

Afri

# Diplomat



## H.E. Amb. **MARTIN CHEDONDO**

Zimbabwean Ambassador To China  
Talks On Foreign Policy, Africa &  
Pacific Asia



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3rd Intl. Diplomacy Stableford Golf  
Tournament Wows Nigerian Diplomatic  
Community



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### **Chevy X Eugene**

Mr. Eugene is a sessional lecturer at the University of Toronto, where he teaches International Development Studies, Black Canadian Studies, and Caribbean Studies. Recognized as the Global Top 100 Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) Under 40 in 2022, in the category of politics and governance, Chevy Eugene is an educator, researcher, and international human rights activist. Currently, he is completing a Social Science Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded Ph.D. entitled "Decolonizing the Caribbean Reparations" in the Social and Political Thought Program (SPTH) at York University, Canada. Chevy is the Caribbean ambassador for the Pan-African Council (PAC).



### **Fabien Anthony**

Recognised as one of the Global Top 100 Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) Under 40, Fabien Anthony currently chairs the Pan-African Council, a global leadership and strategic development organization dedicated to the advancement of Africa and its Diaspora, and serves as a consultative member of the African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO). As an advocate of education and creating new economic opportunities, he also engages as a community development practitioner, working to develop the self-confidence, capabilities and entrepreneurial skills of youth across the African continent, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Mr Anthony has been responsible for managing key governmental, institutional and business relationships across the globe, advising leaders on strategies for advancing international cooperation, creating cross-sector dialogue to influence policy-making and driving sustainable development and investments.



### **Chidozie Uzoezie**

Chidozie Uzoezie is an Aviation Analyst, prolific Content Creator, Newspaper Columnist, In-flight Magazine Contributor, and Travel Influencer. A passionate lover of aviation, Chidozie is the Founder of the African Aviation Group, the largest online community of aviation professionals in Africa. Chidozie is very passionate about inspiring and raising the next generation of African aviators and travel professionals. He is also the CEO of The Afritraveller ([www.afritraveller.com](http://www.afritraveller.com)), a trendy travel media website for the discerning traveller. Chidozie holds a First-Class Master's Degree from the University of East London, UK.



### **Dr. Bobby J Moroe**

H.E. Dr. Bobby J Moroe is the Consul General of South Africa in Lagos, who has served for 5 years in Nigeria, and was the Deputy High Commissioner of South African High Commission in Abuja, prior to his appointment as the head of the mission in Lagos. He is a published author of 'Perspectives On Indo-SA Relations'. He has to his name many articles on diplomacy and international cooperation, that have been published on different media platforms.

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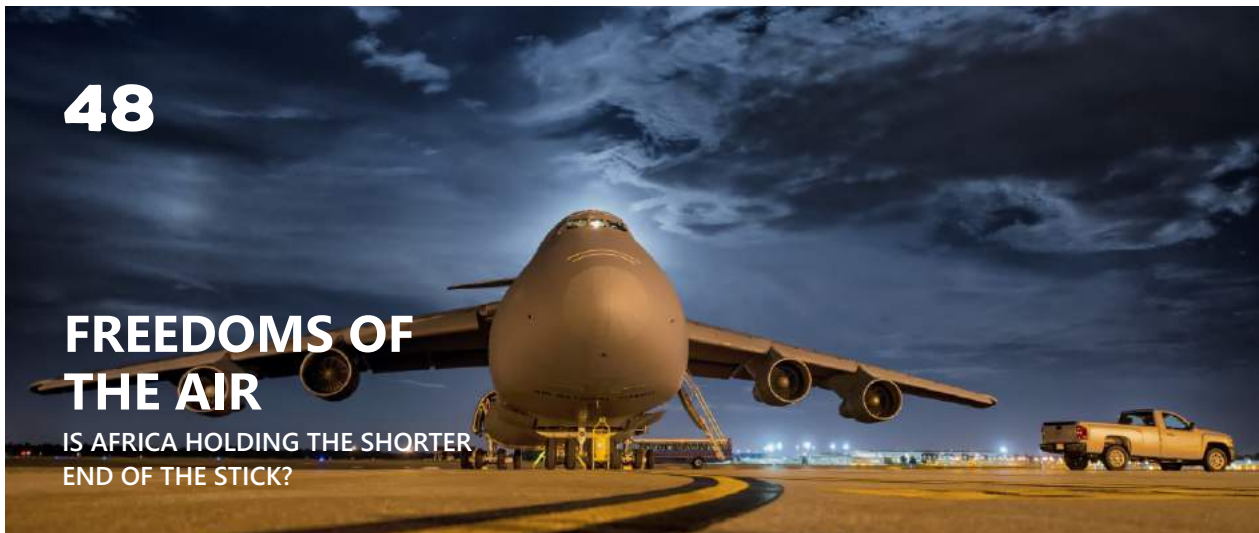
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# And Now The Watch Begins

If you are a 'Game of Thrones' fan like me, you must remember the quote "night gathers and now my watch begins..." It's a declaration with which everyone sent to The Night's Watch, from Westros, Winterfell or any other of the Seven Kingdoms, start their calling as the shield that guards the realms of men. It is a symbolism of total commitment and dedication to ensuring the wellbeing of *The Realm*

by protecting The Wall from adversity without.

This is exactly how the editorial team feels about this medium. We feel called to spotlight Africa's diplomatic missions within and without her shores, not necessarily by declaring editorial war on any nations of the world, regardless of the history they share with any of the African nations.

If you read the last edition, you must remember that International Diplomacy Stableford Golf Tournament gave birth to Afri Diplomat, but the golf tournament holds only once in a year. And like you would agree with me, it really doesn't matter how great or otherwise our parents are, the onus lies on us to find our own path. This is exactly what Afri Diplomat is doing. So, now the watch begins for Africa's global diplomatic mission media.

It gets interesting. Just when the journey was about to begin in earnest, I was invited to New York, to be recognized as one of the Most Influential People of African Descent, a recognition programme that has been celebrating global black excellence since 2018, and staged in support of United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent.

It was a major gathering of eagles. The United Nations was fully involved. CNN was fully involved. In fact, two of the recognition week activities were hosted by CNN.

It was a moment of pride in self, been recognized

on same platform as the Mayor of New York, Mayor Eric Adam, H.E. Ms. Epsy Alejandra Campbell Barr – former Vice President & Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica and Chairperson of Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.

It was a thing of joy seeing the first session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent hold this month, in Geneva. It tells me that the Office of The Commissioner for United Nations Human Right is true to the 3 pillars on which the International Decade for People of African Descent is predicated – recognition, justice and development.

The resultant effect of having effectual and institutionalized mechanism for securing justice for Africa and her nations? There have been a number of repatriations of looted cultural property to African nations, where they were looted from.

It was recently in the news that H.E. Mr. Mark Rutte – The Dutch Prime Minister apologized to Africa, for The Netherlands' role in transatlantic slave trade.

More than ever, Africa and her diaspora are excited about engaging one another, as they seek common future. There was a gathering to that effect in The Barbados, The U.S. and Brazil, even as MIPAD leads diasporans to Rwanda, for its first Inside-Africa edition.

Ghana's 'Year of Return' and 'Beyond The Return' campaigns continue to encourage more African-Americans to visit and even relocate back 'home'. Gabrielle Union and Dwayne Wade were on a visit to Kwame Nkruma's country, last month.

Ancestry DNA Test is doing so well as a business, that someone already had the name legally registered.

I belong to 'Taste of Africa Vibe', the most vibrant Africa-Diaspora group on social media – Facebook. I see the longing of African-Americans to visit one African nation or the other.

Tour to Badagry – the ancient town where slaves were shipped to Europe and The Americas – remains a hot cake.

Exciting times lay ahead of Africa and we look forward to bringing you informed thoughts and news, as the events that make them unfold.

**Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord**  
**Publisher/Editor-In-Chief**  
**Afri Diplomat**





Aviators Africa

## AVIATORS AFRICA CONFERENCE AND TOWER AWARDS SUCCESSFULLY WRAPS UP

Chidozie Uzoemie

It's a wrap! The fourth Aviators Africa Conference and Tower Awards has successfully come to an end with a call from stakeholders to work towards resetting the African aviation industry with a view of harnessing the benefits of sustainable energy and technology-driven operations.

The three-day event which took place from the 20th to 22nd October at the Protea Hotel by Marriott Johannesburg Wanderers in South Africa, kicked off on Thursday, 20th October, with an outreach program in partnership with the Girl Fly Program Africa (GFPA) Foundation, Walk for Love Africa, and South African Tourism.

The day two of the conference began with an expository keynote address by Aaron Munesti, the Chief Executive Officer of the Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA) which highlighted the imperative and the urgency of resetting the African aviation industry post the COVID-19 pandemic, rather than restarting it.

Welcoming delegates to the event, the Founder and the CEO of Aviators Africa Conference and Tower Awards, Toni Ukachukwu said the conference's core mandate was to carve a niche and continue to pioneer sustainability initiatives in the African aviation eco-system whilst connecting it with tourism.

"I would like to welcome everyone to the 4th Aviators Africa Conference with the theme: 'Sustainability in African Aviation.' This year saw us being true to our objective as a pan-African organization by bringing the event to South Africa, having hosted it in Nigeria for three straight years." Mr Ukachukwu said.

"We intend to look at sustainability in the broader sense of the word, covering diverse areas with inclusivity from the stakeholders and academia, to explore not only aviation but it's allied industries for a more sustainable development of Africa." He added.

The conference which held under the theme "Sustainability in African Aviation", featured three engaging and brainstorming panel sessions, all of which x-rayed the various challenges bedeviling the aviation and tourism industry in Africa, as well as recommend possible recovery paths.

The first panel, which was moderated by Derek Nseko, took a look at "Assets Finance & Airline Sustainability in Africa". The panelists who included Sean Mendis, an airline executive and Monica Rubombora, Uganda Airlines Country Director for South Africa, critically appraised airline



operations in Africa with respect access to credit facilities, funding and sustainability.

Moderated by Sean Mendis, the second panel critically discussed "Sustainability in African Aviation". The insightful session featured Akie Chhabra, Embraer Sales Director for Africa, Yvonne Winter, Co-Founder Fly Now, and James O'Shea, CEO of Seefin Aviation. Evoking interest, the panel discussed current and future technologies helping the global aviation industry to achieve green approach to zero Co2.

The third panel of the day which featured hospitality and tourism experts, including Professor Marina Novelli, Didier Bayeye, and Ifeanyi Ogochukwu, examined the "Impact of Airlines on Sustainability of Tourism Destinations". It was moderated by Kojo Bentum Williams, Senior Expert on Communication in Africa at the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

The international conference was attended by delegates and airline executives from across the world, and provided the excellent business-to-business (B2B) opportunities for aviation and tourism players to network on a global

platform for sustainable business impacts.

The last day (22nd October) saw the event begin with a CEO Leadership Breakfast Meeting sponsored by Marriott International. The forum provided yet another opportunity for informal business-to-business as well as business-to-consumer meetings. The conference wound up in the evening with a well-attended gala night and the Tower Awards.

The highlight of the Tower Awards was the induction of Ato Girma Wake, Board Chairman of Ethiopian Airlines and Irene Koki Mutungi who is a Captain on the Boeing 787 Dreamliner at Kenya Airways, into the Aviators Africa Hall of fame for their meritorious and trail-blazing services to the development of African Aviation.

In its fourth year, the Aviators Africa Conference and Tower Awards is a hybrid aviation and tourism event designed to bring together aviators and travel professionals. The event seeks to discuss and find solutions to the challenges of the aviation industry in Africa as well as recognize outstanding players in the travel and tourism industry.





Dr. Bobby J Moroe

## 10-year Visa: South Africa Commits To Better Relations With Nigerian Business Community

**"We have been listening and this session with you is a continuation of that process. I am happy to announce to you that the government of South Africa has been reviewing its visa processes and a lot of improvements are being recorded. Today we can say that henceforth, we will be able to issue 10-year multiple-entry visas to the business community in Nigeria"**

In an effort to improve relations with Nigeria, encourage Nigerian investments and give Nigerians access to opportunities in its country; the government of South Africa has taken the bold steps to make things expeditiously easier for Nigerian business leaders and skilled workers seeking opportunities in South African market, by issuing up to 10 years, multiple entry and long term visa to individuals and businesses that meet the criteria — going forward. This was revealed at an immigration roundtable hosted by South African Consulate in Lagos, to engage Nigerian business community.

