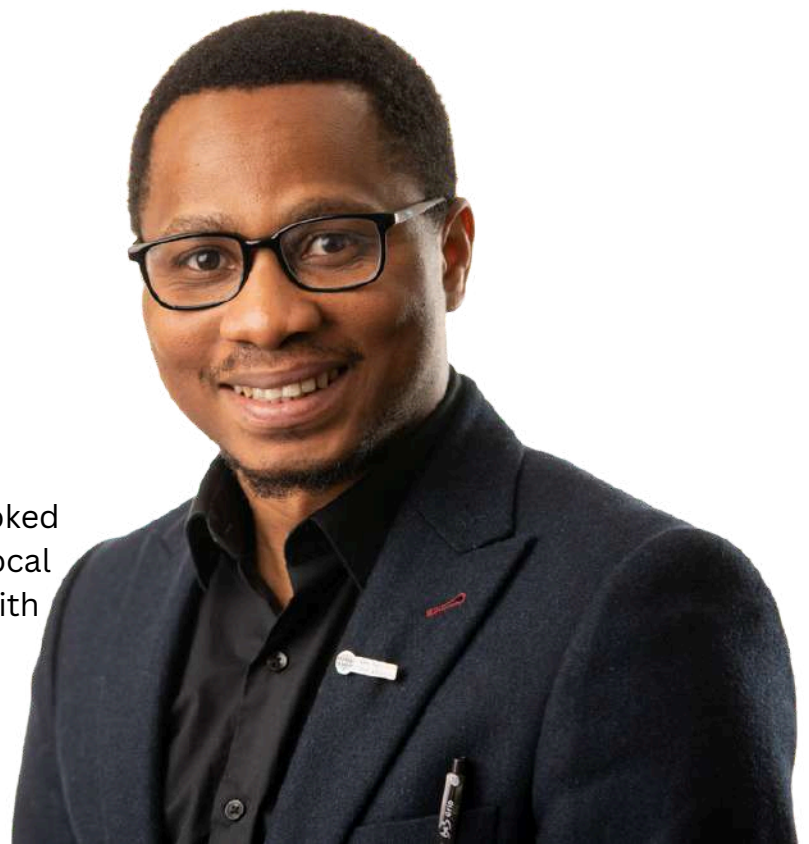
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By Nicholas Alifa.



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# Botswana President Appoints Akinwole II Omoboriowo As Vice Chairman Of Botswana Power Corporation's Board Of Directors

Botswana's energy sector is set to gain a new strong voice with clear vision at its highest levels following the appointment of Nigerian energy leader Akinwole II Omoboriowo as Board Member and Vice Chairman of the Botswana Power Corporation's (BPC) Board of Directors. The move, confirmed on BPC's official website, comes as the nation seeks to address persistent electricity supply challenges, expanding its renewable energy footprint and become net exporter of clean energy within a short period of time.

Omoboriowo, a leader in African power infrastructure and energy finance, brings over two decades of experience in utility-scale generation, project structuring, and cross-border energy development. He currently serves as Chairman and CEO of GENESIS Energy Group, where he has led utility-scale generation projects of more than 780MW in operations, ongoing construction, and advanced development in Nigeria, South Africa, Benin Republic, Zambia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Mali and United Kingdom with a project development pipeline north of 4.5GW. His expertise spans conventional power infrastructure development, distributed energy deployments (both renewable and gas), natural gas commercialisation, energy markets reforms and specialised energy investment financing- capabilities that align with Botswana's current reform priorities.



...Continued from Page 37

### Steering Botswana's Energy Transition

A recent World Bank sourced energy generation monitoring indicates that Botswana's electricity generation at key coal plants has fluctuated significantly, with Morupule B's production declining from 3,328 GWh in 2022–23 to 2,674 GWh in 2024–25 — reflecting instability in domestic supply capacity.

Omoboriowo joins BPC at a pivotal moment as the corporation continues to implement its Maduo 26 strategy, a five year transformation agenda launched in 2022 to improve operational efficiency and financial performance and make the utility a regional benchmark in energy supply. Experts say this strategy complements national priorities to diversify Botswana's energy mix, increase renewable generation, and strengthen grid resilience — all part of wider reforms under the country's Integrated Resource Plan.

His appointment reinforces BPC's commitment to:

- Expanding renewable energy capacity
- Strengthening regional power trade within the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP)
- Enhancing grid resilience and operational performance
- Mobilising investment into sustainable energy infrastructure



Under this framework, BPC seeks not only to stabilize Botswana's electricity supply but also to position the country as a net exporter of electricity within the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP). Omoboriowo's leadership is expected to focus on corporate structural re-alignment, capital efficiency, governance and ensuring that infrastructure development translates into measurable operational and commercial outcomes.

### A Continental Perspective

Omoboriowo's career highlights a trend of intra-African professional mobility, where expertise developed in other market is leveraged to solve complex challenges elsewhere. His experiences spans structuring and investing in multiple countries including the United Kingdom across both conventional and renewable energy projects, emphasizing capital efficiency, financial engineering governance, and execution rigour.

In a public LinkedIn post, Omoboriowo acknowledged the confidence placed in him by President Advocate Duma Boko of Botswana, as well as that of Minister of Minerals and Energy, Her Excellency Bogolo Joy Kenewendo, describing the role as an opportunity to contribute to a national institution at a critical stage of its development.

"I assume this responsibility with humility — but with buoyancy, high commitment to duty, and unwavering dedication to delivery. The work ahead is substantial, but so too is the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to a critical national institution at an important moment in its evolution," Omoboriowo wrote.

### Implications for Regional Energy Integration

As Botswana seeks to diversify its energy sources, improve system resilience and secure its energy security, the performance of BPC remains central to the country's industrial ambitions and regional competitiveness. Enhanced governance and strategic oversight could influence not only domestic reliability but also Botswana's role within the Southern African electricity market.

With Maduo 26 approaching its 2026 target horizon, Omoboriowo's role as Vice Chairman places him at the heart of one of the most consequential transformation efforts in Botswana's energy sector in recent years — a development that policymakers and regional energy stakeholders will be watching closely.

