



**AFRICA PROSPERITY
CHAMPIONS AWARDS
(APCA) 2025**



Patricia Obo-Nai

Telecel Ghana CEO

Telecel Ghana

Telecel Ghana is a leading telecommunications company, delivering reliable mobile, fixed line, internet, voice, and data solutions to over 12 million consumers and 200,000 homes and businesses across Ghana and neighbouring countries. With a strong commitment to innovation and quality customer service, Telecel Ghana's mission is to transform how people, businesses and things connect with each other through innovative communications and technology solutions to thrive in the digital economy. Telecel Ghana is connecting energies, ambitions and dreams that will shape the future of connectivity and powering networks that would advance the digital revolution forward.

Telecel Business

Telecel Business is the enterprise division of Telecel Ghana, which provides a comprehensive suite of connectivity solutions including tailored mobile voice and data plans, roaming services, fixed and dedicated broadband, cloud services, value-added services and Internet of Things (IoT). Telecel Business caters to the comprehensive needs of Small Office Home Offices (SOHOs), small-to-medium scale enterprises and large corporations across diverse industries including mining, manufacturing, banking, FMCG, technology, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas, education, health, travel, transportation, etc. Telecel Business

provides the essential support for companies to stay at the forefront of innovation and thrive in today's competitive digital economy.

Telecel Ghana Foundation

As the corporate social responsibility arm of Telecel Ghana, Telecel Ghana Foundation is committed to contributing directly to positive change in communities through the 'Connected for Good' initiatives. The Foundation's strategic approach is being a force for good by focusing on pillars that drive the greatest impact – education, health and community partnerships. Aligned with Telecel's purpose-driven vision of "Connecting Energies," the Foundation invests in initiatives that advance digital and STEM education, enhance the health and wellbeing of communities, and strengthen local collaboration to improve the quality of life and future of people.

Telecel Fixed Broadband (FBB)

Telecel Fixed Broadband is the ultra-fast internet experience designed to bring users the best of digital connectivity from the comfort of their home or office. The Telecel FBB service provides lightning-fast internet connectivity via cabling or wireless to homes or offices, with speeds of up to 100Mbps. Users enjoy uninterrupted streaming, fast downloads, and seamless browsing on all devices. At Telecel, we take pride in delivering state-of-the-art fibre optic technology to provide Ghanaians with the best internet service.



Nana Adjoa Hackman

Chairwoman, Events Committee

It is a privilege and an honour to welcome you to this special edition of the Africa Prosperity Champions Awards Magazine. This publication is a tribute to the remarkable individuals and organisations, which are at the forefront of driving progress and prosperity across Africa. Their achievements remind us of what is possible when vision, resilience and determination come together to shape the future of our continent.

The Africa Prosperity Champions Awards is more than an event; it is a celebration of Africa's finest change makers — those who have dedicated their lives and careers to advancing our shared goals of unity, innovation and sustainable development. This year's honourees embody these values in extraordinary ways, each of them a pioneer in his or her respective field.

The selection process for these awards was as rigorous as it was inspiring. Our panel of experts and stakeholders reviewed a diverse array of nominations from across the continent, each representing the very best of African ingenuity and leadership. The honourees were chosen not just for their individual accomplishments, but for their lasting impact on Africa and the global community.

This year, we recognise eight exceptional individuals who have redefined excellence in their fields. Herman Chinery-Hesse, the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement in Digital Technology in Africa Award, has been a trailblazer in the technology space, laying the ground-

work for Africa's digital transformation. Dr Sidi Ould Tah, awarded the Financial Leadership Award, has demonstrated unparalleled leadership in strengthening financial ecosystems that empower both individuals and nations.

Dr Rakesh Wahi, receiving the Excellence in Pan-African Media Award, has built platforms that amplify Africa's stories, fostering greater understanding and unity across the continent and beyond. Ms Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe, recognised with the Women Empowerment Award, has championed tirelessly the cause of women's participation and leadership in industries historically dominated by men, paving the way for future generations.

The Leadership in Connecting Africa Award goes to Mesfin Tasew, whose transformative work in aviation and infrastructure has bridged gaps and connected communities across Africa. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma is recognised with the Champion of the Africa We Want Award for her visionary leadership, commitment to pan-Africanism and unflinching effort to promote women's empowerment. Wode Maya, a celebrated content creator, receives the Excellence in Tourism Promotion for Africa & Global Africa Award for his exceptional work in showcasing Africa's beauty, culture and potential to the world. And lastly, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, whose dedication to improving access to quality education for all through transformative policies, receives the Transformational Leadership in Education Award.

