



2016

100
MOST
INFLUENTIAL
YOUNG
AFRICANS

A Publication by
AFRICA YOUTH AWARDS
the Biggest African Youth Awards Scheme which
Recognises the Achievements of Young Africans,
Young Change Makers on the Continent and Beyond
www.africayouthawards.org



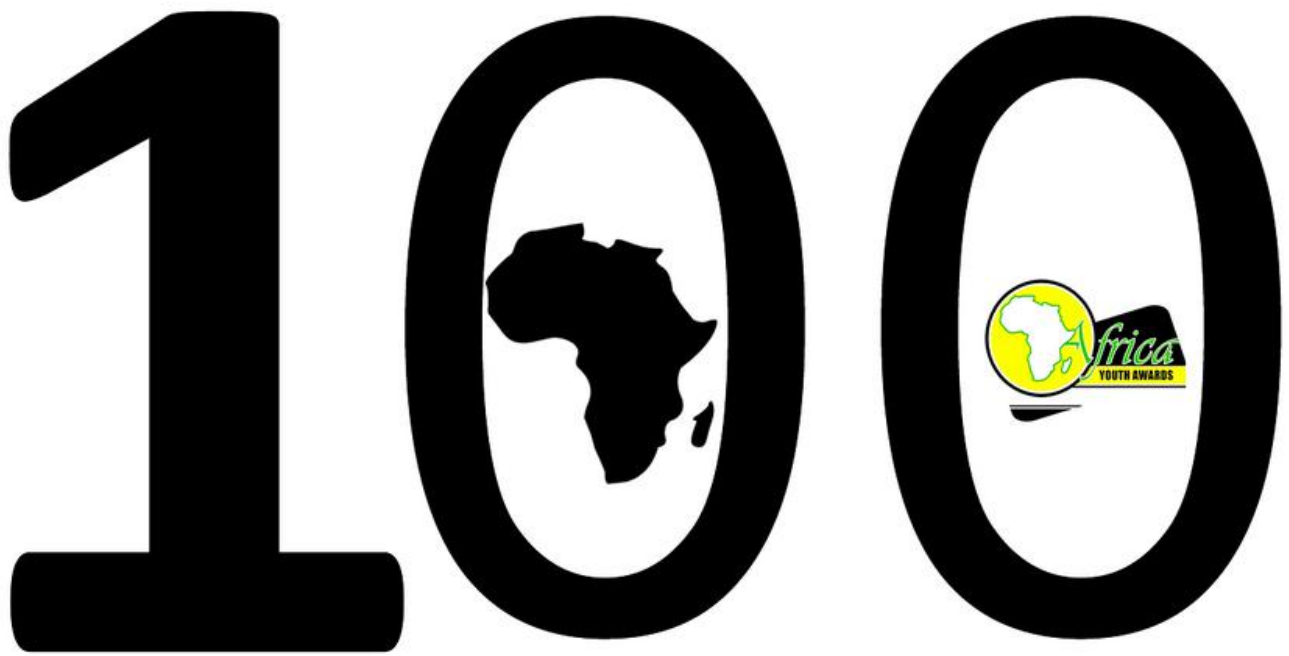
About Us

Africa Youth Awards is a prestigious award scheme with the prime aim of showing appreciation for the work of young Africans in Africa and the diaspora.

Launched in 2014, the awards scheme was inspired by the lack of recognition for young Africans who have selflessly dedicated their lives to ensuring the future of Africa is optimistic.

Youth movements are taking place all over the continent. Young people are becoming successful entrepreneurs, inventors, politicians, journalists, celebrities, educators, media personalities, advocates and role models.

There is a precious need and business opportunity for Africa to reward these young achievers and leaders as they are the future of Africa. We must be able to award and appreciate these young people for their achievements, and as a result of this we believe that greater opportunities will be presented to them, which will enable them to continue what they have started and use their stories and experience to impact the lives of other young Africans across the world. We are confident that the Africa Youth Awards will continue to bring together these like minded young people who are passionate about the development and progress of Africa, and are making efforts wherever they are to see that Africa fulfils its promising potential.



Most Influential Young Africans

When we opened nominations for Africa Youth Awards 2015, we immediately noticed stories submitted from across the world showed how Young Africans are rising to the occasion of leading and being part of the revolution sweeping across the continent.

Some may describe it as Africa rising, but young Africans have realized the power, knowledge and influence that they possess and are now living and demonstrating their true purpose in preparation of who they want to become and where they want their continent to be.

As we embark on unearthing hardworking young individuals annually for the annual Africa Youth Awards, we are eager to tell the world more about Africa Youth Awards, African Youth and what we have achieved together.

Young Africans are now leading conglomerates, government ministries and agencies, political parties, NGOs, civil society and large industries.

With this in mind we present to you our new initiative – The annual 100 Most Influential Young Africans.

100 Most Influential Young Africans

Categories & Definitions

Media: This category is targeted at journalists and media personalities who have defied odds to propel stories of Africa across the Globe. Their work should carry a continental focused vision on leading Africans to tell their own stories whether good or bad.

Law and Governance: This category compiles distinguished young Africans who display continental influence based on their roles in public office, politics, Law and governance. Their work should have yielded significant commendation from their benefactors.

Business: This category is dedicated to Individuals who run successful enterprises in Africa, which are adding valuable social, economical and cultural remittances to lives and contributing towards shaping the image of the African continent.

Sports: This category throws spotlight on diverse sports personalities who in diverse ways are contributing to the development of various sporting activities. These can be athletes, coaches or individuals directly involved in the sporting industry.

Academia and Personal Development: This category is exclusive to individuals who have excelled in various academic assignments and young Africans who have dedicated their career in training the next generation of African Leaders.

Science and Technology: This category focused on young Africans who are leading the innovation revolution across the continent. Their products and services must be dedicated to solving either local or global problems from the African soil. They must be potential competitors in the global science, technology and innovation space.

Health and Environment: This category is focused on both health experts and environmentalists who are passionate about preserving lives and the environment. These personalities must be leading initiatives, which are addressing problems in their communities and have a potential global expansion, adoption and recognition.

Social Enterprise and Philanthropy: This category is meant for young individuals leading social entrepreneurship and philanthropy activities impacting lives across the continent and their respective countries. The public on the reach of their impacts must phenomenally endorse their works and achievements.

Leadership and Civil Society: This category involves highly recommended young individuals who are championing various activities on the continent related to advocacy, religion, civil organizations etc. They need to possess the qualities of a leader and must have achieved significant feats in their works across the continent.

Entertainment and Culture: This category is exclusive to a diverse group of individuals involved in entertainment, arts, culture and fashion activities. They must be continental icons that command a high level of influence not just popularity through the positive impact of their works.

introducing the 2016 class of 100 Most Influential Young Africans

NB: arranged in alphabetical order

1. Abraham Attah
2. Ahmed Adamu
3. Ahmed Musa
4. Alain Nteff
5. Alek Wek
6. Alengot Oromait
7. Amira Yahyaoui
8. Anas Aremeyaw Anas
9. Anthony Mutua
10. Arthur Zang
11. Ashish Thakkar
12. Ashley Uys
13. Ato Ulzen-Appiah
14. Aya Chebbi
15. Baba Rahman
16. Barkha Mossae
17. Bethlehem Alemu
18. Bitania Lulu Berhanu
19. Blessing Okagbare
20. Bogolo Kenewendo
21. Bright Simmons
22. Byrite Asamoah
23. Chancel Mbemba
24. Chidiogo Akunyili
25. Chimananda Ngozi
26. Christian Ngan
27. Christopher Ategeka
28. Clare Akamanzi
29. Diamond Platnumz
30. Emmanuel Makandiwa
31. Eric Kinoti
32. Eunice Jepkoech Sum
33. Farida Bedwei
34. Franklin Cudjoe
35. Fred Swaniker
36. Habsana Jallow
37. Hadeel Ibrahim
38. Henok Wendirad
39. Heshan De Silva
40. Ik Osakioduwa
41. Issam Chleuh
42. Jama Jack
43. James Mworia
44. Jamila Abass
45. Jim Iyke
46. Johnson Sakaja
47. Julius Malema
48. Kansiime Anne
49. Kelvin Macharia Kuria
50. Kennedy Odede
51. Khaya Dlanga
52. Landry Mayigane
53. Landry Signe
54. Lina Ben Mhenni
55. Linda Ikeji
56. Ludwick Marishane
57. Lupita Nyong'o
58. Makosi Musambasi
59. Maletsabisa Molapo
60. Mamadou Touré
61. Mark Essien
62. Mfonobong Nsehe
63. Minoush Abdel-Meguid
64. Mmusi Maimane
65. Moustapha Ben Barka
66. Murtala Kamara
67. Mustapha Mokass
68. Nadeem Juma
69. Nelson Oduma
70. Nima Elbagir
71. Nkechikwu Azinge
72. Ola Orekunrin
73. Omojuwa Japheth
74. Omotola Jalade
75. Patrick Ngowi
76. Peace Hyde
77. Phiona Mutesi
78. Pierre Aubameyang
79. Rapelang Rabana
80. Richard Nyong
81. Riyad Mahrez
82. Rosebill Satha
83. Saadatou Barmou
84. Sadio Mane
85. Samuel Malinga
86. Sangu Delle
87. Sarkodie
88. Serge Aurier
89. Simbarashe Mhuroiro
90. Siyabulela Xuza
91. Sophie Ikenye
92. Suleiman Sani Bello
93. Thato Kgatlhanye
94. Tom Osborn
95. Tonye Rex Idaminabo
96. Trevor Noah
97. Vincent Aboubakar
98. Vusi Thembekwayo
99. Wizkid
100. Zuriel Oduwole

CATEGORY DISTRIBUTION

The Categories represent the Key Sectors across the Africa which has the highest number of young people actively involved.

Below we present to you the Top 10 Young Africans in their Respective Sectors on the Continent and Beyond.

All Young People on the List were primarily judged on these key Criterias

- Be 40 Years or Below
- Be of African Descent (and working to support Africa)
- Show leadership, innovation, creativity, and/or entrepreneurship in their nominated category.
- No specific educational or academic background is required for nomination.

Media

Anas Aremeyaw Anas
IK Osakioduwa
Linda Ikeji
Makosi Musambasi
Mfonobong Nsehe
Murtala Mohamed Kamara
Nima Elbagir
Peace Hyde
Sophie Ikenye
Trevor Noah

Science and Technology

Anthony Mutua
Bright Simmons
Christian Ngan
Farida Bedwei
Jamila Abass
Kelvin Macharia Kuria
Ludwick Marishane
Mark Essien
Rapelang Rabana
Siyabulela Xuza

Business

Ashish Thakkar
Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu
Eric Kinoti
Heshan de Silva
James Mworio
Minoush Abdel-Meguid
Patrick Ngowi
Richard Nyong
Sangu Delle
Suleiman Sani Bello

Sports

Ahmed Musa
Baba Rahman
Blessing Okagbare
CHANCEL MBEMBA
Eunice Jepkoech Sum
Pierre Emerick Aubameyang
Riyad Mahrez
Sadio Mane
Serge Aurier
VINCENT ABOUBAKAR

Health and Environment

Ashley Uys
Arthur Zang
Byrite Asamoah
Christopher Ategeka
Landry Ndriko MAYIGANE
Mustapha Mokass
Nkechikwu Azinge
Ola Orekunrin
Samuel Malinga
Simbarashe Mhuriro

Academia and Personal Development

Ahmed Adamu
Bogolo Kenewendo
Fred Swaniker
Henok WENDIRAD
Landry Signe
Lina Ben Mhenni
Maletsabisa Molapo
Nadeem Juma
Phiona Mutesi
Vusi Thembekwayo

Leadership and Civil Society

Aya Chebbi
Bitania Lulu Berhanu
Chidiogo Akunyili
Claire Akamanzi
Franklin Cudjoe
Jama Jack
Khaya Dlanga
Mamadou Touré
Tonye Rex Idaminabo
Zuriel Oduwole

Law and Governance

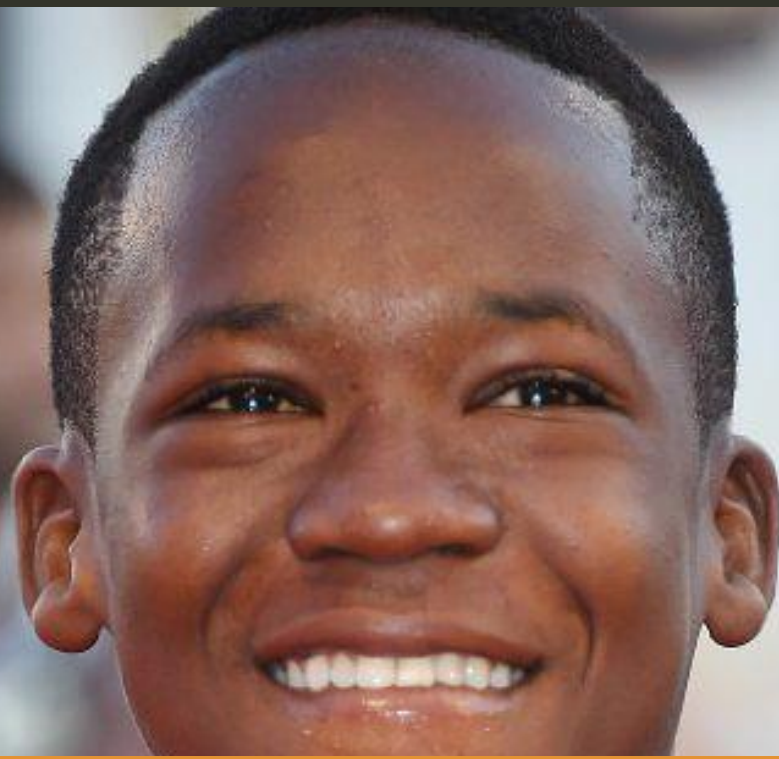
Alengot Oromait
Amira Yahyaoui
Barkha Mossae
Habsana Jallow
Johnson Sakaja
Julius Malema
Mmusi Maimane
Moustapha Ben Barka
Omojuwa Japheth
Saadatou Mallam Barmou

Social Enterprise and Philanthropy

Alain Nteff
Ato Ulzen-Appiah
Emmanuel Makandiwa
Hadeel Ibrahim
Issam Chleuh
Kennedy Odede
NELSON ODUMA
Rosebill Satha
Thato Kgatlhanye
Tom Osborn

Entertainment and Culture

Abraham Attah
Alek Wek
Chimananda Ngozi
Diamond Platnumz
Jim Iyke
Kansiime Anne
Lupita Nyong'o
Omotola Jalade
Sarkodie
Wizkid



ABRAHAM ATTAH

GHANA, ENTERTAINMENT & CULTURE

@AttahNii

Hollywood Actor

Abraham Attah is a 15 year old Ghanaian born Hollywood Actor. who made his feature film debut in Netflix's original feature film 'Beasts of No Nation' directed by Emmy Award winning director Cary Fukunaga and starring Hollywood Actor Idris Elba. He played the leading role of a child soldier Agu.

He has won the Black Film Critics Circle Rising Star Awards, Ghana Movie Awards Best Actor in a Leading Role and Discovery of the Year, Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead, National Board of Review Award for Best Breakthrough Performance and Venice International Film Festival Marcello Mastroianni Best Young Actor Award.

