



# AFRICA PROSPERITY CHAMPIONS AWARDS

AND PRESIDENTIAL  
GALA DINNER



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GOLD COAST CITY, ACCRA, GHANA  
FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY 2024, 6PM

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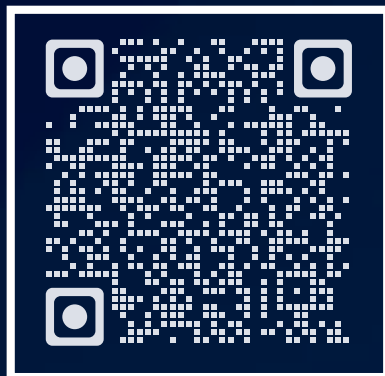


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**May 13 – 15, 2024 • Accra, Ghana**





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### Message from Moh Damush, Telecel Group CEO & Co-Founder

Telecel Group is driven by a powerful vision: to empower African communities through the transformative power of technology and connectivity. We are not just another telecom company; we are catalysts for change, fueled by disruptive and customer-centric strategies that make a tangible impact in the communities we serve.

At the heart of our mission lies empowering communities, particularly youth and women. We recognize the transformative potential of technology and connectivity, and we provide the tools and opportunities for individuals to flourish and contribute to the digital economy. Our aim is to connect people by providing a platform where everyone can exchange goods, art, ideas, money, and others. We connect energies.

Our flagship CSR initiative, ASIP, embodies this commitment. By identifying, supporting, and funding promising African startups, we nurture the continent's future. ASIP goes beyond igniting innovation; it creates jobs, stimulates economic growth, and fosters an entrepreneurial spirit across Africa. We believe in African talent and ideas, and ASIP provides the platform for them to thrive. Telecel entrance into Ghana through the acquisition of Vodafone Ghana stands as a testament to our transformative vision.

This strategic move strengthens our presence in the region where Telecel continues to expand into new territories, and reinforces our commitment to delivering innovative, customer-centric solutions across the continent. Through this expansion, we solidify our role as a driving force in Africa's digital revolution.



# WELCOME MESSAGE

## Nana Adjoa Hackman

**CHAIRWOMAN, EVENTS COMMITTEE**

**T**his evening, 26 January 2024, the Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City in Accra, Ghana, hosts the significant Africa Prosperity Champions Awards and Presidential Gala Dinner. This event represents a critical shift from poverty alleviation to prosperity enhancement in Africa, bringing together more than 400 key African figures, including heads of state, business leaders, and policymakers.

It's a celebration of Africa's growth and unity, showcasing the efforts of the Africa Prosperity Network and partners like the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat.

The gala honours a select group of impactful individuals contributing to Africa's transformation and shared prosperity. These awards signify a move towards a future of ambition and prosperity, highlighting achievements and setting a stage for further success.

The event also serves as a catalyst for the next generation of African leaders, showcasing excellence and sowing the seeds for future leadership on a global scale.

Special thanks are extended to the Advisory Council for their insightful selection of honourees and to the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo, for guiding the selection of the African Statesman of the Year. This gala aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063, emphasising Africa's role as a dynamic global economic force.

It's a night that not only celebrates current achievements but also encourages the next generation to build the prosperous Africa envisioned for 2063.

To our honourees and all others contributing to the construction of the Africa we want, I say Ayekoo!



### INSTITUTIONAL AND KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS





# ADVISORY COUNCIL

**An advisory council made up of men and women of international repute with a keen interest in the wellbeing of Africa and people of African descent. These prominent sons and daughters of Africa act as champions of the vision and objectives of the Africa Prosperity Network**



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

Dr Nkosazana Clarice Dlamini Zuma was made Minister at the South African Presidency responsible for Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities in

2023. She was Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs from 2019 to 2023 and Minister of The Presidency from 2018 to 2019. She was elected to lead the African Union Commission between 2012 and 2017.



**AMBASSADOR (DR)  
AMINA MOHAMED**  
**KENYA**

Ambassador Dr. Amina Mohamed has had a career in public service spanning over 35 years. She served in three Govt ministerial portfolios and was Cabinet Secretary in Foreign Affairs and International

Trade; Education, Science and Technology; and Sports, Culture and Heritage; as well as Permanent Secretary for Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, ASG/Deputy Executive Director of UNEP.



