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# The Black Jewels International

*"Showcasing Global African Names and Businesses in Gold"*

August -October 2024

## Business Fastlink

Global Properties  
Investment  
Opportunities

## Education

Afro Scholars  
International

## Leadership

- Kamala Harris:  
The American  
Woman  
of History

## Africa and Leadership

...the Black Culture is about Resilience, Determination,  
Achievement, Greatness, and Excellence

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# CONTENTS

From the Publisher ..... 4

## News

Black History .....5-7

## Leadership

Africa and Leadership ..... 8-9

Celebrating The Black Jewels Ambassador ....10-11

## Business

Towards Paradigm Shift ..... 12-13

About Property Investment .....14-20

Hospitality.....21-23

## Education

Afro Scholars .....24-29

## About Us



Our Vision

Our vision is to showcase the black people's unparalleled potentialities in the global economy.



MISSION

The mission is to facilitate an enabling environment for the socio-economic development of people of color, for the global black nationalities to take their rightful position among the Committee of Great Nations of the world.

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*- Names in Gold*

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# From the Publisher



Today, there is an emergence of black people (young and old) with a vision and mission as global champions in politics, leadership, business, academics, education, ministry, art and music, sports, and others.

Let's celebrate the black folks!

If we don't celebrate ourselves, no one will do.

Celebrating The Black Jewels (dead and living) encourages more contributions and development in the black nations and the world.

Nothing happens unless someone makes it happen. Success or freedom does not just come at ease unless we make it happen. For every problem, difficulty, or

negative situation or circumstance that the Black race faces, there is always a ray of hope and opportunity in it. William Shakespeare once said, *"Sweet are the uses of adversity which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head."*

Let the world know the positive impact you've made wherever you are or the contributions your organization is presently making in any industry or vocation or your ministry or community – local, national, or global.

The Black Jewels Network appreciates and regards all those great personalities and achievers who had or have been contributing to society, human welfare, the black race, and the entire globe. To acknowledge our achievers and with the view to sculpt their accomplishments in the black race, The Black Jewels Network honors these distinguished and treasured Blacks with one of the most respectable and prestigious awards of **The Black Jewels Ambassadors (TBJA)**.

It is worth noting that every black folk is a potential Jewel or leader. As any Black folk registers with The Black Jewels Network, we acknowledge him formally and award him with The Black Jewel (TBJ) honorary award after enlisting with The Black Jewels Leadership Forum.

This gesture will inevitably encourage other potential Jewels, especially the youths who are potential global leaders.

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**Amb. Emmanuel Phillips TBJA**

**Publisher/President, The Black Jewels Network**



# TOWARDS AN IMMINENT COUNTDOWN

## TO THE US 2025 PRESIDENCY

On July 21, 2024, Joe Biden, President Joe Biden upended the 2024 election by abandoning his reelection bid after rising pressure from his party to step aside. Vice President Kamala Harris said she would seek the nomination in his place, and Biden gave Harris his full support and endorsement in a social media post. Biden said, "Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump." "Let's do this," he continued.

In the hours following Biden's public endorsement, Harris racked up support from several high-profile Democrats. Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi endorsed Harris as Biden's replacement, calling her "brilliantly astute" and the best person to defeat Trump in the fall. "My enthusiastic support for Kamala Harris for president is official, personal, and political," Pelosi said in a statement. Her endorsement came hours after Harris' first public appearance since Biden dropped, where she praised the president's "deep love of our country."

So far, Harris has tremendous endorsements from Biden, former U.S. president Bill Clinton and Hilary Clinton. She has also received endorsements from the Congressional Black Caucus and a growing group of House representatives and senators, including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Virginia Sen.



Tim Keine.

Harris also earned the endorsement of several potential challengers, including Governors J.B. Pritzker of Illinois, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, Andy Beshear of Kentucky, Wes Moore of Maryland, Tim Walz of Minnesota, and Tony Evers of Wisconsin.

On Friday, July 26, Barack and Michele Obama endorsed Kamala Harris in a statement that partly reads, "...at a time when the stakes have never been higher, she gives us reason to hope"

"A lot of Democrats increasingly realize that Vice President Kamala Harris is probably the simplest alternative to Biden," said Chris Galdieri, professor at Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire. It is her responsibility of Harris to step in if

Biden cannot do the work. Having spent three and a half years in the White House, Harris is probably best suited to articulate the defense for the record of Biden's administration and continue their work in another term.

Within twenty-four hours after Biden's endorsement, donors raised a record-breaking \$81 million for Harris' campaign. That number jumped to \$100 million by Monday evening, "far surpassing the \$53 million that Trump's

political operation touted raising after his May conviction in a Manhattan business fraud case," CNN said. "Over 1.1 million donors have contributed to the fundraising effort, with 62% of them donating for the first time this election cycle," her campaign said.

Harris is the frontrunner for the nomination after Biden's momentous withdrawal, having lined up endorsements from the incumbent president and most big-name Democrats. Vice President Kamala Harris has secured the support of a majority of Democratic delegates to secure the party's nominee for president.

A survey by the Associated Press on Monday, 22nd July 2024 evening, said she had received the endorsement of more than the 1,976 delegates needed to win

the nomination in the first round of voting. That means Ms. Harris is on course to be crowned the party's standard bearer and take on the Republican Donald Trump in the presidential election.

Harris is presently the first woman, Black person, and person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president. With the structure and money of the Biden-Harris campaign already behind her, Harris is more suited than any of the other names floated to replace Biden at the top of the ticket.

*"She's been vice president for three and a half years. I think she can pick up the mantle and run and she has an apparatus. Right from the Biden campaign, she's assuming not that she's starting from ground zero. That's what made her different than anybody else right?"* Rep. Jared Moskowitz, D-Fla., told DailyMail.com about Harris's 100-day timeline.

Americans have long yearned for a choice other than Biden v Trump again, and now they have been presented with someone who is indeed younger and yet more mature than other of the old bits they have been used to. The system, after a fashion, does work.

Melinda French Gates, the philanthropist, said she endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris and announced a new YouTube series called *"The Moments That Make Us,"* which includes interviews with women from various generations, including Megan Rapinoe and "CBS Mornings" co-host Gayle King.

French Gates, who said she has never before endorsed a candidate, said the likely Democratic nominee is the *"right candidate, right now"* in an interview on "CBS Mornings."

*"She has believed in women's reproductive freedom from the beginning of her career, and that got rolled back under previous administrations. She knows what society is up against now. She's on paid family medical leave. She's for caregiving ... She has always been outspoken on these topics, and I think she's a woman of our time."*

Whatever else, Kamala Harris does represent a fresh start – and many may feel the time has come for a female president. Harris seems more attractive than Hilary Clinton. Harris is youthful, articulate, optimistic, forensic, and dynamic. Trump is the

distinct opposite. If Harris does run, then the 2024 contest will remind British audiences, at least, of the clashes between the bombastic Boris Johnson, when he was prime minister – and Keir Starmer, another ex-prosecutor like Harris, who consistently got the better of him and saw him off.

Trump represents the darker side of America. Harris is something brighter and more hopeful. Many Americans will



surely want to let the sunshine in at last. If she becomes the Democratic nominee and defeats Republican candidate Donald Trump in November, she will be the first woman to serve as president.

Even before Biden endorsed Harris, she was the favorite to replace him on the ticket. A recent poll from the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that about six in ten Democrats believe Harris would perform well in the job in the top slot. About two in ten Democrats believe not in her, and two in ten say they do not know what to say. More importantly, with her foreign policy experience and national name recognition, she has a head start over potential challengers, including California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, and Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro.

Therefore, running a new candidate less than 100 days before the election may be 'less than ideal' for Democrats. But they seem optimistic that replacing 81-year-old Joe Biden with Vice President Kamala Harris will fire up the Democrats' base.

If Harris is elected president of the United States of America, it will be historic, making her the first woman, the first Black woman, and the first South Asian to serve as president.





# Africa & Leadership

Leadership theory has evolved – from pre-classical to postmodern eras – and has been influenced by several factors. It is worth noting that economic, political, and social systems have had bearing on the definition, interpretation, and application of leadership over time. For a long, scholars have been striving to draw a distinction between the roles of leader and those of managing. Drawing a clear distinction between leading and managing has been challenging. As a concept, leadership is complex. Thus, one of the main challenges facing scholars and practitioners has been to come up with a comprehensive definition of leadership.

*“The African continent has been therefore known for suffering from a leadership vacuum.”*

Leadership is an intricate and ever-changing process that has been defined in several different ways (Grimm, 2010; Weiskittel, 1999). According to Andrew (2008), leadership is “a multifaceted process of identifying a goal, motivating other people to act, and providing support and motivation to achieve mutually negotiated goals”. According to Duerst-Lahti (2010), leadership is a relationship between leaders and followers. This implies effective interaction between the two. Unfortunately, leadership is traditionally deployed in the context of hierarchies, reinforced from and communicated through chain-of-command authority models (Friedman, 2013). In such models, leaders have the power of voice; whereas their followers are on the listening end (Friedman, 2013).

Today, situational leadership, also known as having a contingency approach, has become popular, as different situations require different leadership styles (Grimm, 2010). Despite this advantage, it has been criticized for focusing too much on leaders and not enough on group interaction (Parry and Bryman, 2006). On the other hand, transactional and transformational theories are based on interactions between leaders and followers. These two theories seem to be gaining ground.

Effective leadership requires trust between the leader and followers. If followers trust their leader, they will do whatever the leader envisions (Bach and Ellis, 2011). To develop trust, there should be mutual respect. Leaders should treat everyone in the way they would wish to be treated (Rolfe, 2011).

Rolfe (2011) and Grimm (2010) suggested that, first and foremost, leaders should be honest. The reasoning is that it is difficult to trust someone unethical or immoral.

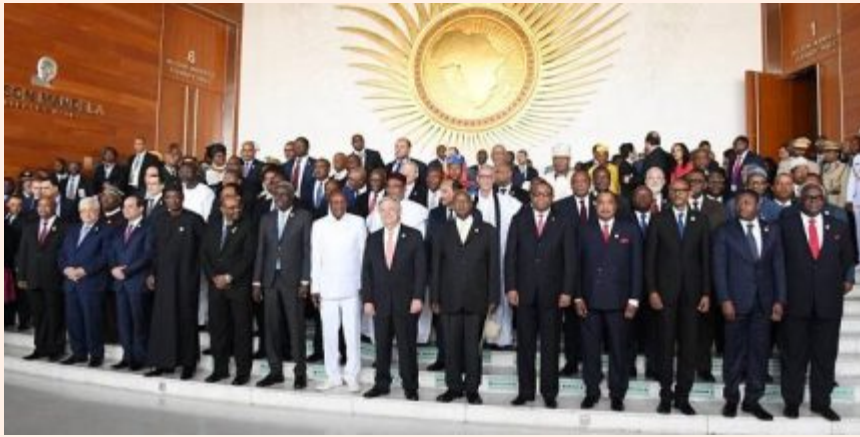
Leadership is earned, and once it is achieved, it is not sustainable without continuous proof of concept (Sederer, 2012). This means that effective leaders are those who have an excellent record of their performance or accomplishments. Leaders must demonstrate their value ceaselessly and tirelessly (Sederer, 2012).

Leadership means service to followers and the general public. Leadership is the action of leading other individuals to achieve a common goal. In the context of public administration, this means the pursuit of broader moral principles in the public interest. These principles include “justice, fairness, individual rights (e.g. privacy and due process), equity, respect for human dignity, and pursuit of the common good” (Ehrich, Cranston, and Kimber, 2004, para 5). For a long time, the question relating to leadership in Africa has been on the front burner (Salawu, 2012).

## Leadership in Africa

In the African context, leadership has been viewed as individuals' predisposition to serve their families, their peers, and their communities. Traditionally, ethnic African leaders played three roles: political leaders, social leaders, and religious leaders. In their role as political leaders, ethical leaders were public administrators. In their role of social leader, they settled social conflicts among followers. In their role as religious leaders, they were priests whose role was service to gods. Although three leaderships resided in





the caring and protective hands of ethical leaders, there seemed to be no conflict of roles in traditional African society.

Unfortunately, the colonial era reshaped traditional African leadership. Ethical leaders saw their powers taken away to some extent. They were compelled to share power with the colonial authority. The sharing of powers –political, social, and religious– between ethical leaders and the colonial authority favored the latter.

With the emergence of democracies in post-colonial Africa, Africans hoped to regain, through new African leaders, the ethnic power lost during the colonization. Unfortunately, the world witnessed the birth of two groups of leadership in Africa. The first group included among others elected leaders such as Patrice Lumumba and Kwame Nkrumah. They were nationalist and charismatic leaders (Nkrumah 2013, Lumumba 2013). To them, leadership meant more than power; it meant loyal service to their nations and their continent. They had the trust of their countrymen.

The second group comprised Africans brought to leadership positions by colonial powers. They had no choice but to remain loyal to their masters. They were the extension of colonial hands. They had the trust of those who vested them with leadership. Through them, former colonial powers have been exercising control over young African nations.

The coexistence of these two groups of leadership has had negative effects on the fate of African people. The African continent was unfortunately divided into two ideological clusters. Invisible ideological boundaries emerged in Africa. Their ramification has had bearing on the social, economic, and political development of African nations.