Some of the Prestigious awards he has been Nominated for include Gold Derby Film Award for Best Breakthrough Performer, Awards Circuit Community Award for Best Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role, Critics' Choice Movie Award for Best Young Performer, NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor in a Motion Picture, Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture, St. Louis Film Critics Award for Best Actor, Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association Award for Best Youth performance and Empire Award for Best Male Newcomer.

He was honoured with an invitation to present an award at the 88th Oscar Award.

He also starred in a Hollywood shot film 'Out of the Village' which was Executive Produced by Bryan Singer (X-Men). In November 2015, he joined the ensemble cast of Shane Carruth's third film, The Modern Ocean. and is filming Spider-Man Homecoming.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Attah



AHMED ADAMU

NIGERIA, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

@AhmedAdamu

University Lecturer

Umaru Musa Yar'adua University

Dr. Ahmed Adamu was elected on November 12, 2013 as the first-ever Global Chairperson of the Commonwealth Youth Council (CYC), which is the largest youth-led organisation in the world, representing over 1.2 Billion young people from across the 53 Commonwealth nations worldwide. He represented his country in many international and commonwealth youth programmes, and was the pioneer Chief Whip of the Nigerian Youth Parliament.

He is currently a University Lecturer, Development and Planning Consultant at the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University.

He was an International expert at United Nation's Global Forum on Youth Policies; Member, Policy Strategy Group, International Panel of Judges for Youth Citizen Entrepreneurship Competition; Observer member, International Youth Taskforce for 2014 World Conference on Youth; Member, Advisory group panel on 50th Anniversary of the Commonwealth Secretariat. He was the Nigerian youth observer at the ECOWAS Parliament and the founder and pioneer president of the League for Democratic Youth.

He writes on international and national development issues, and he mentors and inspires young people to dream higher and realise their potentials.

He was voted the 2015 African Young Personality of by the Africa Youth Awards.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmed_Adamu



AHMED MUSA

NIGERIA, SPORTS

Footballer, Nigeria & Leicester City

Ahmed Musa is a Nigerian professional footballer who plays as forward for Russian club CSKA Moscow and the Nigeria national team.

He is known for his pace, dribbling, composure, versatility and defensive effort.

He has been compared to Jesus Navas and Arjen Robben for his pace and his ability to cut inside and cause havoc; he is a good creator as well as corner specialist.

Musa is the first Nigerian to score more than once in a FIFA World Cup match after scoring twice against Argentina in the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

From 2010, he has made 58 appearances for the Senior National Team scoring 11 Goals

On 8 July 2016, Musa moved to Leicester City for a club record £16.6 million.

Read More: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmed_Musa_\(footballer\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahmed_Musa_(footballer))

100
Most Influential Young Africans



ALAIN NTEFF

CAMEROON, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@nteffal

Founder & CEO
Gifted Mom

Alain Nteff is a Cameroon Social Entrepreneur, IT Engineer & World Economic Forum Global Shaper.

He is the Co-founder & Director of an award-winning social enterprise called GiftedMom with the mission to ameliorate maternal and infant health using last mile technologies.

The signature solution of GiftedMom is an SMS platform for maternal engagement which provides stage-based and customized notifications to pregnant women and new mothers on when to go for the next antenatal care session or baby vaccination. GiftedMom currently impacts over 6000 users in Cameroon, Mali & Nigeria.

Alain Nteff has been named CNN & Forbes Africa 30 Under 30 Entrepreneurs and was awarded the first ever Queen's Young Leaders Award by Queen Elizabeth II as GiftedMom targets over 5 million pregnant women and mothers across Africa by 2018.

He is also a ONE Young World 2014 Delegate and was named Africa's Top Social Entrepreneur in 2014 by the MasterCard Foundation and awarded the Anzisha Prize.

Read More: www.giftedmom.org/



ALEK WEK

SOUTH SUDAN, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@TheRealAlek
Wek

Super Model

Alek Wek is a South Sudanese British model and designer who began her fashion career at the age of 18 in 1995. She has been hailed for her influence on the perception of beauty in the fashion industry.

She is from the Dinka ethnic group in South Sudan but fled to Britain in 1991 to escape the civil war in Sudan.

Since 2002, Wek has been an advisor to the U.S. Committee for Refugees Advisory Council, which helps to raise awareness about the situation in Sudan, as well as the plight of refugees worldwide and in July 2012, she returned to South Sudan with the UN Refugee Agency to highlight the stories of refugees returning from the north and the massive efforts needed to build and stabilise the country.

In 2007, she released an autobiography, entitled *Alek: From Sudanese Refugee to International Supermodel*, documenting her journey from a childhood of poverty in Sudan to the catwalks of Europe

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alek_Wek



ALENGOT OROMAIT

UGANDA, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

Member of Parliament Ugandan Parliament

Alengot Oromait is a Ugandan university student and politician elected Member of Parliament (MP) for Usuk County, Katakwi District at age 19, as she became the youngest member of parliament in Uganda, and on the African continent.

Alengot Oromait belongs to the National Resistance Movement, the ruling political party in Uganda. She deals with such issues as the environment, education, health policy, and gender issues.

Alengot rose out of the wilderness of obscurity after her father, Michael Oromait, died of hypertension on the morning of Saturday, July 21, this year. She succeeded him as MP for Usuk County.

Alengot is a First Year mass communication student at Uganda Christian University.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alengot_Oromait



AMIRA YAHYAOUÏ

TUNISIA, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

@Mira404

Blogger & Activist

Amira Yahyaoui is a Tunisian blogger and political activist.

Yahyaoui was born in Tunis and native of Ksar Hadada as the daughter of the Judge Mokhtar Yahyaoui who was dismissed after writing about the lack of justice in Tunisia.

Her cousin Zouhair Yahyaoui was an economist who founded the satirical website TUNeZINE. He died in 2005 after being persecuted and tortured by the government for his objections to censorship in Tunisia.

Amira fled to France and became a student there while participating in criticism of the Tunisian regime.

She was stateless for several years, but after the fall of President Ben Ali, she was able to gain a passport from the Tunisian embassy and returned to Tunisia, where she founded the NGO Al Bawsala ("The Compass" in Arabic). In 2014 she became a Meredith Greenberg Yale World Fellow and was awarded the conflict prevention prize by the Foundation Chirac.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amira_Yahyaoui



ANAS AREMEYAW ANAS

GHANA, MEDIA

@anasglobal

Investigative Journalist, Tiger Eye PI

Anas Aremeyaw Anas is a Ghanaian investigative journalist born in the late 1970s whose real name is unknown by the public.

He is famous for utilizing his anonymity as a tool in his investigative arsenal, and very few people had seen his face.

A politically non-aligned multimedia journalist who specializes in print media and documentary, Anas focuses on issues of human rights and anti-corruption in Ghana and sub-Saharan Africa.

In September 2015 Anas premiered, in four showings, in front of a record-breaking over 6500 people, at the Accra International Conference Centre, his most significant undercover film "Ghana In The Eyes Of God". It exposed the widespread corruption within the Ghanaian Judiciary and graphically showed court workers like clerks and bailiffs connive with a number of respected Judges to influence court cases through bribes. Thirty-four judges and magistrates were caught on a hidden camera receiving enticements of money, goats, sheep and even foodstuffs.

Anas has also worked in Nigeria, Tanzania and other countries where he exposed various illegal dealings.

Read More: anasaremeyawanas.org/



ANTHONY MUTUA

KENYA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Inventor

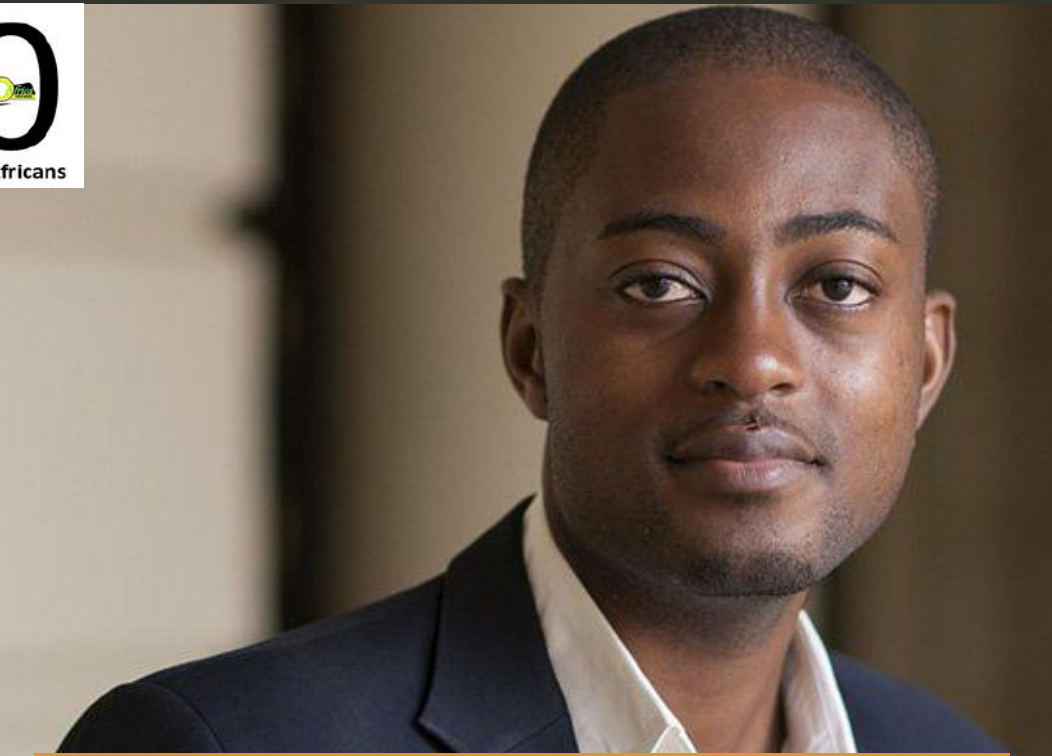
At 24 Years, Anthony invented Shoes that recharge batteries.

The energy created by the movements of the body generates electricity that can thus recharge batteries of mobile phones or other electronic devices.

The shoe apparently has a very thin "crystal chip," perhaps a piezoelectric device, that generates power when the sole bends. It can charge phones via a long cable to a pocket while the user walks, or store power for later charging.

"This charger works using pressure, as you walk you generate pressure that in turn generates energy, once you have arrived where you were going you can now sit down and charge your mobile phone," Mutua told CNC World.

Read More: www.facebook.com/mutuashoecharge



ARTHUR ZANG

CAMEROON, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@MarcArthur
2005

CEO

Himore Medical Equipment

Marc Arthur ZANG is an Engineer in software design and computer Sciences and a Researcher in biomedical Engineering.

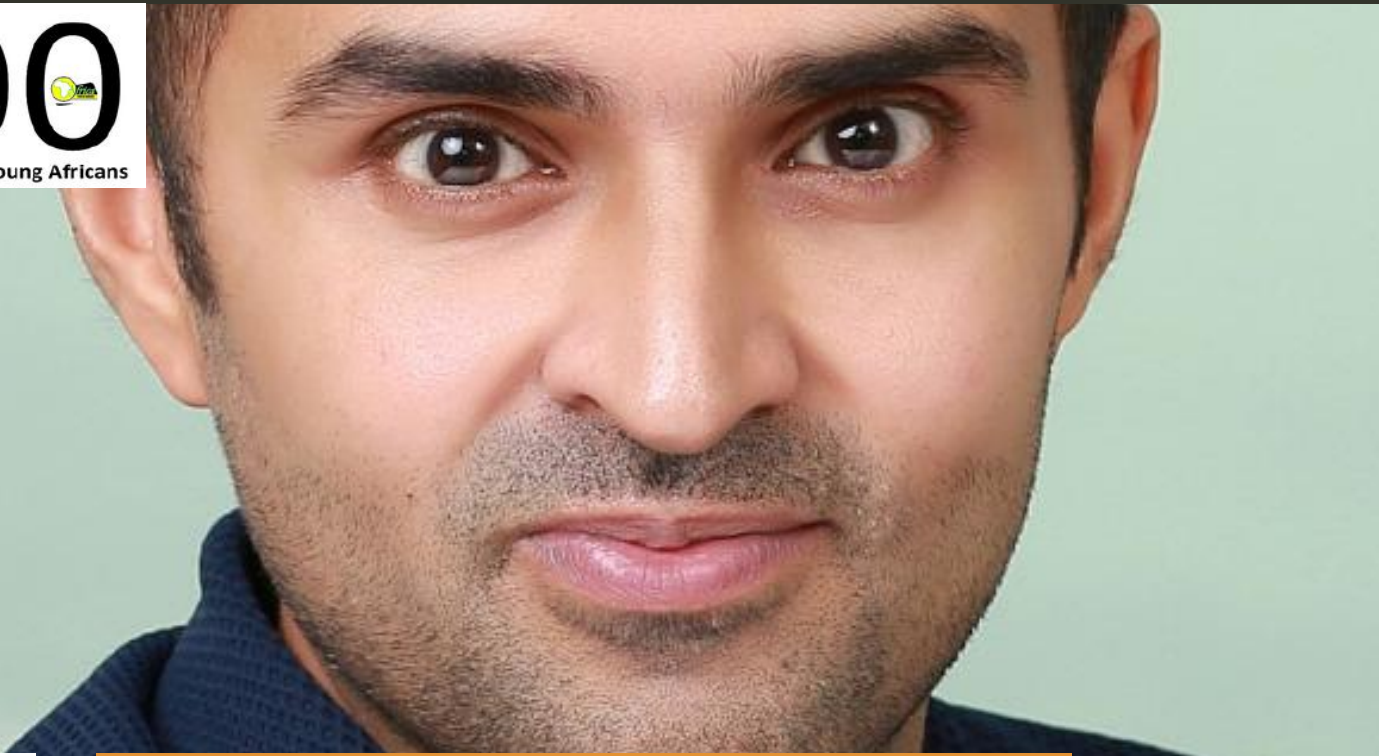
In 2010 he invented the Cardio-pad the first medical Touch tablet used to perform Heart examinations and remote diagnosis.

After inventing the Cardio-pad, it was necessary to work as a company which could implement the project at a large scale. HIMORE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT was created in 2014 and it's in charge to design, to develop and to bring the cardio-pad on the market. HIMORE MEDICAL is a company that designs and manufactures low-cost medical devices for hospitals which need to use telemedicine to follow patients.

Their technologies perform data processing and data transmission that helps a doctor to follow and treat their patients efficiently even if they are in a remote place far from the doctor.

Every day their team works with doctors in the field to design new medical solutions that are suitable for the needs of Hospitals.

Read More: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongnsehe/2012/02/09/young-african-invents-touch-screen-medical-tablet/#1ae20c725e75>



ASHISH THAKKAR

UGANDA, BUSINESS

@ashishjthakkar

Founder

Mara Group and Mara Foundation

Ashish J. Thakkar is the Founder of Mara Group and Mara Foundation. He is also the co--founder of Atlas

Mara. Ashish has driven the growth of the Mara Group from a small IT business in Uganda to the globally recognized multi--sector investment group that exists today. Through its investments, Mara Group now

employs over 11,000 people across 25 African countries in sectors spanning technology, banking, real estate and infrastructure.