# Senegal's World Cup Jersey Won't Have Two Stars - But It's Nothing To Do With AFCON

Senegal's team jersey will display only one star instead of two at the World Cup this summer, but it has nothing to do with the country being stripped of the Africa Cup of Nations title.

The Senegalese Football Federation (FSF) issued a statement to clarify that production of the jerseys by kit manufacturer Puma began in August last year and "manufacturing deadlines and industrial constraints did not allow for the interruption of this ongoing process."

Senegal went on to win the Africa Cup in January for its second continental crown after winning the 2021 edition, to which its first star refers.

But the Teranga Lions were surprisingly stripped of the second title on Tuesday when the Confederation of African Football's appeals board ruled that Senegal forfeited the Jan. 18 final by leaving the field of play without the referee's authorization, awarding Morocco a default 3-0 win.

The FSF made no mention of that decision in its statement, where it continued to refer to "our victory" and said it be reflected on the team jersey -- after the World Cup.

"Aware of the Senegalese people's legitimate attachment to their symbols, the FSF wishes to reassure all supporters: the new jerseys incorporating the second star are currently in production. They are scheduled to be available starting next September," the federation said.

"The FSF apologizes for any misunderstanding this situation may have caused and thanks the supporters for their constant commitment, vigilance, and unwavering attachment to the national team."

The FSF previously said it will appeal CAF's unprecedented decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland, a process that typically takes a year to deliver a verdict, while the Senegalese government slammed the "grossly illegal and deeply unjust decision" and called for an international investigation "into suspected corruption" within African soccer's governing body.

CAF president Patrice Motsepe on Wednesday defended the body against perceptions of favoritism toward Morocco, which is a 2030 World Cup co-host and has invested heavily to become a soccer superpower.

Also in attendance were the Chief of Defence Staff, General Christopher Musa (retd.); National Security Adviser Nuhu Ribadu; and National Intelligence Agency Director-General Mohammed Mohammed.

The president's trip centred on transforming a long-standing relationship into a modern economic alliance.

Source: Punch





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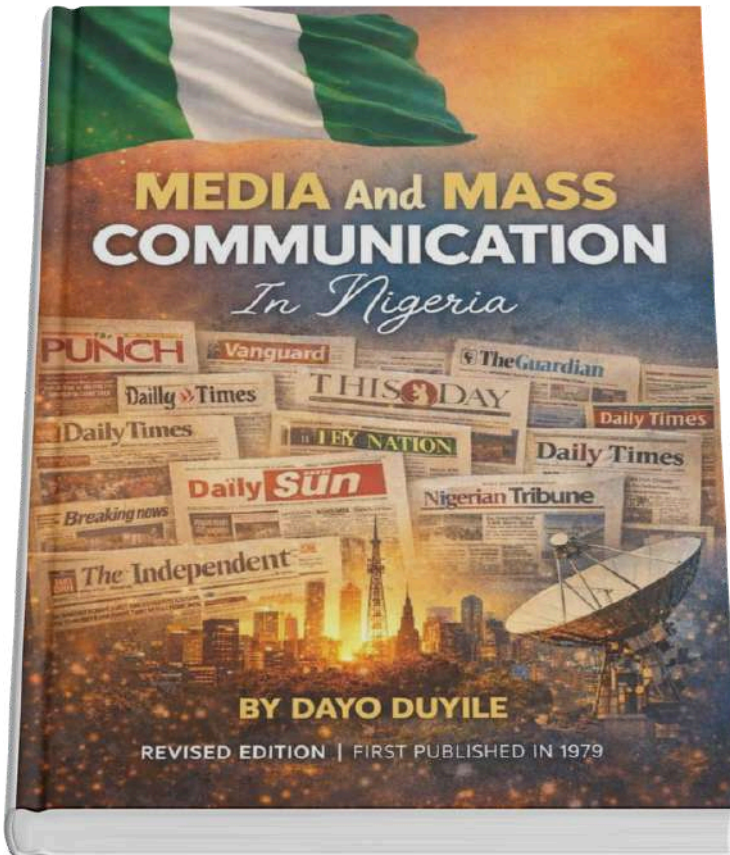
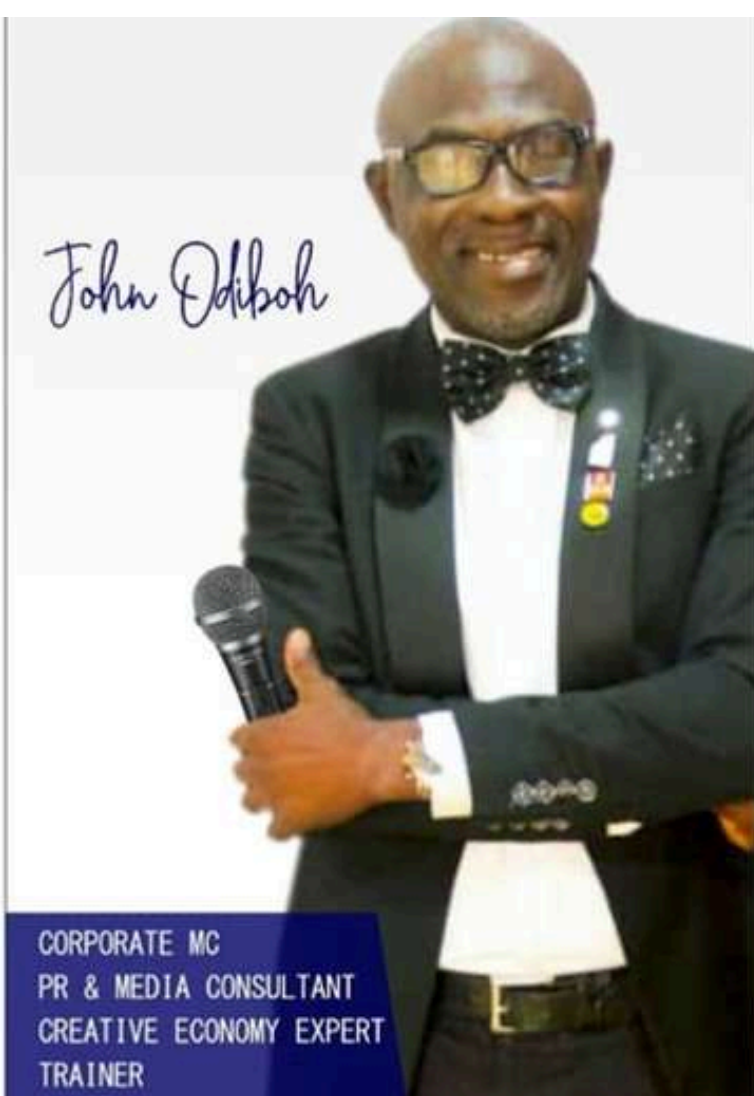
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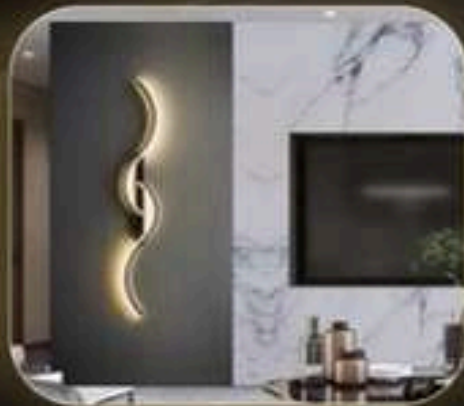
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# Culture: Our Heritage And Culture In The Age Of Globalization