The African continent has been therefore known for suffering from a leadership vacuum. Excellent leadership is rare in Africa (Salawu, 2012). Whenever there is an emergence of a progressive leader in Africa, the enemies of the

African progress always find ways to hinder the progress (Bangarah, 2011). Poor leadership is thought to be the source of most problems plaguing African societies (Salawu,

2012).

The African continent has taken a step backward from establishing a new generation of leaders committed to fostering development and democracy; tackling conflict, corruption, and dictatorship; and building a new Africa (Van Niekerk, 2009). Africa's hope for leadership is thought to be a younger generation that, for the time being, remains on the margins (Van Niekerk, 2009). There is therefore a need to get younger generations involved in leadership.



## The Black Jewels Leadership Forum International (TBJLFI)

*"The Names in Gold"*



One of the major challenges facing the African black nations today is that of leadership. It is upon this premise that The Black Jewels Leadership Forum International (TBJLFI) has evolved. The mission is to build great transformative black leaders to raise the desolation of many generations in the black nations and the world at large.

**TBJLFI** will connect you to a large network of leaders around the world from the disciplines of business, politics, economy, history, art, science, religion, medicine, civil society, social welfare, and music. In the process of learning more about what is happening in the world, participants in the Forum learn from each other by connecting with others who face similar challenges and issues.

[www.theblackjewelsnetwork.com](http://www.theblackjewelsnetwork.com)



# Celebrating The Black Jewels Ambassadors in USA



The History of the Moment is about an American woman of color who had brought a worthy change to leadership in the United States of America. Known as the “female Obama,” Kamala Harris has made history as the First Woman and Woman of Color as Vice President of the United States. Her present

position reads like a litany of firsts: she is the first woman vice president, the first black vice president, and the first Asian American vice president, and the United States of America looks forward to Kamala Harris, the first Woman President, come January 2025, if she becomes the Democratic nominee and defeats Republican candidate Donald Trump in November 2024.

In celebration of her unprecedented achievements, The Black Jewels Network honors Kamala Harris with the honorary award of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).

The book *Celebrating the American Woman of History: Kamala Harris, First United States Woman Vice President*, is a celebration in indelible print of a Colossus, Legend, and a BLACK JEWEL, whose name will ever be in gold.

The story of Kamala Harris demonstrates the inherent and innate qualities of the great Black Culture. The Black Culture is about Resilience, Determination, Achievement, Greatness, and Excellence.



## Celebrating the American Woman of History



### Barack Obama

Without any doubt, we have read the history of some great black men like Garret Morgan, the man who invented the traffic light, Septimius Severus, an African Emperor in Rome, and Martin Luther King (Jr.), the black American activist. However, in our generation and lifetime, Barack Obama became the first African American President of the United States of America, one of the supposedly greatest nations of the world. His tenure as president spanned for two terms, starting from Tuesday, January 20, 2009, and ending on Friday, January 20, 2017.

The great feat and achievements made by Barack Obama, a man whose family background is traceable to the African shores, should be an inspiration to the black African nations





and folks, that with genuine vision, resilience, and the right focus, African nations or race can join the Committee of Great Nations of the World.

## Oprah Winfrey

Without mincing words, today, Oprah Winfrey is one of the amazing women who have changed the world. One woman who is rarely away from the headlines is Oprah Winfrey, the media legend and "The Queen of All Media". Oprah's achievements are legendary and well-documented. Taking



the spot as the 23rd most powerful woman on Forbes's list, Oprah Winfrey's highlights include running her syndicated talk show for 25 years. Oprah is also noted as being the first African American woman to own her own production company, the Oprah Winfrey Network. Today Oprah continues to dominate the media world by being the number one 'interviewer' for the world's biggest celebrities.



## Bill Winston

Undoubtedly, we have heard and read about some great men of faith like Smith Wigglesworth, Charles Spurgeon, Billy Graham, Andrew Murray, A.J Gordon, Aimee S. McPherson,



Osward J. Smith, George Muller, Charles Swindoll, Dwight Moody, Martin Luther King, Rick Warren, and a host of others. However, in our generation and lifetime, Dr. Bill Winston is one of the foremost distinguished anointed servants and apostles of faith who is visibly and practically engaged in 'Making of Jewels', not only for God's Kingdom service but also, in the secular human activities.

(\*The date for the presentation and award ceremony will be announced later.)



# Celebrating The Black Jewels Ambassadors in UK



The Black Jewels Network appreciates and regards these great personalities and achievers who have contributed to society, human welfare, the black race, and the entire globe:

1. Amb. Anthony Joshua
2. Amb. Adebayo Ogunlesi
3. Amb. (Prof.) Ijeoma Uchegbu  
and others

## About the Awardees

### Anthony Joshua

Without any doubt, we have read the history of the first black boxing champions who had made indelible marks in the sand of history in their generations and fulfilled their respective

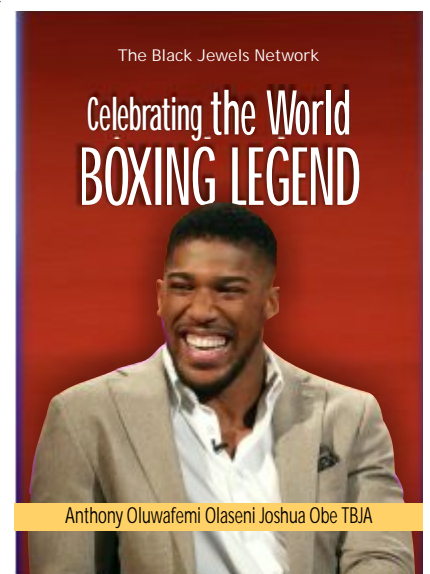


missions here on planet Earth. Notable amongst these distinguished boxers were Tom Molineaux (1700), George Dixon (1890), Joe Walcott (1900), Joe Gans (1902), and Jack Johnson (1910).

However, it is gratifying that a star was born in our time and generation on October 15, 1989. There is no gainsaying that Anthony Joshua is walking on the path of fulfilling his generational mission here on Earth. To showcase a world-class achiever, and with the view to sculpt his accomplishments in the black race, is why Anthony Joshua is being honored with one of the most respectable and prestigious awards of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).

The book *Celebrating the World Boxing Legend: Anthony Joshua* is a celebration in indelible print of a Colossus, Achiever, and a BLACK JEWEL whose name will ever be in gold.

The story of Antony Joshua has demonstrated the inherent and innate qualities of the great Black Culture. The Black Culture is about Resilience, Determination, Achievement, Greatness, and Excellence.



### Adebayo Ogunlesi

Global achievers are admired, celebrated, and worshiped as leaders by generations throughout history. However, in the Black race, we do not acknowledge them with deserved accolades because we hold a wrong perception of who an achiever is. An achiever is a person who courageously contributes under the most trying circumstances. He is an individual who acts unselfishly and who demands from himself more than others would expect.

Therefore, the black race through The Black Jewels Network appreciates and honors Adebayo O. Ogunlesi, a Colossus, Legend, and the African Giant, with one of the most respectable and prestigious awards of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).





She will succeed the current President, Professor Jane Clarke, on October 1, 2024.

Prof. Ijeoma Uchegbu is a Nigerian-British Professor of Pharmacy at University College London (UCL), where she also served as the Pro-Vice Provost for Africa and the Middle East. She was the Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of Nanomerics, a pharmaceutical nanotechnology company that develops innovative drug delivery solutions for poorly water-soluble drugs, nucleic acids, and peptides.

To showcase a world-class achiever, and with the view to sculpt his accomplishments in the black race, is why Prof. Ijeoma Uchegbu is being honored with one of the most respectable and prestigious awards of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).

## Prof. Ijeoma Uchegbu

Ijeoma Uchegbu, a Professor of Pharmaceutical Nanoscience known for her ground-breaking work in nanoparticle drug delivery, has been announced as the 7th President of Wolfson College, one of the 31 colleges of the University of Cambridge.





# Celebrating The Black Jewels Ambassadors in Nigeria



## Awardees:

The Black Jewels Network appreciates and regards these great personalities and achievers who have contributed to society, human welfare, the black race, and the entire globe:

- Aliko Dangote
- Tony Elumelu
- Yemi Osinbajo
- David Adeleke

## About the Awardees

### Aliko Dangote: The 'Golden Guru' of African Business

Franz Fanon once said, "Every generation, out of relative obscurity, must fulfill its mission or betray it." There is no gainsaying; this is very apt in describing the person of Alhaji

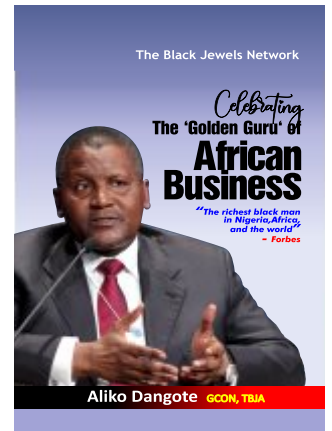


Aliko Dangote, a man presently working on fulfilling his generational mission. His conglomerate in the African continent and beyond operates under the name Dangote Group, and his business interests span from trading and manufacturing. Aliko Dangote has become one of the famous business magnates in Nigeria, Africa, and even the universe. He is respected in Nigeria and equally commands

considerable respect in virtually all countries of the world that matter.

In commemoration of The Black Jewels Network Leadership Month 2024, we celebrate and honor Prof. Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man and entrepreneurial icon, renowned for his unprecedented legendary philanthropic gestures and generosity to the less privileged, with an honorary award of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).

The book entitled Celebrating The 'Golden Guru' of African Business Aliko Dangote is a celebration in indelible print of a Colossus, Achiever, and a BLACK JEWEL, whose name will ever be in gold.



### Tony Elumelu: The African Master Builder and Outstanding Philanthropist

Generally, builders are the creators of economic energy, whereas none previously existed. For instance, notable builders from Andrew Carnegie to J.P. Morgan to John D. Rockefeller to Henry Ford famously created historic economic energy through steel, electricity, trains, and cars. They transformed America and the world by creating goods, services, and customers that did not exist before. They had a gift to envision, create masses of customers, and change how people live.

Today, there is an emergence of black people or builders (young and old) of vision and mission as global champions in Politics, Leadership, Business, Education, Ministry, Sports, Art, Music, etc. There is no gainsaying; amongst these great builders of our generation is Tony O. Elumelu.

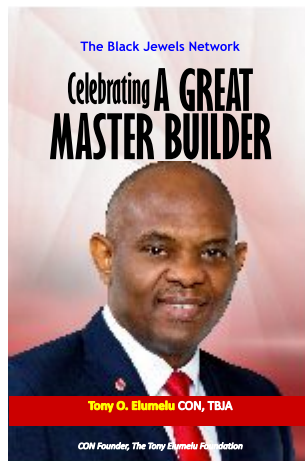
In commemoration of The Black Jewels Leadership Forum International Month 2024, we honor Tony O. Elumelu with an honorary award of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).

The book entitled Celebrating The African Builder and



Outstanding Philanthropist Tony O. Elumelu CON, TBJA, is a celebration in indelible print of a Colossus, Builder, and a BLACK JEWEL, whose name will ever be in gold.

The life story of Tony O. Elumelu is a clear demonstration of the inherent and innate qualities of the great Black Culture. The Black Culture is about Resilience, Determination, Achievement, Greatness, and Excellence.



### Prof. Osinbajo: The Faithful Servant Leader

The experience in the past twenty-five years of Nigeria's new democratic dispensation has been that of mixed blessings. Apart from the sustainability of democracy since 1999, the nation has witnessed a sharp drift from the fundamentals of democracy. However, it is gratifying that amidst these national challenges, we still find few patriotic Nigerians and



democrats who see the need to move the nation forward. One star among these patriots is Professor Yemi Osinbajo, a faithful servant leader who was a focus of attention not only in Nigeria but around the entire globe during Buhari's dispensation. He is a rallying point for Nigerians yearning for quality transformative leadership for the country.

Yemi Osinbajo is very attractive to the young and old members of society. Even his principal, President Muhammadu Buhari, has rightly described him as *"a reliable and dedicated deputy who is not only admirably competent but also exudes confidence and passion in the performance of his job."*

In commemoration of The Black Jewels Network Leadership Forum 2024, we celebrate and honor Prof. Yemi Osinbajo with an honorary award of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).



### David Adedeji Adeleke

Streamed over 2 billion times and handpicked by FIFA to lead their 2022 World Cup Soundtrack collaboration "Hayya Hayya (Better Together)," American, Nigerian afro beats icon David Adedeji Adeleke has cemented his position as a global force within the music scene.

Davido, a household name in the Nigerian music scene, has become synonymous with Afrobeats, a genre that has taken the world by storm. His unique blend of traditional African sounds with contemporary beats has captivated audiences far and wide, making him one of the most influential artists in Africa and beyond. With multiple awards and chart-topping hits to his name, Davido continues to push the boundaries of music while staying true to his roots.

In commemoration of The Black Jewels Leadership Forum International Month 2024, we honor Tony O. Elumelu with an honorary award of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).