Ashish serves as Chair of the United Nations Foundation, Global Entrepreneurship Council, author of The Lion Awakes: Adventures in Africa's Economic Miracle and wrote the foreword for the famous Africa 80 Book which was a collaboration among 80 Global Shapers in Africa.

Thakkar is a member of the World Economic Forum's Young Global Leaders and was featured on Fortune Magazine's list of the top "40 Under 40" in 2013.

He was awarded the Base Leadership Award at the 2014 MTV Africa Music Awards event

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashish_Thakkar



ASHLEY UYS

SOUTH AFRICA, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@AshleyTUys

CEO

Medical Diagnostech (Pty) Ltd

Ashley Uys is the Founder of Real World Diagnostics and Medical Diagnostech (Pty) Ltd.

Medical Diagnostech (Pty) Ltd develops and manufactures high-quality lateral flow rapid diagnostic test kits in an ISO13485 facility in South Africa. Unique technologies give their products superiority in terms of sensitivity, specificity, and stability.

This has been independently confirmed internationally and the tests have been found to perform to the most demanding standards. As a result, their products are trusted by companies which are leaders in their respective markets.

Their award-winning team of scientists has made Medical Diagnostech (Pty) Ltd the R&D partner of choice for several local and global initiatives to bring novel rapid diagnostic tests to market.

Read More: www.medi-tech.co.za/



ATO ULZEN-APPIAH

GHANA, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@Abocco

Co-Founder & Director GhanaThink Foundation

Ato Ulzen-Appiah studied at MIT and Stanford in civil engineering and management disciplines.

He's the director at the GhanaThink Foundation a youth-led NGO based in Ghana & the US. Its primary goal is to mobilize and organize talent for the benefit of Ghana. Further, put, it is to harness the diverse talents of Ghanaians in Ghana and the Diaspora for the benefit of Ghana, and by extension Africa and the world.

He has a great passion for connecting people and building a movement of forward-thinking Africans as showcased in projects like the Barcamp Ghana. He has led the formation and growth of 2 other GhanaThink programs - Junior Camp Ghana and the Ghana Volunteer Program whose major initiative is the National Volunteer Day.

He's a member of the Global Shapers Accra Hub, part of the World Economic Forum community.

He worked at Rancard as product manager building new revenue services off its platform. He worked at Google as a program manager building sustainable tech communities in Africa.

He co-founded Museke.com -an African music website and blogs at mightyafrikan.blogspot.com

Read More: <http://mightyafrikan.blogspot.com/2014/10/ato-ulzen-appiahs-profile.html>



AYA CHEBBI

TUNISIA, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

@aya_chebbi

Founding Chair African Youth Movement

Aya Chebbi, an award winning Pan-African feminist, renowned blogger and scholar of African Politics.

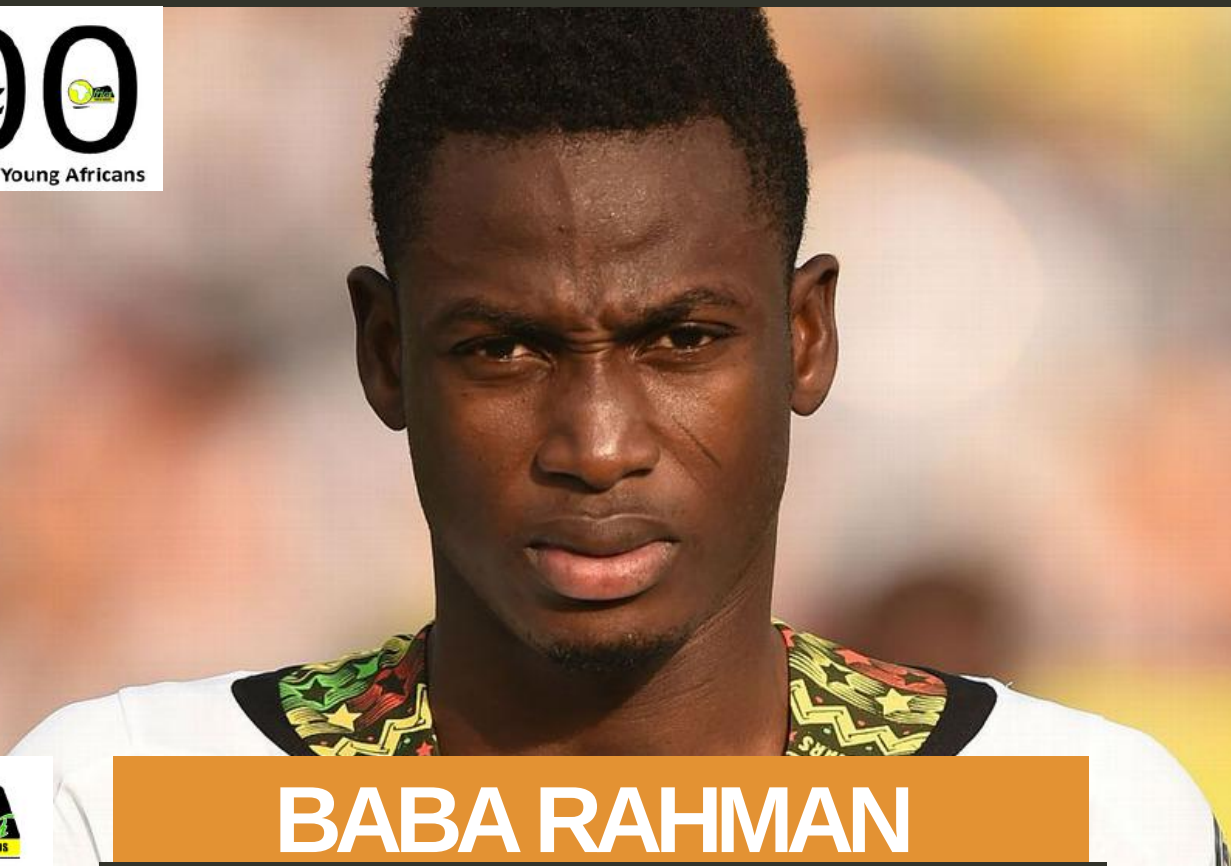
She is the co-founder of the Voice of Women Initiative (feminist collective) and founding chair of the African Youth Movement, building one of Africa's largest movements fighting for peace and social justice.

She is an international speaker- was a keynote at BOND conference, the UN Commission on the Status of Women celebrity event, US Congress hearings, United Nations and African Union High Level Dialogues and TEDx among others. In recognition of her achievements,

Aya was named one of Africa's most Outstanding Young Women Leaders in 2013 (Ghana), the Young Achiever of the Year 2015 (South Africa), and was recently the Women4Africa Awards 2016 winner of the "Inspirational Woman of the Year" (UK). She also appeared on top lists of people to watch; at the Huffington Post and Youth Hub Africa as well as listed among 100 under 40 Most Influential Arabs by ArabianBusiness. Currently, Aya is a Mo Ibrahim Scholar at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

She sits on the Board of Directors of CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation and the International Steering Group of UNOY Peacebuilders and the Executive Director of Peace Revolution Summit.

Read More: www.ayachebbi.com/



BABA RAHMAN

GHANA, SPORTS

@babarahmangh

Footballer Ghana & Chelsea

Abdul "Baba" Rahman is a Ghanaian professional footballer who plays as a left back for English club Chelsea and the Ghana national team.

Beginning his career at Dreams FC, he played in the Ghanaian Premier League with Asante Kotoko. In 2012, he signed for Bundesliga club Greuther Fürth, where he spent two seasons.

He then played for FC Augsburg before joining Chelsea in 2015 for a fee of £14 million, potentially rising to £22 million.

Rahman made his international debut in 2014 and was part of their squad which were runners-up at the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations.

On 16 August 2015, Rahman signed for Chelsea on a five-year deal for an undisclosed fee, reported to be an initial £14 million, rising to a potential fee of almost £22 million.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baba_Rahman



BARKHA MOSSAE

MAURITIUS, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

@BarkhaMo

Diplomat **Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration** **and International Trade**

Born and raised on the tropical island of Mauritius, Barkha is a passionate advocate for the sustainable development of small island developing states and entertains a mild obsession about coral reefs. Following graduation, Barkha has been part of both civil society and government:

she launched a capacity-building project to harness youth voices through the power of social media for sustainable development ahead of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development.

Joining the Foreign Service of Mauritius as a diplomat, she made sure that environmental diplomacy was a key component of foreign policy, with issues such as climate finance, sustainable development of oceans, biodiversity being part of her areas of focus, particularly in the multilateral context.

Barkha hopes to rope in more youth into understanding and protecting the ocean through the project she helped launch: #SeeingBlue. Being a Mo Ibrahim Foundation Scholar, Barkha is even more committed to African Governance, especially of natural resources.

Read More: www.globalshapers.org/shapers/barkha-mossae



BETHLEHEM TILAHUN ALEMU

ETHIOPIA, BUSINESS

@Bethlehem
Alemu

Founder and CEO soleRebels

Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu is founder and CEO of soleRebels, the world's fastest-growing African footwear brand and the only WFTO Fair Trade footwear company in the world. She is also the founder & creator of Republic of Leather a super cool new company that is changing the way people around the world buy & love luxury leatherwear.

And just as she changed the way the world enjoys shoes and leather she is about to do the same for another beloved Ethiopian gift to the world, COFFEE, via her newest brand Garden of Coffee which launched in July 2016!

Bethlehem is the founder of perimeter consulting which provides strategic consulting services. Under perimeter she created, launched and leads Made By Ethiopia, a groundbreaking public-private partnership that is transforming the entire dynamic of Ethiopia's footwear and leather export sector's, creating over 100,000 new job opportunities and over \$1 billion USD in export revenue.

soleRebels has been expanding rapidly and today exports to no fewer than 45 countries and is targeting 50 stand alone soleRebels retail stores across the United States by 2019 and 500 worldwide by 2022.

Read More: <http://www.lionessesofafrica.com/lionesses/#/lioness-bethlehem-tilahun-alemu/>



BITANIA LULU BERHANU

ETHIOPIA, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

@BitaniaL

Executive Director



Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa

Bitania is a leader who started in High school as a Squad Leader for 4 years, founding member and President of the first Astrophysics club, head of various planning and organizing committees. She also participated in different conferences and programs dealing with international and African matters. Awarded Most Influential teacher in 2012 as a result of her volunteer work as a middle school math teacher and elementary school English teacher, a program of the YWCA, led her to take leadership and skill developing courses.

In partnership with the African Union Youth Division and her teammates of YALDA AAU, Bitania has successfully hosted the first ever AU AGENDA 2063 Youth Summit from Oct 29th- Nov 1st, 2015. The objective of the summit was "introducing the Agenda 2063 to the African youth and future leaders, and celebrate the African Youth Day 2015". Bitania served as the over-all Conference Executive Director during this continental summit that gathered 300 young Africans from more than 30 countries including the African Diaspora. The summit was as well graced with the presence of honorable guests and experts, highly respected Commissioners of the African Union Commission from different departments, Ambassadors and selected youth heroes.

Bitania is the winner of the African Youth Awards "Best Female Personality of the year 2015", whose results were announced in January 2016. She has also received an honorary award on The Black History Month celebration, BHM 2016 at United Stated International University (USIU-Africa) for her phenomenal commitment and contribution.

Read More: www.yaldafrica.org/

to read more profiles and info about #100MIYA visit www.africayouthawards.org  Africa Youth Awards  @AwardsAfrica
+44750304451, +233208081226, +233242307379, +447838242130, admin@africayouthawards.org, prince@africayouthawards.org



BLESSING OKAGBARE

NIGERIA, SPORTS

@mountain214

Athlete

Blessing Okagbare is a Nigerian track and field athlete who specializes in long jumping and short sprints. She is an Olympic and World Championships medallist in the long jump, and a world medallist in the 200 metres.

She also holds the Women's 100 metres Commonwealth Games record for the fastest time at 10.85 seconds. Her 100 m best of 10.79 makes her the African record holder for the event.

She was African 100 m and long jump champion in 2010. She has also won medals at the All-Africa Games and the IAAF Continental Cup.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blessing_Okagbare



BOGOLO KENEWENDO

BOTSWANA, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

**@Bogolo
Kenewendo**

Trade Economist

Oversees Development Institute

Ms Bogolo J Kenewendo is an economic diplomacy professional and an active community builder. She is a proud Pan-African from a small village in Botswana (Motopi) with work/project experience in Southern and East Africa and is currently living and working in Ghana at the Ministry of Trade and Industry. Bogolo is popularly revered for her boldness, humility and her ability to translate complex economic issues for anyone regardless of a background in economics.

She holds an MSc in International Economics from the University of Sussex (UK), a BA in Economics from the University of Botswana, and is a certified Project Management PRINCE 2 practitioner and a BQA accredited trainer on Economic Issues. Her post graduate experience has been in consultancy and the public sector with a wide array of expertise in macroeconomic policies, trade and industrial development policies to private sector capacity building & development.

Since launching her career in Botswana, Bogolo has been an active advocate and adviser on socioeconomic issues (poverty & inequalities, youth & women participation in the labour market) and private sector development participation holding various high level positions and leading the execution of key projects. Notably, Chairing of the President of Botswana HE SKI Khama's Private Public Dialogue structure, the High Level Consultative Council; a PPD structure aimed at addressing the challenges of the private sector in Botswana. She drives economic education through her radio show (The Multiplier Effect) and newspaper column (The Game Theory) and by being a frequent commentator for various media houses locally and internationally.

Read More: www.econsult.co.bw/



BRIGHT SIMONS

GHANA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@BBSimons

Founder & President



mPedigree

Bright Simons is President of the mPedigree Network [link to: www.mpedigree.net], where he pioneered a system [link to: www.goldkeys.net] that allows consumers to instantly check whether products they buy, especially health--related products, are counterfeits or not by sending a free text message.

He is honorary director of development research at IMANI; a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Councils (on Data and development), Young Global Leaders, and Technology Pioneers Communities; a TED and Ashoka fellow; and a Brain Trust member of the Evian Group at IMD. He is a recipient of numerous awards, ranging from an Archbishop Desmond Tutu Award, Marie Curie and Commonwealth Vision Grants to a PPARC Scholarship in Gamma Ray Astronomy. Bright is consulted on innovation strategy by international organizations such as the World Bank, UNECA, USAID, and the Commonwealth; and is a member of the United Nations taskforce on innovative models in healthcare and the Lancet Commission on Sub--Saharan Africa. He is a Global Fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar, where he also served on the 2011 faculty for healthcare. He has appeared on prime time BBC shows, been cited by the Economist magazine, and been profiled by MIT's Tech Review's as one of the world's most impressive visionaries under age 35.

This year, Fortune Magazine named Bright in their 50 World's Greatest Leaders list among other industry players like Apple & Amazon CEOs, Tim Cook and Jeff Bezos respectively and also Pope Francis. Bright is furthermore a member of the Advisory Board of IC Publications, one of the world's leading publishers focused on Africa and the African diaspora; of the Microsoft for Africa Advisory Council; and of the Sanofi Digital and Africa 2.0 Advisory boards.

Read More: mpedigree.net/

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BYRITE ASAMOAH

GHANA, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@ByriteA

Founder and CEO

Vantage Medical Solutions

Dr. Bryite Asamoah founded Vantage Medical Solutions to undertake a range of activities in the health sector.