The event which held on the 9th of January, 2023, at Regenesys Business School, Churchgate Towers, VI, had in attendance protocol officers and other concerned staffers of multinationals. The forum provided the much needed

opportunity for the consulate and Nigerian business community to hear each other out and deepen commitment to help achieve and advance each party's objectives.

The mission — through its immigration first officer, Ntakuseni Lambani — ceased the opportunity to intimate business people with the eligibility, types of business visas, the process and requirements for a successful application, while protocol officers and other concerned business people took turn to tell tales of the challenges they have encountered with past applications.

It was gathered that the new visa regime is not exactly new, as it was approved by the Department for Home Affairs, since 2016, but it encountered a few bureaucratic bottlenecks that delayed implementation until now.

According to the Consul General of South Africa in Lagos, H.E. Dr. Bobby J Moroe, who spoke in an assuring tone, the consulate in Lagos will focus on business and academic visas, while the High Commission in Abuja will attend to more of tourists visa. "We have been listening and this session with you is a continuation of that process. I am happy to announce to you that the government of South Africa has been reviewing its visa processes and a lot of improvements are being recorded. Today we can say that henceforth, we will be able to issue 10-year multiple-entry visas to the business community in Nigeria", Dr. Moroe said. The visa regime also provides critical skilled workers a clear path to residency in South Africa, which can be achieved after 5 years of staying and working in the country.



Osteen Carter Photography for Afri Diplomat



## DIPLOMACY ON THE FAIRWAY

DEEPENING GLOBAL HARMONY  
ON THE FAIRWAY

Jack Ubong

The 3rd edition of International Diplomacy Stableford Golf Tournament, the annual gathering of the golfing diplomatic community which is aimed at celebrating diplomats, diplomacy, human migration travel & tourism, held at IBB International Golf & Country Club with about 20 embassies participating. Among the embassies that participated were America, China, South Korea, Britain, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Japan, Austria, Trinidad & Tobago, Austria, France et al.

The tournament was teed off with ceremonial tee off by H.E. Amb. Cul Jian Chun - Ambassador of The People's Republic of China, H.E. Amb. Kim Young-Chae - Ambassador of South Korea, H.E. Amb. Wendell Delandro - Ambassador of

# International Diplomacy

## Stableford Golf Tournament

building relations and fostering cooperation like golf teaches

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Trinidad & Tobago, H.E. Amb. Buba Tekune - Former Nigerian Ambassador to The Philippines, H.E. Amb. Laraba Bhutto - Former Nigerian Ambassador to Cuba, H.E. Amb. Mohammed Kangiwa - Former Minister/Head of the Immigration section of Nigerian High Commission in London, H.E. Amb. Kayode Garrick - Former Minister for economic and commercial Affairs at the Embassy of Nigeria in Washington D.C, H.E. Amb. Adamu Emozozo - Former Nigerian Ambassador to Brazil,

The tournament which fielded about 88 players, with about 50% of the players being foreigners, was of shotgun start and Stableford points format. Irma Steyn trumped Jumai Abdulai on countback with 35 Stableford points, to emerge the winner of the ladies category.

Emmanuel Adukwu recorded 41 stableford points, making him the winner of the handicap 15-28 men's category. Otun Temitope outdid Gambo Alli with 39 stableford points on countback, to emerge the runner up. With 1 stableford point, O Igweh outdid Ashley Smit's 37 points, to emerge the winner of the handicap 0-14 category.

For the ladies category, Joy Ikwue drove her shot Nearest To The Pin by 12.1 ft to the pin. In the men's category, Sameer Shukla won Nearest To The Pin prize by 7.1 ft distance to the pin. Irma Steyn and O Igweh won the Longest Drive with 153 meters and 246 meters in the ladies and men's categories respectively.

Winners were rewarded with business/economy class flight tickets from Air Peace, Rwandair, South African Airways, room-night vouchers from The Envoy Hotel Abuja, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham and N200,000 worth (each) of Cilantro gift vouchers courtesy of Pepsi.

The tournament also witnessed the launching of Afri Diplomat magazine. Afri Diplomat Magazine, which is an offshoot of International Diplomacy Stableford Golf Tournament, is a print and electronic media dedicated to the promotion of personalities, events, happenings and cogent subjects around the African





H.E. Amb. Adamu Emozozo - Former Nigerian Ambassador to Brazil, Amb. Kim Young-Chae - Amb. Of South Korea to Nigeria, Mike Ekoja - The Captain of IBB International Golf & Country Club, Judy Kim - Spouse of The South Korean Ambassador to Nigeria, Amb. Cul Jian Chun - Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Banjo Obaleye - Vice Captain of IBB International Golf Country Club, Robert Davidson from British High Commission, Ola Okedeyi, (Front R-L) Tolulope Adesemowo - Co-publisher of Afri Diplomat, Neda Kheiri - Deputy Marketing Manager of Air Peace, Wu Baocai - Directing officer of Chinese Embassy, Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord - Co-publisher & Editor-in-Chief of Afri Diplomat, Makosi Musanbasi from Zimbabwean High Commission, Amb. Kayode Garrick - Former Minister for economic and commercial Affairs at the Embassy of Nigeria in Washington D.C., Joy Ikwue - Lady Captain of IBB Golf & Country Club, Norden Thurston - Marketing Director of Pepsi, Oluwarantimi Onilude - CEO of St. Joseph Cargo & Logistics launching Afri Diplomat Magazine during 3rd International Diplomacy Stableford Golf Tournament

“This is certainly the best edition of this tournament so far, and we are super grateful to individuals and brands who participated as players and sponsors. We just can’t get tired of the positive reviews we’ve been getting”

diplomatic community. Its contents span travel, tourism, consular services, diplomacy and diaspora.

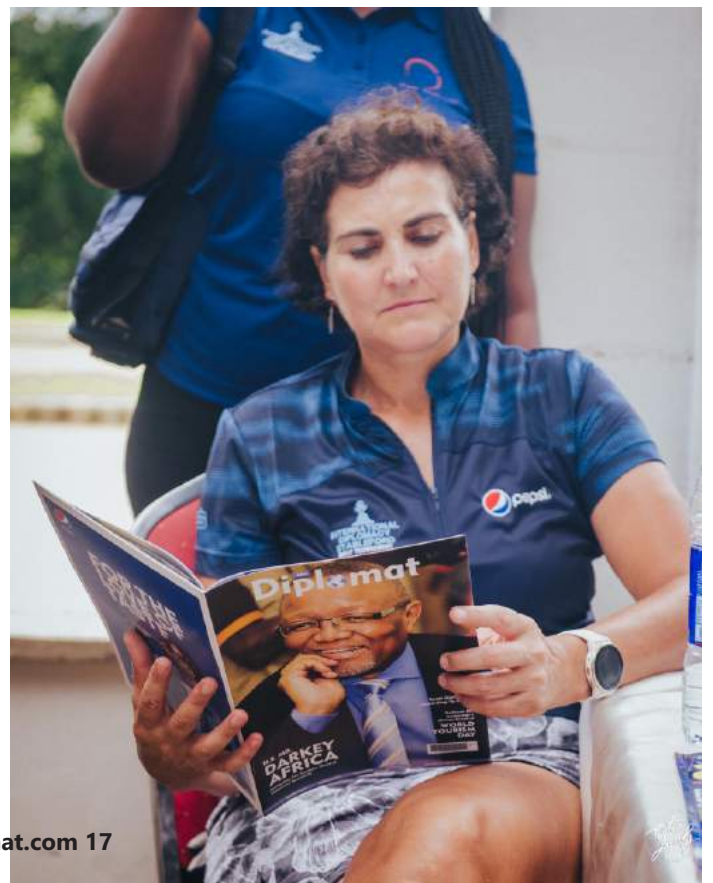
It was launched by H.E. Amb. Cul Jian Chun - Chinese Ambassador to Nigeria, Amb. Kim Young-Chae - Ambassador of South Korea to Nigeria, Robert from British High Commission, Makosi Musanbasi representing the Zimbabwean Ambassador to Nigeria, Amb. Laraba Bhutto - Former Nigerian Ambassador to Cuba, H.E. Amb. Kayode Garrick - Former Minister for economic and commercial Affairs at the Embassy of Nigeria in Washington D.C.

The magazine was also launched in Lagos, where it was officially presented to H.E. Mr. Darkey Africa - Consul General of South in Africa, in the company of H.E. Dr. Bobby Moroe - Deputy High Commissioner of South Africa.

Speaking at the tournament, Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord, Managing Partner of Run Africa Advisory, organizers of the tournament expressed gratitude to God for a sunny day, despite contrary forecast by Weather Report. “This is certainly the best edition of this tournament so far, and we are super grateful to individuals and brands who participated as players and sponsors. We just can’t get tired of the positive reviews we’ve been getting”, he added.

When asked if the Lagos leg would continue, Prince Deji said “most definitely. It all started in Ikoyi Club 1938 in 2019 and we intend continuing the tournament in the home of global harmony. We are only going to make a few changes that will be revealed as the date approaches.







# LEGEND

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WASHINGTON DULLES  
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT





# AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN UNITE TO BUILD A COMMON FUTURE

Fabien Anthony

**B**RIDGETOWN, BARBADOS — This past September 1-3, 2022, prominent business, political and cultural leaders from across Africa and the Caribbean gathered in Barbados for the inaugural Africaribbean Trade and Investment Forum (ACTIF2022), a meeting initiated by Afreximbank, Export Barbados, and Invest Barbados with the support of the African Union, the AfCFTA Secretariat, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Export Development Agency, the Africa Business Council, and the International Trade Centre.

The Pan-African Council joined a number of sponsors

supporting the Forum's central theme: "One People. One Destiny. Uniting and Reimagining Our Future". The event boasted more than 1500 delegates from 90 countries of the world, including government officials, development partners, trade support institutions, investors and private sector leaders from both regions. On that account, ACTIF2022 aimed to help strengthen relations between the private sectors of the two regions to advance trade and investment.

The Hon. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, set the tone of the Forum by delivering a gripping keynote address to an enthusiastic crowd highlighting that "Africa has been separated from the Caribbean region, not only by the Atlantic Ocean, but by centuries of few interactions, despite our shared common descent and history. Barbados, at this time, looks to Africa in pursuit of new relationships and partners with the aim of deepening engagement and cooperation with like-minded nations both bilaterally and multilaterally".

She insisted that although African and Caribbean peoples have worked together for more than a century in the various Pan-African congresses, our political union, is essential but has not been sufficient "for the journey that must be made to reverse the underdevelopment of Africa and the underdevelopment of the Caribbean". In the spirit of South-South cooperation – a concept and



**Africa has been separated from the Caribbean region, not only by the Atlantic Ocean, but by centuries of few interactions, despite our shared common descent and history. Barbados, at this time, looks to Africa in pursuit of new relationships and partners with the aim of deepening engagement and cooperation with like-minded nations both bilaterally and multilaterally.**



practice of cooperation and solidarity among regions of the global south historically disadvantaged by the world system. The Forum stressed the importance of deeper economic ties in order to fortify Africa. Topping the day's agenda at ACTIF2022 were the business-to-business engagements and panel discussions on several topics, including:

- promotion of trade and tourism while improving air links between the regions;
- accelerating industrialization and manufacturing;
- developing special economic zones (SEZs) and industrial parks;
- improving infrastructure, financing and trade logistics, including regional integration;
- cooperating on health, climate change, and the energy transition;
- fomenting the conditions to accelerate private sector investment; and
- improving food security, agricultural productivity, and expanding agribusiness opportunities.

H.E. Professor Benedict Oramah, Afreximbank President and Chairman of the Board, pointed out that "both regions must forge a common front to harness several opportunities available, including the \$27 trillion dollar North American markets". Simultaneously, Secretary General of CARICOM, Dr. Carla Barnett, highlighted that

the potential to do business with Africa was "tremendous" considering the fact that the market represented by the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTFA) was set to catch up with US's \$6.7 trillion in value by 2035. Fully capitalizing on these prospects will entail clear targets and objectives, mobilization of the required resources and capabilities, establishing appropriate frameworks, institutions, best practices, strengthening and streamlining infrastructure such as air and maritime distribution and transportation channels, mobilization of all relevant stakeholders including the vast pool of bi-continental and diaspora talent, continual identification of opportunities and awareness.