# Towards a Paradigm Shift

By: Tony Eze

**F**amous American psychiatrist, Dr. Karl Menniger once said, “Attitudes are more important than facts.” Honestly, this statement is worth repeating until its truth grips you and me.

“But why make this assertion?” One may ask. This is because any fact or challenging situation facing us as individuals or a nation or as a global community, however gloomy, difficult, even seemingly hopeless, is not as important as our attitude

towards that fact or situation.

In times like this, many people are so engrossed about the state of the global economy as a result of the Covid - 19 pandemic. Many people are so confused and disillusioned with the present situation and circumstances in their nations. Some people have seen this season as only hard times with no opportunities to succeed, prosper or achieve their set goals in life. This perception of negativism is premised by one single phenomenon, and that is ignorance.

Many people do not recognize the fact that a time like this is a time of 'change', and that it is just temporary. More importantly, every challenge or recession is a thing of the mind. No matter what people say about the present global economic and financial challenges, there has never been a better time to invest than now. For, in every adversity, there is an equivalent seed of success, and to every disadvantage, there is an advantage.

For instance, sometimes in the year 2011, Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of the United Nations Urban Settlement Program (UNHABITAT) laid credence to the fact that for every problem situation, there is a hidden advantage. As expounded



by Dr. Clos in Abuja, he reiterated that African governments could turn their present urbanization problem into an engine room of wealth creation, if the city planners and managers put certain policy strategies in place.

During the present challenges being experienced in the developed markets or economies, Africa is now the best bet for experienced investors. “But why this assertion?” you may ask. This is because every market has its supply and demand cycles. For instance, at a time, one of the likely options opened to the American automobile manufacturers in the United States of America was to move their plants to China were by that period in question, there were over 150 million people without their cars, while nearly everyone had a car in the United States of America.

Therefore, the key for investors is the need to spot out a country or economy where demand is rising and supply is limited. This is the reason why the Chinese economy is bubbling presently. Today, China is investing more in developing economies.

#### The Paradigm Shift

Going by the global guide's forecasts, there is presently a paradigm shift in the global economy. This assertion first came to the fore in the speech made by Robert B. Zoellick, former President, World Bank

Group, shortly ahead of the year 2011's annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). In his speech, Zoellick said: “Today, developing countries are the engine driving the global economy. In the 1990s, developing countries accounted for a little more than 20 percent of global investment. Today they attract about 45 percent.”

“Over the past 10 years, developing countries have grown nearly four times faster than developed, and that trajectory is expected to continue. Some forecasts estimate that by 2025, six major emerging economies – Brazil, China,

India, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea, and the Russian Federation – will collectively account for more than half of all global growth.”

After China, India, and Brazil, Africa has many of these emerging markets like Egypt, South Africa, and Ghana. However, Nigeria has edged others out by her population and inherent abundant human and natural resources. Therefore, prospective indigenous and foreign investors, and most especially Nigerians in Diaspora, should take advantage of this situation in these current stages and the nation's development, to make good returns on their capital.



People had said many negative things about our nation, Nigeria. Nonetheless, this is a nation of unparalleled potentialities; a land of abundance in natural and human resources. In Nigeria, we have enormous natural wealth. Returns on investment in Nigeria remain among the highest in the world. Surely, Nigeria stands out to be the next potential economic focal point after China.

Many foreign commentators and analysts have seen the Nigeria experiment as a land of great opportunity. President Barack Obama, former president of the United States of America, once described Nigeria as the

world's next economic success story, stressing that this was one of the major reasons his government was committed to helping the country build strong democratic institutions and remove constraints to trade and investment through the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

Making this declaration at the US-Nigeria Trade and Investment Forum, an event organized by the Nigerians in Diaspora Organization (NIDO) in Washington DC, Obama who was represented by Ambassador Eunice Reddick, said that his country expanded opportunities for Nigeria to effectively

access markets and diversify its economy beyond a narrow reliance on natural resources. “As we support these efforts, the Diaspora can play an important role in contributing to a strong, vibrant, and economically prosperous Nigeria” he noted.

Apart from its natural resources, Nigeria has a young and dynamic population made up of an upwardly mobile middle class. It is this middle class that currently serves the international business community as an attraction because of the huge market it represents.

# ABOUT PROPERTY INVESTMENT

many foreign investors have started taking advantage of the unparalleled opportunities of investments in Africa, the number of indigenous private developers is growing per day, and many investors have now recognized that their homes are their highest-performing asset.

When properties are continually going up, you don't need a lot of help in making a buying decision, certainly not from an investment point of view anyway. However, when the property goes into



**T**oday, like many other potential investors, you may be asking the question: "Where and in what you should invest this time and season?"

Picking the market or what you want to invest in, is not what The Black Jewels Network does. You all have enough advisers, and hopefully enough common

sense to make your decisions. Nevertheless, we can surely give you these good tips:

The rise in property investing in recent years has been unprecedented in the African continent (most especially in Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa). While

decline, a large number of investors, those who are timid and those who are over-stretched will be forced off the bandwagon. Many people will give up out of fear, but the largest group leaves because of bad cash flow and insufficient reserves.

Therefore, it is needful to plan your



investment strategy based on the bad times, not the good times.

Always look for strong local economies, good standards of living, and relatively high salaries for those living and working in your chosen destination. If you are thinking of buying properties, one would suggest you only consider investing in a market where the locals earn enough money to easily rent or ideally buy your investment property. If they don't, it means the only person you could sell to in times of difficulty would be ANOTHER investor. By definition, when the financial markets are in turmoil there won't be many other investors around. Never restrict your investment in this way.

When the markets are rising just about everywhere, you could stick a pin in a map of the world and still have a chance of doing well. It's at times like this that any fool can (almost) buy any property and make money. But when the markets are in turmoil, the rats leave the ship, and only the experienced stay on board.

In times like this, Africa is the next property good spot. You may ask, "But why this assertion?" it is because every market

has supply and demand cycles. So the key for investors is the need to spot a country where demand is rising and supply is limited. Africa has many of these emerging markets like Egypt, South Africa, Nigeria, Ghana, e.t.c. prospective foreign investors, African Americans, Nigerians, and Africans in Diaspora should get in there and make good returns on their investments.

Right now, some investors are catching in on this time dispensation (a period of great investment opportunities in disguise). For instance, a Nigerian sister with her family based in the United States of America, came briskly to Nigeria some few years back to invest in real property. She secured some acres of land through the Public-Private Partnership initiative of the Federal Ministry of Lands and Housing. Today, she has completed the first phase of a housing estate project in Osun State, Nigeria. Fortunately for her, the Nigeria Police agreed with a good offer.

For experienced property investors, this is the time to buy more properties, even though they do not know which way the market is heading in the short term. The reasons to invest are simple:

1. As a sensible property investor, like many other markets, one

expects the property market to go up and down – so it is not something that bothers an experienced investor. We are all in it for the long term and any drop in prices is considered as a buying opportunity, not a selling opportunity.

2. Africa's market continues to suffer from under-supply, while demand is not falling. In fact, due to the rate of population growth and more migration of the people to the cities, the demand is increasing per day. Today, there is great demand not only for residential properties but spaces for a business like shopping complexes.

Therefore, there are opportunities for private investors and even banks to have working modalities with the State Governments and appropriate organs of the government to build low-cost houses and shopping complexes in the Central Business Areas, most especially in the State capitals.

The Black Jewels Network provides adequate information for investors, who want high potential returns on property investment while managing their risk. Through this medium, you can get into property investment quicker and smarter: minimizing financial outlay and maximizing capital returns.





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Anyone considering having a home for the first time must have a thousand questions and few answers.

“Am I ready to buy or build one? How much can I afford? Are there loan programs that can help me? How much will be the charges for

# Do You Dream of OWNING A HOME?

plots of land are selling for in that area you desire.

First thing first...

Before an artist begins to paint, he first formed a mental image of what he draws upon a sketchpad. If we follow the idea carefully, we notice certain important facts. The idea begins in the mind of the artist, after which, it is projected upon the pad.

Athletes claim that they have to first picture the accomplishment of a certain play before they perform it properly.



the documentation and other expenses?” If you answer yes to the following questions, you probably are ready to own a home:

Do you have a steady, reliable income?  
Do you have money saved for a down payment and closing costs?

Do you have the ability to pay back your loan or monthly mortgage and additional costs of homeownership, including other bills and maintenance costs?

The next step in the home buying process

is to determine what type you can afford. Once you understand what you can afford, it's time to decide what you want for your money?

Think about what's important to you in a house. Is it the location or proximity to your job, good infrastructures or size, or do you want to be like the Jones's?

Your real estate agent can give you a ballpark figure of comparable listings in the areas you are interested in. this will give you an idea of how many houses or

In the same way, for you to have your dream home or live a good life, you have to see it first. This is a mental simulation at work.

An idea is more valuable than material resources. Obstacles that cannot be overcome by a natural resource can be overcome through a creative idea. Good things of life, which eluded us in the past, can be achieved through creative thinking.



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# Africa's Hotel Industry

Africa is the second-fastest-growing tourism market in the world now and its immense tourism potential is just starting to be unlocked, with the local market becoming stronger and stronger by the day. Africa's hotel industry is Transforming with more local actors developing the hospitality sector.

In Africa Small, independent hotels have struggled to attract international guests. Through skills training, technology solutions, and digital marketing this is changing. This is exposing more high-quality local hotels and hospitality experiences to international and local travelers.

Growing exposure driving the professionalization of the industry and encouraging owners to invest in upgrading hotels creates a virtuous circle with increased business driving expansion, investment, and job creation. The visionary people driving this change are passionate about creating sustainable businesses that serve a need, drive improvement and provide long-term employment.



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# Welcome to Afro Scholars International 'The Potential Leaders'

(The Black Jewels Network's Educational Project)

At last, you too can join the Great World Leaders someday.

SOMEDAY STARTS TODAY.



Hi Folks,

Do you know that...

\*Great world leaders are not born great but made?

\*Success is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice?

\*Greatness is not a thing you wait for; it is a thing you must achieve?

\*Greatness, riches, and wealth are not reserved for those lucky few who were born under a certain star or family or race – white or black?

\*Greatness is a commodity that has to be worked at, sought after, and achieved?

\*You don't have to be great to get started, but you have to get started to be great.

\*Greatness is indeed for everyone, even YOU?

Black children of today are capable of greatness! Surely, they too are potential leaders of tomorrow, not only in our nations but also in the entire globe. Success is for black folks, and it is waiting for them to grab hold of, to enjoy its sweet rewards. Mind you, the journey to greatness and success in life starts today, and even NOW.

You too can be part of the potential great world leaders! Enlist today with the wisest minds...

Afro Scholars International  
'The Potential Leaders'



## The Potential Leaders Club

One of the major challenges facing the black African nations today is that of leadership. Worse still, the African continent recycles the same breed of leaders bereft of new, original, and creative ideas to move the black nations forward.

Whether you believe this fact or not: Today, poverty in our clime is mainly that of creative thinking, innovative ideas, and ingenuity.

More also, the problem in the black African nations is not that of resource but resourcefulness.

Clay P. Bedford has rightly said, "You can teach a student a

lesson for a day; but if you can teach him to learn by creating curiosity, he will continue the learning process as long as he lives." It is upon this premise that Afro Scholars International – 'The Potential Leaders' has been established.

This project is to encourage and spur the black youths in charting ways for our nations to take their rightful position in the Committee of Great Nations of the world. This, we hope to achieve by complementing what the schools (junior, high and tertiary), and more importantly the homes, are teaching our young ones who are supposedly the future leaders of tomorrow. The journey of building great African nations starts with a step. Therefore, the mission of The Black Jewels Network (the initiator of Afro Scholars International) is to develop excellence

in the student's academic performance, cultivate creativity, build self-confidence in our graduating youths, learn more with lots of fun, and ultimately, make future visionary and great leaders in the Black race.

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**Afro Scholars International**

# **World of Entrepreneurship & Innovation**

... Exposing Afro Scholars to entrepreneurship and innovation



*"By the end of 2015, more than 50% of humans will have access to the internet, up from 36% in 2013. This 50% tipping point marks the beginning of The Innovation Age."*

- Ryan Allis

Humans have made great advances since 1800 as we've come through the Industrial Age to the Information Age—enabling the human population to grow from 1 billion to 7.2 billion in just two centuries.

The Information Age, which began with the advent of microcomputers in 1970 and ended with the start of the Innovation Age in 2015, has brought with it the greatest forty-five years in the history of human progress. These include:

- More than 50% of humans have access to the cloud
- Substantial increases in life expectancy
- Increase in per capita income
- Increase in literacy
- Decrease in infant mortality
- Decrease in the number of people living in poverty around the world.

Now, as we enter the Innovation Age (2015-2050), this present generation of scholars should stand on the shoulders of giants (creators and inventors) who have come before us. Today, Synthetic Biology is here. Clean renewable energy is here. Global connection is here. The platforms have been built. We now live in the most exciting time in human history for creators and innovators.



This is a great opportunity for today's young scholars, most especially in the black race), who are the potential future leaders, to start building on the existing structures through creative and innovative ideas. This, we intend to achieve in the Afro Scholars International World of Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The twenty-first century has been tagged the "entrepreneurial age". This is because nations are being shaped by entrepreneurs, men, and women who have taken their destinies into their own hands by risking their resources (time, money, and energy) in establishing and running their businesses.