They became trailblazers when they introduced Healthline 255 in partnership with the Vodafone foundation, a medical phone service that provides credible and reliable health information to callers over a telephone. The health advice is given by doctors and nurses, and this phone medical service is the first of its kind in Ghana and West Africa.

His company also produces the most educative health education TV show in Ghana called Vodafone Healthline and In 2014 he won a global award for the most innovative idea at the Healthees, a digital health start up innovations event.

Read More: vantagemeds.com/



CHANCEL MBEMBA

CONGO, SPORTS

@mbemba22

Footballer

Congo & Newcastle United

After playing youth football for several clubs including E.S. La Grace and FC MK Etanchéité in Kinshasa, Mbemba joined Belgian club Anderlecht in 2012. Mbemba mainly played with Anderlecht reserve and youth teams.

Mbemba eventually made his senior debut on 28 July 2013 in their opening match of the 2013–14 Belgian Pro League season, a 2–3 defeat to Lokeren.

On 30 July 2015, Mbemba was officially unveiled as a Newcastle United player, signing a five-year contract with the club.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ChanceL_Mbemba



CHIDIOGO AKUNYILI

NIGERIA, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

@Chidiogotweets

Community Lead, Global Shapers – Africa and MENA World Economic Forum

Chidiogo Akunyili has 9 years of professional experience in Community building and Business development, International Development, Sino-African relations and Strategy consulting with focus on Africa and on development in the region. She holds an undergraduate degree in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania and Sciences Po Paris, and a Masters in International Relations and Economics from SAIS Johns Hopkins, where she was the class graduation speaker. At the World Economic Forum, Chidiogo is currently the Community Lead for the Africa and Middle East Community of Global Shapers numbering almost 2,000 young change makers across Africa and into the Middle East. She is the Manager of the Global Agenda Meta-Council on Inclusive Growth, and a Global Leadership Fellow (Executive Master in Global Leadership certificates from INSEAD - Columbia University - Wharton School - London Business School – China Europe International Business School and Cornell Tech).

She was a business strategy analyst at Frontier Strategy Group, and has worked with Dalberg Global Development Advisors. After graduating from SAIS, Chidiogo joined Roland Berger Strategy Consultant in Lagos and UAE.

Chidiogo is fluent in 7 languages and an avid promoter of Pan-African identity and unity. . She is a writer, a public speaker, and a woman on a mission to change the world starting with self and with the belief that counter to Ayi Kwei Armah's dejected conclusion, that the 'Beautiful Ones' have been born.

Read More: twitter.com/chidiogotweets



CHIMANANDA NGOZI

NIGERIA, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@Chimamanda
Says

Novelist & Activist

Multiple Award-Winning Novelist, Chimamanda Ngozi has made a mark for herself across the globe over the past 2 decades in creating some of the best works the continent has contributed to literature.

From 1997 when she published a collection of poems (Decisions) and a play (For Love of Biafra) in 1998 her works have received multiple authentic recognitions from across the globe including O. Henry prize, Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book, David T. Wong International Short Story Prize, National Book Critics Circle Award, Future Award, Nigeria: Young Person of the Year etc. In 2013 she delivered a TEDX speech titled "We should all be feminists" which has received about 3million views on YouTube and was featured in a Grammy Awards Nominated song by Beyonce "Flawless"

Some of her books include; Purple Hibiscus, Half of a Yellow, The Thing Around Your Neck and Americanah.

Read More: chimamanda.com/

100
Most Influential Young Africans



CHRISTIAN NGAN

CAMEROON, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@ChristianNgan

Founder & CEO



Madlyn Cazalis Group

Christian Ngan is the Founder and CEO of Madlyn Cazalis, a Cameroonian all-natural cosmetic company. Madlyn Cazalis was founded to prevent Africans from dangers of skin-bleaching, by encouraging African organic products. He founded the company in 2012 with only \$2.500 of personal savings.

Today Madlyn Cazalis distributes 24 skincare and haircare products (creams, lotions, oils, scrubs, soaps) using natural ingredients such as cocoa butter, shea butter, coconut, moringa, avocado and more, with 100 ambassadors, 50 retail outlets in Central Africa (Cameroon, Gabon and Congo) and customers in more than 12 countries in Africa, Europe and Asia. Madlyn Cazalis is willing to promote African agriculture, local industry, women empowerment and youth initiatives. In just 4 years, the company advised 50.000 middle-class women with the ambition to provide more African sustainable products to 100 million women by 2025.

. Christian holds an MSc in Financial Engineering from EM Lyon Business School, an MSc in International Affairs and a B.A. in Business Administration from La Sorbonne. He is Member of the African Leadership Network, Honorary Member of The Cameroonian Consumers League and Youth Advisory Board Member of Brand Africa. In 2014 and 2015 he was listed in Forbes "30 Most Promising Entrepreneurs in Africa", "Top 3 Most Influential Young Entrepreneur in Cameroon" by Espace PME, nominated "Young Business Leader of The Year" by CNBC Africa, listed among the "Top African Visionaries in 2016" by Global Publishers and "Top 100 Africa Economic Leaders for Tomorrow" by Institut Choiseul in Paris.

Read More: www.madlyncazalis.com

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CHRISTOPHER ATEGEKA

UGANDA, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@chrisategeka

Founder & CEO

Rides for Lives



Chris is an award winning Uganda-born Engineer, Entrepreneur and Inventor. He is the Founder of Rides for Lives an on-demand rural healthcare delivery company with operations in Sub-Saharan Africa.

At a young age, he witnessed both his parents die from HIV/AIDS and his brother who died in the arms of his extended family in an effort to carry him to the nearest healthcare facility. Despite these tragedies, Chris connected with an organization in Uganda, called Y.E.S. Uganda, where he was able to receive support, opportunity, and an education. Chris showed reverence for education; a sponsoring family from California took notice and gave Chris funding to attend private school and invited him to live with them.

He has won many awards for his work, most recently 2016 World Economic forum Young Global Leader. He is also a 2014 Forbes Magazine 30 Under 30, Ashoka fellow and Echoing Green fellow. Chris' work has been featured in many major media publications both local and International such as BBC, Forbes, FastCompany, San Francisco Chronicle, NPR...and he is also a contributing editor for Forbes, Huffington-post and Engineering for change.

Chris attended UC Berkeley, where he received his Bachelors and Masters in mechanical engineering. Using the knowledge he gained, in combination with his childhood experience of growing up in poverty in Uganda, he created Rides For Lives, a non-profit organization with a vision to create the world where every community is empowered to access local healthcare.

Read More: www.ridesforlives.org/#about

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CLAIRE AKAMANZI

RWANDA, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

@cakamanzi

Chief Operating Officer Rwanda Development Board

Ms. Clare Akamanzi is currently the Chief Operating Officer of the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) a Government institution in charge of accelerating economic growth and development of the country. Prior to this, she was the Deputy Chief Executive Officer in charge of Business Operations and Services at RDB.

Prior to this Ms Akamanzi was the Deputy Director General of the Rwanda Investment and Export Promotion Agency (RIEPA), a position she held from 2006-2008. She was also Rwanda's commercial Diplomat in London and a Trade Negotiator in Geneva for the Government of Rwanda at the World Trade Organization.

Ms. Akamanzi has also currently and previously served on four boards, and chaired the National Customer care campaign in the country. She is the founder of Prosave, a 100 member savings cooperative that promotes a savings culture among Rwandans.

Read More: www.rdb.rw/



DIAMOND PLATNUMZ

TANZANIA, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@diamond
platnumz

Music Star

Multiple awards winning music start Diamond Platnumz is a Bongo Flava recording artist and singer from Tanzania who is best known for his hit song "Number One".

Diamond is considered influential among his fans and is said to be the most loved and decorated Tanzanian artist.

He was believed to be the highest selling Tanzanian artist of ringtones by mobile phone companies in 2013, as well as being among the artists earning the highest income in the African Great Lakes region's music industry.

He has received nominations and won Music Honours at these various prestigious awards ceremonies around the world; African Achievers Awards, Tanzania Music Awards, BET Awards, African Muzik Magazine Awards, MTV Africa Music Awards, The Future Africa Awards, The Headies, HiPipo Music Awards and Channel O Music Video Awards.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamond_Platnumz



EMMANUEL MAKANDIWA

ZIMBABWE, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@prmakandiwa

Founder & Senior Prophet United Family International Church

Emmanuel Makandiwa is a prophet who founded an interdenominational church in 2008 and became the first person to fill up the Zimbabwean National Sports Stadium in April 2011.

Prophet Emmanuel Makandiwa has travelled the rough and tumble of life into full ministry maturity and global prominence. In his home country, Zimbabwe, Prophet Makandiwa's thriving ministry and social influence attract awe and a never-ending thirst for God with over 70,000 adult and youth attendees every week.

Prophet Makandiwa also looks after nearly 2,000 orphans, 300-plus widows and he constantly donates to people in need.

Read More: www.emmanuelmakandiwa.com/about/



ERIC KINOTI

KENYA, BUSINESS

@itskinoti

Founder & CEO Shade systems EA. Ltd

Eric Kinoti is a Kenyan entrepreneur being the Founder and CEO of Shade systems EA. Ltd, a million dollar enterprise and is on the boards of several prominent East African companies.

He has gained immense recognition of his entrepreneurial endeavours from Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta and is also a noted philanthropist also as the Kenyan youth patron in the Kenyan chambers of commerce.

Apart from Shade systems (EA) Ltd, Eric is also the founder and director of Alma Tents Ltd, Bag Base Kenya Ltd and SafiSana Home Services Ltd. With the onset of the 2009 and 2014 came the expansion of Shade Systems to other countries such as Rwanda, Somalia, Congo, Southern Sudan, Uganda and elsewhere with Kinoti being charged with business affairs in East and Central Africa region

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Kinoti



EUNICE JEPKOECH SUM

KENYA, SPORTS

Athlete

After giving birth to a daughter in 2008, Eunice Jepkoech Sum began a full-time athletics career in 2009 after being spotted competing in a heptathlon event by former 800 metres world champion Janeth Jepkosgei.

She made her international championship début in the 800 metres at the 2010 African Championships in Athletics in Nairobi but failed to make the final. Sum won a silver medal - her first medal in international competition - in the 800 m at the 2012 African Championships in Athletics in Porto-Novo, Benin.

Sum progressed to the highest ranks of international competition in 2013, reaching her first global final and defeating Olympic champion and home favourite Mariya Savinova to win a surprise 800 m gold in a personal best time of 1:57.38 at the world championships in Moscow. The Kenyan defeated Savinova again at the Weltklasse Zürich to add the 2013 IAAF Diamond League crown in 800 m to her world title.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eunice_Jepkoech_Sum

100
Most Influential Young Africans



FARIDA BEDWEI

GHANA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@fbedwei

Co-Founder & CTO
Logiciel Ghana

Farida Nana Efua Bedwei is a Ghanaian software engineer and entrepreneur who despite her disability has led the running of Logiciel Ghana Limited as Chief Technical Officer in executing milestones transforming the Financial Sector in Ghana.

She is the author of "Definition of a miracle" a mini autobiography and was voted the 2015 Most Influential Young Women in a national poll by Avance Media and was subsequently appointed a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

Farida has won many awards which have outnumbered her age significant among them are; Special Award by President Mahama, Legacy and Legacy Ideas Award.

She is the youngest Board Member of Ghana's National Communication Authority.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farida_Bedwei



FRANKLIN CUDJOE

GHANA, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

@lordcudjoe

Founder & President Imani Center for Policy and Education

Franklin Cudjoe is a Policy Analyst, Entrepreneur, Business Strategist, African Political Expert and Consultant. All his work is inspired by one thing, his extraordinary passion to see the African continent rise to fulfil its immense, unparalleled potential, translating into a better quality of life of all Africans.

Franklin Cudjoe is the founding President and Chief Executive Officer of IMANI Center for Policy and Education, a think tank of global repute dedicated to the promotion of the institutions of a free society across Africa.

As the founder and CEO of IMANI Center for Policy and Education, a think tank based in Ghana but one of international repute, he has had a front row seat to the power and ability of a few individuals to transform and influence the climate of opinion, educate citizenry and influence public policy.

IMANI has been consistently ranked among the top 10 think tanks in Africa and among the top 100 worldwide by the University of Pennsylvania Go To think tank ranking. Currently, IMANI is ranked as the most influential think tank in Ghana and the second in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Read More: www.imaniafrica.org/franklin-cudjoe-3/



FRED SWANIKER

GHANA, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

@FredSwaniker

**Founder & Chairman
African Leadership Academy**

Fred Swaniker is deeply passionate about Africa as a serial entrepreneur and leadership development expert who has launched five organizations that are aimed at developing leaders, primarily in Africa.

He is the chairman and founder of the African Leadership Academy, an institution located outside Johannesburg in South Africa that aims to develop 6,000 transformative leaders for Africa over a 50-year period as he doubles up as the founder of African Leadership Network, Global Leadership Adventures, and Africa Advisory Group.

Swaniker's work as an educational entrepreneur has been praised by U.S. President Barack Obama and other prominent global figures. He has been named a TED Fellow (2009), a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader (2012) and was named one of the Top Ten Young Power Men in Africa by a 2011 Forbes Magazine online feature.

Read More: www.africanleadershipacademy.org/profiles/fred-swaniker/



HABSANA JALLOW

GAMBIA, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

Politician & MP Gambia Parliament

As a member of the ECOWAS Parliament, Habsana Jallow is unquestionably the heartfelt female politician in the National Assembly of The Gambia.

At 24, Habsana was selected by the APRC (political party) leadership to contest the Nianija seat in the 2012 National Assembly Elections. She scored an overwhelming victory paving a smooth path to join Decision Makers in the Gambia in the National Assembly.

Habsana entered the National Assembly at a time when Nianija was seriously plagued by a political dispute but through her leadership, peace has now returned to her constituency.

Read More: <http://www.whatson-gambia.com/news/headline-news/1091-meet-the-gambia-s-youngest-and-hottest-national-assembly-member>



HADEEL IBRAHIM

SUDAN, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@Mo_IbrahimFdn

Founding Executive Director MO Ibrahim Foundation

Hadeel Ibrahim is the founding Executive Director of the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, co-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Africa Centre in New York.

Hadeel also sits on the Boards of the Mary Robinson Foundation for Climate Justice, the Clinton Foundation, Synergos Institute, Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS), 1:54 Contemporary African Art Fair, and the Governing Board of the African Governance Institute (AGI).

She previously served as a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing and on the Boards of Refugees International, the Carter Centre (UK) and the FT/IFC Transformational Business Awards Judging Panel.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation is an African Foundation established with one clear objective – to put governance at the centre of any conversation on African development.

Read More: mo.ibrahim.foundation/about-us/board/hadeel-ibrahim



HENOK WENDIRAD

ETHIOPIA, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

@hendirad

Founder & CEO MAK Addis Tutors

A veterinarian by education, He is a serial-entrepreneur with lots of experience in startups. He co-founded a three-time award winner startup named Mak-Addis Tutors which aims to provide a tutor-student matchmaking service in Addis Ababa Ethiopia with the goal of creating up to 2000 jobs for the educated youth of Ethiopia.