Accordingly, the strong linkages between Africa and the Caribbean based on a shared history, culture, concerns, and common sense of identity underpin the political and individual will for cooperation to fulfil the promises of the Forum. This natural congruence between the two regions have set a new bar in the battle for a more just and sustainable international social and economic order.

As a first step towards this new era of cooperation, ACTIF2022 will undoubtedly be remembered as one of the most historic events to inspire a new sense of hope, purpose, and dynamism among Caribbean and African peoples.

# Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa



## Review: From The Mouth of A Horse That Experienced It

Chidozie Uzoezie

**A**s part of my itinerary for the 52nd Annual General Assembly of the Airlines Association of Southern Africa in October, 2022, I spent three nights at Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa in Hermanus, South Africa. It was my very first time at this luxury property, and I wasn't disappointed. From check-in to check-out, my experience was top-notch and my expectations were surpassed in more ways than one.

### Arrival and Check-in

Hermanus is located about 85 kilometres from the Cape Town International Airport. So, the drive from the airport to Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa was a bit of a stretch, but also very scenic and adventurous. After two back-to-back flights and a long drive from the airport, I arrived at Arabella Hotel tired and worn-out.





Check-in was smart and technology-driven. And with that done, I made my way to the elevator, but not without having a quick feel of the nature-inspired aesthetics of the hotel's lobbies and reception area. I needed to soak in the allure and the beauty, and not even my tired body could stand in the way.

The beauty that met my eyes was intensely woody, yet essentially modern; it was sophisticated, yet simple.

The concept was very African, yet very contemporary. It was irresistible. Even eternity wouldn't have been enough for me to soak in all that beauty. And by the time I got to my room, my luggage was already there, thanks to the hotel's intuitive concierge team.

### **The Deluxe Room**

Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa offers a range of contemporary accommodations, including Deluxe Rooms, in one of which I stayed. As I stepped into the room, I fell in love at first sight. I couldn't resist it. My first impression was that of style, class, and modern comfort. I was greeted by elegance, luxury, and a certain kind of sophistication, wrapped in simplicity. I was swept off my feet.

My Deluxe Room featured twin beds, free unlimited Wi-Fi, flatscreen satellite TV, coffee and tea facilities, spacious workspace, and an electronic safe.

The room also had a mini-fridge, 24-hour room service, a nightly turndown, iron and ironing board, lighted makeup mirror, and international plug adaptors. To make good things even better, my room also featured a private balcony, allowing me to soak in the scenic Kogelberg views and the hotel's lush environment.

Oh, how can I forget? Very much to my pleasant surprise, a knock on my door and a 'come in' response from me saw a hotel's staff walk in with a welcome platter, on the house.

And she also wore a smile. The platter had some exotic fruits, pastries, some delicious nuts, cheese, chocolate, bacon, and a bottle of premium red wine. I couldn't have asked for a better way to start my stay.

After taking a tour of my room, I quickly set up my laptop on the workspace and 'checked out' the Wi-Fi. The Wi-Fi speed wasn't supersonic, but it was impressive and I couldn't resist the temptation of going to work. I must have forgotten I was tired.

### **Opulent Restroom**

Having worked myself into a state of more fatigue, it was time to refresh and discover more luxury. The bathroom featured a separate bathtub, a separate toilet, a separate urinary, and a separate shower room, all in one expansive closet furnished with sleek marble accents. It smacked of lavish opulence, it was sparkling clean, and had more than enough luxury sanitary products. In fact, the amount of luxury encapsulated in the bathroom was inexhaustible.

Can I talk about towels? Yes, I can. The towels, which were changed regularly, were so luxurious and absorbent that my body found succour in them. And months after leaving Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa, I'm still relishing the tender and the resplendent softness of those towels.

Other accommodation options available at Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa include Deluxe Premium Rooms with views overlooking the stunning Overberg vistas. All rooms are exquisitely appointed. But if you want to step up your game a little, there are also Deluxe Suites and Presidential Suites which are characterized by rich-wood accents, soft furnishings, and the finest luxury found in Hermanus.

To offer guests the opportunity to commune with nature, all accommodation options feature private balcony, floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors, and a scenic view. Gastronomy

Not many dining options are available at Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa. But Jamani Restaurant is really all you need, whether you want it fresh, local, or continental. In the course of my three-night stay at Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa, I had several breakfasts, lunches, and dinners at the all-day Jamani Restaurant, and I totally enjoyed every bit of the gastronomic experience.

At Jamani Restaurant, I enjoyed menus curated from locally-grown fresh produce, featuring a selection of farm-to-table dishes, as well as classic favourites from around the world. I enjoyed a choice of hearty and delicious contemporary South African dishes. And all of that, while enjoying stunning views of the magnificent golf course and breathtaking views of the Bot River Lagoon.

Whether you want a private dining or with a group of friends and colleagues, Jamani Restaurant offers excellent buffet and à la carte dining options for a rewarding gastronomic experience, in a relaxed ambience.

## Driven by Technology

Right from the main access gate to guest rooms through the reception, Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa is extensively driven by modern technology, in a way that ensures the safety and security of guests and their property.

Access to guest rooms as well as in-room lights are controlled by personalized smart keycards. The hotel also operates a cashless policy, with all major debit and credit cards accepted.

## Location

When it comes to what makes a *resort* hotel appealing, location is key and environment is everything. Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa perfectly combines the two with a certain hedonistic impression and a suburban feel.

Located in the heart of Kogelberg Biosphere, one of the world's richest floral reserves, the Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa is one of Africa's best kept secrets. Whether it is for a quick weekend getaway or for an extended staycation, Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa invites guests to indulge in luxurious hospitality while exploring lush natural surroundings.

Much unlike most suburban hotels and resorts in the countryside, Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa is just a 90-minute drive from the Cape Town International Airport. And I found that to be a huge added advantage.

## Fairways and Greens

By far, the most important side attraction at Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa is the hugely impressive golf course. Well, I'm not head over heels in love with golf, at least, not yet. But I know a great golf course when I see one. Arabella Hotel Golf course is ONE.

The 72-par 18-hole golf course is ranked as one of the top 10 golf courses in South Africa and one the best in Africa.

Although I don't know the ropes in golf, I found the golf course irresistibly alluring throughout my stay at Arabella Hotel. The stunning golf course provided me the perfect picturesque backdrop for a memorable staycation.

If golf is your sort of thing, then Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa is your go-to destination for golfing adventures in the Western Cape. You will love it here. Not only because it has world-class facilities, but also because you get to play your golf on the edge of the Bot River Lagoon. You can't have it better anywhere else.

At Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa, you can be sure to have an exceptionally rewarding golfing experience while being surrounded by fynbos and mountains. From the tee box to the rough and hazards through the green and the fairway, Arabella golf course will challenge and reward you at the same time.

## Conclusion

Deeply steeped in and surrounded by exotic nature, Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa is a true 5-Star property in a lush location. At the risk of exaggeration, I dare say that I found the services at the hotel highly professional and impeccable. The staff were friendly and went out of their way to help, without a noticeable sense of entitlement.

At Arabella Hotel, Golf & Spa, expect nothing but out-of-the-box hospitality. Here, you will experience the best of three worlds: finest luxury, exquisite gastronomy, and excellent services. Whether you are here for business or for pleasure or for both, you won't be able to soak in all the abounding delight. If I have the opportunity to stay at Arabella Hotel again, I'll grab it with both hands. Absolutely!





Front Office Sport

# FIFA WORLD CUP QATAR 2022 AND MY SUSTAINABILITY STARS

Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord

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Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord is the founder of World Sports Tourism Day, African Sports Tourism Week and Secretary General of World Sports Tourism Council. He is the published author of 'Life, Humanity & Leadership According To Golf' and 'Psalm 23 & The Forecaddie'.

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FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 will be remembered for a long time, for a number of delightful reasons. First amongst them is the fact that a country of same size with a local government area in Lagos, Nigeria, could contain footfalls from around world in a pleasing manner. No wonder, according to VISA, spendings from fans at Qatar 2022 had already surpassed the entire spending recorded during Russia 2018, as at when the event was only at quarterfinal stage.

Talents from different countries that made it to the football's biggest stage made the show a sheer display of footballing brilliance. The world witnessed some of the most stunning upsets ever seen at a FIFA World Cup.

Fan engagement and experience underpinned by

inclusiveness was taken a notch higher with sensory rooms in 3 of the host stadia – Al Bayt, Education City and Lusail – for autistic individuals who may feel overwhelmed by large crowds.

As a global apostle of sustainable sport footfall; my FIFA World Qatar 2022 true stars are Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy and Samurai Blue fans.

## Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC)

Supreme "Established in 2011 by the State of Qatar, the Supreme Committee for Delivery & Legacy (SC) is responsible for the delivery of the required infrastructure and host country planning and operations for Qatar to host an amazing and historic 2022 FIFA World Cup, which accelerates progress towards achieving national development goals and creates a lasting legacy for Qatar, Middle East and the world.

The stadiums, non-competition venues and other infrastructure the SC and our stakeholders are delivering will contribute to a compact and connected FIFA World Cup, with sustainability and accessibility at its heart."

This was the purpose and mandate of the Supreme Committee and it can be said concerning the SC did a great job at fulfilling purpose. First, they showed the world the genius application of sporting facilities to human settlement in a manner that gives experiential delight, while preventing wastage and disrepair in the long run.

The initial plan was to build 12 stadium, but the number was later trimmed down to 8 – the fewest ever provided by a FIFA World Cup host, since Brazil 1970, when the tournament featured only 16 teams. Though, Qatar's 8 stadiums have proven to be sufficient, which means we might be seeing as few as 8 or slightly more in future World Cup editions. The architects deployed modular elements in designing the stadia structures.

**Qatar obviously declared herself a destination for crash course on sustainability, with the legacy the just-concluded FIFA World Cup has left. We won't get tired of talking about it in a hurry. This is the most footprint-compact, truly mega sporting event in modern history.**



This means that the upper tiers can be detached upon conclusion of the World Cup, drastically cutting down the sitting capacity to about 40% of what they were initially designed to handle. This post-event downgrade of capacity of the stadia makes them suitable for domestic needs without wastage.

It doesn't end here. Some of the stadia will be repurposed with additions and subtractions here and there. Shopping centre and hotel will be added to Al Bayt Stadium. Al Thumama will experience addition of a hotel and a sports clinic. The 974 recycled shipping containers used in building Stadium 974 will be dismantled and put to other use. Lusail Stadium will be refashioned into a space accommodating sporting facilities, schools, shops, health clinics and cafes.

Talk of social responsibility – about 170,000 seats will be detached from all the stadiums and donated to other nations, to develop their own sports facilities.

Qatar obviously declared herself a destination for crash course on sustainability, with the legacy the just-concluded FIFA World Cup has left. We won't get tired of talking about it in a hurry. This is the most footprint-compact, truly mega sporting event in modern history.

### **Samurai Blue Supporters**

I have often said it that we would still be joking around about responsible tourism, until we take the gospel to the doorsteps of sports tourists, because nothing delivers footfall to a destination, like sport does. There are at least 100 mega sporting events that bring a minimum of a 100,000 domestic and international footfall – every other

week or month – to different destinations across the 7 continents of the world.

According to Worldwide Sporting Development And Events, sports tourism is a \$600 billion industry. Sports travel accounts for 10% of international tourism market. Even in 2021, a year that could technically still be referred to as part of the pandemic year, sports travel rebounded by 89% from \$21 billion in 2020 to \$39.7 billion in 2021.

I read a Bleacher Report's ranking of 25 biggest sporting events in 2012, across barely 5 countries and 3 continents.

did calculations from both exact figures on footfalls and deductions made from record financial raking-ins and tv viewership and I arrived at a very modest 17,644,361 footfalls. If 5 countries recorded this in a year, I want you to imagine what 195 countries would record.

Let's assume we can agree on a modestly suggestive annual 100,000,000 footfall for sporting purposes. Let's assume that 80% of these sports travelers just want to travel and enjoy the desired form of participation in their favorite sport, without caring what kind of footprint they leave behind.

This is why I feel we didn't celebrate the Samurai Blue supporters enough for showing the world a perfect example of responsible travelers, when they stayed back to clean up after the game. At first, I thought it's because they were happy that their team won against one of the biggest footballing nations on our planet. And then, they lost to Croatia at the Quarterfinals, but that didn't stop them from showing how much friends of the earth they are.