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

Madam Patricia Poku Diaby is an astute businesswoman with operations in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire, a cocoa merchant and the CEO of Plot Enterprise Ghana Limited. She is founder and chair

of the board of directors of business two cocoa-sourcing companies in Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.



**MR JOSHUA SIAW**  
**UNITED KINGDOM**

Mr. Joshua Siaw is a 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. Joshua's contributions have

been instrumental in positioning White & Case LLP as a prominent player in the African legal arena.



**DR EUGENE OWUSU**  
**GHANA**

Dr Eugene Owusu is a policy and development expert, focusing on Africa's challenges. He served as UN Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Special Representative, UN Secretary-General and Humanitarian Coordinator, and

UNDP Resident Representative. He is now Special Advisor to Ghana's President on the Sustainable Development Goals.



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

Dr. Cesar Mba Abogo is an accomplished development expert and Country Manager at the African Development Bank in Mozambique. He served as Minister

of Finance, Economy, and Planning for 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 an executive coach while maintaining her commitment to helping improve education, health,

and economic opportunities for communities of colour. She is the Chairperson for the Africa America Institute.



**DR AMANY ASFOUR**  
**EGYPT**

Dr Amany Asfour is an Egyptian economist and businesswoman. Appointed in 2021 as President of the African Business Council, an independent private-sector institution of the African Union.

She is also President of the African Alliance for Women Empowerment and the Egyptian Businesswomen Association.

# AFRICA PROSPERITY NETWORK COMMITTEE

**Meet the individuals behind the Africa Prosperity Network and the Africa Prosperity Dialogues, who ensure both the organisation and associated events run smoothly**

**Seated:** Nana Adjoa Hackman

**First line - Left to Right:** Priscilla Ampratwum (Admin), Janette Duah (Events Department Head), Ashley Asenso (Protocol Project Officer), Stephanie Diatta (General Manager), Afi Amoro (Events Consultant), Karen Dadzie (Protocol Lead), Nhyira Boakye Yiadom (Events Logistics).

**Second Line - Left to Right:** Joel Krampa (Communication Project Officer), Samuel Boakye Afrane (Procurement Admin), Prince Moses (Head of Communication Directorate), Maichou Kane, Kofi Nyarko (Support Service), Godlove Larrey Asirifi (content lead).





## Africa Prosperity Network

**Championing the Continent's prosperity agenda through advocacy, impactful events, powerful conversations and strategic partnerships led by Africans for Africa**

**T**he Africa Prosperity Network (APN) is a non-profit organisation committed to propelling Africa beyond aid. Established with the vision of reshaping leaders' perspectives, it creates platforms for critical dialogues that guide bold steps in trade, commerce, national economies, politics, and culture. Its mission is to mobilise African leaders in politics and business, fostering partnerships that prioritise the people of Africa and reshape principles and policies for their prosperity. Through initiatives such as the APN's flagship event, the annual Africa Prosperity Dialogues (APD), advocacy work, and strategic partnerships, APN facilitates powerful conversations on critical

developmental issues. Its approach seeks to create an Africa-centric dialogue, led by Africans for Africa, addressing the unique challenges and opportunities the continent faces. APN's ultimate goal is to reshape the foundations guiding Africa's partnerships, ensuring they align with the vision of promoting prosperity and uplifting the standard of living for the continent's people. By hosting the APD, engaging in advocacy, and establishing strategic partnerships, APN aims to reshape the principles and policies guiding partnerships in Africa, fostering prosperity and elevating the standard of living for the continent's people.



African Prosperity Dialogues 2023: (l) Delegates take in discussions (r) H.E Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, President of Ghana addresses attendees

### AFRICA PROSPERITY DIALOGUES

The Africa Prosperity Dialogues 2024 serves as an annual platform for African leadership to collaborate and commit to AU's Agenda 2063, envisioning an "Africa Beyond Aid". Recognising the need for political-business synergy, the event aims to drive intra-Africa trade and investments, aligning with AfCFTA for sustainable continental prosperity.

Key features include three days of expert panels, engagement with 1000+ leaders, dealmaking sessions, intra-African trade promotions, AfCFTA insights, and exhibitions for business development. Participants gain access to Africa's private sector leaders and can foster strategic partnerships. The event offers a premier platform for networking.