Chosen as one of the Young African Leaders under the POTUS' flagship program YALI-RLC-EA, & enrolled in the business and entrepreneurship track for a 12-week leadership program. Winner of Reach for Change-Ethiopia's accelerator program and first place winner of the National Startupper of the Year Challenge by TOTAL. I am also People's Choice Award winner of a jam session organized by hackthecd.org and the City of Seattle, USA. I am a proud YALI-RLC-EA Alumni, and currently serving as the Communication Committee Chair of the Ethiopian Alumni Chapter.

Additionally, He has extensive experience in print and electronic media, Human Centered Design & Design Thinking, Lean Startup, health promotion, event planning and organizing promotional expos. Experience also includes work done particularly in designing & marketing activities of various events including 'Ethio Health Exhibition and Congress', 'Afri-Printing and Packaging Expo' and 'Ethio Poultry Expo and African Livestock Expo & Congress', which are great inputs to work closely with the Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce and Sectoral Associations, Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and Industries and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture/EMDTI.

Read More: makaddistutors.wordpress.com/



HESHAN DE SILVA

KENYA, BUSINESS

@HeshdeSilva

Founder & CEO De Silva Group

Heshan de Silva, 25, is the CEO of VenCap, a venture capital fund invested in 17,000 businesses. De Silva first tried his hand at a business with less than \$200 and has built a multi-million dollar enterprise over the last seven years.

The portfolio of companies under the De Silva Group spans various sectors including commodities, technology, renewable energy, insurance and agribusiness.

In 2008, De Silva was selected by the US Congress as one of Kenya's Brightest Young Leaders. The university drop out seeks to use his businesses to reduce poverty in Kenya from 60% to 40% over the next five years.

DSGVenCap invests an average of \$10 000 to \$15 000 in each idea and helps the entrepreneurs it funds to execute their ideas. So far, company and its beneficiaries have created jobs for some 70 000 people.

Read More: <http://www.medioclubsouthafrica.com/africa/3689-meet-heshan-de-silva-kenya-s-25-year-old-dollar-multimillionaire#ixzz48jVr2Zxo>



IK OSAKIODUWA

NIGERIA, MEDIA

@ik_osakioduwa

Radio & TV Host Big Brother Africa

Known for his work with Rhythm 93.7 FM, MNet's Studio 53 and Big Brother Africa, IK studied Economics at the University of Lagos where he took part in many stage plays and concerts and discovered and groomed his talent as a Master of Ceremonies/Host.

After graduating in 2001, Osakioduwa worked for Rhythm 93.7 FM, for a while and returned in 2005 where he has been the host for almost all the shows for at one time or another but currently on the "Morning Drive".

He is also currently a field presenter on the M-Net magazine show that showcases cultural events, historical places, music, art, design, fashion and celebrity personalities from across the African continent.

IK started hosting the reality series, Big Brother Africa in September 2009 which went on to become a phenomenal success, putting him in the continental spotlight. Osakioduwa inked a deal with MNET Africa to continue to host Big Brother Africa, making him the most sought after reality television host in Nigeria / Africa to date.

Read More: www.tvsa.co.za/actors/viewactor.aspx?actorid=1868



ISSAM CHLEUH

MALI, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@issamchleuh

Founder & CEO Africa Impact Group

As the founder and CEO of Africa Impact Group, Mr. Chleuh is in charge of driving the organization's vision and mission, developing existing partnerships and creating new ones – influencing the growth of impact investing in Africa.

He is passionate in his convictions about the future of Africa and opportunities for well-positioned investors to make a difference while still making a profit, especially in Francophone and sub-Saharan Africa.

He was also named one of Suffolk University's 10 Under 10, an award recognizing the work of 10 outstanding Suffolk alumni who have graduated in the last 10 years and have already begun to shape their fields. Mr. Chleuh was selected to the Forbes' list out of more than 800 nominees thanks to his innovative and enterprising take on investing in Africa.

Read More: www.africaincgroup.com/about-us/issam-chleuh/



JAMA JACK

GHANA, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

Communications Officer University of The Gambia

Jama Jack is a young Gambian woman who serves as the Communications officer of the only university in her country, The Gambia.

As a feminist and global change agent, she has been actively involved in voluntarism and social change work and continues to contribute to causes both at the national and regional levels.

Jama is a 2012 MILEAD Fellow with the Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa, serves on the Advisory Board for FRIDA, The Young Feminist Fund and is a Global Shaper with the World Economic Forum in Banjul.

An amazing writer, with good expressions in the queen's language, Jama runs a blog which focuses mainly on women issues.

Read More: linguerebi.wordpress.com



JAMES MWORIA

KENYA, BUSINESS

@MworiaJ

CEO

Centum Investment Company Limited

James Mwirigi Mworia runs the largest publicly traded private capital firm in eastern Africa a capacity he has served in since 2008.

In 2001, Mworia began working as a filing clerk at Centum Investments despite having a law degree and several other financial and accounting diplomas and certificates. He gradually rose through the ranks, and in 2005 was appointed chief investment officer at Centum Investments.

He served in that position until December 2006, when he joined TransCentury Investments as its head of investments.

In 2008, at age 30, he was appointed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and managing director at Centum. During his first six years as CEO, Centum increased its asset base from KES:6 billion (US\$69 million) to approximately KES:30 billion (US\$350 million).

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Mworia



JAMILA ABASS

KENYA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@kouljay

Founder & CEO M-Farm Ltd

An Aspen Fellow, Jamila Abass is helping farmers trapped in subsistence agriculture move into commercial farming by leveraging available mobile technology to provide needed real-time information and incentive collective action.

Jamila's technology platform links farmers to markets and creates an ecosystem of knowledge exchange, aggregation, and opportunity spotting that shifts them into productive commercial farming.

Jamila was also named among Most Influential Africans by the New African Magazine

M-Farm Offers information to farmers about prices and other agricultural aspects via mobile (SMS) and web-based system. M-Farm also provides a collaborative platform for the farmers to interact with cooperatives, farm input suppliers and agro-vet stores.

Read More: www.mfarm.co.ke



JIM IYKE

NIGERIA, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@jimiyykeofficial

Nollywood Actor & Entrepreneur

Jim Iyke is Nigerian Actor, Film & Music Producer, Model, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist. Whose entrance into Nollywood was the beginning of a journey of winning and capturing the hearts of movie followers across Africa and beyond.

He has since acted in over One hundred and fifty films to date and recently created a film production outfit "Untamed Productions" as he is also regarded as a fashion Icon, and one of the best dressed African celebrities.

Iyke is the founder of a non-profit organization called the Jim Iyke Foundation, a pioneer in the movement for better education and well-being for the less privileged children in Africa. His business interest spans through Oil & Gas transportation, an up-scale special clientele automotive dealership, named Untamed Cars, as well as Real estate investments, Event Management, and a number of brand endorsement deals with one of the prominent telecoms company, Globalcom.

His reality TV is named JIM IYKE UNSCRIPTED, jointly sponsored by Africa Magic and Oh Africa TV.

Read More: www.jimiyykesworld.com/about/



JOHNSON SAKAJA

KENYA, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

@SakajaJohnson

National Chairman TNA, Ruling Political Party

Johnson Sakaja, 31, is the National Chairman, Ruling Party of Kenya, TNA and is currently the Principal Partner at Arthur Johnson Consultants which offers financial and strategic advisory services to Governmental and Private business entities in Kenya.

Sakaja Johnson studied Actuarial Science and is currently pursuing Political Economics where he found his interests lie. He began his foray into national politics through student politics at the University of Nairobi (NASA – as vice chair of the Actuarial Students Association and later in SONU).

He has been involved in National Politics since the 2005 referendum and played a key role in the 2007 re-election of H.E. Mwai Kibaki. Sakaja was also instrumental in the constitution making process being a key consultant to the COE and Parliamentary Select Committee on the Constitution on the issue of Representation and helped formulate the formula for delimitation of electoral boundaries in Kenya.

To most Kenyans, Johnson Sakaja is the besieged The National Alliance (TNA) chairman who burst into the national limelight through a powerful speech during the highly-publicised party launch in 2012 where he memorably proclaimed that "we are not looking for those with millions of shillings in the bank, but for those with millions of ideas in the mind."

Before the birth of TNA, the name Johnson Sakaja would not have rung a bell among many Kenyans, save for those who were in the University of Nairobi in the mid 2000s when he was an executive member of Students Organisation of Nairobi University (Sonu).

Read More: <http://softkenya.com/kenyans/johnson-sakaja/>



JULIUS SELLO MALEMA

SOUTH AFRICA, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

@Julius_S_
Malema

Founder & Commander-in-Chief Economic Freedom Fighters

Julius Sello Malema is the leader of the Economic Freedom Fighters, a South African political party, which he founded in July 2013 who previously served as President of the African National Congress Youth League from 2008 to 2012 and was expelled from the party in April 2012.

He occupies a notably controversial position in South African public and political life, having risen to prominence and has been described by both Zuma and the Premier of Limpopo Province as the "future leader" of South Africa.

He established a political party and named it the Economic Freedom Fighters launched on 10 July 2013. Following the fourth democratic National Elections in 2014, the EFF obtained 25 seats in the National Assembly, after having secured 6.35 percent of the national votes.

Malema officially obtained his BA Degree in Political Leadership and Citizenship from the University of South Africa (UNISA) on 30 March 2016, at a graduation ceremony held on the Pretoria campus.

Read More: effighters.org.za/



KANSIIME ANNE

UGANDA, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@Kansiime256

Actress & Comedian

Anne Kansiime is a talented multiple award-winning comedian, Actress and entertainer dubbed "Africa's Queen of Comedy". Beginning in 2007, as an undergraduate, Kansiime began to participate in drama skits acted by a theatre group who played at the Uganda National Theatre in Kampala's central business district.

Anne began posting some of her sketch comedy skits on YouTube and received positive feedback and that encouraged her to post more videos leading to a breakthrough when Citizen TV from Kenya offered her a slot to produce, star and present a comedy show, Don't Mess With Kansiime.

She is a brand ambassador for Old mutual Kenya and boasts of many awards including; Teeniez Funniest Comedian 2016, African Entertainment Awards USA, Best Comedian's Award 2015, Rising Star – Comedian of the Year 2015, African Oscar Award for favourite comedian 2015, YouTube silver play button 2015, AIRTEL Women of Substance Awards 2014 etc.

Read More: kansiimeanne.ug/



KELVIN MACHARIA KURIA

KENYA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@Kelvim
MachariaK

Founder & CEO Sunrise Tracking

Kelvin is a young entrepreneur with amazing experience in the security innovation. His company, Sunrise Tracking offers innovative car tracking products, fleet management system, CCTV surveillance, and biometrics products.

As the CEO, he is focused on innovating, designing and managing the overall operations of Sunrise Tracking. A Mandela Washington Fellow, Kelvin holds is ranked among the top thirty most promising entrepreneurs in Africa (2015) and has also received international recognition as African Startup of The Year for 2014, from CNN.

He is also a recipient of the 2015 Africa Youth Awards for Entrepreneurship.

Read More: sunrisetracking.co.ke/



KENNEDY ODEDE

KENYA, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@Kennedy
Odede

Founder & Executive

Shining Hope for Communities

Kennedy is one of Africa's best-known community organizers and social entrepreneurs. He is a New York Times best-selling author and the Co-Chair of the Youth Panel for the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity. He was raised in Kibera, the largest urban slum in Africa, where he experienced the devastating realities of life in extreme poverty. Still, he dreamed about changing his community.

While working at a factory in 2004, Kennedy saved 20 cents, purchased a soccer ball, and started the Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO) movement. Driven by the innovation and entrepreneurial spirits of the people of Kibera, SHOFCO became the largest grassroots organization in the slum.

Although he was entirely informally educated, Kennedy received a full-scholarship to Wesleyan University, becoming one of Kibera's first to receive an education from an American liberal arts institution. He graduated in 2012 as the Commencement Speaker and with honors in Sociology. Kennedy was awarded the 2010 Echoing Green Fellowship, which is given to the world's top emerging social entrepreneurs. He won the 2010 Dell Social Innovation Competition, wrote two Op-Eds that appeared in the New York Times, was named one of Forbes' 2014 30 Under 30: Social Entrepreneurs, and is a member of the Clinton Global Initiative. His work has been featured in the PBS documentary Half the Sky, by Chelsea Clinton and Maria Menounos on NBC, by President Bill Clinton, and on multiple occasions by Nicholas Kristof in The New York Times. Kennedy speaks six languages, is a senior fellow with Humanity in Action, and an Aspen Institute New Voices Fellow. He splits his time between Nairobi and New York City.

Read More: www.shofco.org/

to read more profiles and info about #100MIYA visit www.africayouthawards.org Africa Youth Awards @AwardsAfrica
+44750304451, +233208081226, +233242307379, +447838242130, admin@africayouthawards.org, prince@africayouthawards.org



KHAYA DLANGA

SOUTH AFRICA, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

@khayadlanga

Marketing Manager Heineken

Khaya has been working in the marketing and communications industry for some of the world's largest brands including Coca-Cola.

Before joining the corporate world, he was in the advertising field where he won many awards, including a Cannes Gold, Financial Mail's New Broom award, while Jeremy Maggs's "The Annual - Advertising, Media & Marketing 2008" listed him as one of the 100 most influential people in the industry.

At coca cola, he oversaw all the communications strategies and creative work that comes out of the Coca-Cola Company across all brands and working with brand managers to ensure that their brands are well represented and that the communication drives results

He currently works for Heineken as the Head of Marketing

Read More: khayadlanga.com



LANDRY NDRIKO MAYIGANE

RWANDA, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@landrymay

Founder & CEO

Rwanda Youth Alliance for Climate Actions

Landry Ndriko Mayigane is a development and public health professional, with more than 5 years working as the National Poultry Program Coordinator under the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources in Rwanda.

Since November 2014, he has been based in Conakry, Guinea, working under the African Union Support to Ebola Outbreak in West Africa (ASEOWA) Mission as the Surveillance and Epidemiologists Team Coordinator.

Upon returning from a Community Solutions Program fellowship, Mayigane focused on building a network of youth for climate action and training them to address climate change in their communities and through social enterprises like solar panel production.

Read More: rwanda-yaca.org



LANDRY SIGNE

CAMEROON, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

@LandrySigne

Founder

Global Network for Africa's Prosperity

Prof. Landry Signé is an award-winning professor in the Department of Political Science; a distinguished fellow at Stanford University's Centre for African Studies; the founding chairman of the award-winning Global Network for Africa's Prosperity amongst others

A World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, his current work particularly focuses on the political economy of development, emerging markets, and the transformation of African economies, governance, political processes, development (including MDGs, NEPAD, and SDGs), policy implementation, and management of natural resources in least developed countries, explaining successful and failed trajectories.

He initiated an innovative Stanford Continuing Studies course bringing top executives, entrepreneurs, investors and the Stanford community together to spur business strategies for African markets, and won The African Network's Outstanding Visionary Leadership Award for his "pioneering role in promoting entrepreneurial opportunities, accountable governance and economic development for Africa in the Silicon Valley and North America".