**FIFA WORLD CUP  
Qatar 2022**



## QATAR AIRWAYS IMPORTS A TASTE OF FIFA WORLD CUP FINALS TO LAGOS

The Skytrax-certified 5-star, middle-eastern airline of global standing known as Qatar Airways is the official airline for FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, as it should be.

It is noteworthy that Qatar's national airline showed resilience in the face of the pandemic. The airline's onboard linen were washed, dried and ironed at microbial lethal temperature, while flying aircrafts that carry the most advanced air filtration systems. As a means of achieving the highest hygiene possible. It also reposes as the first global carrier to deploy Honeywell's Ultraviolet (UV) Cabin.

These unwavering commitment to safety resulted in the airline earning 5-star COVID-19 Airline Safety Rating and Diamond Standard – the very highest height attainable in the Airline Passenger Experience. This made it possible for Qatar Airways to be the only global carrier that flew consistently throughout the year that upended the global tourism and aviation industries – year 2020.

The 7-time World's Best Airline was in the news for the right reasons, earlier in the year, when it launched its 4-times-a-week flights to Kano and 3 weekly flights to Port Harcourt. This was in addition to its existing twice-a-day flights to Lagos, bringing the airline's weekly flights to 28 African destinations, to a total of 188.

Qatar Airways, in the bid to excite existing and potential Lagos customers, gave them a taste of Qatar hospitality, to usher in the tournament, during the opening ceremony and match. The same was repeated during the finals live match viewing, which held at Landmark Beach and an exclusive live screening at Lagos Continental Hotel.

Been the first Arab nation to host the FIFA World Cup, Qatar left no stones unturned in proving its weight. From hosting one of the most inclusive editions of the world cup with the least number of (sustainable) stadia in the history of the tournament, to delivering class act matchday experiences – Qatar left a big shoe for future hosts to fill.





# Amb. Francisco Carlos Soares Luz Bids Nigeria Farewell



kamil Olufowobi

H.E. Amb. Francisco Carlos Soares Luz – Consul General of Brazil in Lagos – has bid Nigeria Farewell, as he leaves for his new place of assignment – Bolivia. The Consul General has served in different African nations, for a total of 18 years, during which he championed a great deal of economic and cultural exchanges.

He officially bade Nigeria farewell, at a dinner hosted at 360 Restaurant by Vertigo, by his friend, H.E. Amb. Jimmy Zahkia Douaihy, The Consul General of Lebanon in Lagos

Brazil being home to the highest settlement of black people outside Africa, Most Influential People of African Descent Honorees resident in Lagos were present to celebrate Amb. Francisco.

Africa will certainly miss him and Afri Diplomats wishes success in his future endeavors.

# MIPAD Honorees Exchange Positive Vibes Over Lunch



City of Lagos



New York City

MIPAD 100



Mexico City

As the annual tradition is, Most Influential People of African Descent Honorees from past and the most recent classes gathered on the 29th of January, 2023, in different cities of the world, at high power networking event themed 'Let's Do Lunch'.

Every last Sunday of every January, MIPAD honorees do lunch together, with the chief aim of getting to know one another, explore possibilities and areas of collaboration towards the advancement of the black race globally. This year, MIPAD honorees in Mexico City gathered for the first time, like their counterparts in City of Lagos and New York City.

It was a moment of sharing of informed thoughts, ideas, banter, laughs and positive vibes, as honorees who couldn't make it to New York for the Recognition Week had their certificate presented to them.



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# Pride of Africa

## Asia Pacific Awards Celebrates Ubuntu On Its 8th Edition



Pride of Africa Asia Pacific Awards



On Friday 29th July, 2022, Appreciate Africa Network hosted The 8th Edition of Pride of Africa Asia Pacific Awards. The ceremony held in the famous capital and largest city of Guangzhou, Guangdong province, which is home to Asia's largest African population. The event was a hybrid of in-person and virtual gathering. This was to ensure that no one missed.

Pride of Africa Asia Pacific Awards – since 2013 – is annually held in Beijing, China, by a Zimbabwean Dr. Samantha Sibanda. The awards recognize and appreciate the work of individuals and teams who have made themselves outstanding by championing different projects that raise African flags in the most positive lights, in the Asia Pacific region.

2022 Pride of Africa Asia Pacific awards had 84 nominees in over 25 categories, from 25 different African countries.

The awardees were selected and nominated from different walks and works of life – youth, sports, health, academics, entertainment etc.

In the spirit of Ubuntu; individuals, institutions and brands that have proven themselves as good friends of Africa were also recognized.

The event was graced by the presence of Zimbabwe's Ambassador to China - His Excellency Dr. Martin Chedondo, Botswana's Charge d'affaires - Ms Nomsa Daphne Mlotshwa along with officials from Botswana's embassy in Beijing, Dean of all African consulates in Guangzhou - Mr Kouame Konan, Tanzania's Consulate General in Guangzhou - Mr. Khatibu Makenga along with officials from his office, Deputy Consulate General of Angola, Protocol Officer of Congo Consulate and

Officials from Uganda's Consulate.

The award gala night which held at Soluxe hotel, Guangzhou, was officially commenced by a keynote speech from His Excellency Dr. Martin Chedondo, who emphasized on the importance of significantly contributing to the African Excellence, in order to help shape the future of the continent. The ceremony was filled with joys of celebration, entertainment and a showcase of African brilliance.

The event marked its end with the founder of Appreciate Africa Network – Dr. Samantha Sibanda – delivering her vote of thanks to all attendees and awardees, while charging them to keep making Africa proud.



# Neda Kheiri

Neda is a teacher turned marketing professional, whose love for Nigeria is impeccably contagious. In this interview with Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord, she tells Afri Diplomat about her affection for Nigeria

## INTERVIEW



### How long have you been in Nigeria and what brought you to the country for the first time?

I was introduced to Nigeria about 21 years ago, when I started working for Nigerian diplomats in Tehran, as the teacher to their children.

### Tell us about your country – the people and culture.

I am from Iran, one of the greatest and oldest civilizations in the world, which is known as Persia.

Well, all I can tell you about my culture is that we are very hospitable and welcoming people. My country is a rainbow of ethnics such as Turk, Lur, Fars, Arab, Baluch and many more. Each ethnic group has their own traditional language and festivals. In different dynasties, all tribes are represented.

### Take us through your work journey in Nigeria.

I studied marketing management. I started my work journey with Nigerian diplomats and it piqued my interest in starting a business in Nigeria. What specifically fascinated me were the delicacies, which appeared to me as a form of art. I started running a restaurant in Lagos, to learn and practice at the same time, how to blend with Nigerian culture. As an adventurous person that I am, I ventured away from that after a year, and I decided to go back home and advance my academic pursuits.

Years passed and I decided to pay a visit to Nigeria, not knowing that my return ticket will expire and I was going to stay.

I got a job at the biggest airline in Nigeria – Airpeace. Within 3 months, I was elevated to the position of deputy marketing manager. This was my first experience with aviation industry and I am immensely grateful to Barrister Allen Onyema, who believed in my capacity and supported me with all his heart. He is my humble role model, who wants the best for this nation. Although, I am no more with Air Peace, I am always doing what I can do for the growth of this great airline.

### Any culture shock?

Well, let me say that I'm more excited than being shocked. Every tribe and culture is artistic and colorful. From the dresses, which they call Aseobi to their foods. And once you are among them, they consider you as one of them. Here, you can easily find friends you can call family.

I love socializing with Nigerians to the extent that I learnt pidgin language and I enjoy speaking it. Honestly, I have more Nigerian friends than Iranian.

### What do you love most about Nigeria?

What I love the most in this land, which I adore and respect the most, are women. In my culture men are the provider and women will support. But in this part of the world, women are so committed and determined to take charge of their homes. I am short of words when I go to the market and all I can see are women who came out with hope, power and love to earn and provide for their beloved ones. I want to hug them all. I want to buy all the market, if I can.

### If you could change anything about Nigeria and Nigerians, what would it be?

I wouldn't change a thing. I don't believe in changing anything, except if it's about me. But if I buy a pot with a plant, I make sure I take care of the root and the fruit of the plant, which are the women and the children of this green land. My only dream is serving women and children, by educating them to be the best they can be.



## Dylott Secures Inclusion For People of Color In Canada, Through Black Diplomacy Academy.

The Black Diplomats Academy (BDA), formally launched in 2021, following successful piloting in 2019, focuses on providing Black youth and young professionals 18-35 years old with access to specialized training and experiential learning opportunities to prepare them for a career in international diplomacy and the broader public service.

Key indicators of the impact of this program includes, sending four young women to the United Nations headquarters in New York City in 2019, to be professionally trained in world politics and negotiations; in 2020. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, we maintained our consistent program offering by sending sixteen high school students to virtual Model United Nations and in 2021, launching the Black Diplomats Academy, where 25 undergraduate and graduate students moved through the three pronged complementary program. All three opportunities to engage with policy determining decision makers, were the first in-depth experiences for program participants.

The deep-rooted discrimination and systematic anti-Black racism experienced by Canadians of African descent have led many members of Black communities to be left out of the domestic and international decision-making institutions that Canada participates in. It is for this reason that the BDA positions our priorities based on the Global Sustainable Development Goals agenda. Our scope of practice aligns with goals: #4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17. Further, with the adoption of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent, the Academy seeks to further define our impact with an emphasis on partnerships to achieve the Goals and the express delivery of Black communities' equity-based foreign and domestic policy agenda.

In line with the modalities of the Permanent Forum, we have identified key directives within which the Academy is able to foster productive, intentional and systemic changemaking on the behalf of people of African descent here in Canada and globally. Priorities for the Academy include:

**Education** – SDG 4: The BDA seeks to close experiential learning gaps that prevent access to policy actors for

Black youth in Canada aspiring to be the next generation of policy leaders. The Academy recognizes that access to experiential learning opportunities have a direct impact on both the academic and professional trajectory of participants. Therefore, the Academy mitigates this barrier by hosting learning labs, conferences, internships, travel abroad opportunities and access to the network for relationship building as a mechanism to create social inclusion. Through these actions, the Academy ensures that Black youth and young professionals are on an equitable path to opportunities for advancement.

**Employment** – SDGs 5, 8: The domestic and international relations job sectors in Canada, especially those in the diplomacy space: negotiation, trade, development (humanitarian and economic), Justice and Strong equitable Institutions, National Security, Technology, Infrastructure, are often concealed and difficult to access. Furthermore, these areas continue to present gender-based inequity. The BDA seeks to uncover this hidden job market for Black youths and create a pathway for them to seek and excel in opportunities in these fields.

**Representation on policy platforms** – SDGs 10, 13, 16 and 17: The BDA seeks to inform policy positions on foreign policy at the national and international levels. Specifically, the mission of the Academy in this context is to champion Canada's policy positions at High-Level meetings, G-series, World Economic and Climate Action forums. The Academy endeavors to position Black young people to excel in subject matter that is focused on multilateralism. In addition, the Academy pursues the advancement of Black diplomacy at the intersection of racial and ethnic identity, age, gender, differently abled and neurodiverse individuals and lived expertise in African descent diasporic concerns.

**The UN Permanent Forum for People of African Descent** – SDG 10: The BDA is positioned to act in alignment with the modalities of the UN Permanent Forum for People of African Descent. The Academy also prioritizes the themes of Recognition, Justice and Development in the context of domestic and foreign policy development.



## Access Bank Lagos City Marathon: The Journey To Gold Label

Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord

**N**ilayo Sports Management has a slew of road races under its belt, but Access Bank Lagos City Marathon remains its flagship marathon that has grown in leaps and bounds. As it obtains, no marathon can hold without the buy-in of the government of the host destination, for a number of reasons. Chief amongst the reasons is the fact that major roads would have to be closed for a period of the day. Organizers would have to coordinate hand-in-hand with concerned government agencies.

This made Bukola Olopade – the chief organizer of the mega sporting event – to carry the idea around like the pregnancy of an elephant, until 2016 the year of parturition, when the then Governor of Lagos State – Gov. Akinwunmi Ambode gave it a nodding of yes. Eight editions after, the major footfall bringer has made Lagos wish the event debuted much earlier, given how it has encouraged healthy and active lifestyle. Many runners club in the City of Lagos were formed in its wake.

The marathon which has attracted as much as 100,000 social and elite runners – in a single edition – brings, on a yearly basis, thousands of local and international arrivals that contribute to the economy of the state, through hospitality and tourism patronage, while promising more, if sport and tourism stakeholders cum administrators in the host destination will deepen collaboration.