## Are we losing our culture to progress?

Has heritage died, or are we the ones who allowed it to fade away? A provocative question, yet one that must be asked without hesitation. In an era where value is measured by visibility rather than depth, heritage has, for many, become little more than seasonal decoration or folkloric performance, called upon for occasions and then quietly returned to the shelves of forgetfulness. The uncomfortable truth is that heritage does not disappear on its own; it weakens when neglected, and becomes distorted when reduced. Even more concerning, the identity of nations is increasingly transformed into tourist imagery and curated museum displays, stripped of its living presence in everyday life.

In my journey across different places, I have come to understand that heritage is not a past we return to but a responsibility we carry forward. It is not a bedtime story told to children but an identity continuously written through our actions, choices and way of living, as well as through what we choose to preserve or abandon.

Heritage is not a traditional outfit worn for a photograph, nor a performance staged to impress an audience. It is the spirit of a people embodied in daily life. It lives in language when it is protected, in traditions when they are understood rather than imitated, and in values when they are practiced rather than merely praised.

Amid the rush of modernity society has entered a state of fascination that pushes us forward without noticing what we leave behind. We have become consumers of cultures instead of creators of identity. The danger lies in becoming strangers to our own roots, fragile in belonging no matter how modern we appear.

Culture is not a conflict between old and new but a meaningful dialogue between both. Thriving societies are not those that abandon heritage to keep pace with time but those that reinterpret it with a contemporary spirit while preserving its essence. Heritage is the bridge between generations and the compass that keeps us grounded in a rapidly changing world.

Preserving heritage does not mean freezing it in time. It means understanding it, evolving it and carrying it forward with awareness. It is not isolation but confident progression. The real question is not how we preserve heritage but whether we have the courage to live it authentically and continue it.



Because in the end heritage does not need admiration It needs continuation today always and forever.

In a globalised world, we are not asked to choose between heritage and progress, but to harmonise both in a way that strengthens identity rather than dissolving it. True modernity is not the erasure of roots, but their intelligent renewal. When heritage is lived rather than displayed, it becomes a source of resilience, pride and direction. It is in this balance that cultures survive, evolve and remain meaningfully human.

By: H.E Laila Rahhall Al Atfani

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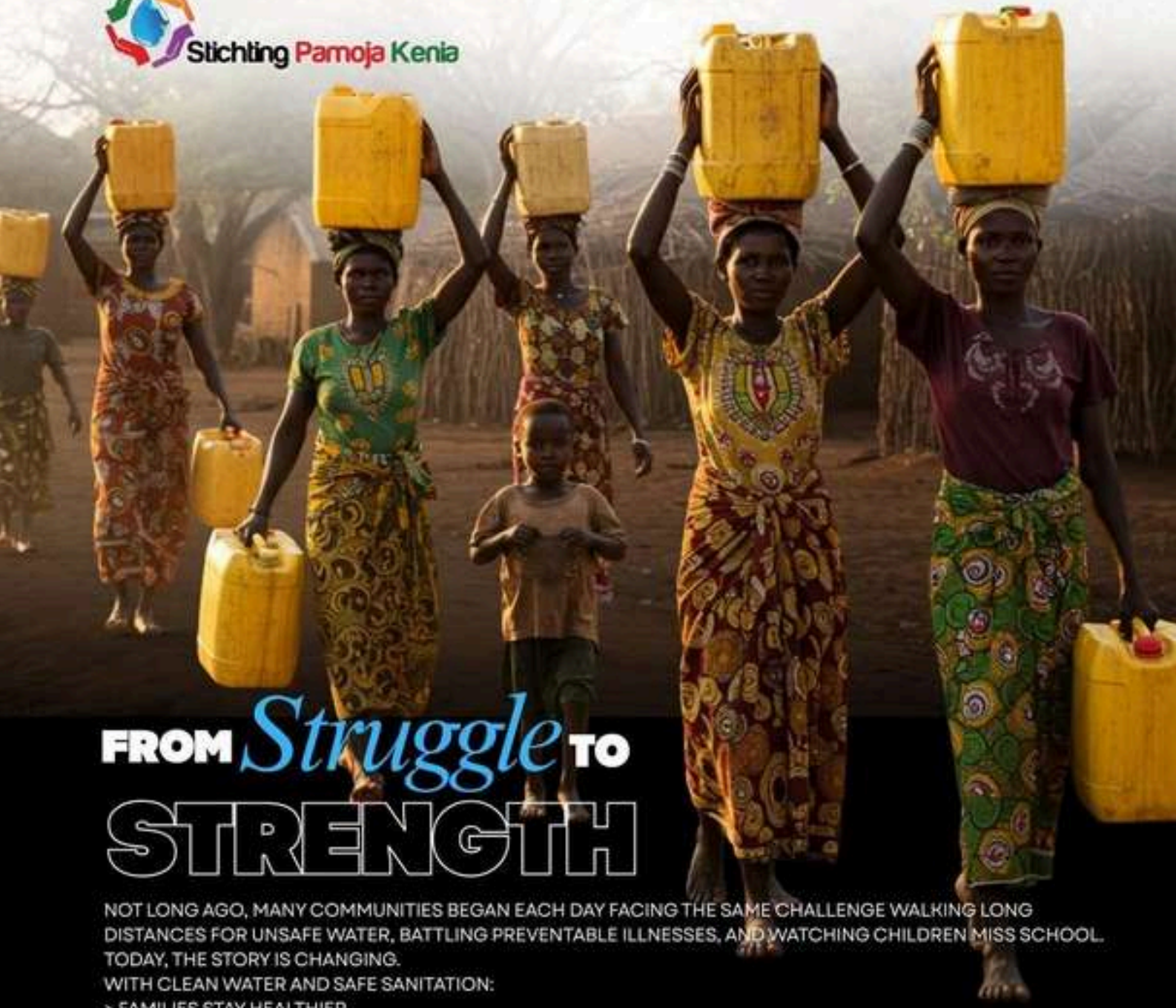
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# From Nagpur Orphanage To Mayor In The Netherlands: Story Of A Son Searching For His Mother For 40 years