# RESHAPING THE WAY AFRICA DOES BUSINESS



Two of last year's winners: Kate Tometi Fotso, Founder, Telcar Cocoa (l) and Wamkele Mene, Secretary General of AfCFTA(r)



## AFRICA PROSPERITY CHAMPIONS AWARDS AND PRESIDENTIAL GALA DINNER

The Africa Prosperity Champions Awards and Presidential Gala Dinner serves as the spectacular centrepiece of the Africa Prosperity Dialogues three-day event. This year the prestigious evening takes place on Friday, 26 January 2024 at the landmark Kempinski Hotel Gold Coast City, in Accra, Ghana. More than a mere celebration, it symbolises Africa's necessary shift from focusing on poverty alleviation to prosperity accentuation across Africa. The gala brings together 500 influential African figures – heads of state, business leaders, policymakers and thought leaders. This convergence at Kempinski Gold Coast City bears testimony to the strategic economic collaboration that Africa Prosperity Network

and its core partners, including the African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat, seek to intensify. What it celebrates is Africa's new trajectory of growth and unity. This night is dedicated to celebrating African Prosperity by honouring a small but powerful list of long deserving impact-makers, in Africa and Global Africa.



Performances from last year's awards dinner (above)

# WE DELIVER A PROMISE OF A DIGITAL AFRICA.

## Revolutionizing Africa's Digital Landscape



Telecel Group stands as a transformative leader in Africa's telecommunications landscape, embodying a revolutionary approach that goes beyond traditional connectivity. Deeply rooted in African heritage, Telecel offers more than just telecommunication services; it is a beacon of innovation, empowerment, and collective growth. With its unique strategy and commitment, Telecel Group is not only driving substantial progress across Africa and globally but also championing fintech, entrepreneurship, and sustainable development.

### More Than Connectivity: A Catalyst for Growth and Development

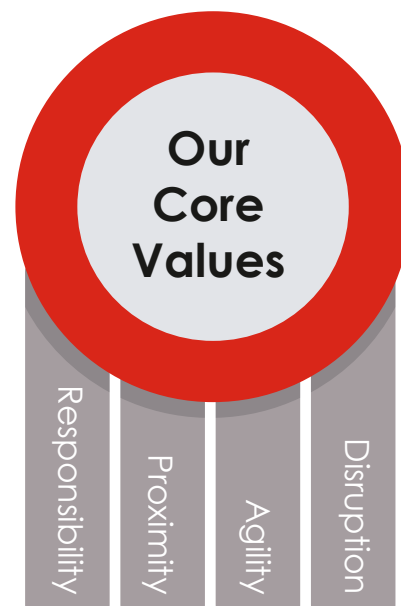
Telecel is a catalyst for economic growth and social development across Africa. Its multifaceted approach to connectivity recognizes the diverse needs of the African market, providing tailored solutions that empower communities. By supporting startups and fostering local innovation and entrepreneurship, Telecel is playing a pivotal role in shaping the continent's digital future.



### Strategic Expansion and Visionary Leadership

The acquisition and rebranding of Vodafone Ghana to Telecel mark a significant step in Telecel's expansion strategy, enhancing its presence in West Africa and aligning with its vision for a more connected continent. This move symbolizes a new era of innovation and customer-focused services, resonating with Telecel's core values and strategic objectives. Telecel is extending its presence in West Africa with new expansions towards new countries in West and Central Africa.

Telecel Group is a visionary entity driving Africa towards a digitally inclusive and connected future. With its innovative solutions, commitment to community empowerment, and sustainable practices, Telecel is actively participating in shaping Africa's digital future.





# EMPOWERING AFRICA'S FUTURE: THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF ASIP PROGRAM



Founded by Telecel Group CEO Moh Damush, ASIP stands as a testament to the company's commitment to fostering entrepreneurial talent in Africa. It embodies the belief that young entrepreneurs thrive best in supportive environments. Recognizing this, Telecel has dedicated ASIP to providing essential support, resources, and guidance that these young innovators need to succeed.



The program's impact is evident in the tangible successes of its cohorts in partnership with Google, AWS, Microsoft, IBM, FMO Bank, and others. The survival rate of startups under ASIP is remarkable, standing at 100% for all its cohorts. This statistic alone speaks volumes about the effectiveness of ASIP's approach. Beyond survival, these startups have made significant strides, including initiating government collaborations, and engaging in partner pilots. Such achievements underscore the program's role in not just sustaining, but also scaling these businesses.