Like I always say, the biggest excuse for travel in the 21st

century remains sport and ABLCM is etching Lagos on world map, but a more deliberate effort to maximally milk this seismic cow that Nilayo Sports Management (in partnership with the state government and sponsors of the event), annually brings to town, will further fatten the socioeconomic boon the marathon currently offers.

Access Bank Lagos City Marathon has proven itself to be in the class of top road races where professional runners are well rewarded for their time and talent, with the tens of thousands of dollars that have always been up for grab. And East African runners, especially Kenyans across genders, have made it a duty to make the substantial prizes theirs – year in, year out.

With consistency and constant innovating ways of delivering the mega sporting event over the years, Access Bank City Marathon upon, in its 8th edition, finally earned the coveted World Athletics rated gold label, which ushered the event into the class of renowned road races like Boston Marathon, Berlin Marathon, Paris Marathon, Beijing Marathon, London Marathon etc. This was made evident by the physical presence of officials of World Athletics led by The Head of Running, Alessio Punzi, at the 2023 edition.

I earnestly look forward to Access Bank Lagos City Marathon wearing its platinum label and sitting pretty amongst the likes of Valencia Marathon, Tokyo Marathon, Shanghai International Marathon.



Mayor Eric Adams

## The Mayor of New York's Speech At US-Africa Leaders Summit

I am going to say to my African brothers and sisters. We have to be present in the moment. Prior to becoming the Mayor of New York, I was the County Executive for the Borough of Brooklyn. And my mother in her thorough grade education was intimidated by that building. It was a room and building that was extremely impressive. But when her son became the county executive, she would walk into the building with a different level of energy. She would walk into the building with a sense of pride and purpose. My aunties, cousins and nephews will walk into the building with a sense of sureness that their bloodline was in charge of the county – the largest county in the City of New York.

And so I need for brothers and sisters from the diaspora to understand the moment that you are in, right now. You are in a moment when, for the first time in history, you are seeing power that isn't American, but African power. But if you don't connect to that, you are not going to understand the full purpose of this moment. The Mayor of the most important city in the most important country is an African. The head of the Minority Leadership in The Congress – Hakeem Jeffries – is an African. Four of the most important cities in America are headed by Africans.

In New York City, the top law enforcement executive Laticia James is an African. The head of the assembly is an African. The head of the city council is an African. The District Attorney in Bronx is an African. The District Attorney in Manhattan is an African. All of these chocolates, what are we going to do with them? So, if you come to Washington and you use this moment to be in a corner somewhere, drinking wine and eating off some plates, you don't understand the significance of this moment. Africans are running this country. You need to walk differently, speak differently, act differently and feel the power of Africa.

So, that's the moment we're in right now. I had several trips to Africa, watching the different energy and spirit of Africa – we have to connect to that. You can no longer walk in this country, feeling like a stranger, when an African is running the country. We have to think differently what we must do. You have been denied, ignored and exploited on the continent of Africa, for too long.

**“So, if you come to Washington and you use this moment to be in a corner somewhere, drinking wine and eating off some plates, you don't understand the significance of this moment”.**

All your natural resources have been taken. You are the largest producer of cocoa, but others have been the one making chocolate out of it. Now, you go and make chocolates out of the cocoa coming out of your countries. Use your natural resources in a manner that they are supposed to be used, and bridge the gap with your cousins, aunties and uncles that are from here in America.

I went to Ghana last year and Goree Island two years ago. We left the continent in slavery and we'd return with temerity. That's how we ought to start thinking as Africans.

So, this conference is significant. Share ideas. Cross-pollinate energy. Come up with real gains. Let's focus on what is needed on the continent. Let's utilize the power we have right here. Let's make it exciting and encouraging. Let's duplicate what Ghana is doing, giving citizenship to those who are from here in America, so they could be citizens of the continent. Let's allow and do partnerships.

My mother transitioned last year – from the physical to the spiritual. Nothing great gave me a greater honour than placing her name on W.E.B Du Bois wall in Ghana. We need to reawaken the spirit of our ancestors that were ripped apart from our shores and lay at the bottom of the ocean. They are watching us right now.

We have to ask ourselves. What are we going to do with this moment? I am ready to turn that question mark into an exclamation point and say we would unite and we would listen to Marcus Garvey when he said “Up, you mighty race. You can be what you will”.

Thank you!



H.E. Amb.  
**MARTIN  
CHEDONDO**



## INTERVIEW

Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord

**Dr. Chedondo is a retired general in the Zimbabwean Army, who has found the usefulness of his military background in the art of diplomacy. He currently serves as Zimbabwean Ambassador to China and 2 other Asia-Pacific Countries.**

**Kindly give us an introduction into your background.**

I was born in rural Buhera District in the province of Manicaland in the then colonial Rhodesia on the 7th November 1955. I attended primary school in the same province and later moved to Midlands Province's Shurugwi District for secondary school at the Chrome Secondary School, where I passed Cambridge 'O' Level exams before joining the then Ministry of Roads as a Trainee Civil Engineering Survey Technician, which I later abandoned after three years, to join the Armed Liberation Struggle for my country in 1977.

I underwent guerilla military training in Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania before deploying for combat in August 1978. In the frontlines I participated in active combat until ceasefire in December 1979. On attainment of independence in 1980 I enlisted into the Zimbabwe National Army as a Junior Lieutenant. I served in the army up to 2019 and retired with the rank of Lieutenant General. In the course of service, I did all relevant training courses to include the Command and General Staff course at Fort Leavenworth in the USA.

I had an enjoyable military career, which saw me serve my country dutifully, professionally and patriotically. In the course of service I was involved in both internal and regional initiatives, which gave me opportunity to interact with other militaries from across the globe and these

interactions were the foundation for my current assignment as Zimbabwean Ambassador to China and two other countries in Asia Pacific.

On the academic front, during the course of service I successfully graduated with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from the University of South Africa, Masters in Public Sector Management from Africa University (Zimbabwe) and a PhD in Ethics from the University of KwaZulu Natal (South Africa).

**Have you served elsewhere, other than China? If you may, please take us through your journey into the world of Diplomacy**

This is my first Diplomatic Assignment and I am finding the undertaking worthwhile. I am indeed grateful to my President, H.E. D. Mnangagwa, for giving me the great opportunity to serve my country in such a honorable way, covering The People's Republic of China, Pakistan and Mongolia.

The 2nd Republic of Zimbabwe was ushered in November 2017, under the able leadership of President E. D. Mnangagwa, himself a tried and tested veteran freedom fighter. He is leading an enthusiastic team of patriots with the mission of turning around the economic fortunes of the more than 16 million Zimbabweans, whose lives have been devastated by 20

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**“Through the extensive engagement and re-engagement policy, the country has reached out to all players in the domestic and international community, mobilizing for a new order and trajectory of relating, which prioritizes national interest, mutuality, equality and respect for the multilateral based international order.”**

years of ruinous illegal sanctions imposed unilaterally by the West and ZIDERA by America, for no justifiable reason, except as retributive punishment for the just reclamation of our land ownership rights, which saw the government distribute more than 10 million hectares of land to more than half a million majority blacks as a fulfilment of the core objective of the liberation struggle.

Faced with the multiple evils of the economic sanctions, isolation from the international community caused by Western media regime-change sponsored agenda and a polarized populace; the new dispensation adopted pragmatic domestic and foreign policies to pacify the situation.

Domestically, the government ushered in Vision 2030, with the aim of achieving upper middle-income economy status by 2030. Under this vision the new guiding philosophy has been anchored on rallying the entire nation to a collective consensus of rebuilding the country brick upon brick, involving all Zimbabweans, without leaving no one and no place behind. Frameworks such as the Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD) and Presidential Advisory Committee have been put in place to assist in mobilizing public opinion and rally all stakeholders to common and shared purpose. Internationally, the Government has adopted the engagement and re-engagement policy under the philosophy of being a friend to all and enemy to none. In an encompassing and inclusive drive, the government has been operating under the mantra ‘Zimbabwe is open for business’ to encourage both domestic and international investors to contribute towards vision 2030.

Through the extensive engagement and re-engagement policy, the country has reached out to all players in the domestic and international community, mobilizing for a new order and trajectory of relating, which prioritizes national interest, mutuality, equality and respect for the multilateral based international order.

#### **How Has Zimbabwe’s foreign policy fared in Pacific Asia and how has it helped in advancing the country’s core objectives for foreign relations\_?**

These efforts are not only directed at the Asia Pacific region, as per your question, but globally. And the results are beginning to show the positive gains. From the United Nations to the African Union, SADC and many countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific Block, the non-aligned movement and our longtime friends such as Russia and The People’s Republic of China; there have been growing

choruses for the removal of sanctions and on another dimension, we have begun to witness multimillion mega investments in all sectors of the economy. With this momentum, victory is a certain in the achievement of vision 2030, anchored on the basic tenets of rule of law and zero tolerance to corruption.

#### **How would you describe China as your host?**

Relations between Zimbabwe and China were upgraded from all weather to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Co-operation in 2018, when President Mnangagwa paid his maiden visit to PRC. During the 2018 visit, he and President Xi Jinping agreed on common positions for strengthening and widening areas of co-operation and collaboration with a special focus on win-win outcomes for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Resultantly, Zimbabwe has witnessed an upsurge of Chinese investments in all sectors of the economy.

At both bilateral and multilateral levels, the Chinese Government has been a constant and reliable partner in support of Zimbabwe’s development agenda, through government to government development financial packages and loans, grants and aid, as well as extending assistance and infrastructural development support through facilities such as the BRI and FOAC. In the process, the country has managed to upgrade infrastructure such as airports, electricity supply, dam construction, telecommunication upgrades, and high speed computer installations for facilitating e-governance and e-commerce. In reciprocity the Chinese market has been opened to more Zimbabwean commodities.

On the diplomatic front, the two countries have reciprocally supported each other’s core interests, hence Zimbabwe has stood firm in support of the One China Policy on Taiwan and the One China Two Systems Principle with regards to Hong Kong. On its part, China has firmly stood unwavering in its principled support for Zimbabwe and has gone to the extent of exercising its Veto power at the UN Security Council in 2008, when the West moved a resolution to place Zimbabwe under Chapter 7 operations, on the grounds of a flimsy allegations of human rights abuses.

In addition, China has been consistent and loud in its call for the removal of the Western unilateral sanctions on Zimbabwe. In summary, relations between Zimbabwe and China are standing on solid ground, with the potential to achieve more favorable outcomes in the economy, human interaction, health and social security, governance and

critical technology transfer in ICTs, e-commerce and general human resources development. The relations are based on equality, respect, mutuality, sincerity, goodwill and non-interference in the internal affairs of the other.

**Late President Robert Mugabe was an enigma that attracted different definition from different people of the world. How would you describe him?**

On the question about the late President Robert Mugabe, my answer is that each historical epoch and era produces its heroes. The late President was in the trenches fighting for Zimbabwe's liberation and we remain indebted to the selflessness he displayed, sacrificing comfort and glamour for service to the people's cause under the banner of the revolutionary Zanu PF Party. After the attainment of independence, he is credited with the monumental expansion of education for all and the efforts to expand health coverage.

The irreversible land reform which has remained a pillar of Zanu PF policy under the 2nd Republic was initiated under his leadership and it will go down in history as an epoch making event in post colonial politics. Indeed on the continental and global politics he was an enigma and as Zimbabweans we are happy to follow the wise counsel of our principled leader H.E ED Mnangagwa, who has unequivocally said we will always respect our fallen heroes and leaders who individually and collectively influenced the

course for our cherished destination of prosperity and happiness for all.

**What makes Zimbabwe a choice destination for business and tourism?**

Under the mantra 'Zimbabwe is open for business', the country holds vast opportunities in all sectors of the economy. It is bountifully endowed with good climate, fertile soils, plenty minerals and it is home to unlimited flora and fauna. It is home to the Victoria Falls, one of the acclaimed seven wonders of the world. It is indeed a most favored destination for business and leisure. Be rest assured that if you visit once, you'd fall in love with the country for life.

In terms of mineral potentials, the country is home to most of the world's most sought after resources like lithium, rare earths, platinum group of metals, gold, diamonds, iron and chrome ores to name a few. In agriculture there is huge potential for both cereal and cash crops as well as beef and dairy products. Manufacturing and value addition through mechanized and high tech industrialization are all part of the new trajectory for growth.