The world over, from the USA to Asia, the United Kingdom to Africa, and Australia to Latin America, entrepreneurship has been promoted as an effective means of stimulating economic growth through the generation of greater employment opportunities, the development of local technological base, and source of foreign exchange earnings.

## Do you know...

\* Facebook started in a dorm room from nothing.

\* Apple began in a garage with some spare computer parts.

The lesson being:

You don't need millions of dollars, pounds, naira, etc in venture capital to start a business. You can launch a successful business with little or no money down. All it takes is hard work, focus, dedication, and, of course, the right idea.

You supply the first three; Afro Scholars World of Entrepreneurship and Innovation will give you the ideas right here — for free!

Now let's go!

Join the Afro Scholars International Entrepreneurs today.



## Why become a student entrepreneur?

- Jumoke Idowu

*"Entrepreneurship prepares students for long-term academic and work achievement. If you've got an idea, the university is an ideal opportunity to pursue it."*

- Emerson Csorba

As the 2021/2022 academic year is well and truly underway, many students will still be considering what clubs they might join. On the campus, debating, journalism, drama, and philosophy are among the most obvious pursuits. Of course, these activities are worthwhile in that they promote qualities such as persistence and creativity – valuable ingredients both personally and professionally.

However, there is another field – that of entrepreneurship – that has been gathering momentum in recent years.

Indeed, entrepreneurship is an activity that cannot only enhance students' success academically but strengthen confidence and instill qualities and skills conducive to success upon graduation.

Even though Entrepreneurship can be a stressful pursuit when undertaken alongside your studies, the rewards can enrich a traditional university experience. Student entrepreneurs gain hands-on experience with their education and grow their networks. However, such students have no choice but to become more diligent with their study time. Going by the words of Sir Richard Branson who once said that "Starting young is good, you can either learn through failing, as I did, or you can learn by being successful."

Entrepreneurship has inspired many students to learn about fields outside of their primary interests – politics and development – spending time in lectures on topics such as hi-tech, synthetic biology, and artificial intelligence.

In an increasingly interdisciplinary world, solutions to seemingly intractable problems will be solved by bringing together business, government, and charities. Students with the ability to think across disciplines and sectors prepare themselves for long-term success.

Traditionally, becoming an entrepreneur has been viewed as a risky endeavor. But with public figures including Oprah, Dangote, and other

entrepreneurs serving as public role models in the United States of America, the U.K, and Africa, there has never been a better time to chart one's course.

University is a formative and tremendously exciting time when students meet countless people, are exposed to new ways of thinking, and, in the process, come to better understand themselves.

Entrepreneurship, now one of the world's great advantages, adds an entirely new dimension to university studies. Fresher and continuing students alike have never been more able to see their ideas become reality and generate meaningful change in the process.

The Survival of the 21st Century Black Youth in a Competitive Environment

One of the challenges of living in the 'IT (Information Technology)' that is changing faster and faster is the average person's inability to handle all of the change. It is even more challenging as we now step into the 'Innovation Age'.

Let us confront you with these characteristics of the 21st Century. Simply put:

In an economy (national or global) driven by innovation and knowledge ...

In marketplaces engaged in intense competition and constant renewal ...

In a world of tremendous opportunities and risks ...

In a society facing complex business, political, scientific, technological, health, and environmental challenges ...

In diverse workplaces and communities that hinge on collaborative relationships and social networking ...

In this age of creativity...

The best employers of the world over are looking for the most competent, most creative, and most innovative people on the face of the earth and are willing to reward them with top pay for their services...

Therefore, ingenuity, agility, competence, innovation, and skills are some of the major tools that are necessary for any youth to survive or to be heard or to make any meaningful impact in this present 21st Century competitive environment. Black's Youngest and Most Promising Entrepreneurs

Presently, there is an emergence of some of black's youngest and most promising entrepreneurs. There are a rising number of young African Americans and Africans who are building fast-growing companies in food manufacturing, engineering, technology, hospitality, and any other industry you can think of. They are creating wealth as well as jobs, paying taxes, igniting the entrepreneurial spark among their peers, and most importantly, playing vital roles in the continent's economic transformation.

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# African People and Culture

**W**estern and Central Africa, the birthplace of the blacks, is a vast region with diverse cultures, beliefs, languages, and lifestyles.

Stretching from the westernmost point of Africa, across the equator, and partly along the Atlantic Ocean till the Republic of Congo in the South, it encompasses 22 countries that spread across semi-arid areas in the Sahel, large coastal areas on the Atlantic Ocean, and along the Gulf of Guinea and tropical forest covering many countries from Guinea to the Republic of Congo, through Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, and Gabon.

Home to about half a billion people, the sub-region has seen its population multiplied by 4 in the last 50 years. The population is mostly concentrated in the coastal areas, while landlocked countries generally experience lower density. The region has experienced accelerated urbanization, with cities hosting 48% of the population. With respectively 3.7 million and 3.1 million



inhabitants, Abidjan and Dakar are the largest francophone cities in the world after Kinshasa and Paris, and Lagos is among the largest English-speaking agglomerations in the World. And this rapid urbanization is expected to continue in the coming



years. With 12% of its population being under the age of 15, Western and Central Africa has one of the youngest populations in the world.

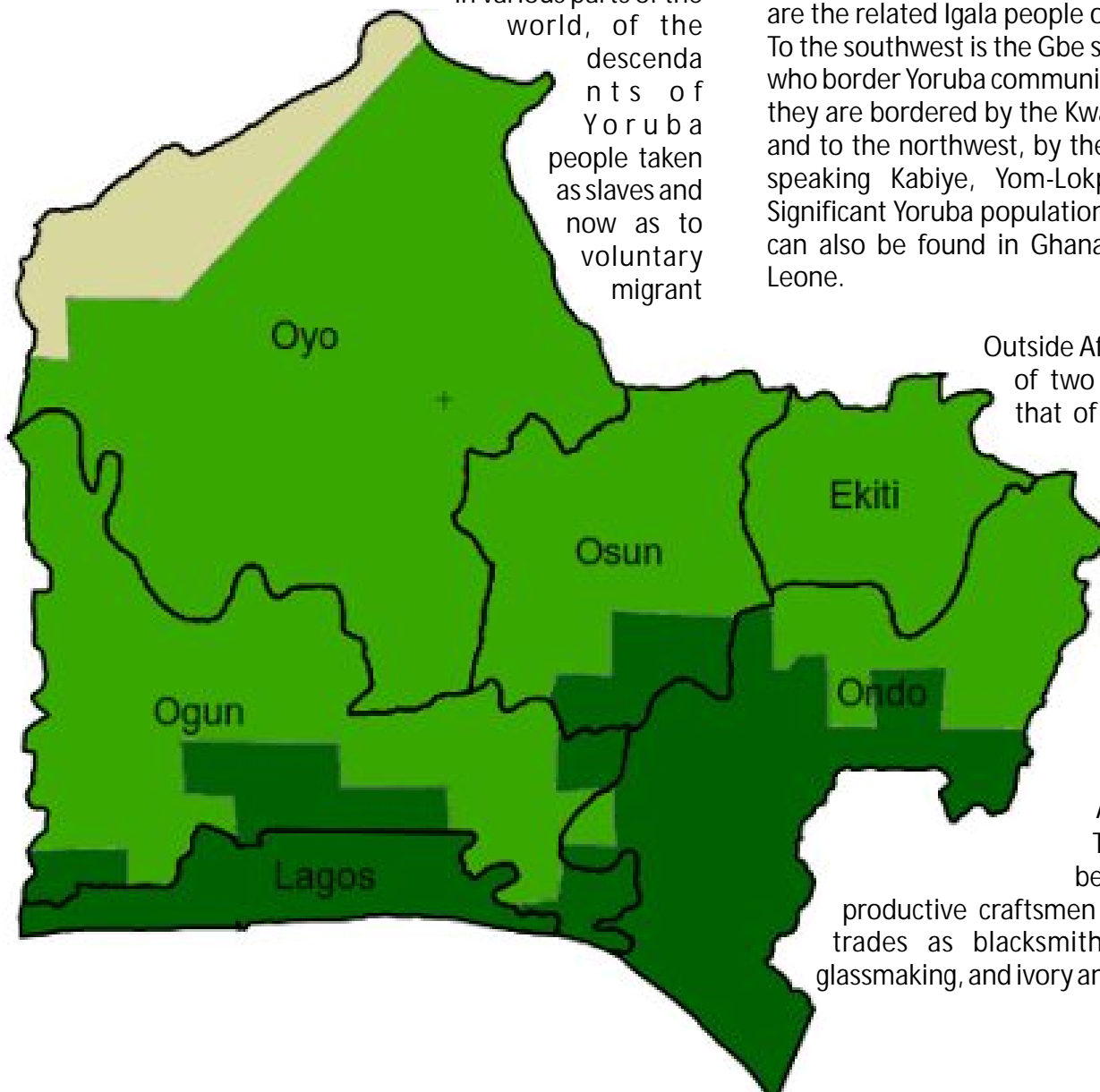
Many countries are resource-rich and export commodities such as Oil (Gabon, Nigeria, Republic of Congo), Cocoa (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana), and Cotton (Benin, Burkina Faso). The agriculture and food sector remains however central in most countries and provides income and employment opportunities to 82 million people. The sub-region is rich in resources and brimming with opportunities. It has experienced high economic growth from the mid-2000s, powered by high commodity prices across natural resource-rich, before slowing down over the recent period. The combined GDP at a market price of the 22 countries is estimated close to \$711 billion in 2019.

In this short write-up, we shall consider The Yoruba People.

## The Yoruba

The Yoruba have become truly global: in terms of their locations in different parts of the world; the representations of various aspects of their culture (including religion, art, music, dress, and cuisine), in these locations; the emergence of distinctive Yoruba Orisa traditions in the Americas; the physical presence,

in various parts of the world, of the descendants of Yoruba people taken as slaves and now as to voluntary migrant



s in the contemporary era; and the integration of Yoruba in African studies, Diaspora Studies, the Black Atlantic, and Atlantic history. Therefore, the places that the Yoruba call “home” have expanded far beyond the geographic space of southwestern Nigeria.

The Yoruba people are a West African ethnic group that mainly inhabits parts of Nigeria, Benin, and Togo that constitute Yoruba land. The Yoruba constitute around 45 million people in Africa, are a few hundred thousand outside the continent, and bear further representation among members of the African diaspora. The vast majority of the Yoruba population is today within the country of Nigeria, where they make up 15.5% of the country's population according to CIA estimations, making them one of the largest ethnic groups in Africa. Most Yoruba people speak the Yoruba language, which is the Niger-Congo language with the largest number of native speakers.

In Africa, the Yoruba are contiguous with the Yoruboid Itsekiri to the southeast in the northwest Niger Delta, Bariba to the northwest in Benin and Nigeria, the Nupe to the north, and the Ebira to the northeast in central Nigeria. To the east are the Edo, ?san, and the Afemai groups in mid-western Nigeria. To the northeast and adjacent to the Ebira and northern Edo, groups are the related Igala people on the left bank of the Niger River. To the southwest is the Gbe speaking Mahi, Gun, Fon, and Ewe who border Yoruba communities in Benin and Togo, to the west they are bordered by the Kwa speaking Akebu, Kposo of Togo, and to the northwest, by the Kwa speaking Anii, and the Gur speaking Kabiye, Yom-Lokpa and Tem people of Togo. Significant Yoruba populations in other West African countries can also be found in Ghana, Benin, Ivory Coast, and Sierra Leone.

Outside Africa, the Yoruba diaspora consists of two main groupings; the first being that of the Yoruba dispersed mainly to the western hemisphere between the 16th to 19th centuries, notably to Cuba and Brazil, and the second consisting of a wave of relatively recent migrants, the majority of whom began to migrate to the United Kingdom and the United States following some of the major economic and political changes encountered in Africa in the 1960s to 1980s.

The Yoruba have traditionally been among the most skilled and productive craftsmen of Africa. They worked at such trades as blacksmithing, weaving, leatherworking, glassmaking, and ivory and wood carving.



# Welcome to NIGERIA'S SOUTHWEST *(Birth-place of The Yoruba)*

The Yoruba people in the six states in southwest Nigeria occupy an important position in the Nigerian civilization. The Yoruba are heirs both to an ancient and cultured civilization known for its artistic triumphs, extraordinary oral literature, a complex pattern of gods, and urban lifestyle. In the recent past and until now, the civility of an average Yoruba is well advanced. Great thanks to all the early Yoruba leaders for bequeathing an imperishable

legacy in the fields of economics, politics, culture, and education, to the generations (including incoming) of this region.

One of the most resources oriented and endowed of the 36 States that made up Nigeria is the southwest region. There are limitless things that make the six southwest states, comprising Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, and Ekiti – in Nigeria stand out. These include:

\*Abundance of economic opportunities

that is readily available to be tapped and exploited by would-be investors (foreign and indigenous). All one needs to do is to identify the area of interest.

\*Strategic location and positioning of the 6 States. It has Lagos State, the former capital of Nigeria and the fastest growing and commercially viable State in Nigeria, and even in Black Africa.