ASIP's effectiveness is demonstrated by the remarkable achievements of its participants, particularly the startups from Ghana. These Ghanaian startups represent the diversity and innovation that ASIP nurtures:

## Chestify AI

Is making significant strides in the medical field. They are on the cusp of finalizing a partnership with Checkup Labs in Kenya to process over 6,000 medical images monthly, with a promising 80% reduction in turnaround time.

## Motito

KPMG Ghana competition winner, is a financing solution that emerged from the desire to address financial barriers in Africa. Motito is committed to creating a world where every African has the opportunity to live a better life, demonstrating the potential of innovative financial technologies to make a significant difference.

## BD Waste

Is redefining waste management in heavily polluted areas. Their pilot projects in three communities have shown an impressive capacity to collect 40 tons of waste per month, reducing ground rubbish by 90%.

## E-Campus

An e-learning solution making significant impacts in Africa's education sector. eCampus is transforming the way learning and assessments are conducted, reaching millions and democratizing education across the continent.

The third cohort of ASIP marks a significant leap in terms of impact. The creation of 9,600 jobs is a testament to the program's contribution to economic growth. It's a clear indicator of how startups, when adequately supported, can become engines of employment and prosperity. Additionally, the emphasis on women in leadership within these startups aligns with a broader goal of inclusive growth and gender equity in business – a crucial aspect in a continent where women play a pivotal role in economic and social spheres.

ASIP is a vital contributor to the entrepreneurial landscape in Africa with investments worth approximately 30 million dollars. Its approach, tailored to the unique challenges and opportunities of the continent, is making a significant difference in the lives of young entrepreneurs and the broader African economy. With the culmination of Cohort 4 on February 8, 2024, ASIP will have successfully nurtured 40 startups. As ASIP continues to evolve and support more startups, its role in shaping the future of Africa's digital and economic landscape becomes increasingly crucial.





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# AFRICA PROSPERITY CHAMPIONS 2024

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...

# **SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AWARD**

**DEFINITION: An individual who has impacted society at the highest level with an innovative initiative that impacts on the well-being and development of communities. It acknowledges the importance of building not just physical structures, but also fostering a supportive and inclusive social environment with sustainable practices that enhance social infrastructure.**



## **JULIUS MWALE**

### **Entrepreneur and Philanthropist**

Julius Mwale, a visionary Kenyan entrepreneur, is a transformative force in the intersection of health, technology, and community development, justifying his recognition in the category of health.

As the founder and primary investor behind Mwale Medical and Technology City (MMTC), a groundbreaking \$2 billion sustainable metropolis in Kenya, Mwale has exemplified innovation and leadership in the healthcare sector.

Central to MMTC is the Hamptons Hospital, a testament to Mwale's commitment to accessible healthcare. Treating patients from the county, particularly those covered by the National Hospital Insurance Fund, Hamptons Hospital stands as a beacon of comprehensive medical care with a capacity to accommodate 5,000 patients.

Beyond healthcare, MMTC represents Mwale's holistic vision for community development. Mwale's strategic approach goes beyond infrastructure; he has integrated the original villagers from Lunza, his hometown, into the city, ensuring that the benefits of development are shared inclusively.

Mwale's commitment extends to uplifting communities across Africa. Through MMTC, he has already expanded into 12 African countries, demonstrating a pan-African vision for sustainable development. His goal of establishing 18 smart cities and uplifting 800 million people by 2050 reflects a profound dedication to improving lives and driving progress.

Mwale's story is even more inspiring when taking into account his humble beginnings. Prior to founding MMTC, after completing his college education, Mwale joined Kenya Airforce, where he was involved in tech research. Following an intellectual property rights dispute which left him fearing for his life, he ended up in the US, where he sought asylum and became homeless. He later enrolled at Columbia University and completed a degree in electrical engineering, after which he launched SBA Technologies, Inc, in New York.

SBA Technology invented a patent for two-factor biometric authentication, which it now offers technological security solutions to some of the biggest names in the US, including Bank of America, Bank of New York and J.P. Morgan.

# YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

**DEFINITION:** An individual, typically under the age of 35, who has demonstrated exceptional entrepreneurial spirit, innovation and business acumen in establishing and running a successful business. This award recognises the individual's achievements in overcoming challenges, creating a significant impact in their industry, and contributing to economic growth.