Abandoned as a baby in Nagpur, Falgun Binnendijk became Mayor of Heemstede, Netherlands. After 40 years, he returned to India searching for his birth mother, inspired by the Mahabharat's Karna-Kunti story. Read his emotional journey of identity, forgiveness and hope.

Sometimes, the most powerful stories are not about reaching a destination, but about the journey back to where it all began. This is the true story of Falgun Binnendijk, a man who has everything—a loving family, respect and the prestigious role of Mayor of Heemstede in the Netherlands. Yet, for forty years, his heart has carried a quiet space, waiting to be filled by the face of a woman he has never known: his mother.

His story starts in Nagpur, on a cold February day in 1985. A young, unmarried 21-year-old woman, facing immense social pressure and fear, made a heartbreaking choice. Three days after giving birth at Nagpur Medical College, she brought her baby boy to the Matru Seva Sangh orphanage. She left, hoping for a better life for him, carrying a burden of her own.

That baby was adopted by a compassionate Dutch couple. He grew up in the Netherlands, loved and cared for. He built a remarkable life, eventually entering public service and earning the trust of his community to become their mayor. But the question of his origins, the faint echo of a mother's first touch, never left him.

"The story of Karna and Kunti from our Mahabharata always stayed with me," Falgun shares. Like the great warrior Karna, he felt a deep, natural pull to find the mother who had to let him go. He carried no anger, only a profound understanding and a simple wish: to tell her he was okay.

In 2024, on his third trip to India, he took another step closer to his past. He met Mangala Bhusari, the former superintendent of Matru Seva Sangh. She was the one who, four decades ago, looked at the tiny orphan and gave him his beautiful name—Falgun, after the hopeful month of his birth. Meeting the woman who named him was a flood of emotions, a precious thread connecting him to his very first days.



*...Continued on Page 50*

But the search for his mother is like finding a needle in a haystack. The hospital record holds her name, but the address, likely given incorrectly due to the stigma of the time, is a dead end. Teams from the Nagpur administration are tirelessly digging through old, faded files, but the trail is cold. His mother, somewhere, may not even know her son is looking for her.

Falgun has come with his entire world—his wife and four children—to the city where his life began. He has a message, simple and clear, for the mother he hopes is out there listening:

"I do not want to be a burden. I do not want to disrupt your life. I only wish to meet you once, to look into your eyes and say, 'Your son is happy. He is safe. He has a good life, and he thanks you for that chance.' I want to give you peace."

This is not a story of abandonment, but of unbroken connection. It is a story that proves that success is not just about the titles we earn, but about the love we carry and the forgiveness we hold. Falgun Binnendijk's journey from a Nagpur orphanage to a Dutch mayor's office is inspiring. But his return to Nagpur—humble, hopeful, and full of love—is a lesson for all of us.

By Saurav Pandey is the Deputy Manager of Content at Moneycontrol, specialising in content strategy, execution and performance analysis.





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# When Women Speak, The World Must Listen: Belgium's Historic TRIBU26 Women's Tribunal



*It was a moment charged with history. On Saturday, March 28, 2026, the doors of Arenberg - one of Antwerp's most iconic cultural venues - swung open to receive over 500 women and FINTA individuals from across Europe and beyond for TRIBU26, the landmark 2026 Women's Tribunal. On the set stage were a women from Belgium, France, Spain, the Netherlands to mention a few who have rehearsed for weeks and days under the able tutelage of Alix Konadu – Rehearsal Director, Céline di Maccio – Musical Director and Project Leader, Katja Pire- Choreography Director, Anna Cooper-International Coordination.*

Among those streams of determined, passionate women performing on the stage were five representatives of the Nigerian Ladies of Dignity (NLOD), under the United Nigeria Platform (UNP), proudly sponsored by Erasmus University, Rotterdam.

For the delegation - Fester Imoh (UNP President), Maria Ola (NLOD President), Cynthia (NLOD General Secretary), Precious J Eremwanarue Tiyudy (UNP PRO/NLOD Member), and Josephine Asemota (The Voice Magazine Reporter/NLOD Member) - this was not merely attendance at an international event. It was a declaration: that Nigeria's women's voices belong in every room where the future of women is being decided.

A Living Bridge Between 1976 and 2026

To understand the weight of TRIBU26, one must understand what it commemorates. Fifty years ago, Brussels hosted the First International Tribunal for Women — a watershed moment in which women from around the world named structural violence, discrimination, and systemic injustice for the first time on such a global stage. Many of those women are now in their seventies and eighties. Three of them were at Arenberg.