Read More: www.landrysigne.com/



LINA BEN MHENNI

TUNISIA, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT @benmhennilina

Lecturer Tunis University

Lina Ben Mhenni is a Tunisian Internet activist, blogger and assistant lecturer in linguistics at Tunis University.

As a blogger, Mhenni has been awarded the Deutsche Welle International Blog Award and El Mundo's International Journalism Prize. During the rule of former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Mhenni was one of the few bloggers who blogged using their real names rather than adopting an assumed name to protect their identity.

Mhenni's blog, A Tunisian Girl, is written in Arabic, English, and French and In 2011, was reported to have been a candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, for her contributions and activism during the Tunisian Revolution.

Read More: <http://atunisiangirl.blogspot.com/>



LINDA IKEJI

NIGERIA, MEDIA

@lindaikeji

Founder & Blogger Linda Ikeji Blog

Linda Ikeji is a multiple award-winning Nigerian blogger, writer, entrepreneur and former model best known for her blog and the highest paid blogger on the continent.

After graduation, Ikeji started blogging in 2006, and in 2008 eventually hosted the new website on lindaikejisblog.com.

Ikeji runs a non-profit project themed I'd rather be self-made; No thanks. Through the project, she assists young girls of age 16-25 years who have great business ideas and are willing to venture into entrepreneurship. She gave out the sum of NGN 10,000,000 in Phase 1 of the project.

In August 2012, Forbes Africa dedicated itself to celebrating African women where Africa's 20 Most Prominent Women were featured including Linda Ikeji and became the biggest Google Search trend in Nigeria for 2014.

Read More: www.lindaikejisblog.com/



LUDWICK MARISHANE

SOUTH AFRICA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@TheHeadboy



Founder & CEO Headboy Industries Inc

The genius young boy together with a friend got the idea of producing a product that one and can put on the skin, so does not have to bath.

This pursuit led them to derive a formula for a lotion that cleanses cheaply and easily which took six months of research to develop and they named it DryBath, a lotion that is odourless and creates a biodegradable film that cleanses and moisturizes the skin.

Now, a multiple awards winning Entrepreneur, Ludwick's focus is on commercialising DryBath Gel as the global standard for the waterless personal hygiene retail segment.

Besides DryBath, they also have an innovation that increases the ROI on bursaries offered to university students and are focused on the modelling Headboy as a commercial technology innovation agency, with an intense focus on conducting measurable experiments that can produce measurable insights & sustainable growth for our private or public clients.

Read More: www.headboy.org



LUPITA NYONGO

KENYA, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@Lupita_Nyong'o

Actress

Lupita Amondi Nyong'o is a multiple award-winning Kenyan actress and filmmaker who began her career in Hollywood as a production assistant and in 2008 made her acting debut with the short film East River and subsequently the television series Shuga.

In 2009, she wrote, produced and directed the documentary In My Genes where she later pursued a master's degree in acting from the Yale School of Drama.

Soon after her graduation, she had her first feature film role as Patsey in Steve McQueen's historical drama 12 Years a Slave (2013), for which she won the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress becoming the first Kenyan actress to win an Academy Award.

In 2015, Nyong'o made her Broadway debut as a teenage orphan in the critically acclaimed play Eclipsed. She has also featured in the movie, Queen of Katwe.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lupita_Nyong'o

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Most Influential Young Africans



MAKOSI MUSAMBASI

ZIMBABWE, MEDIA

@Makosi

TV Host Makosi Today

Makosi Musambasi is a former registered cardiac nurse, who contested in Big Brother Africa and is currently hosting her own lifestyle TV Show, Makosi Today which is changing the face of Africa one story at a time.

The former actress and part-time Model, is also noted to be among the most controversial contestants in BBA but took it further to build a career for herself which is doing very well with 3 seasons.

She played a cameo in British comedy thriller Cash and Curry and was a regular presenter on MTV and has presented many music award ceremonies. She is also a part-time model.

Read More: http://www.pindula.co.zw/Makosi_Musambasi



MALETSABISA MOLAPO

LESOTHO, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

@maletsabisam

Lecturer

National University of Lesotho

Born and raised in The Kingdom of Lesotho, Ma holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from UCT while pursuing a Ph.D in Computer Science at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, based in the ICT for Development Research Centre.

Her academic interests include the use of ICTs in promoting health and education, User Experience Design, and Web Science/Internet Science.

As a lecturer in Computer Science at the National University of Lesotho, she teaches Human Computer Interaction (HCI), Expert Systems, and Programming Fundamentals.

Read More: maletsabisam.me/

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Most Influential Young Africans



MAMADOU TOURÉ

CAMEROON, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

**Founder & Chairman
Africa 2.0 Foundation**

He is the Founder and Chairman of Africa 2.0 Foundation, an initiative-driven advocacy group that brings together emerging leaders representing African countries and the Diaspora, who share a common vision of the continent's future.

Together with other young leaders, the organisation is empowering Young African entrepreneurs with skills, knowledge and financial resources to drive the development of the African continent. Mamadou is also the Chairman and CEO of Ubuntu Capital, a leading Investment and Advisory firm focused on designing and implementing integrated innovative investment solutions uplifting projects ecosystems. He was previously Managing Director with GE Africa where he led a regional Capital Markets team across Sub-Saharan Africa supporting GE's industrial business growth with sales' funding and investment solutions.

Mamadou was ranked among the top 100 most influential people in Africa in 2012 by New African Business Magazine, considered by Forbes Magazine as one of the Top 10 Most Powerful Men in Africa and in 2015 received a distinction as a Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum

Read More: www.africa2point0.org.



MARK ESSIEN

NIGERIA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@markessien

Founder & CEO Hotels.ng

Mark Essien is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Nigeria-based Hotels.ng, an online hotel booking agency which is the first and largest of its kind in Nigeria.

Since establishing Hotels.ng in 2013, Mark has overseen the growth of hotel listings on the platform from just over 100 at launch to over 7,000 hotels in 21 regions of Nigeria with millions of transactions in 2014 alone.

Mark Essien was born in Nigeria, and holds a Bachelor of Engineering (B.Eng), Computer Hardware Engineering, from Beuth Hochschule (Berlin, Germany) and an M.Sc in Computer Science from Freie Universität, Berlin.

He is now a multiple award-winning Entrepreneurs with accolades from Forbes and the Young CEOs Business Forum.

Read More: hotels.ng



MFONOBONG NSEHE

KENYA, MEDIA

@Mfonobong
Nsehe

Contributor Forbes Africa

Probably one of the most researched and experienced journalist on the continent, Mfonobong, stands tall among his peers at Forbes Africa as he continually gets readers enticed with great journalistic reports on rankings across the continent.

Covering African wealth and entrepreneurship, he conceptualised and initiated Forbes' annual ranking of Africa's richest people and is largely involved in the research and compilation process for the list.

As CEO of Hodderway Group and a wealth intelligence consultant, he travels extensively advising a clientele of more than 50 leading Private Banks, Hedge Funds and Family Offices on the dynamics of wealth in Africa and providing intelligence on African Ultra High Net Worth Individuals (UHNWIs).

Read More: www.forbes.com/sites/mfonobongnsehe/



MINOUSH ABDEL-MEGUID

EGYPT, BUSINESS

@minoushy

Co-Founder & CEO Union Bank

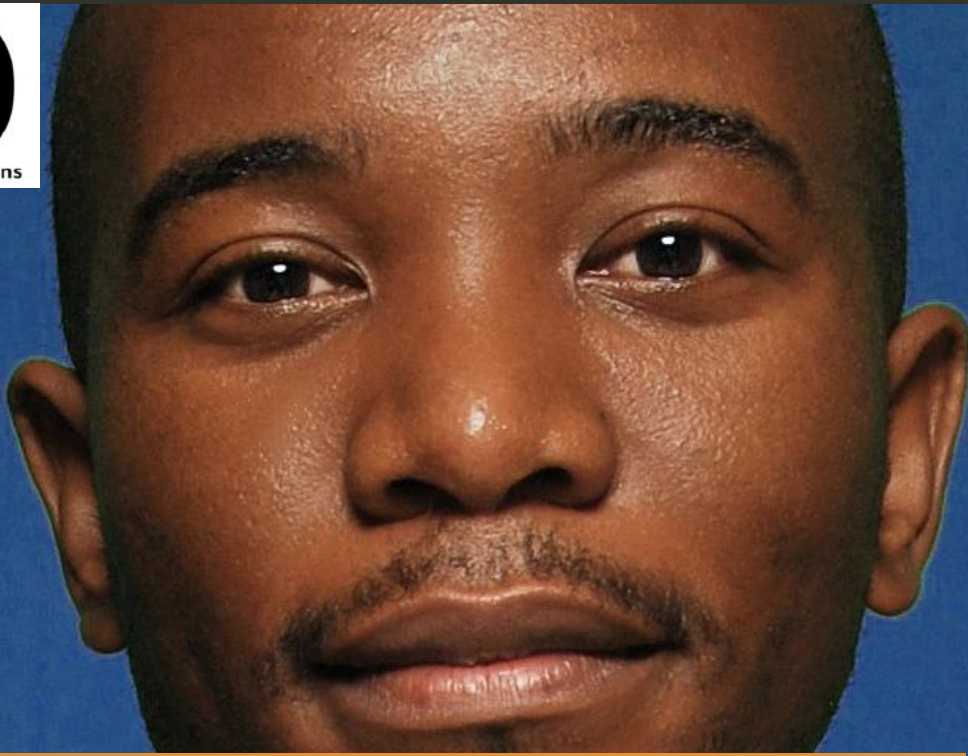
Before setting up Union Capital, with more than 16 years of experience in the field of investment banking and investment management,

Minoush served as assistant to the chairman and head of corporate finance at Egypt's Capital Market Authority and in her capacity as corporate finance head, she led the introduction of a new takeover chapter as well as working on a comprehensive reform plan for the division. Union Capital is the first private equity firm in Egypt to be uniquely focused on the Small and Medium Enterprises "SME" investment space

Abdel-Meguid is also the founding president of the Egyptian Young Bankers Association, an Egyptian non-governmental organisation that caters for the progression of young bankers and served as chairperson of the board and editor-in-chief of the Egyptian Banker publication until 2008.

She is named as Young Global Leader for by the World Economic Forum and was the sole Egyptian participant at the US State Department's International Visitors' Leadership Program in 2005 with a focus on "Women in Economic Development".

Read More: unioncapitalpe.com/



MMUSI MAIMANE

SOUTH AFRICA, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

@Mmusi
Maimane

Leader Democratic Alliance Political Party

Mmusi Aloysias Maimane is a South African politician, the leader of South Africa's opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) political party, the first black South African to lead the DA, as well as its youngest leader to date and is also currently the Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly of South Africa.

He is the former leader of the DA in the Johannesburg City Council and the former DA National Spokesperson as his rise to national attention began in 2011 when he was elected to be the DA's Johannesburg mayoral candidate in the 2011 municipal elections. In that election,

Maimane helped to grow the party's voter base considerably but was not elected Mayor.

Thereafter, he served as Leader of the Official Opposition on the Johannesburg City Council until May 2014.

In addition to his political career, he is also a pastor and elder of the deeply conservative Liberty Church.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mmusi_Maimane



MOUSTAPHA BEN BARKA

MALI, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

@Moustaf
BenBarka

Deputy Secretary-General Office of the President

Moustapha Ben Barka is Deputy Secretary General at the Office of the President of the Republic of Mali.

From 2013 to 2015, He served in the Government of Mali as Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Economy and Finance, in charge of Investment Promotion and Private Sector and Minister of Industry and Investment Promotion.

Prior to joining the Government of Mali, Mr Ben Barka worked as Director for a Moroccan investment bank based in Senegal to manage Project finance and Structured finance transactions in West Africa.

Mr. Ben Barka holds an Executive MBA from Université du Québec à Montréal, a Fellow of the Institute of Canadian Bankers, a Graduate Certificate from McGill University and a Bachelor in Finance and International Business from HEC Montréal. Web presence

Read More: www.weforum.org/people/moustapha-ben-barka/



MURTALA MOHAMED KAMARA

SIERRA LEONE, MEDIA

Journalist & Founder SaloneJamboree

Murtala Mohamed Kamara is a young Sierra Leonean Journalist, right activist and publisher who is also the founder and CEO of Salone Jamboree (www.salonejamboree.net), Sierra Leone's foremost Arts and entertainment magazine.

The BBC trained Journalist has worked with several local and international publications including Holland-based www.africanews.com (now defunct), where he served as West Africa regional reporter among other things. He also helped established The Cotton tree magazine, a Sierra Leonean quarterly published in the U.K.

Kamara is a well-respected youth leader, a motivational speaker and a mentor for hundreds of young people in Sierra Leone. He is regarded as one of the most promising young leaders of Sierra Leone. He has won several local and international awards for his works.

He is also a co-author of the Africa 80 Book, Africa largest collaboration among its youth in promoting a transformation agenda.

Read More: www.salonejamboree.net/

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Most Influential Young Africans



MUSTAPHA MOKASS

MOROCCO, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@Mustapha
Mokass

Founder

Climate and Poverty Innovations

Since his graduation from HEC Paris MSc Sustainability and Social Innovation, Mustapha Mokass has contributed to design smart innovative solutions to three of the most pressing challenges of our times: poverty, food insecurity and climate change.

Within the World Bank and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), he developed his skills in contributing to innovative risk sharing public private partnerships towards decreasing carbon emissions by scaling-up the transfer of technologies towards developing countries.

Today, within the organization he newly founded, Climate and Poverty Innovations, he implements concrete financial and technological models to fight poverty and climate change in MENA and Africa regions.

He authored a book "Fostering a Global Clean Energy Market" L'Harmattan Paris.

Read More: www.hec.edu/Masters-programs/News/2015-04-07-The-World-Economic-Forum-names-HEC-Paris-alumnus-Mustapha-Mokass-a-Young-Global-Leader



NADEEM JUMA

TANZANIA, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

@njumatz

Co-Founder & CEO AIM Group

Nadeem Juma, is the Chairman of AIM Group, Mkito and Dar-es-salaam International Academy.

The tired cliché would be to call him a 'serial entrepreneur' but that would be a boilerplate not really doing him justice. What Nadeem thrives at is discovering the whitespaces in industries that provide an equal balance of profit and social impact. He is not afraid of building the 'hard thing' even at the risk of failure.

Fortunately, more often than not Nadeem has succeeded in creating industries where only hypothetical opportunities existed before. He is a self-proclaimed "Startup Veteran" and has inspired a number of emergent leaders who have had the opportunity to work with him. Nadeem is at ease with Large Enterprise, Policymakers, Regulators, Small Businesses and Real

Consumers as long as the implications of his work are tangible and will affect the world around him. His bragging rights include being named one of the 35 under 35 from Forbes, numerous speaking roles, Awards for his businesses and even having a University level course featuring him and one his first businesses.

He is 33 and calls himself an old man.

Read More: <http://www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/young-serial-entrepreneur-nadeem-juma-explains-how-to-be-a-success-in-tanzania/>



NELSON ODUMA

KENYA, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@NelsonOduma

Founder & President International Youth Network Against Corruption

Nelson is the founder of International Youth Network Against Corruption an Organization that aims to fight corruption through mentorship and capacity building programs targeting the youth globally

With one purpose of fighting corruption and bad governance, the network currently has over 100,000 members from all across the world and are on a mission to mentor a million youth to be Anti-corruption Crusaders by the year 2020.