\*The age-long civility and hospitable nature of Yoruba people are unprecedented.

\*These are States where opportunities avail whomever that finds himself or herself there. No matter the race, color, or creed; you can make headway in your chosen endeavors.

\*The South West region recognized for its pacesetter position in Nigeria:

- First television station in Africa
- The premier University in Nigeria
- First Teaching Hospital in Nigeria
- Liberty Stadium, the first Stadium built in Africa
- Cocoa House, the first skyscraper built in Africa

\*Presently, the six of Nigeria's Southwestern States have visionary democratic structures in place, led by visionary, purposeful leaders and astute administrators.

To our African Diasporas, we want to say without any iota of doubt that there is no contention about it, where you are now is relatively the best place to live, in terms of the comforts and infrastructures in these nations. Mind you, Africa today is the best place to make or get wealth. Wealth is a function or reward for service. Presently, it is here in Africa that your long-time acquired skills, experiences, and services are highly required; more importantly, you can be sure that your newly acquired knowledge and experiences will be adequately rewarded. Check this out!



GOV. BABAJIDE SANWOLU  
Lagos State



GOV. ABIODUN OYEBAMIJI  
Ekiti State



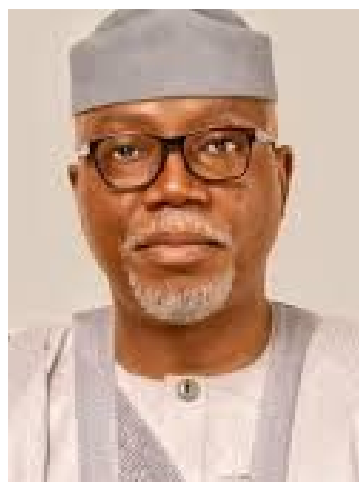
GOV. NURUDEEN ADELEKE  
Osun State



GOV. DAPO ABIODUN  
Ogun State



GOV. SEYI MAKINDE  
Oyo State



GOV. LUCKY AYEDATIWA  
Ondo State

A well-trained African doctor from Europe, the United States of America, or Russia with a well-equipped medical outfit situated in Lagos or Abuja or Accra or Pretoria will earn good dividends on the capital outlay. Aside, it is possible for you to have an investment in your fatherland while still in your place of abode. All you need to do is to have a legal and a professional manager or administrator.

## Dressing/Consumers/Fashion Traditional Clothes

The Yoruba have peculiar types of clothes that make them distinct from other cultures. They have Asoibile, the traditional clothes of various types and shades. Both male and female have different types, and it is an aberration then for a man to wear a woman's clothes and vice versa. Before the advent of the Europeans to the Yoruba land, only hand woven clothes were available. The Yoruba started from using 'ibante' (a piece of thick hand woven cloth). It is only used for



covering the private parts of both male and female. Ibante is made from a type of cloth called 'kijipa'. (It is a tarpaulin – like cloth). It is usually very thick and can withstand any stress. Later on, people started wearing normal cloth that is made from 'aso-oke'. Some of these types of aso-oke materials include 'etu', 'petuje', 'san-an-yan', 'alaaari' and so on. For men's wear, they have 'buba', 'esiki' and 'sapara', which are regarded as 'ewuawotele' or under wear, while they also have 'dandogo', 'agbada', 'gbariye',

'sulia' and 'oyala', which are also known as 'ewuawoleke' or over wears. They also have various types of 'sokoto' or native trousers that are worn alongside the above-mentioned dresses. Some of these are kembe, gbanu, sooro, kamu, sokotoelemu, etc. A man's dressing is incomplete without a cap. Some of these caps include, but are not limited to, Gobi, tinko, abeti-aja, alagbaa, oribi, bentigoo, onide, and labankada. The tailors and the designers have various styles and patterns that they do to these caps and the various dresses mentioned above. All these add to the aesthetic values of these traditional wears and the person who put them on. It must be noted that the culture of under wears, as in pants, brassiere etc. is a culture borrowed from the Europeans.

Women also have different types of dresses. The most commonly found are irepo and buba or wrapper with a blouse-like loose top with the sleeve almost getting to the wrist. Women also have gele or head gear that must be put on whenever the irepo and buba is on. Just

as the cap is important to men, women's dressing is incomplete if gele is not put on. This gele is wound twice round the head and tucked on one side. It may be of plain cloth or costly as the women can afford. Apart from this, they also have iborun or ipele. It is like a miniature wrapper that is hanged on the left shoulder of women. At times, it is tied round their waists over the wrapper. Unlike men, women have two types of under wears that we call tobi and sinmi. Tobi is like the modern day apron with strings and spaces in which women can keep their money. They tie this tobi around their waists before putting on the irepo. Sinmi is like a sleeveless T-shirt that is worn under before wearing any other dress.

## Modern Clothes

In the contemporary period, the Yoruba wear various types of clothing because of their interactions with other cultures, especially through education, trade, travel and religion. This is why it is possible to see some Yoruba people with suits and ties and some others with heavy turbans on hot sunny afternoons. The Yoruba wear modern clothing like shirts and trousers, skirts and blouses, suits, gowns that are all borrowed from the Europeans. They also wear caftan, babanriga, Senegalese boubou and the likes that are all borrowed from the Arabs and other cultures in Africa. It must be noted, however, that most of the materials used for sewing the above dresses vary. While some of these fabrics include various types of lace materials, guinea brocade materials, ankras, linens and others that are imported into the country, the Yoruba also make use of adire and batiks that have their roots in Yoruba land. All these are also used for sewing various types of dresses. The colors of the various types of clothing described above vary. While some combine many of the primary and secondary colors, others are just single color like blue, green, white, red, yellow, and so on. Despite these developments, the Yoruba are still patronizing a fraction of their traditional wears. For men, only agbada, buba, sokoto and various types of fila or caps are still in use. Women also wear only irepo, buba, and gele. Tobi and sinmi are no longer in use. Majority of others discussed above cannot be commonly found in the cities. Relics of these are still been found in the villages and the countryside.

## Oyotunji African Village: A Small Yoruba Nation in America

During the slave trade era, many Africans were taken as slave abroad. The first Yoruba people who arrived to the United States were imported as slaves from Nigeria and Benin during the Atlantic slave trade. This ethnicity of the slaves was one of the main origins of present-day Nigerians who arrived to the United States, along with the Igbo. In addition, native slaves of current Benin hailed from peoples such as Nago (Yoruba subgroup,



although exported mainly by Spanish, when Louisiana was Spanish) -, Ewe, Fon and Gen. Many of the slaves imported to the modern United States from Benin were sold by the King of Dahomey, in Whydah.

While going, some left with their culture and tradition which they continued with in the strange land where they found themselves. They continued with the culture and tradition of their fathers so as to maintain their identity.

America's oldest authentic African village. It was founded in 1970 and is the first intentional community in North America, based on the culture of the Yoruba and Dahomey tribes of West Africa. It has survived 48 years of sustaining the Yoruba traditional sociology and values in the diaspora. The village is named after the Oyo Empire, and the name literally means "Oyo returns" or "Oyo rises again" or "Oyo resurrects". The village occupies 27 acres of land.

religion and culture among African Americans. He later found the Sango Temple in New York and incorporated the African Theological Arch Ministry in 1960. The Sango Temple was relocated and renamed the Yoruba Temple. In 1970, Oba Waja found the Yoruba Village of Oyotunji in Beaufort County, South Carolina, and began the careful re-organisation of the Orisa-Vodu Priesthood along traditional Nigerian lines. To further his knowledge of Yoruba culture, he travelled to Abeokuta in



The Yorubas in slavery are among the Africans that maintained their culture in the strange land and it was handed down to their children from generation to generation. Many of their children, after the abolition of the slave trade, have married children of their former masters thus having children of mixed blood, that notwithstanding, they still carry on with their African culture in the foreign land since most of them cannot trace their root back to Africa. The Yoruba culture has been one of the prominent and most celebrated one throughout the world till date.

In faraway United States of America, there is a Yoruba community named Oyotunji African Village. It is located near Sheldon, Beaufort County, South Carolina. Oyotunji is regarded as North

Oyotunji was founded by His Royal Highness Oba (King) Waja, Ofuntola Osejeman Adelabu Adefunmi I, was born Walter Eugene King on October 5, 1928, in Detroit, Michigan, USA. A graduate from Cass Technical High School, Oba Waja's exposure to African religion began when he became associated with the Katherine Dunham Dance Troupe at the age of 20. He later travelled to Haiti where he discovered more about the Yoruba culture. Armed with a new understanding of the African culture, he found the order of Damballah Hwedo, Ancestor Priests in Harlem NY. On August 26, 1959, Oba Waja became the first African born in America to become fully initiated into the Orisa-Vodun African priesthood by African Cubans in Matanzas, Cuba. This marked the beginning of the spread of Yoruba

Nigeria in 1972 where he was initiated into the Ifa priesthood by the Oluwa of Ijeun at Abeokuta, Ogun state, in August of 1972. He was later proclaimed Alase (Oba-King) of the Yoruba of North America at Oyotunji Village in 1972.

He passed away on Thursday, February 10th 2005 at Oyotunji African Village in Beaufort County, South Carolina. And Since Adefunmi's death in 2005, the village has been led by his son, Oba Adejuyigbe Adefunmi, till date. The Oba title is referred to as "Oloyotunji" of Oyotunji.

(Reference: The Story of Oyotunji, a small Yoruba nation in America, by Seun Adeyemi)

# NIGERIA'S CULTURAL TRADITIONS Preserved By Survivors of Slavery

- Chief Styles



Well-known across the United States and Nigeria for his longstanding commitment and illustrious career dedicated to developing sustainable cultural enterprise for indigenous communities around the world, High Chief Styles is an African-American who has devoted his time and energy to uniting Africans through culture. After discovering his love for Nigeria and traveling across all parts of Africa, his studies brought him face to face with the rich cultural practices, and he became increasingly passionate about bringing the many religious and cultural traditions to the Diaspora in the U.S.

Chief Nathaniel B. Styles, Jr. (Olosun) is the firstborn of his parents and naturally sees himself as a leader. While studying International Affairs and Business at American Universities in the USA, England, and Italy in the 80s, the first continental Africans he met were Nigerians while studying in Italy. They were three brothers, a set of twins who worked in the arts, music, and theatre, and Eddie, a Professor of Architecture. Hosted in Nigeria during his first visit by Olorogun Michael Ibru, he received a bird's eye view of business success in Nigeria. Through him, he knew about Nigeria, the heart of Africa. Through the Ibru family, he was exposed to many luxury brands integrated with traditional object d'art. Shortly thereafter, Styles completed University in London and returned to the USA where he incorporated Ethnic of Ybor with Nassim Saidi, a businessman in Lagos, producing accessories, clothing, and furniture in Nigeria and distributing to JC Penney throughout the USA.

They also supplied several Museum stores, boutiques, galleries, and theme parks throughout USA and Caribbean, utilizing traditional craftsmen to manufacture contemporary items that were created to sustain traditional crafts and the families that created them.

Having studied under the late Adunni Olorisa, Susanne Wenger, mother of the New Sacred Art Movement, he believes that culture should be used as a tool to create sustainable cultural enterprise, driving trade and tourism that will aid in economically transforming and uniting communities. As a result, in 2005, he was actively engaged in the visioning and architectural planning of what is now known as the African and Caribbean Cultural Arts Corridor and Osun's Village. In 2006, along with Business Associate Harlan E. Woodard, the High Chief was instrumental in the development and unanimous passage of state legislation (Senate Bill 308) establishing the 43 city block area in Miami's Liberty City community designed to promote the arts and culture of the countries and participating sister cities, to build the economic and creative capacity of participants.

High Chief Styles Jr. was once asked, "Why are you so in love with Nigerian culture?"

He replied thus: "I love Nigeria because, although I, like so many in the Diaspora, am not in Nigeria, Nigeria is in us. I was taught very early that Africa is the mother of civilization and with that understanding, it was clear to me that the world's cultures originate from Africa. As a child, I was raised in a spiritual temple in South Florida. I was always intrigued by spirituality and watching

the elders work magic. It was through Afro Cuban Yoruba practitioners in our community that I became aware of the fact that many of my family's spiritual practices were, in fact, from our West African ancestors. The Babalawo identified many of the spiritual practices of my stepfather as ancient customs and traditions inherited from his Nupe ancestors. Many of these same practices were taught to him by his Yoruba ancestors in Cuba. Although we were not consciously practicing African spirituality, as far as we were concerned, we were spiritualists practicing metaphysics. My mother is from the Gullah Geechee area of the US in the Carolinas. The Geechee originally from the Mende and Yoruba tribes of Sierra Leone, has preserved their distinct African traditions despite centuries of existence in the USA. My late mother's employment in travel and tourism allowed me to fly across the globe and have direct exposure to the culture at my discretion. Florida is the capital of the Diaspora and since my childhood, I have seen Africanisms expressed through the Caribbean carnivals in Miami, like those in Salvador, Brazil, the Bahamian Junkanoo, and MokoJumbie stilt walkers from Trinidad, like the Egungun dancers of Nigeria. These are all Africanisms that were present in my life as I grew up. We celebrated sacred spiritual days, watch night services to bring in the new year, the feast of the Epiphany on January 6 where we would devour delicious home-cooked Southern meals prepared by men and women members of our temple. We observed ceremonies to welcome newly born babies into our families and community. Our coming of age was marked by ceremonies with family and friends present. Culture has always been engraved in my consciousness. It's what we live, eat and breathe. My first love in my adult life was Nigeria; it's through her that I made a direct connection to my roots."