In order to support the call for investment partnerships, the country guarantees a secure and stable political and economic environment based on the rule of law and zero tolerance to corruption. The government has undertaken





**“This explains why, even, in the international system under the United Nations, there is military budget for peace-keeping, and post conflict reconstruction”.**

legislative reform to promote the ease of doing business. In addition, the country has pride in the vibrancy of a young, educated, dynamic and welcoming youthful population fit for roles in any developmental mode.

All things considered, Zimbabwe is a must visit destination for business and tourism. We encourage all willing partners to come and join the unfolding revolution of prospering Zimbabwe which is unstoppable.

**Take us through your social life, please.**

In social life I am a humble, Godfearing family man. I enjoy the company of my grandchildren and I take time to enjoy nature.

**I learnt you are a retired general in the Zimbabwean army. Could you please paint correlation between modus operandi of the military and diplomacy?**

As I mentioned earlier on, I retired from active service after a cumulative 43 years of patriotic service to my country.

The military is an important pillar of State power and it can be likened to the insurance policy of a nation.

The military is a guarantor of security and stability and without it, development will be on shaky ground. It is therefore, in the interest of any nation to develop a strong and professional military, as a way of multiplying its hard and soft power elements, which are all important tools for contemporary diplomacy. This explains why, even, in the international system under the United Nations; there is military budget for peace-keeping, and post conflict reconstruction.



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# Reflecting On The First Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent



Esther Ojulari

## Chevy X Eugene

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Presently, Mr. Eugene is a sessional lecturer at the University of Toronto, where he teaches International Development Studies, Black Canadian Studies, and Caribbean Studies. He is completing a Social Science Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funded Ph.D. entitled "Decolonizing the Caribbean Reparations" in the Social and Political Thought Program (SPTH), at York University, Canada.

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The first Session of the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent (PFPAD) was held at the United Nations (Palais des Nations), Geneva, Switzerland, from December 5 to 8, 2022. The need for the forum was agreed on, at the August 2021 UN General Assembly, to implement Resolution A/RES/75/314 as an essential mechanism of the human rights body. In attendance were over 600 contributors who participated in the session in-person, through recorded presentation and live Webcast. Therefore, it is safe to argue that the concerns of people of African descent were fully expressed during the four days of the gathering.

Since the intention behind this think piece is not limited to reportage on the historical forum, I am suggesting that the permanent forum can apply a decolonial reparatory justice framework to address the global issues encountered by people of African descent. I am not arguing for a one-size-fits-all solution, but a fluid restitution model that recognizes each country/region's context in articulating justice and the legacies of enslavement, colonialism, and neocolonialism play. In order to support my assertion, I will provide a background to the first session of the Permanent Forum, which took place in Geneva. The engagement speaks to how reparatory justice frameworks can be applied to dismantle systemic, institutional and

structural anti-Black racism. The overall objective of the Permanent Forum's first session was to create critical spaces for social justice advocates, Member States, UN organs, human rights organizations, civil society delegates and other key stakeholders to underline and tackle the various forms of oppression experienced by people of African descent – globally. The discussions, side events and other activities were keen on addressing anti-Black systemic racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. The tone (and follow-up actions) for the thematic discussions were set by the mandate of the 2001 World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

The four-day session was broken down into 6 categories:  
 The Fight against Systemic Racism – Future Policymaking for People of African Descent  
 Sustainable Development Agenda – the Case for Climate Justice

- A rights-based approach to reparatory justice – Connecting the Past and Future
- Equality for All People of African Descent
- Drafting a legally binding UN Declaration on the rights of People of African Descent
- The future work of the Permanent Forum – Feedback from participant.

The Permanent Forum for people of African Descent came through the push from civil societies who pressed it upon their respective governments and, in some cases, the activism from international front. For example, in 2019, I was fortunate to join the International Coalition for People of African Descent (ICPAD) and other Black activists from around the world, at Howard University School of Law, Washington D.C. It was a workshop where we shared practical ideas on how to develop the Permanent Forum. Hence, my entry point to the Forum's first session was through the global alliance movement. "What's next after

the decade has been completed” was the question and concern raised by activists, policymakers, and campaigners of the decade. Some suggestions proposed a second decade or the need to pick lessons from the International Indigenous Peoples’ Human Rights Movements to develop a Permanent Forum.

The discussions during the four-day session emphasized that anti-black systemic racism is part of the very foundation of the modern world. Therefore, to receive justice beyond material recompense, the very foundation of the society needs to be transformed. At the end of the sessions, the draft declaration was shared publicly by the Forum’s Rapporteur, which captured the summary of the themes taken up by the key stakeholders:

- The PFPAD recognizes the importance of representing a broad and inclusive civil society from all regions of the world
- The PFPAD confirms the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration
- The Forum recognizes that intersected experiences of racism impact differently for a diversity of people of African descent – including LGBTQiA+, those who identify as non-binary, linguistic minorities, disabled people, etc.
- The PFPAD will advance an instructive standard against racism, racial discrimination, “Afri-phobia” (also, “Afro-phobia”), xenophobia, marginalization and related intolerance against people of African descent
- The Forum recognizes the specific issues and crises being experienced in Haiti. The PFPAD acknowledges the country’s pioneering role in the struggles for emancipation from enslavement and also Haiti’s symbolic and commemorative place in relation to the African Diaspora.
- It is inadequate to respond to racism solely by taking decisions at interpersonal events and experiences. Systemic, structural and institutionalized forms of racism must also be recognized, addressed, challenged and eradicated.
- Issues on migration will feature prominently in the Forum’s current and future work.
- The IDPAD advocates the necessity of dis-aggregated data to inform policies and practices for eliminating systemic racism and racialized inequalities.
- The Forum will consolidate the pillars of the first International Decade of People of African Descent (IDPAD, 2015-2204) – re. recognition, justice and development – by extending the IDPAD through to 2025, and observing another decade through to 2035.
- The PFPAD will rally a consolidated effort towards full restoration of the dignity of people of African descent by confronting and addressing the legacies of the past.

**The discussions during the four-day session emphasized that anti-Black systemic racism is part of the very foundation of the modern world. Therefore, to receive justice beyond material recompense, the very foundation of the society needs to be transformed.**

As social activists and other key stakeholders work locally and across borders, in the advocacy for people of African descent (and prepare for the follow-up session that is scheduled to take place in May 2023, New York City), we can rethink how the permanent forum takes on the identified issues experienced by Black people. The modern world was constructed with the bricks of racial capitalism, which continues to exploit Black people globally. These forms of exploitation can be through economic means in societies with a high number of Black people, such as on the African continent, Brazil or in certain parts of the Caribbean – for example, Saint Lucia. Black people also experience economic and racial discrimination in their everyday existence, for example, in the United States (US), Canada etc.

Getting to the core of the summary of issues requires an institutional transformation – sort of a new world-making. Reparatory justice can be a approach through which we can take on the issues of African genocide, enslavement, colonialism, and neocolonialism. For instance, we cannot omit climate justice out of the dialogue, when discussing reparations for regions like the Caribbean.

Developed countries and multinational organizations produce the highest levels of carbon emissions which plunged the world into global warming. Consequently, the Caribbean region has experienced record number of hurricanes and storms in the last 10+ years. This has indirectly maintained the further degradation of the region, by developed countries and multinational business entities.

The PFPAD is a significant undertaking, but if the solutions do not include transforming the global racial capitalist system, the outcomes, like other UN mechanisms, only become a symbol of hope. Therefore, I propose that the PFPAD take on a decolonial reparatory justice approach towards a just world.

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# FREEDOMS OF THE AIR

## IS AFRICA HOLDING THE SHORTER END OF THE STICK?

Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord

Freedoms of The Sky are a set of treaties on civil aviation, agreed upon at Chicago Convention of 1944. It captures conventional multilateral agreement that an airline will be able to fly from its home country to another's, based on the principle of reciprocity.

There are currently 9 of those *freedoms* and they state that:

– *An airline is allowed to fly from its home country across the sovereign airspace of another country, without landing.*

– *an airline is allowed to make a technical landing in a country other than the one it was originally bound, for non-traffic purposes.*

– *An airline has the right to transport passengers or freight from its home country to another country.*

– *An airline has the right to board and fly from abroad passengers or freight destined for the carrier's home country.*

– *Passengers or freight can be transported between two foreign countries provided that the journey starts or terminates in the airline's home country.*

– *An airline is allowed to fly cargo or passengers between two foreign countries through its home country.*

– *An airline is allowed to transport freight or passengers between two foreign countries without touching down in its home country.*

– *An airline is allowed to transport passengers or freight within another country on a flight that has originated or will terminate in its home country.*

– *The airline is allowed to transport passengers or freight within another country without touching down in its home country.*

Freedoms of the sky spells freedom in every noble way, except that Air Law grants every nation complete and

exclusive sovereignty over her airspace and as such reserves the right to regulate entry of foreign aircrafts into her territory.

This is where multilateral is stepped down to *Bilateral Air Services Agreement*, because one government then finds need to engage another government individually, and have agreements that are informed by the realities of each of the two parties, signed.

It behooves an airline to engage its own local civil aviation authority (and ministry), who then negotiates overflight and air traffic right – on its behalf – with the government of the destination it intends to include on its list of routes, for scheduled and nonscheduled flights into the latter's territory. This is usually based on the letters of the existing *Bilateral Air Services Agreement* between the government of its country of origin and that of the destination it intends to start flying to. However, the spirit of *BASA* is a tricky one, because it, more often than

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**What plans do we have in place to ensure that local businesses gain from these relationships? BASA isn't about airlines winning. It's about the total economy receiving life. How many people can we let into our country? How do we ensure they spend in our country, when we let them in? When you fly Qatar Airways to the US, they make you stay for hours in Doha, so you could spend some money in their country, even if it's only \$100. If you arrive during breakfast, they'd ensure your flight continues by lunch time. Won't you like to have your bath or pick some items from the duty-free shop?**

not, leaves room for the civil aviation authority of the other country to determine what overflight permits are granted to or denied the airline(s) of the former.

Especially in the case of state-owned airlines with private management, one airline can be enjoying privileges not reciprocated in commensurate degree, towards airline(s) from another state, giving the former an alibi. After all, the state and the airline are under different managements and BASA is negotiated by governments, not airlines.

This was the case of Air Peace, an airline of Nigerian extract. The Allen Onyema led airline allegedly applied for permission to fly into Dubai, UAE, but was granted permission for flights to Sharjah – instead. Meanwhile, Emirates Airline operated 11 weekly flights to Abuja and twice-daily flights to Lagos – from Dubai, Nigerians' preferred UAE destination. Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority had to play hardball to get UAE government to reciprocate a semblance of what Emirates enjoys in Nigeria. There were claims that Air Peace was the one who failed to follow due process, though.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic in the year 2020, when different countries were evacuating their stranded citizens from different corners of the world, British government announced a 75million British Pounds evacuation intervention fund, to evacuate British citizens from around the world. Each pound went to British airlines in form of patronage, as a way of avoiding capital flights.

Nigeria (and every other African nation) granted British airlines diplomatic landing clearance, despite the fact that UK was one of the major epicenters of the Covid-19 virus. British Airways evacuated more than 500 Britons from Nigeria. The first set of Nigerian evacuees were airlifted from the UK by British Airways. But, when Air Peace was contracted by Nigerian government, to evacuate remaining Nigerian citizens, British government had an excuse, as to why Air Peace could not be granted landing permission. Instead, Air Peace was advised by British government to contract a British airline to carry out the airlifting.

Is there more to this matter than meet the eyes? Did the UK government have genuine reasons for refusing to reciprocate what airlines of British extract enjoys in Nigeria and, by extension, Africa? Or, it did so because it can? Do other African countries experience this or its reserved for airlines of Nigerian extract?

Do we need one more freedom of the air, predicated on the principle of reciprocity of overflight permit and/or diplomatic landing clearance, at mandated mutually commensurate degree, among states that are party to the Chicago Convention treaties/BASA?

I have gathered aviation experts with vast understanding of African aviation ecosystem, to help make sense of this topic.

#### **Dozie Uzoezie's Thoughts**

Let's face it. In international politics, Africa holds the short end of the stick, which often, is also the rough end. And that is because the West has succeeded in boxing Africa into a tight corner of helplessness, from where it is expected to be eternally grateful to the rest of the world. Aviation seems to be a perfect example.