He believes corruption will be eradicated by the year 2030 if everyone takes that one step and say no to corruption. An initiative under IYNAC dubbed Youth Talk On corruption (#YouthTalkOnCorruption) creates engagements with youths in small forums with an aim of creating vibrancy on the talk about corruption and at the same time trying to get a sustainable and a long lasting solution to corruption.

Nelson is also a philanthropist and through his foundation the Nelson Oduma Foundation, has been helping poor people in Kenya, he has sponsored over 300 children to access basic education and is currently sponsoring 1,500 women to learn basic computer skills(IT Literacy).

Read More: www.iynac.org



NIMA ELBAGIR

SUDAN, MEDIA

@NimaCNN

Senior Correspondent CNN

Elbagir began her journalism career as a stringer with Reuters in 2002 reporting from Sudan and joined CNN in February 2011 as a reporter based at network's Johannesburg bureau, before later moving to Nairobi.

At immense personal risk, she reported on the Ebola outbreak which has ravaged West Africa, also became the first international journalist to report from Chibok, the northern Nigerian village where she was able to interview two young girls who had managed to escape.

Before joining CNN, Sudanese-born Elbagir worked in various capacities for the UK's Channel 4 for a number of years from 2005:

She freelanced from Kabul for Channel 4 News; reported for the "Unreported World" documentary strand, and both reported and presented for Channel 4 News and More4 News.

Read More: edition.cnn.com/profiles/nima-elbagir#about



NKECHI AZINGE

NIGERIA, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@Nkazinge

Founder Sickle Cell Aid Foundation

Nkechikwu is a dynamic young lady with an interest in human rights and community development as it relates to health, working on the premise that 'health is wealth'. Her greatest passion, however is to ensure that there is an exigent awareness on Sickle Cell Disorder (SCD).

She is the founder of the Sickle Cell Aid Foundation (SCAF) Nigeria and the recipient of the Queen's Young Leader Award 2015. She was recognised as a Commonwealth Young Achiever in 2015 and is one of the founders of the Commonwealth Youth Health Network.

She is a member of the Nigerian Bar Association and holds a masters in International Economic Law, (with Distinction). Nkechi is currently Doctoral Candidate at Warwick University, where she also teaches Law and International Business Environment

As a result of her projects, more people now have access to free drugs, free medical care and warm clothes; students with SCD are placed on a merit-based scholarship.

Read More: www.scaf.org.ng/



OLA OREKUNRIN

NIGERIA, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@NaijaFlyingDr

Founder & CEO Flying Doctors Nigeria

Olamide Orekunrin is a Nigerian medical doctor and CEO of Flying Doctors Nigeria; a charity based in Lagos, Nigeria.

Ola graduated from Hull York Medical School at the age of 21, becoming one of the youngest medical doctors in the United Kingdom worked for ten years with the National Health Service, United Kingdom and decided to start her own company.

She pioneered the first air operated Emergency medical services in Lagos, Nigeria; Flying Doctors Nigeria Ltd.

Ola is a member of both the American Academy of Aesthetic Surgeons and the British Medical Association and was listed among Young Global leaders by World Economic Forum. Ola has also lectured on entrepreneurship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Read More: flyingdoctorsnigeria.com/



OMOJUWA JAPHETH

NIGERIA, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

@Omojuwa

Advocate and Blogger

Japheth Omojuwa is a Nigerian blogger, public speaker, socio-economic and political commentator and social media expert.

In the course of his work, Omojuwa has spoken on economic platforms in Washington, London, Addis Ababa, Lagos, Accra, Cape Town, Abuja, Rio de Janeiro, Berlin, New York, Cologne, Dakar, among other cities around the world and across Nigeria and in universities such as New York University, United States, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany, Catholic University of East Africa, Nairobi, Technical University, Dortmund, and several in Nigeria.

He is the creator of Naija Teenz, a platform of engagement and value orientation for Nigerian teenagers, and the curator of Omojuwa, which has since become a tool of expression for many Nigerians.

He was one of the outspoken voices during the #OccupyNigeria revolution of 2012, along with other key activists and coalitions.

Read More: omojuwa.com/

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Most Influential Young Africans



OMOTOLA JALADE

NIGERIA, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@Realomosexy

Actress and Producer

Omotola Jalade Ekeinde is a Nigerian actress, singer, philanthropist and former model, who made her Nollywood film debut in 1995, and has since appeared in 300 films, selling millions of video copies.

After receiving numerous high-profile awards, launching a music career, and amassing an enviable fan base, the press has revered the Screen Nation "Best Actress" as the "African Magic" who also first African celebrity to receive over 1 million likes on her Facebook page.

Beyond her show business accomplishments, she is also applauded for her remarkable humanitarian efforts. In 2013, she was honoured in Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in the world alongside Michelle Obama, Beyonce and Kate Middleton.

In 2014, she was honoured by the Nigerian government as a Member of the Order of the Federal Republic, MFR for her contributions to Nigerian cinema.

Read More: www.omotola.tv



PATRICK NGOWI

TANZANIA, BUSINESS

@PatrickNgowi

Chairman & CEO Helvetic Group

Patrick is a Tanzanian Businessperson, Entrepreneur, Environmentalist, Climate Reality Awareness Leader, Public Speaker, Youth Mentor, Published Columnist and Philanthropist whose company has numerous subsidiaries operating across Africa

He started his first business at 15 years with only \$50 and later when he turned 18 years, he received a loan of \$1,800 from his parents.

Helvetic Solar Contractors was the first company to offer solar solutions in northern Tanzania. In 2015, Patrick Ngowi was elected as Chairman of the United Nations Global Compact in Tanzania

The network houses Tanzania's leading private sector and multinational companies. United Nations Global Compact is headquartered at the United Nations building in New York and was launched by former United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan

He has also spoken at the World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings, United States America on the Youth Dialogue panel on Inclusive Growth and Entrepreneurship through Education, Innovation and Passion etc.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patrick_E._Ngowi



PEACE HYDE

GHANA, MEDIA

@peac_hy

**West African Correspondent
Forbes Africa**

Peace is an alumnus of Middlesex University where she graduated with a first class honors in Psychology. Peace Hyde holds a Masters in Journalism and a second Masters in Communication and Digital Media.

After Peace Hyde's first class degree in Psychology, she practised as a Child Psychologist for one of the reputable charities in the UK.

She writes motivational articles known as PIECE OF PEACE. She is the founder of Aim Higher Africa, an education not for profit with a focus of building the next generation of entrepreneurs with the power of education and information technology she was recently awarded the Young CEO Global leader award

Read More: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_Hyde



PHIONA MUTESI

UGANDA, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Chess Hero

Phiona grew up in the Ugandan slum of Katwe, whereas of 2011 fifty percent of teen girls were mothers.

A school drop-out, Phiona joined a chess program run by the Sports Outreach Institute, which taught her how to play chess. In 2010 she played six rounds on board 2 and one round on board one for Uganda at the 39th Chess Olympiad, scoring 1.5 points from the seven, and as of 2012 she was a three-time junior girls' champion of Uganda.

In 2012, Phiona earned Woman Candidate Master (WCM) titles as a result of her performance at the 40th Chess Olympiad, making her the first titled female player in Ugandan chess history.

In 2012, a book was published about Phiona titled *The Queen of Katwe: A Story of Life, Chess, and One Extraordinary Girl's Dream of Becoming a Grandmaster*, by Tim Crothers which has been worked on as a film starring Lupita Nyong'o and David Oyelowo.

Read More: queenofkatwe.com/



PIERRE EMERICK AUBAMEYANG

GABON, SPORTS

@Aubameyang7

**Footballer,
Gabon & Borussia Dortmund**

Pierre Emerick Aubameyang is a Gabonese professional footballer who plays for the German club Borussia Dortmund and the Gabon national football team.

He is known for his speed, having clocked 30 metres in 3.7 seconds, and his capability of playing as a striker or a winger.

Despite playing once for France Under-21, Aubameyang made his senior international debut for Gabon in 2009 and has represented them at three Africa Cup of Nations tournaments and the 2012 Olympics.

He is the current holder of CAF's African Footballer of the Year award, becoming the first Gabonese player to win the award.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pierre-Emerick_Aubameyang



RAPELANG RABANA

SOUTH AFRICA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@rapelang
rabana

Founder & CEO Rekindle Learning

In the course of 2013, Rapelang tapped into her long-term interest in learning and education and founded Rekindle Learning. Rapelang holds the belief that mobile and internet technology will be instrumental in solving a number of socio-economic challenges at scale. Having spent several years in telecommunications, she has now turned her focus to learning and education

Rapelang as a technology entrepreneur co-founded her first company Yeigo after graduating from the University of Cape Town with a Bachelor of Business Science.

Rapelang is a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum, was the Curator of the Cape Town Hub of Global Shapers 2013/2014 and was invited to the Annual Meeting of the Forum in Davos in 2012.

Rapelang also serves as an Ambassador for the UN World Summit Awards promoting the use of ICT, and was selected as an Endeavour Entrepreneur. She was listed by Forbes Africa as a '30 under 30 Best Young African Entrepreneur' and '20 Young Power Women In Africa' for 2013 and graced the cover of Forbes Africa before the age of 30.

Read More: www.rekindlelearning.com/



RICHARD NYONG

NIGERIA, BUSINESS

Founder & CEO

Lekki Gardens Estate Limited

With over a decade experience in Real Estate and Construction, Real Estate Advisory and Consulting; land acquisition and disposal; property development and management,

Mr. Nyong is the Founder and Promoter of Lekki Gardens Estate Limited, a major player in the residential real estate sector in Nigeria.

Lekki Gardens is a multi-billion dollar real estate enterprise and the parent company for the Horizon Projects, Lekki Gardens, Ikoyi Gardens, Mainland Gardens, Port Harcourt Gardens and Richard's Court estates.

In Nigeria, Lekki Gardens has provided affordable housing units to over 4,500 families with an additional 10,000 in the pipeline.

Read More: lekkigardens.com



RIYAD MAHREZ

ALGERIA, SPORTS

@Mahrez22

Footballer

Algeria and Leicester FC

Riyad Mahrez is a professional footballer who plays for English club Leicester City and the Algerian national team as a winger.

Mahrez began his career as a youth player for French club AAS Sarcelles, turned professional in 2009 with Quimper, where he played for only one season before moving to Le Havre, spending a total of three years with them.

In January 2014, Mahrez signed for English side Leicester City, helping them win the Football League Championship and promotion to the Premier League at the end of his first season.

In the 2015–16 season he was the Algerian Footballer of the Year, the PFA Players' Player of the Year, and was a member of the Premier League PFA Team of the Year.

Mahrez made his international debut for Algeria in 2014 and represented them at the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riyad_Mahrez



ROSEBILL SATHA

MALAWI, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@Rosebill

Founder & CEO JARDS Products

Rosebill Satha is the founder and manager of JARDS Products, an innovative social business that produces unique, eco-friendly bamboo products while empowering youth and women through job skills development and stable employment.

Satha is also a trainer for the International Labour Organization's Women Entrepreneurship Development & Gender Equality Program, where she trains government and business association representatives, women entrepreneurs and others on the importance of gender equality and equity in relation to providing business development services.

Rosebill Satha is also the Executive Director of the Malawi Tourism Council. Upon return to Malawi, Satha focused her work on identifying female operated businesses and linking them with professionals who assisted in strengthening weak areas of their business and monitored their growth

Read More: www.linkedin.com/in/rosebill-satha-sambo-8aa3a19



SAADATOU MALLAM BARMOU

NIGER, LAW AND GOVERNANCE

Special Advisor Office of the Prime Minister

Saadatou Mallam Barmou worked for International Committee of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent before becoming the special adviser on humanitarian and social affairs to the prime minister of Niger.

She is a Young Global Leader by the World Economic, an appointment regarded as among the highest honours in the world.

In her current position, she is tasked with advising the Prime Minister on various humanitarian and social affairs

Read More: widgets.weforum.org/ygl-2015/04.html



SADIO MANÉ

SENEGAL, SPORTS

@SadioFan

Footballer Senegal & Southampton

Sadio Mané is a Senegalese footballer who plays as a midfielder for English club Southampton and the Senegal national team.

Having begun his career with Metz in France, he transferred to Red Bull Salzburg at the end of his first season in 2012. After winning the Austrian Bundesliga and Austrian Cup in 2013–14, he was signed by Southampton.

In the 2014–15 season, Mané set a new Premier League record for the fastest hat-trick, scoring three times in 176 seconds during a 6–1 win over Aston Villa.

Mané has earned over 30 caps for Senegal since his debut in 2012 and represented the nation at the 2012 Olympics and 2015 Africa Cup of Nations.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadio_Man%C3%A9



SAMUEL MALINGA

UGANDA, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@MalingaSamue

|

Co-Founder & CEO Sanitation Africa Limited

Young, creative and passionate about his community, Malinga is the archetypical African innovator from a rural community in the very poor Kumi District of North East Uganda.

At age 12 he moved to the Naguru slums in Kampala, Uganda's capital, and there he was faced with the community-wide problem of poor sanitation and lack of proper faeces and waste management. These difficulties inspired Malinga to think up innovative solutions that would tackle head-on the pervasive challenges in rural areas, like the one he hails from, and urban slums, like the one in which he grew up in.

One of his innovations is the conversion of faecal sludge into briquettes that basically do a better job as cooking fuel than charcoal or firewood. As an entrepreneur himself, Malinga's innovations are also commercially viable and adaptable beyond his country.

And since October 2014, they have constructed over 350 modular latrines and are having discussions with NGOs who wish to make big orders.

Read More: thenerveafrica.com/496/innovative-minds-next-decade-will-come-africa-ugandas-samuel-malinga-proof/



SANGU DELLE

GHANA, BUSINESS

@SanguDelle

Founder & CEO Golden Palm Investments

Sangu Delle is an Entrepreneur, Author, Clean Water Activist, Soros Fellow and TEDGlobal Fellow.

He is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Golden Palm Investments (GPI); an investment holding and advisory company focused on building world class companies in Africa.

GPI operates companies in high growth industries and funds promising start-ups that can have social impact and generate jobs. GPI has backed startups such as SOLO Mobile in Nigeria, mPharma in Ghana and Stawi Foods in Kenya.

Sangu is the co-founder of cleanacwa, which is a non-profit working in underdeveloped communities in Ghana to make sure that water and sanitation, basic human rights, are provided

Read More: <http://www.sdelle.com/>



SARKODIE

GHANA, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@sarkodie

Rapper & Musician

Known in private life as Michael Owusu Addo, Sarkodie is a Ghanaian hip hop and hiplife recording artist.

Sarkodie often raps in his native language Twi, as many Ghanaians recognize him as one of the leading Hip hop and Hiplife artists in the country. He is also considered one of the major proponents of the Azonto genre and dance.

In 2010, he received many awards and nominations ranging from "Artist of the Year" to "Album of the Year", won the Best International Act: Africa category at the 2012 BET Awards, and was nominated in the same category at the 2014 BET Awards.

He is a brand ambassador for Samsung Mobile, FanMilk Ghana and he is currently in partnership with Tigo Ghana, a brand that sponsored his Rapperholic tour. He has his own clothing line called "Sark by Yas clothing line".