## OLUWATOSIN AJIBADE AKA MR EAZI

### Entrepreneur, Music Executive, Singer

Oluwatosin Oluwale Ajibade, more popularly known as Mr Eazi, is a trailblazing singer, songwriter, producer and celebrated entrepreneur. While he is probably most recognised for his award-winning global music career, through which he has pioneered his Banku music genre, as a businessman, Ajibade wears the hat of tech entrepreneur and venture capital investor.

In 2019, Ajibade founded emPawa Africa, an African-focused music services company working with artists, producers, and independent labels across the continent.

The company, described as a talent incubation initiative, aligns with Mr Ajibade's vision of helping new artists reach their full potential.

Through initiatives like emPawa, Ajibade is not just shaping the present but investing in the future of African music. In December 2022 Vydia, a digital audio and video distribution infrastructure company that emPawa Africa had invested in was sold for \$1 billion.

It was acquired by American firm Gamma, a music and technology firm owned by former Apple Music Executive, Larry Jackson.

Additionally, Ajibade founded investment firm

Zagadat Capital, showcasing his multifaceted approach to business. Since its 2021 launch, the company has invested in companies such as remittance-based lending firm Paisa, Eden Life, African fintech Pawapay, Shoobs and South Africa basketball team Cape Town Tigers.

Musically, he has seamlessly woven his own lane and is renowned for pioneering Banku music, a genre characterised by percolating rhythms and laid-back vocals in Ghanaian Pidgin English.

His tunes effortlessly blend global pop, dancehall, highlife, and hip-hop and r&b. With a music catalogue amassing over four billion global streams, he has also enjoyed enviable collaborations with some of the world's biggest artists – Beyoncé, J Balvin, Bad Bunny, and Nicki Minaj. In addition, he has picked up a coveted Grammy award along the way.

The release of his long-awaited debut album *The Evil Genius*, an innovative project fusing contemporary African art and music, saw him host accompanying exhibitions at Gallery 1957 in Ghana, and in London during the 1-54 Contemporary African Art Fair at Somerset House.



# TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AWARD

**DEFINITION:** An individual who has made a significant contribution in the field of technology and innovation. This award recognises groundbreaking advancements or pioneering work in developing new technologies, applying existing technology in innovative ways, or significantly enhancing technological processes.



## DR MARY SPIO

### CEO and Founder, CEEK Virtual Reality

Dr Mary Spio, a trailblazer in technology and innovation, is a force to be reckoned with – an accomplished deep space engineer, tech innovator, entrepreneur, and author.

Currently at the helm as the CEO and founder of CEEK Virtual Reality, Dr Spio leads a platform offering immersive and social virtual reality experiences, while collaborating with global icons such as Microsoft, Coca-Cola, Billboard, and celebrities such as Sarkodie.

Her impact has earned her recognition as one of the 100 History Makers in the Making by NBC News, a New Power Generation leader by Essence Magazine, and an innovation and entrepreneurship evangelist by the U.S. Department of State. Awards such as the Yueh-Ying Hu Memorial National Award for Innovation and the Boeing Outstanding Achievement in Electrical Engineering Award underscore her groundbreaking contributions.

Armed with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering from Syracuse University and a Master of Science degree in electrical engineering and computer science from Georgia Institute of Technology, Spio's journey is marked by a relentless pursuit of excellence.

Her six-year stint in the US Air Force as a wideband and satellite communications technician laid the

foundation for a stellar career. Subsequently, she contributed significantly as a satellite communications engineer for NASA and Boeing, where she pioneered and patented groundbreaking technology for digital cinema distribution.

Spio's influence extends beyond accolades: she's an influential speaker at prestigious events like the Grace Hopper Celebration, the WomenTech Global Conference, and the Pennsylvania Conference for Women. A prolific author, she has penned two books, including the bestseller "It's Not Rocket Science: 7 Game-Changing Traits for Uncommon Success", a self-help book published in 2015, and "A Song for Carmine", a romance novel.

As a role model and visionary, Spio deserves recognition in the technology and innovation sphere for leveraging her skills to create cutting-edge solutions that enhance the lives and entertainment experiences of millions worldwide.

Dr Mary Spio is not just a leader, she is the embodiment of creativity, courage, and collaboration – an inspiration and empowerment for women, particularly women of colour, aspiring to excel in STEM fields.



# FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

**DEFINITION: An individual in a senior position in financial services who has demonstrated exceptional leadership, expertise and contributions. Criteria for this accolade include sound financial management, prudent risk management and innovative financial thinking.**



## PROFESSOR BENEDICT ORAMAH

### President and Chair of the Board of African Export-Import Bank

Professor Benedict Oramah, an esteemed Nigerian economist, currently serves as the President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), standing as a beacon in the world of finance. His illustrious career spans decades of commitment and expertise in international trade and finance.

As the President of Afreximbank, Professor Oramah has significantly expanded the institution's reach and enhanced its global standing. The bank actively supports the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), a landmark initiative in African trade and development. Under Professor Oramah's leadership, Afreximbank has spearheaded innovative digital platforms to facilitate intra-regional trade and investments, transforming cross-border payments and enhancing access to valuable trade information. Notable platforms include the Pan-African Payment and Settlement System (PAPSS), a Trade Information Platform, and MANSAs, a repository platform streamlining customer due diligence on African entities.

Professor Oramah serves as one of the key figures in the African Union's Africa Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT). In this capacity, Afreximbank, under his guidance, played a pivotal role in securing 400 million

doses of Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccines for the continent. This achievement was made possible through a US\$2 billion Advanced Procurement Commitment (APC) guarantee provided by Afreximbank to the vaccine manufacturer on behalf of African countries.

Under Oramah's visionary stewardship, Afreximbank has achieved remarkable milestones, solidifying its status as a powerhouse in the industry.

Recognised as the "African Company of the Year" at the 11th All Africa Business Leaders Awards in 2023, the institution stands as a testament to Oramah's adept corporate governance and impactful leadership.

Oramah serves as the chairman or board member of various organisations, showcasing his broad influence in diverse sectors.

His contributions have been acknowledged nationally and internationally, receiving prestigious awards such as the Commander of the Order of the Niger (CON) by the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2022 and the Russian Federation's state award of the Order of Friendship in 2019.

Consistently recognised as one of the 100 Most Influential Africans by New African Magazine, Oramah's achievements culminated in being named Forbes Africa Magazine's 2023 Person of The Year.

# PHILANTHROPIST AWARD

**DEFINITION:** This award is given to an individual recognised for substantial and impactful contributions to charitable causes. Criteria for this recognition include the size of donations, impact of effort, innovative approach and leadership in encouraging others to give, as well as a consistent dedication to philanthropic work.



## DR PRECIOUS MOLOI-MOTSEPE

### Co-founder & CEO, Motsepe Foundation

Dr Moloi-Motsepe, alongside her husband Dr Patrice Motsepe, established the Motsepe Foundation in 1999. The Foundation aims to actively contribute to the elimination of poverty and the sustainable enhancement of living conditions for disadvantaged individuals in South Africa, across Africa, and globally.

The Foundation was founded on the philosophy of 'ubuntu', the African concept of giving and caring for your neighbour and other members of your community.

In 2013 the Motsepe family were the first on the African continent to join the Giving Pledge, started by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffet, in which they promised to give at least 50 per cent of their family wealth to charitable causes.

Being one of the most substantial philanthropic organisations in South Africa and the continent, the Motsepe Foundation has made significant donations since its inception.

In 2023, the foundation donated R30m (US\$1.5m) to 26 university student representative councils (SRCs) to be allocated towards helping students with student registration, fees and historical debt.

The Foundation also allocated 300 new bursaries for students at both universities and schools for the 2023 academic year.

Although based in South Africa, the Foundation extends its reach throughout sub-Saharan Africa and builds global partnerships across continents.

The Foundation's initiatives align with 12 out of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Born in the Soweto area of Johannesburg, Dr Moloi-Motsepe is a medical doctor, who specialised in children's and women's health.

She continues to promote health, well-being, education and economic empowerment through NGOs as well as her philanthropic work.

She is also the founder and CEO of African Fashion International (AFI), a globally affiliated enterprise that champions African creatives.

In 2017 she received the prestigious Fashion 4 Development Franca Sozzani Award at the United Nations in New York, for her efforts in promoting African fashion designers and supporting the empowerment of disadvantaged women along the supply chain.

# AFRICA CHAMPION AWARD

**DEFINITION:** An accolade granted to an individual, who has shown support for the development, prosperity, and welfare of Africa. The award encompasses a variety of fields such as social progress, environmental conservation, cultural promotion, and the promotion of African values and interests.