# Season of Festivals



Festivals are a great way to gather, enjoy a shared culture, and have fun. They can happen any time of year, but with the summer season kicking into full gear, the good weather and more flexible vacation schedules make it ideal for unwinding. Now is the time to start planning your social calendar for the remainder of the year.

If you are looking for fun, Black-centric events to enjoy, here are some of the top options happening coast to coast. From niche events to major branded blowouts, here are some festivals that cover everything from music to networking, advancing the culture and just having a good time.

## Circle City Classic Indianapolis, IN

People may be amazed to find out that Indianapolis is such a central space preserving, promoting, and showcasing Black culture. However, the same IBE that hosts the Summer Celebration also organizes the Circle City Classic. Now in its 40th year, the event is like a massive annual Midwestern HBCU homecoming event, held in Indianapolis, Indiana. The entire weekend includes a football game, Greek strolls, performances, a parade, a coronation, and countless other events, held throughout the city. The highlight event will be Saturday, September 28th at Lucas Oil Stadium when North Carolina Central University faces Norfolk State University.



## Afrofuture Accra, Ghana

For those who are passport-ready and

looking to escape domestic shores, Afrofuture is calling their name. The festival was formerly known as Afrochella when it began in 2019. The event closes out the Black festival circuit as it will be held in Accra, Ghana between December 27th and January 3rd, 2025. The event spotlights African achievements in music culture, and entrepreneurship.

## Techsgiving - December 11-14, 2024

[John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington D.C. techsgiving.org](https://www.techsgiving.org)

The Techsgiving Summit is for tech professionals, entrepreneurs, and innovators to empower diverse tech professionals and entrepreneurs. The summit features networking events, workshops, and sessions, focusing on career mobility, leadership, technical skills, innovation, entrepreneurship, government tech, contracting, and consulting.



## Beaucoup Hoodoo Festival

October 10-13, 2024  
New Orleans, LA

The only ATRS (African Traditional Religions) festival of its kind, Beaucoup Hoodoo Fest features cultural events such as second lining to Congo Square, praying, and dancing under ancestral trees. It celebrates African heritage with a focus on spirituality, culture, and community.





## Bali Carnival

September 26th – October 2nd, 2024

Canggu, Bali, Indonesia

Immerse yourself in Bali Carnival 2024, where the vibrancy of a Caribbean carnival meets Bali's rich cultural tapestry. This event offers a unique blend of tradition and festivity against the backdrop of Bali's stunning landscapes,



with events and island sightseeing including waterfalls, temples, watersports, and ricefields.

## Antigua Carnival 2024

August 2nd – August 7th, 2024

Antigua

Explore multiple destinations with curated activities and local experiences. This event offers a blend of relaxation, adventure, and cultural immersion,



perfect for those looking to make the most of their vacation days.

## Barbados Crop Over Festival

August 1st – August 6th, 2024

Bridgetown, Barbados



The Crop Over Summer Festival is Barbados' most popular and colorful festival. It features events, such as the Opening Gala, Bridgetown Market, Cohoblopot, Kiddies Kadooment, and the Grand Kadooment parade. The festival celebrates Barbadian culture with calypso music, arts and crafts, and elaborate costumes.

## Afro Nation Detroit

August 17-18, 2024

Detroit, MI

[afro-nation.com](http://afro-nation.com)



Featuring Rema, PartyNextDoor, Kash Doll, Amaarae, and Uncle Waffles.

## Carnival Calabar

Dec-24

Calabar, Nigeria

[carnivalcalabar.com](http://carnivalcalabar.com)



Known for its spectacular costumes and vibrant music, this festival highlights Nigerian cultural celebrations.

## Flytime Festival

Dec-24



Lagos, Nigeria

[flytimefest.com](http://flytimefest.com)

Nigeria's longest-running indoor music festival featuring major African and international artists.

## Notting Hill Carnival

Aug-24

London, UK

[nhcarnival.org](http://nhcarnival.org)



Europe, A&S the largest street festival, celebrating Caribbean culture with music, dance, and vibrant costumes.

## Coronation

June 26–28th, 2024

Portimao, Portugal

[afro-nation.com](http://afro-nation.com)

Coronation is a global celebration of Afrobeat and world music. With a stunning beach backdrop, this annual festival hosts an eclectic mix of international and African artists, drawing



a multicultural crowd for a unique and unforgettable music fest by the sea.

## Mombasa Carnival

November, Kenya

Kenya's largest annual festival, organized by the Ministry of Tourism, is a carnival of floats, costumes, music, and dance that showcases the region's cultural diversity. Traditional and contemporary musicians





perform, and the streets are lined with stalls offering all sorts of local delicacies, such as fresh coconut milk and the brewed concoction known as Mnazi, made from coconut sap. During these African celebrations, participants often dress in traditional Kikoy and Kanga, and the parade finally winds down to the beach at Fort Jesus for a boat regatta!

**LAGOS FREEDOM FEST 2024**  
 Tuesday, October 1 · 4 - 9 pm WAT  
 Location  
 Freedom Park Lagos  
 1 broad Street, Lagos Island, Lagos State



Lagos Freedom Fest 2024 is a vibrant live music and cultural event organized to commemorate Nigeria's independence and showcase the nation's rich diversity. The event is hosted by Tenstrings Music Institute in collaboration with Freedom Park Lagos. This exciting festival is expected to welcome a minimum of 1,000 guests and will run from 4 PM to 8 PM. The event kicks off with captivating cultural activities during the day, followed by an electrifying live concert in the evening.

**Calabar Go Pink Day 2024**  
 Date: Saturday, October 19 · 7:30 am -

5pm WAT  
 Location: Millennium Park  
 Millennium Park Calabar, CR 540281

Welcome to Calabar Go Pink Day 2024! Join us at Millennium Park, Calabar Nigeria for a day to raise awareness of breast cancer sandwiched with fun activities, breast medical exams, and



cancer screening. Wear your favorite pink outfit (or one provided at the event) and show your support for this important cause. There will be live music, food trucks, and even a pink-themed photo booth for you to capture the memories. Let's come together as a community to spread hope and love. Don't miss out on this special event! Calabar Go Pink Day, we are reminded of the powerful truth that "two are better than one, but a community is best." Wear your favorite pink outfit (or one provided at the event,) and show your support for this important cause. There will be live music, food trucks, and even a pink-themed photo booth for you to capture the memories. Let's come together as a community to spread hope and love. Don't miss out on this special event! Calabar Go Pink Day, we are reminded of the powerful truth that "two are better than one, but a community is best."

The theme for Calabar Go Pink Day 24 (CGPD24), "Better than One," resonates deeply with us, and we invite you to join us in the fight against breast cancer.

.....  
**Yoruba Cultural Exchange Festival**  
 Date and time  
 September 6 · 5pm - September 7 · 11pm CDT

First Eye Inc. in Chicago Illinois is a Non-Profit Cultural Event planner as a Facilitator, Promoting Global peace through, Lectures, symposiums, workshops, Art, Cultural festivals,

Business forums, Awards, and Tourism. The Firsteye Concept presents the 15th Exchange program festival and Business



Forum Award Gala. The program event shall witness another international business forum on Solar Energy on Friday 6th September 2024 and a prestigious Red Carpet Gala will be held on Saturday 7th September 2024 at the Malcolm X College Auditorium Chicago 1900 W Jackson B/vd, Chicago IL 60612, USA.

...there's  
**something unique about the Black Race**



## Tourism

**T**ourism is one of the primary drivers of economic growth and job creation in emerging economies throughout the world (Africa inclusive). International tourists traveling to emerging countries often inject similar amounts of wealth into national economies as private and public sector investments and development assistance from foreign governments. In 2015, foreign direct investment to the African continent totaled \$54 billion and official development assistance totaled \$51.04 billion, while tourism generated \$39.2 billion and created 9.1 million direct jobs within the sector. Therefore, the tourism industry has an increasingly important role in the global economy by contributing to GDP, service exports, and employment.

Africa's unique history and natural wonders are gaining attention amid the local and global increase in cultural, heritage, and development tourism. Based on analyses of various countries' governance and business environments, it is clear that numerous African countries present tremendous promise to become or remain vibrant hosts for tourists, investors, and entrepreneurs, which can drive employment for low-skilled workers and economic inclusion for women and youth.

*(Editor's Note: The Black Jewels Network builds on the Brookings report entitled "Africa's tourism potential: Trends, drivers, opportunities, and strategies.")*

### Tourism Opportunities in Africa

A recent World Bank study classified African countries into four performance categories: "pre-emergent," "potential," "emerging," and "consolidating" tourism destinations. The performance of countries was based on indicators such as the ease of doing business; the competitiveness in terms of tourism regulation, infrastructure, and resources; the tourism receipts per long-haul arrivals; the international arrival per head of population; and the forecast of growth in tourism arrivals. The pre-emerging countries, such as Somalia and Sudan, have faced significant security and governance challenges as well as low government commitments to the tourism sector. The potential countries, such as Madagascar, Ethiopia, and Gabon, have shown relative interest and initiative in the sector, but are still facing governance challenges and market limitations. The emerging countries such as, Rwanda and the Seychelles, are prioritizing and scaling up tourism and relatively competitive. Finally, the consolidating countries, such as Morocco, South Africa, and Mauritius, are among the top performers with a relatively mature tourism sector.

Fifteen years ago, the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (renamed African Union Development Agency) adopted the Tourism Action Plan to bring



visibility to tourism on the continent. Tourism has since become integral to economic development policies. Several countries recently increased their efforts to advance their travel and tourism industries, including the Gambia, Kenya, South Africa, and Tanzania, to accommodate the nearly 62 million annual visitors to the continent. South

Africa and Kenya receive the largest amounts of tourism-focused investment at \$6.1 billion and \$404 million respectively.

While motivations for travel may change periodically, the tourism industry has always been a major economic contributor of jobs and opportunity. Tourism accounts for 10 percent of the world's jobs and GDP, and generally provides high levels of employment for women and young people. As Africa's emerging economies begin to shift away from relying on commodities and agriculture and toward boosting their service industries, the tourism industry has become a major focus of national development strategies.

### Africa's Top Tourist Attractions in 2021

Africa is home to some of the world's most beautiful places. For this reason, every year, thousands and thousands of tourists take trips to Africa to behold its beauty.

Black Folks in Diaspora should definitely plan to visit soon if you haven't already.

According to Statista, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, as of May 2021, around 1.04 million international tourists visited Africa.

Do you intend to be one of these people soon? The following are Africa's topmost visited attractions:

#### Lekki Conservative Centre



In the heart of one of Nigeria's most bustling cities, Lagos, away from the usual business of the city, is the Lekki Conservative. It was established in 1990 and has since attracted tourists year





after year.

The Lekki Conservative Centre is home to Africa's longest canopy walk. It has a rating of 4 out of 5 from 552 reviews on trip advisor alone.

From the canopy walk, thrill, and fun moving up and down your body, you can look down at nature. At amazing trees, the chirping of birds warming your eyes.

The people of Lagos, Nigeria, are welcoming people, and the city itself holds a rich heritage.

### Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

In the beautiful country of Zimbabwe, deep within a rainforest, Victoria Falls sits in splendor.

In the local tongue of the people who live around it, Victoria falls translates: "Smoke that thunders."

This seems to be a befitting name for the largest waterfall in the



world. Waterfalls from the Zimbabwean Victoria Falls at about 12,800 cubic meters per second, producing the sounds of thunder.

The Victoria Falls area is also home to colorful birds. Note that you may just have to work to stop yourself from taking pictures of this beautiful place! It gets addictive, haha.

### Table Mountains, South Africa

A beautiful, flat-topped mountain overlooks the South African city of Cape Town. This mountain is a prominent tourist attraction, pulling up to 4.2 million people every year. These people come to do a number of activities:



- To watch the serenity.
- To hike
- To vibe in cars
- To take rides in the beautiful cable cars.

The table mountain of South Africa is one of the new seven wonders of nature.

It is a safe place to be and is adequately protected. For this reason, many tourists from overseas love to visit there. There are a number of suites and hotels within it. You can have a taste of South Africa's exquisite meals and a feel of the warmth of South African people.



## Lake Retba, Senegal

A beautiful and special lake sits deep within Senegal, about 30 kilometres from the capital city of Dakar. This lake is called Lake Retba and also referred to as 'Lac Rou' by the locals. It draws day-tripping tourists from all over the world.

An alkaline body of water, it is one of the few pink-colored lakes



in the world. It gets its color from a pigment produced by the bacteria covering it.

Lake Retba is one beauty to behold when the sun casts its rays on it. You just cannot see enough of it, and you might have a hard time stopping yourself from taking pictures.

## River Nile, Egypt

One of Africa's most magnificent sights is the river Nile. It is one of the longest river in the world, second only to the Amazon



river.