Each of these champions has a unique story, and in this magazine you will find glimpses into their journeys – their triumphs, challenges and the legacies they continue to build. These are stories that inspire hope and action, and they reflect the extraordinary potential that exists across our continent.

As you turn these pages, I encourage you to think about the role each of us can play in building a more prosperous Africa. Whether in technology, finance, media, empowerment, connectivity or tourism, there is room for all of us to contribute to this collective mission.

On behalf of the Africa Prosperity Network, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the award-winners for their contributions, to our sponsors and partners for their unwavering support, and to everyone who worked tirelessly to make this event and publication possible. Your efforts ensure that the vision of African prosperity continues to grow and thrive.

I hope this magazine leaves you inspired to take bold steps in your own journey, knowing that together, we can continue to build an Africa that is united, thriving and full of opportunity for generations to come.


Warmest regards,
Nana Adjoa Hackman





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**DR NKOSAZANA CLARICE
DLAMINI ZUMA, SOUTH AFRICA.**

Dr Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma was appointed as Minister responsible for Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities on 6 March 2023 in South Africa. She served as Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs from 30 May 2019 to 6 March 2023 and Minister of The Presidency from 27 February 2018 to 25 May 2019. Dr Dlamini Zuma was elected as the first woman to lead the African Union Commission on 15 July 2012 and served until 30 January 2017.



AMBASSADOR (DR) AMINA MOHAMED, KENYA

Ambassador Dr Amina Mohamed has had a distinguished career in the Public Service spanning over thirty-five years. She served in three Government Ministerial portfolios and was Cabinet Secretary at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and International Trade; Education, Science and Technology; and Sports, Culture and Heritage. She was also Permanent Secretary for Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, ASG/Deputy Executive Director for the UNEP. Before that, she was Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the UN, WTO and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland.



**MADAM PATRICIA POKU DIABY,
CÔTE D'IVOIRE & GHANA**

Madam Patricia Poku Diaby is currently Ghana's richest woman. She is also among the ten richest persons in Ghana. She is an astute businesswoman with operations in both Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, a cocoa merchant and the CEO of Plot Enterprise Ghana Limited. Madam Patricia Poku Diaby is the founder and chairperson for the board of directors of two cocoa-sourcing companies in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.



MR JOSHUA SIAW, UNITED KINGDOM

Mr. Joshua Siaw is a distinguished legal professional and Partner/Director at White & Case LLP's Africa Practice Division. He is known for his exceptional legal acumen, leadership, and dedication to advancing the legal landscape in Africa. Mr. Joshua Siaw's contributions have been instrumental in positioning White & Case LLP as a prominent player in the African legal sphere. His career spans various sectors, providing counsel on complex legal issues.



DR EUGENE OWUSU, GHANA

Dr Eugene Owusu is a prominent International Policy and Development Management expert with over 25 years of experience, primarily with the United Nations, with a focus on Africa's complex political, development, and humanitarian challenges. He served as the UN Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Special Representative, UN Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator, and UNDP Resident Representative, impacting diverse development initiatives. He currently serves as the Special Advisor to the President of Ghana on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



**DR CESAR MBA ABOGO,
EQUATORIAL GUINEA & MOZAMBIQUE**

Dr Cesar Mba Abogo is an accomplished development expert and Country Manager at the African Development Bank (AfDB) in Mozambique, recognized for his dedication to fostering socio-economic progress and sustainable growth. He served as Minister of Finance, Economy, and Planning in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea from April 2019 to October 2020.



MS CHRISTAL M. JACKSON, UNITED STATES

Christal M. Jackson is a venture partner, consultant to individuals, corporations, and organisations and executive coach, while maintaining her commitment to helping improve education, health, and economic opportunities for communities of colour. She is currently the Chairperson for the Africa-America Institute.



DR AMANY ASFOUR, EGYPT

Dr Amany Asfour is an Egyptian economist and businesswoman. Appointed in 2021 as the President of the African Business Council (AfBC), Dr. Asfour leads the council; an independent private-sector institution of the African Union. She is also the President of the African Alliance for Women Empowerment (AFRAW), the Egyptian Businesswomen Association (EBWA), and the Founder and Honorary President of Business and Professional Women-Egypt (BPW-Egypt).

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BUSINESS

Africa Prosperity Champions Awards (APCA) 2025

The Africa Prosperity Champions Awards were established to honour and celebrate the outstanding achievements of distinguished Africans across various sectors. This prestigious awards scheme aligns with the Africa Prosperity Agenda, recognising individuals who have made significant contributions to the continent's advancement and prosperity. Through this initiative, exceptional leaders and visionaries are acknowledged for their dedication, innovation and impact in driving forward the continent's development.

And the winner is ...