## BARONESS SCOTLAND OF ASTHAL

### Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat

Patricia Scotland, Baroness Scotland of Asthal, PC, KC is a British diplomat, barrister and politician, currently serving as the sixth secretary-general of the Commonwealth of Nations. She was first elected at the 2015 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and began her first of a maximum of two possible four-year terms on 1 April 2016.

Baroness Scotland was re-elected to a second term at the 2022 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, as her first term had been extended by two years due to the pandemic and the postponement of the 2020 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). She won despite opposition from the UK Government led by Prime Minister Boris Johnson. It was the backing of African governments that kept her in the position. Her allies claimed that it was Baroness Scotland's refusal to do the UK government's bidding that was behind Johnson's animosity.

Her support throughout her tenure for the so-called smaller African and Caribbean nations of the Commonwealth against the bigger ones such as the UK, Canada and Australia is believed to have been behind their show of support. This was despite the fact that the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada had all threatened to cut funding to the organisation.

Prior to being secretary-general of the Commonwealth, Baroness Scotland served as UK Attorney General from 28 June 2007 - 11 May 2010. She was appointed to the position by Prime Minister Gordon Brown and was the first woman to hold the office since its foundation in 1315. During her time as Attorney General, she continued to promote pro bono work by lawyers and created an international and Schools Pro Bono Committee responsible for co-ordinating pro bono work. She has also been a strong advocate for toughening the law against and helping victims of domestic violence.

Baroness Scotland was elevated to the House of Lords in 1997 and, as a British Labour Party politician, served in ministerial positions within the UK Government, most notably as the aforementioned Attorney General for England and Wales and Advocate General for Northern Ireland. She is a dual citizen of the United Kingdom and Dominica, where she was born.

In November 2012, she was appointed Prime Ministerial Trade Envoy to South Africa. In December 2014, she was elected as the Alderman for the ward of Bishopsgate in the City of London, having stood (in accordance with convention in the City) as an independent candidate.

Back in 1991, Patricia Scotland became the first black woman to be appointed a Queen's Counsel.



# INDUSTRIALIST OF THE YEAR AWARD

**DEFINITION: An individual who has exhibited exceptional leadership, innovation, and excellence in the field of industrial development. This award honours industrialists who have made substantial contributions to their respective industries, fostering growth, economic development, and technological advancement.**



## HON MOHAMED M ABOU EL ENEIN

### Chairman and Founder, Cleopatra Group

The Honourable Mohamed M Abou El Enein, a distinguished figure in global business, investment, and politics, stands as a beacon of visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to Egypt's growth. As the Chairman of Cleopatra Group, his entrepreneurial journey has left an indelible mark on the nation's economic landscape, earning him the prestigious Industrialist of the Year Award.

Born and raised in Egypt, Abou El Enein is celebrated for his remarkable contributions across diverse sectors. His leadership at Cleopatra Group, a conglomerate spanning tourism, real estate, media, and manufacturing, has positioned him as a titan of industry. Under his guidance, the group has flourished, driving economic growth and innovation.

Abou El Enein's commitment to development projects has transformed urban landscapes and enhanced infrastructure, shaping the future of Egypt. In tourism, his strategic vision and investments have elevated the nation's status, attracting international visitors and boosting economic prosperity.

Mohamed M. Abou El Enein initiated his economic journey as a trader in the 1970s. By 1983, he ventured into manufacturing, establishing his inaugural factory in Tenth of Ramadan City, which marked Egypt's

introduction to industrial ceramics. Today, this enterprise has evolved into the world's largest production site for ceramics, porcelain, and sanitary ware – Ceramica Cleopatra Company, a vital component of the expansive Cleopatra Group.

The company boasts an integrated industrial complex, comprising 17 factories strategically located in North West Gulf of Suez and Tenth of Ramadan City. With a workforce of 25,000 engineers, technicians, and workers, Ceramica Cleopatra stands as an industry powerhouse. Its global footprint extends to 108 countries, reflecting its robust presence in the international market as a leading exporter of ceramics, porcelain, and sanitary ware.

Since the early 1980s Abou El Enein's business ventures have diversified to include the areas of agriculture, mining, real estate, tourism, media, high-tech projects and aviation.

A member of the Egyptian People's Assembly since 1995, since January 2021, he has held the esteemed position of Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives.

His eponymous charitable foundation is focused on a number of core pillars: youth empowerment, health care, women empowerment and education.