*...Continued on Page 62*

On Friday, March 27th, the day before the main tribunal, Josephine, the Correspondent had the profound privilege of sitting with Robertine, one of the actual attendees of the original 1976 Tribunal. Her voice, soft yet firm with the weight of decades, carried a message that bridged two generations: the struggles she witnessed in 1976 — disbelief, institutional failure, economic exclusion, and cultural silencing — were not echoes of a distant past. They were, she noted with pained clarity, the same stories she was still hearing today, fifty years on. And yet, she said, she was not without hope. The very fact that so many more voices were now in the room louder, more organized, more global - told her that the world had moved, even if not far enough.

Her testimony was both a sobering reminder and a rallying call. The work is unfinished. The tribunal must continue.

The Voices That Shaped the Day: Three Keynote Speakers

A representative of Madam Fortuna - the co-organizer of TRIBU26 alongside [beweging.net](http://beweging.net) - welcomed the gathering and framed the day's purpose: not to mourn what has been lost, but to forge what must be built.

The hall fell into focused attention as Mariam Harutyunyan, President of the Belgian Women's Council and one of Belgium's most compelling public voices on gender equality and inclusion, delivered the morning keynote. Her address — "The State of Women's Rights Today: From Challenges to Change" — was incisive and unapologetic. She dissected the persistence of gender-based discrimination across institutions, economies, and public spaces with the precision of an advocate and the urgency of an activist. One observation she made landed with particular force: "The word hysteria comes from the Greek word for uterus. So how come hysterical became something negative? And growing some balls became something positive?" The room erupted — not just in laughter, but in recognition. We gather to say our stories she continued, share experiences and form collective alliance to open the door of change, if the key to any door cannot be accessed, we should create another door of possibilities, avoid distractions. The only door that must be permanently locked by us is the door of SELF DETERMINATION to our bodies, will etc.

After a full afternoon of testimonies and working group sessions, Julie Hendrickx Devos, President of [beweging.net](http://beweging.net), took the floor for closing remarks. She urged the gathered women not to let the energy of TRIBU26 dissipate when they walked out of Arenberg. The findings, she promised, would not be shelved. Partner organizations including Furia and Femma have already committed to taking the work forward. She closed with the enduring words of BR Ambedkar: "I measure the progress of a community by the degree of progress which women have achieved."

A Conversation with the Architect: Anna Speaks

The correspondent sat down with Anna, Coordinator of the 2026 Women's Tribunal and a key figure at Madam Fortuna. With the long day still unfolding around her, Anna spoke about the philosophy behind TRIBU26 - why it was designed the way it was, what the 50-table format was meant to achieve, and what she hoped would outlast the event itself. She described the tribunal not as a conference but as a living document - a collective testimony being written in real time, across three languages, across dozens of experiences, across the full breadth of women's lives.

Her message was clear: the conclusions reached at TRIBU26 were not suggestions.





They were a mandate.

#### The Artistic Dimension

If words formed the backbone of TRIBU26, art was its heartbeat. Among the most memorable contributions of the Nigerian Ladies of Dignity delegation was their presence on the main stage, where they performed alongside women from Spain, Belgium, France, and other nations in a series of deeply moving artistic performances.

Some of the songs that carried the delegation's message across the hall and into every heart present were:

"Bring Back the Goddesses" - a powerful call to reclaim women's divine dignity, stripped away by centuries of patriarchal religion and cultural erasure. The song asked the world to remember what women were before they were diminished.

"Kia Cheez Hai Aurat / She Is Being Relegated — What Is Woman?" - a haunting inquiry into the dehumanization of women across cultures and continents. The performance drew on both the Nigerian experience and a universal truth: womanhood, in too many contexts, has been reduced to a function rather than celebrated as a fullness.

"Takhawal / The Emudo" - rooted in cultural tradition, this piece spoke to the silent strength carried by women in communities where they are seen but not heard, present but not counted.

"We Are the Voices of Our Day and Tomorrow" - the anthem with which the delegation concluded their performances. An affirmation. A promise. A declaration that the women on that stage were not merely representing themselves but all the women who could not be there - the ones silenced, the ones afraid, the ones not yet free.

The performances were accompanied by physical demonstrations - movements, tableaux, and symbolic gestures - depicting the daily realities of gender violence, from domestic abuse to economic exclusion to cultural suppression. The audience was visibly moved. Several women wept. Many more rose to their feet.

A deeply emotional poem was also recited during the proceedings, adding yet another layer of artistic testimony to the day's rich tapestry of voices.



#### The Tables: Where Stories Became Strategy

Across 50 discussion tables organized in three languages - Dutch, English, and multilingual - the morning was given over to sharing. Each table had a trained moderator and a note-taker. Testimonies poured in across five themes: violence in the private sphere, in public spaces, in political and institutional life, in the economy, and in culture.

The Erasmus University students, coordinated by Dr. Isabella Awad, played a vital and practical role throughout the day in recording, their academic engagement gave the proceedings an additional layer of rigor and intergenerational solidarity as well as members of the Ladies of Dignity who also assisted with group discussion facilitation and coordination..

The back office had distilled the testimonies into five core challenges and concrete action proposals covering everything from shelters and safety to pension reform, public space design, and stereotype-free education. The common thread across every table: education and awareness must be the foundation of all change.

#### Why This Moment Matters for Nigeria

For the NLOD delegation, TRIBU26 was a homecoming of a different kind not to a place, but to a purpose. The issues debated in Antwerp gender-based violence, economic exclusion, reproductive rights, cultural suppression are not European issues. They are Nigerian issues. African issues. Human issues.

To stand on that stage, to sing those songs, to sit at those tables, to interview those women, to be part of that history was to declare, unmistakably, that Nigerian women are not bystanders in the global women's movement. They are co-authors of it.

TRIBU26 was the kickoff, not the conclusion. The Nigerian Ladies of Dignity and other participants return home not with souvenirs, but with a mandate.