In addition to the endemic challenges, including but not limited to unhealthy business environment, defective regulatory frameworks, dilapidated infrastructures, and weak currencies, the African aviation industry also grapples with a number of exogenous challenges, including international aero politics, which is the elephant in the room, and which often does not favour Africa.

From the First Freedom to the Ninth Freedom, Freedom of The Sky is not *freedom* of the sky if it doesn't primarily benefit the West at the expense of Africa. That is because, fundamentally, international aero politics, multilateral agreements, and air services agreements are made with the West in mind.

In diplomatic civil aviation relations, Bilateral Air Services Agreements (BASA) takes pre-eminence over conventional multilateral agreements. It is the prerogative of the two parties to spell out the terms and the conditions of reciprocity. But often times, African countries do not benefit from these lopsided agreements.

A classical example is Nigeria, where two British carriers operate 21 weekly frequencies to two gateways in Nigeria, while no Nigerian airline currently flies to the United Kingdom. Capacity is not the issue here, but sheer diplomatic disrespect and reckless violation of bilateral air services agreement by the government of the United Kingdom. Nigeria's Air Peace has been a victim of this blatant diplomatic irresponsibility.

Having said that, it would be unfair to not point out that, international aero politics aside, Africa, as a continent, does not yet have the adequate capacity, and is therefore, not ready to fully reciprocate bilateral and multilateral air services agreements. And until that happens, Africa will continue holding the short end of the stick.

#### **Sean Mendis' Thoughts**

I will say that the Chicago convention is far from perfect, but any regulatory regime must have a frame of reference and the convention provides that as a baseline. The issues raised as being somehow targeting Nigeria or Africa are more of an issue that creates a barrier to entry for any new entrants, regardless of national origin. It is not like a new entrants from the UK is able to get access to the rights to fly between their own country and Nigeria as the incumbents already dominate the limited assets such as slots and traffic rights.

The Chicago convention actually only established 5 freedoms. 6th through 9th freedom are derivative rights. A modern

alternative to the Chicago convention framework is open skies and single markets. Multilaterally there are blocs of open skies - SAATM, EU single market, etc. Initially, this is happening in blocs, with SAATM in Africa being the flagship program here. This allows the best players with the best resources to serve the markets irrespective of national origin.

It's important to differentiate between what open skies or bilateral agreements confer (i.e. the right to enter a market) versus the actual resources needed to enter the market.

Reciprocity creates a level playing field in concept, but does not require equal market shares. The stronger player will always prevail, and the incumbent is always going to be stronger in the short term.

It's a step that is probably not as far away as one thinks. A defacto open skies regime exists for cargo already.

About Air Peace, the airline at that time had not passed the UK or EASA safety audits for a foreign carrier permit, without which they officially were not able to operate there. This could have been waived, but that would be a discretionary thing rather than a matter of entitlement.

#### **Derek Nseko's Thoughts**

While the freedoms of the air were designed to promote fair competition on international airline operations, reciprocity is not always guaranteed in practice.

The degree of reciprocity can depend on a number of factors, such as the negotiating power of the airlines involved, the specific terms of the air service agreement, and the policies and regulations of the countries involved. African airlines may have limited negotiating power when it comes to securing reciprocal rights in air service agreements, as they may be negotiating with larger and more established airlines from other regions.

The regulatory environment in some African countries may also not be as developed as in other regions, making it harder for African airlines to comply with the rules and regulations established by some international air service agreements.

In many cases, there is an unequal distribution of benefits and an unfair advantage for some airlines. To ensure reciprocity and promote fair competition, Africa can do better to develop and implement open and equitable air service agreements.

#### **Alex Nwuba's Thoughts**

The problem with BASA has always been that, while foreign governments help their own airlines, Nigerian government leaves her airlines to the vagaries of the market. So, the government takes a hands-off position, with regards to the airlines industry in Nigeria, while the government of foreign airlines take deliberate effort to help the airlines penetrate, break and succeed in those markets.

It then becomes a *war* between a private enterprise and a foreign government, when the engagement should be government-to-government in nature.

The basis of the agreement is reciprocity. You come to my country six times. I come to yours six times. We agree to reciprocity, then one of the parties creates stumbling blocks for the other. Let me give you an example. I worked at a national career of one of the West African Francophone countries, that had French airlines flying into the country. I was Number 2. man in the company.

When we tried to fly into France, as soon as our airplane arrives; police, immigration and sniffer dogs are at the gate, waiting for our passengers, and that was a subtle, but deliberate effort to deter our passengers from flying us and consequently choosing their own airlines – in order to save themselves the stress of coming under x-rays. That is a direct and deliberate effort to discourage the spirit of reciprocity.

The terms of the agreement could be great, but the reality is different. When you look at Air Peace-Emirates situation, you can see that Emirates flies to multiple airports in Nigeria, but the UAE government confined Air Peace to Sharjah where there's no duty-free shopping. It is never in any way the same experience as Dubai. These are proofs that we have agreement of reciprocity in letters, but not in action.

The strength and spirit of reciprocity gives room for you to tell the other party that he's not treating you the way you are treating him, therefore, something has to happen to the relationship. Abacha did this effectively. If you want to play this game, we can play it, too. Guess what. This relationship benefits them more than it benefits us. They get the higher percentage of the revenue. They carry more of our nationals than we carry theirs. So, when we take the same actions that they take, it would hurt them more than it would hurt us. And then, they would go back to the agreement and do what is in the best interest of both parties.

#### **Dr. Daniel Young's Thoughts**

Airlines are not involved in Bilateral Air Services Agreement. The government of their origin country signs on their behalf. Now, ask yourself. What is the genesis of this trade agreement? In West Africa, it started shortly before the first African country to gain independence from the European colonial powers, did. The Europeans (The British) saw that they were going to lose out, because of the economic interest they had in West Africa and all over Africa.

They asked themselves: how do we maintain a hold here, without seeming to continually colonize them? Meanwhile, air services had become a major means of transportation. This meant opportunity to move goods from their country to Africa and resources from here to their countries, which was the basis for their industrialization.

In order to maintain their hold and the relationship, they created an agreement which our people were not privy to. They presented an agreement that promised equal access to both parties. But, since its not possible to have agreement with someone who lacks the capacity to reciprocate, they convinced African countries to float their own airlines.

I am establishing this background, so that you would

understand that the open skies agreements were designed from the beginning not to favor Africa. The aircrafts you are going to buy is paid for, from the royalty they would pay you.

Maintenance of the aircrafts and training of your staffs will be paid for, from the same royalty. If you are unable to reciprocate, they would still pay you royalty. However, none of the factors of business is determined by you.

So, whatever you earn goes back to them and you are at their mercy. If they tell you that the spare parts of your aircrafts are not available, you have no other choice than to ground the airline. The super powers behind the partitioning of Africa in 1883 are still at play here. They haven't given up.

The policy of assimilation was used to ensure that Francophone countries are still part of French territory, even while they are geographically located in Africa. You can't have a meeting with them and agree on anything that they won't report to the government in France. That's why all the efforts to create a seamless air connectivity in Africa, in the last 30 years, proved abortive. It is because of such allegiance of African nations to their former colonial masters.

The problem with BASA is that our governments negotiate the agreements on behalf of the airlines and when they do, personal interests lead the way. They do not consider the aftereffect of the decision they are making. How would it impact their airlines? You give as much as 30 slots to foreign airlines, whereas we have weak airlines that cannot reciprocate it. These agreements will ultimately not favor our airlines, because they lack the capacity to access the necessary funds to increase their fleet and connect.

When you give 21 slots to Dubai and it gives you 3 in return, it is not the fault of Dubai. The fault is yours, because you haven't been able to come up with tradeables that can help you get the best out of the transaction.

When America was going to sign international trade agreement with the UK, shortly after the WW1, they decided that before you can pick passengers from our territory, you would have to pay us \$20 per passenger.

Nigeria has signed BASA with about 80 countries – some of the agreements are in effect, others are not. Some still ply our routes and we get next to nothing in return. If an airline comes into Nigeria for 3 times a day, carrying 500 passengers and they pay us \$50 per passenger. If we have this with many airlines; that's some revenue to help us develop our aviation.

These guys are way ahead of us in thinking. We are extremely tentative in our planning. When the UK gives you license to come and float an airline in their country, they checkmate you with their internal policies like 'you must employ 300 of their citizens, you must have an office in a stipulated area of their city' etc. Yes, you have a document that says you can operate, but the local policies inhibit you from being able to take advantage of them. In our own case, we give them complete access and we are not careful enough to craft our own policies in a way that makes the trade relationship advantageous to us.

BASA allows you to fly in, but when you do, there is corporate affairs commission to deal with, because you must register your business as a legal entity and there would be requirements tailored to make sure your business profits the local economy. Local policies take things from where BASA ends.

In Singapore, there is a local agreement signed with every hotel that mandates every of their guests to visit at least one of the Singaporean tourist attractions. The cost of visiting those attractions is already embedded in the hotel rates. This way, both the hotels and tourism at large gain from every guest who finds him/herself needing a room-night in Singapore. The government also gains from taxes. The system becomes buoyant.

We don't take time to craft things to the littlest detail that sees to it that we gain from these relationships. How can we gain from Emirates flying into Nigeria? How can it impact trade? They drop passengers, pick another set. Nothing concrete is gained.

You would notice that when you apply for visas to other countries, they would require you to provide details of the hotel you would be staying (also the airline you would be flying). This is to help government know how much the hotel is earning from the transaction. They can also decide to give more visas to travelers that have shown proof that they would be flying the countries' own airlines.

BASA is about the economy. How many people can we let into our country? How do we ensure they spend in our country, when we let them in? When you fly Qatar Airways to the US, they make you stay for hours in Doha, so you could spend some money in their country, even if it's only \$100. If you arrive during breakfast, they'd ensure your flight continues by lunch time. Won't you like to have your bath or pick some items from the duty-free shop?

What plans do we have in place to ensure that local businesses gain from these relationships? BASA isn't about airlines winning. It's about the total economy receiving life.

**“It's important to differentiate between what open skies or bilateral agreements confer (i.e. the right to enter a market) versus the actual resources needed to enter the market.**

**Reciprocity creates a level playing field in concept, but does not require equal market shares”.**



Aviation Cup Africa

## Colourful Debut For Aviation Cup Africa Golf Tourney

From GDS, airline, travel agency to in-flight catering sectors of the industry; golfers from the aviation industry gathered in the closest golf course to the airport in Lagos and one that shares history with aviation in Nigeria — Ikeja Golf Club — as the West African leg of Aviation Cup Africa Golf Tournament 2022 teed off.

Sponsored by SkyTeam Alliance — Kenya Airways, Delta Air Lines — Sky Care Catering Services, Golfview Suites & Conference Centre, Dees Hotel and Radisson Blu Anchorage; the gathering of aviation golfers was a medley of banter, fun and competition.

Playing off 26 handicap, Dare Olayiwola of Sabre Travel Solutions recorded 93 gross — which equaled to 67 Net — to win the men’s category of the competition. He went home with a flight ticket to continental US, on Delta Air Lines operated aircraft.

Bukola Rokosu, the commercial manager of Delta Air Lines in Nigeria, was the only lady that played in the competition, automatically earning her the trophy and a flight ticket

courtesy of Kenya Airways.

The prize presentation held at Golfview Suites & Conference Centre and featured the inauguration of Hafeez Balogun, the country manager of Kenya Airways as the first Captain of Nigerian chapter of African Aviation Golf Group — an alliance of golfers who operate within the aviation industry, across the continent.

Speaking after the inauguration, Balogun expressed gratitude that the group passed a vote of confidence on his leadership potential, by choosing him to lead. “I will work closely with the admin and founder to make the group as vibrant and active as possible”, he added.

The organizer of Aviation Cup Africa Golf Tournament and Founder of African Sports Tourism Week, Prince Deji Ajomale-McWord thanked both sponsors and everyone that participated in the competition.

“I’d like to thank everyone who came from near and far, to play in this competition with us, especially Air Commodore



JF Adeleke who flew in from Abuja, for the sole purpose of joining us. Air Commodore Tokunbo Ajomale, a retiree fully participated. Samuel Olowo came all the way from Benin Republic. Kayode Ogundare flew in from Port Harcourt. Those who live in Lagos sacrificed one thing or the other to be here. It shows the level of passion that these people have for aviation and golf”, he said.