# AFRICAN STATESPERSON AWARD

**DEFINITION: An individual who has made remarkable efforts to enhance the welfare of African citizens, strengthen regional and continental partnerships, and contribute to the overall betterment of the African continent. It acknowledges their role as inspirational leaders and ambassadors for Africa on the global stage, their dedication to peace, stability and development, and their ability to navigate complex political landscapes while promoting unity among African nations.**



## HIS EXCELLENCY MACKY SALL

### President of the Republic of Senegal

His Excellency Macky Sall, a man of unwavering dedication and transformative leadership, stands as an exemplary recipient of a statesperson award. Born in Fatick, Senegal, Sall's illustrious journey is marked by a profound commitment to public service and a relentless pursuit of progress for his nation.

Macky Sall's early career in engineering and geology laid the foundation for a remarkable ascent in Senegal's political landscape. His commitment to public service and governance became evident when he served as the Prime Minister from 2004 to 2007, contributing to the economic and social development of Senegal.

In 2012, Sall assumed the presidency, a role he embraced with a vision that transcended the ordinary. His presidency has been characterised by a commitment to good governance, economic reform, and social development. Under his leadership, Senegal has experienced notable economic growth, with a focus on infrastructure projects, energy development, and initiatives to improve education and healthcare.

A champion of democracy and transparency, Sall's tenure has been marked by efforts to strengthen institutions, foster inclusivity, and advance the rule of

law. His dedication to democratic principles and the empowerment of Senegal's citizens has solidified the nation's position as a beacon of stability in the region.

Sall's visionary leadership extends beyond national borders, as evidenced by his active engagement in regional and international affairs. He has played a pivotal role in mediating conflicts, promoting economic cooperation, and advocating for sustainable development within the African Union and other forums.

In addition to his political achievements, Macky Sall has been a strong advocate for environmental sustainability and climate action. Senegal, under his leadership, has made significant strides in addressing environmental challenges and promoting renewable energy initiatives.

As we honour His Excellency, we celebrate not just the milestones of the past but a legacy that continues to shape Senegal's trajectory. His exemplary leadership, marked by integrity, vision, and a tireless dedication to the welfare of his people, serves as an inspiration for leaders worldwide. His work recognises a lifetime spent in service to humanity, leaving an indelible mark on Senegal's history and contributing to the broader narrative of visionary leadership in the global arena.

# GLOBAL AFRICA LEADERSHIP AWARD

**DEFINITION: An individual who has made a significant and noteworthy contribution to the advancement, development, and positive impact of the African continent on a global scale. This award acknowledges a leader who has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, vision, and dedication to addressing key challenges and promoting collaboration with Africa from outside the continent.**



## HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT MOHAMED IRFAAN ALI

### President of the Republic of Guyana

His Excellency Irfaan Ali has emerged as a transformative leader, shaping the destiny of his nation through political acumen and a steadfast commitment to progress. His journey from a middle-class upbringing to the presidency reflects a deep dedication to community service and a vision for uplifting the lives of ordinary citizens.

Born in Leonora, Guyana, Ali's educational pursuits at the University of Guyana and the University of the West Indies laid the foundation for his future role as a public servant.

His early engagement in the Progressive Youth Organisation marked the beginning of a political career that would see rapid ascension within the People's Progressive Party (PPP).

Assuming the presidency in August 2020, President Ali faced the monumental task of managing Guyana's newfound oil resources responsibly. His leadership has been characterised by a commitment to transparency and inclusivity in utilising oil revenues to drive economic diversification and sustainable growth. Under his guidance, Guyana embarked on a journey to reduce

dependence on oil by investing in sectors such as agriculture, infrastructure, and education.

President Ali's tenure is not only marked by economic stewardship but also by a profound commitment to social development. Initiatives aimed at improving healthcare, education, and social services underscore his dedication to elevating the standard of living for all Guyanese citizens. His policies, which he has characterised with the phrase, 'One Guyana' reflect a vision for inclusive development, with a focus on addressing the needs of marginalised communities.

Internationally, President Ali has earned recognition for his vision and commitment to responsible governance. The global community has commended his administration's dedication to environmental sustainability and prudent management of the country's resources.

He previously served as Project Manager of the Caribbean Development Bank's Project Implementation Unit in the Ministry of Finance and Senior Planner in the State Planning Secretariat.





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