Reporter: Josephine Aseomta  
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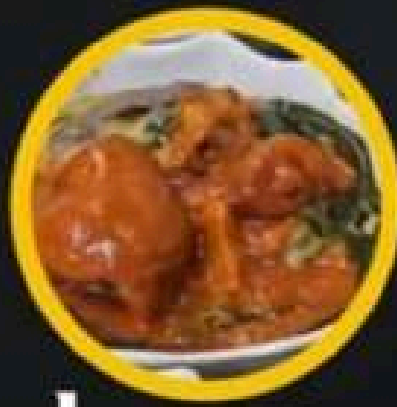
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# The Rise Of Social Enterprises In Ethiopia



Written by Pinkleen Oinokwesiga

In 2018, Social Enterprise Ethiopia (SEE) was born into a landscape where the idea of social enterprises was still a foreign concept. But Adenew Mesfin, the CEO, saw something the rest of Ethiopia did not: a way for businesses to serve the greater good. ‘Social enterprises,’ he says, ‘Are powerful tools to tackle Ethiopia’s challenges—poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation.’

‘When Social Enterprise Ethiopia (SEE) was founded in 2018, the concept of social enterprises was still relatively unknown in Ethiopia,’ says Adenew Mesfin, the CEO. His journey—from working in health, gender equality, and HIV prevention to exploring the intersection of business and social good—took a pivotal turn in 2017 when he joined the British Council to lead the Social Enterprise World Forum, a landmark event for Ethiopia’s emerging social enterprise sector.

‘We saw social enterprises as powerful tools to tackle Ethiopia’s pressing challenges—poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, and inequality,’ he adds. Blending profit with solutions to these challenges seemed ideal for a country with potential. SEE’s establishment brought increased media attention and public awareness to the sector.

One of its first challenges was Ethiopia’s lack of a legal framework for social enterprises. Organisations had to register as NGOs or Private Limited Companies, neither of which fully encapsulated their dual mission. Despite this, SEE attracted a committed group of fifty to sixty social enterprises that embraced the model despite the difficulties of operating in a developing economy.

Just as they began to make strides, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, posing significant challenges and highlighting its members’ resilience. Some members swiftly pivoted, producing masks and distributing essentials needed at the time, while others remained operational, contributing actively to the national pandemic response.

## Systemic Hurdles

SEE has faced several hurdles, including financial challenges as donor funding declined, exacerbated by the conflict in northern Ethiopia and global instability. This spurred a focus on financial sustainability, prompting it to explore alternative revenue streams and reduce reliance on traditional grants.

Policy development remains a key obstacle. The absence of formal recognition has hindered the sector’s ability to access key resources, such as government support and tax incentives. Nevertheless, SEE has raised awareness among government officials and policymakers by advocating for a social enterprise law in Ethiopia. This legal recognition is expected to provide tax incentives and improve access to resources, enabling the sector to scale its impact.

SEE’s membership has grown, including diverse entrepreneurs addressing societal challenges through innovative business models. A standout example is a restaurant initiative supporting the rehabilitation of former sex workers, offering culinary training and employment. This initiative has an impressive 87 percent success rate in helping participants transition to new livelihoods.

*...Continued on Page 60*

SEE is also a key player in the Network of African Social Enterprises (NASE), a regional collaboration that strengthens the social enterprise ecosystem across Africa. SEE's role in co-organizing the 2024 Annual African Conference on Social Enterprise Conference in Kenya will expand connections and opportunities for the sector.

Looking ahead, SEE is embracing new technology to amplify its impact, transitioning to digital systems and encouraging members to integrate advanced tools into their operations. It also advocates for integrating social entrepreneurship into Ethiopia's education curriculum to inspire future generations of socially conscious entrepreneurs.

Adenew's advice for aspiring entrepreneurs is succinct: 'Make your life count.' He emphasises that lasting impact, rather than wealth alone, defines a legacy. Through innovation, resilience, and a focus on social good, SEE and its members are reshaping communities and fostering a brighter future.

### Sofia's Spark

Its growth reflects the broader evolution of Ethiopia's social enterprise ecosystem, where passionate individuals have emerged to champion change. One such individual is Sofia Abdulkadir, whose journey into social entrepreneurship mirrors SEE's mission of empowering communities and creating sustainable impact. Her story began long before her involvement with SEE, driven by a deep curiosity to make a difference.

Her journey into social enterprise began with curiosity and a desire to make a difference. Before joining in 2019, she was deeply committed to community service, although she did not yet SEE herself as part of a larger movement. 'I did not even know there was a term for it,' she reflects. A friend introduced her to SEE, and she realised her passion for creating change aligned with a broader mission.

After completing her studies and living in Holland for six years, Sofia was at a crossroads. Despite her academic success, she felt uncertain about her purpose. 'I felt adrift, searching for a sense of purpose,' she shares. This prompted her to explore deeper questions about happiness, self-care, and her contribution to the world.

Through this reflection, she recognised that many young people shared the same thirst for growth and understanding. In 2015, these realisations culminated in the birth of Sofia Media. What began as a small radio show to share personal growth insights evolved into a powerful media platform. Her lack of experience in journalism did not deter her. Initially in English, the show transitioned to Amharic to connect with a broader local audience, eventually amassing over 1.2 million views on YouTube and becoming a free knowledge library.

The journey was not easy. Sofia initially struggled to secure sponsorships and had to finance the show herself for years. 'In the beginning, there was not a clear market for content like ours,' she recalls. Despite these challenges, her passion for creating a sustainable impact pushed her forward. This led her to transform Sofia Media from a passion project into a business. She later expanded her efforts through Sofia Consultancy, offering coaching and training programmes.

Motherhood added another layer of complexity to her journey. During the pandemic, Sofia took a year off to prioritise her newborn son while managing her growing business. 'I realised I could not get this time back with him,' she states. Today, she mentors other creators to share the workload, creating opportunities for diverse voices to flourish.



SEE has played a pivotal role in her story, providing Sofia with resources, connections, and a sense of belonging to a community of changemakers. ‘The network and values they stand for resonated with me,’ she says. As part of this vision, Sofia hopes to establish a Women’s Incubation Centre where women can receive the training and support they need to balance entrepreneurship and family life.

Looking ahead, she dreams of creating more shows, training new creators, and establishing a business school for youth entrepreneurs. She also hopes to expand her platform’s focus on empowering women, inspired by her journey as a mother and entrepreneur. ‘Women are unsung heroes, and I want to highlight that,’ she asserts.