While expatiating on the rationale behind the tournament, Prince Deji said “Both golf and aviation have ‘apron’ as terminology. Both have the word ‘flight’ as terminology and are characterized by flights. There is a resemblance in the physics that govern short game in golf, and how an

airplane hits the runway and finds its way to its place of temporary rest – the ramp. Both aircrafts and golf balls are governed by laws of aerodynamics, while in flight. Do you know that the renowned golf clubs maker – Callaway – consulted Boeing on the aerodynamic performance of their XR16 driver, which debuted at the first PGA Tour event in Hawaii, in the 2016 season? I can practically say that no sport explains aviation like golf does.”

He added that the tournament is a continent-wide engagement that is broken into regional activations. When asked about when legs of other regions will hold, Prince Deji said they’d hold on dates that will be announced in due course.



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H.E. Dr. Bobby J Moroe

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Dr. Moroe is South Africa's Consul General in Lagos, Nigeria. He holds a PhD in political science and writes in his personal capacity. He is the author of 'South Africa and India: A Perspective on Post-Apartheid Diplomatic Relations'.

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## Innovation, Partnerships Address Challenges Facing Modern Diplomacy

I believe that diplomats have to evolve in a quest to contribute to building a capable cadre of diplomats who possess the ability to build an innovative diplomatic environment in their respective spaces.

An innovative diplomatic environment is one in which you find efficient and catalytic diplomats who are talented. It is an environment where you find a pool of new ideas sharp enough to contribute to responding to the challenges facing modern diplomacy.

Now, how can modern diplomats leverage the use of an advanced technological system that has so much changed the world to find solutions to problems facing their craft? In this piece, I make use of an event hosted by MultiChoice Nigeria, in which emerging film makers were rewarded for using technology to advance their creativity.

On October 15, 2022, I started my morning by attending an innovative programme called the MultiChoice Talent Factory (MTF) in Lagos. The MTF is an accredited 12-month education programme that develops emerging television and film talent in Africa through both theory and practical experience in cinematography, editing, audio production and storytelling.

It is the first academy of its kind, spanning three regions and 13 countries across Africa. Sixty deserving young and talented candidates who want to work – and innovate – in film and television production get the chance to hone their skills alongside industry greats.

This yearlong funded programme is offered through accredited regional MTF academies based in Kenya (for East Africa), Nigeria (for West Africa) and Zambia (for southern Africa) in partnership with respected local academic institutions. For many of these young creative minds, this is not only a great opportunity in their careers but the beginning of a chapter that will change their lives forever.

I believe in the power of this programme to transform lives, give hope, create partnerships, shape perceptions and drive a positive narrative about South Africa and Nigeria through visual arts. I believe that diplomats should make use of similar platforms that exist in other sectors to leverage various projects envisaged within the context of their relations with other nations.

Among other things, the MTF, therefore, presents a great opportunity for collaboration between diplomats, the private sector and social activists to share ideas on how

**Diplomats must embrace technological advancement and use it in such a way that they can advance the national interest of their respective countries. They must also change the way they think and how they respond to the challenges facing their profession. The traditional over-reliance on textbook diplomacy will forever haunt humanity in a world immersed in an abundance of solutions, readily available at our disposal at either a click of a button or just by way of a decent conversation with a social partner.**

technology can be used to create their own stories the best way they know. With strong partnerships, the MTF can multiply the number of qualified visual artists from across the continent.

This partnership will be the beginning of illuminating the untold stories of success and resilience between people from different countries, and how similar their aspirations are in the face of adversity. Shaping the narrative will give them an edge, not only to shine the spotlight but to also demonstrate their love for each other as a people of the continent and the world. South Africa and Nigeria both have beautiful stories to share. This is our time to break barriers and interrupt the falsified narrative.

Change is difficult for everyone. Change forces all of us to look in the mirror and contemplate who we are, what our value is and how we may need to change for success in this new world.

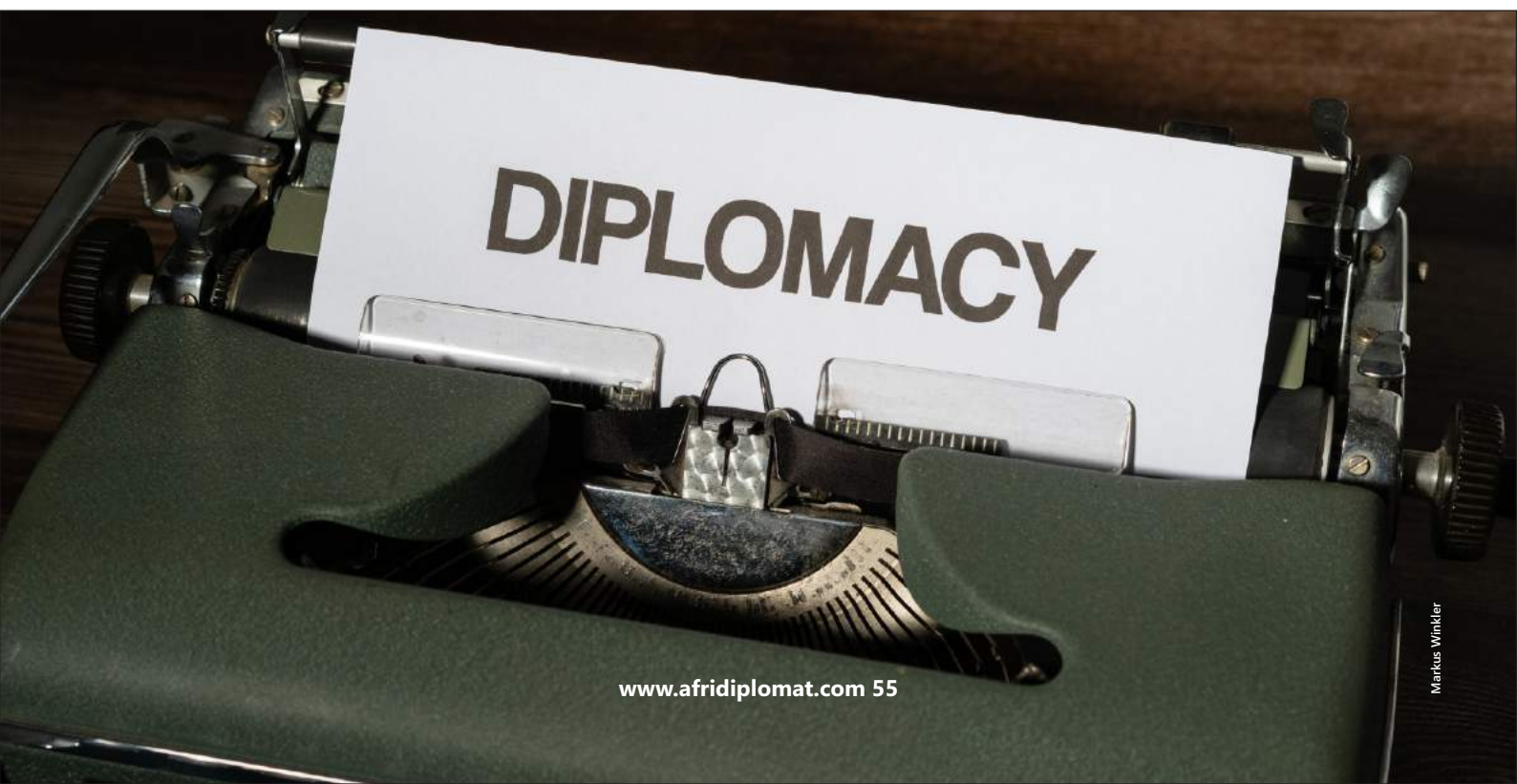
For example, the use of diplomatic notes, otherwise known as "notes verbale", is still important in transmitting information between any two governments. However, the method of transmission is slowly, if not rapidly, changing the world over.

This was evident during the period of Covid-19.

Many diplomats found themselves transmitting notes verbale through social media platforms, such as WhatsApp and Telegram. Furthermore, diplomats used the same medium to create group chats for the swift transmission of messages and feedback. They even convened their meetings not only virtually via Teams or Zoom, among other platforms, but through WhatsApp video calls. This is disruptive diplomacy powered by the fourth industrial revolution.

Social media or digital diplomacy does not just provide governments with the ability to be more successful in providing information, services and opportunities for collaboration with the public, but begins to build new relationships and communication channels between governments. It is the creation of a truly global diplomatic community.

Diplomats must embrace technological advancement and use it in such a way that they can advance the national interest of their respective countries. They must also change the way they think and how they respond to the challenges facing their profession. The traditional over-reliance on textbook diplomacy will forever haunt humanity in a world immersed in an abundance of solutions, readily available at our disposal at either a click of a button or just by way of a decent conversation with a social partner.





The Mayor of New York – Honorable Eric Adams Delivering His Speech During MIPAD Recognition Week

**MIPAD**  
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 OF AFRICAN DESCENT

GLOBAL  
 TOP  
**100**  
 UNDER  
 40  
 IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS

## 5 YEARS STRONG: MIPAD CELEBRATES GLOBAL BLACK EXCELLENCE

In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 68/237, by which it proclaimed 2015 to 2024 to be the International Decade for People of African Descent, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”.

In support of this declaration, Most Influential People of African Descent stepped in to celebrate black excellence, by recognizing high flyers of African decent from around the world, based on three pillars: recognition, justice and development. Since MIPAD debuted in 2018, it has recognized the contributions of individuals from about 80 countries, where Africans are dispersed.

Following the 77th United Nations General Assembly, between September 30th and 4th of October 2022, black achievers from around the world gathered in New York for MIPAD Recognition Week. Staged in partnership with CNN, the 2022 edition featured Global 100 Under 40

and Global 100 Law & Justice.

The Recognition Week opened with CNN Business Panel Session themed ‘Closing The Income Gap’. It was moderated by CNN Anchor & Senior National Correspondent Sara Sidner, with Alfa Demmellash - CEO of Rising Tide Capital, Brandon Andrews - Co-founder of Gauge and Gayle Jennings O’Byrne - General Partner & Co-founder of WOCstar Fund, as panelists.

Day 2 of The Week witnessed leadership training, special screening and another panel session also hosted by CNN. The discussion was centred around changing the false narrative that lighter is better, as a way of discouraging skin whitening. On the panel were Amina Mire Ph.D - Associate Professor at Carleton University, Amira Adawe - Executive Director of The Beautywell Project, Adeline Kikam, DO, Msc, FAAD - Board Certified Dermatologist and Andriana Azarias - Senior Policy Advisor at NYC Dept.

**“It is okay for Africans to be dispersed around the world.  
What is not okay is for us to be disconnected”.**

**Kamil Olufowobi  
Founder, MIPAD**

of Health. The session was moderated by Mellisa Mahtani - Senior Producer & Reporter at CNN.

It was followed by special screening of 'Enslaved' in partnership with United Nations Outreach Programme On The Transatlantic Slave Trade & Slavery, at The United Nations Building. The Recognition Week was concluded with a tour of the UN Complex.

Mayor Eric Adams - The Mayor of New York, H.E. Ms. Epsy Campbell - Former Vice President of Costa Rica and President-Designate of Permanent Forum On People of African Descent and Dr. Djibril Diallo - President of African Renaissance & Diaspora Network were presented Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Great legal minds like Bryan Stevenson of Equal Justice Initiative USA, Kathleen Matholo-Dlepu - Black Lawyers Chairperson South Africa, Ketanji Brown Jackson - Associate Justice of The Supreme Court of The United States, Livia Sant'anna Vaz - Bahia State Attorney's Office Brazil, Paulette Mastin - Chairperson of Black Solicitors

Network UK and Gbenga Oyebo - Aluko & Oyebo Nigeria, were specially recognized in the Law & Justice Category.

On Sunday night of the recognition, Dr. Vimal Shah CBS was specially recognized for his industrious spirit and contributions towards the development of Africa, and by Tuesday morning his name and MIPAD logo were on display on the screens at New York Stock Exchange complex, where he was celebrated by his colleagues for his MIPAD recognition.

Under categories Media & Culture, Business & Entrepreneurship, Politics & Governance and Activism & Humanitarian; Under-40 black achievers doing the continent proud, at home and in the diaspora, were recognized and presented certificate of achievement.

According to Kamil Olufowobi, MIPAD founder, an Inside Africa Edition of 2023 Most Influential People of African Descent Recognition Week will hold in the capital city of the Land of a Thousand Hills – Kigali.



**Gathering of MIPADians During The Screening of 'Enslaved' At The United Nations Building, New York**



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