The River Nile brings in vast tourist visits every year. Tourists also use the opportunity to see the John Speke monument, the first explorer to find the source of the Nile while visiting the River Nile.

Spanning across ten countries, the Nile is one of the seven wonders of Africa.

The Nile area is mentioned in a number of myths and legends. No wonder is one of the most visited places by tourists in Africa. The sun's glare on the river surface is a calming sight.

## Sahara Dunes, Morocco

Morocco offers one the safest places to view the Sahara desert. A trip to the Sahara Dunes, Morocco, should be on your list if you are seeking to visit Africa's most beautiful tourist attraction sites.

The Sahara desert, which derives its names from the Arabic noun 'ṣaḥr' is one of the largest deserts worldwide and is very beautiful. Camels and Nomads are not uncommon sights for visitors. The sand and dunes are aesthetic and look pretty good in pictures.





# Going Back To Our Roots

By: Emmanuel Phillips

**D**uring the slave trade era, the world witnessed the greatest denigration of man ever recorded in the history of humanity. Records have it that majority of black men and women were taken against their wish to foreign lands. Nigeria was not spared from such inhumane acts – the battering of children, men, and women. It was the highest order of impiety of man to man.

Today, The Black Jewels Network is not out to bring back the memory of the Yoruba race of those horrific and atrocious days to cause unnecessary friction or to apportion blame to the initiators of the slave trade. But rather, for our black folks wherever they may find themselves under the heaven (the Caribbean, United States of America, South America, United Kingdom, Africa, and name it) to remember their root. No matter the achievements made, Africans in Diaspora should remember their original root – Africa; we need to be connected and make a positive impact on our place of origin.

When destiny is the subject of discourse, diverse interpretations and reasons are attributed to it. In most instances, it conjures up an aura of mystique, a realm beyond the comprehension of the ordinary human. As a result of this conceptual view, it is not unusual for matters on destiny to be regarded by many people as an act of God. Therefore, all manners of the situation have now been attributed to destiny. Misfortunes, calamities, wars, famines, business went sour, deliberate of malevolence, and even poverty or underdevelopment of human capacities or nations or continent, have found places within the confines of destiny. This perception of destiny has been fostered by one single phenomenon, and that is ignorance.

Destiny indeed is movable, malleable, and adjustable, and can be changed. Using the words of Shakespeare, the great legend, “It is not in our stars, but ourselves that we are underlings.”

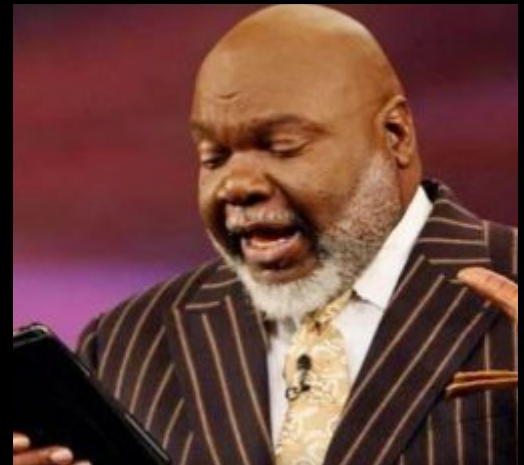
We should give kudos to International organizations like the United Nations and other regional organizations for all their supportive roles and contributions in alleviating poverty and underdevelopment. The greater bulk of the aid and assistance are directed to the third world, predominantly the “Black race”, most especially to people in the continent in Africa. The resultant effect is that this good gesture has always made our identity that of an underdog. We have always been pitied or tolerated as beggars. And until we can take the bull by the horns, the stigma will not be removed. As a race, we must be able to take responsibility for our destiny. We must begin to look inwardly as individual persons or nations or as a corporate entity, sourcing solutions to our present situations and circumstances, rather than looking endlessly for external handouts or redemption.

Other races – Caucasian (white) and Mongolian (yellow) have made significant contributions to civilization. They have changed and improved their physical environment and communities. Individuals among these races had made, and are still making great inventions and discoveries. They have sought and found solutions to critical problems, especially those that lead to a better standard of living for their people. On the other hand, Africa and the black race are inferior to other continents. This is a result of our uncaring attitudes and failure to use our resources (natural and human) effectively to improve the continent and the welfare of our people.

Thank God for having many of our folks all over the industrial nations. Despite



Erykah Badu (Cameroon)



Bishop T.D. Jakes (Nigeria)



Oprah Winfrey (Liberia, Cameroon)



Whoopi Goldberg (Guinea-Bissau)



Common (Cameroon)



Chris Tucker (Angola, Cameroon)



Chris Rock (Cameroon)

the overt and covert racism and unbridled exploitation to which blacks had been subjected in their host nations, our folks have shown ingenuity in making the best of their environment to bring out great achievements in science, music, sports, religion, politics, academics, and in other areas of human endeavors. Today, many black Africans are now making headways in their chosen human endeavors, and their names are making waves in a strange land. They are making positive impacts in their host nations and

having breakthroughs in sciences, architecture, education, politics, and engineering. They have made considerable progress.

Many black folks have been integrated into the public sector – Federal, State, and Local Governments, in their countries of abode. Many black professionals have attained recognizable positions in strategic industries. In the United States of America, black Americans constituted an appreciable percent of the nation's security – Police and Army. Presently, one of our brothers - Barrack Obama, is the leader and former President of the supposedly greatest nation of the world. Today Kamala Harris is the Vice President of the United States of America.

With all these great achievements by our folks in the strange land, there are no corresponding reflections in their place of origin. This tends to portray part of our attributes. An average Blackman loves to enjoy good things of life like modern appliances, goods, and services, which other races had for centuries worked hard to invent and attain. This trait is the bane to the greatest socio-economic problem of Africa. For selfish reasons and self-interest, my people sold out their fellow kinsmen or tribesmen and women to white strangers for consumable goods like beads, wines, and second-hand clothing.

It is a known fact that the consumption pattern of my people in this continent is towards the finished goods from the developed nations. As a result, governments in African nations use the meager resources from their subsistent economic activities to settle bills and to service debts on imported consumable goods. This has posed a great problem to the socio-economic development of the African continent.

Up until date, our leaders allow for the greater percentage of the syndrome of brain drain in Africa, because of their self-centeredness. These self-motivated leaders siphon the hard-earned money in the land to waste on frivolous spending on their foreign trips, while the citizens, even members of their immediate and extended families are living in abject

poverty. They spend huge sums of hard currency for birthday parties, acquiring estates in a strange land, and lodging their loots in foreign banks. This in effect affects the economies of their nations, thereby causing hardships for the people. Moreover, the fortunate ones travel out of the continent and live as refugees in a strange land. What a vicious cycle!

Finally, I want to confront fellow folks with this poser: How many African American or Afro Caribbean scientists, engineers, and technicians have come in recent times to establish their industries in Africa? Thank God, for these patriots of old:

In 1858, Martin R. Delany, a black physician-led an expedition of black Americans who wanted to settle in Africa and signed treaties with many African traditional rulers.

Paul Cuffee, a rich black American shipowner, transported at his expense, a group of 38 blacks to Sierra Leone in 1815.

In 1858, Benjamin Coates and other leading black Americans formed the African Civilization Society intending to foster social and economic ties between Africa and America. Fortunately or unfortunately as the case may be, the urge to achieve these great moves by these patriots waned or died down with the emancipation and the granting of citizenship rights to blacks in 1863. No wonder why many of our folks today forget their fatherland immediately after they received their "GREEN CARDS".

Today, many industries are being established in Africa by other races – Caucasian (white) and Mongolian (yellow). They do this neither for the interest of our people nor the black continent, but for profit maximization. Worse still, they repatriate their profits to their fatherland, thereby making life more comfortable for their people at the detriment of Africa. Folks, let's wise up!

The story was told of a great patriot, Nehemiah, a Jew who found himself in a strange land by circumstances beyond his control. He was a cupbearer (the equivalent of the present Special



Adviser) to king Artaxerxes. While Nehemiah no doubt enjoyed a position of great trust as Special Adviser to the king and flourished in the affluence and luxury of the palace, his heart was in Jerusalem, his root. He was disturbed when he heard that his people were in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem was broken down, and the gates thereof were burnt with fire. Listen to the words of this great patriot:

*"And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven."* Neh, 1:4.

King Artaxerxes observed a remarkable change in Nehemiah's countenance. The king inquired from him, "Why is your countenance sad, seeing you are not sick?" Nehemiah replied the king, "Let the king live forever; why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my father sepulchers, lies waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire?" There and then, Nehemiah took his leave to the plight of his people.

O Lord, how long will it take YOU to give unto us in the "Black race" and this generation, men like Nehemiah, the son of Hachaliah?

Folks, the present plight in the African continent urgently calls for patriots and leaders whose hearts will be moved like that of Nehemiah. Fellow brothers and sisters, here we are soliciting the support of Black Africans in Diaspora who will come and build our continent that "lies waste with its fallen walls and burnt gates".

The Black Jewels Network looks forward to the contributions of the black folks in Diaspora on this page. You can send your articles to my mail: [phillipsemmanuel@info.com](mailto:phillipsemmanuel@info.com).

# 10 African American Celebrities who have traced their African roots



A growing number of people are beginning to use ancestry and genealogical databases to discover their African roots. Celebrities are no different. Many of them were surprised to find that their lineage traced back to Africa, and you may be surprised, too, when you find out where these 10 African American public figures are really from.

- Tiffany Haddish – Eritrea
- Blair Underwood – Cameroon

- Idris Elba – Sierra Leone.
- Ludacris – Gabon
- Samuel L. Jackson - Gabon
- Oprah Winfrey – Liberia and Cameroon
- Q Tip – Bisau
- Anthony Anderson – Equatorial Guinea
- Erykah Badu - Cameroon
- Isaiah Washington

## Diaspora Movement

In recent times, there has been an unprecedented movement of the black Americans to Africa. African Americans are returning to the lands of their ancestors as life becomes precarious and dangerous in the United States. Many African Americans have come from the cities of San Francisco, Chicago, and the New York. Thousands of them have visited Africa and some refuse to return.

A new wave of black people is escaping

the incessant racism and prejudice in the United States. From Senegal and Ghana to Gambia, communities are emerging in defiance of conventional wisdom that Africa is a continent everyone is trying to leave.

It is estimated that between 3, 000 and 5, 000 African Americans live in Accra, the Ghanaian capital. They are teachers in small towns in the west or entrepreneurs in the capital. Even though living in Ghana

is not easy, they feel free and safe.

Take Muhamunida el – Muhajir, a digital marketer from New York City, who left her job to move to Accra. She says that she moved because despite her education and experience, she was always made to feel like a second – class citizen. Moving was an opportunity to fulfill her potential and avoid being targeted by racial violence.

On the prospect of more African Americans moving, she said, “I think more will come when they begin to see it as a viable alternative. But it's not easy and it's not cheap. I can't say what's happening in America today is any worse than what's been happening at any other time. I think now is the time that people are starting to see they can live somewhere else.”



● Du Bois visit to Ghana

The exodus of African Americans in Ghana

Ghana's President Nana Akufo – Addo declared 2019 to be the “Year of Return”, saying it was Ghana's responsibility to “welcome home” Africans whose families were forced into slavery. The “home coming” was seen as an opportunity to strengthen links and to give the Diaspora a chance to explore the possibility of settling in Ghana – something that civil rights leaders Marcus Garvey and WEB Du Bois championed in the 1920s.

Du Bois made Ghana his home, and died there in 1963 at the age of 95. He was buried in Accra – Ghana.

Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali all paid high profile visits to Ghana to reconnect with their African roots.

Ghana has long prided itself as a bastion of pan – Africanism. Its founding leader, Kwame Nkrumah declared the West African state the “Black Mecca”, and showed strong support to Marcus Garvey Back –to- Africa movement in the 1960s.

Various governments have continued in this tradition – for instance in 2001 then – President John Kufuor's government

passed the Right of Abode Law, allowing Africans in the diaspora to settle in Ghana.

In 2016, Dr. Kanbon - along with 33 other Africans in diaspora – petitioned President John Mahama, to grant them citizenship.

In what was his last act in office after losing elections in December of the same year, Mr. Mahama used his presidential powers to accede to their request.

Leadership in Africa

The question of leadership in Africa involves three categories of players: politicians, business leaders, and the intellectual elites. The role of each of these players has been a deciding factor in the management of the State and society since the start of independence in 1960.

The world today is driven by permanent competition where the only differentiating factor is intangible capital which, when applied properly, effectively compensates for a lack of natural resources. The world is becoming more and more immaterial. Africa must take account of this to carry out several changes. To start with, mindsets have to

be changed (abandoning the mentality of servitude) and Africa must realize that it has to stay “connected” with the rest of the world and be understood by it. In fact, the biggest reproach regarding Africa today concerns its inability to look towards the future. In essence, we need future minded leaders. Africa's hope for leadership is expected to be a younger generation that, for the time being, remains on the margins. There is therefore a need to get younger generations involved in leadership.