Her advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to start by understanding themselves. ‘Before starting a business, know what inspires and fuels your passion. There will be ups and downs, but if you love what you do, you will not give up,’ she emphasises.

As SEE has nurtured and supported individuals like Sofia, it has also facilitated the growth of enterprises that extend their influence beyond local communities. Tadele Solomon, the founder of Eykis Entertainment, is another example of a social entrepreneur whose work aligns closely with SEE’s vision. His journey underscores how social enterprises can evolve from modest beginnings into impactful ventures that transcend borders.

### **Creative Enterprise**

In 2023, he set out to redefine Ethiopia’s entrepreneurial landscape by founding Eykis Entertainment. Guided by ambition, vision, and a dedicated team, he established a platform to empower Ethiopian businesses to thrive. The name ‘Eykis,’ which translates to ‘the best wish for all,’ reflects the heart of Tadele’s mission: fostering community and cultural pride while supporting local entrepreneurs in building a sustainable future.

‘I started with nothing,’ he shares. His voice carries the weight of experience and the determination that fuelled his work. ‘No money, connections, or office space—just a belief that Ethiopian products deserved a global platform.’ Despite starting with minimal resources, Tadele’s vision for Eykis Entertainment began to take shape, eventually evolving into a multifaceted enterprise.

Central to Eykis Entertainment’s operations is Mignot Bazaar, a monthly festival celebrating Ethiopian craftsmanship, creativity, and community. More than just a market, it features children’s play areas, a pet corner, and live performances from local artists. ‘The bazaar is not just an event,’ he explains. ‘It is a space where people gather to celebrate creativity and forge connections. It represents our mission to globalise the local market and nurture an entrepreneurial culture.’

Eykis Entertainment’s vision transcends the monthly bazaar. Through initiatives like Let’s Know Africa, Eykis raises awareness about African heritage by fostering appreciation for its culture through education and engagement. Similarly, Picture Perfect highlights the region’s artistic talents through immersive festivals that blend live painting, music, and photography.

Additionally, the Jam Nation Music Fest celebrates Ethiopia’s diverse musical heritage, uniting performers and audiences across generations and genres. Each project encapsulates Tadele’s belief that culture and entrepreneurship are vital catalysts for social transformation—key drivers for social enterprises in Ethiopia. The road to building Eykis Entertainment was fraught with challenges. Like many startups, the company faced financial constraints and struggled to find a permanent events venue.

For months, the team relied on temporary locations, managing the logistical hurdles of moving from one place to another. ‘Securing a stable venue was one of the hardest parts,’ he recalls. The turning point came when they partnered with Kings Hotel, a prominent four-star establishment in Addis Ababa. This collaboration provided a reliable venue and boosted their credibility within the community.

Collaboration and partnerships were crucial to their growth. Tadele was introduced to SEE by its president, Dr. Kibret Abebe, who invited him to a SEE-hosted event. At the event, he connected with Eden Demissie, whose insights helped him realise the broader impact of his work.

‘At first, I did not think of Eykis as a social enterprise,’ he admits. ‘Eden explained how our work was making a tangible impact on society—how we were shaping the lives of artisans, entrepreneurs, and communities in ways I had not fully understood. That conversation was a revelation.’

Soon after, he joined SEE, aligning Eykis's mission with social and environmental goals. Through SEE, he established connections with embassies, international organisations, and fellow social enterprises. These collaborations transformed Mignot Bazaar into a platform hosting over two hundred exhibitors across six editions.

### Cross-Border Dreams

The event now offers training and certification for local businesses, equipping them with tools for sustainable growth. 'We do not just want to showcase products,' he explains, 'We want businesses to scale. From marketing training to financial guidance, we aim to empower entrepreneurs.'

Today, Mignot Bazaar attracts an international audience, with visitors from the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United States, and beyond. Tadele's vision now extends across Africa. In 2025, Eykis will open its first office in Gambia, with plans to expand to Senegal, Mali, and Nigeria. 'Our goal is to connect African markets,' he says. 'We want to help Ethiopian brands access new opportunities while bringing the best of Africa to Ethiopia. It is about fostering a network of shared knowledge, resources, and cultural exchange.'



Eykis Entertainment's success is deeply rooted in Tadele's commitment to service and integrity. 'For me, service always comes first. We are here to support the community, to help others grow, and to ensure that our success benefits everyone involved. When your intentions are pure, success follows naturally.'

This philosophy extends to every aspect of Eykis's operations. Tadele and his team have cultivated a workplace environment built on mutual respect and shared commitment. 'We believe in collaboration,' he says. 'The more people you partner with, the more opportunities you create. That is how you build something lasting.'

For aspiring entrepreneurs, he offers heartfelt advice: 'Start with good intentions. If you have a clear vision and stay true to it, no challenge will be insurmountable. Challenges are part of the journey, but they are also opportunities to grow.'

His journey—from starting with no capital to establishing a thriving enterprise—proves the transformative power of resilience, vision, and purpose. Eykis Entertainment's evolution is a testament to the belief that social enterprises in Ethiopia, when grounded in integrity and service, can inspire change and create lasting impact. As the company grows, Tadele's dream of a connected, empowered Africa stands as a beacon of possibility for the next generation of changemakers.

The collective journeys of SEE, Sofia, and Tadele illustrate the power of social enterprises in Ethiopia, where innovation, sustainability, and cultural transformation are interwoven. SEE's commitment to nurturing enterprises that prioritise both profit and social impact has created ripple effects that extend far beyond its members' successes.



SEE's efforts in supporting entrepreneurs like Sofia and Tadele showcase how targeted interventions, when paired with strong local values, can unlock transformative potential for individuals and entire communities and sectors. In their diverse approaches, each has contributed to shaping a new narrative where social impact is at the forefront of Ethiopia's entrepreneurial landscape.

As SEE expands its reach, Sofia, Tadele, and others' stories will undoubtedly inspire future entrepreneurs. With the support of organisations like SEE, the potential for social enterprises in Ethiopia to scale and create lasting cultural impact is limitless.