Award categories

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA

Herman Chinery-Hesse

An individual who made a pioneering and transformative contribution to Africa's digital technology sector. This award recognises groundbreaking innovation, entrepreneurship and leadership in advancing digital solutions that have shaped Africa's technological landscape.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AWARD

Ms Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe

An individual who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in advancing women's economic empowerment. This award honours efforts in championing gender equality, fostering entrepreneurship and driving impactful policies that uplift women across Africa.

EXCELLENCE IN PAN-AFRICAN MEDIA AWARD

Dr Rakesh Wahi

An individual who has contributed significantly to shaping Africa's media landscape. This award recognises excellence in media leadership, fostering informed discourse and amplifying Africa's narratives on the global stage.

LEADERSHIP IN CONNECTING AFRICA AWARD

Mesfin Tasew

An individual who has played a pivotal role in enhancing Africa's connectivity. This award acknowledges leadership in aviation, transport and infrastructure development that fosters economic integration and intra-African trade.

FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Dr Sidi Ould Tah

An individual in a senior financial leadership role who has demonstrated exceptional expertise and made exceptional contributions to Africa's economic development. Criteria include sound financial management, prudent risk strategies and innovative financial solutions driving prosperity across the continent.

EXCELLENCE IN TOURISM PROMOTION FOR AFRICA AND GLOBAL AFRICA

Wode Maya

An individual who has contributed significantly to promoting Africa's tourism and cultural heritage. This award honours efforts in showcasing Africa's diverse attractions, fostering global connections and redefining the African travel experience.

CHAMPION OF THE AFRICA WE WANT AWARD

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

An individual who has shown unwavering commitment to Pan-Africanism and the African Union's vision. This award recognises leadership in policy advocacy, continental unity and fostering inclusive development aligned with Africa's long-term aspirations.

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARD

H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

A leader who has implemented transformative policies to advance education in Africa. This award acknowledges visionary leadership in improving access, quality and inclusivity in education, shaping the future of African youth.

2025 award-winners

Herman Chinery-Hesse

Herman Chinery-Hesse, a pioneer in the field of technology in Africa, was recognised globally for his innovation in software and fintech. Listed among Foreign Policy's Top 100 Global Thinkers, he earned accolades including a GUBA Award, Ghana's Millennium Excellence Award for IT and a Mobile World Lifetime Achievement Award. In 1991, he co-founded theSOFTtribe Ltd, one of Africa's earliest and premier software firms, delivering indigenous technology solutions to multinational companies and institutions such as the United Nations and Mastercard Foundation. His fintech innovations, including the "Sundiata" payment system, helped shape Africa's digital economy.

A sought-after speaker at Oxford, Harvard and TED, he was profiled by CNN, Forbes and the Financial Times. He also launched Afrikan Echoes, an audiobook platform for African stories. Before his death in September 2024, Google named a meeting room in his honour. An alumnus of Texas State University, he inspired generations of African tech innovators and was hailed as an African technology folk hero.





Ms Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe

Ms Bridgette Motsepe-Radebe, a pioneering South African mining entrepreneur, defied apartheid-era laws to become the country's first black female mine owner. Born into an entrepreneurial family, she was denied entry to one of South Africa's premier universities to study law because of guidelines on racial segregation, but persevered to establish Mmakau Mining, which holds stakes in platinum, coal and chrome. She played an important role in shaping South Africa's mining legislation and championing empowerment models across Africa.

As President of the South African Mining Development Association, she influenced key mining policies and led initiatives to alleviate poverty in mining communities. She serves on the BRICS Business Council, chairs the Black Business Council and has held critical government advisory roles. Recognised globally, she received the 2008 International Businessperson of the Year award and was named one of Forbes's 20 Most Powerful Women in Africa. Honoured by the African Union and the Andrew Young Foundation, she remains a transformative force in Africa's economic landscape.

Dr Rakesh Wahi

Dr Rakesh Wahi is a visionary entrepreneur with over 35 years' experience in early-stage investment across emerging markets. As the Chairman of CMA Investment Holdings, he oversees operations in 15 countries. He co-founded and chairs the ABN Group, which includes CNBC Africa and Forbes Africa, and leads Transnational Academic Group, which runs Curtin University Dubai and Lancaster University Ghana.

A former officer in the Indian Army Corps of Engineers, he received the Vishisht Seva Medal in 1985 and helped establish India's second Antarctic base. He has championed education and capacity-building in Africa, founding the ABN Education Trust and TAG Foundation to support disadvantaged students. He is also an avid mountaineer and philanthropist and has been honoured by multiple stock exchanges. His memoir, *Be a Lion*, was published in 2016. A graduate of Jawaharlal Nehru University, he was awarded an honorary doctorate in Namibia for his contribution to education and business.