Also, the renewal of intellectual elites should allow for a better contribution of both Africans at home and in Diaspora to the development of the continent and lead to the training of a new generation of leaders. Unfortunately, the intellectual elites at home do not have the money to flaunt around like the politicians to secure positions of presidency and strategic national leadership in the African nations. Up until the time desirable people are chosen to positions of leadership by merit, Africa will still continue to be in the hands of the present crop of rulers (not leaders).



The African Diaspora is spread over three main geographic regions: Europe, the United States of America and the Gulf States. The emergence of Africans in Diaspora in leadership could be useful to Africa in three main areas:

Improvements in technical competence and university teaching;  
 Attracting financial resources for development. The transfer of fresh money from the Diaspora to Africa is currently estimated at more than 10 % of the gross domestic product (GDP) of certain African countries;

Better representation of Africa in the world through relations that this Diasporas have established in various host regions.

The promotion of a new generation of leaders implies the emergence of elites that bring together different abilities, including in particular an aptitude for:

Assimilating the current debate on development;

Acquiring new knowledge that is missing in Africa;

Adopting a long-term approach and using good negotiating skills;

Exploiting new information and communication technologies;

Marrying the new developmental values with those of equality, integrity, good governance and shared management of the wealth available.

Finally, in inviting fellow black folks to Africa, our root, The Black Jewels Network wants our black folks to align with the principle of late Nelson Mandela who, at his inaugural presidential speech in South Africa said:

“We understand it still that there is no easy road to freedom (colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism and other evils)...none of us acting alone can achieve success. We must therefore act together as a united people (Black folks), for national (and regional) reconciliation, for nation (region) building, for the birth of a new world (Black African World).”

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## Reunion: Ilaro 2006

# Barbadians Retrace Their Lineage to Ogun State

Ilaro, a town in the Ogun West Senatorial District of Ogun State witnessed the homecoming of Barbadians who traced their origin to the town. Their visit also coincided with the yearly Badagry Heritage Festival, which came up between August 22 and 23, 2006. Before this august visit, the government of Barbados had written to the Oba (Akran) of Badagry, de WhenoAholu Menu-Toyil and Oba Samuel AdekanmbiTella 111, the Olu of Ilaro and paramount ruler of Yewaland. On this glorious event, the government and the people of Ogun State heartily welcomed home their noble descendants from Barbados; they are the branches of Yewa in the Diaspora.

The home-coming of the Yewa of Barbados had once again demonstrated why Ogun State is Nigeria's gateway to the Pan African world of the Yoruba, especially those with their ancestral homelands firmly located in Ogun or areas historically associated with the

Gateway State, whose cultural influence dominates the wider spectrum of the African Diaspora communities in the New World, notably Brazil, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago, and Argentina.

Another past home-coming event was the eventful visit to Ketu in 1967 by Maitre dos Sanctos (the famous Baba Olorisa of Bahia) and the more colorful entourage ten years later in 1977 by Madame Alaketu (also of Bahia), as part of the famous FESTAC '77 (Festival of the Black and African Arts in Lagos in 1977).

According to Dr. IkaelTafari, Director, Commission for Pan-African Affairs, Barbados was the first port of call for the slave ships after the horrors of the Middle Passage centuries ago. He further argued that some of the original Africans who passed through the Port of Badagry en route to the Caribbean came from Ilaro province. To buttress his stance, Tafari pointed out that the official residence of

the Prime Minister of Barbados is called Ilaro Court.

Ilaro was founded around 1650 A.D. by a brave hunter, Aro from Oyo. The town is situated in the center of Yewa land, midway between the land area comprising Yewa North and South. This central position resulted in its being designated traditionally the administrative headquarters of the entire Yewa from 1914 to 1976 when the new Local Government set-up was established.

Ilaro is located on the rich cocoa belt of South West region of Nigeria and with above-average rainfall. The town occupies an area of some 9.5 square kilometers and has a population of about 150,000. It is worthy of note that Ilaro falls within the sedimentary rock belt, made up of Abeokuta, Ilaro, and Ewekoro formation.



*"And they shall be mine, says the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up mine JEWELS, and I will spare them, as a man spares his own son that serves Him." - Malachi 3:17-18*

The present precarious situation in the African nations and the world seems unending and beyond human reasoning, comprehension, wisdom, and has defiled all known human solutions. Every human effort directed towards alleviating and curtailing the global social epidemics by international organizations like the United Nations and others has been short-lived and ineffective.

This is a time when the wisdom of man or that of princes of the world have come to nothing.

With the situation of things today, the world demands new ideas, new ways of doing things, new inventions, new methods of teaching, and new methods of everything.

More importantly, the world is anxiously looking for the emergence of godly people and new leaders that will serve humanity in righteousness and truth - The Black Jewels.

From generation to generation, God had encouraged His people not to fear, for in due time He will again deliver His faithful as He did in the time of old - under Moses (Ex.14), Gideon (Judg.7:25) and the young Samuel (1Sam.3). Even now, God is making up His Jewels – faithful potential future leaders to deliver people from the present global predicaments.

God's intention from the time of Abraham has been to call forth a people of special mission – to proclaim His praise and propagate His blessing throughout the earth.

This intention is obvious because, in every generation, God has His special and peculiar treasures by the eternal covenant He made with Abraham that through him and his seed will all the families of the earth be blessed.

This changed world requires men of anointed visions and dreams who can and will put their dreams into action. These dreamers have always been, and always will be the pattern-makers of civilization.

Never in the history of mankind and nations has there been so great opportunity for The Jewels – the peculiar people – as now exists. Mind you, one of the tricks of opportunity is that it has a shy habit of slipping in by the back door, and often it comes disguised in the form of misfortune or temporary defeat. Perhaps this is why so many people fail to recognize the opportunity.

Every perfect gift (vision and dream) is from above and comes from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. The activity of the Holy Spirit in this time dispensation is the same as of the time past. The Holy Spirit who enabled God's

# Making Mine Jewels



chosen people to do exploits and fulfilled the Lord's plans and purposes, visions, and dreams, in their respective generations, is still at work today. He desires to move upon His people so that they too can do impossible things this season and generation. The Lord wants to bring deliverance to His people, and He is looking for consecrated and men of vision, both youths and the old, He can empower with the Holy Spirit.

The activity of the Spirit of the Lord in the Book of Judges is a clear demonstration of the move of God in every generation. The following heroic deeds of Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson are attributed to the workings of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of the Lord came upon Othniel (Judg.3:10) and enabled him to deliver the Israelites from the hand of Chusan – Rishathaim, King of Mesopotamia.

Through the personal presence of the Spirit of the Lord, Gideon

(Judg.6:34) delivered God's people from the oppression of the Midianites. The Spirit empowered this divinely appointed leader and acted through him to accomplish the Lord's saving act on behalf of His people.

The Spirit of the Lord equipped Jephthah (Judg.11:29) with leadership skills in his military pursuits against the Ammonites. Jephthah's victory over the Ammonites was the Lord's act of deliverance on behalf of Israel.

The Spirit of the Lord empowered Samson to perform extraordinary deeds. He began to stir Samson (Judg.13:25). The Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him on several occasions. He tore a lion apart with his bare hands (Judg.14:6). At one time he killed thirty Philistines (Judg.14:19) and at another time he freed himself from ropes that bound his hands and killed a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of a donkey (Judg.15:14-15).

# Celebrating the Black Music Artists

**M**usic is a source of inspiration when we need it most—it lifts our spirits and gladdens the heart of man. With that in mind, the soil of the Black music landscape has perhaps never been more fertile. Afrobeat artists such as WizKid, Davido, and Burna Boy are gaining international stardom, while Afro-house is making its way to

the center of the electronic scene (think Black Coffee, DJ Maphorisa, and Kabza De Small). Meanwhile, drill acts such as Headie One and the late Pop Smoke have attracted critical and commercial attention across the globe.

Now more than ever, discourse, collaboration, and cultural exchange are happening across the music industry, with the results speaking for themselves. In this section, The Black Jewels magazine celebrates rising black music artists for all tastes to listen to in 2022. In this edition, we are featuring Davido.



## .ABOUT DAVID ADEDEJI ADELEKE

David Adedeji Adeleke (popularly known as DAVIDO) is a Nigerian singer. He was born on November 21, 1992, in Atlanta, Georgia. His father Adedeji Adeleke. His father is a business magnate and his mother Vero Adeleke was a university lecturer.

Davido is the youngest of 5 siblings and his father's second-born son.

He attended the British International School in Lagos, Nigeria, and at the age of 16, he moved back to the United States America to study Business Administration at Oakwood University in Alabama.

Davido bought musical equipment while at Oakwood and started making beats. He worked with his cousins B- Red and Sina Rambo to form the music act KB International.

He dropped out of the university to pursue music full-time and relocated to London, where he worked on his vocals. After returning to Nigeria in 2011, he paused his music career and agreed to honor his father by enrolling at Babcock University. In July 2015, he graduated from Babcock with a degree in music after his father paid the University to start a music department for an inaugural class of one student.

He then worked on his first debut studio album "OMO BABA OLOWO" in 2011. He worked with various artists and producers such as Jay sleek, Maleek Berry, Shizi, Spellz, and others to produce the album. Generally, Davido blends traditional African elements with global mainstream pop.

Davido won the Next Rated award in 2012 at The Headies after releasing "DamiDuro", the second single from his debut studio album Omo Baba Olowo. Between 2013 and 2015, he released several hit singles, and in January 2016, he signed a record deal with Sony Music. He then founded the record label Davido Music Worldwide (DMW), to which acts Dremo, Mayorkun, Peruzzi,

and Liya were signed. In July 2016, Davido signed a record deal with Sony's RCA Records. In October 2016, he released the 5-track EP Son of Mercy, which was supported by the singles "GbagbeOshi", "How Long" and "Coolest Kid in Africa". In April 2017, Davido re-negotiated his contract with Sony due to creative control issues and later that year he released five singles including "If" and "Fall". "If" generated worldwide social media activity while "Fall" became the longest-charting Nigerian pop song in Billboard history. Davido has been famously referred to as 'The king of modern-day afrobeats'.

Davido released his second studio album A Good Time in November 2019, supported by singles including "Blow My Mind" featuring popular American singer Chris Brown. Davido was cited as one of the Top 100 most influential Africans by New African magazine in 2019. He released his third studio album A Better Time, on Friday, November 13, 2020.

In March 2022, Davido was featured on "HayyaHayya (Better Together)" alongside (Trinidad Cardona and AISHA) the first single of the multi-song FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™ Official Soundtrack. It marked Davido as the first Nigerian singer to be featured in a FIFA World Cup single.



In May 2022, Davido released another song titled "Stand Strong" that featured The Samples Choir. According to the Naija banquet, the song is a breakaway from the usual hop/dance style of the Nigerian singer. In the record, Davido reminisces on his music journey and the battles he fights every day. Also, it is the story of his healing.

The life story of David Adedeji Adeleke (popularly known as DAVIDO) is a clear demonstration of the inherent and innate qualities of the great Black Culture. The Black Culture is about Resilience, Determination, Achievement, Greatness, and Excellence. It is upon this premise THE BLACK JEWELS NETWORK hereby honors this great black music artist with the first honorary award of The Black Jewels Ambassador (TBJA).





# DAVIDO

02 Arena Concert,  
London







# 2021 AFCON'S FINAL

**A**fter two hours of effort and goal-scoring opportunities, Senegal won the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations in the Olembé stadium of Yaoundé. As they faced 7-time champion Egypt, the Teranga Lions did not surrender.

The men of AliouCissé beat Egypt on Sunday, February 6 with a 4-2 win in the penalty shoot-out. In the Olembé stadium of Yaoundé, the Teranga Lions gained the upper hand on the Pharaohs of Mo Salah.

This victory crowns an entire tournament for Mané's teammates. Starting in the 4th minute, Mohamed AbouGabal, the Egyptian goalkeeper, made a save. However, this missed penalty did not get the fingers of the Senegalese burnt. Despite a 57 percent ball possession Senegalese faced a phenomenal Egyptian goalkeeper coined "the great dam", after the country's largest structure in Aswan.

With no goal by the end of the second half, the squads had to come back on the pitch. Despite the extra time and stoppage time, no goal-scoring chances were turned into a goal.

The penalty shoot-out eventually broke the tie. With two misses from the penalty spot, Egypt lost to Senegal.

For now, SadioMané and his team can celebrate with the 16 million this is the Senegalese first African Cup of Nations title. The Lions will again crossroads of Egyptians on March 24 as they play the World cup 2022 playoff.

It has been celebrations galore all over in Dakar. Thousands of fans are still celebrating following the victory of the Lions of Teranga in the final of the African

Cup of Nations. This is their first continental trophy, and it is expected to be celebrated in a big way.

Thousands of fans assembled at the Leopold Sedar Senghor airport to welcome the heroes of the day who gave Senegal its first continental trophy.

"We are really happy. We've been waiting for this for years. Frankly, it is a lot of pleasure and emotion. We can't even express our feelings. Today is the day that we cannot even explain. All Senegalese are happy after long years of waiting," a fan said.

"We are going to see the Lions at the airport. We are really happy. They are the best, they are the best," said another fan.

"A lot of happiness. What we feel is unexplainable. We're very happy today," another fan said.

The party will continue until this Tuesday. The Lions will be received at the palace by President MackySall. They will be honored as the real Lions of Teranga.