Edited by "Pius Okore"

Story courtesy of Vice Versa Global Publication





# THE VOICE ACHIEVERS AWARD & BUSINESS DIALOGUE, LONDON 2026

15<sup>TH</sup>  
EDITION



**THEME:** PUTTING AFRICA IN THE RIGHT PERSPECTIVE.  
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# AFTERMATH: NO END IN SIGHT OVER CAF DECISION TO AWARD MORROCO CAF CUP!

## OPINION

What exactly did the Moroccan Football Federation promise the CAF president, Patrice Motsepe? Because this whole situation looks deeply questionable and embarrassing for African football.

This is a massive stain on the credibility of Confederation of African Football. From the very beginning, many people suspected that the system was already tilted in favour of Morocco, and now this decision only fuels those doubts even more.

You can officially hand the trophy to Morocco, but let's be honest, the football world saw what happened.

The real champions, in the eyes of many, are Senegal. They fought on the pitch, gave everything, and earned their respect through hard work and performance, not politics.

If African football wants to be taken seriously on the global stage, decisions like this only damage its image.

Fans deserve transparency, fairness, and integrity, not outcomes that leave people questioning the entire system.



Senegal demands independent investigation on CAF decision to award the African Cup to Morocco!

Senegal is demanding an independent international investigation after the Confederation of African Football (CAF) stripped the country of its 2025 Africa Cup of Nations title and instead awarded it to Morocco. The CAF Appeals Board ruled that Senegal had forfeited the final when players walked off the pitch in Rabat to protest a late penalty decision. Although Senegal returned, the penalty was saved, and they went on to win 1–0 in extra time, the board has now officially recorded the match as a 3–0 victory for Morocco. The Senegalese government has condemned the ruling as “grossly illegal and profoundly unjust” and says the decision reflects suspected corruption within CAF’s governing bodies. Senegal’s football federation has vowed to appeal the verdict at the Court of Arbitration for Sport.



# STATEMENT ON THE DECISION BY THE CONFEDERATION OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL (CAF) TO WITHDRAW THE AFCON 2025 CHAMPIONSHIP FROM SENEGAL AND AWARD TO MOROCCO

## *Referee on the pitch is the final authority on decisions made during the match- George Weah*

In football, the Laws of the Game are clear: the referee on the pitch is the final authority on decisions made during the match. Once play is allowed to continue and the match is completed, the result obtained on the field must stand.

Under the applicable rules of the Confederation of African Football (CAF), match officials have full authority during the game.

CAF regulations are in line with the FIFA Laws of the Game, which provide that:

“The referee has full authority to enforce the Laws of the Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed, and his decisions on facts connected with play are final.”

— Law 5, Laws of the Game (applied by all Confederations including CAF competitions).

In the present case of the final AFCON match between Senegal and Morocco, the referee allowed the match to continue after the walk-off by Senegal, and the game was completed, including extra time, with a result obtained on the field of play.

Additionally, post match, the referee report noted a stoppage during the match, not a forfeiture and recommended appropriate sanctions for the infractions during the match.

For this reason, the subsequent decision by CAF committee, taken after the match had already been concluded, should not override the authority exercised by the referee during the game in keeping with the Laws of the Game - Law 5.

Football must be decided on the pitch, not re-decided after the final whistle.

There is therefore no sporting justification to nullify a match that was completed in accordance with the referee’s authority and the Laws of the Game otherwise the beautiful game will head down a slippery slope where committee room officials and not match officials will be making post match rulings to override referees on-field decisions like penalties, offside and red cards.

Where will it end?

This decision has further scarred and blemished African football, undermining confidence in the fairness, consistency, and integrity of football on the continent.

I call on the court of Arbitration for Sports(CAS) and other relevant authorities to move decisively so that this travesty does not stand.

I also want to use this opportunity to clarify that social media posts widely circulating claiming that I support the decision by CAF Disciplinary Committee against Senegal is blatantly false.

All those circulating my image and attaching same to such fallacious statements are advised to refrain.

George Manneh Weah, Sr.

Ballon D’or Winner (1995)

Three Times African Footballer of the Year (1989, 1994, 1995)



## Why Did The Referee Not END The Match After Senegal Players Left The Pitch?

So why did the referee restart the match if CAF now says Senegal forfeited the finals ???..

The CAF and FIFA Presidents were all present, why did they not tell the Referee about the law if he had forgotten..???

Are they telling us they deliberately appointed an incompetent referee to officiate the finals of a major competition like the AFCON?

The ref should know such laws. His assistants should know. Those in the VAR should know but guess what they let the game play on because they thought Diaz would score the penalty and he missed..

A decision that should have been Taken on the pitch is taken in the offices two months later ?????..

No one was aware of that law on that day?????????

So Motsepe handed Sénégal the trophy while planning on stripping it two months later...???

**CORRUPTION AT ITS PEAK..**



## Ahmed Hossam Mido, Former Egypt International Did Not Hold Back

He calls the decision the biggest scandal in football history. Not just for Senegal, but for African football as a whole.

He said: "this will divide Africa and we look like a corrupt continent. Africa deserves better than this."

He's also calling for a revolution in African football: "There must be a revolution in African football.

These people must leave today, not tomorrow."

His argument is simple.

The game was played on the pitch.

The winner should be decided on the pitch.

He makes one thing clear. No issue with Morocco or its people. The issue is the process:

"I have nothing against Morocco. I love the country and its people. But the reality is, the game was decided on the pitch. Senegal were the best and deserved the title."

He also refused to congratulate Morocco: "I wanted to congratulate my Moroccan friends... but I cannot congratulate something that was won in offices, not on the field."

And that is where the tension sits.

When outcomes shift from the field to the boardroom, trust becomes the real casualty.

So strip away emotions and ask the hard question.

If decisions like this stand, what exactly is the value of 90 minutes on the pitch?

# Best birthday wishes to you Mama Ify Ezeagabu

Congratulations on your 60th birthday, as we are thanking the Lord for your life and many lives you have touched in diverse ways. May the good Lord continue to guide you with sound mind and in good health so you can reap the fruits of your labour through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Once

more, happy birthday to you Aunty, mummy and grandma!!!

With cheers and Hurray to you.

Family of Charles Chukwunonso Nwoye  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands





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