Mesfin Tasew

Mesfin Tasew was appointed Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines in March 2022, bringing nearly four decades of experience in aviation to the role. He joined the airline in 1984 as an associate engineer and rose steadily through the ranks, serving in key technical and managerial roles. In 1999, he became Chief Information Officer, later holding positions as Vice-President of Maintenance and Engineering (2006) and Chief Operating Officer (2010–2021).

Before taking the helm at Ethiopian Airlines, he was CEO of ASKY Airlines from 2021 to 2022. He also serves on the Board of Governors of the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Mesfin holds a BSc and MSc in electrical engineering from Addis Ababa University and an MBA from the Open University in the UK. His leadership has been instrumental to the global expansion of Ethiopian Airlines, reinforcing its position as Africa's leading carrier.

Dr Sidi Ould Tah

Dr Sidi Ould Tah was elected President of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA) in 2015, assuming office on 1 July. A former Minister of Economy and Finance in Mauritania (2008-2015), he previously advised both the Mauritanian President and Prime Minister and played critical roles in national economic policy, including chairing the National Statistics Council and serving as a board member of the Central Bank.

He represented Mauritania at major financial institutions, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank. Holder of a PhD in economics from the University of Nice-Sophia-Antipolis, he has completed executive courses at Harvard, London Business School and the Swiss Finance Institute. Fluent in Arabic, French and English, he has received several prestigious honours, including Mauritania's Knight Medal of National Merit and Senegal's National Order of the Lion. His leadership continues to shape economic development across Africa.





Wode Maya

Wode Maya (born Berthold Kobby Winkler Ackon) is a Ghanaian content creator and digital influencer reshaping global perceptions of Africa. With over 1.5 million YouTube subscribers, he spotlights African innovation, entrepreneurship and culture, challenging negative stereotypes and offering an authentic narrative of the continent. What started as a personal mission to present a more uplifting view of Africa has evolved into a movement bridging the diaspora and inspiring young Africans to embrace their heritage. Beyond storytelling, Wode Maya collaborates with entrepreneurs, governments and grass-roots movements to amplify Africa's successes. His work extends to sustainable development, youth empowerment and cross-border initiatives, positioning him as a leading voice in Africa's digital transformation.

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma

Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma was born in Natal Province on 27 January 1949 and is a distinguished anti-apartheid activist, medical doctor, politician and diplomat. She has served in every post-apartheid South African cabinet since 1994, holding key portfolios including Health under Nelson Mandela, Foreign Affairs under Thabo Mbeki and Kgalema Motlanthe, and Home Affairs under Jacob Zuma. Under Cyril Ramaphosa, she has led multiple ministries, most recently Cooperative Governance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

From 2012 to 2017, she served as the first female Chairperson of the African Union Commission, where she spearheaded Agenda 2063, Africa's long-term socio-economic transformation strategy. A lifelong champion of Pan-Africanism, gender equality and integration, she continues to shape Africa's future as the Chancellor of the University of Limpopo and Chair of APN's Advisory Council. She was honoured as the first Champion of the Africa We Want award-winner and her visionary leadership remains a beacon of the continent's development and unity.





H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo

At the heart of his transformative agenda was the Free Senior High School (SHS) Policy, a groundbreaking initiative that has provided millions of Ghanaian children so far with access to secondary education, regardless of their financial background. The policy, introduced in 2017, has increased enrolment significantly, ensuring that no child is left behind because of economic constraints. By prioritising education as a catalyst for national development, President Akufo-Addo strengthened the foundation for a more skilled and empowered youth population.

Beyond access, his leadership championed curriculum modernisation, teacher training and infrastructure expansion. Ghana witnessed a renewed focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education, technical/vocational training and digital literacy – key areas that equip young people with the skills needed in a rapidly evolving global economy.

President Akufo-Addo's vision for education extended beyond Ghana's borders. A staunch advocate of Pan-African progress, he consistently championed education as a driver of economic transformation across Africa. His leadership aligned with the aspirations of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), emphasising the need for an educated workforce to fuel Africa's industrialisation and prosperity.

For his visionary leadership and dedication to educational transformation, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo is recognised with the Transformational Leadership in Education Award at the Africa Prosperity Champions Awards. His impact on education, youth development and Africa's broader socio-economic advancement continues to inspire a new generation of leaders across the continent.




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2024 awardees

H.E. Alassane Ouattara- African Statesperson award

Prof Benedict Oramah- Financial leadership award

H.E. Baroness Scotland of Asthal- Africa Champion award

H.E. Mohamed Irfaan Ali- Global Africa Leadership award

Hon Mohammed M Abou El Enein- Industrialist of the year award

Oluwatosin Ajibade (Mr Eazi)- Young Entrepreneur award



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