Read More: thisissarkodie.com/



SERGE AURIER

IVORY COAST, SPORTS

@Serge_aurier

Footballer **Ivory Coast & Paris Saint-Germain**

Serge Aurier is an Ivorian footballer who plays as a right back for Ligue 1 side Paris Saint-Germain and the Ivory Coast national football team.

Aurier played for various youth teams and academies before he was accepted to join Villepinte.

Aurier then joined Lens in the French Ligue 1, where this started his professional footballing career. On 26 January 2012, Aurier ultimately left Lens, signing for Toulouse on a four-and-a-half-year deal. The move came after Toulouse's president hinted he would sign Aurier for a €1.5 million transfer fee. On 23 July 2014, Aurier joined Paris Saint-Germain on a season-long loan with an option for the Parisian club to purchase outright.

He played his first match for his homeland in an official match against Gambia on 8 June 2013.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serge_Aurier



SIMBARASHE MHURIRO

ZIMBABWE, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

@SimbaMhuriro

Founder & CEO Oxygen Africa Limited

Simbarashe is the Executive Director, Oxygen Group (Private) Limited, a subsidiary of Oxygen Africa (Private) Limited a Zimbabwean investment company with interests in Precious Metals, Renewable Energy and Agriculture.

Simbarashe Mhuriro is also the co-founder and executive director of Oursun Energy Zimbabwe, a joint venture with Swiss-German renewable energy company, The Meeco Group. Oursun Energy is developing grid-connected solar plants in Zimbabwe.

Mhuriro previously worked in the hospitality sector in Dubai.

Read More: www.howwemadeitinafrica.com/meet-the-boss-simbarashe-mhuriro-director-oursun-energy-zimbabwe/



SIYABULELA XUZA

SOUTH AFRICA, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

@SiyaXuza

Rocket Scientist

As the curious kid grew into a bright young man new horizons opened up before him; rockets, space, and the planets. He became a bit obsessed with Jupiter. Now he is a Harvard engineering graduate but his mother's Mthatha kitchen was the place where it all started; it became his laboratory where he worked towards formulating the key recipe of his rocket fuel.

He began to dream at six years of age when he saw a helicopter flying across his township. What Siyabulela Xuza witnessed that day ignited his curiosity and encouraged him to find out what makes things fly.

After 77 failures and over six months of building his rocket, he was able to find the winning recipe. Xuza's science project won gold at the National Science Expo.

This achievement saw Nasa-affiliated Lincoln Laboratory, name a minor planet after him, which is now known as Siyaxuza, which is found in the main asteroid belt near Jupiter.

Read More: www.thejournalist.org.za/kau-kauru/siya-xuza-mthatas-rocket-scientist



SOPHIE IKENYE

KENYA, MEDIA

@sikenye

Presenter

Focus on Africa, BBC

Sophie Ikenye is the presenter of the BBC's daily African news programme, Focus on Africa on BBC World News TV. Sophie joined the BBC in 2009 as presenter on Focus on Africa on BBC World Service radio.

She has anchored key events in Africa including the so called Arab spring and the on-going crisis in Libya. She spearheaded the coverage of the 2013 Kenya elections that were keenly watched across the world.

Sophie has interviewed more than a dozen former and current African presidents from various countries among them Mauritius, Liberia, Senegal, Niger, Djibouti, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique and Ghana, Somalia and Malawi. She has also interviewed prominent personalities such as former Irish president Mary Robinson, American actress and humanitarian Angelina Jolie as well as foreign ministers and opinion-shapers.

The aim of bringing Africa to the world has also seen her interview key political players in the UK such as the former secretary of State for International Development Andre Mitchell and minister for Africa Mark Simmonds.

Prior to joining the BBC, Sophie trained as a radio and TV journalist in Kenya, before she went on to work as a news presenter at the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC). Sophie has also been a radio news editor for Royal Media group's Citizen radio and has worked as a news anchor for Kenya's NTV.



SULEIMAN SANI BELLO

NIGERIA, BUSINESS

Founder & CEO Sublime Group

Aside being a son-in-law to Aliko Dangote, Africa's Richest Man, Suleiman knows how to run his own business built on the experiences he has accumulated from serving as Director/General Manager of a multi-million Dollar company, SANBELL Group of Companies, a company with interests in manufacturing, agriculture, real estate, import & export and education and Defcom Technologies Limited, an information technology firm with a strategic business alliance with Huawei Technologies Limited as COO.

Sublime Group comprises Sublime Aviation, Sublime Logistics and Sublime Oil & Gas.

His strength of vision and relentless entrepreneurial zeal made him play a significant role in the founding of Equatel Telecommunications Limited, and invariably earned him a seat on the Board.

Suleiman is also a member of the boards of the following organisations: Mainstream Energy Solutions Limited, Sani Bello Foundation, Dornier Aviation Nigeria AIEP, Unifone Telecommunications Limited, and Allstream Energy Solutions Limited.

Read More: www.sublime.com.ng/



THATO KGATLHANYE

SOUTH AFRICA, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@strugglingbilli

Co-Founder & CEO Repurpose Schoolbags

Thato felt the need to do something about school kids in her community carrying books in plastic bags, and decided to repurpose the bags making them durable and environmentally friendly, today she runs a factory with employees trained to make the bags.

Together with her co-founder, they reduce waste management and provide accessible sources of study light to students through designed school bags from up-cycled plastic bags, integrating solar technology that charges during the day and transforms into light for learners to study after dark.

Through their green innovations, they redefine societal problems into solutions.

They have made it their business to uncover sustainable opportunities that create a far-reaching impact for low-income communities, with a particular focus on children and women.

Read More: www.repurposeschoolbags.com



TOM OSBORN

KENYA, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE AND PHILANTHROPY

@TomLeeOsborn

Founder & CEO GreenChar

Tom Osborn is the Co-Founder and CEO of GreenChar, a social enterprise that provides alternative clean cooking energy for households and institutions in rural and peri-urban Kenya.

Tom founded Greenchar when he was 18 years old. GreenChar has raised venture funding, sold its products to thousands of families and provided employment opportunities for young men and women across Kenya.

For his leadership and work with GreenChar, Tom has won many awards including the prestigious Echoing Green Fellowship, Anzisha Prize Energy Award, Innovate Kenya and the Thomas J. Bata Legacy Award. Tom was listed by Forbes Magazine as one of the 30 under 30 Social Entrepreneurs.

Beyond entrepreneurship, Tom writes for the Huffington Post on social entrepreneurship and climate change. He enjoys writing and blogging on how entrepreneurship can drive economies and change the status quo across Africa.

Read More: www.greenchar.co.ke/



TONYE REX IDAMINABO

NIGERIA, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

@Rex
Idaminabo

Founder & Principal Partner African Achievers Awards

Tonye Rex Idaminabo, holds an LLM degree from Glasgow Caledonian University in Glasgow Scotland and is the first West-African to be on the Advisory Board of World Leaders Forum, Dubai.

He is the founder of African Achievers Awards, a yearly event birthed to recognize individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves in their contribution towards the growth and development of Africa.

He has been able to use the initiative to motivate African leaders including the future leaders through recognizing the persons and organizations that have contributed remarkably to the development of Africa.

The Forbes ranked leader is also the co-founder of Young CEOs Business Forum, where he drives a leading role in creating access to valuable information and opportunities by young entrepreneurs across the world

He is also the CEO of Achievers Media and Director of the Institute of Leadership and Management.

Read More: www.africanachieversawards.org/



TREVOR NOAH

SOUTH AFRICA, MEDIA

@Trevornoah

TV Host & Comedian

Trevor Noah is a South African comedian, television and radio host and actor the current of the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning program The Daily Show on Comedy Central.

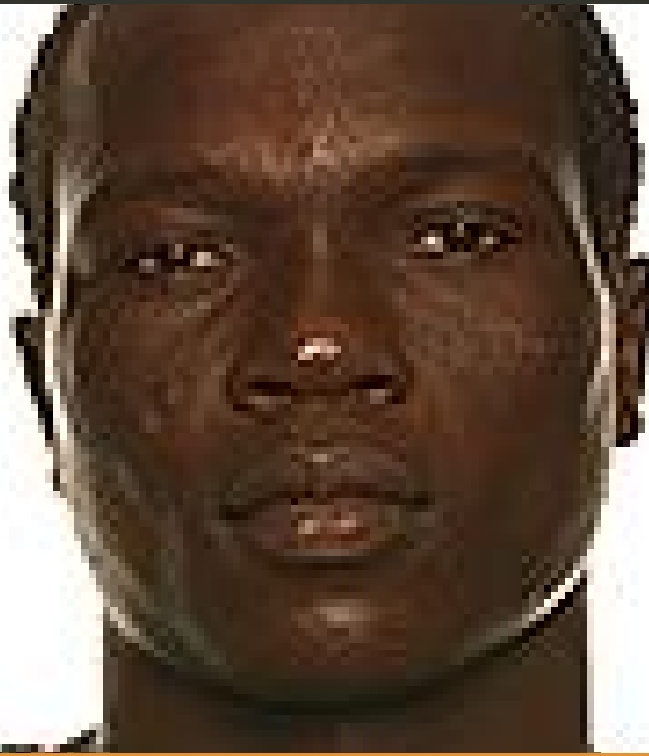
Noah has hosted numerous television shows including South Africa's music, television and film awards, the South African Comedy Festival and two seasons of his own late night talk show, Tonight with Trevor Noah.

Noah debuted his one-hour stand-up special, Trevor Noah: Lost in Translation, on Comedy Central.

Noah performed for the Royal Family at the Royal Variety Performance. He was nominated for "Personality of the Year" at the 2014 and 2015 MTV Africa Music Awards and won the award in 2015.

He continues to tour all over the world and has performed in front of sold-out crowds at the Hammersmith Apollo in London and the Sydney Opera House in Australia as well as many US cities.

Read More: www.trevornoah.com/



VINCENT ABOUBAKAR

CAMEROON, SPORTS

@vaboubakar



Footballer

Cameroon & Porto FC

Vincent Paté Aboubakar is a Cameroonian footballer who plays as a striker for Portuguese club Porto and the Cameroon national football team. A powerful and poised striker who has often been compared to Didier Drogba. Aboubakar has a decent work rate.

On 18 August 2009, Aboubakar was called up to the Cameroon national under-20 football team squad. In May 2010, aged only 18, he was named to the Cameroon 23-man squad for the 2010 FIFA World Cup and was the only player in the squad who was based in Cameroon.

He was called up for the 2014 FIFA World Cup in Brazil, and subsequently for the 2015 Africa Cup of Nations.

Read More: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vincent_Aboubakar



VUSI THEMBEKWAYO

SOUTH AFRICA, ACADEMIA AND PERSONAL

@Vusi
Thembekwayo

Founder & CEO MOTIV8 Advisory

At the age of 17, Vusi was already ranked 1st in Africa for public speaking and went on to receive a 3rd in the world at the English Speaking Union International Competition.

He is the CEO of MOTIV8 Advisory – a specialist consulting, Founder & CEO of venture capital firm My Growth Fund and Executive Chairman of enterprise development agency MEDA.

Over the past year, Vusi has co-founded Founder's Forum - a high-impact entrepreneur community that educates, trains and helps entrepreneurs collaborate across industries. The community attracts founders and CEOs of companies with a minimum R50mIn annual turnover.

Vusi is also the patron for The Inspiration Project, a technology enabled narrative lab that shares the stories of extraordinary Africans building the future of the continent.

At 25 years-old he was the youngest director of a multi-national turning over R17bn a year, where he served on the operations board. His humour is the glue that binds some of his most diverse audiences in the world.

John Howard, former Prime Minister of Australia called Vusi the "Rock Star of Public Speaking" and global strategist & scenario-planning guru Clem Sunter said he was "simply riveting while Sir Bob Geldof said, "Vusi is a f*cken great speaker".

Read More: vusi.co.za/about-vusi/



WIZKID

NIGERIA, ENTERTAINMENT AND CULTURE

@wizkidayo

Musician

Known in Private life as Ayodeji Ibrahim Balogun, Wizkid a recording artist, songwriter and performer.

In 2009, he signed a record deal with Banky W.'s imprint Empire Mates Entertainment and rose to prominence in 2010.

His work and contribution to the Nigerian Music Industry has earned him several achievements, including a BET Award, a MOBO Award, The Headies Awards, two Channel O Music Video Awards, four Nigeria Entertainment Awards, two Ghana Music Awards, two Dynamix All Youth Awards, two City People Entertainment Awards, and a Future Award.

In addition, he has been nominated three times at the MTV Europe Music Awards as well as four times at the World Music Awards. He was ranked 5th on Forbes and Channel O's 2013 list of the Top 10 Richest/Bankable African Artists. In February 2014, Wizkid became the first ever Nigerian musician to have over 1 million followers on Twitter.

He recently launched his own Record Label Starboy Entertainment Worldwide.

Read More: [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wizkid_\(musician\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wizkid_(musician))



ZURIEL ODUWOLE

NIGERIA, LEADERSHIP AND CIVIL SOCIETY

@Zuriel
Oduwole

Young Journalist and Advocate

Zuriel Elise Oduwole is a Nigerian female education activist best known for her works on the advocacy for the education of girls in Africa.

At age 12, Oduwole was the world's youngest filmmaker to have a self-produced work screened commercially after her film showed in two movie chains.

In October 2013, Oduwole was bestowed with an honorary ambassador title in Tanzania by Salma Kikwete, and a computer lab in one of the country's schools was named after her.

In 2013, after the release of her documentary film titled The 1963 OAU Formation, Oduwole was profiled in Forbes Magazine thus making her become the world's youngest person to be featured in the magazine

Oduwole is working on a project called "Dream Up, Speak Up, Stand Up", a campaign which she started in March 2013 in Lagos for the activism and promotion of girl-child education in Africa.

Read More: www.zurieloduwole.com

PRESS RELEASE

2016 100 Most Influential Young Africans Released

Africa Youth Awards, the continent's biggest honour for young achievers with annual participation from over 140 countries has announced its inaugural list of 100 Most Influential Young Africans. The list which has representation from 27 African countries has a gender equity of 62 men and 38 women with the youngest being 14, considering the age limit of 40.

Selecting 10 of the most influential across 10 distinct categories, the number 100 represents the force of young people who are creating change and making sure it translates into making the lives of other people better.

The list which was compiled in consultation with a jury made up of young Africans based across the globe after weeks of public nomination represents hope for the continent and exhibits the potentials Africa has to become a global phenomenon.

On social media 87% of these young Africans are on Facebook with a combined following of 18,317,458 while 86% have 16,203,116 followers on twitter. (Data compiled on 15th July, 2016).

Prince Akpah, President of the organisation, reiterated the need for the continent to be inspired by its own success stories and hope the list will provide a great reference of motivation for most young people to take a step in creating a great future for themselves and Africa. The list comes with a publication which features Profiles and other details of the 100 Most Influential Young Africans accessible for download on www.africayouthawards.org

Partners for the ranking included Avance Media, My Naija Naira, Dream Ambassadors Foundation GH, Global Skills Exchange, Project Know Thy Self International, ACME Consult, Afro Lynk, with the support of various Media Organisations across the continent.

CONTACT US

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2016

THANK
YOU
FOR READING